

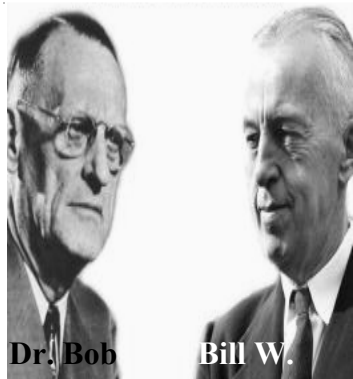
# Flint Area Unity Council Newsletter

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

The A.A.W.S. licensed Smart Phone Meeting Guide app has all Flint Area A.A. Meetings on it and is available for free. →



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A.A. Help Line  
(810) 234-0815



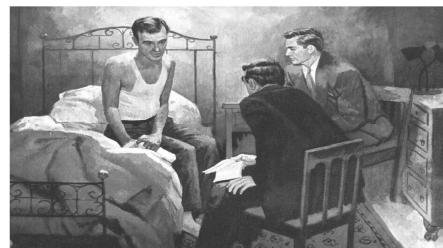
Dr. Bob

Bill W.



← Proposed cover for 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous Book in 1939. This submission did not get selected.

A.A. number 3 →



was Bill Dotson, the "Man on the Bed". His date of sobriety was June 26, 1935. Born in 1892, he was 62 years old on September 17, 1954 when he died.

## FRIENDS OF JOY

I'm sitting at St. Andrew's at Saturday's Foglifters meeting, remembering when we moved from the 6th grade classroom at St. Leo's.

All the pictures and signs were faithfully carried to the new meeting room. Many of the slogans and signs were made by mickymouse jim, carefully pasting each letter in place as part of his recovery 12th step work.

Panorama pictures of the world conventions are displayed. There's a picture of Sister Ignatia (Mary Gavin) who helped Bill and Bob with AA number 3. A variety of items related to AA's who've left a legacy of successful sobriety are displayed on the walls including Chuck F.'s "ten little words" and Bob C.'s red hat. All of them found useful work - actions to become friends and help others in finding the joys of sobriety. Come to a meeting and see for yourself. ~ Jerry S.



The Foglifters' meeting room.

What happens when the fog lifts over LA?

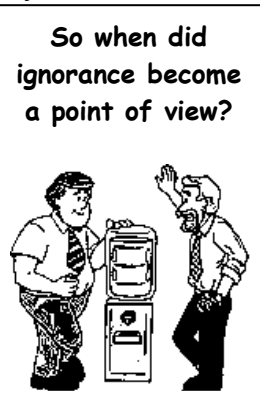
UCLA.

## GOOD PROSPECTS

"How naïve," says the obstinate addict, "to think I might improve my life or my self in any substantial way – by abstinence." At times – especially in distress – we might have no sense of what recovery holds; nor can even the most confident truly know the benefits ahead. Such a lack of perception is only natural, though – and should never be allowed to break our devotion to the path of sobriety.

Yes, the good life achieved through this program does quite surprise those who find their way. Even getting started, as we are waking up – ready to accept moral responsibility and our own guilt – there is already some notion of a better future – but no-one can imagine all we shall encounter. Only experience makes known the beauty and truth which come to us, in striving – and as our path is one of cultivation, we come through experience to be guided by virtues whose very presence we had never suspected. On and on, there is perpetual growth in understanding, attitude and behavior – lifting one always into new dimensions of maturity and character.

Ignorance of what lies ahead is not a fault. Eager for an excuse from the exertion of change, though, the mind often prefers to believe in only what it perceives at the moment (however dark); in this tendency, there is vice – and ruin, as it would suspend or even turn us back. Adversity might bring us to despair, but – as despair stands thus upon a false presumption of knowledge and an erroneous evaluation of prospects – we should never lose hope – or quit. The benefits are not always felt, but this way of life will prove itself – and often astonish. ~ Drew K.



### CONCEPT III SHORT FORM

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.” (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 III LONG FORM

“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision”. (Page 1, Pamphlet SMF-195, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission).

### CONCEPT III EXPLAINED

“In this Third Concept, the various Boards, corporations (e.g., Grapevine), staffs, and committees are given the right to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions. In practice this concept means that AA's "trusted servants" ought to carefully weigh the wishes of the members, but that they are also trusted to exercise their own judgment in the light of all circumstances, facts and arguments that become known to them during the voting or deliberation process.”

~ <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/recoveryinn/12-concepts-explained-t4286.html>

### CONCEPT III CHECKLIST

**(Service Material from the General Service Office).**

- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?
- Do we trust our trusted servants —G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

From: [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-91\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf)

### CONCEPT 3 – THE RIGHT OF DECISION

“This concept may be the most important to anyone serving at any level of service in AA. At group level we do not instruct the cake or coffee maker what kind to make or buy. We trust our trusted servant to do their best for the group and trust that there will be coffee and snacks to serve at the meeting.

“Those of you who are GSRs are trusted to make the best educated decision with the information you have on who to vote for when you elected your area Officers, and on the Area budget. Your group trusted that you would do what you thought was best for AA.

