



The Triangle

Email submissions to: district9newsletter@aahmbny.org

36 Principles - Number Two

Step 2: Came to believe a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience.

Concept 2: When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effectiveness for our whole society.

Second Tradition: Out of the Hat

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

During the first year I was sober in AA, about a half dozen regular members abandoned my home group over a dispute about the group conscience. The process was frightening; the outcome reassuring.

At issue was the fate of one of our members who had lost a considerable chunk of the group treasury on a slow pony. The group decided that he must pay the money back, but--as the weeks went by--he didn't.

Then followed a business meeting. Tempers flared, friends fought, order barely prevailed. Finally, the group conscience followed the wisdom of those who said that it was not a requirement that our members stop gambling and pay their debts: We voted not to expel the liable one.

However, there were those who felt the group unity was threatened, that we were reneging on a responsibility to be self-supporting, that we were enabling a member to continue non-sober behavior. And some of them took their resentments and left the group. I was reassured by the fact that the gambler stayed sober, AA proved big enough to welcome the wanderers into other rooms, and the group survived.

Ours is a rambunctious group, not for everyone. We're one of our city's "intake" meetings and newcomers are encouraged to share there. We have a two-part plan to deal with disruptions--both parts depend on a vote by the group. First, the group conscience decides whether or not to warn the person causing the disturbance. Then, if the disruption continues, the group conscience is called again to vote on temporary expulsion, usually for the length of the meeting.

(Continued on page 4)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEEDS & NEWS

DISTRICT 9:

The Monthly Group Conscience meeting is held the last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm at 1640 Genesee St, Utica in the Augsburg Room. Current Ad Hoc Committees have been reporting on Service Manual updates and creating a district budget. The next Budget committee meeting will be February 4 at 6:00 pm. The next Service Manual committee meeting is scheduled for February 10 at 6:30. Location for both these meetings will be 1707 Burrstone Rd, New Hartford. Anyone is welcome to attend. A website has been recently introduced and more information will be continually uploaded.

Find us at district9.aahmbny.org.

Service positions currently available at the district include: DCM (position to be vacated March 31), Alternate DCM, Archives, Bridging the Gap, Cooperation with the Professional Committee, Public Information, Treatment and Website. More information on any of these positions can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter, the website or by attending the next District Meeting.

The Accessibilities Committee has been very active, bringing meetings to several homebound members including Bob T, Theo, Erma and Cindy (D12). Bob T's meeting is 7pm on Thursdays in The Gordon Wing of the Lutheran Home. Everyone is welcome to attend. The other meetings are sporadic and by invitation. Please contact Andy for times and dates. In addition, a goal has been set to compile a list of 25-50 members who would be willing to participate in a home meeting when called upon. Interested members - reach out to Andy P. at district9accessibilities@aahmbny.org

Corrections is currently processing applications to take meetings into several of our local facilities. If you are interested in participating in this rewarding service work please contact Tom C. at district9corrections@aahmbny.org

Functions has several events on the calendar for 2020 including the Sober BBQ in August, the Area Fellowship Day in September and the Spiritual Dinner in October. In addition, District 9 has been asked to assist District 12 with their Spiritual Breakfast in May.

A committee meeting specifically for the Summer BBQ is scheduled for 6:30pm on March 11 at 1707 Burrstone Rd, New Hartford. Please plan to attend if you would like to help with the preparations on this or email Andy at: district9functions@aahmbny.org.

Grapevine Lending Library is up and running with many different choices of reading material available to borrow. Please attend the monthly District 9 business meeting on the last Wednesday of the month to peruse the available literature and take something home.

GROUPS:

All Are Welcome Group meets every day at 6:30pm at 1640 Genesee St and could use support from members with time.

Back to Basics welcomes a speaker on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm, 105 Genesee St, New Hartford. February Speaker is Kevin M, March is Judy S.

Ilion Friendly Group is now back at their original location at 90 Morgan St in Ilion. They meet at 8:00 pm on Monday nights. A business meeting scheduled for February 10th at 7:00 pm will be held to fill several service positions that have become open.

Area 48:

The March Fellowship Day is scheduled for March 8 from 9-3:30 pm at 161 Mansion St, Poughkeepsie, NY. The theme for the day will be Clear Communications and Asking for Help.

