

The Gateway Newsletter, District 14

Altamont, Duaneburg, Guilderland, Niskayuna, Rotterdam, Schenectady, Scotia

June 2012

HMB Area 48, New York

Are You Entirely Ready?

Step 6

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

Tradition 6

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

Concept VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ June 9: Unity Day, Central Park Pavilion, Schenectady
- ◆ June 16: Fellowship Day, Red Hook
- ◆ July 20-22: 43rd NYS Convention, Marriott Hotel, Albany

Many will at once ask, “How *can* we accept the entire implication of Step Six? Why—that is *perfection!*” This sounds like a hard question, but practically speaking, it isn’t. Only Step One, where we made the 100 percent admission we were powerless over alcohol, can be practiced with absolute perfection. The remaining eleven Steps state perfect ideals. They are goals toward which we look, and the measuring sticks by which we estimate our progress. Seen in this light, Step Six is still difficult, but not at all impossible. The only urgent thing is that we make a beginning, and keep trying.

If we would gain any real advantage in the use of this Step on problems other than alcohol, we shall need to make a brand new venture into open-mindedness. We shall need to raise our eyes toward perfection, and be ready to walk in that direction. It will seldom matter how haltingly we walk. The only question will be “Are we ready?”

Looking again at those defects we are still unwilling to give up, we ought to erase the hard-and-fast lines that we have drawn. Perhaps we shall be obliged in some cases still to say, “This I cannot give up yet . . . ,” but we should not say to ourselves, “This I will *never* give up!”

Let’s dispose of what appears to be a hazardous open end we have left. It is suggested that we ought to become entirely willing to aim toward perfection. We note that some delay, however, might be pardoned. That word, in the mind of a rationalizing alcoholic, could certainly be given a long-term meaning. He could say, “How very easy! Sure, I’ll head toward perfection, but I’m certainly not going to hurry any. Maybe I can postpone dealing with some of my problems indefinitely.” Of course, this won’t do. Such a bluffing of oneself will have to go the way of many another pleasant rationalization. At the very least, we shall have to come to grips with some of our worst character defects and take action toward their removal as quickly as we can.

The moment we say, “No, never!” our minds close against the grace of God. Delay is dangerous, and rebellion may be fatal. This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives, and move toward God’s will for us.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, pp.68-69

We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all—every one? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 76

FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

*“Having been granted a perfect release from alcoholism, why then shouldn’t we be able to achieve by the same means a perfect release from every other difficulty or defect?”
Twelve & Twleve, page 64*



“. . . a spiritual life which does not include . . . family obligations may not be so perfect after all.

I can be doing great in the program—applying it at meetings, at work, and in service activities—and find that things have gone to pieces at home. I expect my loved ones to understand, but they cannot. I expect them to see and value my progress, but they don’t—unless I show them. Do I neglect

their needs and desires for my attention and concern? When I’m around them, am I irritable or boring? Are my “amends” a mumbled “Sorry,” or do they take the form of patience and tolerance? Do I preach to them, trying to reform or “fix” them? Have I ever really cleaned house with *them*? “The spiritual life is not a theory. *We have to live it*”

Daily Reflections, June 11

Such is the paradox of A.A. regeneration: strength arising out of complete defeat and weakness, the loss of one’s old life as a condition for finding a new one.

A.A. Comes of Age, p.46

Tradition Six Checklist, from the AAGrapevine

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.

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?

“Too much of my life has been spent in dwelling upon the faults of others. This is a most subtle and perverse form of self-satisfaction, which permits us to remain comfortably unaware of our own defects. Too often we are heard to say, “If it weren’t for him (or her), how happy I’d be!”

Letter, 1966

AS BILL SEES IT: Emotional Sobriety (page 288)

If we examine every disturbance we have, great or small, we will find at the root of it some unhealthy dependency and its consequent unhealthy demand. Let us, with God’s help, continually surrender these hobbling liabilities.

Then we can be set free to live and love; we may then be able to twelfth-step ourselves, as well as others, into emotional sobriety.

Grapevine, January 1958

District 14 Trusted Servants

D.C.M. Tammy D.
Alternate DCM/Records..... John C.
TreasurerGeorge D.
Cooperation with the
Professional Community Brian J.
Corrections-Mens.....Wilbur S.
Functions Fred C.
Newsletter Editor Michelle C.
Public Information John C.
Secretary..... Karen K.
TreatmentMike H.
Grapevine Representative.....Lois M.
Records & Archivists.....Wyatt W.
Alternate Functions.....Mike J.
Literature.....Mike M.
Bridging the Gap.....Jack B. & Joe A.
Corrections-Womens.....
Special Needs/Accessibility.....

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE! - The June District meeting will be held on Monday, June 18 from 7:35-9:00 p.m. at the Scotia United Methodist Church... The meeting is open to all A.A. Members!

Contributions to A.A. as a Whole

District 14
PO Box 494
Schenectady, NY 12301

HMB Area Association
RTE. 30, #114
118 Polar Plaza
Amsterdam, NY 12010

General Service Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Capital District Central Office
575 Broadway, Room 128-130
Menands, NY 12204
Phone: 518-463-0906

Please remember to use your group # when sending contributions.

Treasurer's Report for May 2012

Balance	\$1,616.45
Checks written	196.85*
Deposits	20.00
Cash on hand as of 5/21	1,439.60

*Checks written for Records, PO Box, May Assembly and repayment of Unity Day donation and Unity Day copies.

SUPPORTING OUR DISTRICT

- The Thursday 6:30 Scotia meeting needs your support!
- The Altamont Recovery Group could use support - Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
- There will be a Fall district workshop. If you are interested in helping to plan it, contact Tammy D. at District14DCM@yahoo.com
- Consider making a donation to support Corrections at your next business meeting.

Unity Day

Will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Central Park Pavilion in Schenectady. Suggested donation is \$5.00 at the door. The district has a healthy budget for this event so no monetary donations or food donations are needed. See flyer for more info.

June Fellowship Day

Fellowship Day will be held on June 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Red Hook, NY at the Bertels Mann Campus Center, Bard College, 51 Ravine Road. For information contact: althmbchair@aahmbny.org

43rd NYS Convention - July 20-22, 2012

This year's convention is being hosted by our very own Area 48 and will be held in Albany, NY at the Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road. Pre-registration deadline is June 28. For convention itinerary, registration, room reservations, etc., go to the following website: http://www.aahmbny.org/events/State-NYSConventionFlyer-201207_20-22.pdf