

Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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



February 2020; No. 53
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AA Help Line
(810) 234-0815

Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love



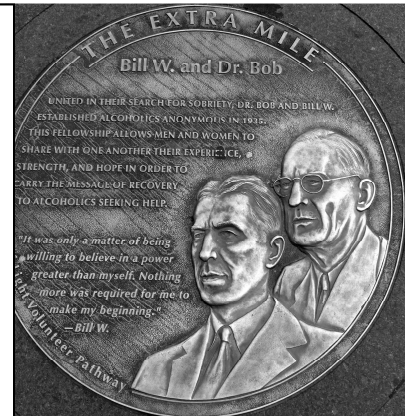
Grace of God



Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson

Trust God, Clean House, Help Others

“But life was not easy for the two friends. Both saw that they must keep spiritually active.” Alcoholics Anonymous, page 156, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



February 2020 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

- * = Addresses of Locations can be found in the 2019 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book. (Page #).
- Sun 2 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
 - Thu 6 7 pm Van Slyke (19).
 - Fri 7 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (21).
8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
 - Sat 8 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
 - Sun 9 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
 - Fri 14 8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
 - Sat 15 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
 - Sun 16 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
 - Fri 21 8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
 - Sat 22 11 am Oak Park (24).
** 7 pm Thetford (25). With a POTLUCK.
7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (24).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (23).
8 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (25).
 - Sun 23 6 pm Otter Lake (7).
7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
 - Mon 24 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).
 - Fri 28 8 pm, Fenton Alano.
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).

To list a Speaker email farfromittoday@aol.com.

The A.A. Answering Service needs Female and Male volunteers. Call the Help Line at 810-234-0815 and select Option 2 and leave your name and phone number to be contacted.

PRINCIPLES OF THE CONCEPTS

As with the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, there are principles associated with each of the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. Principles? So then what are they?

As per the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of principles is; “a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning.”

So what we have here put in simple terms is a principle that some truth guides thoughts and behavior. By following the principle of a Concept (Step or Tradition), we then are ensured to embody the spiritual action in our life which leads to our sobriety (rational thinking) and serenity (peace and calm).

Our life of powerlessness and unmanageability has been transformed. Through the *individual* (the Steps), the *groups* (the Traditions) and finally the *Service Organization* (the Concepts), we have become a people we never knew, knew of, or cared to know, gaining its rewards.

12 CONCEPT PRINCIPLES

Only the first two principles will be revealed here, the others in order as the Concepts are presented monthly. UNITY (Concept 1) "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." CONSCIENCE (Concept 2) "The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in world affairs."

Quotes from The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, page S116, by Bill W. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

- Doug G.

CONCEPT II SHORT FORM

“The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.” (Page S116 in the 2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission).

CONCEPT II LONG FORM

“When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.” (Page 1, Pamphlet SMF-195, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission).

PROMISES OF CONCEPT II

“The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme.” Page 175.

“Therefore the General Service Conference of A.A. — plus any later formed sections — has become for nearly every practical purpose the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.” Page 177.

Quotes from The 2018 – 20 A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

“The principle behind the second concept of service is that we become disciplined in order that we may do those jobs that God delegates to us through the group.”

http://www.1212and12.org/homework/concepts/1212and12_concept_2.pdf



CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

(Service Material from the General Service Office).

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the “Conference”)?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group’s G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

From: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf

HISTORY OF A.A. SERVICES

By Bill W., General Service Conference, 1951

Summary of Bill’s opening talk of the GSC.

“In the local group, there is first a ‘founder.’ The founder and his friends, in the early days of the group, constitute a self-appointed service committee that does the various chores that have to be done in a new group. For a time this committee in effect ‘runs’ the group. It programs the meetings. It arranges the refreshments. And it coordinates Twelfth Step work.

“The founders and their friends next set up the Alcoholic Foundation, ‘essentially an incorporated self-appointed committee.’

“An office was set up - the first national service office—to handle the growing stream of inquiries. Ruth H., the first secretary, was supported out of income from the book.

“The first solicitation letter was then sent to the groups, suggesting that one dollar per year per member be sent to the Foundation for its service activities.

