



# Carry the Message June, 2009

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

## Step Six

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

## Tradition Six Long Form

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred.

But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.-and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

## Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with • Guidelines on Clubs• (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

## Tradition Six

—Bill W.

AA Grapevine vol 9 Number 5 — October 1952

THE moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable for us to feel we might have an answer for a lot of other things. The AA groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the AA name behind any meritorious cause.

Here are some of the things we dreamed. Hospitals didn't like alcoholics, so we thought we'd build a hospital chain of our own. People needed to be told what alcoholism was, so we'd educate the public, even re-write school and medical textbooks. We'd gather up derelicts from Skid Rows, sort out those who could get well and make it possible for the rest to earn their livelihood in a kind of quarantined confinement. Maybe these places would make large sums of money to carry on our other good works. We seriously thought of re-writing the laws of the land, and have it declared that alcoholics are sick people. No more would they be jailed; judges would parole them in our custody. We'd spill AA into the dark regions of dope addiction and criminality. We'd form groups of depressive and paranoid folks, the deeper the neurosis the better we'd like it. It stood to reason that if alcoholism could be licked, so could any problem.

It occurred to us that we could take what we had into the factories and cause laborers and capitalists to love each other. Our uncompromising honesty might soon clean up politics. With one arm around the

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Paperwork, Lien Clearance, and Approval for volunteering to carry the message into the Washtenaw County Jail must be submitted very soon. Volunteer Orientation is June 27, 2009. Contact Linda at the HVAI Office**

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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:**

We would like to thank District 04 for the generous contribution toward the expenses for the AA in Washtenaw County Service and Anniversary Celebration.

**Ann Arbor:**  
Sober Spice  
New Sunshine  
Singleness of Purpose

## 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.

The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called will power becomes practically nonexistent. We are unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink.

*Alcoholics Anonymous*

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shoulder of religion and the other around the shoulder of medicine, we'd resolve their differences. Having learned to live so happily, we'd show everybody else how. Why, we thought, our society of Alcoholics Anonymous might prove to be the spearhead of a new spiritual advance! We might transform the world.

Yes, we of AA did dream those dreams. How natural that was, since most alcoholics are bankrupt idealists. Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great Ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout. Providence, through AA, had brought us within reach of our highest expectations. So why shouldn't we share our way of life with everyone?

Whereupon we tried AA hospitals. . .they all bogged down because you cannot put an AA group into business; too many busy-body cooks spoil the broth. AA groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did AA fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was AA spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprise, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, "There oughtta be a law!" AAs commenced to thump tables in legislative committee-rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics. Even inside AA we found it imperative to remove the AA name from clubs and Twelfth Step Houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

Years ago this principle of "no endorsement" was put to a vital test. Some of the great distilling companies proposed to go into the field of alcohol education. It would be a good thing, they believed, for the liquor trade to show a sense of public responsibility. They wanted to say that liquor should be enjoyed, not misused; hard drinkers ought to slow down, and problem drinkers. . .alcoholics. . .should not drink at all.

In one of their trade associations, the question arose of just how this campaign should be handled. Of course they would use the resources of radio, press, and films to make their point. But what kind of a person should head the job? They immediately thought of Alcoholics Anonymous. If they could find a good public relations man in our ranks, why wouldn't he be ideal? He'd certainly know the problem. His connection with AA would be valuable, because the fellowship stood high in public favor and hadn't an enemy in the world.

Soon they'd spotted their man, an AA with the necessary experience. Straightway he appeared at New York's AA headquarters, asking, "Is there anything in our tradition that suggests I shouldn't take a job like this one? The kind of education seems good to me, and is not too controversial. Do you headquarters folks see any bugs in it?"

At first glance, it did look like a good thing. Then doubt crept in. The association

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## 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

Your contribution to HVAI supports: The local AA Service Center, the Help Line, the Web and Printed Meeting Directories, a source for Conference-Approved Literature and Anniversary Tokens, AA Outreach to the area Professionals, Treatment Facilities, local Correctional Facilities and the General Public.

## Upcoming Events

**June 20, 2009:** *Huron Valley Area Intergroup Business Meeting (HVAI): (3rd Sat.)* 2 doors south of the HVAI office at S.O.S. Admin. 101 S. Huron St. (use side door),

**June 20, 2009:** *MCYPAA Eastside Host Committee invites you to A Day in the Park* at Pine Grove Park in Port Huron. BBQ and Speakers. Info: Christine 269) 929-2375, Zack 734) 846-0312 or amydehn@comcast.net]

**June 20, 2009:** *MCYPAA Kalamazoo YPAA BBQ Fun Day* Amy Dehn [amydehn@comcast.net]

**June 26th- - 28th, 2009:** *9th Annual Midwest Motorcycle Alcoholics Anonymous Convention*, Emerald Acres Campground, Pearl City, IL 61062. Hosted by the Freedom, Faith Fellowship AA Group info: [www.MMAAC.org](http://www.MMAAC.org)

**June 27, 2009:** *MCYPAA West Side Bid Committee presents a Summer Solstice Dance.* doors open 7:30pm, Speaker (Alicia) at 8pm. Dance (D.J. Tommy) 9pm. 6633 Stoney Creek Road, Ypsilanti 48197 Local info: wsmcypaa@gmail.com , Amanda 645-3648 or James 323-9913

**July 10th-12th, 2009:** *Chelsea Friends in Sobriety Campout:* Fri. Campfire, Sat. Noon Gratitude and Pot Luck (Turkey & Chicken provided) 5pm, Campers Breakfast (you bring it, we cook it). Info: Larry D. 734) 260-1540

