



# Carry the Message April, 2009

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

## Step Four

*Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*

## Tradition Four Long Form

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should

ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

## Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different

from mine, or do I learn from it?

4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths-his lengths, not mine-to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

*Strength of mind rests in sobriety; for this keeps your reason unclouded by passion.*

—Pythagoras

# 64th Anniversary Celebration!

Sat. April 18, 1:30-11:30, 2009 Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor

**Main Speaker: Pauline N. (Current Chair of EMJA Area 32, Michigan)**

Traditions Players, AA & Al-Anon Panels, Archives, Dinner and Dance

**(Volunteers Needed! Contact Linda At the HVAJ office 734-482-0707)**

Co-Sponsored by HVAI and District 4

Published by the Huron Valley Area Intergroup, 31 South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (I-94 exit 183 "Ypsilanti, Huron Street", 0.9 miles north)

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## HVAI Contributions

Huron Valley Area Intergroup could not exist without the support of our many Groups and generous contributions from individual members. We rely on your contributions to keep our doors open to the still suffering alcoholics, and those who care for them. We wish to thank the following contributors:

District 04 Washtenaw

Sa.830p Sat. Night at St. Joe's

Sa.7am Sunrise

Fr.7p Woman's Group

We.730p Women's Fusion

Tu.8p Dexter Group

Tu.730p Keeping It Simple

Mo.530p Get Straight Candlelight

Tu.7p Serenity in Action

We.730p We. Night at the Church

Th.730p Thurs. Night Steps

Sa.8p Weekend By the Book

Fr.730p Spiritual Solution

## Meeting Updates

**Our meeting updates for the 2008 Directory and the Ypsilanti Walking Map is now available online at [www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org).** and on page 4 of this newsletter.

New to the HVAI website is a searchable meeting directory! Check it out, let us know what you think, and help us to spread the word. You can search by day, time, location, and type of meeting to name a few options.

The Spring 2009 meeting directory will be available At the 64th Anniversary. Get one at a local meeting or stop into the HVAI office at 31 South Huron Street, Ypsilanti MI.

**NOW** would be an excellent time to stock up on Literature!

**A.A. is not immune to current economic conditions. The G.S.O. in New York has seen increases in cost operations, warehousing and shipping. A.A. World Services, Inc announces an increase in book prices effective July 1, 2009.**

**As of July 1, the Intergroup will be passing these costs on to our members. The cost of most books will rise by \$1.00-\$2.00. Look for the new catalog in June 2009.**

## 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

**The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous** will be held July 1-4 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal,

will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels.

We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and San Antonio, our host city, will be provided.

This Web site will be updated as more information becomes available. Also, watch for articles in Box 4-5-9 that is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and posted on the Web site.

Convention registration and housing reservations will open in fall 2009. All necessary information will be included in the registration packet which will be available in September 2009. This packet will list numbers to call for answers to specific questions about housing, the program, tours, etc. The information will be mailed to A.A. groups, offices and contacts around the world and posted on the Web site.

**We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!**

## 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

### April 2009

**April 18th, 2009: 1:30-11:30pm** District 4 Service Workshop & *64th AA Anniversary Dinner Dance* sponsored by HVAI. Come CELEBRATE!!!

**April 17th, 18th, & 19th 2009:** *Adirondack Young peoples Closed AA Conference* at the Sunrise Retreat Center on Schroon Lake. Info: Mike: mbouck1@msn.com

**April 25th, 2009: 6:00pm** *Chelsea Group 37th Anniversary, Speaker and Lasagna Dinner (bring a dish to pass)* at the Chelsea Fairgrounds on old U.S. 12, Speaker Betty E.

**April 24-26, 2009:** *29th Annual Northeast Indiana Convention and 66th Annual Banquet: Rocketed into the Fourth Dimension* at the Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Teresa (206) 622-4286

### Editorial:

#### The Shape of Things to Come

In the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* there is a chapter called "A Vision for You". Wandering through it recently, my eye was caught by this startling paragraph written a short five years ago. "Someday we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination. To some extent this is already true. Some of us are salesmen and go about. Little clusters of twos and threes and fives of us have sprung up in other communities through contact with our two large centers ..." Rubbing my eyes I looked again. A lump came into my throat. "Only five years," I thought. "Then but two large centers—little clusters of twos and threes — travelers who hoped one day to find us at every destination."

