



## Nell Wing, A.A.'s First Archivist, Dies at 89

Reprinted with permission from *Markings: Your Archives Interchange*,  
Spring 2007, publication of the AA General Service Office Archives.

Nell Wing (nonalcoholic), A.A.'s first archivist and friend to legions of A.A.'s around the world, died February 14. She was 89 years old.

In 1947, recently discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard (she served in the female arm called SPARS), Nell was on her way to Mexico to study art. Seeking a temporary job, she landed one at A.A.'s Headquarters on Lexington Ave.—35 years later, in 1982, she retired.

Nell, who was 29 at the time she started at G.S.O. (then called the Alcoholic Foundation), served as receptionist and did other clerical work before becoming Bill's secretary in 1950. At the time of her arrival, the three-room office had 13 people working there, including Bill. It was a time when A.A.'s Traditions were just beginning to emerge, the General Service Conference was still in the discussion phase, and the Board of Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation (now General Service Board) was just starting to figure out its role.

Nell soon recognized the importance of Bill's correspondence and other material. She began going through his waste basket to retrieve and squirrel away material that would eventually be a basis for G.S.O.'s Archives, and be indispensable to scholars, writers and A.A. members in the years to come.

In 1973, Nell appeared twice on the Dick Cavett show, on broadcasts devoted to alcoholism. She explained the spiritual and psychological value of A.A.'s Traditions.

In the early 1970s, Nell turned her attention to the tasks of organizing the material that would form the basis of an archives: "With the advice of a professional librarian," she said, "I set about wading through and organizing mounds of accumulated correspondence and historical records." (Grapevine, Sept. 1977)

The trustees' Archives Committee was formed in 1973, and in 1975, A.A.'s Archives was officially opened with a ceremony chaired by George G., then chairman of the trustees' Archives Committee. Lois W., Bill's widow, cut the ribbon and Nell Wing was, of course, the Archivist.

Nell knew everybody and remembered everything. She was a treasure trove of A.A. information. All one had to do was mention a name or event and Nell was off and running with more information than one could absorb. Always upbeat, with a beautiful winning smile, she never said a bad thing about anyone, one past staff member said. "With Nell," George observed, "A.A. matters are a labor of love."

In 1992, Nell's story of her years with A.A., *Grateful to Have Been There*, was published.

"From the beginning," Nell recalled, "I was caught by the A.A. Fellowship, particularly by the caring...a one-on-one caring, a love for one another without thought of any reward."

The Fellowship credits Nell with helping it attain a clearer sense of its history. "The fantastic success of A.A. is like a big puzzle and there are pieces that you know fit in, but you just don't know where until you look back into the past." (Nell in an interview in the *Grapevine*, June 1994)

## ST. PAUL INTERGROUP OPEN HOUSE !!



Saturday, June 9, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Spruce Tree Centre - Top Floor of Parking Ramp  
1600 University Avenue West  
Saint Paul, MN 55104



### St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

Web Site: [www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)

E-mail: [lifeline@aastpaul.org](mailto: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

## Step 5: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

“Another great dividend we may expect from confiding our defects to another human being is humility—a word often misunderstood. To those who have made progress in A.A., it amounts to a clear recognition of what and who we really are, followed by a sincere attempt to become what we could be. Therefore, our first practical move toward humility must consist of recognizing our deficiencies. No defect can be corrected unless we clearly see what it is. But we shall have to do more than see. The objective look at ourselves we achieved in Step Four was, after all, only a look. All of us saw, for example, that we lacked honesty and tolerance, that we were beset at times by attacks of self-pity or delusions of personal grandeur. But while this was a humiliating experience, it didn't necessarily mean that we had yet acquired much actual humility. Though now recognized, our defects were still there. Something had to be done about them. And we soon found that we couldn't not wish or will them away by ourselves.

More realism and therefore more honesty about ourselves are the great gains we make under the influence of Step Five. As we took inventory, we began to suspect how much trouble self-delusion had been causing us. This had brought a disturbing reflection. If all our lives we had more or less fooled ourselves, how could we now be so sure that we weren't still self-deceived? How could we be certain that we had made a true catalog of our defects and had really admitted them, even to ourselves? Because we were still bothered by fear, self-pity, and hurt feelings, it was probable we couldn't appraise ourselves fairly at all. Too much guilt and remorse might cause us to dramatize and exaggerate our shortcomings. Or anger and hurt pride might be the smoke screen under which we were hiding some of our defects while we blamed others for them. Possibly, too, we were still handicapped by many liabilities, great and small, we never knew we had.”

From *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pages 58 - 59, reprinted with permission from AA World Services.

## The Twelve Concepts: Concept V

**Throughout our world services structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinions will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.**

“Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a “substantial unanimity” is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself.”

“This “Right of Appeal” recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.”

“This Concept also warns us of “the tyranny of the majority: and points out that in A.A., a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision. That's why we usually required at least a two-thirds majority. Lacking this, it is preferable to delay decision; or in the case of an election following the “The Third Legacy Procedure,” to “go the hat.” (See Service manual, Chapter I.)”

-Reprinted from the pamphlet, *The Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated*, by permission of AA World Services, Inc.

