



The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

Email: Beacon@AAworchester.org

Volume 7, Issue 9

“...it’s as simple as two drunks talking with one another...”

Dear fellow A.A's,

The Beacon has a new Editor! But, first we need to say “Thank you” to Charlie, For the past 2 years His hard work and dedication to AA service work have not gone unnoticed! He has done a great job of putting together **The Beacon**. I will personally miss seeing him at the Worcester Area Intergroup Delegates meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month. **Charlie, we hope you find another area to be of service!**

I am very excited and nervous about my new adventure into uncharted waters. Since I have no prior experience with Microsoft publishing I needed all the help I could get, so I did what I do best... I appointed the women at my step meeting to be on the committee! (I reminded them they couldn't say no to AA when asked). They were asked to bring their thoughts about what they would like to read in the **Beacon** to our first committee meeting. And that they did! We met on a Friday evening and came up with 5 new topic pages to be added starting in this month's publication. We also welcome your comments, thoughts and suggestions. The new topic pages will be dedicated to **Sponsorship, The home Group, A word on Anonymity, For the reader by the reader & Rule 62.**

Let me introduce the Staff:

Assistant Editor: Mary M.—Courage to Change Charlton

Layout Design: Jenn D.—Spencer Fellowship Spencer

Secretary: Becky H.—Courage to Change Charlton

Contributing reporters Staff: Cathy L., Tim D, Donna M.

We hope you enjoy the changes!

In Service, Ellen McQ.: **Editor 05-06** Way of Sobriety, Worcester



Do you have a story to tell?

Sobriety based stories are always welcomed at **The Beacon**.

There are only a few suggested guidelines when submitting something for consideration:

- This publication is provided by Worcester Area Intergroup, and therefore stories are limited to experience, strength and hope as it relates to alcoholism.
- No personal information will be printed (i.e. Phone numbers, email addresses, etc). You may submit your writings as “Anonymous” if you wish, however contact information is required in case the editor has any questions/concerns.
- The editor has final say as to what does and does not get published.
- The publication goes to the printer on the 15th of the month, so writings must be submitted by the 10th in time for review and any revisions that may be needed.

eMail your stories to: Beacon@AAworchester.org

Or snail mail to: **The Beacon - 8 Meadow Lane Dudley, Ma. 01571**



“The circle stands for the whole world of A.A., and the triangle stands for A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service.”

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, page 139

<p align="center"><u>Step Nine</u> (Recovery)</p>	<p align="center"><u>Tradition Nine</u> (Unity)</p>	<p align="center"><u>Concept Nine</u> (Service)</p>
<p><i>“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”</i></p>	<p><i>“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>

Traditions Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

~

Each Month the corresponding Tradition checklist will be published.

Tradition Nine Checklist

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?	5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?	6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and by-laws?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program-even if no one makes me do so-with a sense of personal responsibility ?	7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully-and profit thereby-when the time comes?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in an AA job I take?	8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With Humility?

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On-Line 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Articles, and Tradition Checklist's

www.aagrapevine.org/stepsTrads/stepsTrads_index.html

Some Thoughts on Step 9 - George Y., Hyannis Mass., 35 years

For anyone getting ready to do step 9, one needs to be sure all resentment toward the person you are approaching is gone “drain the swamp of all resentments”

This is the first time one will be going outside of AA. All the previous steps dealt only within AA.

Remember there is a big difference between making an apology and making an amends.

Be sure to be in the right frame of mind because some people aren't ready for the spiritual approach. Don't get discouraged by their response.

Let the person know You have a sincere desire to make things right.

Once this step is done one will be able to experience all the 12 Promises fully.

This step will heal a lot of past relationships The 12 and 12 suggests we use prudence when taking this step. Prudence means the ability to take the right means to reach the given end, usually a better relationship with the person you are making amends to.

SPONSORSHIP CORNER:

What is sponsorship?

“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS began with sponsorship. When Bill W., only a few months sober, was stricken with a powerful urge to drink, this thought came to him: “you need another alcoholic just as much as he needs you!”

