



## July 2018 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \*

\* = Addresses of Locations are in the 2018 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book.

\*\* = With a Potluck Dinner.

- Thu 5 7 pm Van Slyke  
Fri 6 12 noon Arid Club; 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer  
Sat 7 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton & Episcopal Church Owosso  
Sun 8 7 pm St Andrews  
7:30 pm Arid Club  
Fri 13 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer  
Sat 14 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso  
Sun 15 7 pm St Andrews  
7:30 pm Arid Club  
Wed 18 7:30 pm Thump Day!  
Fri 20 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer  
Sat 21 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso  
Sun 22 6 pm Otter Lake  
7 pm St Andrews  
7:30 pm Arid Club  
Fri 27 \*\* 7 pm Durand Group, Durand  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer  
Sat 28 11 am Oak Park  
\*\* 7 pm Thetford  
7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso  
Sun 29 7 pm St Andrews  
7:30 pm Arid Club  
Mon 30 7 pm Montrose HOPE

If Group's would like Speaker's listed, email to [farfromtoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromtoday@aol.com) the Group, Day, Time & Name. Any received will be printed.

As we approach the Seventh Step – and on any occasion of taking control from the ego and turning, for direction, to God (or to a less personal source of eternal virtue) – we might be moved to think again about this entire project of recovery. Moreover, we might find ourselves hesitant, losing faith in our decision to change, now that we must go through with it.

Of course, we should at least try to understand the crucial importance of all Twelve Steps, but opinions will vary about the relative value of each one – and in fact there is good reason for us to discern a major turning point in Step Seven: the stage at which we commit ourselves – in action – and move ahead, to begin that realization for which we have been getting ready, through the previous six steps.

We are reminded, here, of how most changes – even recovery, even salvation – require sacrifice and departure that will seem far from beneficial. Taking up the path of sobriety, for example, we have *to give up* the option of drinking, and the life we have *always known* must be left behind. Knowing the toxic effects of alcohol upon us addicts, other folks might fail to understand the sacrifice involved in our pledge of abstinence – but *we* know quite well how the ego will object, determined to avoid losing anything on which it can depend for gratification, even in the case of this terrible poison. And while the departure made by the sober alcoholic will be obvious to anyone, an appreciation of the severe challenge, here, may come less easily, as a logical mind will not usually regard the deliverance from misery as difficult; with experience, though, and with attention, we notice the intensity with which the ego will cling to a familiar situation, however wretched its condition, and the monumental obstacle present in this step forward becomes clear.

“Hansel, to be free, one must give up a little part of oneself,” counsels Hansel’s mother, in a scene from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, trying to encourage her child, who hopes to become a new person and set out upon a new life. “To walk away,” offers Hansel’s lover, making the same point, “you gotta leave something behind.”

However, while the desire to remain in place, with access to pleasure and well acquainted with all circumstances, may weaken one’s preference, momentarily, for what is right, we have established ourselves, in our preparation for this step, upon a most solid foundation; we *know* that turning aside would ruin us, and we *know* that perseverance, through staunch conviction and simple, steady endurance, *will* carry us forward – to liberation and true peace of mind. ~ Drew K.



## The 4th Step

### The 7<sup>TH</sup> Step

*“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”* Page 59, Big Book.

The Seventh Step continues the change in us. Not only do we recognize the faults in us, but also that we are going to need help with them. The goal is to eliminate, to somehow have our Higher Power remove them. It is probably an easier Step for the Higher Power to complete than us. (This is purely supposition). Like sharpening a tempered steel blade, we now have an edge against the shortcomings.

The Big Book offers us this as the entire write-up on the Seventh Step: “When ready, we say something like this: My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.” “We say something like this:” Our own words, feelings, or entreaties can be used to humbly ask for help.

Page 76, Big Book.

In this prayer we first state our willingness gained in the previous six Steps, the Third and Sixth in particular. We acknowledge we are good and bad. We ask for removal of the bad. We then restate the Third Step using different words, but getting the intention down as to what ‘the care of God’ is. (Usefulness to our fellows...). Knowing this will be a task, we ask for fortitude (another word for strength). “...as I go out from here, to do your bidding.” This is a direct indication to get out of ourselves and help others.

