

June 2007



The Beacon

Email: beacon@aaworcester.org

Volume 9 Number 6

Letter from the Editor

For those of you who may not yet be familiar with all the roles in each group, the "bookie" is the person who arranges outgoing and incoming speaker commitments for their group. This job is especially important because getting good speakers from a wide variety of AA groups helps keep it green for us all. The Beacon has maintained a central repository of bookie names and numbers to help bookies locate and reach out to each other, and it requires constant updating because bookies change assignments frequently. In the months that elapsed between editors, the list got totally out of date and we are starting from scratch. I am embarrassed to tell you that after many requests for groups to send in their info in the past six weeks, we only have three bookies listed!

I am asking each and every one of you reading this issue to help us out, and ask your group to send its bookie info to the Beacon so we can reassemble a valid list. If, for whatever reason, your bookie does not want to be listed, at least have them let us know which group they are affiliated with, so we can check it off and go on to the next one. In the long run this can only help all the groups in our area.

Sincerely,

Richard C, editor.

Beacon@aaworcester.org

AA Wisdom

It's the first drink that gets you drunk.

It's the last one that gets you sober. -John R. New York

It doesn't matter how crowded the meeting is
if you're sitting in the front row. -Marco D New York

If you don't want to end up behind bars,
don't sit down in front of them. - Pat P Calgary Canada

Some days I see life as a glass that's half-empty;

Other days, I see it as half-full.

On other days, I am grateful that I have a glass.

-Michael S New York

Step Six

Tradition Six

Concept Six

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

"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."
"

"The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board."

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.

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

www.aagrapevine.org/stepsTrads/stepsTrads_index.html

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- 1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
- 2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
- 3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
- 4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
- 5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

Every minute you are angry you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

SPONSORSHIP CORNER:



Life is a dance, When you take the steps

Giving Up Defects

Looking at those defects we are unwilling to give up, we ought to erase the hard and fast lines that we have drawn. Perhaps in some cases we shall say "This I cannot give up yet..." but we should not say to ourselves "This I will never give up!"

The moment we say "No, never!", our minds close against the grace of God. Such rebellion may be fatal. Instead we should abandon limited objectives and begin to move toward God's will for us.

As Bill Sees It, p. 136 (Twelve & Twelve pp. 68-69)