Could it be that only yesterday this was just a hope — those little clusters of twos and threes, those little beacons so anxiously watched as they flickered, but never went out. And today — hundreds of centers shedding their warm illumination upon the lives of thousands, lighting the dark shoals where the stranded and hopeless lie breaking up — those fingers of light already stretching to our beach heads in other lands?

Now comes another lighted lamp — this little newspaper called "The Grapevine". May its rays of hope and experience ever fall upon the current of our A.A. life and one day illumine every dark corner of this alcoholic world.

The aspirations of its editors, contributors and readers could well be voiced in the last words of "A

Vision for You": "Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find, and join us. We shall be with you, in the Fellowship of The Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you — until then."

-- Bill

[Editor's Note: From *The AA Grapevine*, Volume 1, Number 1

### Ounces of Prevention

From the *AA Grapevine*, Volume 1, Number 1

Keep an indexed notebook of member's names with you for phoning and writing A.A.s. Call a member when you have jitters, depression, discouragement, resentment...when you can't sleep, write a letter to an A.A. in the

## Area Meeting Updates

(Clip and use as a bookmark in your directory)

### BOOKMARK UPDATES TO SPRING 2008 DIRECTORY

#### SUNDAY 4/4/09

**ANN ARBOR W. A. C.:** 995 N. Maple (734) 668-8138

7:30pm **Sunday Night** (CD)

9:30am **Fathers in Recovery** (CD) (M)

Dawn Farm 3/4 House: 520 West Huron

**BELLEVILLE** 11:00am **11th Step Group** (CD)

St. Anthony's: 373 W. Columbia (near High Schl.)

**CANTON P-C Alano Club:** 5936 N. Sheldon & Ford Rd.

10am (C,D), 6pm (C,D), 7:30pm (C,D) (F) & ACOA

**DUNDEE** 8:00pm **Dundee AA** (CD) (OS last Sun.)

St. John's Lutheran, Parish Hall, 460 Riles

**MANCHESTER** 7:00pm Emmanuel United, 324 W Main (C,D,B)

**NEW BOSTON** 6:00pm **Sober Study's Group** (CD)

St. Steven's Church: Huron River and Sible

**YPSILANTI** 10:00am **Unity Group** (CD)

St. Joe's Hospital: 5301 E. Huron River Dr.

McCaughey Ed. Center (classroom ECS)

7:00pm **New Beginnings** (OD)

Dawn Farm: 6633 Stony Creek Rd.

#### MONDAY

**ANN ARBOR W. A. C.:** 995 N. Maple, (734) 668-8138

7:30pm **Monday Night Big Book** (CD) (B)

**BRIGHTON** Noon **NEW Primary Purpose** (CD)

St. Patrick's Parish: 711 Riclett (Lower level)

**CANTON P-C Alano Club:** 5936 N. Sheldon & Ford Rd.

10am, Noon, 3pm, 7:30pm, 10pm (all are C, D)

#### TUESDAY

**ANN ARBOR** 7:30pm **Hope is Here Big Book** (C)(B)(O last Tues)

Northside Presbyterian: 1679 Broadway

8:00pm **Working With Others Moving** (CD) Check Web

#### WEDNESDAY

**ANN ARBOR W. A. C.:** 995 N. Maple, (734) 6681388

7:30pm **12 & 12 Wednesday** (CD) (12)

8:00pm **Moving: Came to Believe 6/3/09** (CD)

West Side United Methodist, 900 S. Seventh

7:30pm **NEW Women's Fusion** (CD) (F)

Home of New Vision: 3800 Packard (2nd floor)

**BRIGHTON** Noon **NEW: Primary Purpose** (CD)

St. Patrick's Parish: 711 Riclett, Lower level

**CANTON P-C Alano Club:** 5936 N. Sheldon & Ford Rd.

10am, Noon, 3pm, 10pm all are (C, D)

**MILFORD** 7:00pm **Women's Step Study** (C) (F)

**YPSILANTI** 7:00pm **Survivor's** (CD) Moved to: Rec. Park

Senior's Center, 1015 North Congress

7:00pm **Spiritual Awakening** (CD)

Church of God & Christ, 1225 Congress

#### THURSDAY

**ANN ARBOR W. A. C.:** 995 N. Maple, (734) 668-8138

7:30pm **Candlelight Meeting & Back to Basics**

8:00pm **Young People in the Groove** (CD) (B) (12)

First Congregational Church

608 E. William (off Maynard, upstairs)

**CANTON P-C Alano Club:** 5936 N. Sheldon & Ford Rd.

1am, 10am, Noon, 10pm all are (C, D)

