



# Carry the Message August, 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 VIII Long Form

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

## Concept VIII Checklist

- Do we understand the relationship between the two corporate service entities A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A.

Grapevine) and the General Service Board?

- How can the business term "custodial oversight" apply to the trustees' relationship to the two corporate service entities?
- Does my home group subscribe to G.S.O.'s bimonthly newsletter Box 4-5-9?? The A.A.Grapevine? Do I?

## About AA Spring 2010

—a Newsletter for Professionals©AA World Services

(continued from "A.A. as a resource for drug and Alcohol Court professionals")

## Singleness of Purpose

"There is a common misunderstanding, however," says Alex, "regarding A.A. and alcoholism in the court system." While other Twelve Step fellowships have had great success in dealing with problems other than alcoholism, such as drug addiction and gambling, A.A.

is geared specifically toward alcoholics. Yet, as Alex notes, "A.A. just happens to be the one program that most people have heard of," which sometimes results in non-alcoholics being court-mandated to attend A.A. meetings.

"The biggest problem we have is when judges send drug addicts to A.A. meetings when they don't have a problem with alcohol," says Judge Flores. "In all my travels around the country and around the world, people in the Fellowship often say, 'Judge, don't do that. We do have a singleness of purpose.' So, I try to explain that to my drug court colleagues. I try to explain, don't send a heroin addict into an A.A. meeting if they're not alcoholic.

"The opposite side of that coin, of course, is the fact that many of the people I work with, the ones I see in my drug court who are



—Staff the Booth Friday, Aug 20, noon to 8, Saturday, August 21, 10—8, Sunday, August 22, 11—6

—pitch tents and set up — Friday Morning 9 a.m. and pack up and return items to office on Sunday

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## 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:**

Stadium 12 & 12 Group  
1,2,3 Steps Group  
Friday Night Group  
Jimmy's Group  
Living the Steps Group  
S.N.O.W Group  
T.G.I.M.M. Group  
Washtenaw County District 04  
Women's Steps to Serenity  
Young People in the Groove

### **Canton:**

Into Action Group

### **Manchester:**

Serenity in Action Group

### **Westland:**

St. John's Group

### **Ypsilanti:**

Heard it from the Grapevine  
Sat Nite at St. Joe's Group  
Thursday Night Steps Group

### **Personal and Anonymous Contributions**

mostly methamphetamine addicts, also have a serious problem with alcohol. So, what do we do with that person?

“That's where the team concept of drug courts comes in, where everybody pulls together to develop the best course of action for each person. It might be that the person is a meth addict and an alcoholic and we need to use every tool in the arsenal to help this person out. A.A. is a fundamental part of all that.”

### **'The Rock of Gibraltar'**

According to Judge Flores, one of the benefits of A.A. as a recovery resource is the continuity it provides and the stability it offers to alcoholics in or seeking recovery, as well as to the many professionals who look to A.A. for support and guidance in their own work with alcoholics.

“Seventy-five years later, A.A. hasn't changed,” he says, referring to the program's founding in 1935 and continued longevity as a positive force for recovery. “It's like

the Rock of Gibraltar. It's not necessarily an easy program, but it's a simple program. Not only the Twelve Steps, but the Concepts, the Traditions. Dating back 75 years ago, the A.A. recovery program really hasn't changed very much.”

Even though he is not a member of the Fellowship, Judge Flores is a firm believer that the strongest counselors in his court, the people who are most on-fire for helping people out, are those who are in recovery themselves. “They're the ones I turn to for resources. They know what their lives would be like if they started drinking again.”

“I too want to give back,” says Judge Flores. “I want to keep helping. It's important. That's what drives me to keep going forward. As tired and frustrating and crazy as it gets, with state and federal budgets being what they are, that's the real beauty of A.A. The Fellowship goes on; it doesn't matter if there's a recession or not. A.A. just keeps going forward, step by step, one alcoholic at a time. That's an amazing thing.”

## Meeting Updates

To update your April 2010 Directories, please print and pass on this information. Go to [ww.hvai.org](http://ww.hvai.org) and click on the AA & Al-Anon Meeting Locator, then type the key word 'change' in the search box. You can print and distribute this abbreviated list as a service. There is nothing worse than getting up the nerve to go to a meeting only to find it does not exist.

## 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/>

**4th Sunday :** Eastern Area ([www.EACYPAA9.org](http://www.EACYPAA9.org)) Bid Committee Planning: Grace Bible Church, 1300 South Maple, Ann Arbor 48103 info: Lisa D.. 586.362.0198, Nick G. 586-291-4871, Mike B. 586.668.8817 or <http://www.eacypaa9.org>

**August 20-22 , 2010:** *Ypsilanti Heritage Festival Information Booth*, Fri Noon til 8p, Saturday 10am til 8pm, Sunday 11am til 6pm. <http://www.ypsilantiheritagefestival.com>. ***Call Linda at the HVAI office to volunteer your time!!!*** **Note: The August HVAI Board meeting will be held at the Heritage Festival Booth**

**August 30,2010:** *2nd Anniversary of Monday Night 12 & 12 Group* at Holy Faith Church, 6299 Ann Arbor Road, Saline, MI. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Speaker: Dave S. at 7:30 pm. Please bring a dish to Pass. Drinks, Hot Dogs & Hamburgers provided.

