

DISTRICT 01 NEWSLETTER

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking"

DECEMBER 2005

DISTRICT 01 PO BOX 0632 GREEN BAY WI 54305

www.greenbayaa.org

GSR and District Service Meeting

December 15th The Bridge
Third Thursday 2514 Jenny Lane
6:30 pm Green Bay

Each member speaks only for herself or himself. In the Home Group, the GSR brings our conscience to the DCM as it is shared among the Groups of our District. Groups draw upon the service of our committees. The Newsletter and Meeting List are distributed. All members are welcome to attend.

Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of the Alcoholics Anonymous.

District 01 Committee Officers

District Committee Member (DCM)	Kelly J.	469-0501
Alternate DCM	John RS	435-5158
Secretary	Debbie	494-8825
Treasurer	Dean H.	499-1902
Archives	Pete J.	490-4008
Bridging the Gap/Treatment	Bruce K.	498-9750
Cooperation w/ Professional Community	Bob L.	884-8426
Corrections	Lynn L.	496-5899
Grapevine	Bill L.	498-3759
Hotline	Barb R.	437-6484
Intergroup	Mary K.	837-2707
co-chair	< Jamie O.	562-3245
Meeting List	Marty S.	465-1401
Newsletter	Michael V.	360-1043
Public Information	Ben W.	491-4104
'06 Spring Conference	Lynn L.	496-5899
co-chair	< Greg S.	265-2944

"These servants must always be in readiness to do for the groups what the groups obviously cannot or should not do for themselves." *The 12 Concepts, p. 23.*

Many members who desire to serve beyond the Home Group find themselves walking through the door of the GSR and District Service Meeting. Generally, they have been sober over a year and recognize the Promises coming into their life. Gratitude has replaced despondency; the desire to give back is growing. When you are ready, please consider serving our Groups. All are welcome.

Visit our web sight a convenient place to find a meeting

District 01	www.greenbayaa.org
(Our meeting list and past newsletters are posted here)	
Area 74 (North WI + UP)	www.area74.org
(w/ links to Districts 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 20 21 22 23 24)	
Area 75 (South WI)	www.area75.org
AA Grapevine	www.aagrapevine.org
G.S.O. (General Service Office in NY)	www.aa.org
(A list of online meetings is available, upon request, from GSO)	

A New Group Is Formed

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation." *Long Form, Tradition Three*

Gather about yourself a few kindred spirits and announce to us that a new Alcoholics Anonymous Group is formed.

You may find a home for your Group anywhere as long as you are self supporting.

These organizations would like to host your group:

218 Club	218 S. Oneida	Green Bay	494-9904
The Bridge	2514 Jenny Ln.	Green Bay	465-6878
Victory Baptist Ch	1545 University Av.	Green Bay	437-0511

Register your group nationally by sending your "New Group Form" to GSO in N.Y. Call the District 01 Newsletter and leave your meeting info for inclusion in our meeting list. Welcome!

To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live — the freedom in which we have our being.

Support our new Group

The Oneida Group has been around for a long time and is now added to our meeting list.

The Oneida Group

meets at the

Oneida Community Parrish Hall
2936 Freedom Rd.

Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Topic Discussion ~ Open ~ Non-smoking

Contact: Anita B. 819-1862

West on Hwy 54/Mason St. 4.2 miles past NWTC. Turn left onto East Service Rd. Turn next right onto Freedom Rd. Parrish Hall is on the left .2 mi.

Comment: Tradition Three, long form

Comment: Paraphrased from *Language of the Heart*, p.33

Comment: *The AA Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* by Bill W. ed. 2003-04, p. 75

Comment: *The AA Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* by Bill W. ed. 2003-04, p. 75

Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need

45 minute Gp

m e e t s

Mon + Wed + Fri

12:15 p till 1:00 p

Pilgrim Congregational Church

991 Pilgrim Way, Green Bay (West)
Enter by the side door.

Open Non-Smoking
Discussion Accessible
"God Pays Good"

NWTC Meeting has changed

to **Tuesday, 6:00 pm** in room **SC 134**

located in the **Student Center**

on the bottom floor going North from the Cafeteria.