He found Dr. Bob, who had been trying desperately and unsuccessfully to stop drinking, and out of their common need A.A. was born. The word “sponsor” was not used then; the twelve steps had not been written; but Bill carried the message to Dr. Bob, who in turn safeguarded his own sobriety by sponsoring countless other alcoholics. Through sharing, both of our co-founders discovered, their own sober lives could be enriched beyond measure.”

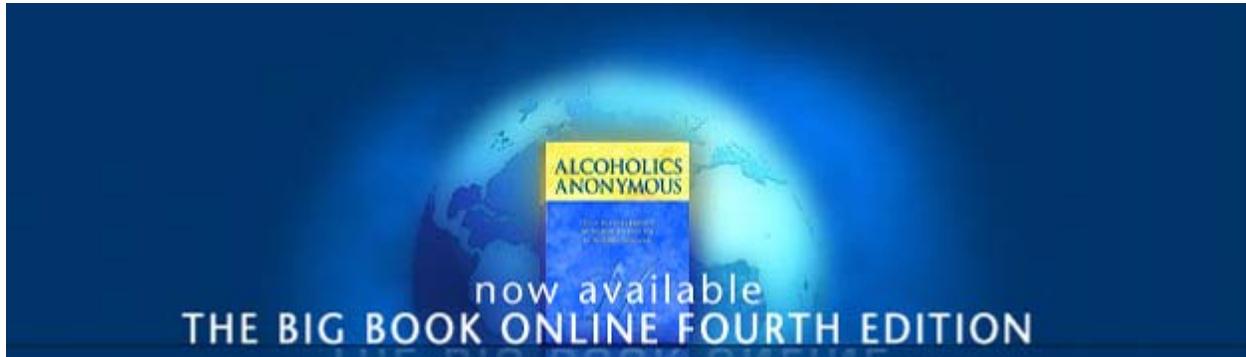
Reprinted with permission from AAWS pamphlet “questions and answers on sponsorship”

Coming Next month Twelve Qualities of Sponsorship



“...Walk softly and carry a Big Book...”

[Http://www.aa.org/bigbookonline/](http://www.aa.org/bigbookonline/)



A word on anonymity:

The Importance of anonymity

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

What is the purpose of anonymity in A.A.? Why is it often referred to as the greatest single protection the Fellowship has to assure it's continued existence and growth?

At the level of press, radio and film, anonymity stresses the equality in A.A. of all its members. It puts the brakes on our easily inflatable egos, our misplaced convictions that violating our anonymity will help someone, and our desire for personal recognition or control. Most importantly, the anonymity tradition reminds us that it's the A.A. message, not the messenger, that counts.

At the personal level, anonymity assures privacy for all members, a safeguard often of special significance to newcomers who may hesitate to seek help in A.A. if they have any reason to believe their alcoholism may be exposed publicly. In theory, the anonymity principle seems clear, but putting into effect is not always easy. Following are some general guidelines culled from A.A. experience that may be helpful.

Maintaining anonymity at the public level

When appearing on radio, TV or film A.A. members, refrain from showing our faces or revealing our last names, in printed articles, we are identified by our first names and last initials only.

We use our first name and last initials only when speaking as A.A. members at non-A.A. meetings. (see the pamphlet "speaking at Non A.A. meetings") we do not put "A.A." on envelopes sent through the mails, not even on correspondence directed to A.A. entities. On material to be posted on A.A. bulletin boards and printed on A.A. programs that the general public might see, we omit last names and identifying titles of all members.

Understanding anonymity at the A.A. group level

We may use our last names within the group. At the same time, we respect the right of other members to maintain their own anonymity however they wish, and as closely as they wish. Some groups keep a list of names and telephone numbers volunteered by their members, and may provide phone list—but for the eyes of the group members only.

We repeat no one's personal sharing made in A.A. meetings. The word "anonymous" in our name is a promise of privacy. Besides, the only story of recovery we can truly share is our own. In our personal relationships with non alcoholics-and with those we think might have a problem with alcohol- we may feel free to say that we are recovering alcoholics (without divulging the names of other A.A. members), although discretion is recommended. Here our openness may help to carry the message."

