



Carry the Message February, 2010

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

AA's Twelve Concepts for World Service

The Twelve Concepts for World Service are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. They reveal the evolution by which it has arrived in its present form, and they detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today.

Concept Two Long Form

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

Concept Two Checklist

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (The Conference)?

- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

The AA Grapevine Statement of Purpose

The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated, and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another.

Widely known as a "meeting in print," the AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity, and service. **Founded in 1944, the Grapevine does not receive group contributions, but is supported entirely through magazine subscription**

sales and additional income derived from the sale of Grapevine items.

The awareness that every AA member has an individual way of working the program permeates the pages of the Grapevine, and throughout its history the magazine has been a forum for the varied and often divergent opinions of AAs around the world. Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either AA or the Grapevine.

As Bill W. expressed it in 1946, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to the AA movement as a whole. . . . Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Grapevine will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous. . . . Like the Alcoholics Anonymous movement it is to mirror, there will be but one central purpose: The Grapevine will try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs."

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HVAI Contributions

We'd like to thank last months contributors...without the support of groups like these we would not be able to do the important work we do for the recovering community.

Ann Arbor:

Primary Purpose
Laughing in Sobriety
TGIMAA
Jimmy's Group
Living the Steps
Saturday Morning Men's
Sunday 7 p.m. Men's Meeting
Winners
A Vision for You
Wednesday at Westside

Belleville:

12 Step Group

Chelsea:

Thy Will Not My Will II

Saline:

In the Barn Group

Whittaker:

St. Joe's

Ypsilanti:

Clean and Sober on Park
Unity

And Now A.A. and the A.A. Grapevine Need Your Help

-Phil C.

We all know that times are hard. We've had cut back on our personal spending and make do with less. Its times like these where we have a chance to choose our personal priorities carefully. What are the things that make the most difference in our lives? What are the things we cannot live without? What are the things we want to make sure are there when the next man or woman reaches out for help? What is important to us?

AA saved my life, pure and simple. When I was ready, there was a place I could go to find help with my addiction, where people made me feel welcome and loved. People who understood my oh -o-complex nature and, more importantly, knew that there was a Solution. Who offered hope when all I knew was despair, and patiently helped me learn and take the steps

on the path out of the misery of my own making to a life worth living.

Now that organization needs our help so that they can carry that message of hope and inspiration to the next generation of alcoholics.

Did you know that well less than a half of the registered AA Groups in this area contribute the money needed to make sure AA is there at the District, Intergroup, and Area level to help those who want what we have? Did you know that the AA Grapevine, our "Meeting in Print", doesn't even receive a portion of those contributions?

My Sobriety is the most important thing in my life today. My connection to my Higher Power and the Fellowship of AA will help me stay sober today. I want AA to be there tomorrow to help the next person find a way out of their own misery.

How?

- By renewing my own Grapevine Subscription
- By throwing a buck or two in the baskets at all the meetings I

Meeting Updates

Since we printed the April 2009 Meeting Directory, 44 meeting changes have been made to the web site listing. To update your April 2009 Directories, please print and pass on this information. Go to www.hvai.org and click on the AA & Al-Anon Meeting Locator, then type the key word 'change' in the search box. You can print and distribute this abbreviated list as a service.

There is nothing worse than getting up the nerve to go to a meeting only to find it does not exist.

Send Your Voluntary 7th Tradition Contributions To:

Huron Valley Area Intergroup
31 South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

District 4
Washtenaw County Treasurer
Box 971502
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Central Michigan Intra-Area 32
C.M.I.A. Area 32 Treasurer
10351 Timber Ridge Drive
Milan, MI 48160

AA World Service
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10164-0423

Upcoming Events

1st. Sunday of every EVEN month: Central MI CMIA ...Conference Service Structure Meeting: <http://www.cmia32.org>

3rd Saturday: AA Group Service Center: 4pm Huron Valley Area Intergroup Meeting, 101 S. Huron St. Ypsi. www.hvai.org

3rd Monday: District 4: (3rd Mon. ea. month) Conference Service Structure Meeting, Calvary Methodist Church, 1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, 48103

3rd Thursday: District 8: Conference Service Structure Meeting: Brighton <http://www.aalivcomi.org>

last Sunday: West-Side MCYPAA Bid Committee Planning: Dawn Farm basement, 6633 Stony Creek, Ypsilanti Info: John W. 248-840-1388, James G. 734-323-9913, Amanda 734-645-3648, Talara E. 734-678-0187 or <http://www.ws-mcypaa.org/>

Last Monday: Eastern Area EACYPAA Bid Committee Planning: Denny's backroom, Ann Arbor Road and I-275, Plymouth, MI info: John W. 248-840-1388, Nick G. 586-291-4871, James G. 734-323-9913 or <http://www.ws-mcypaa.org/>

March 5-7, 2010: March Round Up: Practicing AA's Principles- the Pathway to UNITY, HYATT Regency, 600 Town Center Dr. Dearborn, MI Info: www.aa-semi.org

March 5th-7th, 2010: 57th Indiana State Convention: Keeping It Simple; Real Alcoholics, Real Sobriety, Real Life. Info: www.area23aa.org * www.area22indiana.org

March 5th-7th, 2010: CINCYPAA, Kings Island Resort, Mason, OH Info: Mike C. - 513-846-3201, Hoss - 513-846-0003, Jared H. 513-633-9993, Ed U. - 513-255-1205. Facebook search "CINCYPAA" for more information.

