

Tradition Seven: Money is a Tool

Ever since I began in service, I have constantly heard about the need for money in AA to support many different functions and purposes. I just wanted to step on my soapbox for a minute and tell you what I have come to see about our Seventh Tradition in AA. When I first walked in the doors I was confronted with a lot of people who seemed to be concerned with me and with my well-being. I didn't understand why these people who didn't know me seemed to want to help me. I couldn't help but be suspicious of their seeming lack of motive.

Then they passed a basket for money. This, I thought, must be the catch: my money. So, just to spite them all, I abstained from putting my dollar in that basket. However, this did not change anyone's response to me even over time. And I began to see that there was something more to their concern. After a month or so, I decided to go to coffee with a family that had been inviting me to join them for some time. I remember feeling very uncomfortable to be interrupting their family during lunch; they were all so happy and so intimately close to one another. Regardless, they sat me down at the table and began to include me in the conversation. After a while, it became apparent that these people were not related at all. And an overwhelming feeling overcame me as I realized that, like me, they were all outsiders grafted into a family of recovery.

Soon my money began to go into the basket, and there was still no change in how I was treated. Over the years, I have begun to see why these people loved me and wanted so badly to help me. When I see a newcomer I understand, because I was in that person's shoes and have been given a priceless gift that saved me. It gave me a life. I want to see those people get what I was given.

I know it isn't about money. It is about sharing a message of hope and life with someone who has lost both. My money is nothing more than a tool used to help us get that gift to the next person who will have it.

Wes H., Idaho

A.A. Grapevine, July 2009

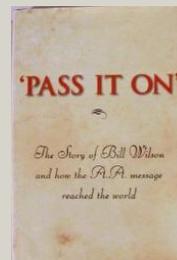
Mark Your Calendar

EVENT: HMB Area 48 Fellowship Day
DATE: Saturday, September 15, 2012
TIME: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
NOTES: Hosted By the Eastern Cluster (Districts 1, 2, & 18)
LOCATION: 146 1st Street, Troy, NY 12180
District: dutchessaa.org ● Area: aahmbny.org

Literature Spotlight

This month spotlight feature, Pass It On, — the amazing story of AA's founder, Bill Wilson, and the lengths he went to to carry the message of recovery.

Available through your literature chair or through the General Service Office.



The Chronicle

Area 48, District 11 Newsletter



Summer, 2012 ● July/August

Summer is sliding by faster than a drunk pig on a greasy tightrope. A slight chill already permeates the night air, and rumors abound of mums in early bloom. Hang onto these waning summer days and relish in the bounty of summer, fun, fellowship, and sobriety.

Seventh Step

Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

Eight Step

Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Seventh Tradition

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Eighth Tradition

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service center may employ special workers.

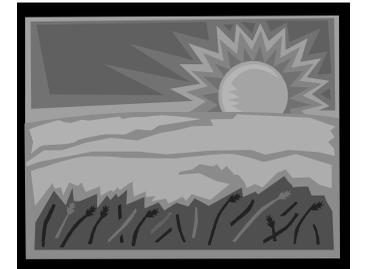
Sixth Concept

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness. “

Seventh Concept

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

“Our book is meant to be suggestive only. We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick.” Big Book, “A Vision for You” (p. 164).



June 2012, Minutes

DCM, Tim.

Tim reported that he had attended the Fellowship day hosted by our district. Event went well. Molly and Maya deserve a big thanks for the effort they put in. All cash and receipts were turned over to Chris, the treasurer for the Area. We were given a draft of scheduled Area events for 2013.

Our Area Delegate, Keith D. is willing to go to any district to discuss current issues, initiatives, events ... on the Conference level. Report Accepted.

Alt. DCM, Lindsey.

Not present.

Secretary's Report, Serena

Serena presented the minutes as published in the newsletter. Report accepted.

Treasurer's Report, Elaine

- Monthly income: \$729.35
- Expenses: \$694.35
- Total adjusted income: \$35

Currently, we are below our prudent reserve by \$251.44.

Heightened group donations in recent months have helped bring the prudent reserve up from its historic low, several months ago.

Reminder: GSO's suggestion is that group's maintain a prudent reserve the equals three month's of expenses.

