



## **Tradition Nine: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.**

*The Ninth Tradition may easily be the most confusing Tradition of all. Just what does "organized" mean here? Many A.A.'s have read the Tradition Nine essay in the "Twelve & Twelve" and been left still scratching their heads. The following excerpt from Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age (pp. 125-127) might help, because it uses concrete examples to show what kinds of events led to this Tradition. — Ed.*

### **Additional Thoughts by Bill W.**

Considering how most of us have really loved controversy, this denial of the privilege of attacking something or somebody in public is no small achievement for the naturally aggressive people that we are. To make our survival as a fellowship sure, we have often gone far in the opposite direction. Years ago, for example, we stood in great fear of the misuse of the A.A. name by A.A.'s and outside groups who wanted to use it for their own money-raising, controversial, or public purposes. And we reflected that the bigger A.A. grew, the greater this temptation would surely be. Therefore we felt we had to find a way legally to protect the precious name of our society.

Our Trustees were advised that this could be done only by incorporating the name Alcoholics Anonymous in every state of the Union and in all foreign countries. We actually began this tedious, complicated, and expensive task, which finally bogged down in a mass of technicalities, red tape, and charters.

But the issue was revived with a bang when one of the large motion-picture producers suddenly came up with a script for a picture which they were going to call *Mr. and Miss Anonymous*. The proposed portrayal of A.A. seemed pretty lopsided and in rather bad taste. Though they agreed to change the title, the company refused to do much of anything about the objectionable script. What, then, could we do about it?

We concluded that we ought to ask for an injunction against the company for misuse of the A.A. name. This prospect of legal action caused the company to revise the script more to our liking. Otherwise, we might have sued, forgetting all about A.A.'s principle of non-controversy in public. We were that excited.

After this moving-picture incident, our chairman, Bernard Smith, came up with what looked like a wonderful idea. As a lawyer, he thought Alcoholics Anonymous could easily obtain a Congressional Charter, an act of Congress which would protect the A.A. name everywhere. This would put us in the same class as the Red Cross and several other notable organizations. It was thought that the mere existence of such a charter would restrain nearly all those who might be tempted to misuse A.A.'s name. And a legal bludgeon of this size and weight could easily be used on any who might still defy the law. It looked like a grand idea and we at the Headquarters were all for it.

But the conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous, its General Service Conference, had other ideas. The Conference pointed out to us how foolish it would be to incorporate A.A.'s way of life as a legal instrument with which to attack anyone, no matter what the provocation. We would not be content with such an instrument for purposes of pure restraint. Under enough provocation, we would be bound to start public lawsuits and thus enter the field of public controversy. It would be like building a war machine on the theory that it would always stay home and never fight. It would mean the legal organization of a fellowship whose Traditions insisted on its being unorganized. The Conference thought we ought to forget about the questionable advantages of legality and controversy and rely upon group and public opinion for our ultimate protection. After long debate, we at Headquarters saw that the conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous, acting through the delegates, was wiser than we were. So the Congress of the United States was never asked to incorporate A.A.

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#### **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 through Friday — 9 AM to 6 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM

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

**Step Nine: Made amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**

**“This Matter of Honesty”**

Bill W., one of our founders, wrote an article with this title in the August 1961 *Grapevine* (reprinted in *The Language of the Heart*, p. 259). A large section of the article is about the *misuse* of honesty. That got me to thinking of times in my early sobriety in which I felt called to be honest, but upon later examination, found my motives to be less than clear. In this article, Bill W. ties the topic of honesty to the 9th Step, and our resultant action. One of my continuous actions today is to make living amends to my family.

In my experience in early sobriety, I often found myself acquiring "new" knowledge, and then the compulsion to share it. For example, I would learn something about children and their growth stages. Then, when I'd spend time with my sister's family, I'd share this information. "Share" is a kind way of putting it. Really, it often came out as criticism or grandstanding as a way to make myself feel better. Today, I often caution myself when I feel *compelled* to say something; I have to pause and ask myself if I am looking to avoid an uncomfortable feeling that is best shared *honestly*. Keeping my uncomfortable feeling to myself, and then compulsively acting to numb myself, just increases the amends I need to make and keeps me spiritually sick.

— Eric H., Intergroup office volunteer

**Concept Nine: Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

“Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.”

“Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.”

“Another qualification for leadership is ‘give and take,’ the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us ‘all or nothing’ drunks. Nevertheless we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a *series of improving compromises*.”

