

The Gateway Newsletter, District 14

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

December 2012

HMB Area 48, New York

Step 12

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Sharing the Gift of Sobriety

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends—this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

Perhaps you are not acquainted with any drinkers who want to recover. You can easily find some by asking a few doctors, ministers, priests or hospitals. They will be only too glad to assist you. Don't start out as an evangelist or reformer. Unfortunately a lot of prejudice exists. You will be handicapped if you arouse it. Ministers and doctors are competent and you can learn much from them if you wish, but it happens that because of your own drinking experience you can be uniquely useful to other alcoholics. So cooperate; never criticize. To be helpful is our only aim.

When you discover a prospect for Alcoholics Anonymous, find out all you can about him. If he does not want to stop drinking, don't waste time trying to persuade him. You may spoil a later opportunity. This advice is given for his family also. They should be patient, realizing they are dealing with a sick person.

Outline the program of action, explaining how you made a self-appraisal, how you straightened out your past and why you are now endeavoring to be helpful to him. It is important for him to realize that your attempt to pass this on to him plays a vital part in your own recovery. Actually, he may be helping you more than you are helping him. Make it plain he is under no obligation to you, that you hope only that he will try to help other alcoholics when he escapes his own difficulties. Suggest how important it is that he place the welfare of other people ahead of his own. Make it clear that he is not under pressure, that he needn't see you again if he doesn't want to. You should not be offended if he wants to call it off, for he has helped you more than you have helped him. If your talk has been sane, quiet and full of human understanding, you have perhaps made a friend. Maybe you have disturbed him about the question of alcoholism. This is all to the good. The more hopeless he feels, the better. He will be more likely to follow your suggestions.

Alcoholics Anonymous, pp. 89 & 94

Bill and Lois Christmas Message, 1944

TO ALL MEMBERS

Greetings On Our 10th Christmas

Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings, even the least are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before.

But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted.

Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World.

How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth.

Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos.

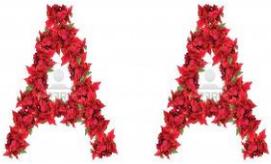
Great indeed, our blessings!

And so -- Merry Christmas to you all -- from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

*"God grant us the serenity to accept the things
we cannot change,
Courage to change the things we can,
And wisdom to know the difference."*

12 & 12, p. 125



Service gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God’s help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the fact that in God’s sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely given brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we can fit and belong in God’s scheme of things—these are the satisfactions of right living for which no pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes.

Bill W.

Came to Believe, p. 105 & 12&12, p. 124



AT PEACE WITH LIFE

Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God’s will into all of our activities. “How can I best serve Thee—Thy will (not mine) be done.”

I read this passage each morning, to start off my day because it is a continual reminder to “practice

these principles in all my affairs.” When I keep God’s will at the forefront of my mind, I am able to do what I *should* be doing, and that puts me at peace with life, with myself and with God.

Daily Reflections, p. 368

Tradition Twelve Checklist, from the AAGrapevine

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA’s current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs’ behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is my real importance among more than a million AAs?

SERVICE CORNER - Carrying the Message....



My first sponsor before I reached my 90 days put me in to service. I became the recording secretary at my morning meeting. I jumped into the program with both feet. Being in a service position helped steer me further into the service program. I was on unemployment at the time and Sue asked me to make coffee at the Clubhouse during the day and it made me want to help.

As time went on, I always wanted to be a sponsor but didn't know if I had what it took. Until one day an AA member approached me to be his sponsor. He liked the message I was bringing and heard me share my story in meetings. I now have three sponsees. My first sponsee is also the one that got me into doing the GSR position at the Summit group. The meeting has grown and I see new faces all the time. It keeps it green for me. I helped set up Unity Day one year. It was a great experience for me and helped me to become a GSR. I've been a part of coordinating three sober dances and they have helped me serve others.

