



THE SECOND STEP:

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

When I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous I was pretty wary of the “God” stuff. I didn’t realize yet that the whole program is a “God thing”! Still, I really wanted what you A.A. people had. You were drunks who didn’t have to drink any more; you were laughing and having fun together; you were helping each other get over the bumps in life’s road, and to do it without drinking; you shared together the hopeful conviction that things will be ok if you don’t drink, go to meetings, let go and let God. I wanted the sobriety, the fellowship, the sense of hope—but I wasn’t so sure about the “God” part.

Just a few years before that, I had been promoting my own personal theory of atheism in the halls of the religious high school I attended. I remember projecting my voice loudly, trying to draw attention to my daring views, convinced that I had the answers. I didn’t have a God, but I was standing on the verge of my own personal Hell. It wasn’t so long after that, I found myself alone, afraid, desperate, and sitting in an A.A. meeting.

They told me that I’d better get a Higher Power if I was going to make it. I could borrow somebody else’s, use the group as my H.P., or even start out by praying to a door knob — but I needed to be willing. I didn’t need to know who or what I was praying to, but I needed to start each day on my knees praying to something. By this time I’d had enough of the hideous Four Horsemen mentioned in the Big Book — and you A.A. people understood what that was like. Already, I was less alone. I wanted what you had, so I did what you did.

From the fear, hurt and despair of my bottom came the gift of willingness. The Big Book told me that I didn’t need to answer any deep theological questions about the nature of God before I took the Third Step. I just needed to ask, “Do I believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?” The sober people showed me that I could not figure out the nature of Higher Power by thinking about it; but that I would *discover* my understanding of Higher Power through the *experience* of working the A.A. program. I just had to be willing to try.

Although I was somewhat afraid that I would one day wake up and find myself the kind of “True Believer” I had loathed in the past, I was willing to take that risk. I had to be open and willing, to admit that my prejudices might be wrong. A short time later, I took the Third Step with my first sponsor. I’ll never forget that day because he made me kneel with him and recite the Third Step prayer in a public park at noon.

Twenty years later, I *am* a “True Believer.” I truly believe in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. I still have not worked out all of the theological details, but I have worked the Steps and I have a program of action that works to keep me sober, one day at a time. A.A. gets me over those rough spots in the road of life — they keep coming, but I’m enjoying the ride!

— Anonymous

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 Second Tradition:

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.

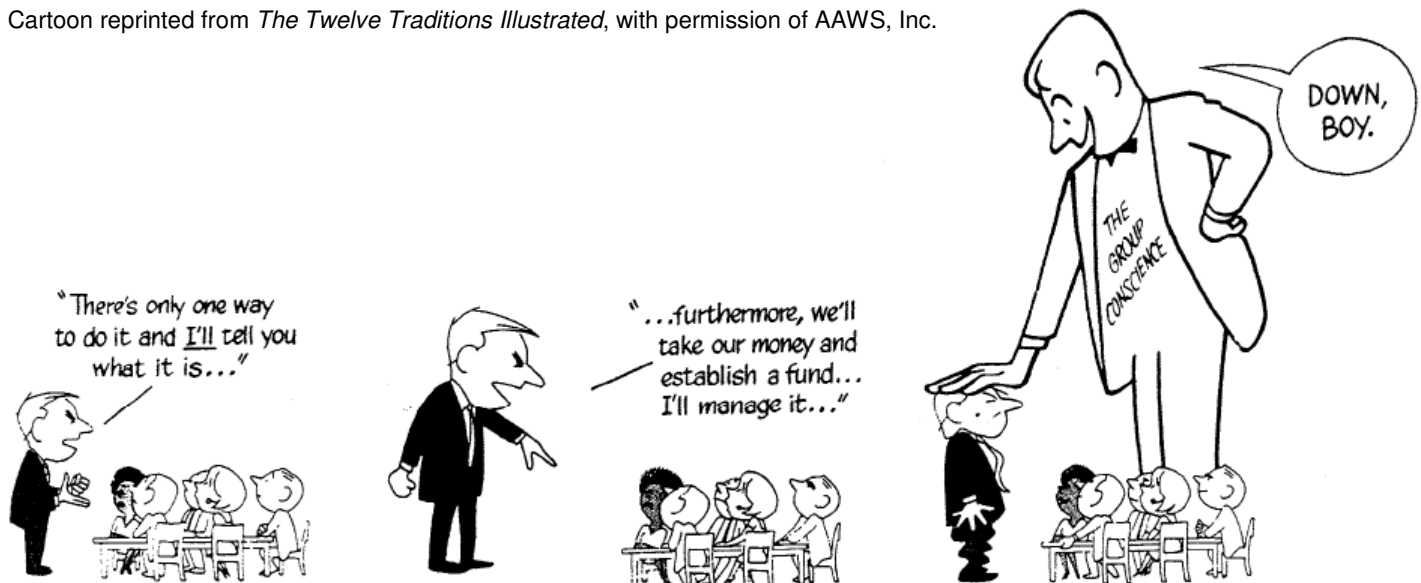
What is an Informed A.A. Group Conscience?