March 23rd, 2010: Free Intervention Workshop by Jeff and Debra Jay , 7:30-9pm, St. Joeeph Mercy Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti

attend.

- By encouraging my Home Group take out a Group Subscription to the AA Grapevine.
- By contributing my time doing service work, holding office or making coffee in the groups I attend.
- By making sure that my Home Group regularly passes along a portion of the contributions we receive to the local Intergroup, District, Area, and AA World Services.

Whether or not the Grapevine continues to go to print, or whether AA itself continues to thrive is out of my control. But I can make sure I do my part. Because it's important to me.

I am Responsible...When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

A.A.'s Legacy of Service

by Bill W.

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(continued from last month)

Somehow, these timid buyers had to be persuaded, so we went to the Reader's Digest and told the managing editor the story of our budding Society and its proposed book. He liked the notion very much and promised that in the spring of 1939 when we thought the book would be ready, the Reader's Digest would print a

piece about A.A. — mentioning the new book, of course.

This was the sales argument we needed. With a plug like that, the proposed volume would sell by carloads. How could we miss? The New York alcoholics and their friends promptly changed their minds about Works Publishing stock. They began to buy it, mostly on installments.

Ruth Hock, our nonalcoholic secretary, typed away as I slowly dictated the chapters of the text for the new book. Fierce argument over these drafts and what ought to go into them was a main feature of the New York and Akron Groups' meetings for months on end. I became much more of an um-

(Continued from page 3)

pire than I ever was an author. Meanwhile, the alcoholics at Akron and New York and a couple in Cleveland began writing their stories 28 — in all.

When the book project neared completion, we visited the managing editor of the Reader's Digest and asked for the promised article. He gave us a blank look, scarcely remembering who we were. Then the blow fell. He told how months before he had put our proposition to his editorial board and how it had been turned down flat. With profuse apologies, he admitted he'd plumb forgot to let us know anything about it. This was a crusher.

Meanwhile, we had optimistically ordered 5,000 copies of the new book, largely on a shoestring. The printer, too, had relied on the Reader's Digest. Soon there would be 5,000 books in his warehouse, and no customers for them.

The book finally appeared in April 1939. We got the New York Times to do a review and Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick supplied us with another really good one, but nothing happened. The book simply didn't sell. We were in debt up to our ears. The sheriff had appeared at the Newark office where we had been working, and the landlord sold the Brooklyn house, where Lois and I lived. She and I were dumped

into the street and then onto the charity of A.A. friends.

How we got through the summer of 1939, I'll never quite know. Hank P. had to get a job. The faithful Ruth accepted shares in the defunct book company as pay. One A.A. friend supplied us with his summer camp; another, with a car.

A.A. Makes News

The first break came in September 1939. Liberty Magazine, then headed by our great friend-to-be Fulton Oursler, carried an article, "Alcoholics and God," written by Morris Markey. There was an instant response. About eight hundred letters from alcoholics and their families poured in. Ruth answered every one of them, enclosing a leaflet about the new book, "Alcoholics Anonymous." Slowly, the book began to sell. Then the Cleveland Plain Dealer ran a series of pieces about Alcoholics Anonymous. At once, the Cleveland groups mushroomed from a score into many hundreds of members. More books sold. Thus we inched and squeezed our way through that perilous year.

We hadn't heard a thing from Mr. Rockefeller since early in 1938. But in 1940, he put in a dramatic reappearance. His friend Mr. Richardson came to a trustees' meeting, smiling broadly. Mr. Rockefeller, he said, wanted to give Alcoholics Anonymous a dinner. The invitation list showed an imposing collection of notables. We figured them to be collectively worth at least a billion dollars.

The dinner came off early in February at New York's Union League Club. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick spoke in praise of us, and so

did Dr. Foster Kennedy, the eminent neurologist. Then Doctor Bob and I briefed the audience on A.A. Some of the Akron and New York alcoholics scattered among the notables at the tables responded to questions. The gathering showed a rising warmth and interest. This was it, we thought; our money problems were solved!

Nelson Rockefeller then rose to his feet to speak for his father, who was ill. His father was very glad, he said, that those at the dinner had seen the promising beginning of the new Society of Alcoholics Anonymous. Seldom, Nelson continued, had his father shown more interest in anything. But obviously, since A.A. was a work of pure goodwill, one man carrying the news to the next, little or no money would be required. At this sally, our spirits fell. When Mr. Rockefeller had finished, the whole billion dollars' worth of capitalists got up and walked out, leaving not a nickel behind them.

—continued next month

The A.A. Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.