

# Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



August 2019  
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AA Help Line  
(810) 234-0815



## August 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \*

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

- Thu 1 7 pm Van Slyke (19).
- Fri 2 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (21).  
8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 3 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
- Sun 4 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 9 8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 10 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
- Sun 11 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 16 8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 17 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
- Sun 18 6 pm Otter Lake (7).  
7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Wed 21 7:30 pm Thump Day! (15).
- Fri 23 8 pm, Fenton Alano.  
8:30 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 24 11 am Oak Park (24).  
\*\* 7 pm Thetford (25). (With a POTLUCK).  
7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).  
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).  
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
- Sun 25 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Mon 26 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).

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

## Districts and D.C.M.s Link Together A.A. Groups

The geographical units known as districts link A.A. groups in local areas to each other and to A.A. groups across the country. The term "district" was mentioned during early General Service Conferences, and both "district" and "district committee member" were used informally in the 1950s. The term "district" was included in the 1955 draft of The Third Legacy Manual of World Service (now called The A.A. Service Manual). A 1975 supplement to The A.A. Service Manual formalized use of the term "district." The current edition of the Service Manual defines a District as "containing the right number of groups—right in terms of the committee member's ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well-being."

As The A.A. Service Manual explains, the "district committee member is an essential link between the group G.S.R. and the area delegate to the General Service Conference. As leader of the district committee, made up of all G.S.R.s in the district, the D.C.M. is exposed to the group conscience of that district."

From the website:

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_Box459\\_oct-nov05\\_misc.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_Box459_oct-nov05_misc.pdf)

**The District 12; Westside, has James Parks running for DCM. The August 17<sup>th</sup> F.A.U.C. meeting at the Arid Club will have any and all nominations and an election for the District 12; Westside DCM. All GSR's in that district should plan to attend for this District business. Thank you!**

**District 12; Westside Groups; Victory Today, Flushing Group, Main St. Sobriety, Clio Group, Thetford Group, Swartz Creek AM, Swartz Creek PM, Sanity Group, Carpenter Road, Van Slyke, St. Mary's Mt Morris, Montrose Hope, Young People.**

## Tradition Eight Tradition Short Form

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” (561).

## Tradition Long Form

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for. (563).

Alcoholics Anonymous quotes pages 561 and 563 reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

## Promises of the Eighth Tradition

“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class.” (166).

“...at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix.” (166).

“We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us.” (166).

“Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped.” (166).

“But when we had declared that our Fellowship couldn't hire service workers nor could any A.A. member carry our knowledge into other fields, we were taking the counsel of fear, fear which today has been largely dispelled in the light of experience. (167).

“Our Twelfth Step is never to be paid for. but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire.” (171).

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions quotes on pages 166, 167 & 171, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

## Eighth Tradition Principle Giving It Away

“The 12-step program is free. There is a saying in the rooms, "In order to keep it, you must give it away, with the keyword "give." By not being highly organized, support groups keep the emphasis on true fellowship and their primary purpose. There may be committees or a secretary to help with handling contributions.”

From <https://www.verywellmind.com/the-twelve-traditions>

## TRADITIONS CHECKLIST from the A.A. Grapevine (Reprinted with permission)

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

**Tradition Eight: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.**

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get *some* reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on *humility*?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? To the pamphlet *AA Tradition—How It Developed?* P-17.

### 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 Eighth Step and the Eighth Tradition

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all” (Step Eight, page 59).

““Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” (Tradition Eight, page 561).

Alcoholics Anonymous quotes page 59 and 561 reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

“Help-alongs” for Step 8.

- Realize that you hurt others as well as yourself with your drinking.
- Discover how many people you have hurt and how you’ve hurt them.
- Make a list of everyone you’ve harmed. Also, pay attention to what you discover about yourself and your problems along the way.
- Don’t be defensive and blame people for how they’ve treated you. Forgive them, because without forgiving others, you cannot forgive yourself.
- Don’t minimize your faults and failures by focusing on the faults of others.
- Look beyond your obvious defects and do a thorough examination of your flaws.
- Avoid judgments of others. Be objective when evaluating your defects as well as those of others.

