

Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



February 2019
Vol. 4; Issue 5
AA Help Line
(810) 234-0815



February 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

* = Addresses of Locations can be found in the
2019 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book.

** = With a Potluck Dinner.

- Fri 1 12 noon Arid Club (21).
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 2 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
8:00 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
- Sun 3 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Arid Club (6).
- Thu 7 7 pm Van Slyke (18).
- Fri 8 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 9 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 10 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Arid Club (6).
- Fri 15 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 16 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 17 6 pm Otter Lake (7).
7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Arid Club (6).
- Wed 20 7:30 pm Thump Day! (15).
- Fri 22 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 23 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 (23).
- Sun 24 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Arid Club (6).
- Mon 25 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).

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

THE SECOND TRADITION

Tradition Two: For our group there is but one
ultimate authority – a loving God as He may manifest
to our group conscience.

Following up on our first tradition that speaks of
“our” common welfare that leads to personal recovery,
it is clear that “our” group has but one authority that
may be a group of personal authorities – God, a higher
power, a group subconscious, or what ever we may
name it. Yet, these various understandings lead to a
single conscience, an ultimate authority, outside of
ourselves, which is seen as a loving God to the
group. This God is loving, providing healing to
individuals through group support, mutual respect, and
a common understanding of where we have been and
where we long to be.

Traditionally, conscience is known to be the most
sacred part of ourselves, known only to God. For the
group to support us on a conscience level, we have to
be rigorously honest with ourselves and others. In this
is found trust, light, and peace. As the winter days
grow shorter and the days longer, so in treatment and
AA do our old lives slowly fade with the darkness, and
new light of health and joy refresh our days and our
future, one day at a time.

This group reality is something that comes from
trust, the example and experience of other members,
and will ultimately lead us to helping others in the
same predicament. We will not only be sharers of
truth, but in service,
bearers of springtime
light to others. ~John L.

"Faith is the substance
of things hoped for, the
evidence of things not
seen." - Hebrews 11:1;
referred to by John L.



Tradition Two

For further clarification on the Traditions comes this out of the Big Book, “To those now in it’s fold, Alcoholics Anonymous has made the difference between misery and sobriety, and often the difference between life and death... We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone”. (560)

Tradition Short Form

“For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern”. (129).

Tradition Long Form

“2. For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience”. (189).

Promises of the Second Tradition

“...no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience...” (132)

“He feels a spiritual and ethical compulsion, because hundreds may be suffering within reach of his help”. (133)

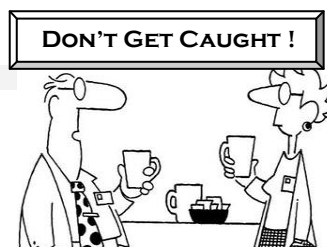
“...the group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants”. (134).

“As their grief and anxiety wear away, a subtle change begins”. (135).

Quote page 560 from Alcoholics Anonymous reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission. Quotes pages 129, 189, 132, 134, 135 reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with A.A.W.S. permission.



What did I do now?



So today's meeting is about the new Mission Statement?

The 2nd Tradition Short and Long Forms

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. The exception to that is this, the Second Tradition.

“Why is the long form of Tradition Two shorter than the short form?” This is a question that G.S.O.’s Archives receives nearly every week; it also comes up at Regional Forums.

Answer: A.A.’s Twelve Traditions were originally published in a series of articles starting with the May 1946 issue of the Grapevine. These are what we consider the Long Form of the Traditions. For the next several years, Bill W. travelled around the country explaining the Traditions and trying to get members to become more familiar with them. In 1949, A.A. member Earl T. of Chicago initially suggested to Bill that he rewrite the A.A. Traditions, stating that they were too long. Bill worked on shortening the Traditions with the idea of producing a concise statement for information and instructional purposes that could be printed along with the Twelve Steps.

In a letter dated June 17, 1949, Bill explained the following about the “short form” of the Traditions. He wrote, “Accordingly, I have worked over the material once more, coming up with what I hope is a quieter and clearer job — something which would be a more fitting companion to the Twelve Steps themselves and of just about the same wordage.”

After many searches through the years, the Archives staff has been unable to find any documentation by Bill as to why he chose to include the additional line in Tradition Two, “Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.” In their search they turned up a letter written by former G.S.O. Archivist Frank M.: “As you’ll recall historically, the climate was not fully positive for ‘organizing’ Alcoholics Anonymous in the late ’40s and early ’50s. Folks thought things might get too complicated if Traditions were to come on line and a General Service Conference started. They worried about ‘control issues.’ Thus the line about ‘our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern’ was added to allay these fears.” Permission to reprint by Box 4-5-9, Fall 2012 <http://www.e-aa.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=10390>

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.

2018 F.A.U.C. New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance

The Flint Area Unity Council 2018 New Years dance was again successful. The set up went as planned with the help from the volunteers from New Paths. Doors opened at 6 and there was a steady stream of people. Dinner was served at 7, the food was hot and delicious, the Swedish meatballs went rather quickly. Ample pies, cheesecake, and cake for all. Bob and Kathleen C. shared their experience, strength, and hope and that was well received and truly inspiring. Close to 200 in attendance and what a way to welcome in the New Year sober with kindred spirits. ~ Gordon G.