**September 12, 2010:** 37th Dawn Farm Jamboree (1-6 pm)

**September 13-15, 2010:** AA-WS Intergroup Seminar in St. Louis, Missouri

### AA Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices (continued from last month)

—From publication MG02 © the AA General Service Office, NY, NY

(Continued from last month)

#### Staffing the Intergroup

Most A.A. central offices now employ at least one paid full-time secretary or manager, as well as A.A. volunteers—members who respond to Twelfth Step calls at the office, answer the telephone, and often carry out other service office duties. Large offices may also have paid clerical workers on the staff to assist the full-time person.

Although the principles involving certain paid employees of A.A. service centers are now widely known

in A.A., it is still helpful to review the appropriate A.A. Tradition at the time of opening a new service office. As it states in Tradition Eight: “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” It should be clear from this that the paid secretary functions as a paid employee of the central office—not as an A.A. member—during duty hours and is hired largely on the basis of professional skill.

Regarding compensation for paid workers, Bill W. writes in “Twelve Concepts for World Service” as follows: “We believe that each paid executive, staff member, or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or

abilities in the commercial world.” Also, Social Security and certain insurance benefits are provided, as well as sick leave and vacations.

It is suggested that the central office full-time secretary also be accorded a vote as well as a voice on the steering committee. This policy is successfully followed by A.A. World Services, Inc.: The staff coordinator—a paid employee as well as an A.A. member—also serves as a director and thus has a vote on policy matters.

#### Supervision — Making the office serve

It’s plain that the success of the

(Continued on page 4)

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central office requires community-wide agreement on matters concerning administrative responsibility and authority. The steering committee should reach an early consensus on this; if necessary, they should explain it in the bylaws or some other set of guidelines. For, while it's difficult to establish hard-and-fast rules and then live by them, it's at least reasonable to clarify such matters as the functions of the office and the extent of the paid secretary's authority and duties.

Some decisions can be entrusted to the paid secretary. In other cases, it may be wiser for the steering committee to maintain full oversight of many matters. In any case, it's important that problems get an early review by someone who is authorized to deal with them and can solve them as quickly as possible. Otherwise, the service office operations are bound to suffer

Special attention might be given to the following matters in the operation of the office:

1) Fair distribution of Twelfth Step calls. However tempting it may be to assign follow-up calls to those individuals and groups that seem especially willing, the Twelfth Step work is something all the groups in the community should be encouraged to share. But it's also important that calls are distributed according to the

location of the group; that is, newcomers should usually be put in touch with the group nearest to them.

2) After closing hours, A.A. volunteers or a telephone answering service—carefully chosen—should handle incoming calls. (See Guidelines on A.A. Answering Services.)

3) Authority and responsibility should be related. It is unfair to assign certain responsibilities to a paid secretary or volunteer without giving commensurate authority.

### **Facing financial responsibility**

**Incorporation:** By its very nature, a service office involves making financial commitments quite different from those usually encountered in the operation of an A.A. group. Office facilities have to be leased; a secretary must be hired and paid; office supplies must be purchased; the telephone bill has to be paid regularly. To adequately take care of these responsibilities, it is generally wise to incorporate separately special facilities, such as a service office, which require money or management.

Since group purposes, local conditions, and state laws vary, it is suggested a local lawyer be consulted regarding such incorporation.

At the same time, the following points might be emphasized: If possible, eliminate the name "Alcoholics Anonymous" from the corporate title. (This name is the sole property of A.A. as a whole.) Limit

the activities of the corporation to the one locality only.

Expenses create a need for financial responsibility that should be recognized at the outset; if properly understood and dealt with, it never need become a source of trouble.

### **Suggested methods of financing a central office:**

1) **Group Collections.** A.A. groups participating in the financial support of the service office may choose to make their contributions by setting aside fixed sums from their regular collections. Many groups pledge a fixed amount, which is paid periodically. This assures the central office of a regular income, and certainly helps it to plan the best means of meeting its own obligations.

Occasionally there are groups that do not support a central office. In these cases, the spirit of contributing voluntarily, that prevails throughout A.A., applies. If groups can't or choose not to pay their share of the costs, they shouldn't be denied the services of the office.

2) **Special Contributions.** Some groups provide a special collection box or basket in a convenient place during meeting times, inviting members to contribute. In that same vein, A.A. members may make individual contributions, on a pledge or voluntary basis, directly to the service office.

*(Continued next month)*