“This is the case when delegates go to conference. We instruct them as to how we feel on a subject; we do not tell them how to vote. We trust that they will do what is best for AA as a whole. It is true for the General Service Board, AA World Services, The Grapevine, and the General Service Office. Although the conference has authority over them regarding matters of AA policy/ recommendations, we realize that in order for these decisions and the orderly management of day to day affairs to be effectively carried out, they need to be given the right to make decisions. The most intriguing part of the right of decision is that each trusted servant’s given the ability to interpret and apply their decision as situations arise. So each trusted servant or entity should decide for themselves when they can make a decision and when they should seek guidance.”

~ excerpt from Steve L. Panel 68, Area 61 Alternate Delegate May 2018.

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### PRINCIPLE OF CONCEPT III

Trust, the principle supporting Concept III.

As per the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of trust is; “the belief that somebody/something is good, sincere, honest, etc. and will not try to harm or trick you.”

This is an important part of Alcoholics Anonymous in the fact that we trust our selves to trust others to make the ‘right’ decision given the information they have been supplied. What this does is curtail any resentments we may harbor in the future towards a decision made on our; the Fellowship’s behalf. Use the Concept III Checklist in the left hand column which asks questions on this for discussion and source of action for this principle of Trust.

~ Doug G.

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An Open Mind Opens Hearts to Opened Doors.

### FLINT AREA UNITY COUNCIL AIMS AND PURPOSES

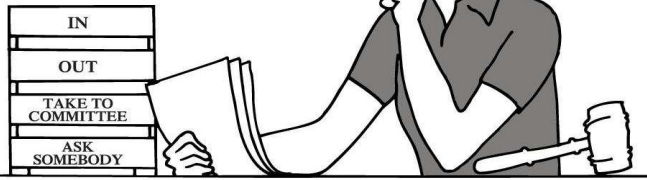
- 1) To promote Unity among Flint Area A.A., and harmony with Al-Anon and Ala-teen groups.
- 9) The Council will create service committees and be financially responsible for them.

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 Right of Decision**



**AT ALL LEVELS OF SERVICE**

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

“A background for this Concept, you should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, both of which are found in The A.A. Service Manual. For, except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service — has the right “to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” That is, they can “decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.” This is “the essence of ‘The Right of Decision.’”

“But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its “trusted servants.” If the groups instruct their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s instruct the area delegates rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, “our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.”

Page 7, Pamphlet P-8, The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



**NO GLUM LOT HERE**



**13<sup>th</sup> Step Newcomer’s Style**

Two newcomers after a meeting; guy says to gal, “What brought you to A.A.?” Reaching in her purse she pulls out a paper and says. “Needed my paper signed for my parole officer, I just got out of prison.” “Prison?” he asked, “What did you do?” “On my last drunk I murdered my husband.” “Oh”, he says, “So you’re a single girl!”

**You might be a drunk if:**

- You leave home at 9 A.M. to go to the dump, returning at 5 P.M. with the trash still in you car.
- You pour a half a can of beer leftover from last night into your fresh one so it won’t go to waste.

Both above adapted from the 2012 September Grapevine Humor Issue, used with A.A.W.S. permission.



"Your finest Scotch, please." "Yes, sir," the guy at Staples says as he hands me a 12 year old roll of tape.



**Ned & Jed**



**Jed, can you trust yourself to trust others will know what they are doing, or ask for help if they need it?**

Well, that’s a tough one. Can’t say as I’ve ever trusted myself enough to ask any one for help.



**Do tell. It’s not so tough when you use Right Of Decision to guide your thoughts and actions.**

To make a right decision I ask for help?



**Do tell... You don’t think you know it all d’ya? Nobody does y’know.**

It may be you’re right. Seems like sometimes I have all the answers, and sometimes I have none.

**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:** 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, Kelly S, Tom S.

The February 2020 Newsletter went to 204 Meetings & 85 emails. If you want a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request at [farfromtoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromtoday@aol.com).

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

**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

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

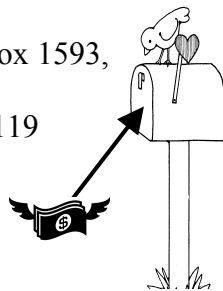
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F.A.U.C. 4225 Miller Rd. Suite 119

Flint, MI 48507 Please make checks payable to

**Pass The Hat Association, Inc.**



**Group NEWS**

A.A. International Convention, Detroit, MI, July 2 -5, 2020. Online registration on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). Volunteers needed.

The next CMIA32 meeting is on April 5<sup>th</sup>, hosted by District 20 at Bullock Creek High School, 1420 S. Badour Rd. Midland, MI 48460. [www.cmia32.org](http://www.cmia32.org)

The 2020 Michigan Mock Conference is Saturday, March 28 Register at <https://aamichiganstatewide.com/2019/11/09/2020-michigan-mock-conference/>

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

**March 2020 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 24 6 pm Otter Lake (7).  
7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 27 8 pm Fenton Alano.  
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (22).
- Sat 28 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 29 7 pm St Andrews (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Mon 30 7 pm Montrose HOPE (11).

There are drunk bikers. There are old bikers.  
There are NO old, drunk bikers.