There are accommodations for coffee and soda and snacks in the cafeteria, plus a vending area.

Open, non-smoking,
accessible to all, discussion format.

All are welcome.

Contact: **John RS** 435-5158

Preble Park Presbyterian Church

607 Ravenswood Dr., Green Bay (East)

Monday 7:30 pm Non-smoking Open Meeting

Readings from *Daily Reflections* are discussed

Alcoholics, friends, family and anyone concerned about alcoholism is welcome. A smoke break will happen half way through. There is time before and after the meeting for sharing.

Contact: **Jeff P.** 432-0059 or **Mark L.** 920-246-6534.

Minutes of the GSR and Committee Service Meeting

October 20, 2005

Kelly J.	DCM
Brian H.	Alt GSR Step'n Up Gp
Dave C.	
Dean H.	Treasurer
Lynn L.	Corrections Chair
Barb R.	GSR Tuesday Women / Hotline Chair
Sid B.	GSR Thursday Women In The Present
Chris B.	Alt GSR Saturday Eye Opener, St. Matt's
Marty S.	Alt GSR Fisherman's Paradise / Newsletter
Michael V.	Newsletter Co-Chair
Jeff P.	GSR 218 8:30 am Mon. Big Book Mtg
Elizabeth F.	GSR New Hope Group, Shelter
Bruce K.	GSR Never On Sunday
Jim D.	Treasurer, Never On Sunday Gp
Debbie S.	GSR Sat. Eye Opener, ST. Matt's
Bob L.	GSR Bellin Psych 12:30 Tues. / CPC Chair
Mary K.	Intergroup Chair
Jamie O.	Intergroup Co-Chair

2 Committee Reports

Bob L stated that the Area Picnic went well. 250 dollars will be coming back from the deposit for the pavilion.

Newsletter- Marty said that the newsletter and the meeting list is going well.

Hotline- Barb said that 120 calls were received last month and that three were answered.

Public Information Chair- Was not present.

Bridging the Gap- Bruce said that things are going well, and there are enough volunteers. He is also going to look into who handles Dane county's program.

Corrections- Lynn said Sunday Huber is going well, and so are the prison meetings.

CPC- Bob L has not been able to get the past info from Al the former chair.

Intergroup- Mary said that the Intergroup will be held on January 21st at Redeemer Lutheran Church. From 2 PM -11 PM. Price for the hall has gone up to 184 dollars. Info will be put in the News letter and on the District Web site.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Respectfully submitted by Greg S.

AA DISTRICT 01 TREASURER'S REPORT

October 20, 2005

BALANCE AS OF 09-11-05 \$ 1273.69

DEPOSITS: \$ 264.45

Tues. 1 pm Women's	74.86
7 am Wed. Grapevine	16.00
Picnic Donations	61.59
Sat. Eye Opener	112.00

CHECKS: \$ 616.83

Marty S. (Newsletter)	55.00
All City Communications (Hotline)	86.50
Bruce K. (BTG)	18.80
Mark P. (Picnic Supplies)	130.45
John S. (DCM - Fall Conf. Expenses)	180.13
World Services (Corrections Literature)	145.95

BALANCE AS OF 10-20-05 \$ 921.31
(includes \$650.00 prudent reserve)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
DEAN HANSEN, TREASURER

Committee Info

Public Information

A "P.I. visit" might include an opportunity to carry the message to schools, local businesses, church and civic groups. It could staff an AA Booth at health fairs in our community. Radio and television announcements can be arranged. Displays of AA literature can be placed and maintained in public areas; meeting lists distributed.

Because we are anonymous and do not promote ourselves, many in our community having no direct contact with AA are

Comment: email from John RS

uncertain of who we are, what we do and how we do it. Public Information is that connection between AA and the alcoholic 'out there' who is still suffering. Please consider this essential committee when asking yourself, "How can I serve?" **Contact Ben W.** 491-4104 for more information.

Bridging The Gap/Treatment

The purpose of the Bridging the Gap is to connect AA members in a treatment or correctional center with Alcoholics Anonymous in our community. **As a temporary contact** you would meet with them, go to their first few meetings, and help them get acquainted and comfortable among new friends, talk about getting a Sponsor and a Home Group. To volunteer **contact: Bruce K.** 498-9750.

