



Step Ten: Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

This month, five of our office volunteers kindly agreed to hold a round-table discussion on Step Ten, then to summarize their discussion for The Lifeline. We're always happy to have members' contributions, especially for our essays on the Steps and Traditions. Call the office for more information on how to make the Lifeline a service opportunity for you or a sponsee! — Editor.

Katheryn M. "To me, it's my way of using what I learned in Step Four and Five during the day when I realize that I have acted in a dishonest, fear-based, selfish or self-seeking manner. Then I can make corrections immediately."

Jeff R. "Step Ten gives me the opportunity to practice these spiritual principles in my daily life. When I can actually realize my defects of character immediately and my actions that are wrong due to my fear and selfishness and self-centeredness, whenever I am fortunate enough to have it brought to my attention right away, I have the opportunity to practice Step Ten, which allows me not to carry around new guilt and remorse. I don't build things up inside my head and that's what Step Ten helps me to do, to clear my mind and my soul immediately."

Will S. "To me Step Ten is a guide for taking a personal inventory of my resentments, dishonesty, fears, selfishness and to make me aware of where I could owe apologies. This inventory can be taken on a spot basis whenever I realize my actions or thoughts have slipped into one of these unhealthy areas. It is also imperative that I take the time at day's end before I retire for the night and think about the previous day. In taking this inventory I am able to see more clearly things I could have done differently and how I can improve upon them. When I find myself in a similar situation in the future I can reflect upon my previous inventory and hopefully learn from past actions before I repeat them. If amends are in order it is a good way to make plans for those amends. All of these things are wonderful for clearing my soul and mind and allowing me a peaceful nights rest without worry or resentment."

Kevin P. "I tend to live my life always looking ahead and trying my best to forget everything in the past. What Step Ten does for me is it allows me to stop and take a look back and see where I was fearful, angry, or jealous and then make amends to the appropriate people. It helps me to feel more serene and feel less shame knowing that I have done the right things for that day."

Tim B. "I use the acronym WASH to deal with selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear; Those things that lead to wreckage. I watch for these things (W) and when they crop up I ask (A) God to remove them and divorce me from the things that block me from my usefulness to Him and to my fellows. After this I call someone (S) and talk to them about what I'm going through, a simple way to check my thinking and clear up my thoughts. Then I immediately turn my attention to someone I can help (H). When I remember to do this and follow through, it works."

(reprinted from The Lifeline, October 2009)

Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

My first sponsor said to me "please go home and look up the word opinion in the dictionary?" I was having trouble understanding what to share, when and where and with whom. The definition that I remember was that I need to be educated in the topic in order to share my opinion. This slowed me down a little bit, I was only educated in one subject, the one I had gone to school to learn. This is not what I was sharing about and not what I was spouting off about. Imagine, I was having trouble with my personal relationships and not getting along with people in the rooms of A.A. (Some lessons are hard to learn – I still struggle with this sometimes) I was then directed to read the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book. On page 176 it says: "Practically never have I heard a heated religious, political, or reform argument among A.A. members. So long as we don't argue these matters privately, it's a cinch we shall never publicly." This gave me some direction to take and the rest of the chapter told me why it is important.

During my first year of sobriety I was also encouraged to get to know what it is that I belong to. Understand why and how these steps and traditions were formed, how they have held us together for so long. I am someone who has a big personality and needed to be grounded in some solid facts and given direction as to where to find them. Our literature has given me definitions and in a story telling fashion why and how our traditions work for us and continue to do so. Tradition 10 has never been challenged at the public level. I have at times found myself in conversations where my opinion was asked for or given without being asked for. Also time when I have fought hard for my opinion to be heard and walked away mad that the group conscious did not agree with me. Unity is the word for oneness, am I being part of the whole or am I standing separate in my opinion? Today I try really hard to be part of the whole, promote unity and neutrality in my thoughts and actions. Most of this I have learned the hard way and through a lot of resentments and getting schooled on the traditions by old timers and new comers alike.

