

Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

F.A.U.C. Website: www.geneseecountyaa.org



January 2019
Vol. 4; Issue 4
AA Help Line
(810) 234-0815



January 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

* = Addresses of Locations can be found in the
2018 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book.

** = With a Potluck Dinner.

- | | | |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Thu 3 | 7 pm | Van Slyke (19). |
| Fri 4 | 12 noon | Arid Club (22). |
| | 8:30 pm | Clover School Lapeer (23). |
| Sat 5 | 7:30 pm | Eastside St Mary's (24). |
| | 8 pm | St Jude's Fenton (24). |
| | 8 pm | Episcopal Church Owosso (25). |
| Sun 6 | 7 pm | St Andrews (6). |
| | 7:30 pm | Arid Club (6). |
| Fri 11 | 8:30 pm | Clover School Lapeer (23). |
| Sat 12 | 7:30 pm | Eastside St Mary's (24). |
| | 8 pm | St Jude's Fenton (24). |
| | 8 pm | Episcopal Church Owosso (25). |
| Sun 13 | 7 pm | St Andrews (6). |
| | 7:30 pm | Arid Club (6). |
| Wed 16 | 7:30 pm | Thump Day! (15). |
| Fri 18 | 8:30 pm | Clover School Lapeer (23). |
| Sat 19 | 7:30 pm | Eastside St Mary's (24). |
| | 8 pm | St Jude's Fenton (24). |
| | 8 pm | Episcopal Church Owosso (25). |
| Sun 20 | 6 pm | Otter Lake (7). |
| | 7 pm | St Andrews (6). |
| | 7:30 pm | Arid Club (6). |
| Fri 25 | ** 7 pm | Durand Group, Durand (21). |
| | 8:30 pm | Clover School Lapeer (23). |
| Sat 26 | 11 am | Oak Park (24). |
| | ** 7 pm | Thetford (25). |
| | 7:30 pm | Eastside St Mary's (24). |
| | 7:30 pm | Episcopal Church Owosso (25). |
| | 8 pm | St Jude's Fenton (24). |
| Sun 27 | 7 pm | St Andrews (6). |
| | 7:30 pm | Arid Club (6). |
| Mon 28 | 7 pm | Montrose HOPE (11). |

If a Group wants the Speaker listed, email to farfromittoday@aol.com; Group, Day, Time & Name of Speaker.

Flint Weather Ball Jingle by Jackie Bowles, 1964

When the weather ball is red,
higher temperatures are ahead.

When the weather ball is blue,
lower temperatures are due.

Yellow light in ball means
there is no change at all.

When colors come and go,
its going to rain or snow.

Set to Cumberland Mountain Bear Chase melody.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

With a new year the Newsletter has a new theme. The last three years the Twelve Steps were the theme. This year brings the Twelve Traditions as a theme.

Each individual A.A., each Group, each District, each Area, each Region, each Nation is responsible to the Traditions. What is different about the Traditions versus the Steps is the way they provide unity, leadership, and Fellowship in a congenial working together attitude.

The first three Steps provide a foundation to recovery, the first three Traditions provide a foundation of Fellowship. Look at the first, or first few, sentences out of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to understand this, (reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission). Pages are in parentheses.

Tradition One: "THE unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has". (129).

Tradition Two: "WHERE does A.A. get its direction? ... read Tradition Two, and learn that the "ultimate authority...a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience". (132).

Tradition Three: "THIS Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, "You are an A.A. member if you say so". (139).

Let this journey of spiritual unity begin; see if it provides food for thought, how we may be better in conducting ourselves in group action. One of our greatest ways to unity is Service Work, but there is also something much more than that; 'that' being a strong support system of those around us which counts even more and it is where Unity actually begins.

"I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?" They're really saying, "I ... I love you!" From "What A Wonderful World", Louis Armstrong, 1967.



WOOHOO!
Every body
made it to
the meeting!

