

# Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



May 2019  
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AA Help Line  
(810) 234-0815



## May 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \*

\* = Addresses of Locations can be found in the 2019 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book. (Page #).

- Thu 2 7 pm Van Slyke (19).  
Fri 3 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (21).  
8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).  
Sat 4 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
Sun 5 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).  
Fri 10 8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).  
Sat 11 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
Sun 12 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).  
Wed 15 7:30 pm Thump Day! (15).  
Fri 17 8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).  
Sat 18 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).  
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
Sun 19 6 pm Otter Lake (7).  
7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).  
Fri 24 8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).  
Sat 25 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 26 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).  
Mon 27 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).

Group wants the Speaker listed? Email to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com) the details.

## MESSAGE TO CARRY, OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

If ever there was a suggestion that held purpose for us, the group, and the individual, it comes out in Tradition Five; which is a reiteration of Step Twelve, "...we tried to carry this message to alcoholics..."

Suggestions on how this can be done comes from the pamphlet P-15, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." Indeed, the First, Third, Seventh, Sixth, and, Fifth Traditions are on page one in the form of the A.A. Preamble presented to us like this:

"ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS® is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. [1]

- The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. [3] There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. [7]
- 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 causes. [6]
- Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. [5]

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"Sponsorship responsibility is unwritten and informal, but it is a basic part of the A.A. approach to recovery from alcoholism through the Twelve Steps. Sponsorship can be a longterm relationship." (8).

"Sponsorship is just the best way we know of introducing a newcomer to the program and helping them continue in A.A." (10).

"Most A.A.s feel that sponsorship is a vital part of their ongoing growth and progress in recovery, (11).

Quotes on pages 8, 10, and 11 come from the pamphlet P-15, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." reprinted with A.A. Grapevine, Inc permission"

**Tradition Five**  
**Tradition Short Form**

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers” (561).

**Tradition Long Form**

“Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers” (562).

Alcoholics Anonymous quotes pages 561 and 562 used with A.A.W.S. permission.

**Promises of the Fifth Tradition**

“The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills”. (150 – 151).

“This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that animates A.A.’s all around the globe”. (151)

“It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away”. (151)

“...humility was the main key to sobriety”. (153).

Parenthetical (XX) quotes are from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, used with A.A.W.S. permission.

**Heard in a Meeting:**

“I used to say I should have been dead. I don’t say that any more. If I should have been dead, I would be dead. God had a different plan for me, and I’m alive”.

*(Editor’s note: We are hearing God’s grace and mercy at the same time here. Grace is getting what we deserve; Mercy is not getting what we deserve.*

*In this instance, the person did not die because that was not God’s plan, and the person is yet alive because that is God’s plan. So it does come down to the quote, “We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us”. Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 164, used with A.A.W.S. permission).*

**Fifth Tradition Principle**  
**CARRY THE MESSAGE**

The primary purpose of an A.A. group is to carry the A.A. message giving comfort to those suffering.

The principle of the 5<sup>th</sup> Step is Courage. The principle of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition is carrying the message. One must have Courage to live the Steps, else there is no message to carry. And Courage is just one of the rewards of living the Steps that comes to us as it is stated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Step, “Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these Steps...”

**Courageous Sponsorship**

Great sponsorship does not mean running away from reality. Sometimes the hard truths might just demoralize the sponsee, but at other times sharing your own difficulties can inspire people to take action that will make the situation, and, themselves better.

**Not All Sharing Comes From Wisdom**

Ferd and Ford were doing some carpenter work on a Habitat for Humanity house. When Ferd was nailing siding, he’d reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over the shoulder or nail it in.

Ford, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, 'Why are you throwing those nails away?'

Ferd explained, 'When I pull a nail out of my pouch, about half of them have the head on the wrong end and I throw them away.'

Ford got completely upset and yelled, 'You moron! Those nails aren't defective! They're for the other side of the house!'

**Heard in a Meeting:**

“Be careful of the words you speak,  
Make them soft and sweet.

For you never know from day to day  
Which ones you’ll have to eat”. ~ Bob W

“Alcoholics have a thinking problem; On the left side of the brain, Nothing’s right. On the right side of the brain, Nothing’s left”. ~ Bob W

If you wouldn't write it and sign it, don't say it. ~Earl W  
The kindest word in all the world is the unkind word,  
unsaid. ~Author Unknown

The trouble with talking too fast is you may say something  
you haven't thought of yet. ~Ann Landers

**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 Fifth Step and the Fifth Tradition

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our wrongs”. (Step Five, page 59).

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers” (Tradition Five, page 561). Quotes from Alcoholics Anonymous used with A.A.W.S. permission).

It is evident that the primary purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> Step and the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition is sharing. Whether it be admitting to another, or carrying the message of a new way of life, we have a goal to help ourselves and others through our honesty, open mindedness and willingness.

Sponsorships are built on collective hope and exclusive estimations. If one is lacking, the other is insignificant.

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My AA sponsor told me to stay away from places where I used to drink.

I just sold my car.

My sponsor told me to read the Big Book, and then LIVE IT for it may be the only Big Book someone reads.