A couple definitions from Webster:

Unity = is being together or at one with someone or something. It's the opposite of being divided.

Neutrality = the state of being unengaged in disputes or contests between others; the state of taking no part on either side; a state of indifference to the outcome.

Today I have a better understanding about why this Tradition is so important to our staying together and our unity as a whole. I try really hard to stay neutral in heated situations and promote unity instead of promoting my personality with my strong opinions. Alcoholics Anonymous has also learned from others past experiences, The Washingtonian's got many people sober, brought Slavery and the issue of Prohibition to their podiums. Once they went into public controversy they lost the ability to help people stay sober. My hope is that A.A. continues to follow the Traditions so that many more people can get and stay sober.

C J M.



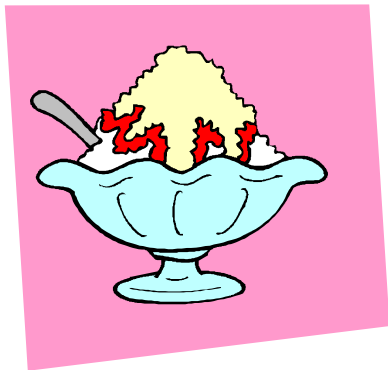
Thoughts From Your Board

I was first introduced to St. Paul Intergroup after being elected as representative for my home group. I can still remember that first monthly Intergroup meeting I went to, and how confused I was as to what was actually going on! I kept coming back, and after only a few months I was able to grasp a little understanding of things, and soon realized that what I was becoming a part of was something really special. Not long after that, I was elected to serve as your Secretary. And my have the last nine months flown by!

There is still a lot that I'm learning and even more that has yet to be revealed...but probably my favorite part of serving the board thus far has been learning about the twelve traditions and concepts, and seeing firsthand how they are at the core of everything we do here. Quite frequently, we have discussions about how a specific issue or agenda item pertains to our traditions, and vice a versa. It has been really exciting to see the traditions and concepts in action.

If anyone is looking to take their service to the next level, I urge you to get involved with Intergroup! I know getting more involved has helped me in my recovery a ton...It has been super interesting, and even—dare I say—fun!

Yours in love and service,
Rachel P., 2019 Secretary



Saint Paul Intergroup's 2019 Annual Ice Cream Social & Long-Timers Recognition

Grateful for our Long-Timers - Thank you for your participation!

*Charles J. (48), Sue M. (43), Walter R. (43), Dennis B. (40),
Leslie D. (39), Tom O. (38), Dan J. (37), Alfred K. (36), Don H.
(36),*

*Mike G. (35), Darlene H. (34), Doug M. (34), Patti M., (34),
Carla N (34), Ed B. (34), Ralph H (33), Jimmy P. (32), Robin H.
(32),*

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.



Save the Date!

One Year Speaker:
To be announced

Main A.A. Speaker:
To be announced

**St Paul Intergroup's
Annual
Gratitude Night**

Saturday

November 23, 2019

7:00 pm

Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer

285 North Dale St.

St. Paul, MN 55103



ASL Interpreted upon request. Please
contact Intergroup Staff by October 18th: 651-227-5502,
or Lifeline@aastpaul.org

Announcements & Updates

Group and Area News

Group Name Change and Relocation: *Cottage Grove Groups* moved and have a new name: *CGAA In The Park*. The new location is the United Church of Christ, 1145 Summit Avenue, St. Paul Park 55071. Please check our website: www.aastpaul.org for the new schedule of meetings hosted by CGAA In The Park.

New Meeting: *We Are Not Saints* group is now holding a Monday, 7:00PM meeting at St. Agnes Church, 535 Thomas Avenue W., St. Paul 55103. The Meeting is Closed, Men only, and All-Ages. The Format is Topic/Discussion. The meeting is held in the basement of the church.

