



# Carry the Message March, 2008

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

## Upcoming Events

### April 6, 2008 (1st Sunday):

#### **Area 32 CMIA meeting**

For GSRs and DCMs, all are welcome.

District 8 hosts in Pinckney

[www.cmia32.org](http://www.cmia32.org)

### March 8, 2008 (2nd Saturday):

#### **Sponsor Tips**

Women's discussion group about sponsorship issues, 12 PM.

Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson Road, between Wagner and Zeeb.

### March 15, 2008 (3rd Saturday):

#### **Huron Valley Area Intergroup Meeting**

Local AA Group Service Center, 4 PM.

101 S. Huron Street, Ypsilanti

[www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org)

### March 17, 2008 (3rd Monday):

#### **District 4 meeting**

Local AA Conference Service Structure, 7 PM. For G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s, all are welcome.

Ann Arbor Community Center, lower level  
625 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor

### March 20, 2008 (3rd Thursday):

#### **District 8 meeting**

Local AA Conference Service Structure, 7 PM.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

200 St. Paul Street, Brighton

[www.aalivcomi.org](http://www.aalivcomi.org)



## AA in Washtenaw County

## CELEBRATION

**Saturday April 19, 2008**

**Ann Arbor Pioneer High School**

**1:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m.**

Co-hosted by HVAI and District 4

AA Archives

Panels

SERVICE FAIR

Traditions Skit

Literature

DANCE

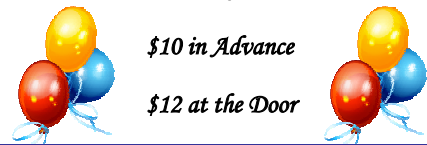
Dinner

D. J. Speed from the House of Rehab

**Tickets:**

**\$10 in Advance**

**\$12 at the Door**



## HVAI Contributions

Huron Valley Area Intergroup wishes to thank the following groups for their generous support of the Intergroup office and outreach in January:

### **Ann Arbor:**

Flim-Flam Breakfast Group

Stadium Big Book Group

Gay/Lesbian Group

There is a Solution Group

### **Ypsilanti:**

Saturday Nite at St. Joe's Group

Ypsilanti Candlelight Group

The idea that somehow, someday he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker. The persistence of this illusion is astonishing. Many pursue it into the gates of insanity or death.

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Alcoholics Anonymous

## 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  
P. O. Box 283  
Saline, MI 48176

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

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Hours: Tues-Fri, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Phone: (734) 482-0707 Website: [www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org) E-mail: [office@hvai.org](mailto:office@hvai.org) Help Line: (734) 482-5700 or [helpline@hvai.org](mailto:helpline@hvai.org)

## The Shape of Things to Come

Bill W.

February 1961

AA's first quarter century is now history. Our next twenty-five years lie in prospect before us. How, then, can we make the most of this new grant of time?

Perhaps our very first realization should be that we can't stand still. Now that our basic principles seem established, now that our functioning is fairly effective and widespread, it would be temptingly easy to settle down as merely one more useful agency on the world scene. We could conclude that "AA is fine, just the way it is."

Yet how many of us, for example, would presume to declare, "Well, I'm sober and I'm happy. What more can I want, or do? I'm fine the way I am." We know that the price of such self-satisfaction is an inevitable backslide, punctuated at some point by a very rude awakening. We have to grow or else deteriorate. For us, the "status quo" can only be for today, never for tomorrow. Change we must; we cannot stand still.

Just how, then, can AA go on changing for the better? Does this mean that we are to tinker with our basic principles? Should we try to amend our Twelve Steps

and Twelve Traditions? Here the answer would seem to be "no." Those twenty-four principles have first liberated us, have then held us in unity, and have enabled us to function and to grow as AA members and as a whole. Of course, perfect truth is surely something better understood by God than by any of us. Nevertheless we have come to believe that AA's recovery Steps and Traditions do represent the approximate truths which we need for our particular purpose. The more we practice them, the more we like them. So there is little doubt that AA principles continue to be advocated in the form they stand now.

So then, if our basics are so firmly fixed as all this, what is there left to change or to improve? The answer will immediately occur to us. While we need not alter our truths, we can surely improve their application to ourselves, to AA as a whole, and to our relation with the world around us. We can constantly step up "the practice of these principles in all our affairs."