From <https://www.verywellmind.com/a-study-of-tradition-8-69425>

*(Notice how much Honesty, Open-mindedness and Willingness is involved with this Step).*

### Tradition Eight Study

\* These central offices and service centers many times involve more work than volunteer service workers can provide, so some hire full- and part-time employees to do the necessary labor to keep them running smoothly. Tradition 8, therefore, allows for the "special workers" to be hired and paid a salary to do the work that volunteers cannot cover.

*(An Honest day’s work for an Honest day’s pay).*

\*”Members understand the difference between paying for support services but not paying for professional counselors.”

*(Open-mindedness allows understanding).*

\*Tradition 8 allows contributions to be used for support services while the groups provide only non-professional, mutual support.

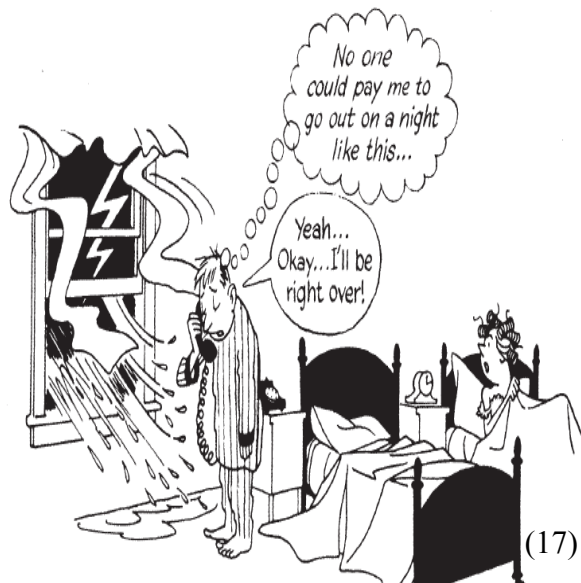
*(Willingness to support carrying the message).*

All \* from <https://www.verywellmind.com/a-study-of-tradition-8-69425>

*Italics are the Editor’s notes.*

## The Eighth Tradition

*Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*



“Spiritual as it is, A.A. remains very much of this world. The Eighth Tradition, like the Seventh, focuses on a vulgar five-letter word that isn’t actually mentioned in either: money.... It became clear to the early members that no A.A. should ever ask or accept payment for “carrying this message to somebody else, person to person and face to face.” (17).

“There would be another problem in using volunteers alone: It seems ungrateful—or, at least, it’s socially awkward—to criticize or reject a job done for free. But paid jobs for A.A. get quite a going-over! Take our literature, for instance (like this pamphlet). Whatever the subject, we want to be sure that each piece expresses as clearly as possible the view of the group conscience of A.A. as a whole. So any new project must first be approved by the Conference. Once it is in process, the Literature Committee of the General Service Board keeps a careful eye on it at every stage. Frequently, drastic changes are required. The “finished” product then must be okayed both by that committee and by the Conference Literature Committee, and further revisions are often—

“Now wait a minute!” some old-timer may interrupt. “What’s going on here? Didn’t Dr. Bob say, ‘Let’s keep it simple?’...” (18).

The Twelve Traditions Illustrated; illustration and quotes pages 17 and 18 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):** 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:** Doug G.

**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.

The July 2019 Newsletter went to 194 meetings & 69 emails. See note bottom left.



Ned & Jed

**You have any thing to carry tonight, Jed?**

Just the message, and it's easier to sharpen than an axe.



**Do tell. What have you been practicing in your affairs?**



**Where are you going?**

Going to get a Lumberjack newcomer to drink the coffee and listen and learn.

**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.

**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 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).

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 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!

Autumn Celebration Recovery Dance at the Faith Lutheran Church, 12534 Holly Rd. Grand Blanc on Saturday September 21st DJ is Chris S; \$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?

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

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

**THANK YOU !!!**

The Flint Area Unity Council would like again to post the following notice:

"**Thank you** to all the **Groups** for the donations to the F.A.U.C., Area32, and the GSO. It is with gratitude of the work you do that allows the Council to more fully follow Tradition Five, "Each group has but one primary purpose —to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers." 12 X 12,pg 150, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

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

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