2006 Spring Conference

District 01 is seeking volunteers to serve at the '06 Spring Conference

District 01 is hosting the upcoming 2006 Spring Conference to be held at Comfort Suites in Green Bay on May 19, 20, 21.

This annual event serves Area 74 (Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan) which we are a part. There are 24 districts in Area 74. About 300 guests are expected to attend. Green Bay hosted the Conference in the late Nineties. Last year it was held in Eau Claire, WI.

Volunteers are needed for our district to have a smooth running event.

Areas of service include:

Program - determines the topics of the panels, and finds the speaker for Saturday night.

Hospitality - sets up the hospitality room.

Flyers - makes flyers and signs to direct traffic.

Greeters - welcome people to the event.

Decorations - decorate the banquet hall.

Registration - handles the registration and hands out the packets.

Alkathon - chairs the Alkathon meetings. Friday and Saturday have Alkathons from ten pm till six am.

Entertainment - procures the DJ and handles the skit for Friday night.

Al-Anon - organize the Al-Anon portion of the conference.

The events scheduled are:

Friday, 19th Evening - Skit, Ice Cream Social.

Saturday, 20th - Panels, Banquet, Speaker, Dance.

Sunday, 21st Morning - Breakfast, Closing Meeting, DCM Report.

If you already have experience, please come forward to assist us who are helping for the first time. The more people in District 01 to get involved the better.

Please contact:

Greg S. 265-2944 gszatori@excite.com

Lynn L. 496-5899 mllade@msn.com

Corrections

The A.A.'s that have been supporting the meeting at the Green Bay Correctional Institute are concerned that there are not any new people from the outside attending. The same group of people has supported it for many years. If they cannot attend, the meeting does not occur. New support from the outside is needed so that the meeting will be around for years to come. **Contact: Lynn L.** 496-5899 Call in the evening. **CLEARANCE REQUIRED!**

"Outside" A.A. men are needed for these meetings, as well as for those at the Brown County Jail and Huber Work Release program.

Sam S.'s particular service is to attend and distribute AA literature in our correctional facilities. Every now and then, he'll stop in to your Group seeking soft cover books or a donation to purchase

some, but you don't have to wait. **Contact Sam** directly at 920-660-3341.

Hot Line Volunteers Needed

Our 24-hour Hot Line is in need of men and women volunteers with one year sobriety. Become available to answer questions and offer your experience, strength and hope. You are not tied to the phone and if a call comes at a wrong time, it can be declined. The Hot Line is volunteer friendly. **Give Barb R. a call for more info, 437-6484.**

Newsletter

Groups are encouraged to post their activities, news and events in the newsletter. **Contact: Michael V. 'Graywolf'** 360-1043.

Meeting List

Please call in your group name for inclusion in our meeting list. Help keep our meeting list up to date and call in any changes. **Contact: Marty S** 465-1401

GREEN BAY **INTERGROUP**

Join us for food, fun and fellowship
on

Saturday, January 21, 2006

at

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
School Gymnasium**

210 South Oneida St.

Green Bay
(Behind the 218 Club)

Insert AA
Logo.

4:00 pm

Fellowship

5:30 pm

Dinner

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Speaker

8:30 - 9:30 pm

Speaker

Family and friends are welcome!

****Please bring a dish to pass****

**Please!!! Park on Hudson St. and
watch for signs and parking
attendants to assist you ☺**

For more information or to volunteer to help with
the Intergroup, please call:

Mary K. 246-0500

Jamie O. 562-3245

If you don't do the Fourth,
your likely to drink a fifth.

Example of Group Contributions to AA Service Entities

Distribution of funds from groups that support three service entities as suggested by a motion during our December 11th 04 GSR and District Service Meeting until District funds provide for a stable prudent reserve.