The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind.

On sensitive issues, the group works slowly — discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rest on more than a “yes” or “no” count — precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term “informed group conscience” implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes.

From the pamphlet, *The A.A. Group*, reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Cartoon reprinted from *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*, with permission of AAWS, Inc.



2008 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Tom S.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Lesli D.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Diane E.
<u>Members at Large 2008:</u>	Steve B. & Jeff H.
<u>Members at Large 2007:</u>	Lee B. & Lisa L.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in December*

Meeting information	195
Inventory hours	29
12th step calls	24
Temporary sponsor	26
Speaker request	15
Special events	9
Outside issues	29
Info For Professionals	2
Administrative	115
Other	26
Total Calls	470
Daily average	24.7
Visitors	138

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, December 18, 2007

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)
- II. The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read by Marty M.
- III. November minutes were approved.
- IV. Office Report --Tom N. A) St. Paul Intergroup buys all of its literature from AA World Services and AA Grapevine, Inc. B) AA World Services producing a new video for young people—for more info, visit www.aa.org. C) AAWS is making several format changes to literature (handout distributed); D) Tom distributed a brief report from the annual Intergroup seminar held in October; other Intergroup offices' literature items were displayed on the table; G) Our new Credit Card system is working GREAT and sales are up; H) The Office will be closed 12/24, 12/25, and 1/1/08.
- V. Treasurer's Report. Mary Jo. A) November contributions were \$5972; Sales were \$5320; Thanks to the 33 groups who contributed in November. B) The 2008 budget (accepted by the Board) was distributed.
- VI. Website Report – Jonathan. Site's working great; a report can be viewed on the website. Remember to send flyers to webservant@aastpaul.org for posting.
- VII. Outreach Program – Alfred K. A) Reports, worksheets of last 3 years' committee work handed over to Lee B. Alfred thanks all who helped on this committee and made it so successful over the last 3 years.
- VIII. Night Owl Report – Diane. A) Shifts are FULL –Thank you! B) Patty S. will be the new coordinator.
- IX. Intergroup Events.
 - New Year's Eve December 31st—Jeff T. Flyers handed out; Signup sheets passed for marathon meeting chairs and greeters. Speaker at 7 PM (Lisa L.); Dance starts at 9 PM (\$5 contribution).
- X. Old Business:
 - By-Laws Committee: Marty M. A) Board is reviewing proposed By-Laws; Looking for a lawyer to review documents – any suggestion of lawyer, please get it to Marty.
- XI. New Business (none)
- XII. Group Announcements or Concerns.
 - Many announcements of new meetings/ events. These will be posted on the website.
 - Jeff T. thanked outgoing board members: Marty, Alfred, Roxi for all their work on the Board. A big welcome to our new incoming Board members: Diane E, Lisa L.
- XIII. Concept Review (XII) –Thanks, Dan B. for a great job! Donald B. volunteered for January, Concept I.
- XIV. Mock Rep Report. Thanks, Lee B. for tonight's report! Christine P. volunteered for January.
- XV. Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer

Groups & Officers in Attendance:

Alfred K-Board At-Large	Jan B-McAlester/Plymouth	Marty M-Board Advisor	Tom S-Board Alt Chair
Andy L-Uptown	Jeff H-Board At-Large	Mary Jo N-Board Treasurer	Tom L-Shrw/Hazelwood
Lisa L-No Time Like Present	Jeff T-Board Chair	Donald B-Main Idea Tues 8pm	Will A-West End
Barb H-Highland #11	Jonathan-Web Servant	Anthony C-New Brighton Sun AM	Monty Z-WBL Mon. Night
Christine P-Maplewood AA	Lee B-Como BB	Mike M-Sun St.Paul Spkr Mtg	Mark K-Uptown squad
Diane E-Night Owl	Lesli D-Board Secretary	Steve B-Board At-Large	Tom N.-Office Manager
Matt Z.—Roseville Wed.	Greg M-OMD	Val L-Back to Basics, Burnsville	

