



Step Six: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

The Forgotten Steps

After being in-and-out of meetings for almost a decade, I was finally separated from alcohol in the spring of 1990. I was attending a fair amount of meetings at the time. I had a home group. I had a sponsor. And I attended approximately 5 meetings a week. At different meetings I heard different ideas about how to approach Step Six. One of the things I heard at the time was "The Forgotten Steps" - Steps 6 and 7.

I had come to understand in a short period of time that the reason Steps 6 and 7 were referred to as "the Forgotten Steps," is because people would talk about them in meetings, and then after the meeting they would not think about them again or consider working on their defects of character or shortcomings.

I was told to take my problems to my sponsor in my solutions to my meetings. It did not seem like much of a solution, if I was not taking action with the Steps when I was in-between meetings. So the next question would be, "What is the action we are taking with Step 6?" Part of the action entails working Steps 1 through 5 thoroughly before getting to Step 6. And I believe that working Step 6 means that I am preparing for Step 7.

Step Six: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." After I finished my first 5th Step, I was entirely ready to have all my defects of character removed. I had been beaten and battered spiritually and desperately wanted change in my life. I was unaware that God was the one that was going to remove them. So, as much as I wanted to change, I was still running in to myself. What I seem to be unaware of is the fact that it takes more action than just working the first five Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

My defects of character seem to be as outrageous as ever early in recovery; my selfishness, my self-centeredness, and my egotism, for example. Along with many other defects of character, were frequently dominating my life. I was still a living example of "self will run riot."

So what was the action I actually needed to take? I know that Steps 6 and 7 are not synonymous. And yet I also believe that they work very closely together. Step 7, "Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings, is where I ask the Creator for help.

Therefore when approaching Step 6, in become entirely ready, means for me that I need to act as if my defects of character and shortcomings are gone. What I have found is that when I act as if the defects of character are gone and also prepare to ask that they be removed that my entire life is different, because at that moment I do not suffer from a defect of character.

My belief is that action will change my life. My defects of character tore apart my self-esteem and affected the way that I feel about myself. When I begin to take action, my thinking changes, and when my thinking changes how I feel changes.

Step Six: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." I must act as if a defect of character does not exist at this moment. I will not be selfish right now. And then promptly move on to Step 7.

- Skeeter S., The Way Out Group, Maplewood

Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Whenever I consider the 6th Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous, what tends to stick out to me is the phrase, "money, property and prestige." My thought, "How can there be anything Spiritual in all of those things for **ME**?" It seems so selfish. It seems our founders thought the same. If you look up the long form, the first line says, "Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our **primary spiritual aim**."

I was in an AA meeting once and a woman in the room said something very profound that resonated with me, but I don't remind myself of it near enough, "There are just two states of being—ego or Spiritual—and you can't be in both at the same time." It's true. I'm either thinking of me and the things I believe I deserve, or I am centered with God thinking of others. These two states of being are mutually exclusive. I simply am incapable of doing both at the same time.

I'll give you an example to illustrate—in fact, two. I'm in the market to buy a new house. Originally, I'd planned to just get myself a small single-family home, but lately I've been considering duplexes or other forms of rental property. While looking at some listings, a thought occurred to me, "It would be nice to offer affordable rent to those early in recovery just getting started again." Within seconds, another helpful thought, "Yes, maybe I could furnish them for those that don't have many items yet."

Whenever this sort of thing happens to me, I figure its God. Heck, left to my own will, I'm selfish. I'm not going to just randomly think to sacrifice and share with another person. While all settled into these good and Spiritual thoughts to help others, in pops another thought, "Yeah, but I could be sacrificing a lot of rental income on that plan." Then along comes, "What if they trash the place? Start using? Don't pay rent? What if I am inconvenienced or hurt by another?" Just like that, selfishness and fear jump in, bringing me back to ego, attempting to thwart a helpful plan.

I have no idea what God has in store for me. Looking for a house and my upcoming move has been an exercise in "turning it over". I want the plan. I desire the destination, yet I must leave that in God's hands because I do not know where this adventure will bring me. Maybe God will provide the right rental property to help others. Or, maybe, that's not the plan. I must stay centered in the Spiritual principles of this program to ultimately find God's will for my life.

