

The Lifeline



February, 2011

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 47, Issue 2

TRADITION TWO: 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.

So now this “temporary” sponsor tells me that not only do I have to get a Home Group, but that I have to support those trusted “servant” leaders. They are not leaders, they are volunteers that are willing to give of themselves to do service work.

More than that, I was asked to take my turn at these chores. Why would I want to greet you with a smile and welcome at the door, when I don't like any of you - I am just here to serve my time, get my diploma and get out.

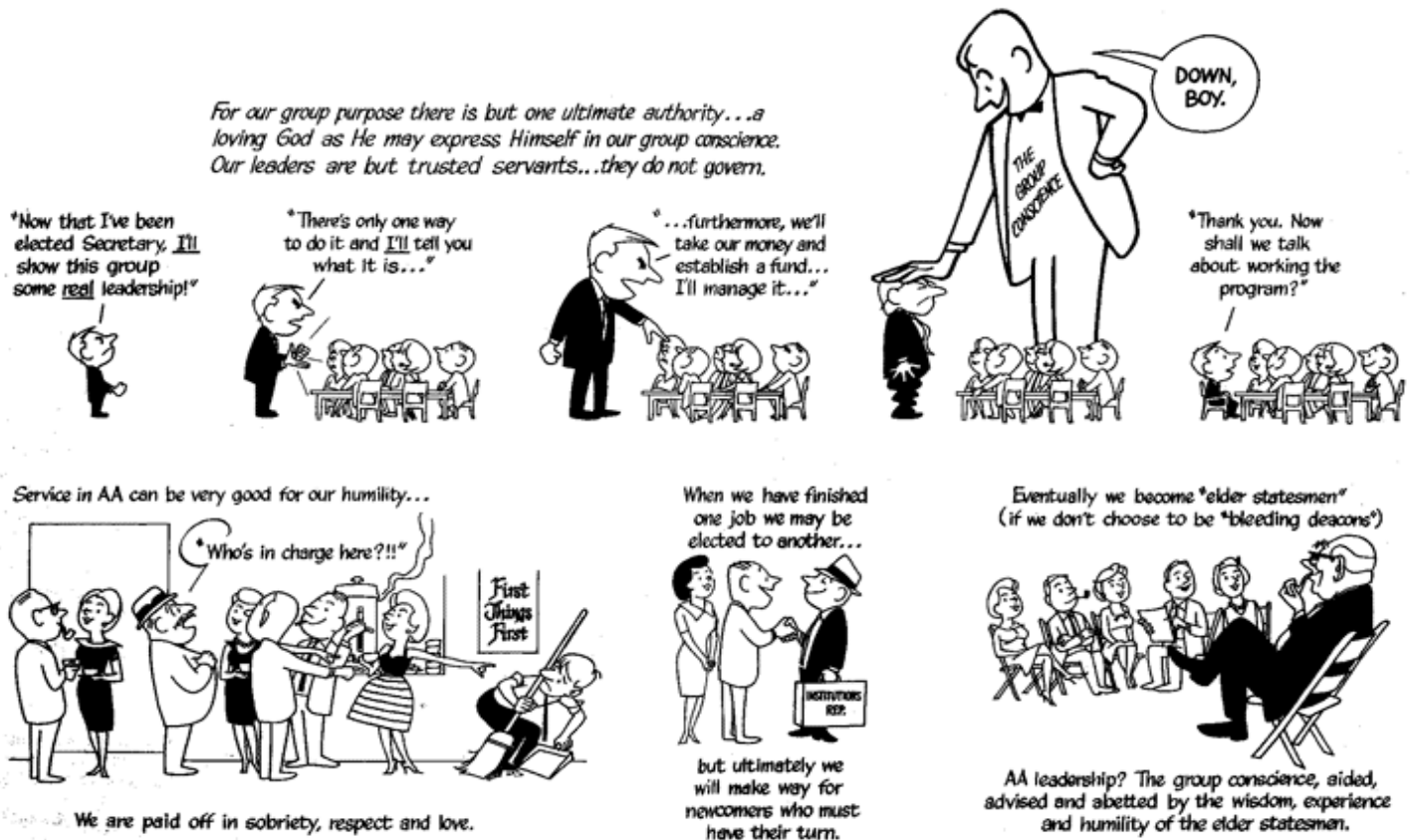
The worst part of all this, was that I had to not only yield to the group as the conscience willed, but I had to do so - in good spirit. What a chore. As it turned out, thank God, the group had to accept my appointments - and in good spirit also.