I love the program - it has not just given me friendships it's given me a whole entire family. It's where I spend the most time. Also using the phone has really helped me stay sober. This is service by someone being at the other end because usually someone has been through what I have been through and will have an answer for me. I love the slogans and my favorite prayer is the Serenity Prayer which is why I had it tattooed on my shoulder. There are some days I say it 30 times. Saying the prayer has helped me through a number of issues.

In Service, Gregg V.



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 October 2012

Beginning Balance 11/1/12	\$1,591.28
Checks written	240.00*
Deposits	<u>383.36**</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,734.64

*Rent for 2012 - District Meetings at Scotia Church

**\$223.61; FBB \$50; NFS \$40; WWW \$25; SEW \$20.75; Area \$24

Service Activities

- ▽ District 14 is looking to bring two men speakers each month to speak at the A.A. Speakers meeting at the SPARC patient rehab on Western Avenue the 3rd Thursday of every month from 8:00-9:00 pm. If interested, contact Kevin at 365-1034.
- ▽ The Wednesday night speaker's meeting at Altamont House is looking for speakers. Contact Gerry W. at 331-9729 if interested in speaking or send email to gerryw436@gmail.com
- ▽ John C. will be the Alternate DCM for 2013. Thanks for your service John!
- ▽ District 14 is looking for a Treasurer for 2013. If interested, contact Tammy at District14DCM@yahoo.com
- ▽ The Clubhouse is looking for a new GSR. Thanks for your service Michael!
- ▽ The Capital District Central Office is looking for GSRs to attend the monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Schuyler Inn, Menands to bring information back to their groups. In addition they are looking for volunteers to help out at the office. If interested, contact marciajane133@yahoo.com.

District 14 Trusted Servants

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

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The next District meeting will be held on Monday, December 17 from 7:35-9:00 p.m. at the Scotia United Methodist Church.... The meeting is open to all A.A. Members!

AA Grapevine Daily Quote

Sign up to receive the daily Grapevine quote by going to the AA Grapevine Website at:
<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

There are no group anniversaries this month so Happy Anniversary to all December celebrants!



eReaders

The A.A.W.S. Online Store Web site allows any individual to purchase specific copyrighted A.A. ePublications also known as "eBooks". To read eBooks purchased from the Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (A.A.W.S.) Online Store on your mobile device, a special type of program known as an "App" must be used. This App is named the "A.A. eReader" and is provided at no cost by A.A.W.S. At this time the A.A. eReader App may be obtained from the Apple App store for use on the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch. For more information go to:
<https://eps.aaws.org/t-faq.aspx>

Christmas Alcathon*

December 24-25, 2012 at Pine Grove Methodist Church, 1580 Central Avenue, Albany, NY; starts Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. until Christmas Day 4:00 p.m.; meetings will be held on even hours.

New Year's Alcathon*

December 31, 2012-January 1, 2013 at Pine Grove Methodist Church, 1580 Central Avenue, Albany, NY; starts New Year's Eve 4:00 pm. until Christmas Day 4:00 p.m.; meetings will be held on even hours.

*The ALKATHON 2012 Committee needs your support. Please make donations at your earliest convenience. Make all checks payable to "Alkathon". Mail checks to: ALKATHON, HMB District 1, P.O. Box 6042, Albany, NY 12206; To volunteer, send an e-mail to Alkathon2012@yahoo.com. Notes: Feel free to bring a dish to share or a dessert. We would like to borrow 100 cup coffee makers.

Group New Year's Eve Dance

December 29 at 5:00 p.m.; Johnstown Community Center, 1095 East Main, Johnstown, NY. Admission of \$5.00. Sponsored by the Open Arms Group.

Step Workshop

NENYYPAA (North East New York Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) is hosting a Step workshop on January 12, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Bethesda Parish House, 41 Washington St., Saratoga Springs, NY.

Spiritual Breakfast

Saturday, January 19, 2013; Johnstown Holiday Inn, 308 Comarie Avenue, Johnstown, NY. Tickets \$12.00; must be purchased in advance. 9:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast and Speaker at 10:00 am. Sponsored by District 4.