Just consider AA's co-founder, Bill W. By every account, an industrious and intelligent man, yet by the end of his life, he had not created the riches he'd originally desired. Many times, Bill and Lois stayed with friends, living off meager wages. Bill was focused on helping others. His passion was to save us alcoholics and while I imagine he had plenty of distractions from money, property and prestige (and he did—they are noted in several forms of AA literature) we should all be grateful it didn't divert him from the primary spiritual aim. Just as the Spiritual steps in the program are essential for wholesome individual recovery, the Spiritual basis of the traditions is designed to keep AA healthy and thriving as well.

- Renee B., Home Group: The Firing Line, Roseville, MN

The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup, Incorporated. It is about, by, and for groups and 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. We welcome articles on a Step, Tradition, or Concept, in addition to descriptions of personal experience. We also welcome cartoons and drawings expressing the wry side of our A.A. experience.

Please email your article to lifeline@aastpaul.org, or send it by regular mail to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 608 Seventh Street West, St. Paul MN 55102. Materials or articles mailed to us 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.

Thoughts from Your Board

Back in May of 2012 I found myself in a bleak place and ended up back in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was scared, which is to say, terrified. Everything seemed oddly familiar, yet, drastically different. The people I was sitting next to—some I had known over a decade—were.....different? Or, more to the point, how I perceived them was different. The folks I was really drawn to seemed genuinely comfortable in their own skin and they all seemed to have something in common...they were responsibly active in AA. I was curious, so, I did something I had never done before, which is to say, I made an effort to hang out with some of them. I became a Finance Committee member in District 18. Not because I had some burning desire to run numbers or make budgets, but, I wanted to know what the committee chair was all about. That was first real foray into AA's General Service. What I think I learned from that experience was, well, this guy didn't have a burning desire to crunch numbers, either, but he carried a deep desire to give back and this just happened to be in front of him. I found out later, someone had simply asked him to serve and he was...able and willing. I felt like I had grown up a bit, started to truly see this "wasn't about me (or him)"

So, when someone suggested I might be a good fit as a board member, I knew. I knew I was able and willing. I, also, knew I really didn't have any idea what was in store for me. I'm just getting my feet wet as an actual board member and there's a lot that can be done and we'll do our best with what's in front of us. Intergroup has a lot to offer—truly grateful to be a part of it...thank you.

Yours in Service,
Mike C.
2020 Member At-Large

Note from your Office

Dear Readers,

We are introducing some new elements to this month's Lifeline. Each month our Supplemental section will now include a crossword puzzle and a word search puzzle, with clues taken directly from our Fellowships' literature. All the clues for our inaugural crossword puzzle come from the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The first three folks who complete the crossword puzzle and send us the correct answers by email (lifeline@aastpaul.org) will win a laminated book mark, which we will mail to you. Please include your mailing address in the email.

A few new publications are now available at your office: the newest pamphlet and book from A.A. World Services: *A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues—and their sponsors (P87)* - \$1.00, and *Our Great Responsibility, A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks 1951–1970 (B70)* - \$13.00. We now also have in stock the latest Grapevine publications, *Take Me To Your Sponsor—Best Jokes & Cartoons from the A.A. Grapevine (GV40)* - \$15.00. All our prices are tax inclusive.

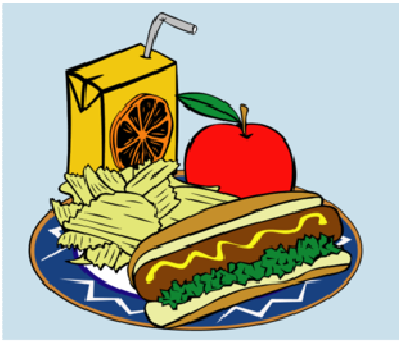
We expanded our keychain medallion selection, adding three new regular size medallion keychains: *Attitude* (with an eagle profile) on the front and *Progress Not Perfection* on the back; *Serenity Pond* on the front, with *Serenity isn't freedom from the storm, its Peace with the storm* on the reverse; and *The Coffee Pot* with *I may drink tomorrow but with God's help ill have enough guts to stay sober today*. Price for the regular size key chain medallions: \$5.00.

