

# Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



March 2019  
Vol. 4; Issue 6  
AA Help Line  
(810) 234-0815



The Weather Channel wasn't even an idea yet. More than 20 years before Flint had cable TV; people could look at the top of the Flint Citizens Bank building and determine the evening weather forecast. The Flint Citizens Bank Weather Ball was installed in 1956. First Merit Bank refurbished this Flint icon June 13, 2013 and Huntington Bank then on Oct 24, 2016 to "preserve Flint history".



## March 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \*

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

\*\* = With a Potluck Dinner.

- Fri 1 12 noon Arid Club (22).  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (23).
- Sat 2 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (24).  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 3; 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Thu 7 7 pm Van Slyke (19).
- Fri 8 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (23).
- Sat 9 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (24).  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 10 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 15 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (23).
- Sat 16 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (24).  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 17 6 pm Otter Lake (7).  
7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Wed 20 7:30 pm Thump Day! (15).
- Fri 22 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (23).
- 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 (24).
- Sun 24 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Mon 25 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).

If a Group wants the Speaker listed, email to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com); Group, Day, Time & Name of Speaker.

## An Article on Personal Experience with Tradition 3

The third tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. If I had gone to my first AA meeting and they gave me a list of rules, I probably would never had returned. When I went to a lot of meetings drunk. I wanted to stop drinking but I was afraid to; I was also afraid to continue drinking. I thought I could learn how to manage my life and not have to quit drinking. I tried every way imaginable and nothing worked. Eventually I surrendered. I didn't know how to live without alcohol. I started drinking at a very young age because I didn't want to feel. By listening to suggestions and following the 12 steps I learned how to deal with my feelings and my thoughts.

Not everyone who starts coming to AA is going to stop drinking immediately. Some, like myself, will continue drinking but the seed has been planted. Once you've been to an AA meeting your drinking is ruined. Not so much fun. Then again, was it before you came?

It took me several years, in and out of the program to finally stop drinking. I no longer have the desire to drink.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking I stopped drinking several 24 hours ago and have no desire to drink. Does that mean I am no longer a member? No. I paid my dues several times over before I came to AA and I became a member. Once you're a member, you're always a member.

It's easier to stay sober than it is to quit drinking. AA is the easier, softer way. If you can't stay sober, never quit quitting. ~ Mercedes M, Burton Group.

### Tradition Three Tradition Short Form

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.” (139).

### Tradition Long Form

“3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.” (189).

### Promises of the Third Tradition

“You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out”. (139)

“So you're an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.” (139)

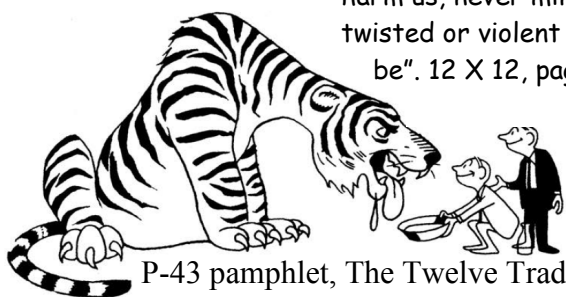
“...we would neither punish nor deprive any A.A. of membership, that we must never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or conform to anything?”. (141).

“No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled. (129) This is in Tradition One and the Tradition Three promise above it reinforces the thought that there is no ‘compelling’ of one A.A. to another. (Thanks to Jack for this tidbit!)

“any alcoholic is a member of our Society when *he* says so.”. (145).

Quotes pages 129, 139, 141, 145 reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with A.A.W.S. permission.

“We aren't a bit afraid you'll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be”. 12 X 12, page 139.



P-43 pamphlet, The Twelve Traditions Illustrated; used with A.A.W.S. permission.

### The 3rd and other Traditions in the A.A. Preamble

A.A. Preamble: “Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.” June 1947, Tom Y., revised at the September 1958 International Convention. Used with A.A.W.S. permission.

“Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism”

Tradition One: “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity”. (129).

The similarity, and purpose, of the Preamble opening and the 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition are clear.

“The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking”. (139). Both the Preamble and the Short Form of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition are identical here.

“There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self supporting through our own contributions”. The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Short Form states, “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions”. (160).

“A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause.”

The 6<sup>th</sup> Tradition Short Form says, “An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”. (155).

The 10<sup>th</sup> Tradition Short Form declares, “Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues: hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy”. (176).

Paranetical quote numbers are from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

#### 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](http://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.

## The Third Step and the Third Tradition

### The Third Step Prayer

“God, I offer myself to Thee - To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!” Alcoholics Anonymous, page 63, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

“Thus, the beauty of the third tradition is that it restores perspective through an attitude of gratefulness for the miracle of my sobriety.

If we stay sober for rewards, we might drink when we get them because we have no more reason to stay sober. Or we might drink if we don't get them, when we say, “What's the use?” We don't stay sober to be virtuous. We stay sober to survive. We place sobriety first because we must in order to live!

This is the theme of the third tradition.

The relationship of the third tradition to the third step is a profound one. The third step poses the question: What do I need to do in order to turn my will and my life over to the loving care of God as we understand him?

The tradition answers the problem posed in the third step. The only requirement I need to fulfill in order to turn my will and my life over to God's loving care is a desire to stop drinking. It is unbelievable that all the power of the universe is available to care for me if I only have one desire: to stay sober.

