

Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



December 2019
Vol. 5; Issue 3
AA Help Line
(810) 234-0815



Aerial view of Flint, MI;
Weatherball near the center.

No vote's for Flint's Best Coney Dog from November issue. However, Angelo's Coney Island is at Number 3 on a list of 9 at:

www.onlyinyourstate.com/michigan/best-coney-dog-mi/

December 2019 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

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

- Sun 1 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Thu 5 7 pm Van Slyke (19).
- Fri 6 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (21).
8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 7 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 8 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 13 8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 14 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 15 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 20 8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 21 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
- Sun 22 6 pm Otter Lake (7).
7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Mon 23 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).
- Fri 24 8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 25 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 8 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- To list a Speaker email farfromittoday@aol.com.

Some Tradition History

The **Twelve Traditions** of twelve-step programs provide guidelines for relationships between the twelve-step groups, members, other groups, the global fellowship, and society at large. Questions of finance, public relations, donations, and purpose are addressed in the Traditions. They were originally written by Bill Wilson after the founding of the first twelve-step group, Alcoholics Anonymous. [1]

Several of the tenets of what were to become A.A.'s Twelve Traditions are first expressed in the Foreword to the First Edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1939. By 1944 the number of A.A. groups had grown along with the number of letters being sent to the A.A. headquarters in New York asking how to handle disputes caused by issues like publicity, religion, and finances. [2] By 1946 A.A. cofounder Bill Wilson had more clearly formulated the basic ideas for the Twelve Traditions directly from such correspondence with groups (via the group conscience method), setting guidelines on how groups and members should interact with each other, the public, and A.A. as a whole. [1] The Traditions were first published in the April 1946 AA Grapevine under the title *Twelve Points to Assure Our Future*^[3] and were formally adopted at A.A.'s First International Convention in 1950. [1] Wilson's book on the subject, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, was published in April, 1953. [3]

1. *Alcoholics Anonymous (February 10, 2002). Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.*
2. *Hartigan, Francis (2001). Bill W.: A Biography of Alcoholics Anonymous Cofounder Bill Wilson. pp. 161-162.*
3. *Alcoholics Anonymous. Twelve Steps And Twelve Traditions. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services.*

From the website:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Traditions

Tradition Twelve

Tradition Short Form

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities” (561).

Tradition Twelve Long Form

“And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all. (565).

Alcoholics Anonymous quotes pages 561, 565 reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

Promises of the Twelfth Tradition

“It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.” (184).

“When opportunities to be helpful came along, he found he could talk easily about A.A. to almost anyone.” (186).

“These experiences taught us that anonymity is real humility at work.” (187).

“We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.” (188). The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions quotes on pages 184, 186, 187, 188 are reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

Twelfth Tradition Principle SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

“The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. We try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have. “ (Principles Before Personalities)_

From the website;

http://silkworth.net/downloads/pdf/spiritual_principles_of_the_12_traditions.pdf

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST from the A.A. Grapevine

“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 A.A. groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all A.A. members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if A.A. as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other A.A.'s, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain A.A. group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an A.A. group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support A.A. financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain A.A.s' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for A.A.? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all A.A. responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give A.A. critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my A.A. membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of A.A. so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million A.A.'s?”

Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission from the Pamphlet SMF-131.

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.

On 10/28/2019 the Flint Area Unity Council website, www.geneseecountyaa.org went 'live' with the Meeting Guide app licensed by the A.A. GSO. Our thanks to all who worked behind the scenes updating meeting lists, compiling data tables, and updating the website. The website has a new look for the Meetings Schedule, and it is now inter-active with a smart phone with increased ease of use. There have been questions as to if this can be made a 'printable' option. This also is being investigated. Already, meeting corrections are coming in to the website chair at farfromtoday@aol.com. Thanks and keep them coming!

Meeting Guide



The Meeting Guide APP for Flint Area Unity Council District 12 is now available at the APP Store for your Smart phone. It is free, and based off the F.A.U.C. Meetings Schedule website, www.geneseecountyaa.org. If you know of changes to meetings that need to be made, please contact the website chair.