- Your Office Staff

St. Paul Intergroup
~ 53rd Anniversary ~

Open House

Date: Saturday, June 22nd
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Join us for food,
Fellowship and fun!!

608 7th Street West

St. Paul, MN 55102

(SE Corner of Michigan & West 7th)

For More Info Call Us:

651-227-5502



Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

WANTED: **One New Night Owl Committee volunteer**

The Night Owl Committee members take turns carrying the back-up Phone for one week at a time. We help out if a volunteer has a problem and we also make the reminder calls.

Requirements:

- >1 year sobriety
- >Answer the back-up phone during your rotation
- >Experience with Night Owl
- >2 year commitment

Frank N.
Night Owl Committee chair

Night Owl Tidbit: Do you have an interesting Night Owl story you want to share? Send an e-mail to nightowl@aastpaul.org!

Your News?

We invite you to share your AA news here!

Please send your items to:

lifeline@aastpaul.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Please Let us know about any meeting changes, new meetings, or any meetings that are no longer. Please email: lifeline@aastpaul.org

Group and Area News

New Meeting: The *Eclectic Electric Candle-lit Big Book Boogaloo* group is now hosting a 8:30PM Monday meeting at the Olivet Congregational Church 1850 Iglehart Ave., St. Paul 55104. It is an Open, All-ages, Mixed, Candle-light, Big Book meeting. Enter through West door on Iglehart Avenue.

New Meeting: The *Oasis Group* added a 12-Noon, Saturday meeting to their schedule. The Group hosts its meetings at 7630 145th Street—Suite 100, Apple Valley 55124. The new meeting is Close, All-ages, Mixed, and Step.

Meeting Time Change: The *Third Edition Big Book Study Group* is now meeting Mondays 7:00PM (instead of 7:30PM) at the Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue West, Saint Paul, 55104. The meeting is Closed, All-ages, Mixed and Big Book.

Meeting Update: The Ave Fénix group hosts four 7:30PM meetings every week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 674 Johnson Parkway, St. Paul 55106. Meeting are 90 minutes, Open, Mixed, All-Ages, and Topic/Discussion. Currently these are the **only** Bi-lingual Spanish/English meetings in the Twin Cities.



**Looking for a Service Opportunity?
Become a St. Paul Intergroup Night Owl!**

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Jun 15th, July 20th, Aug 17th

Every Third Saturday from 10:00 -11:00 AM

St. Paul Intergroup Office

608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102

To RSVP please call: 651-227-5502



St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, April 16th 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. Last month minutes reviewed, John motioned and seconded by Jimmy, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report, Mark – Total Contributions: Group contributions down since last month, but year over year has increased Expenses: up, mainly because of annual software fees. See Treasurer's Report for full financial details. Contact Justin at treasurer@aastpaul.org
4. Office Report, Bill S – New pamphlet available, "AA for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues—and their Sponsors, ". There'll be some changes to The Lifeline in June, like crossword puzzles and word finds. Six or seven new groups registered with Intergroup this past month. *Please email lifeline@aastpaul.org for further information.*
5. Night Owl Report, Frank N – There are four shifts available (2nd Sun 9am-2pm, 3rd Tues 5:30pm-10pm, 4th Sun 2pm-7pm, 5th Mon 10pm-6am). Training is every 3rd Sat @ 10am at the intergroup office. *Please contact Frank N at NightOwl@aastpaul.org or leave a message at the Intergroup Office.*
6. Website Report, Jonathan L – Down one meeting from last month. Traffic was up, other activity was down this month. *Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org.*
7. Outreach Program, Jimmy D – Any changes, additions, subtractions to a meetings, *please contact outreach@aastpaul.org.*
8. Update from the Board, Lindsey D – The board met before the representative's meeting to formalize a policy on what meetings may be posted on our website. We will post this policy onto the website.
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: Mike C – District 17 had an issue with the Grapevine. The Best of the Grapevine V. 1, 2 & 3 are not being printed any more due to sales, but they list them as in publication, and some of their meetings use this literature and what it to be published still. District 15: Jennifer –65 people in attendance at last workshop, now planning on working with Stillwater School Wellness Centers to get them pamphlets and big books. Next event is Washington Co. Fair District 19: – N/A
10. Intergroup Events: a. Spring Fling (Lindsey D & Rachel P): Church let us know that they double booked for April 27th, and thus the event was changed to Sat May 4th
- b. Gopher State (May 24th-26th): Passed around signup sheets to help with hosting the Intergroup suite.
11. Group AA Announcements:
 - a. Maplewood Alano Potluck & Sobriety Recognition 3rd Saturday 6:30pm
12. Suggestions for next month's agenda, please email secretary@aastpaul.org
13. Grapevine Report, Bill; Volunteer for May, Jimmy D.
16. Concept XII review, Derrick R.; Volunteer for Concept I, Jodi
17. Mock Rep Report, Rachel; Volunteer for May, Vance O.
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 8: District 15; Basic Text, St. Paul; Day By Dei Women's Group, St. Paul; Defogged Men's Group, St. Paul; The Firing Line, Roseville; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; Lakeview AA, Maplewood; Maplewood Alano Groups, Maplewood; New Brighton Big Book, New Brighton; One More Was Added..., St. Paul; Outright Mental Defects, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Rule 62 Step & Tradition, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Third Edition, St. Paul; We Can, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