Big Book quotes pages 59 & 76 reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

### 7<sup>TH</sup> Step Promises

There is no Big Book 7<sup>th</sup> Step promise, but the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions has clues of our state of mind, and provides promises for Step Seven.

#### STATE OF MIND

“In all these strivings, so many of them well-intentioned, our crippling handicap had been our lack of humility.” Page 71; 12 X 12.

“That basic ingredient of all humility, a desire to seek and do God's will, was missing.” Page 72; 12 X 12.

#### PROMISES

“We may still have no very high opinion of humility as a desirable personal virtue, but we do recognize it as a necessary aid to our survival.” Page 74; 12X 12.

“By this time in all probability we have gained some measure of release from our more devastating handicaps. We enjoy moments in which there is something like real peace of mind.” Page 74; 12 X 12.

“This improved perception of humility starts another revolutionary change in our outlook.” Page 74; 12 X 12.

12 X 12 quotes reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

#### FLINT AREA UNITY COUNCIL AIMS AND PURPOSES (1, 9, and 7).

1. To promote Unity among Flint Area A.A., and harmony with Al-Anon and Ala-teen groups. (Tradition 1. Our common welfare should come first: personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity).
9. The Council will create service committees and be financially responsible for them. (Tradition 5. Each group has but one primary purpose...to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers)
7. The Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of A.A. shall prevail at all times.

The **F.A.U.C. Aims and Purposes with Election Procedures** is on the website [geneseecountyaa.org](http://geneseecountyaa.org). Traditions reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

“Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material.”

From “The A.A. SERVICE MANUAL Combined With the TWELVE CONCEPTS for WORLD SERVICE” by Bill W. page S41, reprinted by permission of A.A.W.S.

# Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

F.A.U.C. Website: [www.geneseecountyaa.org](http://www.geneseecountyaa.org)



July 2018  
Vol. 3; Issue 10  
AA Help Line  
(810) 234-0815

## A.A. Answering Service Committee

### Purpose of the Committee.

“An answering service provides an Alcoholics Anonymous listing in the local telephone directory. As the answering service receives inquiries from those seeking help, they may refer callers to a nearby A.A. group where sponsorship may be arranged, or may have a twelfth stepper contact them.”

“Some answering services rely on A.A. members exclusively. Many answering services hire a commercial service which answers the phone and connects callers to an A.A. group or A.A. contact. If a commercial answering service is hired, it is suggested that one person be appointed to make the arrangements, pay the bills, and handle contacts with the answering service, in order to avoid confusing the answering service personnel.”

### Paying for Commercial Answering Services

“When several groups get together and decide to contract a commercial answering service, the usual experience seems to be that each group contributes according to its own group conscience. In some cases, each group is charged exactly the same amount. In a few instances, groups are charged for the answering service on the basis of group size. When district committees are responsible, groups contribute to the district committee and the committee pays the bills.”

The above G.S.O. Guideline MG-12 quotes reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

Contact  
Wayne T. at  
810-875-2939  
to volunteer for  
the Flint Area Unity  
Council A.A. Helpline.

AA HOTLINE  
ANSWERING CHARGES

12 Step Help	FREE!
HAPPY TO HELP!	
LAS VEGAS WEATHER	\$1
MARITAL ADVICE	\$1,000
GENERAL LIFE ADVICE	\$100,000

LAS VEGAS HOTLINE  
(702) 598-1888

## A.A. Answering Service Committee

### “FINANCING

1. Carefully estimate how much money will be needed and how much will be available.
2. Be sure that the groups will finance the venture.
3. Encourage groups to pledge a regular amount each month.
4. When prorating costs among participating groups, add a small amount each month in order to build a reserve for emergencies or expansion of the service.”