History of the A.A. 12 Traditions

A.A.'s 12 Traditions got a start in the 1939 foreword of the first edition of the "Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous." Due to the quick growth of the group, many questions surrounding publicity, religion, and finances came up.

In 1946, co-founder Bill Wilson published the "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future" in the AA Grapevine newspaper. These were accepted and endorsed by A.A. membership in its entirety at the 1950 International Convention of A.A., at Cleveland, Ohio. In 1953, he published the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

While not obligatory on any of the groups, the Twelve Traditions do have overwhelming support from those who have adopted them.

The 1st Tradition

Tradition Short Form

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity". (129).

Tradition Long Form

"One—Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward". (189).

Each of the Traditions has a short and a long form. The long form of a Tradition is more enlightening in content and relation to the substance of the short form.

"So at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question. In the world about us we saw personalities destroying whole peoples." (130).

"Each needed to consider the others, and in abiding faith they knew they must find their real strength. And this they did find, in measure to transcend all the defects of their frail craft, every test of uncertainty, pain, fear, and despair, and even the death of one." (131).

"Our Twelve Steps to recovery are suggestions; the Twelve Traditions which guarantee A.A.'s unity contain not a single "Don't." They repeatedly say "We ought . . ." but never "You must!" (129).

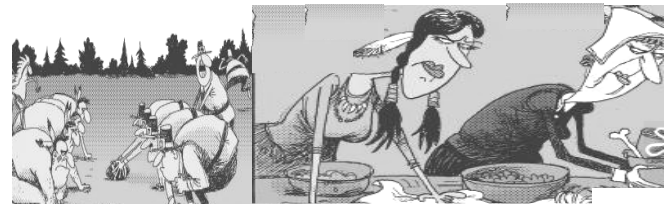
It's been stated the Traditions are to groups what the Steps are to individuals. Be that as it may, Traditions are for individuals for what individuals are to the group. If the Traditions mean little to the group, in all probability, the group will mean little to the individual.

12 X 12 quotes (Page Number) reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

The 1st Tradition Promises

"The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has". (129). "Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it". (129). "We stay whole, or A.A. dies. (129). No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled". (129). "...he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away". (130). "Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the A.A. message". (130). "The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made—that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group". (130). "Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship". (130). "He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group". (130). (An exception to the Ought to, not Must quote on page 129). "It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not". (130). (An exception to the Ought to, not Must quote on page 129). "By faith and by works we have been able to build upon the lessons of an incredible experience". (131). "They live today in the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, which—God willing—shall sustain us in unity for so long as He may need us". (131).

12 X 12 quotes (Page Number) reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



This better not become a Tradition!

FLINT AREA UNITY COUNCIL AIMS and PURPOSES

- 1) To promote Unity among Flint Area A.A., and harmony with Al-Anon and Ala-teen groups.
- 9) The Council will create service committees and be financially responsible for them.

The **F.A.U.C. Aims and Purposes with Election Procedures** is on the website

www.geneseecountyaa.org.

"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.

2019 Sober Canoe Trip

Campsite rates are \$30 Off-River \$40 On-River.

Canoes are \$40 each for two people for the M-66 trip which is 2 -3 hours long. Kayaks are \$25 for a single person, \$40 for a double kayak. Tubes are \$20 for a single person. info@campandcanoe.com

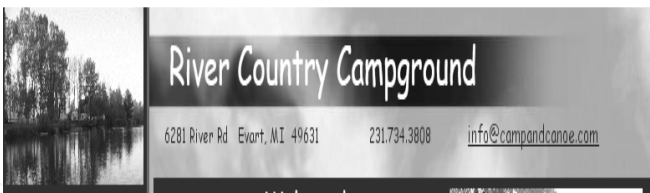
The A.A. Sober Canoe Trip is Friday August 2nd, 2019 through Sunday August 4th, 2019.

Friday at 8 pm is the Sweet Tooth A.A. in Evert at the Methodist Church at 1st and Cherry Streets.

Saturday at dusk is the Campground Fireside A.A. Meeting.

