

# 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. →



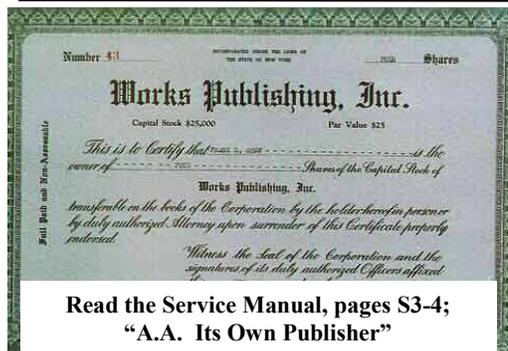
May 2020; No. 56

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A.A. Help Line

(810) 234-0815

Website Home page lists Zoom meetings.



Read the Service Manual, pages S3-4;  
“A.A. Its Own Publisher”

To finance printing the First Edition Big Book, in 1938, stock certificates were sold to early A.A. members and others. Works Publishing, Inc. was the original name of A.A.'s publishing business, later changed to A.A. Publishing, then Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. 4,730 books were published and released in 1939. The certificates were later purchased back so that A.A. could retain total ownership of the book.



The Big Book; Road Map to Recovery.

### For some recovering addicts, Michigan's stay-home order sparks fear of relapse

Recovering addicts rely on the kind of in-person contact banned during Michigan's Coronavirus stay-home order. Many meetings are moving online, and some in recovery are trying to stay in contact through phone calls and Internet meetings. Under the stay-home order announced by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Monday, many of the places where recovery meetings were held were ordered closed.

#### The risk of government stimulus checks

For many Michiganders, the promise of a \$1,200 check and other unemployment benefits from the federal government will spell relief. The checks shouldn't pose a serious issue for people well into recovery, according to an AA member Doug. But for those who are in the early stages — particularly if they're unemployed, he said — it could be seen as “a windfall.”

Some were less certain that the checks could prompt people into abusing again. Dr. Debra Pinals, medical director of the behavioral health and forensics programs at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, said people in recovery would balance the risk of paying for drugs with basic necessities like food.

#### Losing in-person support

Doug is gradually converting all 242 AA meetings in Flint online, with 45 converted as of Thursday (March 26). He said he's not concerned about any regular members falling out of touch or relapsing, because many of them have gone out of their way to stay engaged through phone and video calls. But he believes the loss of in-person meetings will lead to fewer new AA members, who he said often benefit from in-person meetings to help them feel welcomed and encourage them to return.

According to Rae Green, co-founder of the Grand Rapids-based rehabilitation center Sanford House, people in this stage will have to be “very vigilant” about using any virtual and digital support they can to stay sober.

James, an AA meeting leader in Otisville, said he's specifically reaching out to folks who are eight to nine months into recovery. That's enough time to become familiar with the tools vulnerable to a relapse. “For some of us, it was AA gives them, he said, but many could still be really hard detoxing and coming out of that fog that we're in,” James said. “And if we don't have that support and drink again, some will die.”

#### Unexpected upsides, unpredictable outcomes

At the moment, James said, he isn't concerned about his AA team members relapsing. But no one knows how long social distancing measures will be in place for, and the longer they go on, James said, the more “desperate” some people might become.

Pinals emphasized the difficulty of assessing the long-term effects of a disease outbreak with an unprecedented response on recovery communities. “It's like comparing apples to oranges,” Pinals said. “The question is, will they provide some ability to help people stay connected given the context? ... We don't know yet what this will mean in terms of lessons learned.”

Doug predicted that his AA members would actually become even more tight-knit than they were prior to the outbreak, because many were putting in more effort to reach out to each other remotely. For instance, one member that he would normally see once a month has called him three days in a row this week.

And although James said he believes something is lost without the in-person interaction, he too is ready to extend his phone and camera as much as possible. He left his name and number taped to all the doors outside his usual meeting places, just in case anyone tries to come by.

“We as a community of recovering people lean on each other all the time,” Doug said. “But I feel and see it as getting even closer, without having meetings to go to.”

Excerpt from: <https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-health-watch/some-recovering-addicts-michigans-stay-home-order-sparks-fear-relapse> by Ashley Wong, Michigan Health Watch, Bridge Magazine, March 27, 2020.

## CONCEPT V SHORT FORM

"Throughout our world service structure, a traditional 'Right of Appeal' ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered."

2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, Page S116. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

## CONCEPT V LONG FORM

"Throughout our world service structure, a traditional 'Right of Appeal' ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered." Pamphlet SMF-195, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, Page 1. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

## CONCEPT V SHORT and LONG FORMS

The short and long forms are the same for Concept V, for the same reason as Tradition 2.

"To those now in its fold, Alcoholics Anonymous has made the difference between misery and sobriety, and often the difference between life and death... We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone". (Alcoholics Anonymous, page 560, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission).

## CONCEPT V EXPLAINED

This Concept provides for all minorities, indeed, encourages them, to file minority reports whenever they feel a majority to be in considerable error. Even when the minority may be partially or entirely in error, they perform a valuable service by compelling a thorough debate on important issues. They are our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.



Illustration Page 11, pamphlet P-8, reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

## PRINCIPLE OF CONCEPT V

The principle of Concept V is Consideration. As per the Oxford Dictionary, definitions of consideration are: 1. Careful thought, typically over a period of time.

2. A fact or a motive taken into account when deciding something.
3. Thoughtfulness and sensitivity towards others.

In consideration of the consideration of Consideration, it can be said that;

- "We listed people, institutions or principles with whom we were angry." (Page 64).
- "And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation - some fact of my life - unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment." (Page 417).