District 01 address:

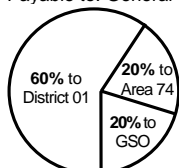
Dean H., Treasurer
PO Box 0632
Green Bay, WI 54305
Payable to: District 01 Treasurer

GSO address:

G.S.O.
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163
Payable to: General Fund

Area 74 address:

Tiffany Crandall
317 Summit Ave # 3
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Payable to: Area 74 Treasurer



Corrections

Meetings within walls.

A call for men and women to attend
with a special need for men now.

Brown County Jail

3030 Curry Ln. Green Bay

Wednesday 6:00 pm Men
Wednesday 6:00 pm Women

Brown County Work Release, Huber

125 So. Adams St. Green Bay

Wednesday 8:00 pm Men
Wednesday 8:00 pm Women
Sunday 6:30 pm Men and Women

A call for women to attend.

Sanger B. Powers

N 375 County Rd. U, Oneida

Tuesday 6:30 pm Men

Green Bay Correctional Institution

2833 Riverside Dr. Green Bay

Monday 2:00 pm Men

CLEARANCE REQUIRED!

Contact: Lynn L. 496-5899

Needed Information Includes

Name • Address • Phone
Social Security Number

Newsletter/Meeting List

Opinions expressed herein are individual. Each member speaks only for herself or himself; not A.A. as a whole.

District 01 sponsors this newsletter and the meeting list.

They are distributed at the GSR and District Service Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Pick-up copies are at The Bridge and The 218 Club.

Past issues of the newsletter and current meeting list are available on our website: www.greenbayaa.org

The deadline is December 10th for the January issue.

Please indicate if your submission is for the newsletter, the meeting list or both. Send to:

District 01 Newsletter, PO Box 0632, Green Bay, WI 54305

Newsletter contact: Michael V. 'Graywolf' 920-360-1043

Meeting List contact: Marty S. 920-465-1401 or
martyjs@milwpc.com

CONCEPT XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Concepts Checklist

- How do we guard against becoming a "seat of perilous wealth or power?"
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all AA members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of AA's traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

... The Warranties of Article 12 are a series of solemn undertakings which guarantee that the Conference itself will conform to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions; that the Conference can never become the seat of great wealth or government; that its fiscal policy shall ever be prudent; that it will never create any absolute authority; that the principle of substantial unanimity

Comment: p. 63, *Ibid.*

will be observed; that it will never take any punitive action; that it never will incite public controversy; that it can serve AA. only; and that it shall always remain democratic in spirit. These Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which our General Service Conference should always possess. Barring any unforeseen defects, these are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.

... Warranties of Article 12 are as follows:

Warranty One: "The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power."

... We must use *some* money, and there must be *some* authority to serve. But how much? How and where should we draw these lines?

Fortunately the A.A. Groups have a healthy reluctance about the creation of unneeded services which might lead to an expensive bureaucracy in our midst.

... Indeed, it seems that the chief difficulty will continue to be that of effectively informing the A.A. groups as to what the financial needs of their world services actually are. Since it is certain therefore that we shall never become too wealthy through group contributions, we need only to avoid the temptation of taking money from the outside world.

In the matter of giving Delegates, Trustees, and staff enough authority, there can be little risk, either. Long experience, now codified in these Twelve Concepts, suggests that we are unlikely to encounter problems of too much service authority. On the contrary, it appears that our difficulty will be how to maintain enough of it. We must recall that we are protected from the calamities of too much authority by rotation, by voting participation, and by careful chartering. **Nevertheless, we do hear warnings about the future rise of a dictator in the Conference or at the Headquarters. To my mind this is an unnecessary worry. Our setup being what it is, such an aspirant couldn't last a year.** And in the brief time he did last, what would he use for money? Our Delegates, directly representing the groups, control the ultimate supply of our service funds. Therefore they constitute a direct check upon the rise of too much personal authority. Taken all together, these factors seem to be reliable safeguards against too much money and too much authority.

We have seen why the Conference can never have any dangerous degree of human power, but we must not overlook the fact that **there is another sort of authority and power which it cannot be without: the spiritual power which flows from the activities and attitudes of truly humble, unselfish, and dedicated A.A. servants.** This is the real power that causes our Conference to function. It has been well said of our servants, "They do not drive us by mandate; they lead us by example?" While we have made abundantly sure that they will never drive us, I am confident that they will afford us an ever-greater inspiration as they continue to lead by example.