<u>2019 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—March 2019</u>	
Chair:	Rob C.	Meeting information	80
Alternate Chair:	Linsey D.	Inventory/hours/location	29
Secretary:	Rachel P.	12th Step calls	4
Treasurer:	Justin D.	Temporary sponsor	23
Alternate Treasurer:	Mark J.	Speaker request	24
Members-at-Large 2019:	C.J. M. & Vance O.	Staff & Other Calls	113
Members-at-Large 2020:	Mike C.	Total Calls	273
Advisor to the Board:	Lesli D.	Average Calls/Day	12.4
Manager	Dennis B.	Total Visitors	230

JUNE 2019 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, June 18th @ 7:30 PM
 SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH (Church Basement)
 398 West Superior Street; St. Paul, MN 55102

**7th Tradition
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every A.A. 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

608 Seventh Street West
St. Paul, MN 55102

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 131523
St. Paul, MN 55113

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

APRIL CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	47
Total Group Contributions:	\$5027
Number of Faithful Fivers:	28
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$630



District Meetings

District 8 (Ramsey Co.)

Fairview Community Center
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 108
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
Rosemount
2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)

Grace Lutheran Church
1730 Old Hudson Rd.
St. Paul
2nd Sun., 7:00PM
www.district26-area36.org



**Thanks to all the Groups
that contributed in April**

- A Baffled Lot
- Anoka Day By Day
- Basic Text
- Cliffhangers III
- Como Park BB
- Day by Day Women's Group
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Eagan Burnsville Savage Groups
- Fairview Riverside Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Fourth Dimension
- Fresh Air Group
- Friday Nite 12x12 By The Book
- Gloria Dei AA
- Gratitude in Action
- Hazelwood AA
- Highland Park Groups
- Hugo Group
- January 6th Group- Roseville
- Joy of Living Group
- Jumpstart 12 & 12
- Lindstrom Groups
- Live and Let Live
- Main Idea
- Maplewood Groups
- Meeting of the Waters
- No Time Like the Present
- North Dale Group
- Pages of Wisdom
- Pocketing Our Pride - Mpls
- Positively 4th Street
- Ridge Runners II Sat 830 AM
- Rivertown BB Group-Hastings
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Centennial Group
- Roseville Wed Night
- Rule 62 Step & Tradition Group
- Saturday Morning Serenity Group
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- St. Croix Alano Sun 730 PM
- Stepsisters of Northfield Group
- The Lunacy Commission
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Thursday Night AA - Fellowship Club
- Upon Awakening
- Valley Creek Monday
- Valley Creek Thurs Night