Reprinted with permission AAWS from the pamphlet The AA group pg 9/10

THE HOME GROUP:

The A.A. Home Group

“Traditionally, most A.A. members through the years have found it important to belong to one group which they call “Home Group” This is the group where they accept responsibilities and try to sustain friendships. And although all A.A. members are usually welcome at all groups and feel at home at any of these meetings, the concept of the ‘Home Group’ has still remained the strongest bond between the A.A. members and the Fellowship” (from the A.A. service manual

With membership comes the right to vote upon issues that might affect the group and might also affect A.A. as a whole—a process that forms the very cornerstone of A.A.’s service structure. *As with all group-conscience matters, each A.A. member has one vote; and this, ideally, is voiced through the home group.*

Over the years, the very essence of A.A. strength has remained with the home group, which, for many members, becomes their extended family. Once isolated by their drinking, they find in the home group a solid, continuing support system, friends and very often, a sponsor. They also learn firsthand, through the group’s workings, how to place “principles before personalities” in the interest of carrying the A.A. message.

Talking about her own group, a member says: “part of my commitment is to show up at my home-group meeting, greet newcomers at the door, and be available to them—not only for them but for me. My fellow group members are the people who know me, listen to me, and steer me straight when I am off in left field. They give me their experience strength and A.A. love, enabling me to ‘pass it on’ to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Reprinted with permission A.A.WS “The AA Group” pamphlet p. 18

"I Am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I AM RESPONSIBLE."

“...Expect back what you give out...”

Save your Grapevines!!

Please set up a box at YOUR meetings. Worcester Area Intergroup will take your donations of old Grapevine issues to send out to Treatment and Correctional Facilities.

H.A.L.T. Line needs your help!

Contact the H.A.L.T. line chairpeople at haltline@aaworcester.org or call WAI at (508) 752-9000 to volunteer to answer the

The following chart shows the available hours that need to be filled on the H.A.L.T. Line.

During the hours listed below there is nobody to answer the phones when someone calls looking for a meeting in the area.

“...We can’t keep it unless we give it away...”

Day	<u>Available Hours</u>		
Sunday	All slots filled!		
Monday	All slots filled!		
Tuesday	8:00 - 9:00 am	9:00 - 10:00 am	All other Tuesday slots are filled!
Wednesday	All slots filled!		
Thursday	3:00 - 4:00 am	4:00 - 5:00 am	5:00 - 8:00 am
Friday	12:00am-10:00am		All other slots filled !
Saturday	All slots filled !		

**Worcester Area Inter-
group**

100 Grove St., Suite 309
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 752-9000
(508) 752-0755 (fax)

www.aaworcester.org

Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm
Tuesday 10am-8pm
Wednesday 10am-8pm
Thursday 10am-8pm
Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday 9am-2pm

**“Wherever you go, there you
are”**

Some A.A. websites of interest

www.aa.org	Alcoholics Anonymous World Services
www.aaworcester.org	Worcester Area Inter-Group
www.aamass.org	The Area 30 Website
www.capecodaa.com	Cape Code InterGroup website
www.rhodeisland-aa.org	Rhode Island Official AA website
www.ct-aa.org	Connecticut Official AA website
www.nh.com/ipes/nhaa	New Hampshire Official AA website
www.aavt.org	Vermont Official AA website
www.aamaine.org	Maine Official AA website

2005-2006

Intergroup Timeline



October 13	Slots for Thanksgiving Alcathon drawn.
November 10	Slots for Christmas & New Year's Alcathon's drawn.
Monthly Mtg Schedule	September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8.

Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>eMail Address</u>
Chairperson	Bob McC.	Intergroupchair@rcn.com
Alternate Chair	Harry H.	
Secretary	Brandy H.	Intergroupsecretary@rcn.com
Treasurer	Mary M.	Intergrouptreasurer@rcn.com
Alternate Treasurer	OPEN	
Trustees	Ellen McQ. Bob D. Jeanne L , Laraine S	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@rcn.com
Treatment Facilities	Sue N.	treatment@rcn.com
Correctional Facilities	Open	Corrections@rcn.com
H.A.L.T. Line Chairperson	Scott L.	haltline@rcn.com
Social Committee	Colleen H.	Social@rcn.com
Public Information	Bruce W.	PIChair@rcn.com
Webmaster	Charlie	webmaster@rcn.com
Liaison to District 25	Mary M	
Liaison to Area 30	OPEN	
Alcathon Committee	Billy - Intergroup Tina P.—District 25	Call [REDACTED] if you want to help.
Co—Chairs Intergroup & District 25		
Beacon Editor	Ellen McQ .	beacon@rcn.com or [REDACTED]

“...Give more than you receive - and you will be given more...”

Rule 62 “ Don’t take yourself too damn seriously.”



This space is to be dedicated to the lighter side of recovery from Alcoholism.

One day at a time.....

Send us your funny one liners.... Share your humor of walking through the steps of recovery or just plain make us laugh!

Thoughts to ponder..

“Denial is great while I’m in it. It’s the coming out of it that presents the challenge.”

“ An obsession: A persistent, recurring idea that does not respond to reason.”

“Life is a balance between holding on and letting go”

SLIP—sobriety—losing— it’s—priority

EGO—easing—God—Out

THINK- Thank—heaven—I—now—know

HALT- Hungry—angry—lonely- tired

Service Meetings Monthly Schedule

InterGroup/District 25 & 26

Public Information	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Monday	7:00 pm
District 25 (GSR's)	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	1st Tuesday	7:30 pm
Joint Corrections	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	2nd Tuesday	7:00 pm
District 25 - CPC Committee	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	2nd Wed.	6:30 pm
District 26 (GSR's)	Local 60 Union Hall Mechanic St. Leominster	1st Thursday	7:00 pm
Steering Committee	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	6:15 pm
Intergroup Delegates	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	7:00 pm
Social Committee	Sacred Heart Church 595 Cambridge St. Worcester	2nd Saturday	6:00 pm
Joint Treatment	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Saturday	10:00 am

Area 30

Grapevine Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Sunday	1:00pm
Literature Committee	Carter Methodist Church 800 Highland Ave. Needham	1st Monday	7:30pm
Eastern Mass. GSC	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	4th Wed.	8:00pm
Joint Public Information	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	1st Thursday	7:00pm
CPC Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	2nd Thursday	7:00pm
Archives Committee	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	3rd Thursday	7:30pm
Corrections Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Thursday	TBD
Joint Treatment Facilities	St. Paul's 59 Court Street Dedham	3rd Friday	8:00pm

For the reader by the reader:

This space is dedicated to your stories of recovery.

Share your experience , Strength & hope .

Comments, thoughts or Concerns.....?

Send yours to us in 50 words or less.

Beacon staff reserves the right to full editorial discretion

Email: Beacon@AAworchester.org

OR Snail mail to:

The Beacon, 8 Meadow Lane Dudley, Ma. 01571

....and when we were wrong promptly admitted it!

The Editorial Staff of The Beacon apologizes to District 25 for the Slight.

In the August Issue of the Beacon we failed to mention the support the District gives in jointly putting on the alcathons during the holiday Season.

The Alcathon Committee- is a Joint Committee Between Worcester area Intergroup & District

Upcoming Events

- A **NEW** Social Committee is forming if you want to get involved in planning events call the intergroup office or email : Social@rcn.com
- If your group has an anniversary coming up let us know about it! [REDACTED] or email: aabeacon@rcn.com

The 2nd Annual Hudson Second Chance Golf Tournament, Sponsored by the Hudson Second Chance A.A. Group to be held Friday October 7th 2005 at The Townsend Ridge Country Club, Townsend Ma.

Registration at Country Club 11:30 / Shotgun Start 12:00

For more info contact Keith C. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All proceeds after expenses are returned to Alcoholics Anonymous.

- November 11-13 42nd Massachusetts State Convention hosted by Areas 30 & 30 Sheraton Framingham, Framingham, MA.