

The Lifeline



January, 2007

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 42, Issue 1

STEP ONE: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

When first challenged to admit defeat, most of us revolted. We had approached A.A. expecting to be taught self-confidence. Then we had been told that so far as alcohol is concerned, self-confidence was no good whatever; in fact, it was a total liability. Our sponsors declared that we were the victims of a mental obsession so subtly powerful that no amount of human will power could break it. There was, they said, no such thing as the personal conquest of this compulsion by the unaided will. Relentlessly deepening our dilemma, our sponsors pointed out our increasing sensitivity to alcohol — an allergy, they called it. The tyrant alcohol wielded a double-edged sword over us: first we were smitten by an insane urge that condemned us to go on drinking, and then by an allergy of the body that insured we would ultimately destroy ourselves in the process. Few indeed were those who, so assailed, had ever won through it singlehanded combat. It was a statistical fact that alcoholics almost never recovered on their own resources. And this had been true, apparently, ever since man had first crushed grapes.

Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing A.A.'s remaining eleven Steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry A.A.'s message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect — unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A. and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us.

From *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pp. 22 & 24, reprinted with permission from AA World Services Inc.

St. Paul AA New Year's Eve Celebration!

December 31st, 2006

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

285 N. Dale St. (Dale & Iglehart)

From Dale, turn right 1 1/2 blocks south of I-94



St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

Web Site: www.aastpaul.org

E-mail: lifeline@aastpaul.org

Fax: 651-290-0209

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday — 9 AM to 6 PM; Tuesday: 9 AM to 8 PM

1600 University Avenue W. Suite 407 St. Paul MN 55104

The Twelve Concepts: Concept I

The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Perhaps many of us are still vague about the "group conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous, about what it really is.

Throughout the entire world today we are witnessing the breakdown of "group conscience." It has always been the hope of democratic nations that their citizens would always be enlightened enough, moral enough, and responsible enough to manage their own affairs through chosen representatives. But in many self-governing countries we are now seeing the inroads of ignorance, apathy, and power-seeking upon democratic systems. Their spiritual resources of right purpose and collective intelligence are waning. Consequently many a land has become so helpless that the only answer is dictatorship.

Happily for us, there seems little prospect of such a calamity in A.A. The life of each individual and of each group is built around our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We very well know that the penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death for the individual and dissolution for the group. An even greater force for A.A.'s unity is the compelling love that we have for our fellow members and for the principles upon which our lives today are founded.

-Reprinted from *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, with permission from AA World Services Inc.

Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Each of the other eleven Traditions explains one specific way to protect the unity of the Fellowship and the A.A. group. Those early members quickly recognized power-drivers as potential group-wreckers. And they're still around — the members who are always sure that they're always right — the members who are happily ready to assume all the burdens of leadership and grimly unwilling to share them, let alone give them up. But a group does need officers. How can we cope with this dilemma? Tradition Two provides the answer . . .

From the A.A. World Services pamphlet, "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," reprinted with permission.

Heard on a London sight-seeing bus:

Tour Guide: We are now passing one of the most famous pubs in England...

Alcoholic passenger: Why?!

From the AA Grapevine, October 1958, reprinted with permission.

2007 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Tom S.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Lesli D.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Members at Large 2007:</u>	Louis C. and Jason V.
<u>Members at Large 2006:</u>	Alfred K. and Roxi S.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Marty M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in November*

Meeting information	210
Inventory hours	17
12th step calls	15
Temporary sponsor	16
Speaker request	14
Special events	6
Outside issues	31
Administrative	58
Other	60
Total Calls	427
Daily average	20.3
Visitors	71

Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.