Warranty Two: "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle."

... Above all, we devote ourselves to the newcomer, and this is our principal Twelfth Step work. In this activity we often take large amounts of time from business hours. Considered in terms of money, these collective sacrifices add up to a huge sum. But we do not think that this is anything unusual. We remember that people once gave their time to us as we struggled for sobriety. We know, too, that nearly the whole combined income of A.A. members, now more than a billion dollars a year, has been a direct result of A.A.'s activity. **Had nobody recovered, there would have been no income for any of us.**

Perhaps no other society of our size and activity has such a low general overhead.

Comment: p. 65, *Ibid.*

... Up to now we A.A.'s have strongly believed that money charity to the individual should not be a function of the A.A. groups or of A.A. as a whole. To illustrate: when a sponsor takes a new member in hand, he does not in the least expect that his group is going to pay the expenses he incurs while doing a Twelfth Step job. The sponsor may give his prospect a suit of clothes, may get him a job, or present him with an A.A. book. This sort of thing frequently happens, and it is fine that it does. But such charities are the responsibility of the sponsor and not of the A.A. group itself. If a sponsor cannot give or lend an A.A. book, one can be found in the library.

Comment: p. 67, *Ibid.*

... **Warranty Three:** "None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others."

Comment: p. 63, *Ibid.*

... We believe that our whole service experience fully justifies the taking of this strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure.

Comment: p. 64, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 68, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 68, *Ibid.*

... we of A.A. will not tolerate absolute human authority in any form.

Comment: p. 64, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 68, *Ibid.*

It is to be noted, too, that this Warranty against absolute authority is far more general and sweeping in its nature than a guarantee of voting participation. It really means that we of A.A. will not tolerate absolute human authority in any form. The voting rights urged under our concept of "Participation" are simply the practical means of checking any future tendency to an unqualified authority of any sort. This healthy state of affairs is of course further re-inforced by our concepts of "Appeal and Petition."

... This is because they see in these Warranties, and especially in this one, an expression of deep and loving respect for the spiritual liberties of their fellows. May God grant that we shall never be so unwise as to settle for anything less.

Comment: p. 68, *Ibid.*

Warranty Four: "That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity."

Here on the one hand we erect a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and on the other hand we take notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle further guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision that we are called upon to make in the Conference.

When we take decisions in this fashion, the Conference voice speaks with an authority and a confidence that a simple majority could never give it. **If any remain in opposition, they are far better satisfied because their case has had a full and fair hearing.**

And when a decision taken in substantial unanimity does happen to go wrong, there can be no heated recriminations. Everybody will be able to say, "Well, we had a careful debate, we took the decision, and it turned out to be a bad one. Better luck next time!"

Comment: p. 65, *Ibid.*

... Nevertheless our experience shows that majorities will seldom need to take such radical stands as these. Being generally animated by the spirit of "substantial unanimity," we have found that our Conference can nearly always be guided by this valued principle.

Comment: p. 69, *Ibid.*

... **Warranty Five:** "That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy?"

Practically all societies and governments feel it necessary to inflict personal punishments upon individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles, or laws. Because of its special situation, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary. When we of A.A. fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. Therefore no humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by a resort to the methods of personal attack and punishment. Of all societies ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger.

When we of A.A. fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. Therefore no humanly administered system of penalties is needed.

For much the same reason we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially it would seem, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide good will which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

... we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense.

Therefore it is evident that the harmony, security, and future effectiveness of A.A. will depend largely upon our maintenance of a thoroughly nonaggressive and pacific attitude in all our public relations. This is an exacting assignment, because in our drinking days we were prone to anger, hostility, rebellion, and aggression. And even though we are now sober, the old patterns of behavior are to a degree still with us, always threatening to explode on any good excuse. But we know this, and therefore I feel confident that in the conduct of our public affairs we shall always find the grace to exert an effective restraint.