Appeals use facts. Is the appeal about people, or an institution, or action; or is it about a principle, something to accept?

Remember a principle is a fundamental truth.

"Do not let any prejudice you may have against spiritual terms deter you from honestly asking yourself what they mean to you." (Page 47).

Alcoholics Anonymous (page quotes) reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission. - Doug G.



Good news, I found out that the judge and the jury are vegetarians.

## CONCEPT V CHECKLIST

(Service Material from the General Service Office).

- \* Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal," to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
  - \* What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
  - \* Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?
- From: [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-91\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf)

## 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.

**CONCEPT V  
"RIGHT OF APPEAL"**

"Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a 'substantial unanimity' is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself. This is A.A.'s 'Right of Appeal' in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees, trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual duty of presenting its views. This 'Right of Appeal' recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.



"Trusted servants," according to Bill, 'do for the groups what the groups cannot or should not do for themselves.' And in exercising their 'Right of Decision' (see Concept III), trusted servants are almost always 'a small but truly qualified minority' — whether in the form of area committees, staffs, boards or even the General Service Conference itself. It is incumbent upon them, therefore, in their own meetings, to pay special deference to the minority voice.

"This Concept also warns us of 'the tyranny of the majority' and points out that in A.A., a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision. That's why we usually require at least a two-thirds majority.

"Lacking this, it is preferable to delay the decision; or in the case of an election following the 'Third Legacy Procedure,' to 'go to the hat.' (See Service Manual, Chapter I.)

"The 'Right of Appeal' also permits any person in the service structure, whether paid or volunteer, to petition for redress of a personal grievance. He or she can complain directly to the General Service Board, without prejudice or fear of reprisal.

Page 10 & 11, Pamphlet P-8, The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



**NO GLUM LOT HERE**



Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.  
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

I have a lot of growing up to do. I realized that just the other day in my fort.

Is a clear conscience a sign of memory loss?

You say money can't buy happiness. Well check this out; I bought myself a Happy Meal.

You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving *twice*.

FOR SALE - PARACHUTE: Only used once, never opened.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

After Monday and Tuesday, even the calendar says W T F.

A sign in my neighborhood says "Watch For Children." I think that's a fair trade.

I used to like my neighbors; then they put a password on their WI-FI.

I do stupid things. When I worked at the bank, I got caught stealing pens.

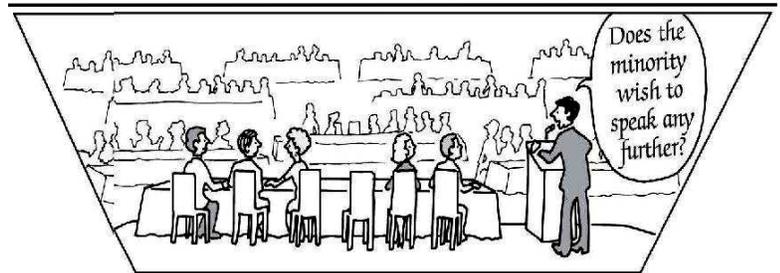


Illustration pages 10 & 11, Pamphlet P-8, Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

**Ned & Jed**



**Say Jed, have you considered your 'Right of Appeal' in the choppers?**

Well no, I've considered the new chopper's axe you have to be right appealing though.



**Do tell... not what we are talking about here. 'Right Of Appeal' means all have a voice and also there's 'go to the hat' for ballot ties.**

Who's hat? I don't wear one.



**Do tell... It means after a fifth ballot that a choice is made by lot; chance if you will.**

Well, I have no fifth and the hat brim can help with a view.

**Do tell... It keeps the tyrants from ruling and ensures 'trusted servants.'**

**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-Editors: Mike J., Drew K.

**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 April 2020 Newsletter had no hard copy distribution, but went to 97 emails. If you want a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request at [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@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.

**May 16:** Arid Club, Eye Opener. **Time change to 1:15 pm if Coronavirus Restriction lifted.**

**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:**

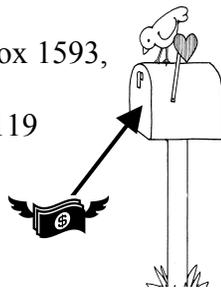
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C.M.I.A. 32, % kdonoghue PO Box 1593, Midland MI 48641

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 has been CANCELLED. The next one will be in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2025.

The website [www.geneseecountyaa.org](http://www.geneseecountyaa.org) on the Homepage has a list of Zoom Meetings for A.A. in this area with active links to use for ease to join the meetings. Please forward any meeting name and day with the relevant information to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com).

A.A.W.S. has set up on line contributions. Go to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), click on "What's New", click "Make contributions using Pay Pal...", follow directions.

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

**May 2020 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \***

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

**Open Speaker Meetings POSTPONED**

**Greetings Area 32 AA's:**

(Sat, Apr 11, 2020 4:54 pm).

The CMIA 32 Area Assembly scheduled for June 7th remains tentative at this time due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Because of the changing dynamics involving planning this meeting, IF there is a meeting in June it will be held in District 26 (Gladwin area), not District 28 (Hillman/ Alpena area). These two meetings will trade dates on the calendar, since the District 28 meeting will be held at a Senior Center and it seems likely that those facilities might not reopen as quickly as other public places.

We will keep you informed about this as we learn more from our Governor regarding what types of gatherings will be allowed and when. In the event that a "brick and mortar" meeting is not an option for June, we are exploring ways to use virtual resources to allow our members to participate in some form of meeting online.

We know how important it is for our fellowship to remain connected during this time of sheltering in place.

There are a wide variety of virtual meetings available. Please inquire within your district for local information.

I look forward to seeing all of you as soon as it is safe for us to congregate.

Yours in service,  
Stephanie G.