Details? Contact Pass The Hat Association, Inc. Treasurer on the website;

www.geneseecountyaa.org. Group rates may apply.



The First Tradition and the First Step

The First Tradition is founded on the principle of humility – that is to say perspective; our being “*a small part of a great whole*” which leads to striving for group harmony.

What this relates to is that we can’t do as we humanly please, but are protected from demise by the will of the greater good, the unity of a people concerned with common welfare. As Bill W. wrote, “*A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die*”.

He knew we will all die eventually, so it is not the dying that is the concern, it is the how it is brought about. And what is our human and spiritual condition when we do?

That’s the understanding of common welfare. Admitting our frailties as a group leads to stronger personal reflection; that benefits the group. The finding of ourselves within the group, not finding the group to be as we want, leads to unity.

The First Step is founded on the principle of honesty – at this time in our lives, eating a lot of humble pie was paramount in our being honest with ourselves.

“Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no A.A., and that without A.A. there can be little lasting recovery for anyone”.

Quotes by Bill W., December 1947.

The PRINCIPLES of the 12 Traditions

Tradition	PRINCIPLE	Description
1.	UNITY	The UNITY of a group makes common welfare come easier and individuals to make progress.
2.	LEADERSHIP	The ultimate authority is a loving God. There is no such thing as individual authority or governance, group leaders rely on the group conscience, as expressed by a loving God.
3.	ELEIGIBILITY	With the only requirement for A.A. membership being a desire to stop drinking, it keeps the membership from being ‘diluted’.
4.	AUTONOMY	The freedom individual groups have in this tradition carries with it the responsibility to protect the fellowship as a whole.
5.	CARRY THE MESSAGE	The primary purpose of an A.A. group is to carry the A.A. message giving comfort to those suffering.
6.	OUTSIDE ENTERPRISES	In order to preserve the integrity of the program, groups do not endorse any outside organizations and causes.
7.	SELF-SUPPORTING	By declining outside contributions the group protects its basic structure and anonymity.
8.	GIVING IT AWAY	A.A. is free. A saying in the rooms? "In order to keep it, you must give it away, with the keyword "give."
9.	ORGANIZATION	Not being highly organized, A.A. groups keep emphasis on fellowship and the primary purpose. There may be committees, a secretary, or treasurer to help handle contributions.
10.	OUTSIDE OPINIONS	Avoiding opinions on outside issues such as politics, alcohol reform or religion, AA avoids controversy.
11.	PUBLIC RELATIONS	Anonymity in the media protects not only the individual member but the fellowship as a whole. AA's public relations policy is to attract rather than promote.
12.	ANONYMITY	A hallmark of A.A. recovery is the offer and practice of anonymity to all participants.

Adapted from:

<https://www.verywellmind.com/the-twelve-traditions-63282>

Forget Tradition. This thing can boil Eye of Newt in 10 seconds!



F.A.U.C. Committees; Officers & Chairs.

Committee Chairs with names. (Visit the website www.geneseecountyaa.org to email the F.A.U.C.).

F.A.U.C. Chair: Deborah B.

F.A.U.C. Secretary: Aaron B.

Pass The Hat Assoc. Treasurer (PTHA): Gordon G.

Al-Anon Liaison; Brad S.

Accessibility for All Alcoholics: Kamesha M.

A.A. Answering Service: Wayne T.

PI-Public Information: Moe M.

CPC- Cooperation with the Professional

Community: Richard B.

Corrections: George W.

Grapevine: Greg S.

Literature/Meeting Books: James P.

Treatment: Ben J.

Website: Katrina H.

Young People: OPEN

F.A.U.C. Newsletter

Editor: Doug G.

Co-Editor: Need an interested volunteer.

Newsletter Distributors

Bob W, Carl D, Chris R, Doug G, Drew K, Gordon G, Jeff G, Kamesha M, James P, Tony B,

The December 2018 Newsletter went to 163 meetings & 56 emails. See note bottom left.

