



# Carry the Message November 2008

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

## Step Eleven

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

## Tradition Eleven Long Form

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational

advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

## Traditions Checklist—from the A.A. Grapevine

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem *unattractive*?
2. Am I always careful to keep

the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?

3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around• even within the Fellowship?

4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?

5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?

6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?



## Thanksgiving Alkathon!

Once again this year, HVAI is organizing Alkathons for the Holidays. This can be a difficult time for many. Your Group can help carry the message when we need it most. Come join us in the Fellowship of the season.

Sponsor a 2-hour block for \$15.00. Contact Phil C. at (734) 388-0265 or pclevenger (at) gmail.com to reserve your spot today...they're going fast! Check the HVAI website for updates

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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:

**\*ANONYMOUS**

**Ann Arbor:** 1p Another 2nd Chance

Primary Purpose

Spiritual Solution

Ann Arbor OS Group

T.G.I.M.

Living the Steps

Simple But Not Easy

1,2,3 Steps Group

Singleness of Purpose

A Vision for You Group

Open AA Study

AA at Westside

**Bellville:** Th. 12 Step Group

**Brighton:** Women in Unity

**Chelsea:** Chelsea Hospital AA

**Dexter** Women/Substance

**District 04** Washtenaw County

**Milford:** Groups

**Saline:** Sunrise

**Ypsilanti:** Clean & Sober on Park

Weekend By the Book

Unity

Promises Group GLBT

Changing Directions-AL

Attitude Adjustment

## Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.'s History

Each year the G.S.O. Archives receives thousands of requests for research and historical information. The questions we receive range from very simple questions with easy answers to complex questions involving hours of research. If you have a question about AA's history or archives, we hope you will contact us (or one of the many other local and area AA archives) to try to find the answer. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions we receive here at the G.S.O. Archives, and some of our answers.

### Q. What are the origins of the Serenity Prayer?

**A.** It was debated for years who wrote the Serenity Prayer, and its origins are still somewhat murky, but it seems most likely to have been written by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, a well-known theologian who served for many years as Dean and Professor of Applied Christianity at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. G.S.O.'s Archives can provide

more information about this prayer's historical origins upon request.

Alcoholics Anonymous became aware of the Serenity Prayer in 1941, when it was discovered printed in the New York Tribune newspaper. Ruth Hock, AA's first secretary and a non-alcoholic, was immediately taken with it. The headquarters staff thought of printing the prayer on a card to distribute to AA members.

On June 12, 1941, Ruth wrote Henry S., a Washington, D.C.-based AA member and printer by profession, saying:

*"One of the boys up here got a clipping from a local newspaper which is so very much to the point and so much to their liking, that they have asked me to find out from you what it would cost to set it up on a small card, something like a visiting card, which can be carried in a wallet... here it is...would appreciate it if you would let me know right away."*

Henry answered back immediately and enthusiastically:

*"...Your cards are on the way and my congratulations to the man who discovered that in the paper. I can't recall any sentence that packs quite the wallop that that does and dur-*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Meeting Updates

Our meeting updates are now available online at [www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org).

New to the HVAI website is a searchable meeting directory! heck 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. 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  
P. O. Box 283  
Saline, MI 48176

**AA World Service**  
Grand Central Station  
P.O. Box 459  
New York, NY 10164-0423

## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER, 2008

**November 2, 2008:** *1st. Sun. [Central MI CMLA](#) ...Conference Service Structure Meeting:* Flint : (District 12)

**November 2, 2008:** *Metro Detroit 8th Annual Woman to Woman Luncheon* at [www.Laurelmanor.com](http://www.Laurelmanor.com) , 39000 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, MI 48150 from 11:30 am til ? Speaker: Beverly H. Tickets \$25. Website Registration: [www.metrodetroitw2w.org](http://www.metrodetroitw2w.org)

**November 13, 2008:** *Thursday, Saline Last Chance 31st Anniversary* at the UAW Hall, Local 892, 601 Woodland Drive. BRING A DISH TO PASS

**November 14, 2008:** Wally P. (From Yucson, AZ) On Sponsorship, 8pm-10pm at the P.C. Alano Club. At 5936 Sheldon Rd. & Ford Rd. in Canton. Call Gary 734) 718-1646

**November 15, 2008:** Wally P. Back to Basics One Day Workshop Held from 9am-4:30pm. At the Dawn Farm Barn, 6633 Stony Creek Road Ypsilanti, MI \$5.00. Call Gary 734) 718-1646

**November 14, 2008:** Wally P. (From Yucson, AZ) On Sponsorship, 1:30pm-4:30pm at the P.C. Alano Club. At 5936 Sheldon Rd. & Ford Rd. in Canton. Call Gary 734) 718-1646

**November 26 & 27, 2008:** **THANKSGIVING ALKATHON** from 10pm Thanksgiving Eve til Midnight Thanksgiving Day. Area Groups are encouraged to donate \$15. to reserve a 2hr time slot and provide members to facilitate a meeting.