Remindar: We currently pay for the answering service, but we do get some reimbursement from Alanon for the information we relay on their behalf.

Report accepted.

GSR Group Concerns

Marcy reported that she's begun including a calendar in the meeting packets. This gives a snapshot of what's going on in coming months. In July and August, no area events, because there are going to be some state events going on. That's really what's going on in the

summer. There will be area events in September, October, and November.

Tim reported that the upcoming New York State convention will be the last state convention for a while. In recent years, there have been low attendance.

Marshall: HVYPAA (Hudson Valley Young People in AA) will be hosting a campout August 3-5.

Amy: Pawling Originals will host its 35th anniversary campout, July 27-29, 355 Cooperstown Road, Dover Plains, NY (Chesapeake Gun Club). Info: Theresa, 914.475.6775, Shelly, 845.243.1324.

Newsletter, Tracy

June newsletter has been published; it was emailed out to the distribution list and some printouts were available at the district meeting. Anyone wishing to receive an email copy of the newsletter, please email newsletter@dutchessaa.org. There was some discussion with the webmaster to post a pdf on the district website. We will address it in new business. Report accepted.

Tim shared some emails from Bill, the area Webmaster, regarding the importance of protecting anonymity in digital communications (emails, fliers, newsletters ...). Some discussion ensued on how District 11 is already adhering to the email requirements and requiring a password to access more sensitive areas of the website.

District Answering Service, Lori

Service was called twice during the month to inquire into problems and issues. Marcy emailed me about one call that didn't come through. Lori called the service place twice during the month to inquire into problems and issues. Lori's not doing billing at this point, she's just checking on the calls, but will be transitioning into that function soon. Report accepted.

Corrections, Cindy

The ASAT, Alcohol Substance Abuse Treatment, program stopped last month. There are no more inmates at Beacon Correctional Facility that are attending that meeting. Cindy has written letters to the facilities, ask-

ing if we can bring meetings to them. She's noticing that this process is very slow. Ed might be able to help her get into Fishkill. Report passed.

Treatment, Tom

Booking meeting went well. Tom reviewed open commitments. At the Fellowship Day, one of the Districts had a table, one group from this District is attended mostly by treatment facilities. Tom reported on an incident where a group poorly represented AA by insulting residents of the facility. Tim echoed this sentiment, asking groups to be mindful when going into facilities of our singleness of purpose and to share our experience, strength, and hope. Report Accepted.

CPC, Stefan

Not present.

Public Information, Sarah

Sarah has been reaching out to area libraries to see if they have the Big Book. The majority of libraries are now networked to a computer system making it easier to borrow books from other libraries. Sarah is now reaching out to community hospitality industry, asking them to include our meeting lists in their services directory. Sarah asked for suggestions on area newspapers and media that run an "About Town"/Community Calendar. Report accepted.

Website, Deirdra

Most of the member information has been transitioned from the old website to the new website. There are a couple of other minor issues. We're moving our web hosting to Go Daddy. Using Microsoft Word Web Hosting. Report accepted.

Special Needs, Cindy

Cindy has stepped down from Special Needs. If anyone knows what it entails, go see Cindy. Someone asked Cindy what it entails, and she gave a brief explanation.

Archive, Dave

Dave reported that he will be archiving the Fellowship Day. Also, Will noted that the Turkeython (Thanksgiving meeting-thon) is on the horizon. Report accepted.

Booking, not present.

Literature, not present.

Old Business

There's one group here who has some meeting changes. If someone could get something to George. The Poughkeepsie Better Life. The Way Out Group, Mt. Alvernia, changing last Saturday of month from Closed Discussion to an Open Anniversary. The Roots of AA Group that was in Fishkill is now defunct.

New Business

Discussion and motion to allow posting of HVYPAA (Hudson Valley Young People in AA) fliers on website in the password protected section. Motion passed.

Carry the Message

Service is calling. AA Members are needed to help Area 48, District 11 share the message of Recovery.

Open positions:

Special Needs Chair, Alternate DCM, Treatment Co-Chair, LCM South, Secretary

District 11 meets, 7:15 p.m., the third Tuesday of the month at Vassar Hospital. Park in garage and ask for directions at front desk.