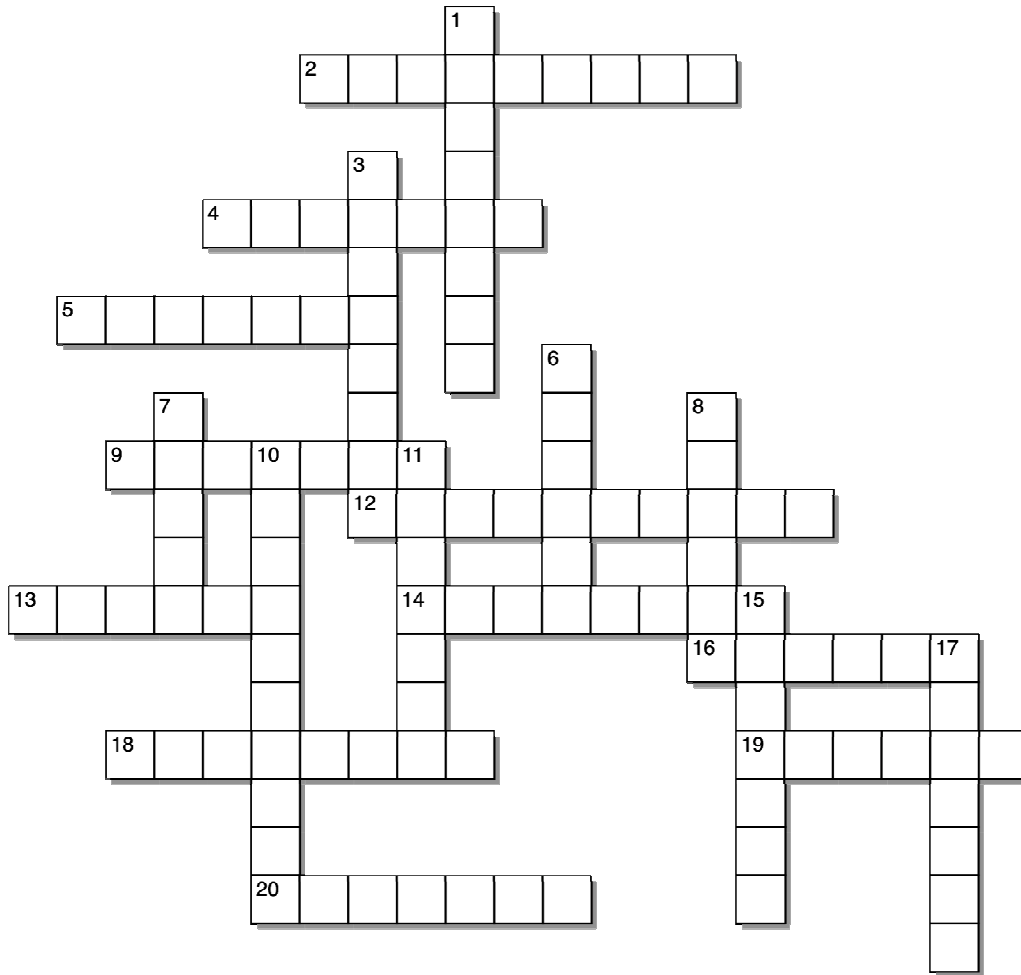
Thanks to all of the FANTASTIC Office Volunteers who helped in April

Adam P., Angela K., Brian L., Caleb A., Chris H.,
Christina L., Dan K., David D., David S.,
Debbie L., Don S., Frank D., Hailey B.,
Jimmy D., Jodie T-W., Josie L., Josh V., Kelley N.,
Laurie P. Linnea H., Marc S., Pam M., Pete S.,
Ruth K., Stephen W., Steve L., Steve R.,



Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions Crossword Puzzle - June 2019



Across

- 2) ... and so ____ of receiving enough grace ...
 4) ... the pains of ____ are converted into assets ...
 5) ... we began to cry, "There ____ be a law ...
 9) ... to brew ____ of coffee.
 12) When the Washingtonians became ____ crusaders ...
 13) Nobody is going to ____ with our personal independence ...
 14) ... hesitantly, I ____ to talk about the spiritual side ...
 16) ... unwise at this stage to ____ certain harrowing episodes ...
 18) the self-____ behavior blocked ...
 19) ... when an honest ____ is made "to practice these principles" ...
 20) All of A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our ____ desires ...

