

March 2006



The Beacon

New Email addresses

Volume 8 Number 3

Email: Beacon@aaworcester.org

The Key is Willingness

Once we have placed the key of willingness in the lock and have the door ever so slightly open, we find that we can always open it some more.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 35

The willingness to give up my pride and self-will to a Power greater than myself has proved to be the only ingredient absolutely necessary to solve all of my problems today. Even the smallest amount of willingness, if sincere, is sufficient to allow God to enter and take control over any problem, pain, or obsession. My level of comfort is in direct relation to the degree of willingness I possess at any given moment to give up my self-will, and allow God's will to be manifested in my life. With the key of willingness, my worries and fears are powerfully transformed into serenity.

*reprinted AAWS with permission ~ *Daily Reflections* pg 75

Willingness... This is what Step Three is to me. Everyday, morning and night, I get down on my knees and ask God to remove my obsession for alcohol, as well as thanking him for letting me remain sober yet another day. But it was not until I completely surrendered that I started to get what this step means. Step Three is the practicing of following the steps as they are laid out 100%.

As a newcomer, I have worked at understanding and practicing the steps as I thought God wanted me to, but what I now realize is that I can not do it alone. A sponsor, regular meetings on a regular basis, and the willingness to do the next right thing is what success in the A.A. fellowship is all about.

So, it is on this day that I can thank God, as I know him, for letting me be here today and giving me the courage, strength and wisdom that I need to turn my life over to the care of God. In order for me to maintain my sobriety, I must practice these principles on a daily basis, knowing all along that it is the connection that I have with my Higher Power that is working in my life today.

Via email Renee T.

Worcester Area Intergroup

NEW MEETING TIME

The Steering committee -meeting time has changed from 6:15 pm to **6:00PM** the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Attention all delegates & Trustee's

****In the event of a Storm call the Intergroup office to find out if the Steering committee meeting & Delegates meetings have been cancelled.**

Call after 3:30 PM

508-752-9000

Step Three

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand him.

Tradition Three

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept Three

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “right of participation”, taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

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.

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

www.aagrapevine.org/stepsTrads/stepsTrads_index.html

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. In mind, do I prejudge some AA members as losers? | 4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message? |
| 2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group? | 5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us? |
| 3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony? | 6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he has been to AA before? What his other problems are? |

W.A. I. Needs your help!

There are service positions that are unfilled.

Join us the 2nd Thursday of each month 7:00pm St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Street

Positions Open:

- Alternate Treasurer
- Corrections Chair
- Liaison to Area 30

R.I.P.

Alcoholics Anonymous was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of its members, Someone Else. Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else had been with us for many years and did far more than one person's share of the work. Wherever there was a job to do, an activity to volunteer for, a committee meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest contributors to AA. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else sometimes appeared superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much from Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what are we going to do. We can't depend on Someone Else anymore. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow-but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

AA Grapevine, May 2002, anonymous

SPONSORSHIP CORNER:

Continued from December issue...

How does sponsorship help the sponsor?

Sponsorship strengthens the older member's sobriety. The act of sharing sobriety makes it easier for a member to live without alcohol. By helping others, alcoholics find that they help themselves.

Sponsorship also offers the satisfaction that comes from assuming responsibility for someone other than oneself. In a very real sense, it fills the need, felt by most human beings, to help others over rough spots.

Can any member become a sponsor?

There is no superior class or caste of sponsors in A.A. Any member can help the newcomer learn to cope with life without resorting to alcohol in any form.

In most instances, A.A. custom does not suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer should be of same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from "our primary purpose."

When is a member ready for sponsorship responsibility?

The most successful sponsors are men and women who have been in A.A. long enough to have some understanding of the suggested recovery program outlined in the Twelve Steps. The member who has been sober for months or years is usually - but not always- able to work more effectively with newcomers than a member who has been in the program for only a few weeks. Thus, length of sobriety is a factor, but not the only factor, in successful sponsorship. Of equal importance are an individual's capacity for understanding and patience, willingness to devote time and effort to new members, and personal example as a representative of A.A. at work.