“Now the Foundation became the custodian of two kinds of funds, General Funds (from the sale of the book and from the Rockefeller dinner) and Group Funds (contributed by individual members through the groups). A rigid policy, continuously enforced, provides that Group Funds can be used only for service to groups and for the development of new groups.

“Today a seven-man General Service Committee supervises the General Service Office. The Trustees of the Foundation elect four of their members to serve.

“This is your legacy of service. Guard it carefully. We hope you will like the stewardship we have given you.” Bill W.

Adapted for space from: <http://minnesotarecovery.info/literature/HistoryofAAServices.htm>

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.

RESISTANCE ~ Drew K.

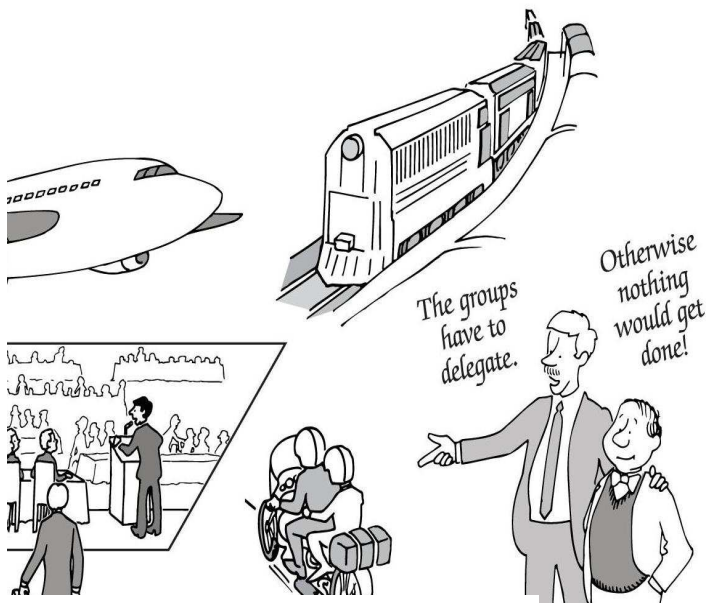
“Whether compelled towards abstinence by external agents (the law, relationships for example) or moved this way by our own desire to escape the misery of addiction, few achieve sobriety without a struggle. There is often a stage at which one is both aware of the ruin in one’s thirst and determined to live within new limits – and yet continues to drink. At this point, one has some understanding of the danger in “that first drink” and – knowing that abstinence is imperative – makes the decision to quit – but fails to appreciate the power of addiction, working to direct from below the conscious intellect and thus holding authority over the alcoholic, even when dry. Alcoholics in this condition, frustrated and confused, find a simple realization of their own values – through behavior compliant with their own decisions – quite elusive, denied by destructive forces within their own minds.

Thus held by instincts that will not be tempered by logic or virtue, some might despair – and anyone may wonder do alcoholics ever achieve sobriety, given that even the mature and cultivated intellect remains vulnerable to internal tendencies towards vice.

Yet we know that success does occur – and so we continue to strive with confidence, to liberate ourselves together; moreover, the search does lead to salvation – and quickly, as the sources and methods proven over generations (prayer and meditation, for example – along with our meetings, the “Big Book”, service, sponsors and our Twelve Steps, themselves) are now shared as the fundamental elements of the A.A. program.

But since logic and virtue can be conquered by the deceptive forces of addiction, we can not expect the mind to REACH for these sources and methods in moments of crisis; what we must understand is the importance of setting these keys within our new ways of thought and activity – of building strength in advance through constant practice.”

←-RESISTANCE



"You feel unwell? You have too much blood in your alcohol system."



“Bill and Dr. Bob entrusted by the early groups to get the program going and to spread the message, found nonalcoholic friends to help them. They formed a trusteeship and delegated to it the responsibility for finances, the Big Book and other literature, public information, the service office and the A.A. Grapevine. However, as the trustees constantly looked to the co-founders for advice and guidance and the groups also continued to hold them accountable, it was evident that the leadership should be transferred to the A.A. groups as a whole. But if the groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, the staffs of the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine and certain other service workers. Thus, this General Service Conference of A.A. is “the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.”

