

THE MONTHLY REPRIEVE



HUDSON-MOWHAWK-BERSHIRE District 5 Newsletter **June 2011**

Please distribute this Newsletter to your groups

AA Principles of the Month

Step 6 -Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition 6 -An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept 6-.The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Concept 6 Check List

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- Are we clear about the terms, “chief initiative” and “active responsibility”? Can we see a direct link to our home group?

Tradition 6 Check List

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?

Sixth Step Prayer

"God help me become willing to let go of all the things to which I still cling. Help me to be ready to let you remove all of these defects, that your will and purpose may take their place.
AMEN"

(p. 76 Big Book) Reprinted with permission from AA World Services, Inc.

Announcements

EACYPAA HMB AREA has won the bid for the 2012 conference. It will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY during spring of next year.

EACYPAA Host committee will be forming / electing officers on June 22 at 8:40 pm after the Young people in recovery meeting at 36 Phila St. Saratoga Springs, NY (2nd floor). People are needed to fill officer positions as well as Committee members, to plan and make arrangements for the conference. For more information or to volunteer send an e-mail to wali@hotmai.com.



Fourth of July Picnic West Sand Lake Sponsored by District 1
from Noon till 6:00 pm.



District 5 Picnic

Saratoga State Park Hawthorne Pavilion.

July 17, 2011 Noon till 6:30

Make plans now! Don't miss out on this Great Family Summer Outing.

Plenty of Food, Soft Drinks, and Fellowship.

Volunteers are needed call Dave 369-2071



Meetings that need your support.

- Round Lake Thursdays 12:15 Open discussion meeting at the All Saints Church, Simpson Ave.
- Mechanicville Big Book Meeting Thursday 8:00PM at the Emmanuel United, Park Ave. & Forth St.

Up Coming Events

The July GSR meeting will be July 1, 2011 at 7:00 PM at 1st Baptist Church., 45 Washington St. Saratoga Springs, NY.

NYS Information Workshop, August 19-21, Latham, NY. Organization and planning will begin shortly. We will need greeters, volunteers for the hospitality room, help with the registration table, planning the program, moderating, and panel members.

Albany YP 2nd Saturday Speaker Jam June 11th 6:00 to 8:30 pm State and Willet Albany. Speakers are from Hudson NY. this month.

Area fellowship day June 18th in Lake George. Sacred Heart Church Parish house 51 Mohican St. from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm

Great Opportunities for Service

Please Announce

District 5 has the following service positions open.

- Alternate Secretary.
- Special Needs alternate.
- Women's Treatment coordinator.
- Treasurer Alternate.
- Grapevine and Alternate
- Corrections alternate
- Functions, Public Information, and CPC Committee members.
- **STAS has openings for volunteer to answer calls on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon till 6:00 pm. For information or to volunteer call Michael S. at 248-2020.**

For information contact your group's GSR.

Deadline for submission of materials for inclusion in the July Newsletter is July 2, 2011.

Treatment Meetings

Volunteers are needed for treatment / detox meetings at Conifer Park Mondays 6:30 pm, Tuesdays 7:00 pm and Thursdays 6:30 pm. Contact Mike at 812-5411 to volunteer. **Spanish speaking AA's** are also needed for these meetings.

From the archives of AA.

The origins of the AA prayers may be found at the following website
<http://www.vanalstyneaa.org/prayer-and-meditation.php>

A Letter from Bill W. Regarding the Lord's Prayer in A.A.

(From the A.A. Archives in New York)

April 14, 1959

Dear Russ,

Am right sorry for my delay in answering. Lois and I were a long time out of the country and this was followed by an attack of the marathon type of flu that has been around here in New York. We are okay now, however, but I did want to explain my delay.

Now about the business of adding the Lord's Prayer to each A.A. meeting.

This practice probably came from the Oxford Groups who were influential in the early days of A.A. You have probably noted in AA. Comes of Age what the connection of these people in A.A. really was. I think saying the Lord's Prayer was a custom of theirs following the close of each meeting. Therefore it quite easily got shifted into a general custom among us.

Of course there will always be those who seem to be offended by the introduction of any prayer whatever into an ordinary A.A. gathering. Also, it is sometimes complained that the Lord's Prayer is a Christian document. Nevertheless this Prayer is of such widespread use and recognition that the arguments of its Christian origin seems to be a little far-fetched. It is also true that most A. A.s believe in some kind of God and that communication and strength is obtainable through His grace. Since this is the general consensus it seems only right that at least the Serenity Prayer and the Lord's Prayer be used in connection with our meetings. It does not seem necessary to defer to the feelings of our agnostic and atheist newcomers to the extent of completely hiding our light under a bushel.

However, around here, the leader of the meeting usually asks those to join him in the Lord's Prayer who feel that they would care to do so. The worst that happens to the objectors is that they have to listen to it. This is doubtless a salutary exercise in tolerance at their stage of progress.

So that's the sum of the Lord's Prayer business as I recall it. Your letter made me wonder in just what connection you raise the question.

Meanwhile, please know just how much Lois and I treasure the friendship of you both. May Providence let our paths presently cross one of these days.

Devotedly yours,
Bill Wilson
WGW/ni
Mr. Russ

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As Bill's 1955 letter indicates, recitation of the Lord's Prayer at meetings has clearly been controversial in some circles almost since the beginning. The GSO has responded to letters on this issue since the 1940s and 1950s. It is continually addressed in articles in Box 459 and the AA Grapevine, and has often been asked about at the General Service Conference. For example, at the 1962 Conference, in one of the Ask-It Basket questions, this subject was broached:

“Question: What is the procedure for dealing with individuals who refuse to stand during recitation of the Lord's Prayer? Answer: Participation--or non-participation-in recitals of the Lord's Prayer should be considered a matter of personal conscience and decision.”

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LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**