

Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



July 2019
Vol. 4; Issue 10
AA Help Line
(810) 234-0815



July 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

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

- Thu 4 7 pm Van Slyke (19).
Fri 5 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (21).
8 pm, Fenton Alano.
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 pm, Fenton Alano.
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 pm, Fenton Alano.
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 pm, Fenton Alano.
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).
Group wants the Speaker listed? email to farfromtoday@aol.com the details.

HALFWAY THROUGH THE MEETING

Halfway through the meeting we will be passing the basket in accordance with the 7th tradition, that every AA group ought to be self supporting, declining outside contributions. We have heard this thousands of times. Some groups may even add that this helps pay the rent, coffee, literature and coins etc. If someone asked, what is the number one issue that couples fight about you would most likely say money and you would be right! In reading the 7th tradition there was a group facing the landlord about the rent and he said "Now boys please go heavier on the hat tonight, will you?" "There was a place in AA where spirituality and money would mix, and that it was is in the hat!" (163)

Genesee county has an organization called Pass the Hat Association in which groups can make donations to help carry the message. I will be completely honest and tell you there were times when our most heated discussions was how to spend that money. An example on how we spend funds, we will be putting on a Service workshop on June 1st with panels, delegate 69 area 32, displays and more. There will be a Family picnic again this year and of course our New Year's dance. An important part of the 7th tradition is AA not be used for solicitation of funds from groups, hospitals or outside agencies. Experience has often warned us that nothing can surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority. "They declared for the principal that AA must always stay poor. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundations financial policy." (165)

Opinions may vary as "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." (146). We are but trusted servants and can only try to do to the very best as we possibly can for the fellowship.

Parentetical quotes (146, 163, 165) reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with A.A. permission.



"HALFWAY THROUGH THE MEETING"
by Gordon G.
PLEASE PASS THE HAT !!!

**Tradition Seven
Tradition Short Form**

“Every A.A. group ought to fully self supporting, declining outside contributions” (Tradition Seven, page 561).

Tradition Long Form

“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.” (Tradition Seven, 563). Alcoholics Anonymous quotes pages 561 and 563 used with A.A.W.S. permission.

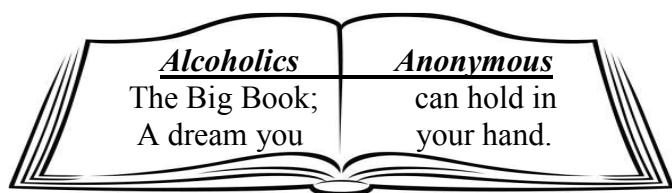
Promises of the Seventh Tradition

“There was a place in A.A. where spirituality and money would mix, and that was in the hat!” (163).

“Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundation's financial policy.” (165).

“...the irresponsible had become responsible, and that by making financial independence part of its tradition, Alcoholics Anonymous had revived an ideal...”. (165).

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pages 163 & 165, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



**Seventh Tradition Principle
RESPONSIBILITY**

Definition of responsibility:

- 1 : the quality or state of being responsible: such as
 - a : moral, legal, or mental accountability.
 - b : reliability, trustworthiness.

Definition of responsible.

- 1a : liable to be called on to answer.
- b(1) : liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent as a committee responsible for the job.
- c : liable to legal review or in case of fault to penalties.
- 2a : able to answer for one's conduct and obligations: trustworthy.
- b : able to choose for oneself between right and wrong.

“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?

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

http://aamainedistrict6.org/images/Tools_Group_-_Prudent_Reserve.pdf

“Money -- Before and After

In our drinking time, we acted as if the money supply were inexhaustible, though between binges we'd sometimes go to the other extreme and become miserly. Without realizing it, we were just accumulating funds for the next spree. Money was the symbol of pleasure and self-importance. As our drinking became worse, money was only an urgent requirement which could supply us with the next drink and the temporary comfort of oblivion it brought.

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Although financial recovery is on the way for many of us, we found we could not place money first. For us, material well-being always follows spiritual progress; it never precedes.

- 1. TWELVE AND TWELVE, P. 120
 - 2. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, P. 127”
- As Bill Sees It, page 92, 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.

“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 Seventh Step and the Seventh Tradition

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.” (Step Seven, page 59).

“Every A.A. group ought to fully self supporting, declining outside contributions” (Tradition Seven, page 561).

Are there similarities of the seventh Step and Seventh Tradition? It is in the principle invoked in us and suggested to keep humility in our lives.

Recognizing as we have previous to the Seventh Step, we asked humbly God to remove shortcomings we have. Recognizing in the Seventh Tradition that we as a group are only financially secure on our own contributions humbles us to place the group before the individual and be charitable, a part of humbleness.