There are several alternate committee chair positions open if anyone is interested in Area service work.

For more information on Area service work, visit: aahmbny.org

Northeast Region:

Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly is scheduled for February 21-23, 2020 in Nashua, NH. Pre-registration closes on February 6th. At the door registration will be available. The main hotel is sold out but there are limited rooms available at the overflow hotels. More information can be found at: <http://www.neraasa.org/neraasa-2020.html>

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST FROM THE AA GRAPEVINE

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

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*****DISTRICT 9 NEEDS YOU*****

Call for members who wish to carry the message beyond the home group.

For a more detailed description, prerequisites and duties of the position, please visit district9.aahmbny.org or plan on attending the next District 9 Group Conscience Meeting, scheduled for 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 26 in the Augsburg Room at 1640 Genesee St, Utica.

Open Positions:

DCM & Alternate DCM: The District Committee Member is an essential link between the groups GSRs and the Area's Delegate to the General Service Conference. As Chairperson of the district committee, made up of all the GSRs and other various trusted servants in the district, the DCM is exposed to the group conscience of that district. As a member of the area committee, the DCM can pass on a consensus of the district's group conscience to the area delegate and the area committee.

Archives supports the collection and preservation of any and all materials of historical interest with respect to District 9 and groups within District 9.

Bridging the Gap supports the work of connecting with potential members currently incarcerated or in inpatient facilities that have reached out for help and are scheduled for release within District 9.

Cooperation with the Professional Community supports the work of informing professionals and future professionals about AA. What we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do.

Public Information supports the work of informing the general public about the AA program – what we are, what we do and what we offer in terms of helping the still sick and suffering alcoholic. We carry the message by getting in touch with and responding to the media, schools, industry, and other organizations which can report on the nature and purpose of AA and what it can do for alcoholics.

Treatment supports the work of individual members and groups who carry the AA message of recovery into treatment facilities and outpatient settings.

Website supports the work of informing both AA members and the general public about the AA program, about events and activities surrounding the fellowship and other pertinent information via web hosting and website maintenance.

Second Tradition: Out of the Hat

(continued from page 1)

And what *is* a disruption in a large meeting where business as usual includes people talking in the kitchen, at least one active drunk, a couple of regulars who can't or won't, sit still and be quiet? Well, throwing a coffeepot once merited expulsion. Refusing to stop yelling at the speaker did too. Of course, the very few times one person laid a hand on another he or she got booted, but so did the person who launched a verbal attack.

Lest a reader get the idea that there is a free-for-all going on, I must say that--no matter how out of control the offender--rarely in ten years have I known people to try to stay after the group conscience decided they must leave. Most leave with no more than a parting word or two.

And it was at my home group that I learned to trust the experiences of the early groups with meetings. We have a Traditions meeting once a month and when I was new and heard the Traditions read out loud, the experiences of the early AA meetings gave me the first notion that real people--drunks like me--started this program.

In fact, it was easier at first to accept a higher power for my personal recovery in the form of a "Group of Drunks." Until very much later, turning over my individual will to a caring God was difficult (and often still is). But I knew that our coming together to stay sober was a spiritual act. When I rotated into service beyond the group and became a district committee member I was once present at a large meeting that expanded my understanding of "spiritual leadership."

We fought through three ballots trying to agree on the person who would represent our area at the General Service Conference. All of the candidates had put in many years of service and had their champions. Tempers were getting warm. Then the secretary announced that it was time for the Higher Power to decide and the three names went into a hat. Some of us were flabbergasted. This really was too silly, we said to each other.

However, the name drawn out of the treasurer's fedora was accepted at once. And the huge hall hushed for a long moment before hundreds of us boomed out the Serenity Prayer. We modern folks were not even embarrassed to be moved by that process.

BY: ANGELA D. | NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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"A coffeepot simmers on the kitchen stove, a hospital sobers the stricken sufferer, general headquarters broadcasts the AA message ... All these symbolize AA in action.

For action is the magic word of Alcoholics Anonymous."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1951 "Services Make AA Tick" Best of the Grapevine, Volume 1

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