

The Gateway Newsletter, District 14

Altamont, Duanesburg, Guilderland, Niskayuna, Rotterdam, Schenectady, Scotia

June 2013

HMB Area 48, New York



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.

STEP 6

- Step Six necessary to spiritual growth.
- The beginning of a lifetime job.
- Recognition of difference between striving for objective—and perfection.
- Why we must keep trying.
- “Being ready” is all-important.
- Necessity of taking action.
- Delay is dangerous.
- Rebellion may be fatal.
- Point at which we abandon limited objectives and move toward God’s will for us.

And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation—some fact of my life—unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing, or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God’s world by mistake. Until I could accept my alcoholism, I could not stay sober; unless I accept life completely on life’s terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 449

ARE WE READY? Alcoholics Anonymous, pp. 75-76

Taking this book down from our shelf we turn to the page which contains the twelve steps. Carefully reading the first five proposals we ask if we have omitted anything, for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last. Is our work solid so far? Are the stones properly in place? Have we skimmed on the cement put into the foundation? Have we tried to make mortar without sand?

If we can answer to our satisfaction, we then look at *Step Six*. 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.



A New Life from As Bill Sees It, p. 8

Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning; it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. As it does go on we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life—the one that did not work—for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever.

Regardless of worldly success or failure, regardless of pain or joy, regardless of sickness or health or even death itself, a new life of endless possibilities can be lived if we are willing to continue our awakening, through the practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps.

Grapevine, December 1957

“Mental and emotional difficulties are sometimes very hard to take while we are trying to maintain sobriety. Yet we do see, in the long run, that transcendence over such problems is the real test of the A.A. way of living. Adversity gives us more opportunity to grow than does comfort or success.”

OUR BOOK (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 164)

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. The answers will come, if your own house is in order. But obviously you cannot transmit something you haven't got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us.

Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

May God bless you and keep you—until then.

Concept VI

(from the A.A. Service Manual)

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.

SERVICE CORNER

Public Information Committees

PURPOSE

Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of local Public Information committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media.

HISTORY

The 1939 publication of our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, was the first A.A. information available for the public. By 1941, several articles on A.A. in national publications helped to encourage understanding and acceptance of A.A. Also significant were good relations with professionals, such as Dr. W. D. Silkworth, Rev. Sam Shoemaker and Dr. Harry Tiebout. In 1956, the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board was formed, with a corresponding Conference P.I. Committee established in 1961. The General Service Conference established this policy for A.A. Public Information: *In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help the still -suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to the still suffering alcoholics, and to those who may be interested in their problem, our own experience as individuals and as a fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.* By 1973, the General Service Conference confirmed that *"We must recognize that our competence to speak about alcoholism is limited in subject matter to Alcoholics Anonymous and its recovery program."*

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Responding to an expressed need, the Conference recommended formation of a separate Conference Committee in 1971. Now known as the Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee (C.P.C.), its purpose is to better distribute A.A. information to those in contact with alcoholics through their professions. In some locales, C.P.C. and P.I. committees are separate; elsewhere they function as one committee covering two services. It is clearly understood that both of these committees.

John C. is our Public Information Trusted Servant for District 14.

District 14 Trusted Servants

D.C.M. Tammy D.
Alternate DCM/Records..... John C.
TreasurerBen M.
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, June 17 from 7:35-9:00 p.m. at the Scotia United Methodist Church. The meeting is open to all AAs!

Treasurer's Report - 5/20/13

Beginning Balance: \$1,406.47
Income: \$0.00
Expenses: \$572.08
Ending Balance: \$834.39

Contributions to A.A.

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.*

A.A. Founder's Day Celebration

Saturday, June 15, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM. Celebrate the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, 78 years ago (June 10, 1935). You are invited to attend the group anniversary meeting of the Glens Falls Original A.A. meeting, celebrating 75 years as a group. Bill W. was one of the founders of the group which started just three years after the founding of A.A. Christ Church, Corner of Bay & Washington Streets, Glens Falls, NY. Feel free to bring a dessert.

HMB Fellowship Day

DATE: Saturday, June 22, 2013
TIME: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (See flyer for details)
NOTES: Hosted by District 15 and the Hudson Valley Cluster
LOCATION: 90 New York 32, New Paltz, NY 12561
(Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church)

UNITY DAY PICNIC

Unity Day will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Schenectady Central Park Pavilion. Monetary donations are needed and can be donated to District 14. Stay tuned for further information.

SAVE THE DATE - HMB 2013 Convention

"A Design For Living": November 1-3, 2013, Hotel Utica, 102 Lafayette Street, Utica, NY, 315-724-7829, \$99 rms.

WHAT'S HAPPENING in AREA 48?

Want to find out what's happening in other Districts and see a Calendar of Events for Area 48? Check out the Area 48 website at <http://www.aahmbny.org/>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Thursday Topic Meeting at Trinity Group

3 years, 6/1/2010
Thursday @ 7:00 pm
Trinity Reformed Church