Our personal shortcomings may be financially driven through placing our wants before our needs and then being impulsive in nature. We may forego the passed basket for group contributions in the same way, saving up for a personal want. Neither of these actions are humble, nor healthy to either our self, or the group

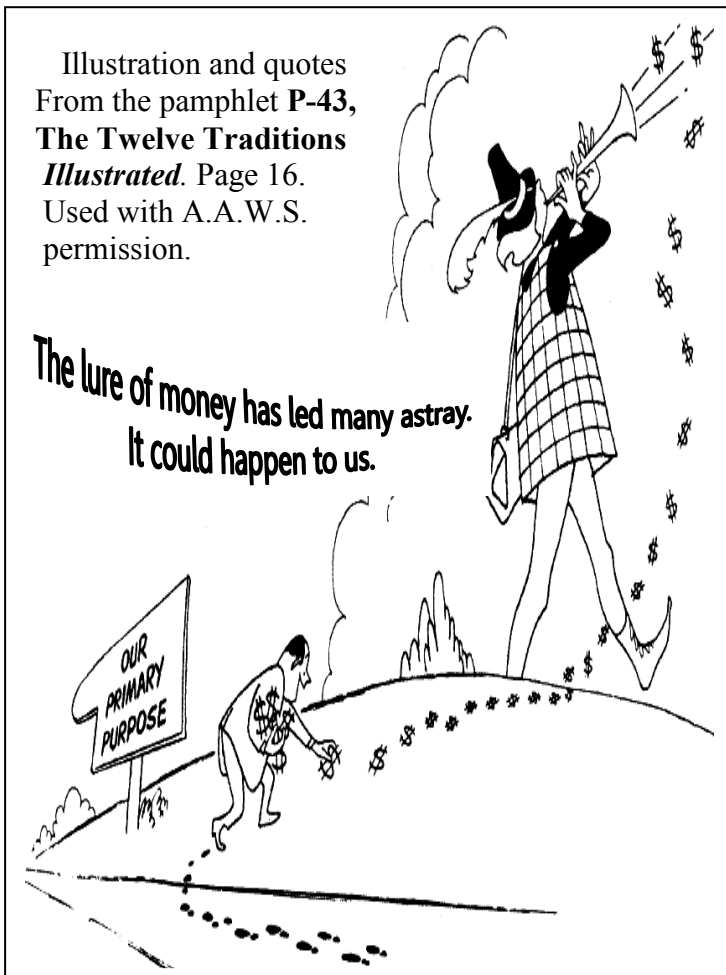
Something changes in us; we become more responsible and have dignity as we practice these two Sevens. A definition of Responsible is being accountable for one’s actions. A definition of Dignity is having a sense of being worthy. Do we not gain these virtues in the work of this new lifestyle we have chosen to life? Keeping them in practice are part of both the Twelfth Step and the Twelfth Tradition. the Step suggests practicing these principles in all our affairs, and the Tradition suggests placing principles before personality.

Humility, being needful, having responsibility, accountability, dignity and principles; how many of those did we lack when we were ego driven selfish, wantful, liable to be called out on our actions, distrustful and lying, and driven by ego?

All these shortcomings, be they on an individual or a group hold us back from what? “For when harboring such feelings we shut ourselves off from the sunlight of the Spirit.” (66) “To be vital, faith must be accompanied by self sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action.” (93)

Quotes from pages 66 and 99 of the book Alcoholics Anonymous are reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for; Perfection is God’s business. ~ Anonymous



“We do have to be practical. A group can hardly hold its regular meetings on a street corner, and an empty basket won’t fill a coffee urn. As soon as we become active in a group, we learn how many expenses are involved in making its meetings effective. Then our horizons broaden.”

From the pamphlet P-43, The Twelve Traditions Illustrated. Page 15, Used with A.A.W.S. permission.

Heard in a meeting:

The difference between a character defect and a shortcoming; one is a thought that is wrong; the other is acting on that wrong thought and doing it.

When’s the last time a policeman pulled you over and said, “Have you been thinking today?”

Read in a book:

“The body’s mischief’s, as Plato proves, proceed from the soul: and if the mind be not first satisfied, the body can never be cured.” Robert Burton, The Anatomy of Melancholy (1621). “...the heart has its reasons which the mind knows nothing of.” The Cunning Man, page 106, Roberstson Davies, 1994.

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): 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

Bob W, Carl D, Chris R, Doug G, Drew K, Gordon G, Jeff G, James P, Tony B, Thank You to Kamesha M for her Service as a distributor, she,s rewsigned while pursuing other avenues in Service.

The June 2019 Newsletter went to 190 meetings & 67 emails. See note bottom left.



**It's a Tradition.
Read the News,
You'll know!**

Ned & Jed



You bring your chips for the meeting tonight, Jed?

What do I need chips for?



Do tell. For the coffee pot fire, we need a Prudent Reserve.



Where are you going?

To pick up my chips to support the Fireside group.

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

A.A Treasurer's addresses:



A.A.W.S., Inc., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
C.M.I.A. 32, % kdonoghue PO Box 1593 Midland MI 48642
F.A.U.C. 4225 Miller Rd. Suite 119 Flint, MI 48507 Please make checks payable to **Pass The Hat Association, Inc.**

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.

July 20: Lapeer/Clover School, 3496 Davison Rd Lapeer

August 17: Eye Opener/Arid Club

September 21: Otter Lake; 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: Davison Fellowship/St John's,
425 Genesee St. Davison

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.

Alano House has a July 4th Celebration at 6 pm F.A.U.C. Annual Picnic is July 28th at Bluebell Beach, 11 – 5, Please bring a dish to Pass.

Oak Parks Annual Picnic is on Aug 3 at Bluebell Beach 8 am (Set-up) to 5 pm with an 11 am meeting.

Otter Lake Annual Fellowship Picnic Saturday August 10th 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!

All of the meetings at St. John's in Fenton (New Horizons) been discontinued.

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

The three cartoons below used with Grapevine permission.



My sponsor said to go back to basics. I just didn't know how far back he wanted me to go...

If you're ready for the morning worm instead of one in a tequila bottle, we know who can help.



Hungry, Angry, Lonely, and Tired? Could of got that from A.A. for free!

