



# Carry the Message May, 2009

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

## 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 from the A.A. Grapevine

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?

## A Moving Tribute

We died of pneumonia in furnished rooms where they found us three days after when somebody complained about the smell.

We died against bridge abutments and nobody knew if it was suicide and we probably didn't know either except in the sense that it was always suicide.

We died in hospitals, our stomachs huge, distended and there was nothing they could do.

We died in cells, never knowing whether we were guilty or not. We went to priests, they gave us pledges, they told us to pray, they told us to go and sin no more, but go. We tried and we died.

We died of overdoses; we died in bed (but usually not the Big Bed). We died in straitjackets, in the DT's seeing God knows what, creeping, skittering, slithering, and shuffling things. And you know what the worst thing was? The worst thing was that nobody ever believed how hard we tried.

We went to doctors and they gave us stuff to take that would make us sick when we drank on the principle of "so crazy, it just might work," I guess, or maybe they just shook their heads and sent us to places like Drop kick

Murphy's. And when we got out we were hooked on paraldehyde or maybe we lied too. And the doctors and they told us not to drink so much, just drink like me. And we tried, and we died.

We drowned in our own vomit or choked on it, our broken jaws wired shut.

We died playing Russian roulette and people thought we'd lost, but we knew better. We died under the hoofs of horses, under the wheels of vehicles, under the knives and boot heels of our brother drunks. We died in shame. And you know what was even worse was that we couldn't believe it our-

(Continued on page 2)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department is hosting a workshop for those who want to attend AA meetings in the jail. The workshop is Saturday, June 27th from 9:00 – Noon at the jail, 2201 Hogback Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. For additional information and the necessary forms contact linda@hvai.org (734.482.0707) or jerry-fouchey@comcast.net (734.255.8336).

## HVAI Contributions

(Continued from page 1)

**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:**

### **Ann Arbor:**

Living the Steps  
Sat. 830a Morning Men's  
Any Length Group

### **Belleville:**

10a & 8p 12 Step Group

### **Dexter:**

Women/Substance

### **Ypsilanti:**

10a Unity  
Sisters in Serenity

selves, that we had tried. We figured we just thought we tried and we died believing that we hadn't tried, believing that we didn't know what it meant to try.

When we were desperate enough or hopeful or deluded or embattled enough to go for help, we went to people with letters after their names and prayed that they might have read the right books, that had the right words in them, never suspecting the terrifying truth, that the right words, as simple as they were, had not been written yet.

We died falling off girders on high buildings, because of course ironworkers drink, of course they do. We died with a shotgun in our mouth, or jumping off a bridge, and everybody knew it was suicide.

We died under the Southeast Expressway, with our hands tied behind us and a bullet in the back of our head, because this time the people that we disappointed were the wrong people.

We died in convulsions, or of "insult to the brain," we died incontinent, and in disgrace, abandoned. If we were women, we died degraded, because women have so much more to live up to. We tried and we died and nobody cried.

And the very worst thing was that for every one of us that died, there were another hundred of us, or another thousand, who wished that we could die, who went

to sleep praying we would not have to wake up because what we were enduring was intolerable and we knew in our hearts it wasn't ever going to change.

One day in a hospital room in New York City, one of us had what the books call a transforming spiritual experience, and he said to himself "I've got it" (no, you haven't, you've only got part of it) "and I have to share it." (Now you've ALMOST got it) and he kept trying to give it away, but we couldn't hear it. We tried and we died.

We died of one last cigarette, the comfort of its glowing in the dark. We passed out and the bed caught fire. They said we suffocated before our body burned, they said we never felt a thing, that was the best way maybe that we died, except sometimes we took our family with us.

And the man in New York was so sure he had it, he tried to love us into sobriety, but that didn't work either, love confuses drunks and he tried and we still died.

One after another we got his hopes up and we broke his heart, because that's what we do. And the worst thing was that every time we thought we knew what the worst thing was something happened that was worse.

Until a day came in a hotel lobby and it wasn't in Rome, or Jerusalem, or Mecca or even Dublin, or South Boston,

## Meeting Updates

**Our meeting updates are 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 is now available. Get one at a local meeting or stop into the HVAI office at 31 South Huron Street, Ypsilanti MI.

## 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

### May 2009

**May 15th-17th, 2009:** *Michigan Al-Anon Family Groups 37th Annual Convention: Navigate Life's "Grand Rapids" By Practicing the Twelve Steps to Serenity*, Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids, MI: Al-Anon, Alateen, with AA participation: Info: 616) 784-0506 or tjonan@att.net or ronhessman@comcast.net

**May 15th-17th, 2009:** *Second City Round-up in Chicago North Shore*, 5300 West Touhy Ave. Skokie, ILL, 60077: AA & Al-Anon. Info: Bill W. 708) 372-4186, Jonas H. 773) 988-7423, Derek T 773) 206-6306

**May 16th, 2009:** *Huron Valley Area Intergroup Business Meeting (HVAI): (every 3rd Sat.)* 2 doors south of the HVAI office at S.O.S. Admin. 101 S. Huron St. (use side door),

**May 18th, 2009:** **District 4: (3rd Monday each month) Conference Service Structure Meeting**, Calvary Methodist Church, 1415 Miller St., Ann Arbor, 48103.