New Meeting: The *No Frills Group* is now holding a Friday 6:00PM meeting at the Parkview United Church of Christ, 3737 Bellaire Avenue, White Bear Lake, 55110. The Meeting is Closed, Mixed, and All-Ages. The format is Big Book and the meeting ends at 7:15PM.

Please Let us know about any meeting changes, new meetings, or any meetings that are no longer.

Please email: lifeline@aastpaul.org

Your News?

We invite you to share your AA news here!

Please send your items to:

lifeline@aastpaul.org.

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 yr commitment

Thank you!

Frank N.
Night Owl Committee Coordinator

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



Registration forms available at your Intergroup office:

608 W. Seventh St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2-5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.



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

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Oct 19th, Nov 16th, Dec 21st

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, August 20th 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. Minutes from last month were reviewed, Tom motioned, Frank seconded, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report, Mark—Sales and contributions up year over year. Cost of goods up but was offset by sales. Good month. 3 years ago, prudent reserve was adjusted to cover operational expenses. It would be in our interest to get this prudent reserve back to what it was, please to encourage contributions! Contact Justin or Mark at treasurer@aastpaul.org
4. Office Report, Bill S – Two weeks where 60 ppl came into the office. In need of temporary sponsors at the office. Working on moving temporary sponsor database into new program that should work better. *Please email lifeline@aa Some changes to stpaul.org for further information.*
5. Night Owl Report, Frank N – All shifts covered at the moment (30+ shifts). Night Owl training is every 3rd Saturday at 10am. We don't get as many calls these days. A lot of calls we do get are ppl who are truly in need. *Please contact Frank N at NightOwl@aastpaul.org or leave a message at the Intergroup Office.*
6. Website Report, Jonathan – 732 regular meetings, supported by 290 groups. Up 2 meetings and 2 groups this month. Updated w/ security patches. Updates due for 9/2. In next 6-8 months, office will be able to make changes to meetings instead of having to go thru and intermediary or webservant. Bots somewhere in world are causing some strange traffic to website. *Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org.*
7. Outreach Program, Robb C –2 aspects of outreach. First is to check if mtgs are missing in action (there are 4 atm) and secondly, to go around to mtgs and spread the word of AA Intergroup and encourage participation. More participation=better representation from groups. *Please contact outreach@aastpaul.org.*
8. Update from the Board, Lindsey D – Our lease for Intergroup office is up in June 2020, they are planning on raising the rent. So we are entertaining the idea of moving next year. It is still in the very beginning stages of planning.
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: District planning workshop in the fall, covering a day @ the MN State Fair. Grapevine chair and Corrections chair are both open. Planning a joint movie night w/ Intergroup in January. District 15: --N/A District 19: – N/A
10. Intergroup Events: a. Upcoming—Ice Cream Social, August 24th. 1pm-3:30pm. Longtimer's recognition, 4 speakers w/ 25+ years of sobriety. Any volunteers interested in helping contact Lesli D or Justin.
11. Group AA Announcements: a. Roll of Nickels, Sunday Funday 11am-3pm, hotdogs and pop. @ Bayport park, Bayport MN Sept 15th
- b. Midway Club, last Saturday, 7pm speaker and medallion
- c. OMD Potluck & Sobriety Recognition 1st Friday 7pm @ St. Marks
- d. West end open speaker 4th Friday 8pm @ 955 W 7th St.
- e. Archives Open House: Grilled food & open repository, Sat August 31st 12-4pm @ Area 36 Archives Repository
12. Suggestions for next month's agenda, please email secretary@aastpaul.org
13. Grapevine Report, Barb; Volunteer for September, Patty.
16. Concept III review, CJ M; Volunteer for Concept IV, Dan
17. Mock Rep Report, Peter; Volunteer for August, Kelsey
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 8; Basic Text, St. Paul; Como Park Big Book, Roseville; Day By Dei, St. Paul; The Firing Line, Roseville; Forest Lake Alano, Forest Lake; Hole in the Donut, Roseville; Midway Club, St. Paul; New Brighton Big Book, New Brighton; One More Was Added To..., St. Paul; OMD, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Roll of Nickels, Hudson, WI; St. Paul Speaker Meeting, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Third Edition, St. Paul; West End, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