Reprinted from *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, p. 39-40, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

**2010 Steering Board**

<b><u>Chair:</u></b>	<b>Julie M.</b>
<b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>	<b>John D.</b>
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b>Don N.</b>
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Michael K.</b>
<b><u>Alt. Treasurer</u></b>	<b>Darrell B.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2010:</u></b>	<b>Chris S. &amp; Julie K.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2011:</u></b>	<b>Jes N. &amp; Charlie S.</b>
<b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>	<b>Tom S.</b>
<b><u>Office Manager:</u></b>	<b>Tom N.</b>

**Office Calls in July**

Meeting information	199
Inventory/hours	47
12th Step calls	8
Temporary sponsor	28
Speaker request	21
Special events	4
Outside issues	26
Info for professionals	2
Administrative	161
Other	80
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>576</b>
<b>Daily average</b>	<b>25.0</b>
Visitors	225

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

## St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2010

- I. Open with Serenity Prayer and Introductions. Matt read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
- II. Last month's Minutes approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Michael K reported the budget is healthy; the written report is available; questions can be sent to treasurer@aastpaul.org.
- IV. The Office Report – Service opportunities are available at Redeemer's Arms Apartments and Volunteers of America; contact the Office for details.
- V. Website Report – Jonathan. Groups are encouraged to inform him or the Office of AA-related events so they can be added to the website.
- VI. Outreach Program – Tim is no longer able to chair, but has a replacement who will report next month.
- VII. Night Owl Report – Leslie. Suggested a Night Owl Volunteer Appreciation event, possibly combined with the Fall Step Workshop.
- VIII. Intergroup Events:
  - Ice Cream Social/Old Timers – August 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1-3:30PM – Katie R/Tom S, Chairs. Ice Cream and Social at 1 pm, meeting starts at 1:30 w/How It Works, 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, sobriety count-up & 8 speakers sharing how they stay sober.
  - Fall Step Workshop (Step 8) – October 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2PM – Chris S, chair
  - Gratitude Night – November 20<sup>th</sup> – John D, chair.
  - Founders Day Hospitality Suite – November 26-27, Michael K/Jes N, chairs.
  - New Years Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup> – Julie M, chair.
- IX. Old Business – The Intergroup Board confirmed the Policy on Providing ASL Interpreting; details will available on the website, www.aastpaul.org.
- X. New Business:
 

Beginning September 2010, Intergroup Board and Representatives' Meetings will be held in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church located across the street from Spruce Tree Center's parking ramp AND Intergroup events will be held at the Recovery Church (State Street & Plato Blvd., St. Paul). Fliers will be available next month and notice will also be posted on the website.

The Board passed a resolution that an independent review of Intergroup's financial records be conducted every three (3) years.
- XI. Concept Review (Concept VII) – Charlie S.  
Anyone interested in presenting Concept VIII next month should contact Chair Julie M. or Tom.
- XII. Mock Rep Report – Rhonda. Volunteer for next month: Grayson (Leslie, backup).
- XIII. Close with Responsibility Statement.

### Attendance:

Matt, O.M.D.	Russ, Main Idea	Elaine, Summit Hill	Don N, Secretary	Julie M, Chair
Rhonda, Basic Text	Frank, Third Edition	Joe, S.O.S.	Michael K, Treasurer	Tom, Office Manager
Jonathan, web servant	Bruce, Uptown	Chris S, Board At-Large	Jes N, Board At-Large	Terrie & Jennifer Back to Basics Brnsvill
Trisha, Fireside Women's	Paul, Highland Groups	Steve, Rosemount	Charlie S, Board at large	Les, Night Owl Co-ord
Craig, Happy Hour 12&12	Jeff, Downtown Alano	Ryan, MN Young People	Katie R, Board at Large	Mike H, St. Joe's Monday Night
Doug M, Hole in the Donut	Libby K, Pocketing Our Pride	Roxi, West End	Adrienne, Maplewood	Julie K, Board At-large
			John D, Alt Chair	Tom S, Board advisor

**7th Tradition  
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

The Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” offers the following suggestions for the distribution of group funds after group expenses have been paid:

**50% St. Paul Intergroup**  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. #407  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**30% General Service Office**  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

**10% Southern MN Area 36**  
Area Assembly  
P.O. Box 2812  
Mpls., MN 55402

**10% District Committee**  
Ramsey County:  
District 8, P.O. Box 2267  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
  
Dakota County:  
District 19, P.O. Box 1466  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
  
Washington County:  
District 15, P.O. Box 181  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
  
