

Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



April 2019
Vol. 4; Issue 7
AA Help Line
(810) 234-0815



April 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

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

** = With a Potluck Dinner.

- Thu 4 7 pm Van Slyke (18).
Fri 5 12 noon Eye Opener, Arid Club (21).
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
Sat 6 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
Sun 7 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
Fri 12 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
Sat 13 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
Sun 14 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
Wed 17 7:30 pm Thump Day! (15).
Fri 19 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
Sat 20 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
Sun 21 6 pm Otter Lake (7).
7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
Fri 26 8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
Sat 27 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 28 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
Mon 29 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).

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

THE GOOSE HUNG HIGH

For three or four months, the goose hung high". *Big Book, P7, used with A.A.W.S. permission.*

'... a skein of flying geese fly close to the ground in bad weather, but high when conditions are good". <https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com>

The meaning of the phrase "the goose hangs high" is either that there's a goose hanging in the larder, or that things are going well".

<https://davidchaffin.wordpress.com>

"If you believe there is a plethora of money, if you believe everything is lovely and the goose hangs high, go down to the soup houses in the city of New York". (Congressional Record, Feb. 1894).

<https://davidchaffin.wordpress.com>

"The Goose Hung High" is good for all, except maybe for the hungry if it's not shared, and the goose...

The *Principle* of the Fourth Tradition is **AUTONOMY**

The freedom individual groups have in this tradition carries with it the responsibility to protect the fellowship as a whole.

"AUTONOMY is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every AA group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when AA as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?"

Over the years every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today". (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 146, used with A.A.W.S. permission).

"TRUE freedom is not doing what we want, but doing as we ought. There is no government in Alcoholics Anonymous, no rules or regulations. Each group may do as its members wish; they are autonomous. But to live in true freedom they ought to take every care that their actions do not interfere with other groups or contravene AA principles lest we lose our freedom. Our freedom only lives by our willingness to give to others that same right". -- R. M.

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/node/32741>

"Autonomy Makes Us Happy, And That's No Joke"
By Sophia Dembling

Alcohol's infamous for solutions doubling the problem.

Has the F.A.U.C. Put All It's Eggs In One Basket?

Don't put all the eggs in one basket? Idiom defined: To make everything dependent on only one thing; to place all one's resources in one place, account, etc. (If the basket is dropped, all is lost.)

From the website; <https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com>

WHAT IS A PRUDENT RESERVE?

A prudent reserve is an amount of money put aside for use in extraordinary circumstances. It is not held for use in normal circumstances.

WHAT KIND OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES IS IT USED FOR?

- If, for some reason, the group or office finds itself without any funds whatsoever.
- Your rent or other expenses increase dramatically unexpectedly.
- You receive no income, or much less than the normal expected income.

From the website; http://aamainedistrict6.org/images/Tools_Group_-_Prudent_Reserve.pdf

Q. What is a "prudent reserve"?

A. Any suggested prudent reserve for a group should be dependent on local needs. A suggested prudent reserve for central offices, intergroups, and area committees could be one to twelve months' operating expenses, depending on local needs.

Q. Does the General Service Office have a "prudent reserve"?

A. In 1954 A.A.'s Board of Trustees established a reserve fund whose principal purpose is to provide the financial resources necessary to continue the essential services of G.S.O. and the Grapevine for up to a year in the event of an unexpected and substantial reduction in the normal revenues of the organization.

From "*Self Support; Where Money and Spirituality Mix*" F-3 pamphlet by A.A.W.S. Used with A.A.W.S. permission.

The elimination of accounts results in commingling of accounts; along with no prudent reserve there is now the beginning hallmark of financial non-accountability. Go to the www.CMIA32.org for a detailed financial report of separate accounts. Financial non-accountability leads to distrust, doubts, controversy.

The F.A.U.C. has experienced these issues. It began by not having enough money in the General Fund for the 2018 Annual New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance. Lack of planning and foresight came to the forefront when money was taken from one account to make up for the shortage in another. The proverbial rob Peter to pay Paul.

That became the tip of an iceberg. The P.T.H.A., Inc. got involved through the Treasurer's report by no longer submitting a report with only one balance showing. (That had been a 5 year history of account balances reported). P.T.H.A., Inc. Treasurer now says there is only one account, our by-laws have changed, we do not have to do that, all F.A.U.C. money is just that, one pot, period. It's the way we do things on a personal level.