<u>2019 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—August 2019</u>	
Chair:	Rob C.	Meeting information	84
Alternate Chair:	Linsey D.	Inventory/hours/location	20
Secretary:	Rachel P.	12th Step calls	4
Treasurer:	Justin D.	Temporary sponsor	19
Alternate Treasurer:	Mark J.	Speaker request	23
Members-at-Large 2019:	C.J. M. & Vance O.	Staff & Other Calls	123
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	274

October 2019 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, October 15th @ 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

AUGUST CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	34
Total Group Contributions:	\$5012
Number of Faithful Fivers:	22
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$325



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 August**

- A New Light
- Amazing Grace Group
- Amigos III
- Anoka Day By Day
- Apple Valley Monday AM Women's Mtg.
- Arch to Freedom
- Burnsville - Primary Purpose
- Children of Chaos Plus
- Complete Defeat Group
- Dakota Alano SAT 9AM As Bill Sees It
- Dakota Alano THUR 1145AM
- Forest Lake Alano
- Friday Night Oasis Group
- Hastings Club
- Hole in the Doughnut Group
- January 6th Group- Roseville
- Maria Drunk Squad
- New Brighton BB
- North Dale Group
- Prescott Saturday Morning BB
- Ridge Runners II Sat 830 AM
- Ringmaster's Group
- Roll of Nickels
- Rosemount Groups
- Scandia Big Book
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- There's a Better Way
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Thursday Night AA - Fellowship Club
- Uptown Club
- White Bear Lake - Thursday Night Group
- White Bear SAT AM Women's Group
- Women's Basic Text
- Woodbury Serenity Sisters

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

- Bob C., Caleb A., Chris H., David D., Frank D.,
- Jack E., Jeff K., Jimmy D., Jodie T-W.,
- Joe O., John D., John K., Kathy K., Laura P.
- Marc S., Marcia H., Mya B., Paul CM.,
- Pete S., Ryan V. Sandy H.,
- Stephen W., Steve L.,

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



Special Workers at GSO

Many A.A. groups read the Twelve Traditions at their meetings. Likely, most A.A. members hear more than once a week in Tradition Eight that "our service centers may employ special workers." Those same A.A. members are commonly aware that A.A. has a service center in New York City called the General Service Office, or GSO. But it is quite probable that only a few of the same A.A. members who are familiar with GSO understand who the special workers are – including why they are special!

As the Tradition also clearly states, these people are employees, not people volunteering to perform altruistic general service that A.A. members do to keep sober and carry the message. Indeed, the first half of the Tradition is really targeted to A.A.'s doing just that: "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional." In other words, we help the still-suffering alcoholic as a fellow alcoholic, expecting nothing (e.g., compensation, payment, salary) in return. Of course, we get something even more valuable; quite priceless, actually: sobriety and life itself.

The establishment of GSO (or "Headquarters" as it was referred to in the early days) soon after A.A. was founded was a central reason why we were able to evolve into the spiritual fellowship that we are today. Soon after A.A.'s start in 1935, Bill and Hank (early NY member) set up the first GSO in Hank's office in Newark, NJ in 1937. Immediately we had a paid service worker – the first one being Ruth Hock for \$25 per week. Ruth was a non-alcoholic who stayed with us until 1942. Her first major job was to type the Big Book.

The first alcoholic "secretary" of the Alcoholic Foundation was Bobbie B., who was hired in 1942, to replace non-alcoholic Ruth Hock. With Ruth preparing to leave, Bill specially sought out an alcoholic, as he explains in the following letter dated April 1942:

"Ruth Hock had aided in the preparation of the book and had grown up with the work giving her unique comprehension of the problems of alcoholics. When she left it was realized that we had no one who could carry on the intimate and understanding correspondence that had meant so much to the formation of new groups or who could make the daily decisions on policy necessary. Hence your present secretary, Bobbie B., is an alcoholic for the simple reason that there was no other way to get an absolutely essential job done."