### 2007 Steering Board

<b><u>Chair:</u></b>	<b>Jeff T.</b>
<b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>	<b>Tom S.</b>
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b>Lesli D.</b>
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Mary Jo N.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2007:</u></b>	<b>Alfred K. and Roxi S.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2008:</u></b>	<b>Jason V.</b>
<b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>	<b>Marty M.</b>
<b><u>Office Manager:</u></b>	<b>Tom N.</b>

### Office Calls in March

Meeting information	194
Inventory hours	63
12th step calls	14
Temporary sponsor	15
Speaker request	18
Special events	2
Outside issues	34
Info for Professionals	7
Administrative	67
Other	38
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>609</b>
<b>Daily average</b>	<b>27.68</b>
Visitors	157

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

**Saint Paul AA Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2007**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)
- II. The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read
- III. February 20, 2007 minutes were approved with one correction: 'ALS' typo should be 'ASL'.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – February contributions (Group, Faithful Fivers, and Special) \$2,850 (38.6% of income). Contributions were greater than budgeted. Thanks to all. February sales \$4,536 (61.4% of income) were \$600 greater than budgeted. Thanks for supporting Intergroup with your purchases. Group contributions \$2,552, of 563 meetings listed in meeting directory, 31 groups contributed in February. Expenses for February were up due to Building/Liability insurance, which is usually prepaid, but was not this year; also, our Unemployment Insurance has increased.
- V. **Office Report** -- Tom N. A) Intergroup provided AA reps to 2 Health & Wellness fairs: LubeTech in Roseville and St. Paul College. B) New DVD version of "Markings on the Journey; many cassettes on sale at \$5/each. C) Nell Wing, Bill W. secretary, passed away on 2/14/07.
- VI. **Website Report** – No report. Groups encouraged to check for new information on the site and send flyers of upcoming events to [webservant@aastpaul.org](mailto:webservant@aastpaul.org) so they can be posted.
- VII. **Outreach Program** – Alfred is following up on MIA groups; website directory is always up-to-date. Lee B. volunteered to help Alfred on the committee.
- VIII. **Night Owl Report** – Diane. April shifts are ALL full—THANKS. Backups are still needed—call I'Grp office to volunteer.
- IX. **Upcoming Events.**  
Spring Fling. Sat., April 28<sup>th</sup> – Mary Jo is still acquiring speakers; passed around a 'volunteer' sheet for help on that evening. She's also checking out getting an ASL interpreter for the meeting.
- X. **Old Business**  
a. Bylaw Committee – Marty M. In progress; volunteers/questions can be directed to [advisor@aastpaul.org](mailto:advisor@aastpaul.org)  
b. Discussion on the "Lifeline" being emailed to current 'Faithful Fiver' subscribers. Group voted to send emails to them with a link to the website. Tom N. will gather email addresses from current FF's.
- XI. **New Business.** None
- XII. **Group Announcements or Concerns.** Discussion on various 'new' & defunct meetings. Midway group is looking for contractors to help with new roofing project. Question arose on how to help callers with 'non-AA' issues – these sorts of questions can be addressed to 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Help (dial 211). There's also information on our website on 'how to handle non-AA' phone calls
- XIII. **Concept Review** (III) -- Thanks to Lesli D. for presenting Concept III.  
Lee B. volunteered for April, Concept IV
- XIV. **Mock Rep Report.** Thanks, Bonnie for 3/20 report. Pat C. volunteered for April.
- XV. Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer.

**Groups & Officers in Attendance:**

Roxi S.- Board	Greg M.- OMD	Jon C. - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	Alice S.-Highland
Jim N.-12x12, Amigos III	Michael H.-Defogged Men's	Lisa L.-No Time Like Present	Pat C.- Fireside Women's
Bonnie R.-12-Step HH	Joe S.-Happy,Joyous,Free	Lee B.-Como BB	Ken D.- SOS Oakdale
Jason V.-Board	Tom L – Hzlwd / Shorerw	Richard U – Midway Club	John C – West End
Jason H.-Rosemout	Diane E – NightOwl Prof Alt	Kristin Y – Basic Text	Brandon F – Men's Happy Hour
John F.-Highland BB	Matt Z – Roseville Wed AA	Mark K.-Uptown	Alfred K – Board
Mary Jo N – Board	Marty M – Board	Jeff T – Board	Lesli D – Board
Tom N – IG Office/Board	Tom S.-Board		