SE Ramsey County:  
District 26, P.O. Box 75980  
St. Paul, MN 55175

**BE A NIGHT OWL !!**

Night Owls are often the first A.A. 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 the office or go to our website: [www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)**

**District Meetings**

**District 8 (Ramsey Co.)**  
Fairview Community Center  
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville  
3rd Wed., 7:30 PM

**District 15 (Wash. Co.)**  
Christ Lutheran Church  
11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo  
4th Mon., 7:00 PM

**District 19 (Dakota Co.)**  
Rosemount Community Center  
13885 South Robert Trail  
2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

**District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)**  
1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul  
2nd Fri., 6:00 PM  
[www.district26-area36.org](http://www.district26-area36.org)

**Thanks to all the super volunteers who helped in the Office during July!**

Andy, Bert, Bill, Bob, Brandon, Bryan, Carl, Danny, Elizabeth, Eric H, Eric S., Erik, Evan, Danny, Frank, Forrest, Greg, Jack, Julia, Julie, Kat, Laura, Maureen, Mike R, Mollie, Paul, Phil, Ratta, Rich, Robin, Russ, Siby, Scott, Steve, Suzanne, Ty, and Vance.

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



**JULY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Number of Group Contributors: 42  
Total Group Contributions: \$4370  
Number of Faithful Fivers: 13  
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$134

***“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in July!***

- Burnsville - Back to Basics
- Cedar Cliff Group
- Cliffhangers I
- Complete Defeat
- CRC Friends of Bill W.
- Day by Day Women's Group
- Downtown Alano Club
- Eagan Burnsville Savage Groups
- Eagan Burnsville Savage Tues BB
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Fourth Dimension
- Happy Hour 12 & 12
- Happy Joyous and Free
- Highland Park Groups
- Hugo Group
- Lake Elmo Thurs Night Group
- Lakeland Group
- Live and Let Live
- Maplewood Groups
- Midway Groups
- North Hamline
- Oasis Group - Apple Valley OMD
- River Rats
- Rosemount
- Roseville Centennial Groups
- Roseville Wed Night
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- St. Thomas Becket Group
- Steps to Freedom
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Stillwater Wednesday Step Group
- Summit Hill
- TGIF Macalester
- The Simple Concept
- Uptown Club
- West End Club
- White Bear Wed AM
- Women's Woodbury Primary Purpose



**The Lifeline: Purpose Statement**

The Lifeline is the 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.) 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 content that might violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc. The deadline is the 13th of the preceding month (i.e., submit a Tenth Step essay by the ninth month, September).

# UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

## 20th Annual Heartland Round-Up

Park Rapids, MN  
September 10 - 12  
www.heartlandroundup.com

## 20th Annual Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Workshop Weekend September 10 - 12

Airport Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, MN  
www.BTGWW.org

## 65 Years of Fellowship Annual Duluth Roundup

Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center  
September 24 - 26  
www.duluthroundup.org

## West Central Regional Forum ("Additional") November 12 - 14 Rapid City, South Dakota "Carrying AA's Message to the Native American"

## 44th Annual Las Vegas Roundup November 25 - 28

Riviera Hotel and Casino  
www.lasvegasroundup.org

## Ninth Annual Wild Rice Round-up January 21 - 23, 2011

Shooting Star Hotel & Casino, Mahanomen, MN  
www.wildriceroundup.com

### Dear Bill W,

I've offered to sponsor a bunch of guys, but none of them make it past the Fifth Step. They don't seem to really want to do the work. My sponsor says I preach too much, but I'm just trying to cut through the B.S., and get these guys to do what it takes to stay sober.

—An Anonymous Drunk

"Never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop; simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for his inspection. Show him how they worked with you. Offer him friendship and fellowship."

From *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 95, reprinted by permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.



*"He says he'd try AA but he's afraid his neighbors will find out he's a drunk."*

Cartoon reprinted by permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

## Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

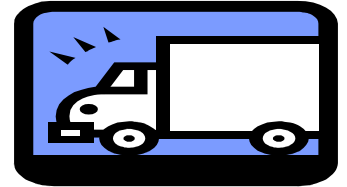
The September Representatives' meeting will be held Tuesday the 21st at 7:30 pm, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 Roy St. N, St. Paul, 55104. The church is just south of the Spruce Tree Centre, across the street from the Intergroup office.

St. Paul Intergroup  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 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 \$5.00 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., Ste. 407, St. Paul, MN 55104

I would like to receive *The Lifeline* every month by email, not postal mail. My email address is:

(please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_