#### FRIDAY

**ANN ARBOR** 7:30pm **AL-ANON for Young People** (CD)

West Side United Methodist

900 South 7th Ave. (between Liberty & Pauline)

**BELLEVILLE** 7:30pm **11th Step Meditation** (CD)

St. Anthony's: 373 W. Columbia (nr H.S)

**BRIGHTON** Noon **NEW: Primary Purpose Group** (CD)

St. Patrick Parish, 711 Rickett Rd. lower level

**CANTON P-C Alano Club:** 5936 N. Sheldon & Ford Rd.

10am, Noon, 6:30pm all are (C, D)

**CHELSEA** 7:00pm **Women's Book Study** (CD)(B)(F)

Chelsea Hospital (Dining Room 2) 775 S. Main

**SOUTH LYONS** 7:00pm **Friday Night Group** (CD)

St. Joseph's Church: 830 S. Lafayette

**WALTZ** 6:00pm **Friday Night Waltz** (CD)

St. John's Lutheran Church: 28320 Waltz Rd.

**YPSILANTI** 8:00pm **Basic Young Peoples Meeting** (LD)

EMU Student Ctr. Room 301, *not during break*

8:00pm **NEW Fri. Night** (CD)

Our Father's House, 617 Washtenaw

(Park on College Place or EMU Lot)

#### SATURDAY

**ANN ARBOR** 8:30 am **NEW Interfaith Group** (CD)

Interfaith Center, 704 Airport (south of I-94)

10:00am **Living the Steps**

1st Methodist Church: 120 S. State (at Huron)

**BRITTON** 3:00pm Britton Group, Bethel Baptist, 296 S. Main

**CANTON P-C Alano Club:** 5936 N. Sheldon & Ford Rd.

8am (B, C), 10:30am (C, D), 7pm (O, Sp)

**MILFORD** 9:00am **Morning Serenity** (women) (CD) and

**YPSILANTI** 9:30am **Heard It from the Grapevine** (CD) (GV)

1st Presbyterian, 300 N. Washington-Emmet dr.

2:00pm **Big Book Study** (D)

1st Presbyterian, 300 N. Washington-Emmet dr.

4/4/09

Service or on the road and out of touch. Put a habit-forming reminder in your shaving or make-up kit...this starts the day with a definite statement that you won't take a drink. When you feel low, get to the next meeting, anywhere in the area, or go to one of the A, A, luncheons. Never let yourself get hungry. For that Five-o'clock time try a light snack, a frosted chocolate. See our Time on Your Hands column...and send us your own Ounces of Prevention.

## Let's ask Bill W.

This series was compiled by Jim B. These excerpts from various talks and articles by and on Bill W. reveal a wealth of the thinking and insight of one of the co-founder's of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Q: How do you justify calling alcoholism an illness, and not a moral responsibility?

A: Early in A.A.'s history, very natural questions arose among theologians. There was a Mr. Henry Link who had written "The Return to Religion (Macmillan Co., 1937). One day I received a call from him. He stated that he strongly objected to the A.A. position that alcoholism was an illness. This concept, he felt, removed moral responsibility from alcoholics. He had been voicing this complaint about psychiatrists in the American Mercury. And now, he stated, he was about to lambaste A.A. too. Of course, I made haste to point out that we A. A.'s did not use the concept of sickness to absolve our members from moral responsibility. On the contrary, we used the fact of fatal illness to clamp the

heaviest kind of moral responsibility on to the sufferer. The further point was made that in his early days of drinking the alcoholic often was no doubt guilty of irresponsibility and gluttony. But once the time of compulsive drinking, veritable lunacy had arrived and he couldn't very well be held accountable for his conduct. He then had a lunacy which condemned him to drink, in spite of all he could do; he had developed a bodily sensitivity to alcohol that guaranteed his final madness and death. When this state of affairs was pointed out to him, he was placed immediately under the heaviest kind of pressure to accept A.A.'s moral and spiritual program of regeneration - namely, our Twelve Steps. Fortunately, Mr. Link was satisfied with this view of the use that we were making of the alcoholic's illness. I am glad to report that nearly all theologians who have since thought about this matter have also agreed with that early position. While it is most obvious that free will in the matter of alcohol has virtually disappeared in most cases, we A.A.'s do point out that plenty of free will is left in other areas. It certainly takes a large amount of willingness, and a great exertion of the will to accept and practice the A.A. program. It is by this very exertion of the will that the alcoholic corresponds with the grace by which his drinking obsession can be expelled. (N.C.C.A. 'Blue Book', Vol.12, 1960)