The Staff secretaries were known as "General Secretaries" in the 1940s and circa early 1950s, known as "Headquarters Staff."

From that start of one employee, today there are approximately 90 employees at GSO. All are considered "paid special workers." All receive pay commensurate to comparable employees working at businesses in the NYC area. Most of the employees are non-alcoholic. Their employer is Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.), one of the two affiliate corporations of the General Service Board (GSB).

What's notable is that there is a subset of the 90 employees that truly exemplify the "special worker" title that Tradition Eight tells us is an appropriate form of employment that is both in the realm of A.A. recovery and A.A. employment. This group of employees are termed "Staff" members, currently thirteen in number. Their category is indicated with a capital "S" versus "staff."

While it may be subtly insinuated in Tradition Eight that special workers might also be A.A. members, in fact that is a mandatory requirement for any individual applying and filling one of the Staff positions. Indeed, they must have 6 years of sobriety to even apply for the job, and maintaining their sobriety is an employment requirement. Other requirements include: extensive knowledge and comprehension of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the A.A. Service Structure and the role of the A.A. World Services and A.A. General Service Board and the ability to coordinate, oversee varied projects such as public relations for an International Convention for 50,000 attendees, triennial survey of A.A. Fellowship, exhibits at national professional meetings, videos and literature for Fellowship.

Why this special worker category of "Staff" and sobriety requirement? In fact, this is the heart of why Bill Wilson constructed Tradition Eight. It was quite evident, even in the 1930's with only an approximate one hundred sober members of A.A., the work necessary to maintain and grow as a spiritual fellowship was going to require far more time, resources and coordination than even the most dedicated group of alcoholic volunteer service workers could accomplish. Enabling sober members to have the resources necessary to do Twelve Step work was not (and still isn't) a simple task.

(Continued Supplement, Page 4)