[http://1212and12.org/homework/traditions/1212and12\\_tradition\\_3.pdf](http://1212and12.org/homework/traditions/1212and12_tradition_3.pdf)

<b>T</b>	Is it <b>True</b> ?	(From the walls of
<b>H</b>	Is it <b>Helpful</b> ?	Flushing's Main Street
<b>I</b>	Is it <b>Inspiring</b> ?	Sobriety & Victory
<b>N</b>	Is it <b>Necessary</b> ?	Today & Grand Blanc's
<b>K</b>	Is it <b>Kind</b> ?	Madison Academy)

**Who's that? That's Gabriel; he brings the gift of gab.**



## Third Tradition Principle

The Principle of the Third Tradition is  
**ELEIGIBILITY.**

The 1958 General Service Conference approved removing the word “honest” from the term “honest desire to stop drinking” in the AA Preamble. The advisory action reads: “The General Service Conference recognizes the original use of the word “honest” before “desire to stop drinking” and its deletion from the Traditions as part of the evolution of the AA movement.

“We are not an organization in the conventional sense of the word. The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. We are not allied with any particular faith, sect, or denomination, nor do we oppose anyone. We simply wish to be helpful to those afflicted”.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Foreword to the First Edition, Page IV, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

It was decided that no one can really judge another's ‘honest’ desire, and therefore the removing of ‘honest’ left intact the soliloquy of any other perception.

(Soliloquy: an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or with any hearers).

Many times in different meetings we are asked to share our experience, strength and hope as it pertains to our alcoholic problems. My, oh my if that doesn't usually open the proverbial can of worms. It is not that people get off subject, it is just that the experiences had, before and after ceasing alcohol use, the strength gained from sobriety, and the hopes for future living are all so different in their own way from one person to another. And we listen and learn to identify but not compare, that can lead to downplaying our own problems.

“We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism”. From the ‘Blue Card’, F-17, for Closed Meetings.

Reprinted with A.A.W.S. Permission.



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

Committee Chairs with names. (Visit the website [www.geneseecountyaa.org](http://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; OPEN.**

**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: Mercedes M. THANK-YOU!

**Newsletter Distributors**

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

The February 2019 Newsletter went to 202 meetings & 65 emails. See note bottom left.

**2019 Meeting Book Corrections: Pg 5, (Index)**

No Durand Saturday meeting. **Pg 10**, 8 pm Torrey Road Group address is 715 East St, not 2608 Maplewood. **Pg 17 (Wed) & 23 (Fri)** Add 10:30 am Closed Meeting, St. Bartholomew Anglican Church, 9252 Miller Rd, Swartz Creek. **Pg 24**, 8 am Flushing Group name is Main Street Sobriety, not Victory Today.

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

**Next F.A.U.C. Meeting:** Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month; 11:30 am Committee Meetings with a 12:30 pm General Assembly.

**March 16:** Torrey Rd. Group; Arid Club

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

**May 18:** Eye Opener; Arid Club

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

**August 17:** OPEN **September 21:** Otter Lake; at, 5811 Forest Ave, Otter Lake?

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

**November 16:** Fenton Alano, 800 North Rd. Fenton

**December 21:** OPEN

**Group NEWS**

Medallions prices from Literature Committee: 24 hour and months 1 – 11 are \$.050 each and Years 1 and beyond are \$1.50 each.

The 2019 F.A.U.C. Meeting Books available through James P. or Doug G. Packs of 25 at \$0.30 per book are \$7.50 + \$0.45 tax equals \$7.95.

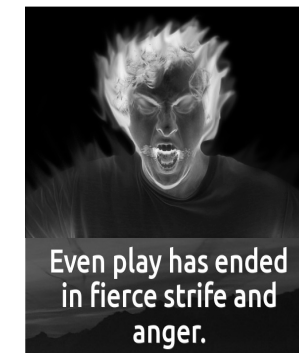
The Alano House, 2068 Maplewood, Flint is having a St Patrick's Day ALACATHON; 6 pm to 12 AM Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Meetings every hour on the hour, 50/50 raffle, Potluck with Corn Beef and Cabbage, Sausage and Sauerkraut, please bring a dish to pass.

The 67<sup>th</sup> Michigan State Convention "Service the heart of AA" is Aug. 23, 24, 25, 2019 in Detroit. Further details at [www.michiganstateconvention.com](http://www.michiganstateconvention.com).

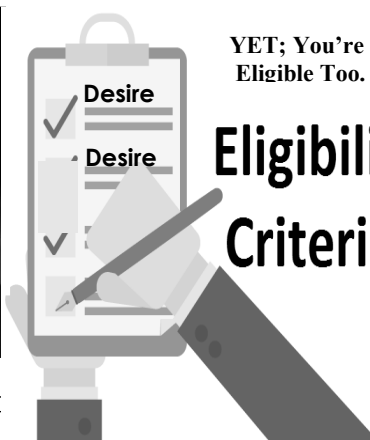
New CMIA32 Treasurer address listed below.

Group wants a Newsletter announcement? Email [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time. ~ Abraham Lincoln, (1809 - 1865).



Quintus Horatius Flaccus  
Dec. 8, 65 – Nov. 27, 8 BC



YET; You're Eligible Too.

**Eligibility Criteria**



*HAVE A GOOD YEAR, NOT A YEAR OF FIERY ANGER AND SPINNING YOUR WHEELS.*



If you would like to receive the Newsletter via email, send request to the Email [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com).

**A.A Treasurer's addresses:**



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C.M.I.A. 32, % kdonoghue PO Box 1593 Midland MI 48642  
F.A.U.C., P.O. 4225 Miller Rd. Flint, MI 48507 Please make checks payable to **Pass The Hat Association, Inc.**