We enjoy certain inherent advantages which should make our task of self-restraint relatively easy. There is no really good reason for anyone to object if a great many drunks get sober. Nearly everyone can agree that this is a good thing. If, in the process, we are forced to develop a certain amount of honesty, humility, and tolerance, who is going to kick about that? If we recognize that religion is the province of the clergy and the practice of medicine is for doctors, we can helpfully cooperate with both. Certainly there is little basis for controversy in these areas. It is a fact that A.A. has not the slightest reform or political complexion. We try to pay our own expenses, and we strictly mind our single purpose.

These are some of the reasons why A.A. can easily be at peace with the whole world. These are the natural advantages which we must never throw away by foolishly entering the arena of public controversy or punitive action against anybody.

... The Conference, as we know, is the "guardian" of the A.A. Traditions. There has always been some confusion about this term "guardianship," and perhaps we should try to clear it up.

To the minds of some A.A.'s, "guardianship" of the A.A. Traditions implies the right and the duty on the part of the Conference to publicly punish or sue every willful violator. But we could not adopt a worse policy; indeed such aggressive public acts would place the Conference in the position of having violated one A.A. Tradition in order to defend another. Therefore aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted.

... Then, too, a great many of these difficulties with the Tradition are of strictly local concern, there being no serious national or international implication. Many of them represent honest differences of opinion as to how the Tradition should be interpreted: whether a lenient or strict observance would be the better thing. Especially when operating below the public level, our experience with the Tradition reveals gray areas, where neither white or black interpretations seem possible. Here the violations are often so debatable and inconsequential they are hardly worth bothering about. Here we usually refrain from offering suggestions, unless they are insisted upon. We feel that these problems must be solved chiefly by the local people concerned.

There is, too, a grave problem that we have never yet had to face. This would be in the nature of a deep rift running clear across A.A. — a cleavage of opinion so serious that it might involve a withdrawal of some of our membership into a new society of their own, or in their making an alliance with an outside agency in contravention of the A.A. Tradition. This would be the old story of split and schism of which history is so full. It might be powered by religious, political, national, or racial forces. It might represent an honest effort to change A.A. for the better. But it would certainly pose the Conference a question of what to do, or not to do.

... Because society everywhere is in such a state of fission today, many of us have given this subject a great deal of consideration. Our considered opinion is this: that the best possible Conference attitude in such a circumstance would be that of almost complete nonresistance certainly no anger and certainly no attack. We have no doctrine that has to be maintained. We have no membership that has to be enlarged. We have no authority that has to be supported. We have no prestige, power, or pride that has to be satisfied. And we have no property or money that is really worth quarreling about. These are advantages of which we should make the best possible use in the event of a threatened major division; they should make a calm and considered attitude of nonresistance entirely possible and highly practical.

We try to pay our own expenses, and we strictly mind our single purpose.

Indeed we have always practiced this principle on a lesser scale. When a drunk shows up among us and says that he doesn't like the A.A. principles, people, or service management; when he declares that he can do better elsewhere — we are not worried. We simply say, "Maybe your case is different. Why don't you try something else?"

If an A.A. member says he doesn't like his own group, we are not disturbed. We simply say "Why don't you try another one? Or start one of your own?" When our actors and cops and priests want their own private groups, we say "Fine! Why don't you try that idea out?" When an A.A. group, as such, insists on running a clubhouse, we say "Well, that sometimes works out badly, but maybe you will succeed after all?" If individual A.A.'s wish to gather together for retreats, Communion breakfasts, or indeed any undertaking at all, we still say "Fine. Only we hope you won't designate your efforts as an A.A. group or enterprise?" These examples illustrate how far we have already gone to encourage freedom of assembly, action, and even schism. To all those who wish to secede from A.A. we extend a cheerful invitation to do just that. If they can do better by other means, we are glad. If after a trial they cannot do better, we

Comment: p. 69, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 72, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 69, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 73, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 70, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 70, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 71, *Ibid.*

know they face a choice: they can go mad or die or they can return to Alcoholics Anonymous. The decision is wholly theirs. (As a matter of fact, most of them do come back.)