“By three methods we may learn wisdom, First by reflection, which is noblest, Second, by imitation, which is easiest, Third, by experience, which is bitterest”. Confucius, 551 -479 BC.

2019 F.A.U.C. Meetings; Date: Group:Place.
Next F.A.U.C. Meeting: Meetings are on the 3rd Saturdays of the month; 11:30 am Committee Meetings with a 12:30 pm General Assembly.

January 17: Arid Club; New Way of Life

February 16: New Dawn; at Canaan Baptist Ch., 910 E Gillespie Ave, Flint?

March 16: Torrey Rd. Group; Arid Club

April 20: Thetford; Thetford Senior Ctr., G-11495 N. Center Rd. Clio

May 18: Eye Opener; Arid Club

June 15: Montrose? **July 20:** Lapeer?

August 17: Fenton Alano?

September 21: Otter Lake; at, 5811 Forest Ave, Otter Lake?

October 19: Women in A.A., Arid Club.

November 16: OPEN **December 21:** OPEN

Group NEWS

The Literature Committee recommended a new price for Medallions: The November F.A.U.C. meeting led to the following changes: 24 hour & months 1 – 11 (Aluminum); \$.050 each. Years 1 & beyond (Bronze); \$1.50 each.

The Thetford Group is hosting a **Back To Basics** for the 12 Steps in four one hour sessions. Each one will be at 1:30 PM on Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27th at the Thetford Senior Ctr., G-11495 N. Center Rd. Clio. These sessions are as A.A. was in the 1940’s; meant for ‘oldtimers’ and ‘newcomers’ alike. Come learn what you and your sponsee can gain in Recovery!

If a Group wants a Newsletter announcement, email the Editor; farfromittoday@aol.com by 20th of the month.



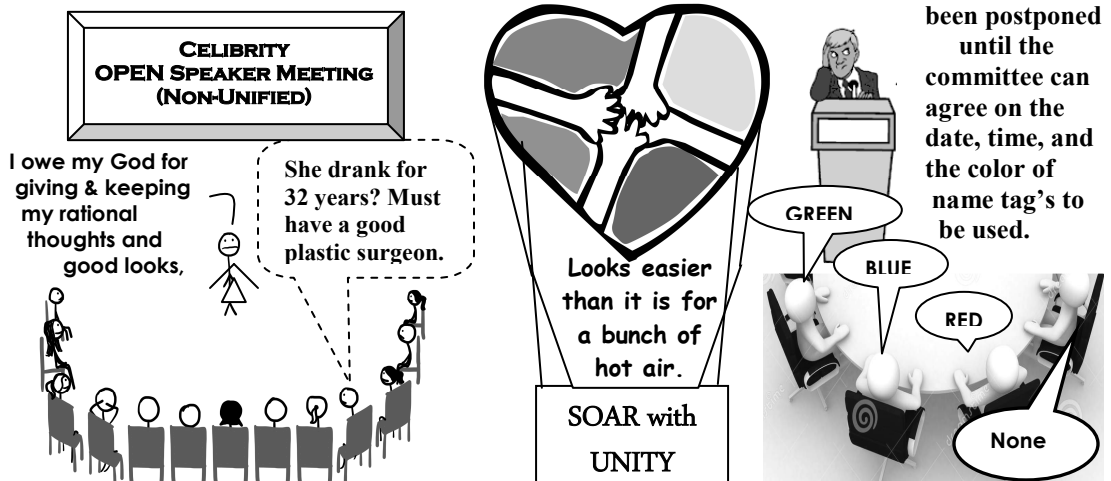
Like everybody else, I'm all about unity, as long as they do as I tell them.

“...we have ceased fighting anything or anyone...”

Page 84 Big Book, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.

Henry James, Apr 1843 – Feb 1916.



The Unity Workshop has been postponed until the committee can agree on the date, time, and the color of name tag's to be used.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter via email, send request to the Editor at farfromittoday@aol.com.

A.A Treasurer's addresses:



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