



# Carry the Message April, 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 III Long Form

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

## Concept III Checklist

1. Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
2. What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
3. Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

**RULE #62**

*"Don't take yourself so damn seriously"*

HURON VALLEY AREA INTERGROUP

## Anniversary Party

APRIL 17, 2010

4 PM - MIDNIGHT

Pioneer High School, 601 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor

*Comedian* **Elizabeth R.**

*Skit* **Snow White and the Seven Character Defects**

*Dinner* **BBQ**

*Speaker* **Larry S. from Adrian, MI**

*Dance with* **DJ Lupe**

TICKETS: \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door / \$10 Dance Only  
[www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org) | (734) 482-0707

**65** HVAI  
Years of  
RECOVERY

Please make checks payable to HVAI. The deadline for pre-registration is April 2, 2010. Please mail check and registration to 31 South Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Tickets will be held at entrance on the day of the event.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # Tickets (@ \$15 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted by email regarding upcoming HVAI events? Yes No (circle one)  
[www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org)

## A.A.'s Legacy of Service

by Bill W.

©AAWS, Inc, used with permission]

(Continued from last month)

### Service to the Whole of A.A.

Thus far in our Society story, we

have seen the Foundation, the A.A. book, the development of pamphlet literature, the answered mass of pleas for help, the satisfied need of groups for counsel on their problems, the beginning of our wonderful relations with the

## 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:**

District 4 Washtenaw County  
Friday Night Group  
Spiritual Solution  
Women's Steps to Serenity  
S.N.O.W.  
Stadium Big Book  
Beginner's, & No Smoking  
Working With Others

### **Belleville:**

Thursday 12-Step

### **Brighton:**

Primary Purpose

### **Canton:**

HOW 7:30 p.m. UAW

### **Chelsea:**

Second Chance

### **Dexter:**

We are Not Saints

### **Ypsilanti:**

Basic Young People  
Monday Nighters  
Ypsilanti Candlelight  
The Fellowship  
Saturday BB  
Weekend By the Book  
Changing Directions  
Thursday Night Steps  
New Courage

### **Personal Anonymous Contributions**

public, all becoming a part of a growing service to the whole world of A.A. At last our Society really began to function as a whole.

But the 1941–1945 period brought still more developments of significance. The Vesey Street office was moved to Lexington Avenue, New York City, just opposite Grand Central Terminal. The moment we located there, we were besieged with visitors who, for the first time, began to see Alcoholics Anonymous as a vision for the whole globe.

Since A.A. was growing so fast, G.S.O. had to grow too. More alcoholic staff members were engaged. As they divided the work between them, departments began to be created. Today's office has a good many — group, foreign and public relations, A.A. Conference, office management, packing and mailing, accounting, stenographic, and special services to Loners, prisons, and hospitals.

It was chiefly from correspondence and from our mounting pub-

lic relations activity that the basic ideas for our Traditions came. In late 1945, a good A.A. friend suggested that all this mass of experience might be codified into a set of general principles, simply stated principles that could offer tested solutions to all of A.A.'s problems of living and working together and of relating our Society to the world outside.

If we had become sure enough of where we stood on such matters as membership, group autonomy, singleness of purpose, nonendorsement of other enterprises, professionalism, public controversy, and anonymity in its several aspects, then such a code of principles could be written. Such a traditional code could not, of course, ever become rule or law. But it could act as a sure guide for our trustees, for headquarters people and, most especially, for A.A. groups with bad growing pains.

Being at the center of things, we of the headquarters would have to do the job. Aided by my helpers there, I set to work. The Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous that re-

## 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](http://www.hvai.org) and click on the AA & Al-Anon Meeting Locator, then type the key word 'change' in the search box. You

## 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](http://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/>

**April 17th, 2010:** *Huron Valley Area Intergroup presents 'Rule 62 "Don't take yourself too d\*\*\* seriously."* 65th Year Celebration of AA 1945-2010. 4-11:30pm at Pioneer High School: Stadium and Main Skit, Archives, Comedy Speaker, 50/50, Dinner, w/DJ, \$15 advanced ticket drawing for 16 CDs of Big Book

**April 16-18th, 2010:** *30th Annual Northwest Indiana Convention and 67th Banquet: "An Experience You Must Not Miss"* at the Grand Wayne Convention Center. Info: [www.aaftwayne.org](http://www.aaftwayne.org)

**April 24th, 2010:** *Chelsea Group's Anniversary SPRING FLING* at the Chelsea Fairground, M-52 Near US-12. Doors open at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm, Speaker at 7pm. (No Sat. night meeting at the Hospital. that night)