In the light of all this experience, it becomes evident that in the event of a really extensive split we would not have to waste time persuading the dissenters to stay with us. In good confidence and cheer, we could actually invite them to secede and we would wish them well if they did so. Should they do better under their new auspices and changed conditions, we would ask ourselves if we could not learn from their fresh experience. But if it turned out they did worse under other circumstances and that there was a steady increase in their discontent and their death rate, the chances are very strong that most of them would eventually return to A.A.

... Without anger or coercion we would need only to watch and to wait upon God's will.

Unless we make a problem where there really is none at all, there need be no difficulty. We could still go about our business in good cheer. The supply of drunks in our time will be inexhaustible, and we can continue to be glad that we have evolved at least one formula by which many will come to sobriety and a new life.

We have a saying that "A.A. is prepared to give away all the knowledge and all the experience it has — all excepting the A.A. name itself." We mean by this that our principles can be used in any application whatever. We do not wish to make them a monopoly of our own. We simply request that the public use of the A.A. name be avoided by those other agencies who wish to avail themselves of A.A. techniques and ideas. In case the A.A. name should be misapplied in such a connection it would of course be the duty of our General Service Conference to press for the discontinuance of such a practice — always short, however, of public quarreling about the matter.

... **Warranty Six: "That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in action and in spirit."**

In preceding Concepts, much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the A.A. Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group: no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles; no fees or dues to be levied — voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from A.A. — membership always to be the choice of the individual; each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes — it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.

It is probable that we A.A.'s possess more and greater freedom than any fellowship in the world today. As we have already seen, we claim this as no virtue. We know that we personally have to choose conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death, both as individuals and as groups.

Because we set such a high value on our great liberties, and cannot conceive a time when they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any wise curtail A.A.'s freedom under God. The maintenance of these freedoms in our Conference is a great and practical guarantee that the Conference itself will always remain democratic in action and in spirit.

Therefore we expect that our Conferences will always try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member for another. In turn, this sign signifies that mutual trust should prevail; that no action ought to be taken in

7 **anger, haste, or recklessness; that care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; that no action should ever be personally punitive; that whenever possible, important actions will be taken in substantial unanimity; and that our Conference will ever be prudently on guard against tyrannies, great or small, whether these be found in the majority or in the minority.**

The sum of these several attitudes and practices is, in our view, the very essence of democracy — in action and spirit.

The sum of these several attitudes and practices is, in our view, the very essence of democracy — in action and spirit.

Comment: p. 75, *Ibid.*

Comment: p. 74, *Ibid.*

Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of the Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.

To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live — the freedom in which we have our being.

Excerpts from, "The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service," by Bill W., 2003-04 edition, p. 62 - 75, and "Concepts Checklist," SM F-91, with permission.

By way of Bill W., Dr. Bob, and every individual since and yet to come, HP is working through selfless service to bring about sobriety, serenity, and peace that we may fulfill the potential waking in each of us.

We are given The Steps to keep us sober and find self respect. We are given The Traditions through which we are able to respect each others sobriety and gather together as a Fellowship for support and comfort. We are given The Concepts which form us into a democracy that preserves each individuals autonomy and able to reach world wide to seek the still suffering alcoholic and thereby remain sober ourselves.

These three great gifts are accomplished through suggestion only. No rules or laws are to be found in AA. No absolute authority over another is practiced or sought. No punishments, fines, expulsions, or AA police to maintain.

What holds us together? How are we able to change and grow and serve ourselves and the society around us while causing no offence? How are we able to hold a single purpose among so many different people? One thing only! Our individual and common desire to stop drinking. Period. Bill says it powerfully, "When we of AA fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down." The reality of this statement is proven over and over again.

I am no longer alone. I am changing and growing as an individual. I know to seek help when my knuckles turn white. I am becoming more confident that I will make healthy choices when the red flag flies. I find a growing desire to serve others knowing that in this I fulfill the greatest commandment I've recognized, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy mind and strength and being and love thy neighbor as thyself."

How this change of heart comes to me, I have no idea, except perhaps through acceptance; just letting it happen while I follow a few simple suggestions.

Marty S., editor

Spirituality: you can't buy it off the shelf, but you can grow it from a seed.

