



Step 7: Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

Below we have a few words on Step Seven by the Reverend Samuel Shoemaker, a friend of A.A. co-founder Bill W. and an early friend of A.A. Bill W. had this to say about Shoemaker:

“It was from him that Dr. Bob and I in the beginning had absorbed most of the principles that were afterward embodied in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, steps that express the heart of A.A.’s way of life. Dr. Silkworth gave us the needed knowledge of our illness, but Sam Shoemaker had given us the concrete knowledge of what we could do about it. One showed us the mysteries of the lock that held us in prison; the other passed on the spiritual keys by which we were liberated.”

From A.A. *Comes of Age*, pages 38-39, reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services.

Reverend Sam Shoemaker on Step Seven:

How often have we prayed for “things,” or favoring circumstances, or a hundred and one things that were really selfish in nature! Here is where real prayer begins — not ends — in asking God to *change me*. “Lord, I’m not much. You aren’t getting much of a prize. It’s mostly broken pieces I’m giving you. But I ask you to mend them. You can take the pride and the lust and the anxiousness and the fear and the resentment. Please do take them, and me with them.” Something like that.

We may say it in the quiet of our own rooms or we may say it kneeling in our church, or we may say it as we pray with another person. There must be an intended finality as we make such a prayer. We can’t do it with tongue in cheek. So far as it is possible, we mean to be done with the offending thing. We find again that “willpower” only goes far enough to secure our intention; the actual praying of such a prayer already implies help from him to whom we pray. Sins get entangled deep within us, as some roots of a tree, and do not easily come loose. We need help, grace, the lift of a kind of divine derrick. The amazing thing is that such a prayer is answered if we truly want it to be. Our own wills are so much a needed part of this that it almost looks as if we had done it. But the help from God is still more a needed part of it; we are sure that without him we could not possibly have done it. We learn great truths, long known and often discovered, as we begin a genuine spiritual awakening.

From *The Best of the Grapevine*, Volume 2, page 130, reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

THE SEVENTH TRADITION & THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Summer is here, and that means vacations, weekends at the cabin and trips up north. It also means lower meeting attendance and reduced contributions to Intergroup. You can support Intergroup’s vital functions - arranging 12 step calls, providing meeting information and service opportunities - by making a special contribution in June, July or August, or by stopping by the office for a sober gift, like a *Grapevine* book, an AA video, or an AA history book (*AA Comes of Age*, *Pass It On*, or *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*).

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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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 VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world services affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

This concept attempts to clarify the relationship and "balance of power" between the Conference and the General Services Board. "This ... may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object." On the one hand, "the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

"Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members"; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. "Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need."

The Conference "recommends"-- though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation -- but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees "simplify refrain from using their legal right to say 'no' when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say 'yes.'"

"If... the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the trustees... will constantly realize that the conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority... neither will be seriously tempted to make a 'rubber stamp' out of the other... In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and the harmonious cooperation will be the general rule."

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

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>	Alfred K. and Roxi S.
<u>Members at Large 2008:</u>	Jason V. and Jeff H.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Marty M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in May

Meeting information	234
Inventory hours	28
12th step calls	10
Temporary sponsor	17
Speaker request	8
Special events	1
Outside issues	38
Info for Professionals	7
Administrative	70
Other	49
Total Calls	462
Daily average	21
Visitors	161
<i>*Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.</i>	

Saint Paul AA Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2007

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)
 II. The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read.
 III. April 27, 2007 minutes were approved.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Presented by Jeff T. April Contributions (Group, Faithful Fivers, and Special) \$4,993 – 52% of Income. Contributions were greater than budget. Thanks to All. April Sales \$4,602– 48% of Income were slightly above the budgeted amount. Thanks to all for purchasing your literature from Intergroup, it is another way of supporting Intergroup. Group contributions \$3,779 – 564 meetings listed on website (38 Groups Contributed in April - see attached) Expenses for April were over budget. Spring Fling expenses were more than budgeted due to having to supply PA System. Previously church allowed us to use the system there. Lifeline postage is up due to Payment of Bulk Permit being budgeted to wrong month. Income was also greater than budgeted. Spring fling was slightly greater and Faithful Fiver Contributions were up for April.

V. **Office Report** -- Tom N. a) Office is working with Midway group to help coordinate Hmong meetings; b) Two 'self-support' pamphlets handed out to reps to share with groups.

VI. **Website Report** – No report. Just a reminder that any/all upcoming events can be emailed to webservant@aastpaul.org for posting on our website.

VII. **Outreach Program** – Alfred K. Working with Lee B. on visiting all groups in our area and share what Intergroup is and our part in the Service process of AA.

VIII. **Night Owl Report** – Diane. The NightOwl instructions have been updated—check the website out for newest information. There's many open shifts; please sign up as the backup list is low. Orientations are 3rd Sat of the month – call the office for more details or email nightowl@aastpaul.org.

IX. Upcoming Events.

- 3rd Annual Open House / Grill Out, June 9th. Marty M., chair. Great opportunity to visit the office, see what's available; fellowship, hot dogs on the 'roof' at the Intergroup office.

X. Old Business. None

XI. **New Business.** Jeff T. announced that there is 1 At-Large position open on the Board; requests that nominations be submitted to Jeff T. by 6/18/07 by calling the office or emailing chair@aastpaul.org


XII. **Group Announcements or Concerns.** Hazelwood AA moving March '08 — look for updates later; Stop and visit the Literature Sales booth at Gopher State – put on by St. Paul Intergroup this year.