*Reprinted with AAWS permission - questions and answers on sponsorship P.13-14

The Sponsorship Tree

Today I went to a party for Bobba, my great-great-great-great-grandsponsor(G4 for short), with all the people she has sponsored as well as all those her sponsees have sponsored. Hanging in the entryway of the home it was held in was a large outline of a tree, with Bobba's name on the trunk. Three main branches from the trunk extended to represent Bobba's sponsees. Branching out from them were many bare limbs and twigs. As they arrived, each guest wrote his or her name and sobriety date on a green, leaf-shaped piece of paper. When they had finished, there were over seventy leaves on the tree. It was all the result of one person passing it on to another.

AA Grapevine, November 2004, Andy T.

Many groups have Temporary Sponsors ~ these are people that are willing to; talk, have coffee, answer questions, go to meeting with you & introduce you to other A.A's until you find a sponsor.

If you don't have a sponsor get one!



A word on anonymity:

As a recovered alcoholic I must make an effort to put into practice the principles of the A.A. program, which are founded on honesty, truth and humility. While I was drinking I was constantly trying to be in the limelight. Now that I am conscious of my mistakes and my former lack of integrity, it would not be honest to seek prestige, even for the justifiable purpose of promoting the AA message of recovery. Is the publicity that centers around the AA fellowship and the miracles it produces not worth much more? Why not let the people around us appreciate by themselves the changes that AA has brought in us, for that will be a far better recommendation for the fellowship than any I could make.

*Daily Reflections P., 339

We now full realize that 100 per cent personal anonymity before the public is just as vital to the life of A.A. as 100 per cent sobriety is to the life of each and every member. This is not the counsel of fear; it is the prudent voice of long experience.

*AA comes of age p. 293

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions ever reminding us to "place Principles before per-

Coincidences are Gods way of remaing anonymous

Joint Treatment Facilities Committee

Seminar: **AA in our Community: IS our message clear?**

Saturday April 22, 2006 ~10:00am-2:00pm

Unitarian Universalist Church Of Worcester

90 Holden Street ~ Worcester, Ma. 01606

come support the seminar

Contact Sue N. [REDACTED] Treatment@rcn.com

For Treatment Professionals & AA Members

THE HOME GROUP:**The principle of rotation**

Traditionally, rotation keeps AA members from becoming frozen in office. It also ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in AA are passed around for all to share. Upon elections or vacancy of an office, many groups have alternates or assistants to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions they have been trained for, while others fill the slots just vacated.

To step out of an AA office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, its especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

Among other things, anonymity in the fellowship means we forgo personal prestige for any AA work we do to help alcoholics. And in the spirit of Tradition twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities"

Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no AA "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise- we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

* from the AA pamphlet The AA GROUP p. 34 reprinted with AAWS permission

A.A. business Meetings

In most groups, the chairperson or another office calls the business meeting, which ordinarily is held on a monthly or quarterly basis.

While some groups may occasionally permit nonmembers to attend, only the group members have a vote. The order of business may include: electing new officers; scheduling meetings; receiving and discussing the treasurer's periodic financial reports; hearing progress reports from the General service representative and other group servants; and apportioning excess funds among local intergroup, G.S.O. and the area and the district treasuries.

Before a vote is taken, it is essential that the members be given all the facts relevant to the subject at hand. In many cases, a few members may be asked to look into the pros and cons of the issue and present them at the meeting. Arriving at an informed group conscience in big matters or small is a process that may take some time. But it is important that the minority, or dissenting views be heard along with those of the majority (see p. 35). In some instances, they may even turn the tide.

Business meetings generally are scheduled before or after the groups regular meeting. They tend to be informal, but custom varies from group to group. Some groups have tried observing Roberts Rules of order, only to find that many members are inexperienced in parliamentary procedures and feel too intimidated to speak up. Besides, there is the spiritual nature of our fellowship, embodied in our traditions and the concepts which give ample guidance.

The H.A.L.T. line needs your help!

The halt line is the 24hour answering service for 12 step calls and meeting information. You can volunteer for 1 hour or more to answer calls. You may do it from home or from your cell.

Call
25 hours available

the halt line chair—Scott L.

 email haltline@rcn.com for more information.