On November 2, 2018, Greg T., general manager of the General Service Office, sent the following letter to all Area chairs, registrars, Intergroup/Central Office managers, and conference members:

“Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., has recently licensed the “Meeting Guide” technology. The Meeting Guide app was launched in November 2015. The app provides a platform for local A.A. entities (areas, intergroup/central offices, districts, etc.) to post their local A.A. meetings, and currently provides information to more than 100,000 users reflecting some 86,000 meetings. Since the meeting information is all made available through the app’s mobile-friendly interface, those looking for a meeting have a simple, one-stop place to look.

“We welcome your suggestions.”



New & Enhanced Features

Search — Find A.A meetings by name or location, in addition to day and time.

Daily Reflections — a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members.

Enhanced location functionality.

Expanded user interface, with a new menu bar and “Contact” feature.

“News” — Learn about events at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and Grapevine, as well as information about updates within the app.

I was named after Bill Wilson. This confuses people because my name is Doug G. As I said, I was named after Bill W.

I thought my son was spending way too much time playing computer games, so I stopped him and said, "Son, when Bill W. was your age, he was studying books by the light of the oil lamp."

He considered that for a moment before replying, "Yeah, well, when Bill W. was your age, he was The Founder of Alcoholics Anonymous."

My psychiatrist congratulated me on making such good progress. "You call this progress?" I snapped. "Six months ago, I was Bill Wilson. Now I'm a nobody!" He said, "Keep coming back!"

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:** Doug G.

Young People: OPEN

F.A.U.C. Newsletter

Editor: Doug G. Co-Editor: Mike J.

Newsletter Distributors

Aaron B, Bob W, Carl D, Chris R, Doug G, Drew K, Gordon G, James P, Jared B, Kelly S, Steve C, Tom S.

The November 2019 Newsletter went to 201 meetings & 73 emails. See note bottom left. Ned & Jed



Jed, you know we practice these principles in all our affairs, right?

I once punched the principal right in the snout locker over an affair.



Is that like a Declaration of Independence?



Do tell. We owe our future to our common welfare. That's part of the Declaration of Unity.

Do tell... You're getting close, but it's to our, and for the lives to come, that matter. We are united, not independent.

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.

December 21: Van Slyke Group, Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Road, Flint.

Group NEWS

The A.A. International Convention will be in Detroit, MI, July 2 -5, 2020. "Love and Tolerance is our Code" is the theme. A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event. Meetings held Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Online registration available on www.aa.org. Volunteers are needed.

The Flint Arid Club is having a Christmas Dance on December 14th, 6 – 11 (?) PM at the Faith Lutheran Church, 12534 Holly Rd, Grand Blanc. Santa will be there for all, with Open Speakers, food and the dance starts at 8 pm. Cover is \$7 (\$2 off with a toy!) and \$2 for children under 12 years of age. See the Flyer at www.geneseecountyaa.org under Announcements.

Victory Today at the Trinity Parsonage, 745 1/2 E. Main, Flushing now has an 8 PM Closed Speaker/Lead-In meeting.

The next CMIA32 (Intra-Area) meeting is December 1st hosted by District 20 at Bullock Creek High School, 1420 S Badour Rd, Midland, MI 48640, 9 am to 2:30 pm. Previous minutes and future meetings are on the website www.cmia32.org.

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

Two women were talking, one recently widowed; May... "Yes, he was a good man except when he drank. Then he wouldn't work, he'd hit the kids and e...carried on with loose women, wasted his pocketful of money. Then the drink killed him" June.... "Tsk! Tsk! Sooo, he didn't try A.A.?" May... "Oh My No! He never went, he wasn't that bad."

Simply A Matter Of Denial?

An irate woman called the Helpline the other day demanding an answer, "How long does it take to get into your classes anyway? My husband has been trying to get in for more than a few months, and he keeps telling me you're full--- he's STILL on the waiting list!"

If you want a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request to farfromtoday@aol.com.

A.A Treasurer's addresses:

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payable to **Pass The Hat Association, Inc.**