Down

- 1) As A.A. now enters ____ ...
 3) ... chances are that you will be in for a very ____ surprise.
 6) ... how can we ____ the entire implication of Step Six?
 7) ... our public relations policy is ____ on attraction ...
 8) The moment we ____ a twisted or broken relationship ...
 10) ... take our first steps toward ____ and strength.
 11) ... animated only by the spirit of ____ - ...
 15) ... the chief activator of our ____ has been ...
 17) ... to bring love, forgiveness, ____, truth, faith, hope ...

Word Search - June 2019



ACCEPTANCE

ANONYMITY

COMPULSION

CONTROVERSY

GRATITIDUE

HUMILITY

MEDITATION

PRINCIPLES

PROGRESS

RATIONALIZATION

RESENTMENT

SAINITY

SERENITY

TOLERANCE

WILLINGNESS

Trustee Orientation

Preparation for Service

When I rotated onto the General Service Board upon election as the West Central Region Trustee in 2016, I had a very cloudy perception of the process of beginning service as a trustee. While I have been personal friends with every trustee in the West Central Region going back to the 1980's and have heard countless stories from these individuals, I do not recall one story of how a trustee really, practically begins their trustee service journey.

My telephone rang many times in the first days, and one of those calls included a "trustee buddy". Yes, the concept of sponsorship permeates AA from the top to the bottom of the service triangle and is part of even the General Service Board (GSB). However, things were pretty cloudy the first few months. I received communication of not only the three GSB Committees that I was assigned to serve on in my first year, but I also ended up on three subcommittees on the Public Information (PI) Committee before I even showed up for my first meeting. A bit overwhelming, even for someone that thought he knew how the GSB worked!

So, I showed up for my first GSB meeting in July of 2016 with a bit of apprehension of what I was supposed to do. With great fortune, the General Manager of the GSO was a friend from my delegate days and he took Susie and me out for supper on our arrival – whew, I could manage that! I didn't want to make any mistakes and wanted to do everything right. Fortunately, the first real meeting was a GSB Orientation. We had a nice warm-up sharing session where everyone introduced themselves, almost like an AA meeting, so that helped a bit. Soon, however, business began in earnest, and it hasn't let up since that morning in July of 2016.

The second orientation is a bit of a blur, but when the third one arrived, things changed. First, the Chair of the GSB made the decision to expand the orientation process – in my opinion, a very good decision, when you hear about the details, below. The second big change is this time, for a portion of the process, I was at the front of the room orienting rather than being oriented. Just like going from sponsee to sponsor, you sometimes wonder, "how did this happen?!" Of course, what a privilege to share with my fellow trustees on the GSB.

The expansion was in the scope of topics, a comprehensive binder of information, and quite notable, meetings in a sharing session format that catered to what we do best: share our experience, strength and hope. Of course, the expanded agenda necessitated more time, so we simply tacked on another day to the weekend when AAWS And AAGV were having their June Board meetings, thus making it as prudent as possible.

If memory serves me right, most of our discussions scheduled for 10-20 minutes per topic typically stretched closer to twice the time. However, I believe that was a good thing: people asked many questions, answers were provided in a collegial, welcoming manner and the orientation was successful in true AA fashion. While it is of greatest benefit to have this for the newcomers, topics such as "GSO and the General Service Board Working Together" or "How do the Affiliate Boards and the GSB Fit and Work Together" are likely also very valuable for the second year, even third year folks, especially for Class A's (non-alcoholic) who don't have experience on an affiliate board or in the service structure like Class B (alcoholic) trustees.

One topic unique to the service structure at the GSB level is fiduciary responsibility. With noted wisdom this topic was coupled into a topic titled "Satisfying the Spiritual and Legal Requirements That Guide Our Actions". This topic is well-defined in several sources. First, I want to recognize the Conference Charter. While not a legal document but rather termed a "spiritual contract" by Bill Wilson, without a full understanding and application of this spiritual contract with the fellowship, I believe our conference process and structure would not exist today – indeed, AA may not have endured for 84 years without this to help us be humble and obedient servants to one another in unity, animating the Fifth Tradition. So, priceless while not legal in the conventional sense.