<p><b>7th Tradition</b>  <b>Suggestions for Groups</b>                  "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."                  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><b>BE A NIGHT OWL !!</b>                  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. <b>If you can help, call Matt at the office or go to our website: <a href="http://www.aastpaul.org">www.aastpaul.org</a></b></p>	<p><b>INTERGROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH</b>                  Number Group Contributions: 45                  Total Group Contributions: \$4745.93                  Number of Faithful Fivers: 20                  Total from Faithful Fivers: \$395.00                  Special Contributions: \$245.42</p>
<p><b>50% <u>St. Paul Intergroup</u></b>                  Spruce Tree Center                  1600 University Ave. #407                  St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p><b>30% <u>General Service Office</u></b>                  P.O. Box 459                  Grand Central Station                  New York, NY 10163</p> <p><b>10% <u>Southern MN Area 36</u></b>                  Area Assembly                  P.O. Box 2812                  Mpls., MN 55402</p> <p><b>10% <u>District Committee</u></b>                  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><b><u>District Meetings</u></b></p> <p><b>District 8 (Ramsey Co.)</b>                  Fairview Community Center                  1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203                  Roseville                  3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>District 15 (Wash. Co.)</b>                  Christ Lutheran Church                  11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo                  4th Mon., 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>District 19 (Dakota Co.)</b>                  Rosemount Community Center                  13885 South Robert Trail                  2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)</b>                  1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul                  2nd Fri., 6:00 PM  <a href="http://www.district26-area36.org">www.district26-area36.org</a></p>	<p><b>"Thanks!" to the groups that contributed in March:</b></p> <p><b>As Bill Sees It</b>  <b>Back To Basics Big Book Study</b>  <b>Come Park 12 &amp; 12</b>  <b>Cottage Grove Groups</b>  <b>Day By Dei</b>  <b>East Side Squad 6</b>  <b>Fireside Women's Groups</b>  <b>Forest Lake Groups</b>  <b>Forest Lake Sq 8</b>  <b>Friends of Bill W.</b>  <b>Grover's Group</b>  <b>Happy Hour Little Canada</b>  <b>Hastings Groups</b>  <b>Highland Park Groups</b>  <b>Lindstrom Groups</b>  <b>Lindstrom Thursday 12 &amp; 12</b>  <b>Line by Line</b>  <b>Live &amp; Let Live Group</b>  <b>Mendota 10:30 Group</b>  <b>Merriam Park Groups</b>  <b>Midway Groups</b>  <b>No Time Like the Present</b>  <b>North End - Great Reality</b>  <b>Primary Purpose</b>  <b>Profound Alteration</b>  <b>Ridge Runners I</b>  <b>Roseville Wednesday Night Group</b>  <b>Shoreview Big Book Plus</b>  <b>South Suburban Groups</b>  <b>St. Croix Valley Groups</b>  <b>St. Luke Saturday Group</b>  <b>St. Thomas Becket Group</b>  <b>Stillwater Sunday PM</b>  <b>Stillwater Wed. Step Group</b>  <b>Summit Hill Group</b>  <b>TGIF Macalester</b>  <b>Third Tradition Group</b>  <b>Traditions and History Group</b>  <b>Uptown Groups</b>  <b>Vadnais Heights Tues Night Group</b>  <b>Valley Creek Monday Group</b>  <b>WBL Redeemer Group</b>  <b>Weekend Jumpstart II</b>  <b>White Bear Groups</b>  <b>Woodbury Friday Big Book</b></p>
<p><b>The Lifeline: Purpose Statement</b></p>		
<p><i>The Lifeline</i> 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.</p>		

**Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during March!**

**Andy, Ann, Bob, Brad, Brian, David, Debra, Eliot, Frank, Jack Ri, Jack Ro, Jim, Kevin, Lynette, Matt, Mark, Nicole, Rick, Rob, Shawn, Steve, Su, Val.**

**Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!**



## **ST. PAUL AA INTERGROUP UPCOMING EVENTS!!**

### **Area 36 Committee Meetings**

Saturday, May 5th  
Best Western Hotel  
Mankato, MN

*Standing Committees Meet* 9:30am - 11:30am  
*Area Committee Meeting* 1:00pm - 5:00pm

### **Gopher State Round-Up XXXIV**

May 25, 26, 27, 2007  
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel  
Bloomington, Minnesota  
[www.gopherstateroundup.org](http://www.gopherstateroundup.org)

### **St. Paul Intergroup Open House**

Spruce Tree Centre - Top Floor of Parking Ramp  
1600 University Avenue West  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Saturday, June 9, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### **Minneapolis Intergroup Workshop Our 12th Step Responsibility - Are we going to any length?**

Saturday June 9, 2007  
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm  
Union Congregational Church  
3700 Alabama Ave, St. Louis Park, 55416

### **Twin Cities Round-Up for LGBT and friends**

June 15,16 & 17, 2007  
Van Cleve Recreation Center  
901 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis  
[www.twincitiesroundup.com](http://www.twincitiesroundup.com)

### **Southern MN Area Assembly**

Best Western Victorian Inn, Hutchinson, MN  
Saturday, 23 June 2007  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
[www.area36.org](http://www.area36.org)

### **Tradition Five: "Each Group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."**

"Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his, learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s around the world."

From *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, page 150 - 151, reprinted with permission from AAWS.

### **Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?**

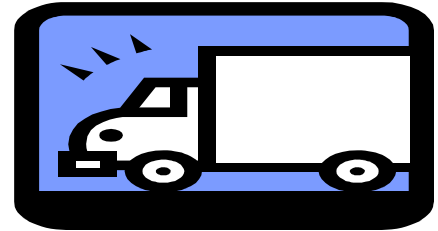
The May Representatives' meeting will be held May 15, 7:30 pm,  
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.  
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

St. Paul Area 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