As we now enter upon the next great phase of AA's life, let us therefore rededicate ourselves to an ever greater responsibility for our general welfare. Let us continue to take our inventory as a Fellowship, searching out our

flaws and confessing them freely. Let us devote ourselves to the repair of all faulty relations that may exist, whether within or without.

And above all, let us remember that great legion who still suffer from alcoholism and who are still without hope. Let us, at any cost or sacrifice, so improve our communication with all these that they may find what we have found — a new life of freedom under God.

## Total Surrender

Anonymous

Des Plaines, Illinois

What has always impressed me most about the program and myself is the constant, continuing challenge to try recapturing some of the true and honest rapture I felt upon total surrender, when I first came into A.A. For me, that special peace of mind has never been duplicated. Now, after all the accumulated twenty-four-hour periods, I realize that it probably never will be. I have come close to it a few times, but it's never the same.

I think there is a relationship between that feeling and our need at the time we were introduced to the program. Our motivation, I believe, is a combination of enough hurt and the grace of God. Surely a strange combination! I would not know how to express it to anyone outside A.A.

## Step Three

**Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.**

### Tradition Three: Long Form

**“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”**

#### Bill W. on the Third Tradition

February, 1948

The Third Tradition is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous so long as he says so. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule.

Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at

any halfway mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity

So when he asks, “Are there any conditions?” we joyfully reply, “No, not a one.” When skeptically he comes back saying, “But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe,” we quickly answer, “In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no *musts*.” Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, “What is this all going to cost me?” We are able to laugh and say, “Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues.” Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, “We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive.” That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us.

Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities. One can think of no AA member who would like, for example, to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the AA name, even indirectly, to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly

compromised and divided. We think that AA should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.

Let us of AA therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive and never exclusive, offering all we have to all, save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life — and a useful one!

Reprinted from *The Language of the Heart* © 1988 The AA Grapevine, Inc.

## Traditions Checklist

From the AA Grapevine

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

## District 4 Corner

*The HVAI provides this space as a courtesy to District 4 in the spirit of cooperation in carrying the message. Please direct all questions and comments to your Home Group GSR or DCM or attend a District 4 meeting.*

### District 4 News

**The 56th Michigan State Convention** donations are needed.

The Convention will be August 8-10, 2008 in Midland Michigan. Donations are needed for coffee and hospitality rooms. Volunteers are also needed. For a donation form visit this weblink: <http://snipurl.com/1v1o7>

**The District 4 monthly meeting** is held at 7 PM on the third Monday of each month in the lower level of the Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 North Main Street, Ann Arbor. The meeting is primarily for G.S.R.s and L.C.M.s and all AAs are welcome to attend.

**The Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 (CMIA)** monthly business meeting will be hosted by District 8 in April. All G.S.R.s are encouraged to attend, all A.A.s are welcome.

**Congratulations** to Sean O., who was elected D.C.M., and James G., who was elected Alternate D.C.M. at the February meeting.

**LCM's Needed:** Local Committee Members will be carrying the message from and to all of the AA groups in Washtenaw

County in the coming months. We will be trying to update all group records in the District for the GSO database. This is a huge undertaking. Volunteers to help in this effort are urgently needed. Please contact Sean O, at (734) 837-7187 to help out.

**Volunteers** are needed to help with the 63rd Anniversary Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. Please contact Sean O. at (734) 834-7187 or Linda at the Huron Valley Area Intergroup, (734) 482-0707 to help out.

### 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.**

### I Am Responsible...

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

### District 4 Finances

**January 1, 2008 — January 31, 2008**

**Beginning Balance: \$626.16**

#### **Income:**

7th Tradition and Group  
Contributions \$559.95

**Total Income: \$559.95**  
**Subtotal \$1186.10**

#### **Expenses:**

Corrections Literature: \$50.00  
Rent: 20.00  
HVAI Website: 21.00  
ASL Interpreter 20.00  
Treasurers expenses: 9.99

**Total Expenses: \$120.99**

**Closing Balance: \$1065.11**

**Solvent Treasury: 250.00**  
**Petty Cash: 25.00**

**Total Assets: \$1340.11**

*See to it that your relationship with him is right and great events will come to pass for you and countless others.*

*This is the Great Fact for us.*