**May 14-16th, 2010:** *Recovering Maniacs 2010 Mens' Spring Canoe Trip.* Old Log Resort, Marion, MI. \$60. Deadline May 1st Contacts: Rick 734) 686-0264, Brent 734) 368-7970, Smilin Dave 517)

**May 28-30, 2010:** *58th Michigan State Convention- "75 Years of Miracles. It Works, It Really Does!"* Boyne Mountain Resort. Jeff & Kimberly B. will provide entertainment and humor, Jerry W will do an Anthology of Bill W.'s Story. Info. <http://www.wmaa34.com> (Room Reservations: P.O. B. 19, Boyne Falls, Mi 49713)

sulted were first published in the so called long form in the Grapevine of May 1946.5 Then I wrote some more pieces explaining the Traditions in detail. These came out in later issues of the Grapevine.

### Traditions Took Persuasion

The first reception of the Twelve Traditions was interesting and amusing. The reaction was mixed, to say the least. Only groups in dire trouble took them seriously. From some quarters there was a violent reaction, especially from groups that had long lists of "protective" rules and regulations. There was much indifference. Several of our "intellectual" members cried loudly

*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.*

that the Traditions reflected nothing more than the sum of my own hopes and fears for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Therefore I began to travel and talk a lot about the new Traditions. People were at first politely attentive, though it must be confessed that some did go to sleep during my early harangues. But after a while I got letters containing senti-

ments like this: "Bill, we'd love to have you come and speak. Do tell us where you used to hide your bottles and all about that big, hot-flash spiritual experience of yours. But for heaven's sake, please don't talk any more about those blasted Traditions!"

Time presently changed all that. Only five years later, several thousand A.A. members, meeting at the 1950 Cleveland Convention, declared that A.A.'s Twelve Traditions constituted the platform upon which our Fellowship could best function and hold together in unity for all time to come.

*(Continued from page 3)*

By this time, A.A. had found still more favor in the world of medicine. Two of the great medical associations of America did an unprecedented thing. In the year 1944, the Medical Society of New York invited me to read a paper at its annual meeting. Following the reading, three of the many physicians present stood up and gave A.A. their highest endorsement. These were Dr. Harry Tiebout, A.A.'s first friend in the psychiatric profession, Dr. Kirby Collier, also a psychiatrist friend and an early advocate of A.A., and Dr. Foster Kennedy, world-renowned neurologist. The Medical Society itself then went still further. They permitted us to print my paper and the recommendations of these three doctors in pamphlet form. In 1949 the American Psychiatric Association did exactly the same thing. I read a paper at its annual meeting in Montreal. The paper was carried in the American Journal of Psychiatry, and we were permitted to reprint it.

During the 1940's, two hospitals met all these urgent needs and afforded shining examples of how medicine and A.A. could cooperate. At St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Doctor Bob, the wonderful Sister Ignatia, and the hospital's staff presided over an alcoholic ward that had ministered to five thousand alcoholics

by the time Doctor Bob passed away in 1950. In New York, Knickerbocker Hospital provided a ward under the care of our first friend in medicine, Dr. William Duncan Silkworth, where he was assisted by a redheaded A.A. nurse known as Teddy. It was in these two hospitals and by these pioneering people that the best techniques of combined medicine and A.A. were worked out.

Since proper hospitalization was, and still is, one of A.A.'s greatest problems, the General Service Office has retailed this early hospital experience, along with the many subsequent developments and ramifications, to groups all over the world — still another very vital service.

### **A Rash of Anonymity Breaks**

About this time a serious threat to our longtime welfare made its appearance. Usually meaning well, members began breaking their anonymity all over the place. Sometimes they wanted to use the A.A. name to advertise and help other causes. Others just wanted their names and pictures in the papers. Being photographed with the governor would really help A.A., they thought. (I'd earlier been guilty of this, too.) But at last we saw the appalling risk to A.A. if all our power-drivers got loose at the public level. Already scores of them were doing it.

So our General Service Office got to work. We wrote remonstrances, kind ones, of course, to every breaker. We even sent letters to

nearly all press and radio outlets, explaining why A.A.'s shouldn't break their anonymity before the public. Nor, we added, did A.A. solicit money — we paid our own bills.

In a few years the public anonymity-breakers were squeezed down to a handful — thus another valuable G.S.O. service had gone into action.

### **G.S.O. Services Expand**

To maintain all these ever-lengthening service lifelines, the office had to go on expanding. G.S.O. moved to 44th Street.

Our present array of services may look like big business to some. But when we think of the size and reach of A.A. today, that isn't true at all. In 1945, for example, we had one paid worker to every 98 groups; in 1955, one paid worker to every 230 groups.<sup>8</sup> It therefore seems sure that we shall never be burdened with a bureaucratic and expensive service setup.

*(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.**