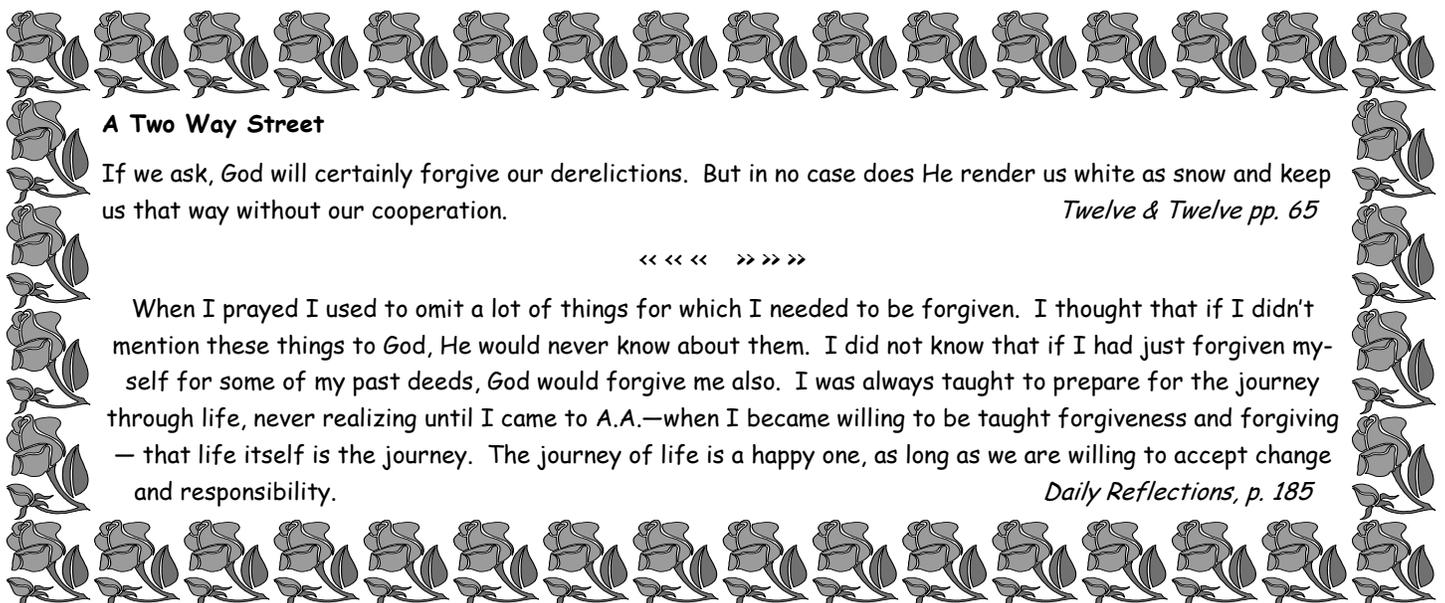
Letting Go of Our Old Selves

Carefully reading the first five proposals, we ask if we have omitted anything for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last... Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things we have admitted are objectionable?

<<<< >>>>

The Sixth Step is the last "preparation" Step. Although I have already used prayer extensively, I have made no formal request of my Higher Power in the first Six Steps. I have identified my problem, come to believe that there is a solution, made a decision to seek this solution, and have "cleaned house". I now ask: am I willing to live a life of sobriety, of change, to let go of my old self. I must determine if I am truly ready to change. I review what I have done and become willing for God to remove all my defects of character; for in the next Step I will tell my Creator that I am willing and will ask for help. If I have been thorough in the preparation of my foundation and feel that I am willing to change, I am then ready to continue with the next Step. "If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing.

Daily Reflections, p. 164 (Alcoholics Anonymous pp. 75-76)



A Two Way Street

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation.

Twelve & Twelve pp. 65

<<<< >>>>

When I prayed I used to omit a lot of things for which I needed to be forgiven. I thought that if I didn't mention these things to God, He would never know about them. I did not know that if I had just forgiven myself for some of my past deeds, God would forgive me also. I was always taught to prepare for the journey through life, never realizing until I came to A.A.—when I became willing to be taught forgiveness and forgiving — that life itself is the journey. The journey of life is a happy one, as long as we are willing to accept change and responsibility.

Daily Reflections, p. 185

THE HOME GROUP:

From The Grapevine February 1982 Vol. 38 No. 9

Doing What We Do Best**Tradition 6 - 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**

THE EARLY history of Alcoholics Anonymous includes classic examples bearing directly on the formation of the Sixth Tradition: the offer made our co-founder Bill W. to ally himself with a hospital as an "AA counselor"; those education binges when we succeeded in confusing the public (and ourselves) as to just who we were and what it was we were trying to do.

That's the past. What about today?

This Tradition was brought into focus for me when a newcomer I was sponsoring became fascinated with it. He read the chapter in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and then started asking questions--as I should have when I was a newcomer.

I was so fogbound for years after coming in that, even though I heard and read about our policy of nonaffiliation, there seemed to be no question but that AA was tied in with hospitals and prisons. Every time I went, trembling, to visit or to speak at an AA group in an institution, I was strongly aware of the courtesy and the kind familiarity on the part of the authorities. In my mind, their attitude translated into affiliation. If I'd had a sponsor in the beginning, this and many other matters might have been gotten into a truer perspective.

"What about the AA boat ride?" asked the newcomer. "Isn't that a case of AA endorsing an outside enterprise?"

A local AA group was sponsoring a boat ride on the river for recreation, to raise funds to defray group expenses, and also to make a contribution to our local intergroup. Was AA endorsing the line that owned the sightseeing boat? No. The group was simply paying for use of the boat, as it does for meeting quarters. The misunderstanding in the newcomer's mind was the result of hearing the activity constantly referred to as "the AA boat ride."

What is a newcomer to think? And if those of us who have been around for a while keep repeating such terms, what will we eventually think ourselves?

We still hear references to "AA clubs." Our early experience with them and with AA groups that meet under the same roof had a lot to do with the forging of the Sixth. When I came into the Fellowship in 1960, I started attending meetings at the Old 24th Street Clubhouse. It had just moved to its new home, one block south, on 23rd Street. I was told it was an AA clubhouse. That was the way I thought of it and the way I spoke of it. It was a long time before I understood that it was actually a clubhouse for AAs.

The present-day newcomer didn't get the distinction. "Isn't that all just a lot of semantics?" he said. "You know what people mean when they say that."

No, I don't always know what people mean if they don't tell me. So I explained that the term "AA club" would imply AA *ownership*--thereby involving AA in "problems of money, property, and prestige." That's why it has been found wise to incorporate clubs for AAs as separate entities, *not* owned by any group or collection of groups. If a group wants to meet in such a clubhouse, it pays rent as it would to a church or a civic hall.