St. Paul AA Intergroup Representatives Meeting Minutes, November 21st, 2006

- I. **Opening:** Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer and Introductions.
- II. **Primary Purpose** of Intergroup was read.
- III. **Minutes** from October were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report**
- A. Contributions for October were well above budget
 - B. October Contributions (Group, Faithful Fivers, and Special) \$6,059 – 58.6% of Income
 - C. October Sales \$4,274 – 41.4% of Income also were above budget.
 - D. Group contributions \$5,571 – 550 meetings listed on website (39 Groups Contributed for October, and 149 for 2006 - see attachment for group names and contribution amounts)
 - E. Expenses are lower than budget because the Building Liability Insurance was paid in September and was budgeted for October.
- V. **Office Report**
 With our new staff member, Matt, trained and up to speed we are now able to work on projects that had been waiting for months. Matt handles the Night Owl calendar and the Speaker arrangements, as well as sales and training volunteers. Some of the new projects we're able to do include a new price/item list, displays for new publications, and tidying up the office. In the last month, another thing we finished was the volunteer repair of a pc in the volunteer area. The hard-drive on the pc failed, and David K., a Microsoft-certified tech, replaced the hard-drive with one from the office, and re-installed the operating system.
- VI. **Website Report:** The webservant (Jonathan L) was not present to make a report.
- VII. **Outreach Program**
 Alfred has visited 18 meetings in the past month. Alfred will continue as Outreach chair throughout his term as board member at large. Renee B. emphasized the importance of the Outreach Committee as an on-going effort, rather than as a finite project.
- VIII. **Night Owl Report:** Julie M. will turn over the Night Owl Chair position to Diane E. in January. The Night Owl committee is seeking a new co-coordinator to replace Diane. In January the committee will hold a Night Owl appreciation dinner.
- IX. **Upcoming Events**
 New Year's Eve (chair—Marty M.) We're seeking a speaker for the event.
- X. **Old Business**
 Gratitude Night (chair—Jeff) Good turnout, speaker Don enjoyed visit, approx \$2600 collected.
- XI. **New Business**
 November Board Election Results:
 Alternate Chair: Tom S. Treasurer: Mary Jo N. Secretary: Lesli D. Member at large: Louie C.
 Member at large: Jason V.
- XII. **Group Announcements:** Marty requested group volunteers to run the New Year's step meetings.
- XIII. **Concept XI Review:** Tom N. reviewed the Concept, which covers the organization of GSO.
- XIV. **Mock Rep Report.** Melanie presented the Mock Rep Report.
- XV. **Closing:** Meeting closed with the Responsibility statement and the Lord's Prayer.

Attending Groups / Members

Richard U.— Deaf Fellowship of the Spirit	Jeff H.— group not listed	Charlie S. — Roseville Sunday 6pm
Ken D.— SOS St. Pascal's	Kurt N.— Happy Joyous & Free Big Book	Frank W. — White Bear Lake @ St. John's
Anne L.— Women's 12 & 12	Michael K— Defogged Men's	Lisa L. — No Time Like the Present
Lesli D.— Como Park Big Book	Val L.— Back to Basics in Burnsville	Diane E.— Profound Alteration
Melanie C. — Como Park Big Book	John F.— Shoreview 12 & 12	Greg M. — Outright Mental Defectives
Steve B. — Como Park Big Book	Alice S. — Highland Groups	Jon C. — Third Edition
Bruce B.— Club 84	Kelly S. — Highland Groups	Judy H. — Uptown groups
Jeff L.— Amigos III	Louie C. — West End Groups	Julie M.— Night Owl Coordinator
Jason V.— Como Park Big Book	Mark K. — Uptown Groups	Kristin Y. — Basic Text
		Suzanne B.— Mendota Sat 10:30am

<p align="center">7th Tradition Suggestions for Groups</p> <p>“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”</p> <p>Your group can make an informed decision regarding contributions with information from A.A. World Services. The information below is a suggestion taken from the pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix.”</p>	<p align="center">BE A NIGHT OWL !!</p> <p>Night Owls are often the first AA contact for the newcomer! A Night Owl shift is a once-a-month commitment to answer Intergroup phones after hours. Some shifts can be done in the office; all can be done from home. The commitment can be filled by an individual or a group. If you can help, call Matt at the office or go to our website: www.aastpaul.org</p>	<p align="center">INTERGROUP INCOME FOR NOVEMBER</p> <p>Number Group Contributions: 30 Total Group Contributions: \$5407 Number of Faithful Fivers: 19 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$375</p>
<p>50% <u>St. Paul Intergroup</u> Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Ave. #407 St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p>30% <u>General Service Office</u> P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p>10% <u>Southern MN Area 36</u> Area Assembly P.O. Box 2812 Mpls., MN 55402</p>	<p align="center"><u>District Meetings</u></p> <p>District 8 (Ramsey Co.) Fairview Community Center 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville 3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</p> <p>District 15 (Wash. Co.) Christ Lutheran Church 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo 4th Mon., 7:00 PM</p> <p>District 19 (Dakota Co.) Rosemount Community Center 13885 South Robert Trail 2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</p> <p>District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.) 1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul 2nd Fri., 6:00 PM www.district26-area36.org</p>	<p align="center">“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in November:</p>
<p>10% <u>District Committee</u></p> <p>Ramsey County: District 8, P.O. Box 2267 St. Paul, MN 55102</p> <p>Dakota County: District 19, P.O. Box 1466 Burnsville, MN 55337</p> <p>Washington County: District 15, P.O. Box 181 Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p> <p>SE Ramsey County: District 26, P.O. Box 75980 St. Paul, MN 55175</p>	<p align="center">Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during November!</p> <p>A.J., Amy, Andy B., Ann, Bob, Brigham M., Donald, Eliot, Frank D., Gary, Gil, Heather, Jack R., Jack T., Jim H., John S., Kelly S, Lisa, Lynette, Red B., Rob H., Steve, Ursula, Val, Val L.</p> <p>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p> 	<p align="center">Day By Dei</p> <p>East Side Groups East Side Squad 6 Fireside Women's Groups Fri 12 And 12 By The Book Fuente de Vida Groups Grover's Group Happy Hour Group Happy Hour Men's Meeting Highland Park Groups Just for Today Women's group Live & Let Live Group Maplewood Groups Mendota 9:00 Group Merriam Park Groups Midway Groups Oakdale Groups Observing Recovery Victoriously Rivertown Group Roseville Wednesday Night Group Sat AM Women's group Shalom Group Sisters of Serenity South Suburban Groups St. Anthony Park Group Summit Hill Group Uptown Groups Weekend Jumpstart II White Bear Groups White Bear Women's Wed. AM Group</p>

