

Flint Area Unity Council

~ Newsletter ~

F.A.U.C. Website: 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. →



April 2020; No. 55
Vol. 5; Issue 7
A.A. Help Line
(810) 234-0815

Website Home page lists Zoom meetings.



A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine are both tenants of the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive and W. 120th St, NY, NY. 10115.

The Center was built from gifts of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and other donors. More than 30,000 witnessed the Center's cornerstone as it was laid by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on October 12, 1958. The marble cornerstone is from the Agora in Corinth, Greece. Agora in Greek means 'open place of assembly'.

The 19 story building's simple architecture is intended to complement, not compete, (attraction rather than promotion) with the gothic architecture of surrounding buildings. It took 86 railroad cars to deliver Alabama white limestone for the building.

Letter to CMIA 32 Members

From: Lori C. Delegate Area 32; Panel 69

March 16, 2020

Wow, what a crazy time in our country that we are living through. First, I wish you all the best of health and well-being as we collectively trudge down this road of uncharted territory together.

The CMIA 32 meeting on April 5, 2020 has been cancelled in an effort to keep everyone safe and protected from illness and lessen the threat of illness. This was the safest, most prudent thing for our Area members; it has and will cause a hardship for some that utilize Area 32 for literature, shared experiences of service and fellowship. It was still felt that canceling the Area meeting was the best service we could provide for our members.

What is needed at this time is to continue to share correct information with what is going on in and around AA concerning meetings, fellowship activities and other items of concern with AA as a whole.¹ Currently, A.A.'s source of information can be found on www.aa.org under the tab listed as "Update on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)". This information is general guidelines to provide for your members. The G.S.O. will continue to update information.

Another source of information should be our Area website CMIA32.org and any other local District websites. It is my wish that webmasters for these district websites keep meeting cancellations updated as well as any other updates needed within their districts. Please remind them that the information is timely and they are a source of information needed for ALL Members including the new person.

I am here for you and want to be as much of a service that you need. I cannot physically attend all of your meetings or keep up with every meeting in our Area, but I am available to answer questions, concerns you may have. Please reach out. Do not hesitate to call me, text me, or email me. I am serving you, in the same way I always have although it may not be in person.

The General Service Office (G.S.O.) has received group inquiries on how to respond to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The G.S.O. is a repository of shared group experience; functions as a resource for A.A. members and groups in Fellowship shared experience. Guidance on health issues is outside the scope of sharing that G.S.O. offers. We suggest you contact national, state/provincial and local health authorities for appropriate information.

Some groups are addressing this issue. Groups unable to meet at usual meeting places began meeting digitally; in a way to allow the group continued focus on our common welfare and primary purpose.

Groups meeting in person shared changes made: avoiding shaking hands or handholding; ensuring sanitary hospitality tables; suspending food hospitality. Understand that each individual is responsible for their own health decisions.

Groups made contingency plans if the group's unable to meet in person; create contact lists to keep in touch by phone, email, social media, or online. Groups not holding its regular meetings may want to communicate this to local A.A. resources; the district, area and intergroup or central office. Many local A.A. entities added information to their websites on how to change meeting format from "in-person" to online. Groups shared they utilize digital platforms such as Zoom, Google Hangouts, or a conference call. Groups added a "virtual Seventh Tradition basket" to remain self-supporting to keep up the services at the group and the A.A. entities that serve them.

Those with questions regarding A.A. Anonymity Traditions on digital platforms can review Conference-approved pamphlets, Understanding Anonymity (P-47), the G.S.O. Service Material Anonymity Online and Digital Media, and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet.

The G.S.O. received inquiries on A.A. events it coordinates throughout the year. Visit www.aa.org for up-to-date information on coordinated events. Please be assured that the health and safety of attendees is a priority. G.S.O. is closely monitoring relevant health advisories regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We hope this limited sharing is helpful.

An adapted excerpt; entire letter on www.aa.org, click "Update on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)". Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission. Also on www.geneseecoutyaa.org.