The Sixth Tradition alerts us to the dangers of the *appearance* of affiliation. A few years ago, an AA group in my area was obliged to move from quarters it had occupied for many years. Against the recommendation of several of its members, the group voted to move into a center for drug rehabilitation. The rehab center was advertising to encourage the use of its facilities by civic and social groups. The group did not affiliate with the center but did hang its AA sign directly under the drug program sign. The impression of affiliation, if not endorsement, was created.

At least, the group did not change its name and take the name of the rehab center. Our General Service Conference has reminded central offices and intergroups, as a guideline, that it is a good idea for new groups *not* to name themselves after the facility or institution where they hold their meetings. Too often, impressions endure longer than facts.

"Tell me," the newcomer said, with a touch of defiance in his voice, "how an AA group might finance an outside enterprise."

I remember an AA member's soliciting groups for bail money for an AA friend of his who had been arrested and charged with a serious crime. Only an insignificant amount was raised, because there were enough informed members around to resist having their AA groups finance the bail bond business. Without the Sixth to guide them, however, even that handful of members might have viewed the bail-out action as a charitable one and set aside their groups' primary purpose.

"Are you saying that we have to be on our toes all the time? That we have to watch everything we think and say?"

Yes, and what we write, too. A friend of mine once innocently sent AA members a note that concerned a local intergroup activity but was written on his company business letterhead. There were no repercussions, but the impression could very easily have been created that the intergroup office and his office were affiliated.

The number one intent of our Traditions, of course, is to guide our groups and our Society as a whole in the ways of unity. And they serve a further end as well. For example, another aspect of this Tradition is the opposite of endorsement, namely, criticism. How easy it would be for the AA movement to point out to the proliferating alcoholism rehab programs just where we think they are going wrong. It also happens that criticism is one of the gravest of my old character defects. It is still the easiest thing for me to criticize a fellow AA for not working the program the way it *should* be worked; to criticize a group for not running its meetings the way I think they should be run; to criticize the operation of our General Service Office.

"You make it sound like the Fourth Step," the newcomer said, and he visibly drew back. "You make it sound just like taking inventory."

That is pretty much what the Traditions come down to--an ongoing inventory of the who, why, what, when, and where of groups and of AA as a whole. The Sixth is warning us against a natural tendency to embrace all manner of causes, noble or ignoble. It warns us to be aware of our limitations: AA cannot be everything to everyone. It reminds us to be ever on guard against three major shortcomings: (a) the crusader's ardor, (b) the one-sidedness of the zealot, and (c) perhaps the villain of the piece, the savior complex.

"None of that is going to happen to me," said the newcomer, as he walked away, "now that I know about it."

I sincerely hope not. I've been done in by all three!

*W. H.
Manhattan, New York*

F.A.Q

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Question: Why is this Issue numbered "6" rather than "2", since there were no Issues 1 through 4 for 2007, and this is really only the second issue of The Beacon this year?.

Answer: It's been a tradition to synchronize each of the 12 months with the same numbered step, tradition, etc in the Beacon. It seemed good to keep the issue numbering in sync as well.

HELP WANTED

**RECOVERING ALCOHOLICS ARE NEEDED
NO BUSINESS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

The Joint Treatment Facilities Committee needs help to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous into treatment facilities. If you are a recovering alcoholic with a suggested minimum of six months sobriety and are working the steps with a sponsor you can perform this rewarding work.

Current Needs Include: Planning Annual Seminar, Outreach to Nursing Homes, Bookie for Treatment Facilities, Keeping Literature Racks Stocked, Bringing the 'Bridging the Gap' Program Information to Facilities and Groups. Help keep your sobriety by carrying AA's message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

For more information, e-mail: treatment@aaworcester.org



Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>
Chairperson	Harry H.	chair@aaworcester.org
Alternate Chair	Bob D.	None
Secretary	Dot B.	secretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Joe N.	treasurer@aaworcester.org
Alternate Treasurer	Ellen McQ	
Trustees	Bob McC, Bob L. Brandy H Liz C.	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Treatment Facilities	Jill Mc D	treatment@aaworcester.org
Correctional Facilities	Eric R	Corrections@aaworcester.org
Halt Line	Dan M.	haltline@aaworcester.org
Social Committee	Vacant	Social@aaworcester.org
Public Information	Vacant	PiChair@aaworcester.org
Webmaster	Brandy H.	webmaster@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25	Eric R.	None
Liaison to Area 30	Ellen Mc Q.	None
Alcathon Committee	Joe N.	
Co—Chairs Intergroup & District 25	intergroup D-25 Tina P.	
The Beacon	Richard C.	Beacon@aaworcester.org

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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

Do I do my part?