(Continued pg. 4)

Trustee Orientation

Preparation for Service

The orientation also references the core legal document, the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. You can find this legal collection of directives the GSB must adhere to in Appendix E of the Service Manual. Notable in the Bylaws is very specific language related to our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. While out of the scope of this article and not part of the orientation, let me excerpt some highlights from the Bylaws on these specific items to appreciate what an orientation can accomplish:

Steps: "The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (hereinafter referred to as either the "General Service Board" or the "Board") claims no proprietary right in the recovery program, for these Twelve Steps, as all spiritual truths, may now be regarded as available to all mankind. However, because these Twelve Steps have proven to constitute an effective spiritual basis for life which, if followed, arrests the disease of alcoholism, the General Service Board asserts the negative right of preventing, so far as it may be within its power so to do, any modification, alteration, or extension of these Twelve Steps, except at the instance of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in keeping with the Charter of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous as the same may from time to time be amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Charter")."

Traditions: "The General Service Board shall use its best efforts to insure that these Twelve Traditions are maintained, for it is regarded by the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous as the custodian of these Traditions and, accordingly, it shall not itself nor, so far as it is within its power so to do, permit others to modify, alter, or amplify these Traditions, except in keeping with the provisions of the Charter."

Concepts: The General Service Board also shall be guided by the spirit of the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous, hereinafter referred to as the "Concepts"....

>>Let me note a link in Concept XII to the Charter, as stated in the Concept: "The Warranties of Article 12 [of the Charter] are a series of solemn undertakings which guarantee that the Conference itself will conform to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions..."

Note the reference to the Charter in all cases?!

As would be typical of a non-profit corporation, the GSB has a Certificate of Incorporation. But unlike a typical not-for-profit, the GSB is to function in a servant-leadership fashion. Hence, the orientation provides an explanation on how that is accomplished, along with an array of documentation to support that operating philosophy.

Other topics on fiduciary responsibility ranged from maintaining our copyrights, preserving the integrity of our name, sound auditing practices, an understanding of the comprehensive financial controls and reporting AA utilizes, and of course, our Tradition of self-support. By the time the orientation was complete, a vivid awareness of our Seventh Tradition was felt by everyone.

This year an orientation committee continues to perfect and enlarge the orientation process. Using resources, primarily trustees that have had several years of experience, the GSB orientation continues to improve, responding to changing conditions in AA as well as the outside world, while still insuring the basis of our core principles found in the Twelve Traditions are steadfastly maintained. By such actions as a thorough orientation, Board members can be of maximum service to God and the fellowship of AA.

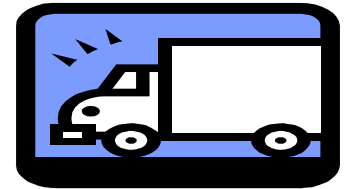
Yours In Service,
Tom A.
WCR Trustee

St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities MN
Permit No. 7451

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 *Individual Contribution* Enrollment Form

Your Intergroup strives to be self-supporting, and with your personal support we can continue to carry our vital message of Hope and Recovery to all who need and want it. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to *The Lifeline*. Contributions may be made annually, bi-annually, quarterly or monthly. Please consider becoming one of our *Faithful Fivers* (\$5.00/month), *Terrific Tenners* (\$10.00/month), or *Fantastic Fifteeners* (\$15.00/month).

1. Contact information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____

2. Amount & Frequency:

Amount: \$ _____
Frequency: (check only one)
 Monthly Quarterly Bi-Annually Annually
Start on ____/____/____
 Faithful Fiver (\$5.00/month)
 Terrific Tenner (\$10.00/month)
 Fantastic Fifteener (\$15.00/month)

3. Choose a Payment Method:

Credit Card/Debit Card*
 Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover
Card # _____/_____/_____/_____
Expiration Date: ____/____
Name on Card _____
Signature _____

*I authorize St. Paul Intergroup to automatically bill my account as specified (monthly, quarterly, etc.). I understand that I am free to cancel this authorization at any time by contacting Intergroup.

Check - Please make payable to:

Saint Paul Intergroup
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010