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15th

<p>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>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></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>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><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>Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during December!</p> <p>Bill S., Frank D., Jack Ri., Tracy, Andy B., Charlie W., Jack Ro., Lynette, Marvin, Donald, Kelly L., John K., Mike, Mike A., Taylor, Josh, Rian, Kevin G., Tom O., Schell, and Ron</p>  <p>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p>	<p>INTERGROUP INCOME FOR DECEMBER</p> <p>Number Group Contributions: 42 Total Group Contributions: \$3,872.65 Number of Faithful Fivers: 24 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$1,575.00</p> <p>“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in December:</p> <p>11 West Bernard AA Burnsville Eagan Savage Tues. BB Como Park Big Book Complete Defeat AA Cottage Grove AA CRC Friends of Bill Dakota Alano Monday 6 PM BB Dakota Alano Sunday 8 PM Dakota Alano Thursday AM Dakota Alano Thursday PM Downtown Alano Big Book Fireside Thurs. Night Fireside Women's Groups Friends of Bill W. Happy Hour 12 & 12 AA Highland Park AA Island Lake AA Maplewood AA Midway AA (4x) North Branch Community Groups North Dale AA Oakdale Monday Groups Pete Bock Rosemount AA Roseville Wednesday Night AA Shoreview 12&12 AA Shoreview Big Book Plus St. Croix Valley AA St. John's AA Little Canada St. Paul Open Speakers Mtg. St. Thomas Becket AA TGIF Macalester Third Tradition Northfeld This Simple Concept Traditions and History Group Valley Creek Monday AA White Bear Groups Woodbury Friday Big Book Woodbury Serenity Sisters</p>
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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.

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

<p>February 9, 2008</p> <p>Area 36 Committee Meetings Best Western, Mankato</p> <p><i>Area Standing Committees Meet</i> <i>9:30am - 11:30am</i> <i>Area Committee Meeting</i> <i>1:00pm - 5:30pm</i></p>	<p>Big Book Workshop <i>The Firing Line</i> Waverly, MN Saturday, 9 February 2008 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM</p>
<p>44th International Women's Conference</p> <p>February 14 - 17, 2008 Portland, Oregon</p> <p>www.intlwomensconf.org</p>	<p>AA Snowbriety</p> <p>AA Speaker — Winter Sports — Dance Bessemer, MI Saturday, 23 February 2008 – Sunday, 24 February 2008</p>
<p>February 23, 2008</p> <p>Area 36 Inventory</p> <p>Gopher Hills Club Cannon Falls, MN</p>	<p>February 29 - March 2</p> <p>West Central Regional Service Conference</p> <p>Location To Be Announced <i>Fargo, ND</i> 7:00 PM 3/2 - Noon 3/4</p>
<p>March 15, 2008</p> <p>Area 36 Assembly</p> <p>Holiday Inn Burnsville, MN 9:00am - 5:00pm</p>	<p>Aim for Ames—21st Annual ~Follow the Path~</p> <p>Quality Inn & Suites, Ames, IA Friday, 28 March 2008 – Sunday, 30 March 2008</p>

The Twelve Concepts: Concept 2

When, in 1955, the A.A. 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 effective conscience for our whole Society.

[. . .] But the groups' acceptance of the ultimate service authority and responsibility was not enough. No matter what authority the groups had, they could not meet their new responsibilities until they had actually delegated most on the active ones. It was precisely in order to meet this need that the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous was given the general responsibility for the maintenance of A.A.'s world services and so became the service conscience for A.A. as a whole.

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

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

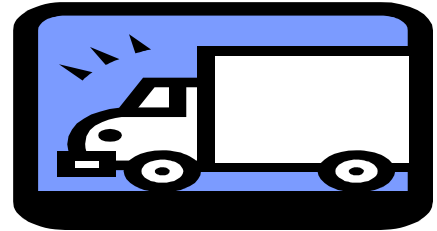
The February Representatives' meeting will be held February 19, 7:30 pm,
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

I would like to receive the Lifeline every month by email. My email address is:

(please print clearly) _____