Word Search - October 2019



APPLICATION

FELLOWSHIP

LIABILITIES

BEFOGGED

GRAPEVINE

LAUGHTER

CHRONIC

HIGHBALL

MODERATELY

DIFFICULTIES

INTERRUPTED

PREJUDICE

EXCEPTIONS

INTOLERANCE

RELAPSE

September 2019 Big Book Crossword Puzzle Answers

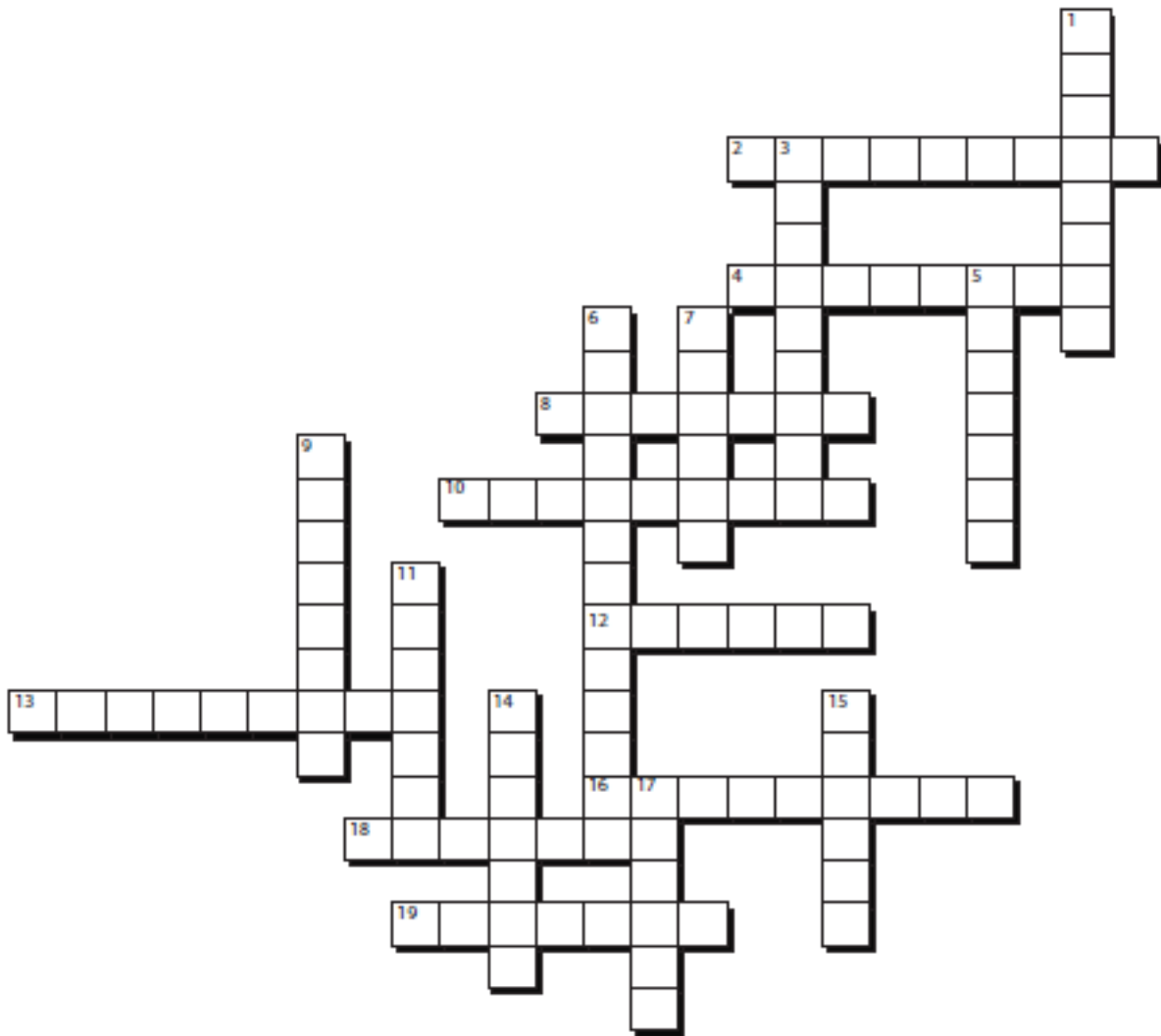
Across:

- 1). ISOLATES 4). PROPORTIONS 7). CLEANING 8). CHAPTER 11). MEDITATION 12). DENOMINATION
 14). Leveling 16). FEATURE 17). MARVELOUS 19). SUBSTITUTED 21). PROMISING 22). RARELY

Down:

- 2). SINCERITY 3). ALTERNATIVES 5). OVERLOOK 6). WRITTEN 9). PASSENGERS 10). MANAGE
 11). MODERATELY 13). REQUIREMENTS 14). LUBRICANT 15). IRRITABLE 18). CERTAINLY
 20). IMPRESSION

12 and 12 Crossword Puzzle - October 2019



Across

- 2) . . . , when my doctor, _____, began to tell me . . .
- 4) . . . , our puny rows never did A.A. a _____ of harm.
- 8) We who have _____ these extremes. . .
- 10) . . . , have acquired the _____ of faith.
- 12) . . . drinking their morning coffee.
- 13) . . .need to eliminate these _____.
- 16) _____, A.A. had to be. . .
- 18) . . . that we are to practice a _____ humility.
- 19) . . . is the most cherished _____ our Society has.

Down

- 1) Drunk farms, educational _____, state legislatures, . . .
- 3) . . .we are irritable, critical, _____, and humorless.
- 5) Having opened our _____ as best we can, . . .
- 6) Under thick layers of self-_____. . .
- 7) A whole lifetime _____ to self-centeredness cannot. . .
- 9) The he moment we tell our _____ that we are really going too. . .
- 11) Then, for good _____, we add dramatic. . .
- 14) How _____ that was, since most . . .
- 15) . . . , his A.A. sponsor usually _____.
- 17) . . . as stepping stones to _____ things.