¹Meeting Notices on

www.geneseecountyaa.org Home page.

CONCEPT IV SHORT FORM

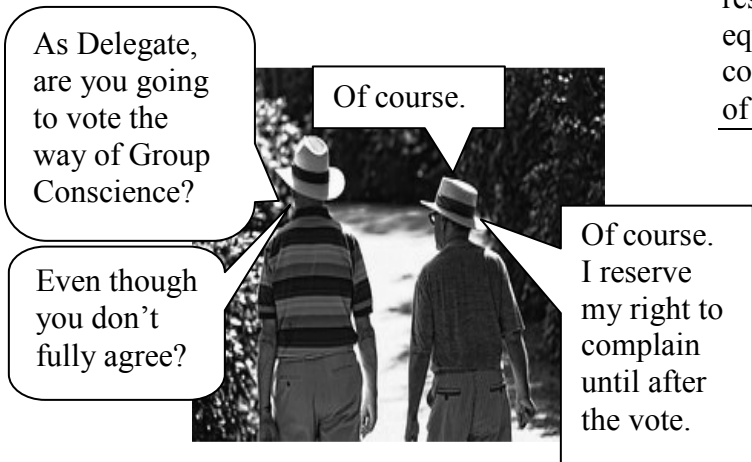
"At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional 'Right of Participation', allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."
From: Page S116 in the 2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

CONCEPT IV LONG FORM

"Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional 'Right of Participation,' taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."
From: Page 1, Pamphlet SMF-195, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

CONCEPT IV EXPLAINED

This Concept provides not only that groups of alcoholics be permitted to participate, but also that staffs that include nonalcoholics should also be permitted the right to vote in proportion to the responsibility they discharge. This insures that every skilled element needed to make informed decision have a right to participate and provides a voice for people with knowledge of how things operate day-to-day.
From:
<https://www.tapataalk.com/groups/recoveryinn/12-concepts-explained-t4286.html>



CONCEPT IV CHECKLIST

- (Service Material from the General Service Office).**
- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
 - What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
 - Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?
- From: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf

PRINCIPLE OF CONCEPT IV

The fundamental truth of Concept IV is Equality. As per the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of equality is "the fact of being equal in rights, status, advantages, etc."
What this is all about is the 'Right Of Participation'. All have the right, as can be seen when reading the Long Form, from all parts of the Service Structure. Each 'Right Of Decision' in Concept III is followed through in Concept IV with the participation from all in the 'upside down triangle' of Concept I.
As with the Steps and the Traditions, the Concepts build upon the previous Concepts to form a coherent 'plan of action' for our recovery.
Allowing each a 'Voice' (Concept I) and the 'Conscience' (Concept II) with a 'Right Of Decision' delegated to our trusted servant (Concept III) brings us to the 'Right Of Participation' that is Concept IV.
Concept IV talks of being allowed voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge. This too means equality. All have the right to vote through the conscience entrusted to the representative servant, each of which has a responsibility to the fellowship. ~ Doug G.

- Taking that next drink is like getting a gorilla hug. You're not done until the gorilla is done.



Oh boy, this may take a while - and I gotta go feed the zebras!

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 entire **F.A.U.C. Aims and Purposes with Election Procedures** is on the website www.geneseecountyaa.org.

**CONCEPT IV
"RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION"**



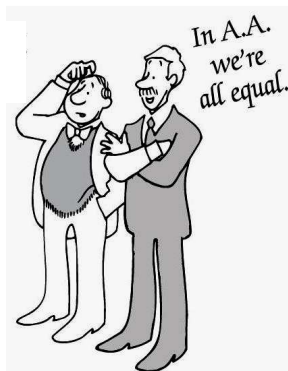
"The principle of 'Right of Participation' is built into the General Service Conference through the Conference Charter. Voting members include not only delegates, but also the trustees, and the directors and staff members of A.A. World Services (i.e., G.S.O.) and the A.A. Grapevine.

"In the same way, the boards of these two operating entities include as voting members not only trustees, but also nontrustee directors and paid administrators and staff members.