My own experience also helped me to learn humility. My attitude was one of, “I did the right thing, where is my reward.” Here the reward is - doing the right thing, because it is the right thing to do. No ‘atta boys,’ no big pats on the back, just the feeling of walking a little taller, having been a “part of,” not “apart from.”

Tom McM.

Osseo Club—Squad Seven Big Book Study

The Second Tradition, Illustrated...



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St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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STEP TWO: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

My "temporary" sponsor now said that we had to surrender ourselves to something outside of us. His first question was whether I believed in God/Higher Power or not. The answer being yes, made me think that this step was done. But I was told that I had to learn how to pray. The nerve! Knowing this gentleman for only a short period of time, I knew him as a "flower child." That is, he attends church on Christmas, Easter, weddings and funerals. And me, I pray in Latin, being a member of the CIA - Catholic, Irish and Alcoholic. His reply was short and sweet, "Tom, you know how to begin."

He convinced me that "help" in the morning and "thank you" at night would suffice. The amazing thing is that any unhealthy mental obsession to drink was lifted - then and still. Not unusual to say that there has been numerous added prayers between the help and thank you, and a return to the religion of my childhood.

There is a distinction between spirituality (at AA) and religion (at Church), but what a coincidence to be in one or the other and hear the same words - such as "Resist not Evil" and "We have stopped fighting anybody or anything." Same meaning, different words.

Tom McM.

Osseo Club—Squad Seven Big Book Study

CONCEPT TWO: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

According to our founder, Bill W., the Conference is to be made up of a cross-section of A.A. members - as opposed to one person, one vote procedures used by Government. The idea was to have those elected share the conscience of fellowship by their continued contact with districts/groups in their Areas.

These Conference members are given responsibility, but must, of necessity, also then be given decision rights. They certainly get the sense of their Area before going to the GSC in the spring, but they are not robots and if information is provided that differs from their original data, they must change their votes. Those elected have the membership of A.A. at risk, not just their local area/district/group.

The conscience is never, never to infringe on or harm others. What a tremendous obligation/responsibility - leave the small group at home, and surrender to the overall good of the entire A.A.

Lastly the Conference members have actual voice of A.A. as a whole, except for the Twelve Traditions and Article 12 of the Conference Charter.

— Anonymous

2011 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	John D.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Denise A.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Don N.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Darrell B.
<u>Alt. Treasurer</u>	Cedar H.
<u>Members at Large 2012:</u>	Chris S. & Wanda B.
<u>Members at Large 2011:</u>	Jes N. & Charlie S.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Julie M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in December*

Meeting information	214
Inventory/hours	31
12th Step calls	9
Temporary sponsor	30
Speaker request	37
Special events	14
Outside issues	53
Info for professionals	3
Administrative	188
Other	62
Total Calls	641
Daily average	25.6
Visitors	247

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, December , 2010

- I. Opened with Serenity Prayer and Introductions. Julie presented Intergroup's Primary Purpose.
- II. Last month's Minutes approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Written report submitted reflected a healthy budget. Questions can be sent to the treasurer@aastpaul.org.
- IV. The Office Report – Service opportunities available; contact the Office for details.
- V. The Website Report – Groups are encouraged to contact Jonathan (web servant) or the Office for AA-related events so they can be added to the website. A recording of Gratitude Night's talk by Clancy I. can be downloaded from our website.
- VI. Outreach Program – Contact the Office or Roxi (chairperson) from West End if interested.
- VII. Night Owl Report - Contact Leslie (coordinator) or the Office for current openings.
- VIII. Intergroup Events:
 - New Years Eve – December 31st – Julie M, chair
- IX. Old Business:
 - a. The Board appointed Cedar H. as the new Alternate Treasurer.
- X. New Business:
 - a. Preliminary budget for 2011 will be submitted at next meeting.
- XI. Grapevine Report presented by Roxi. Next month's volunteer: Craig D.
- XII. Concept Review (Concept XII) presented by Michael. Anyone interested in presenting Concept I next Month should contact Tom at the Office.
- XIII. Mock Report – Roxi. Volunteer for January: Scott from 3rd Edition BB Study.
- XIV. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Attendance:

Diana, Summit Hill	Harry, Main Idea	Denise, Basic Text	Scott, Third Edition	Don N, Secretary
Trisha, Fireside Women's	Terrie, Back to Basics in Burnsville	Scott, NW Alano #1	Wanda, board-elect	John D, Alt Chair
Craig, Happy Hour 12&12	Jeff, Downtown Alano	Sue, Como Park BB	Ryan, Students of Life	Charlie S, Board at large
Doug M, Hole in the Donut	Joe, Defogged Men's	Emily, No Time Like the Present	Darrell, Alt Treas	Julie M, Chair
Mike, Live & Let Live, Cover to Cover	Mark, Problem & Solution	Roxi, West End	Julie K, Member at large	Jess, Member at large
Jeanne, St. Paul Speaker Meeting	Christine, Firing Line	Matt, OMD	Tom N, office mgr	Michael K, Treas

**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**

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

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

Mike G, Greg C, Mike F, Skye, Frank D, Dawn J, Burt, Vance, Evan R, Kayla, Henry O, Phil, Bill, James H, Debbs, Dan W, Andy, Jim B, Lance T, Rich M, Brian P, Gary C, Scottie O, Greg B, Brandon B, Matt O, Nick S, Mark S, Steve B, Steph M, Jack R, Brie B, Shane P, Sam P, Josh P, Bert K, and Ty.

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



DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors: 32
Total Group Contributions: \$4346
Number of Faithful Fivers: 12
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$322

Thanks to the groups that contributed in December!

- Baffled Lot - Lake Elmo
- City Steps
- Como Park BB
- Coon Rapids - Day by Day
- Cottage Grove
- CRC Alumni Group
- Dakota Alano As Bill Sees It Sat 9AM
- Dakota Alano Thurs 7:30 PM
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Eagan - Unity, Service & Recovery
- Eagan Burnsville Savage - Sat Speaker
- Forest Lake Alano
- Grovers Thursday Night
- Highland Park Groups
- Little Canada Happy Hour
- Macalester Plymouth Group
- Midway Club
- North Branch Community Groups
- North Dale Group
- North Hamline Group
- Oakdale Monday Meeting
- Outright Mental Defectives
- Pages of Wisdom BB
- Roseville Centennial Group
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- This Simple Program
- Uptown Club
- Valley Creek Thurs Night
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Sat. AM Women's Group
- Women's 12 X 12 Study Monday
- Woodbury Wed. Noon Group

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!!

47th Annual International Women's Conference

"The Language of the Heart Will be Spoken Here"

Anchorage, Alaska

February 10 - 14, 2011

<http://www.internationalwomensconference.org/>

Southern Minnesota Area 36 Trusted Servant Leadership Training

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Peace Lutheran Church
400 Franklin St. SW, Hutchinson, MN

The Gift of Sobriety

A.A. Symposium

5th Avenue Alano, Mankato, MN

Saturday, February 26th, 9AM - 4:15PM

2011 West Central Region A.A. Service Conference

March 4 - 6, 2011

Nisswa, Minnesota
See www.area36.org

Aim for Ames Roundup

Quality Inn, Ames Iowa

March 25 - 27

www.aimforames.org

Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend

Holiday Inn, Fairmont, MN

April 15 - 17

Dear Bill W.,

Several months ago, I started AA meetings, and haven't had a drink since. I'm very pleased with this, but now it's like there's an emptiness in my life where the alcohol used to be. I don't have a sponsor, and I usually keep to myself. Is there anything else out there for me besides drinking? If so, what?

— An Anonymous Drunk

"Yes there is a substitute, and it is vastly more different than that. It is a fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous. There you will find release from care, boredom, and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus we find the fellowship, and so will you."

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Victor E. cartoon reprinted from the February 1995 *A.A. Grapevine* by permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

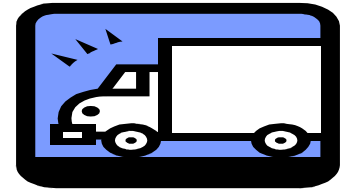
The February Representatives' meeting will be held Tuesday the 15th at 7:30 pm, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 Roy St. N, St. Paul, 55104. The church is just south of the Spruce Tree Centre, across the street from the Intergroup office.

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

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 \$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) _____