However, P.T.H.A., Inc. by-laws accessed at the March 2019 F.A.U.C. meeting do not show the claimed change. (Revised November 2018). P.T.H.A., Inc. by-laws; Sec 5. TREASURER, "The Treasurer shall prepare monthly reports on the financial accounts of Pass the Hat Association, Inc., and all transactions on behalf of the F.A.U.C.".

On a personal level, one has a checking account, a savings account, a 401K or an IRA (or other investment if planned for); one has two or three separate accounts on a personal basis. And there used to be a General Fund, Literature Account and Meeting Book Account, since rolled into one with no reporting of separate balances.

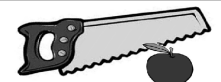
- January 2019: A Prudent Reserve Ad hoc committee was formed in to investigate feasibility.
- February 2019: P.T.H.A., Inc. chair said at F.A.U.C. meeting there's no need for prudent reserve.
- March 2019: Prolonged discussion on this until more than ¾ of the assembly left, and then it was put up to a vote! With only a handful of people left after more than 2 hours, these people decided for the Fellowship, to dissolve the Ad hoc committee. And it was also decided that there would no longer be reporting of separate account balances; General Fund, Literature Account, Meeting Book Account. If for example, at the end of the year, there is not enough money to put towards the New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance, (as in the 2018 occurrence), what other unforeseen shortfalls are hidden by using money earmarked for one purpose and used for another?

This article is simply to inform the Fellowship of recent changes to accounting practices of the P.T.H.A., Inc. for the F.A.U.C. with financial acuity (keenness or acuteness, especially in vision or thought) being verboten.

This article is the sole opinion of the F.A.U.C. Editor and does not reflect the views of the P.T.H.A., Inc. or F.A.U.C. If you've an opinion on this you can come to the F.A.U.C. monthly meeting, the schedule is on the back of the Newsletter, or submit an article to the Newsletter at farfromtoday@aol.com.

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.



Wrong tool, right job.

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.

The Fourth Step and the Fourth Tradition

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.” (42, Alcoholics Anonymous).

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.” (146, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions).

The Fourth Step and Fourth Tradition each suggest a searching inventory. How can it be ensured that group matters undertaken do not affect other groups or A.A. as a whole if this is not done?

No individual or group will ever grow “in the way of patience, tolerance, kindness, and love” without “meditation that our Creator show us...” (83, Alcoholics Anonymous).

“...we may face indecision. We may not be able to determine which course to take. Here we ask God for inspiration, an intuitive thought or a decision. We relax and take it easy. We don't struggle.” (86, Alcoholics Anonymous).

Alcoholics Anonymous and 12 X 12 quotes used with A.A.W.S. permission.

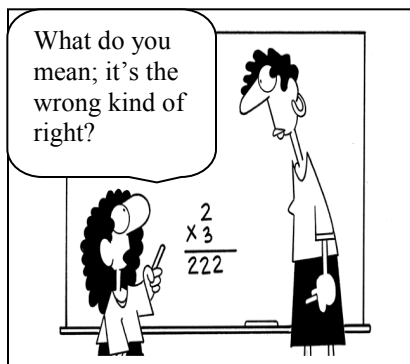
“Limits to Freedom Granted By the Fourth Tradition

The autonomy provided in Tradition 4 does not mean an individual group has the authority to reword the steps or traditions or to create its own literature. Nor should groups introduce, discuss, or sell outside literature at their meeting places.

Many a meeting has gotten away from the look and feel of its primary purpose by using non-conference-approved literature, showing videos of popular self-help speakers, or allowing treatment professionals to speak at open meetings on the latest therapy techniques.

There is a saying that there is no right or wrong way to hold a meeting, but the group can cease carrying the message if it strays too far from its traditions and concepts. Other than that, groups have complete freedom to design their programs to the needs of their members, which can result in a wide variety of formats”.

<https://www.verywellmind.com/a-study-of-tradition-4-69416>



Dead right?



BUT I DID

Nobody knows me like me.
Sure, they know things about me.
But in my head, they are not.
So I am a mystery.
To myself I don't know.
Until I think a thought.

To change the thoughts
To make a better me,
Takes time and thought.
Don't think this,
Don't think that,
It's too late, I have a thought.