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The Beacon—100 Grove Street Suite 309 Worcester, MA 01605 email:beacon@aaworcester.org

The Beacon Staff: April 2007 to December 2007

Editor: Richardc. — Serenity, Worcester, MA., Assistant Editor: Open

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



Great things I've heard at meetings: Make a friend of time. . . Acceptance isn't necessarily approval. . . God, help me to want what I already have. . . Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. . . Don't get resentful of a resentful person. . . Don't badmouth meetings. . . Every problem has a lifespan that only God knows. . . Men are not converted by criticism. . . Cooperate with God. . . Let today's troubles be sufficient to today. . . It's hard to keep an open mind with an open mouth. . . Feed your faith and starve your doubt. . . Quit thinking about fun and games in the future. . . Live one day at a time and get to work. . . Self-esteem is a matter of discipline. . . The best way to get even is to forget. . . You don't help anyone by trying to impress them; you impress someone when you try to help them. . . Complaining is not an action step. . . Good things happen to alcoholics who don't drink. . . Lord, help me to be the man my dog thinks I am. . . Gratitude is the aristocrat of virtues.

Red" M. Indiana

Be careful, when you are conscious of wearing a halo, that it doesn't turn into a noose.

Dick C. Pennsylvania

Tolerance— The quality you note in the man who shares your prejudice. -Knebel

"I woke up one morning and realized that I had a great future behind me." -anonymous

Service Meetings Monthly Schedule			
InterGroup/District 25 & 26			
Public Information	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	TBD	TBD
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	TBD
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
Joint Treatment	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Saturday	10:00 am
Grapevine Committee	Conference call (Number TBA)	3rd Wednesday	8:00pm
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	7:30 pm
Joint Treatment Facilities	St. Paul's 59 Court Street Dedham	3rd Friday	8:00pm

Is your Group Represented at the Intergroup Delegates Meeting?

If you don't attend you can't vote...

If you don't vote you don't have a voice..

Come find out what's going on in our area

2nd Thursday of the month
St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Street Worcester 7:00 -8:30 PM

We counted 150 Groups in Worcester area only about 20 are represented, and only 8 show up at the Delegates meeting on a regular basis. Want to find out more call the Intergroup office 1-508-752-9000 or email the beacon

beacon@aaworcester.org

We'd be happy to answer your questions.

W.A. I. Needs your help!
There are service positions that remain unfilled.
Join us the 2nd Thursday of each month 7:00pm
St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Streetcome see where you can help! Please Join us !!

To find out about social events in District 26 (North & west of Worcester) check out their unofficial web site:
www.26ac.org

The Halt-Line still has 11 hours of unmanned phone time....can you spare an hour? Available hours:
Mon 2-3 AM 3-4 AM 5-6 AM 6-7 AM
Wed 2-3 AM 3-4 AM
Fri 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-7 PM



Women's Meeting Big Book (tapes)
Thursdays 5:30—6:45 PM
Calvary Retreat House South Street
Shrewsbury, MA.

Check the bulletin board for meeting changes and new meetings in our area On Intergroup's Very own web page:
www.aaworcester.org

Moved
"The Way Out" has Moved to Bethel Lutheran Church
90 Byrn Mawr Ave.
Auburn, Ma.
Thursdays 7:30-8:30PM

MEETING CLOSED
Big Book Thumpers
Thursday Night 7:30-9:00pm
Calvary Retreat House
59 South St. **Shrewsbury**

NEW MEETING
Dignitary Sympathy
Friday Night 7:30-9:00pm
Forbes Community Center
Westboro
OMDNS

OPPORTUNITY
Any person who is a group grapevine representative or who is interested in being one, please contact the Grapevine chair of Area 30 at
Grapevine
P.O. Box 51411-
Boston MA 02205
or
grapevine@aaemass.org

Moved
As of June 4, 2007
Crozier Group - Mondays to Our Lady of Loretto Church - 37 Massasoit Rd.
Worcester

You Are Cordially Invited To Join Us For An Open Seminar "AA In Our Community: Is Our Message Clear?"
Who: AA Members, Treatment Professionals, & Other Community Professionals
What: A Seminar with Informational Presentations, AA World Service Video - Hope, Literature Displays, Floor Discussion/Open
When: Saturday, June 16, 2007 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Coffee & Lunch will be served
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester* 90 Holden Street Worcester, MA
*For More Information e-mail treatment@aaworcester.org *Handicap access*