**May 21s-24th, 2009:** *Thursdays 23rd Annual Gathering of Eagles Kick off Dinner*. Limited seating / Double Tree Hotel, Dallas, Tx. Info: www.dallasgatheringofeagles.org

**May 21st - 24th, 2009:** *51st ICYPAA Conference, "Carry the Vision"* pre-registration, Atlanta, Ga , Registration after May 1, will be \$30. Info: ICYPAAHOST.org

**May 22nd- - 24th, 2009:** *Northern Michigan Interarea Spring Round-Up*, Grayling, MI: 2650 I-75 biz Loop, Ramda Inn Conference Center:

**May 22nd- - 24th, 2009:** *1St Annual Spring Fling Convention: Our Primary Purpose in St. Louis, Missouri* Info: John 314) 413-5939 or shomaker1@aol.com

it was in Akron, Ohio, for Christ's sake.

A day came when the man said I have to find a drunk because I need him as much as he needs me (NOW you've got it). And the transmission line, after all those years, was open, the transmission line was open. And now we don't go to priests, and we don't go to doctors and people with letters after their names.

We come to people who have been there, we come to each other. And we try. And we don't have to die.

### **An opportunity to carry the message behind bars . . .**

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department will be hosting a volunteer orientation workshop for those who want to attend AA meetings in the jail. The workshop will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2009. The workshop will be held from 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in the Sheriff's Administrative Confer-

ence Room just off the main lobby at the Washtenaw County Jail. The Jail is located at 2201 Hogback Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

This workshop is a requirement for new volunteers and volunteers who have not attended an orientation workshop in over a year. If you want to know more about the meetings that take place in the jail you can contact the following:

Women's - Wed. 9:00 am 482-0707

Men's - Mon. 10:30 am -

George 483-2215

Men's - Tues. 7:30 pm - Jerry F.

665-9745 & Doug 277-7139

Men's Meeting - Wed. 7:00 pm -

Darryl 216-4112, Edward 972-1269,

Lyle 485-1987, & Dave

The attached forms are furnished by the jail and should be completed before the workshop, and mailed a week ahead to Inmate Services at the address above, or faxed to Myra Wilson at 734.973-4389. You should also send a photocopy of your driver's license with the application.

If you have questions about the forms, contact Myra L. Wilson, Washtenaw County Sheriff Office, (734) 973-4382. **If you plan on attending the volunteer orientation workshop, please call Myra so they know how many will be coming.**

There are a few things you should know. First, the Sheriff's Office does not want volunteers who are interested in attending meetings in the jail only to see friends or relatives who are detained there. Second, the Sheriff's Office will be doing a background check, so if you have any unfinished legal business, you will probably want to put this kind of service off for now. Finally, if you have had previous legal involvements, you need to be free of legal trouble for ten years before you will be considered for approval as a volunteer by the Sheriff's Office.

Hoping to see you there . . . In Service to the alcoholic who still suffers.

## Area Meeting Updates

BOOKMARK UPDATES TO SPRING 2008 MEETING DIRECTORY

### SUNDAY

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.  
McCauley Ed. Center (classroom EC5)  
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.  
3:00pm Big Book Study (D)

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.**

Bill W.'s tribute to Dr.  
Bob's Wife Anne  
AA Grapevine July, 1949

Anne S. has taken her leave of us. She died on Wednesday, June 1. To the hundreds who really knew her, this was a meaningful and moving event. With those who knew her not, I wish to share the inspiration which she gave to Lois and me. Anne was the wife of Dr. Bob, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. She was, quite literally, the mother of our first group, Akron Number One.

Her wise and beautiful counsel to all, her insistence that the spiritual come before anything else, her unwavering support of Dr. Bob in all his works; all these were virtues which watered the uncertain seed

that was to become AA. Who but God could assess such a contribution? We can only say that it was priceless and magnificent. In the full sense of the word, she was one of the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Not a soul who knew Anne will say that she is really gone. Each knows that her abiding love and influence will live forever. And none knows better than Dr. Bob, Lois and I, who saw these things from the beginning. Nor do we think we shall never see her again. For, like nearly all our fellow AA members, we believe there is no death. She is only out of our sight and hearing for a little while.

But life among Alcoholics Anonymous is more than attending gatherings and visiting hospitals. Cleaning up old scrapes, helping to settle family differences, explaining the disinherited son to his irate parents, lending money and securing jobs for each other, when justified - these are everyday occurrences.

*Alcoholics Anonymous*

Page 161

## Responsibility Pledge

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