Hours available: MONDAY 1:00am—10:00am , TUESDAY 12:00AM-3:00AM , WEDNESDAY 1:00AM - 5:00AM , THURSDAY 12:00AM—5:00AM, & 6:00AM-9:00AM, FRIDAY 6:00AM- 8:00AM ~ we can't keep it unless we give it away~



Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

Position	Name	email address
Chairperson	Bob McC.	Intergruochair@aaworcester.org
Alternate Chair	Harry H.	
Secretary	Brandy H.	Intergroupsecretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Mary M.	Intergruptreasurer@aaworcester.org
Alternate Treasurer	Jeanne L. (temporary)	
Trustees	Ellen McQ. Bob D. Jeanne L , Laraine S	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Treatment Facilities	Sue N.	treatment@aaworcester.org
Correctional Facilities	Open	Corrections@aaworcester.org
H.A.L.T. Line Chairperson	Scott L.	haltline@aaworcester.org
Social Committee	Kolleen H.	Social@aaworcetser.org
Public Information	Bruce W.	PIChair@aaworcester.org
Webmaster	Bruce W.	webmaster@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25	Mary M	
Liaison to Area 30	OPEN	
Alcathon Committee Co—Chairs Intergroup & District 25	Billy - Intergroup Tina P.—District 25	
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 Office Hours:
 Monday 10am-2pm
 Tuesday 10am-8pm
 Wednesday 10am-8pm
 Thursday 10am-8pm
 Friday 10am-2pm
 Saturday 9am-2pm
 Sunday **CLOSED**

The opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply an endorsement by either A.A., general services nor Intergroup. Comments, questions and articles may be directed to The Beacon. *The Beacon—100 Grove Street Suite 309 Worcester, MA 01605*
email: aabeacon@aaworcester.org

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Assistant Editor: Mary M.—Courage to Change, Charlton **Secretary**: Renee T. **Support Staff**: Margaret P. ,Donna M.
 * All excerpts & Articles reprinted with permission from AAWS

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

The storm has passed. I've learned a little more about peace. It was inside all the time.

AA Grapevine, January 1980

A lot of times I blacked out. The rest I don't remember.

AA Grapevine, March 2005, Andy, Pearland,

Two men attended a funeral. One of them knew the deceased as a drinking buddy; the other questioned him about the corpse.

“What killed your friend?” he asked.

“Oh, booze killed him.”

“Did he ever try that AA business?”

“Oh, no!” replied the friend with surprise. “He wasn't really all that bad.”

AA Grapevine, March 2005, anonymous



How can you tell the difference between a sponsor and a therapist? The only time a sponsor uses the word “closure” is before the word “mouth”. ~ AA Grapevine, May 2001, Frank C., Bronxville, NY

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	6:00 pm
Intergroup Delegates	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	7:00 pm
Social Committee	Intergroup Office 100 Grove Street # 309 Worcester	3rd Thursday	6:00pm
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:

Submit your Comments to: aabeacon@aaworcester.org

Faced with alcoholic destruction, we became open-minded on spiritual matters. In this respect alcohol was a great persuader. It finally beat us into a state of reasonableness. P. 48 Big book

We had to quit playing God. It didn't work. We decided that hereafter, in this drama of life, God was going to be the director. He would be the principle; we, His agents.

Most good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new triumphal arch through which we passed to freedom. P. 62 Big Book

"nothing so much insures immunity from alcohol than intensive work with other alcoholics...."
The Treatment Facility Committee invites you or your group to bring the AA message to alcoholics in treatment facilities. Please contact Sue N. at [REDACTED] treatment@aaworcester.org

Can you help?

Here are the openings:

Spectrum Women & Children's 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sunday 7:30-8:30 pm 1st, & 2nd Tues.

Spectrum TSS 3rd & 4th Wed or Sat :30-8:30 pm

Westboro State Hospital 5th Tues. 7-8 pm

Worcester State Hospital 1st Tues, 5th Tues/Fri 6:30-7:30 pm

~Upcoming Events ~

Worcester Area Intergroup Social Committee:

your Social committee has been busy planning events!

- Second Chance at prom night! April 29th 7-11PM Sacred heart church Semi-Formal Catered Dinner
- Hiking at Mt. Monadnock & full moon hiking at Mt. Wachusett when warm weather comes again !

Check the Website for up to the minute date and time information www.aaworcester.org or get Flyers from the Intergroup office. Questions??? Email: social@aaworcester.org or call the Intergroup office 508-752-9000

March 24-26, 2006 ~ 30th Rhode Island Convention ~ Web site <http://www.rhodeisland-aa.org/ricc>

District 26 —To find out about social events in District 26 check out the web site: www.26ac.org —-upcoming St Patrick's Day Eventcheck it out!