**July 17th-19th, 2009:** *MCYPAA 16th ANNUAL Grayling Campout* Call campground to reserve your spot early!!! Info: Steve 734) 915-7768 or Gino 734) 624-6461 or amydehn@comcast.net

**July 18th, 2009:** *Huron Valley Area Intergroup Business Meeting (HVAI) (3rd Sat.)* 2 doors south of the HVAI office at S.O.S. Admin. 101 S. Huron St. (use side door),

**July 18th, 2009:** *MCYPAA the Grand Rapids Luau and Dance* Info: Matt 616) 802-2748, Steve 616) 889-5570 or amydehn@comcast.net]

**July 20th, 2009:** District 4 (3rd Monday) Conference Service Structure Meeting, Calvary Methodist Church, 1415 Miller St., Ann Arbor, 48103.

**July 24th-26th, 2009:** *Michigan State Convention* hosted by Area 33. Ramada Plaza at the Northfield Troy, 5500 Crooks Road, Troy, MI Info: Registration: Vic P. 586) 792-2996, Chair: Dan S. 586) 945-5177 Al-Anon: Matti 248) 773-2872

**July 31st-Aug. 2nd, 2009:** *A Vision for You, Boise, Idaho.* Info: [www.jimstateroundup.com](http://www.jimstateroundup.com)

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wanted to use our member's full name in all its advertising; he was to be described both as its director of publicity and as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Of course there could not be the slightest objection if such an association hired an AA member solely because of his public relations ability and his knowledge of alcoholism. But that wasn't the whole story, for in this case not only was an AA member to break his anonymity at a public level, he was to link the name Alcoholics Anonymous to this particular educational project in the minds of millions. It would be bound to appear that AA was now backing education. . .liquor trade association style.

The minute we saw this compromising

fact for what it was, we asked the prospective publicity director how he felt about it. "Great Guns!" he said. "Of course I can't take the job. The ink wouldn't be dry on the first ad before an awful shriek would go up from the dry camp. They'd be out with lanterns looking for an honest AA to plump for their brand of education. AA would land exactly in the middle of the wet-dry controversy. Half the people in this country would think we'd signed up with the dries, the other half would think we'd joined the wets. What a mess!"

"Nevertheless," we pointed out, "You still have a legal right to take this job."

"I know that," he said. "But this is no time for legalities. Alcoholics Anonymous saved my life, and it comes first. I certainly won't be the guy to land AA in the big-

time trouble, and this would really do it!"

Concerning endorsements, our friend had said it all. We saw as never before that we could not lend the AA name to any cause other than our own.

We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain's table.

## AA Luncheons Build Morale

AA Grapevine Vol 1 Number 2 July 1944

Although it seems alcoholics shouldn't drink together--or at all, for that matter--they are deriving considerable benefit and pleasure from eating together. Virtually every section of Manhattan is the scene of one or more A.A. luncheon groups which meet regularly at convenient times and places throughout the week. The ritual of breaking bread at a common board never fails to produce that good fellowship sometimes attributed solely to the glass and the bottle.

New members will find at the luncheons an unsurpassed opportunity to make lasting friendships with more experienced members and to absorb invaluable pointers on the workings of the Program. We think that there is no better way to learn what makes A.A. tick than by taking part in these very relaxed sessions. A striking and attractive feature of the gatherings is their air of friendliness. On the other hand you'll find the conversation free from sentimentality and affectation, as the members explore and settle an infinite variety of topics with the gusto, assurance and fluency characteristic of their kind. Quite indispensable to many of us in the A.A. school of reorientation have been these midday associations with kindred spirits whose visible growth in the art of living is a friendly challenge to emulation. Any alcoholic will be quietly and warmly welcomed into the companionship of these small units. The group secretaries tell when and where.

## On Cultivating Tolerance

AA Grapevine Vol 1 Number 2 July 1944

During nine years in A.A. I have observed that those who follow the Alcoholics Anonymous program with the greatest earnestness and zeal, not only maintain sobriety, but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance. Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of

ways: in kindness and consideration toward the man or woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path; in the understanding of those who perhaps have been less fortunate in educational advantages, and in sympathy toward those whose religious ideas may seem to be at great variance with our own. I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior--which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite painful or obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another--and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to preconceived ideas and stubbornly adhered-to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important--in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.

These, then, are a few of the reasons why an attempt to acquire tolerance should be made by each one of us.

—Dr. Bob of Akron

**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.**

## Quote of the Month

AA Grapevine, Vol 45 Number 1. June 1988

When, therefore, we AAs look to the future, we must always ask ourselves if the **spirit** which now binds us together in our common cause will always be stronger than those personal ambitions and desires which tend to drive us apart. . . Though the individual AA is under no human coercion, is at almost perfect personal liberty, we have, nevertheless, achieved a wonderful unity on vital essentials.

For examples, the Twelve Steps of our AA program are not crammed down anybody's throat. They are not sustained by any human authority. Yet we powerfully unite around them because the truth they contain has saved our lives, has opened the door to a new world.

—Bill W.

R. H. SMITH, M. D.  
 2ND NATIONAL BLDG. AKRON, OHIO  
 TELEPHONE: HE-8523 REG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FOR alcoholics

R ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE Feb 1937

*always remember it*

1. Trust God
2. Clean house
3. Help others

NR 1 2 3 INF. \_\_\_\_\_ M. D.