A new sponsee relapsed. So now he swears he'll never go to another meeting until he's really learned how to not drink...

The easiest way to save face is to keep the lower half shut. ~Author Unknown

Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if he kept his mouth shut. ~Author Unknown

Among my most prized possessions are words that I have never spoken. ~Orson Rega Card

### A Story of Brotherhood

A young man was given a sports car from his older, successful brother as a birthday present. One day, as he walked up to his car he saw a young boy that was admiring the shiny new car, whistling softly at it.

"Is this yours?" the boy asked. The man nodded, "Yep, my brother gave it to me for my birthday." The boy was astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you a penny? Boy, I wish..." and his voice trailed off and he hesitated to finish his sentence.

The man rolled his eyes, knowing what the boy's wish would be; he was going to wish for a brother like his brother that would give him a new car. Then what the boy finished saying stopped him in his tracks. "I wish," the boy continued, "that I could be a brother like that."

## Rent-A-Sponsor

- ❖ Are you tired of being told like it is?
- ❖ Do you believe that rigorous honesty is overrated?
- ❖ Are you interested in taking the elevator instead of the steps?
- ❖ Have you determined that you are terminally unique?
- ❖ Would you rather try the easier, softer way?
- ❖ Do you find old timers boring?
- ❖ Do you think the big book is 164 pages too long?

### Then Our Rent-A-Sponsor Service is perfect for you.

No Reading! No Writing! No Deadlines!

No effort whatsoever is required!

And we can absolutely guarantee you will not stay sober! (or your money back).

#### SOME OF OUR STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- \*Listening to your problems without providing you with any solutions!
- \*Allowing you to blame others for all your problems!
- \*Teaching you the AA lingo; impress newcomers!
- \*Allowing you to decide if and when you want to work the steps!
- \*Staying sober is all the amends you need to make!
- \*Why "walk the walk" when you can just "talk the talk?"
- \*The only resentment you really need to worry about is the resentment you have against yourself!
- \*Why save your ass at the cost of losing your face?
- \*Learn the secret of giving it away without actually "getting it ."
- \*We also have expert sponsors for those who would like the special "relapse" program." Note: the cost of this program is based on the number of relapses you would like to have.

### AND NOW FOR A LIMITED TIME YOU CAN PURCHASE OUR FOURTH STEP INVENTORY SERVICE FOR A SMALL FEE!

We are experts at understanding alcoholics, their uniqueness, and all the things they aren't willing to deal with. Leave your fourth step inventory in our hands and you will be extremely pleased with the results.

For further information, please call

**1-888-SPONSOR.**

If you are interested in references, we have clients in rehabs, asylums, jails, and graveyards. In addition, we have some clients living on skid row. We would be more than willing to hook you up with one of them.

Just in case anyone tries to rent a sponsor, *this is a joke!* ~ [http://friendsofbillw.net/rent\\_a\\_sponsor](http://friendsofbillw.net/rent_a_sponsor)

**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):** 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**

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

Editor: Doug G. Co-Editor: Mercedes M.

**Newsletter Distributors**

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The April 2019 Newsletter went to 198 meetings & 67 emails. See note bottom left.



**HEADLINE!**  
**WE ARE NOT**  
**A GLUM LOT.**

**Ned & Jed**



**I'm Ned; I've been chopping a minute.**

I'm Jed, they tell me you sponsor new lumberjacks.



**Do tell. Yes, that's true.**

Can you give me a minute?



**I've more minutes than chops, but I'll share the message.**

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

**Next F.A.U.C. Meeting:** Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month; 11:30 am Committee Meetings with a 12:30 pm General Assembly.  
**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 address for the F.A.U.C./P.T.H.A., Inc Treasurer's been corrected at the Newsletter bottom .**

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).

**BIG DAY SATURDAY MAY 4<sup>th</sup> WITH TWO EVENTS!!!**  
4<sup>TH</sup> Annual Bike Blessing at Rocky's. 3 pm Registration. 70 mile Freedom Ride starts 4 pm. Ends at Scooters with AMAZING food specials.

Thetford dance at 8 pm; DJ is James P, Hotdogs, snacks, beverages..

Summer Celebration Recovery Dance at the Faith Lutheran Church, 12534 Holly Rd. Grand Blanc on Saturday June 22. DJ is Eddie B; \$7 cover charge, children 12 and under \$2. Food, Coffee, Fellowship, Dance, Door Prizes, 50/50 raffle. Food 6-7 pm and 8 – 10 pm/ Open Speaker 7 – 8 pm, Dance 8 – 11?

Otter Lake Annual Fellowship Picnic Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> 1 - ? at Jim M's, 6175 White Sands Road, Otter Lake on Hemmingway Lake. Please bring a dish to pass. Pontoon, Kayaks, Volleyball, Horseshoes, Fishing (Bring your own gear) and fun!

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

An old Cherokee told his Grandson: "My Son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil; it is anger, greed, inferiority, other is peace, love, kindness and truth."



The boy thought and asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?" Grandfather replied, "The one you feed."

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

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



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