XIII. **Concept Review (V)** -- Thanks to Kristin Y on the presentation – great job!
 Val L. volunteered for June, Concept VI

XIV. **Mock Rep Report.** Thanks, Greg M. for 5/15 report! Peter J. volunteered for June.

XV. Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer.

Groups & Officers in Attendance			
Peter J. Summit Hill	Dan W-Cottage Grove AA	Greg M - OMD	Diane E – NightOwl, Profound Alterations
Alfred K-Board	Joe S.-	Lee B.-Como BB	Brooklyn (John) – W End
Roxi S-Board	Tom S-Board	Mark K-Uptown	Tom L-Hzlwd;Shoreview
John F.-Highland Sat Step	Matt Z-Roseville Wed	Kristin Y – Basic Text	Val L-Back to Basic
Tom N – IG Office/Board	Jeff H- Board	Cookie J–Macalester/Ply.	Lesli D – Board
Rey H - Defogged Men's	Monty Z-White Bear	Jeff T – Board	Suzanne B - Mendota

<p align="center">7th Tradition</p> <p>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>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>10% <u>District Committee</u> 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">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 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY</p> <p>Number Group Contributions: 30 Total Group Contributions: \$ 2017.26 Number of Faithful Fivers: 21 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$440.00</p>
	<p align="center"><u>District Meetings</u></p> <p>District 8 (Ramsey Co.) Fairview Community Center 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203 Roseville <u>3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</u></p> <p>District 15 (Wash. Co.) Christ Lutheran Church 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo <u>4th Mon., 7:00 PM</u></p> <p>District 19 (Dakota Co.) Rosemount Community Center 13885 South Robert Trail <u>2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</u></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 May:</p>
	<p align="center">Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during May!</p> <p>Andy, Frank, Jack R, Eliot, Brigham, Kevin, Val, Rob, David, Donald, Jack R, Lynette, Nicole, Bob, Deb, John, Paul, Chris, Russ & Larry.</p> <p align="center"></p> <p align="center">Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p>	<p align="center">Back to Basics—Burnsville Basic Text</p> <p>City Center Group Como Park 12 & 12 East Side Squad 6 Fireside Women's BB Group Forest Lake 12 & 12 Forest Lake Alano Fri. 12x12 By the Book Grovers Thursday Night Happy Hour Men's Group Hazelwood Groups Highland Park Group Hillside Buck Hill-Burnsville North Branch Community Groups North Dale Group ORV AA</p> <p align="center">Primary Purpose—Burnsville</p> <p>Red Wing Groups Ridge Runners II Rivertown Group Roseville Centennial Groups Sat. AM Women's Shalom Group Sisters of Serenity St. Luke's Sat Men's St. Paul Park Groups Third Tradition Northfield Uptown Club White Bear Lake</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!!

Maplewood AA Annual Picnic

Open Speaker Meeting, Potluck, Fun
Battle Creek Park Picnic Pavilion
Saturday, July 28, 2007 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

16th Annual

Wright County Get-Together

“One Day at a Time”
Manitou Lakes near Monticello
July 20 - 22

10th Annual

Chippewa Valley Roundup

~Our Primary Purpose~

Eau Claire, WI
Friday, 27 July 2007 – Sunday, 29 July 2007

Area Committee Meetings

Southern MN Area Committee Meetings

Best Western, Mankato, MN

Saturday, August 11, 2007

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Tradition Seven: Every A.A. group ought to be full self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Bill W. on Tradition Seven, from the A.A. Grapevine, October 1967.

AA's far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our AA adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die.

Now where do AA's services – worldwide, area, local – fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single AA service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or Intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe.

Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion – to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that AA must everywhere function in full strength –and that, under our Tradition of self-support we are all going to foot the bill.

We have long known that Alcoholics Anonymous has no need for charitable contributions from any source. Our Fellowship is self-supporting. Neither do AA groups try to meet the rehabilitation expenses of thousands of newcomers. Long ago we learned that this was impractical.

Instead, AA offers to the new person a spiritual way of life that can eliminate the alcohol problem. With this accomplished, the new person, in the company of his fellow sufferers, can then begin the solution of his personal problems – including the financial one.

So AA groups themselves accept no charitable funds – and give none away. At first glance, this attitude may seem to be hard-nosed, even callous. An immense experience tells us otherwise. Money gifts – as a perquisite of getting sober – are usually worthless when made of function of an AA group.

Of course, we see AA's primary charity in the Twelfth Step activities of tens of thousands of us as we daily carry the AA message to newcomers. We travel millions of miles; we absent ourselves from business and home. In the aggregate, we lay out large sums. As individuals, we do not hesitate to give temporary financial aid to the newcomer, if aplenty, always given on a very personal, face-to-face basis. And perhaps even this cannot be called wholly charitable, since every Twelfth Step effort means more certain sobriety and added spiritual growth for the sponsor.

Both these principles we understand: The AA wants no charity; that we support our own services. We understand – but we sometimes forget.

Reprinted from *Language of the Heart*, page 349 with permission from AA Grapevine, Inc.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

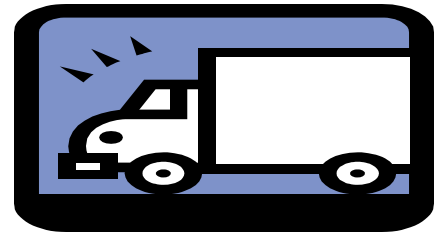
The July Representatives' meeting will be held July 17, 7:30 pm,
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

Change Service Requested

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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