So I've done that,
With out wanting to,
But I did do that thought.
The wants over burden
The needs in my head,
I don't think as I thought.

Should, would, could,
Oh, I shall, I will, I can
Get away from that thought.
Not yesterday, maybe not today,
Progress is not perfection,
But going with the right thought.

~ Doug G.

Have an article, poem or, what-have-you to share with the Fellowship? Send submissions to farfromtoday@aol.com. Keep submissions to the A.A. principle of the blue card where it asks, “when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism”. Quote from the Blue Card F-17, used with permission of A.A.W.S. Some examples below:

Brutal Honesty

A man was speeding down the highway with all the other cars doing the same speed. They went by a speed trap and he got pulled over.

The officer gave him the citation and then he heard, “Officer, I was speeding, but it's not fair - the other cars around me were going just as fast, why did I get the ticket?”

"Ever go fishing?" asked the policeman.

"Ummm, yeah..." the man said.

"Did you catch them all?" asked the policeman.

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.

The soul would have no rainbow if the eye had no tears.

Do not pray when it is raining if you do not pray when the sun is shining. ~ Cherokee proverbs.

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

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

Chair: Deborah B. **Secretary:** Aaron B.
Pass The Hat Assoc. Treasurer (PTHA): George W.
Al-Anon Liaison: OPEN

Accessibility for All Alcoholics: Chris R.

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

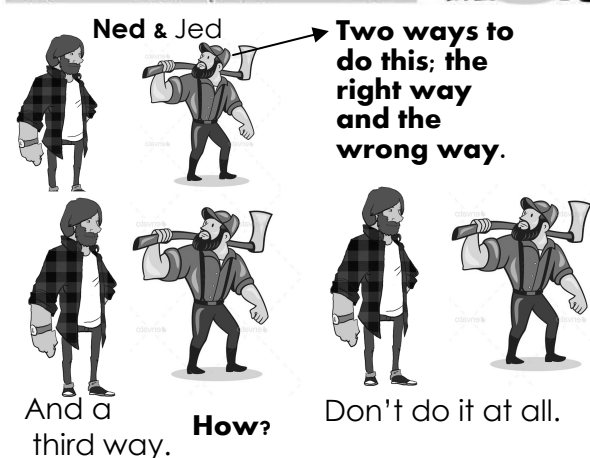
Newsletter Editor: Doug G/Co-Editor: Mercedes M

Newsletter Distributors

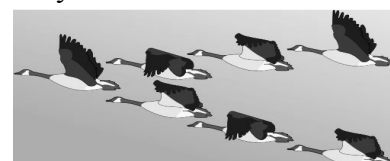
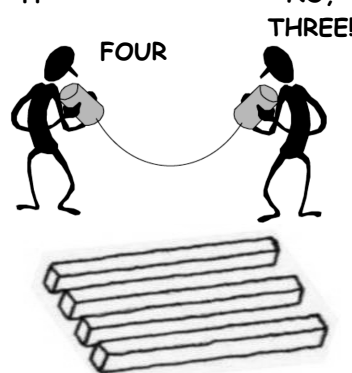
Bob W, Carl D, Chris R, Doug G, Drew K, Gordon G, Jeff G, Kamesha M, James P, Tony B,

The March 2019 Newsletter went to 196 meetings & 67 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.



Reality can be viewed so equally valid observations from differing perspectives appear to contradict. NO,



So which is "The Goose Hung High"?

Fair Weather or a Stretched Neck?



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.

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: OPEN

September 21: Otter Lake; at, St John the Baptist Episcopal Church, 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

The 67th Michigan State Convention "Service the heart of AA" is Aug. 23, 24, 25, 2019 in Detroit. Further details at www.michiganstateconvention.com.

New CMIA32 Treasurer address listed below.

There's been questions why there's no longer telephone numbers for F.A.U.C. Officers & Chairs in the Newsletter. On October 21st, 2018 an F.A.U.C. motion passed to remove them as the Newsletter is posted on the website www.geneseecountyaa.org. This is in keeping with the 11th and 12th Traditions. (Anonymity). On the website www.geneseecountyaa.org there is a link to email each of the above Officers & Committee Chairs.

Thetford's having a dance May 4th from 8 -11 pm.

Group wants a Newsletter announcement? Email farfromittoday@aol.com by the 20th of the month.

We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.

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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 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.**