### “Volunteer Support of A.A. Members

1. Consider the need for a responsible person to take charge.
2. In areas that use volunteers only, rather than a commercial answering service, there are many options available: call forwarding, voice-mail, pager systems and answering machines.
3. If you cannot or do not choose to use a commercial service, start out with two A.A. members — a man and a woman, each with a reasonable length of sobriety — to handle the calls.
4. Consider the number of A.A. people available to answer Twelfth Step calls.
5. It is suggested that volunteer Twelfth Step workers should have at least six months sobriety and should state the days and hours when they will be available for calls.
6. Be sure that the list of A.A. volunteers is current and active.”

“A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience.”

The above quotes are from the G.S.O. Guideline MG-12.

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## F.A.U.C. Committees

Committee Chairs with names & contact info.

**Al-Anon Liaison:** Brad S. 810-516-8449

**Accessibility for All Alcoholics:**

Chair – Kamesha M. 810-449-5242

**A.A. Answering Service;**

Chair - Wayne T. 810-875-2939

**CPC- Cooperation with the Professional Community;**

Chair – Richard B. 810-938-9755

**Corrections;** Chair – George W. 810-624-2772

**Grapevine;** Chair – Greg S. 810-493-3959

**Literature/Meeting Books:**

Chair – James P. 313-613-3703

**PI-Public Information:**

Chair – Moe M. 810-908-3449

**Treatment;** Chair – Ben J. 810-513-9899

**Young People;** Chair - OPEN

**Website;** Chair – Katrina H. 810-347-2330

**F.A.U.C. Newsletter;**

Editor –Doug G, 810-410-7458

Co-Editor – Drew K. 810-441-5541

Newsletter Distributors: Tim B, Tony B, Carl D,

Doug G, Gordon G, Drew K, James P, Bob W.

## CORRECTIONS for the

### 2018 Flint Area Group Meeting Book.

The **Lapeer Clover School** Group meets at 10 am Saturdays, not 11 am as listed.

The **Hogarth Group** meets at 7 pm Thursdays, not 7:30 pm as listed.



We provide emotional support with relevant information.

Car companies don't have help lines for people who don't know how to drive, because people don't buy cars like they buy computers.



Please stay on the line while we try to locate someone with an accent you can understand.

Now THAT'S what I call real Service !



## F.A.U.C. Officers

F.A.U.C. officers listed with names & contact info.

**F.A.U.C. Chair:** Deborah B 810-493-5312

**F.A.U.C. Secretary;** Ruth H. 810-660-8173

**Pass The Hat Assoc. Treasurer:** Gordon G. 810-845-9953

### 2018 F.A.U.C. Meetings; Date: Place: Group.

Jul. 21; Clover School, 3496 Davison Rd; Lapeer Group.

Aug. 18; OPEN Sep. 15; OPEN

Oct. 20; Arid Club, 715 East St. Flint; Women in A.A.

Nov. 17; Arid Club, Courage to Change.

Dec. 15; Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Rd; Van Slyke Group.

**Next F.A.U.C. Meeting:** Meetings are on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays.

The **Saturday** July 21st, 2018 F.A.U.C. Meeting will be at Clover School, 3496 Davison Rd., Lapeer hosted by the Clover School Group.

## Group NEWS

**SOBERFEST:** July 15<sup>th</sup> at Union City Fields; 4151 Torrey Rd, Flint..

The **F.A.U.C. Annual Picnic** is July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Blue Bell Beach, 11 am – 5 pm; 5500 Bray Rd, Flint.

The **Oak Park Group Annual Picnic** is Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 5 pm; the 11 am – 12 am meeting will be in the Blue Bell Beach Pavilion 1; 5500 Bray Rd, Flint.

The **Otter Lake Group Annual Picnic** is Aug 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm – until ?; St. John's Episcopal Church, 5811 Forest Avenue, Otter Lake.

If your Group would like a Newsletter short announcement, email it to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com).

If you'd like the Newsletter by email, send request to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com).

## A.A Treasurer's addresses:



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C.M.I.A. 32, % Cindy Rowley, 2903 Ronan St. Apt 2, Midland MI 48642  
F.A.U.C., P.O. Box 465, Flint, MI 48501 Please make checks payable to **Pass The Hat Association Inc**