**November 28-30, 2008:** *30th MYCPAA Thanksgiving Convention: "Life will take on new meaning..."*, Crown Plaza, Metro Airport, Romulus, MI Reg. \$15. prior to 11/28th, \$20. at the door. Info: [mcypaa30@yahoo.com](mailto:mcypaa30@yahoo.com)

### DECEMBER, 2008

**December 2008:** *1st. Sun. [Central MI CMLA](#) ...Conference Service Structure Meeting:* Adrian : (District 2)

**December 25, 2008:** *CHRISTMAS ALKATHON* from 10pm Christmas Eve til Midnight Christmas Day. Area Groups are encouraged to donate \$15. to reserve a 2hr time slot and provide members to facilitate a meeting.

**December 31, 2008:** *NEW YEARS ALKATHON* from 10pm NEW YEARS EVE til Midnight. Area Groups are encouraged to donate \$15. to reserve a 2hr time slot and provide members to facilitate a meeting.

ing the day shown it to the A.A.'s that dropped in and in each case have been asked for copies. I sent you 500 copies in as much as you didn't say how many you wanted. If you need any more, let me know. Incidentally, I am only a heel when I'm drunk, I hope, so naturally there could be no charge for anything of this nature."

Ruth responded again on June 17, and wrote:

"Your generous response to my request for the little cards is certainly much appreciated by us all up here. Glad so many of you down there liked it too, for it backs me up in my feeling that it really has 'something.'"

**Q. Who wrote Chapter 8 of the Big Book, "To Wives"?**

A. Bill was the author of the 'To Wives' chapter. It is commonly thought that Lois wrote it. But, as *Pass It On* describes (page 200), Lois said, "Bill wrote it, and I was mad." She added, "I wasn't so much mad as hurt. I still don't know why Bill wrote it. I've never really gotten into it - why he insisted upon writing it. I said to him, 'Well, do you want me to write it?' And he said no, he thought it should be in the same style as the rest of the book."

G.S.O.'s Archives can provide extensive historical information about A.A.W.S.'s literature and pamphlets: origins; content; editions; printings; changes; and corrections that have been made over time.

**Q. I've heard it said that Bill always wished he could change the beginning of 'How It Works' to read "Never have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our**

## 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 is in the process of again be held at Ann Arbor, Pioneer High School. electing new officers** and committee chairs for all positions. Nominations were held in October, will be held again in November. along with elections.

**Area has elected Mike K** (from district 2) as it's new Central Michigan Intra Area delegate, panel 59, area 32. Art M (from district 8) is the newly elected alternate delegate; both positions are two year commitments. Area officers, and Committee chairpersons were nominated at the recent CMIA meeting, additional nominations will be received at the December 7th meeting (Corunna, district 10))...followed by elections at that same meeting.

**HVAI**, as well as district 4, need A.A. volunteers to head-up up the various assignments necessary to put on a successful 64th Anniversary of A. A. In Washtenaw County to be held Saturday, April 18, 2009. The location will once

**Each group meeting** in District 4/ Washtenaw County, is encouraged to elect and send a General Service Representative to the district 4 meetings. Meeting of district 4 are currently held upstairs at the First Congregational Church 608 East William, A<sup>2</sup>. District meeting start at 7:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM on the third Monday of each month, twelve months a year.

**All groups** are encouraged to pick up a "Jail Pail" at the district 4 meeting, or, make one themselves. Preferably the pails should be pink in color and have the words JAIL PAIL printed clearly on the pail. Proceeds from the pail may be brought to the district 4 meeting and given over to the district corrections committee chair for use in buying Big Books etc., for the county's inmates.

**path" (rather than "Rarely have we seen..."). Is this true?**

A. No. A rumor has persisted for years that Bill wished he could have changed "rarely" to "never." But we know, through Bill's own words, that that is not the case. In a letter to Les V., dated May 25, 1961 Bill W. stated:

"...Concerning your comment about the use of the word 'rarely' in Chapter Five of the Big Book. My recollection is that we did give a considerable thought at the time

of writing. I think the main reason for the use of 'rarely' was to avoid anything that would look like a claim for a 100 % result. Assuming of course that an alcoholic is willing enough and sane enough, there can be a perfect score on such character. But since willingness and sanity are such illusive and fluctuating values, we simply didn't like to be too positive. The medical profession could jump right down our throats...I do remember thinking about it a lot."