Page 5 and 6, Pamphlet P-8, The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

COUNTRY SERENITY

There’s a group in Otisville, group name of St. Francis A.A. The address is St. Francis Xavier Church, 212 Center St. Otisville 48463. The meetings are Monday and Friday at 7 pm. These are Topic/Discussion meetings. It is a long term stable group of a close, cohesive Fellowship. There’s another in Otter Lake, called Otter Lake A.A. at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, address 5811 Forest Avenue, Otter Lake 48464. The meetings are Sunday and Thursday at 6 pm. These groups are reaching out and offering its ‘little town hospitality’ to all those that could and would attend. So come on out and share your experience, strength and hope with Country Serenity.

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: Michelle A.

F.A.U.C. Secretary: Aaron B.

Pass The Hat Assoc. Treasurer (PTHA): George W.
Alternate: Gordon G.

Accessibility for All Alcoholics: Ruth H.

A.A. Answering Service: Wayne T.

PI-Public Information: Gordon G.

CPC- Cooperation with the Professional Community: Gordon G.

Corrections: Chris R. **Grapevine:** Greg S.

Literature/Meeting Books/Newsletter: James P.

Treatment: Kamesha M. **Website:** Doug G.

Young People: OPEN

F.A.U.C. Newsletter

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

Newsletter Distributors

Bob W, Carl D, Chris R, Doug G, Drew K, Gordon G, Jack B, James P, Jared B, Jerry S, Kamesha M, Kellv S. Tom S.

The January 2020 Newsletter went to 212 meetings & 84 emails. See note bottom left.

Ned & Jed



Jed, you know for every practical purpose there is a voice, right?

Well the boss sure got a voice, but not what I'd call practical.



I wished they'd send him around the world. You know more 64 dollar words than him.



Do tell. Not the boss we are talking about here. It's the conscience of the chopper's delegation for our service around the world.

Do tell... But you and me, we all are a part of that voice of the conscience.

2020 F.A.U.C. Meetings; Date: Place: Host 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.

February 15: Courage to Change, Arid Club

March 21: Arid Club, Torrey Road Group,

April 18: Thetford Senior Center, Thetford

May 16: Arid Club, Eye Opener

June 20: OPEN

July 18: Clover School, Lapeer

August 15: OPEN

September 19: St John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Otter Lake Group

October 17: Arid Club, Women in A.A.

November 21: Arid Club, New Strength

December 19: Local 659, Van Slyke Group

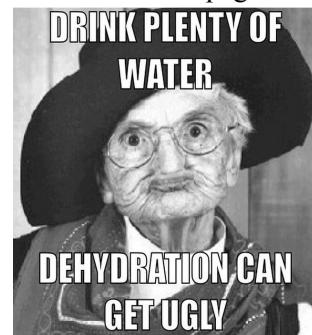
Group NEWS

A.A. International Convention, Detroit, MI, July 2 -5, 2020. Online registration on www.aa.org. Volunteers needed.

CMIA32 meets at Township Hall, 2770 S. Ellsworth Rd, Perry, MI 48872, February 2, 2020, 9 AM.

Spirit Riders is having a Cabin Fever Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for the East Side Soup Kitchen on Saturday February 15th at St. Andrews Church, 1022 Iowa, Flint from 5 – 8 pm. Open Talk at 5 pm followed by dinner.

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



NO GLUM LOT HERE

His first meeting, and very bad burns on both ears. Asked how'd that happen, he said, "Well, I was drinking while my wife ironed. The phone rang and I answered the IRON!" "That explains one ear, what about the other?" "The son of a gun called back!"



"You were a dolphin in an earlier life?" "I think so, a bottle-nosed dolphin."

Both above adapted for space from "God Grant Me The Laughter" by Ed F., 1989.

Today my sponsor told me if I want great serenity I'd have to start with small sacrifices.



Does anyone know where to buy live chickens cheap?

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 48641

F.A.U.C. 4225 Miller Rd. Suite 119 Flint, MI 48507 Please make checks payable to **Pass The Hat Association, Inc.**

If you want a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request at farfromittoday@aol.com