The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline is a monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. (Exception: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.; The A.A. Preamble is reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) We welcome articles of opinion or descriptions of personal experience, which should be sent to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #407, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and contents that may violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc. The deadline is the 2nd of the preceding month.

ST. PAUL AA INTERGROUP UPCOMING EVENTS!!

Big Book Study of Alcoholics Anonymous

December 29, 30, and 31

Mayo Civic Center
Riverview Suite C
30 Civic Center Drive
Rochester, MN 55904

26th Annual Area Recovery, Unity & Service Conference

January 26-28, 2007
Holiday Inn, Fairmont, MN
7:00pm 1/26—Noon 1/28

Area Committee Meetings

February 10, 2007

Best Western, Mankato, MN

Area Standing Committees Meet 9:30am—11:30am

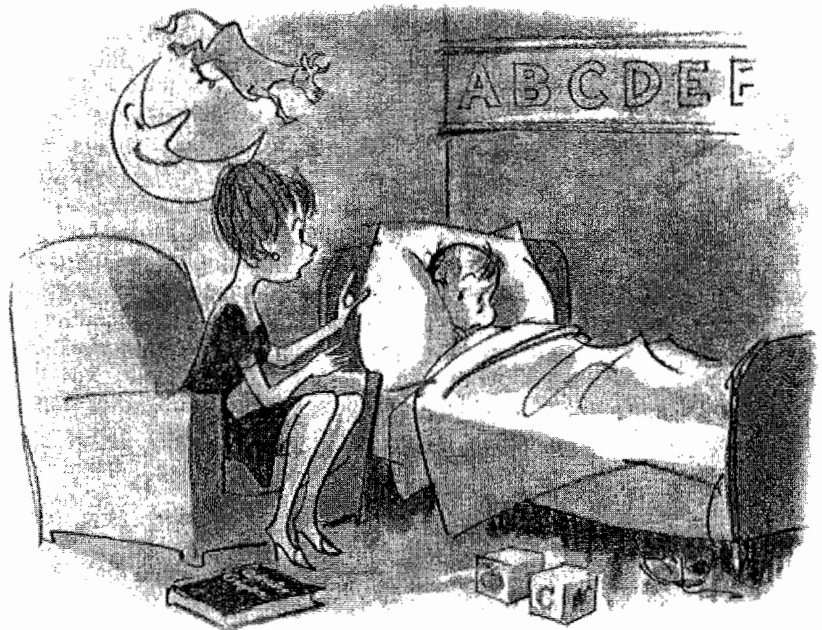
Area Committee Meeting 1:00pm—5:00pm

www.area36.org

43rd International A.A. Women's Conference

February 15-18, 2007
Detroit Marriott—Renaissance Center
Detroit Michigan 48243

www.iaawc.org



"... and so the big, bad wolf made a list of all the persons he had harmed ..."

Cartoons from the AA Grapevine, April, 1999 and January, 1968. Reprinted with permission.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

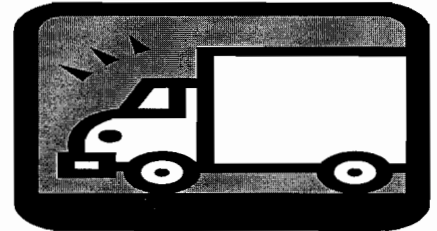
The January Representatives' meeting will be held January 16, 7:30 pm,
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

St. Paul Intergroup
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. W., Suite #407
St. Paul, MN 55104

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Please let us know if your address changes one month ahead of time. It saves us the cost of return postage and enables you to get each issue of the *Lifeline*. Our mailing permit does not provide for mail forwarding. Thank you!



St. Paul Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form

Faithful Fivers contribute five dollars to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry our life-saving message. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to the *Lifeline*. You may also contribute annually, quarterly, etc.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please send this form and a check to:

St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W. #407, St. Paul MN 55104