"The chairperson of the General Service Board appoints nontrustee members to the standing committees in order to have the advantage of their expertise, and staff members serve as committee secretaries. "There are no 'superiors,' no 'inferiors,' and no 'advisers.'"

"Finally, there is a spiritual reason for the 'Right of Participation.' All of us desire to belong. In A.A., no members are 'second class.' The 'Right of Participation' therefore reinforces Tradition Two, that no member is placed in 'ultimate authority' over another. We perform our service tasks better when we are sure we belong-when our 'participation' assures us we are truly the 'trusted servants' described in Tradition Two."

Page 8 & 9, Pamphlet P-8, The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



NO GLUM LOT HERE



Someone just asked me, "Who do you think will win the 2020 Presidential Election?"

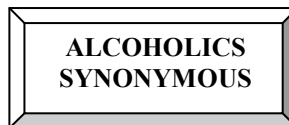
I said, "I don't know, I don't have 2020 vision."

It's important to look carefully at lawn signs during election campaigns.

Last time I voted for a real estate agent.

LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER:

Memory was something you lost with age.
An application was for employment.
A program was a TV show. A cursor used profanity.
A keyboard was a piano. A web was a spider's home.
A virus was the flu. A CD was a bank account.
A hard drive was a long trip on the road.
And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy,
You just hoped nobody found out...



I'M A JUICEHEAD



Ned & Jed



Say Jed, what do you know about equality?

Well, chop a tree equal on both sides and it might fall on ya. I know cuz from both sides it fell on me.



Do tell... It means all get a representative vote for the chopper conscience at Conference.

I'll have no rep vote to fall a tree on a fella.

Do tell... They apply your vote responsibly.

Do tell. Not what we are talking about here. Equality means every one gets to participate. Why do I want a tree to fall on the other fella's?

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 (14)

Aaron B. 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 March 2020 Newsletter went to 213 Meetings & 90 emails. If you want a Newsletter via email, send request to farfromittoday@aol.com.

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.

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:

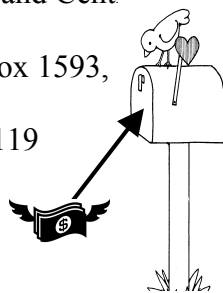
A.A.W.S., Inc., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

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.



Group NEWS

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

The next CMIA32 meeting on Sunday April 5th, hosted by District 20. at Bullock Creek High School, 1420 S. Badour Rd. Midland MI is **CANCELLED..** Minutes at www.cmia32.org for and other information.

April 20th from 12:30 to 4:30 pm, the Oak Park group is hosting a 4th Step Workshop. Refreshments provided. 317 E. Hamilton St., Flint. Please bring your Big Book, 12 X 12, Sponsor or Sponsee. Workshop **CANCELLED.**

New Meetings: The Refuge, 1009 N Saginaw St, Lapeer. CLOSED, Monday 9:30am - Big Book, Thursday 6:30 pm - Step Discussion.

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

April 2020 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

* = Addresses of Locations can be found in the 2020 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book. (Page #).

- Thu 2 7 pm Van Slyke (16).
- Fri 3 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (18).
8 pm, Fenton Alano (19).
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
- Sat 4 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (21).
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (21).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (21).
- Sun 5 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 10 8 pm Fenton Alano (19).
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
- Sat 11 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (21).
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (21).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (21).
- Sun 12 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 17 8 pm Fenton Alano (19).
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
- Sat 18 7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (21).
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (21).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (21).
- Sun 19 6 pm Otter Lake (6).
7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Fri 24 8 pm Fenton Alano (19).
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
- Sat 25 11 am Oak Park (20).
** 7 pm Thetford (21). With a POTLUCK
7:30 pm Eastside St Mary's (21).
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (21).
8 pm St Jude's Fenton (21).
- Sun 26 7 pm St Andrews (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Mon 27 7 pm Montrose HOPE (9).

Please check Meeting Notices on www.geneseecoutyaa.org Home page.