Comment: p. 74, *Ibid.*

WHAT'S NEW IN THE WOLF'S DEN? 8

We are soon to bid farewell to the year 2005 and what a year it's been. It is of course the twelfth month and the holiday season is coming up quickly. It will be a special celebration if we have worked the previous eleven steps to the best of our ability. We come to Step Twelve and 'the crowning jewel' of all our efforts.

Step Twelve reads..."Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principals in all our affairs". I consider this step the 'Crown Jewel' simply because if you have in fact had a spiritual awakening and you've embraced a 'God of your understanding', you will have laid the foundation for a long term, meaningful sobriety. You will 'talk the talk' and 'walk the walk'. Newcomers will see that our program works and will want what you have. You can carry the message, sponsor others and become involved in service work, thus ensuring the continuing vitality of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous for future generations.

The phrase..."Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps"...means that (step 1) You admit you are powerless over alcohol and that when a newcomer comes through our door, you make them feel welcome and you tell your story and share your experience, strength and hope with that person. "You try to carry the message to other alcoholics!"

Initially, when a newcomer walks through our doors, the whole experience is confusing and overwhelming. We suggest that they get a sponsor, read the 'Big Book' and go to as many meetings as possible. "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."

"And to practice these principals all our affairs" is our 'Mission Statement' in a matter of speaking. It encompasses all that we have learned...Acceptance, Willingness, Faith in a Higher Power, Patience, and Tolerance. Using the phone list, asking for help, going to meetings on a regular basis, calling our sponsor, reading our Big Book and other literature and last but by no means least, pray to God as we understand Him.

If we take personal inventory and correct that what we find fault with and continue to grow, we will find that as we carry the message and live what we preach, we will be able to help our brothers and sisters who still suffer and will live rich and fulfilling lives. We cannot rest on our laurels. We must 'live' this program and work it on a daily basis.

God Bless you on the road to Recovery. Remember this is a life-long disease and we can only do it "One Day at a Time!" Godspeed in your recovery!

Congratulations to those celebrating an anniversary this month and as always 'Happy Birthday' to all those born this Month.. .Your Birthstone is the Turquoise/Zircon.

"Quotable Quotes"

On 'Wisdom' by Havelock Ellis from *Great Quotes on Wisdom*
"Men who know themselves are no longer fools; they stand on the threshold of the door of Wisdom."

On 'Wisdom' by Mary Beard from *Great Quotes on Wisdom*
"Action without study is fatal. Study without action is futile."

On 'Wisdom' Persian Proverb from *Great Quotes on Wisdom*

"Thinking well is wise; planning well, wiser; doing well, wisest and best of all."

On 'Politeness' by Sydney Smith from *20,000 Quips & Quotes*

"Politeness is good nature regulated by good sense."

On 'Point of View' Anonymous from *20,000 Quips & Quotes*

"There are three sides to every argument: your side, the other persons side, and the 'Heck' with it."

Michael V. 'Gray Wolf'

CALENDAR

November

26th Sat **Peshtigo Intergroup**, Henry Drees Community Center, 600 Pine St., Peshtigo

December

15th Thur **GSR and District Service Meeting**, The Bridge, 2514 Jenny Lane, Green Bay. Third Thursday at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

January

21st Sat **Green Bay Intergroup**, Redeemer Lutheran Church School Gymnasium, 210 So. Oneida St. Green Bay (behind the 218 Club) **'Join us for food, fun and fellowship.'** 4:00 pm Fellowship • 5:30 pm Dinner • Speakers at 7:00 & 8:30 pm. Family and friends are welcome! Please bring a dish to pass. Please park on Hudson St. Watch for signs and parking attendants to assist you. For more info and to volunteer your service **contact: Mary K. 246-0500 Jamie O. 562-3245**

We do not cause sobriety, but rather, allow it to happen and become grateful.

February

9 – 12th Thur – Sun **42nd International A.A. Women's Conference**, Minneapolis Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, MN. "The language of the heart will be spoken here." Info and on-line registration at: www.iaawc.org or write: 42nd IAAWC, PO Box 4262, St. Paul, MN 55104-0262

Comment: From: *Between - Us*, Sept. 05

. . . we are willing to grow along spiritual lines.