The Second Step and the Second Tradition

The Second Step and the Second Tradition have parallels in the Principles associated with them. The Second Step Principle is Hope, as in Serenity versus Insanity. A Second Tradition Principle is one of Leadership, as in Service versus Chaos.

Start with the words in the Second Step, "...a Power greater than ourselves..." (59) and relate it to "...one ultimate authority...a loving God..." (562) as in the Second Tradition.

Who is the One that can "restore us to sanity?" (59) Who is the One that "...may express Himself in our group conscience?" (562) In both cases, it is "God as we understood Him." (59) as stated in the Third Step. Who lead me to sanity? Who leads the group in conscience?

Quotes from pages 59, 562 from the text Alcoholics Anonymous, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

The Magi's, also known as The Three Wise Men, were Spiritual Seekers from TEXAS, USA. Indeed, they were Firemen. It's in the Scriptures; they said they came from "Ah Far". Who knew camels could swim across the ocean?



Your yoga approach is different, but not what I meant when I said you need to change and be more flexible.

A mother of eight children was a servant and a bit of a heavy-handed governess at times.

LEARNING TO CUSS

A 6 year old and a 4 year old are raking leaves in the yard. The 6 year old says, "You know what? I think it's about time we started learning to cuss". The 4 year old nods his head in approval. The 6 year old continues, "When we go in for lunch, I'll say something with crap and you say something with darn". The 4 year old agrees with enthusiasm.

As the mother walks into the kitchen she asks the 6 year old what he wants for lunch, he replies, "Aw, crap, Mom, I guess I'll have a Grilled Cheese sandwich".

WHACK!

He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, whacking his rear on every step. Mom shuts him in up his room shouting, "Stay there until I let you out!"

She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4 year old and asks with a stern voice, "*And what do YOU want for lunch, young man?*"

"I don't know", he blubbers, "but you can be darn sure it won't be Grilled Cheese".

WHACK!

That was sent to me by one of my sisters, to remind me of who I used to be, (acting like a six year old), I guess...

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity. And I'm not sure about the universe." Albert Einstein, 1879 – 1955.

"The barriers he had built through the years were swept away. He stood in the Presence of Infinite Power and Love." Bill W, (56).

"Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel it is stored in than to anything on which it is poured." Mark Twain, 1835 – 1910.

"Who controls the past controls the future, Who controls the present controls the past." George Orwell, 1903 – 1950.

"So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making." Bill W, 1895 – 1971, (62).

"My human energy and will went as far as it could, but in the end it was God and God alone who made the difference, who widened the margins of life in His own miraculous way, who took my broken, weak body and soul and put them back together again". Eugene B. McDaniel in Scars & Stripes, 1975, page 172. (A Vietnam POW story).

Bill W. pages 56, 62 from the text Alcoholics Anonymous, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

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.

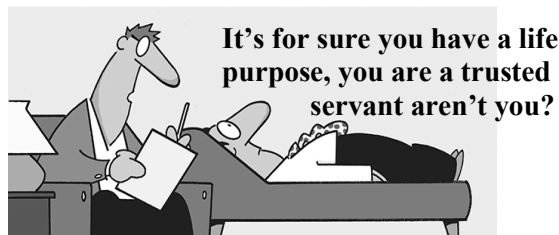
Co-Editor: Need an interested volunteer.

Newsletter Distributors

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

The January 2019 Newsletter went to 181 meetings & 56 emails. See note bottom left.

**HI, WE'RE TRUSTED
SERVANTS FROM A.A.
AND ARE HERE TO
NOT GOVERN YOU.**



It's for sure you have a life purpose, you are a trusted servant aren't you?

GOVERNANCE is the Problem, NOT the Solution...



Just wait until your Mother's home!



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2019 F.A.U.C. Meetings; Date: Place: Group.

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.

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, St John the Baptist Ch. 5811 Forest Ave, Otter Lake?

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

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

Group NEWS

The Literature Committee has a new price for Medallions: 24 hour and months 1 – 11 (Aluminum) are \$.050 each and Years 1 and beyond (Bronze) are \$1.50 each.

The 2019 F.A.U.C. Meeting Books are available. Contact James P. or Doug G. to get them. Packs of 25; \$0.30 each book. \$7.50 per pack with \$0.45 tax equals a total of \$7.95 per 30 books.

The CMIA32 Assembly is Feb. 3, 2019 at the ZCJB Hall, 1775 Owosso Ave, Owosso, starts at 9 am.

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



Foot Trouble

One cold evening my wife went to put on slippers. Thinking they'd feel good being warm and toasty, she microwaved them.

I heard the 'ding' of the microwave and then "Oh shoot!"

The slippers had melted down to a stinking boiling mess of synthetics.

The stink came back each time the microwave was used.

A tough call, but I threw out the microwave and kept the wife.



Just maintain there are no bad leaders, just bad servants and you'll be fine.

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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F.A.U.C., P.O. 4225 Miller Rd. Flint, MI 48507 Please make checks payable to **Pass The Hat Association, Inc.**