



Carry the Message May 2008

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

Upcoming Events

Thanks to District 4 for the successful Service Workshop and all the volunteers, speakers and attendees for the fabulous annual Huron Valley Area Intergroup Anniversary Event at Pioneer High School. This was a lot of hard work. . If you would like to keep the unity and momentum going, join next years planning committee now.

May 17, 2008 3rd Sat. AA Group Service Center: 4pm **Huron Valley Area Intergroup Meeting**, 101 S. Huron St. Ypsilanti, MI. www.hvai.org

May 19, 2008 3rd Mon. **District 4 AA Conference Service Structure Meeting: 7PM** Community Center, 625 North Main

May 23rd-25th, 2008 Northern MI Intra-Annual Spring Round Up: Humility Through Service, Grayling, MI www.dist26aa.org

June 1, 2008 Central Michigan Intra-Area Assembly will be hosted by District 6 in Lansing, MI www.cmia32.org

SOBERFEST 2008
Saturday, May 31, 2008 • 12-8pm
Riverside Park • Ypsilanti
Free Admission!
Live Music, Featuring: Noteworthy, Vineyard Church Choir, Lemon James Band, Breathe Easy Music, Chris Canas, Blues Revolution Band, The Amazing Kip—Mind Geek & Magician
Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets

Step Five

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs

Tradition Five: Long Form

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Traditions Checklist:

Tradition Five

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

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

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)

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

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:

Weekend By the Book Group

Wednesday at Westside

Thursday 12 Step Group

Keeping It Simple

Sat. Morning Men's At the WAC

Women of Substance

Stadium 12/12

Came to Believe

Sat Morning Woman's Group

Sat. Night at St. Joe's Group

Meeting Updates

Our meeting updates are now available online at www.hvai.org.

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 2008 meeting directory is now available.**

UPDATES to Spring 2008 Directory

ANN ARBOR

9:00am Sun.: Fathers in Recovery (CD) (M)
MOVED to Dawn Farm
343 Beakes Street

6:15pm Tues. AA at the Juvenile Facility (CD)

Wash. County Sheriff Complex
4125 Washtenaw

BELLEVILLE

8:30pm NEW DAY Fri.: 11th Step Meditation (CD)
St. Anthony's 373 W. Columbia

YPSILANTI SATURDAY was omitted from the 2008 Directory. If your directory is missing this information, please tape this section to page 25 or return your book for a replacement. We apologize for the inconvenience.

YPSILANTI SATURDAY CORRECTION

8:30am Sat. The St. Joe's Morning Meeting (CD)
St. Joseph Church (Maria Hall entrance)
9425 Whittaker (S. of Willis)

9:00am Saturday Morning (Parlor) Al-Anon and
9:30am By the Book (CD) (B)
1st Presbyterian, 300 N. Washington (Emmet door)

8:00pm Sat. Weekend By the Book (CD)
Dawn Farm (Basement): 6633 Stony Creek

8:30pm Sat. Night St. Joe's (OS)
Sign Lang. 1st Sat.
Catherine McAuley Education Center
5301 East Huron River

THE CORRECTED SPRING 2008 DIRECTORIES ARE
NOW AVAILALE AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE

63rd Anniversary Event Ticket Number:

256

**Wins The Big Book on 16
CD's!!!!**

**Contact Linda@HVAI.org
or stop by the Office**

Looking Back

From time to time over the years, the General Service Conference has approved various changes to some of the important passages in our literature. Here is a look at some of those changes:

The A.A. Preamble (1947)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. A.A. has no dues or fees. It is not allied with

any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution. Does not wish to engage in any controversy. Neither endorses opposes any cause. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The A.A. Preamble (1958 to present)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The Steps (1938)

1. We admitted that we were licked, that we were powerless over alcohol.
2. We made a moral inventory of our defects or sins.
3. We confessed or shared our shortcomings with another person in confidence.
4. We made restitution to all those we had harmed by our drinking.
5. We tried to help other alcoholics, with no thought of reward in money or prestige.
6. We prayed to whatever God we thought there was for power to practice these steps.

The Twelve Steps (1939 Multilith)

1. Admitted we were powerless over

alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Mad a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care and direction of God as we understand him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and practice these principles in all our affairs

.Reprinted from: *AA: The Way it Began* by Bill Pittman ©1988 Bill Pittman

How it Works from the Original Manuscript

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our directions. Those who do not recover are people who cannot or

will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a way of life which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest.

Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it -then you are ready to follow directions.

At some of these you may balk. You may think you can find an easier, softer way. We doubt if you can. With all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.

Remember that you are dealing with alcohol - cunning, baffling, powerful! Without help it is too much for you. But there is One who has all power - That One is God. You must find Him now!

Half measures will avail you nothing. You stand at the turning point. Throw yourself under His protection and care with complete abandon.

Now we think you can take it! Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as your Program of Recovery:

1. Admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care and direction of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

6. Were entirely willing that God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly, on our knees, asked Him to remove our shortcomings - holding nothing back.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make complete amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

You may exclaim, "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is, that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after, have been designed to sell you three pertinent ideas:

- (a) That you are alcoholic and cannot manage your own life.
- (b) That probably no human power can relieve your alcoholism.
- (c) That God can and will.

If you are not convinced on these vital issues, you ought to re-read the book to this point or else throw it away!

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

Coming soon to your group: Local Committee Members will be carrying the message from and to all of the AA groups in Washtenaw County in the coming months. We are 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.

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/lv1o7>

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.

Grapevine: Looking for volunteers to serve on Grapevine Committee for District 4. Contact Daryl A. at 517.851.8255.

Share your Story: A.A.s willing to give a talk to clients in local treatment facilities needed. Contact Shannon T.

Much to our relief, we discovered we did not need to consider another's conception of God. Our own conception, however inadequate, was sufficient to make the approach and to effect a contact with Him.

at 734.678.2478 or district4treatment@gmail.com

Young People's Video Project: A.A. General Service Office invites A.A. members residing in the U.S. and Canada service structure to submit videos that focus on the experience of getting sober between the ages of 12 and 25. Submissions are accepted until September 1, 2008.

www.org/recoveryinaa/vidoeupload

Kirk F. stepped down as District Treasurer. Our Alternate Treasurer Lori stepped up to fill the open position. Thanks Kirk for your loyal service. Alternate Treasurer position is now open.

A HUGE THANKS to all the volunteers who helped make the 63rd Anniversary Celebration such a huge success. Service work helps you stay sober. Thanks everyone!

District 4 is looking for a new meeting location. Please contact Stephan with any ideas.

Our Delegate Larry Saunders will be visiting the District in the next few months. Time and location to be announced when available.

District 4 Finances

March 1, 2008 — March 31, 2008

Beginning Balance: \$907.62

Income:

7th Tradition and Group Contributions \$93.00

Total Income: \$93.00
Subtotal \$1000.62

Expenses:

AACC (rent): \$20.00

Treasurers expenses:

HVAI Service Manuals \$41.00

HVAI PI Contribution 21.00

St. Joe ASL signer 20.00

Host Committee 213.28

HVAI/District Flyer 40.85

HVAI/District Event 250.00

Total Expenses: \$586.13

Closing Balance: \$414.49

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.

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.