Special Workers at GSO (Con't)

Of course, the first services were simply coordinating the communication between sober members and people wanting to be sober, plus the Big Book, but Bill quickly saw the need to communicate with professionals, to have a public relations policy, well-written literature, contact with hospitals and asylums (today, treatment centers), coordination within the U.S. as well as global contacts – all these services were necessary even in the early days of A.A. and are still vital today.

With the rapid growth of A.A. both nationally and internationally, a much more robust structure at the GSO evolved in the second half of the twentieth century. By the late 1960's, the current version of our all-volunteer General Service Board had evolved. The focal areas that A.A. had developed in terms of the array of services had been established. The number of Staff expanded significantly in the late 1960's and 1970s. By 1980 GSO had 11 Staff members. The current number of departments and Staff assignments have been largely unchanged since then, other than a Communications Services position that was created in 2015. The current list of big-S, alcoholic Staff positions includes:

Accessibilities and Remote Communities ; Communications Services; Conference; Cooperating w/the Professional Community/Treatment; Corrections; Group Services; International International Conventions (full time 2 years prior to the International Convention); Regional Forums Literature; Nominating; Public Information; and, Staff Coordinator

In addition to performing their daily work to serve the fellowship in their respective Staff assignments (departments), eight Staff members are also assigned one of the eight regions in the U.S. and Canada as the primary contact point (or "correspondent") to A.A. members in their assigned region. And, to make it even more interesting, every two years rotation takes place for these 13 people – yes, they pack up their office and move to another office and a new staff assignment! To retain a bit of continuity, the assistant to the staff member does stay with the functional area, but over time an incredible amount of cross-training takes place. What that means to the fellowship is the wealth of knowledge and experience of any given staff member is simply incredible – wide reaching and varied, to the benefit of everyone.

The list of tasks does not end with the regions. Other tasks include being a liaison for various entities, newsletters, General Service Conference (GSC) reports, Spanish and French correspondence, Box 459, and other reporting and coordination efforts the service structure requires.

But there are two more functional job requirements for a Staff member. All Staff serve as a secretary to a GSB Trustee Committee. This is not a light task; the trustee committees tend to generate a great deal of work based on fellowship requests, including GSC Advisory Actions. And finally, most Staff serve as secretary to a General Service conference Committee, preparing agendas, compiling background and writing reports.

The thirteenth position, Staff Coordinator, does not have the same tasks and responsibilities. Instead, this person chairs staff meetings, provides oversight of day-to-day coverage of mail, email and phone calls, interfaces with management and performs a myriad of administrative duties as Assistant Secretary to the General Service Board. The Staff Coordinator also responds to all correspondence and legal documents related to bequests to A.A, coordinates invitations for GSO Staff to participate in A.A. events and serves as secretary to the General Service Conference committee on Policy/Admissions.

Bundling all of this together does make Staff very "special." Alcoholics Anonymous is far better served by having key employees who are alcoholics that understand and identify with A.A. members because they are A.A. members. If it's a telephone call, writing a letter or email, drafting a pamphlet, preparing a presentation, doing the work related to a GSC Advisory Action, preparing information for the General Service Board – any and all of these tasks will have the flavor, indeed, be permeated with the essence of what A.A. is and means to an A.A. member. Paralleling the reason why A.A. works – because one alcoholic can identify with another alcoholic – the work product of our special Staff workers will similarly be identifiable because their alcoholism has now become their greatest asset in the course of their employment for the benefit of all who encounter A.A.

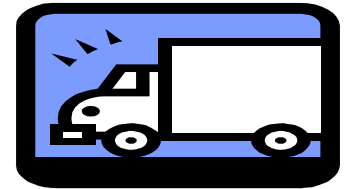
Yours in service,
Tom A.
WCR Trustee

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