

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.



July 2020; No. 58
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A.A. Help Line
(810) 234-0815

See Group NEWS for Opened Meetings.

GOD grant me

the SERENITY to accept the things I cannot change,

COURAGE to change the things I can.

and the WISDOM to know the difference.

“The earliest written reference to the Serenity prayer dates to 1932 in a diary entry by Winnifred Crane Wygal. Wygal was then a pupil of Reinhold Niebuhr, and quoted the prayer in a personal diary, attributing it to the theologian.”¹

“Ruth Hock received a New York Herald Tribune newspaper clipping of the Serenity Prayer in June 1941. Ruth and many A.A. members in New York and elsewhere all immediately feel this prayer's relevancy to A.A.'s principles. The prayer is printed on cards and is being passed out to A.A. members everywhere. The prayer has since become a central part of A.A. heard in meetings around the world.”²

“The first report of the Serenity Prayers used outside church walls was in 1944 when it appeared in the Book of Prayers and Services for the Armed Forces which was published by the Federal Council of Churches.”³

¹ <https://lighthouse-treatment.com> ² https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-timeline

³ <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-serenity-prayer>

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Pipeline to God

"I am a firm believer in both guidance and prayer. But I am fully aware, and humble enough, I hope, to see there may be nothing infallible about my guidance.

"The minute I figure I have got a perfectly clear pipeline to God, I have become egotistical enough to get into real trouble. Nobody can cause more needless grief than a power-driver who thinks he has got it straight from God."

LETTER, 1950

From: As Bill Sees It, page 22.

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The attitude of knowing one's own fallibility in the Service of others helps tremendously in Concept VII. It is truly the baseline for being open minded in the pursuit of Service. Bill W. mentions being "humble enough".... "about my guidance".

Therein lies the truth of the principle of balance as utilized by A.A. as a whole. It is no different than what we as individuals practice.



Work hard, but make time for your love, family, friends and fun. Nobody will remember your Power Point presentations on your last day.

PRINCIPLE OF CONCEPT VII

The principle of Concept VII is Balance.

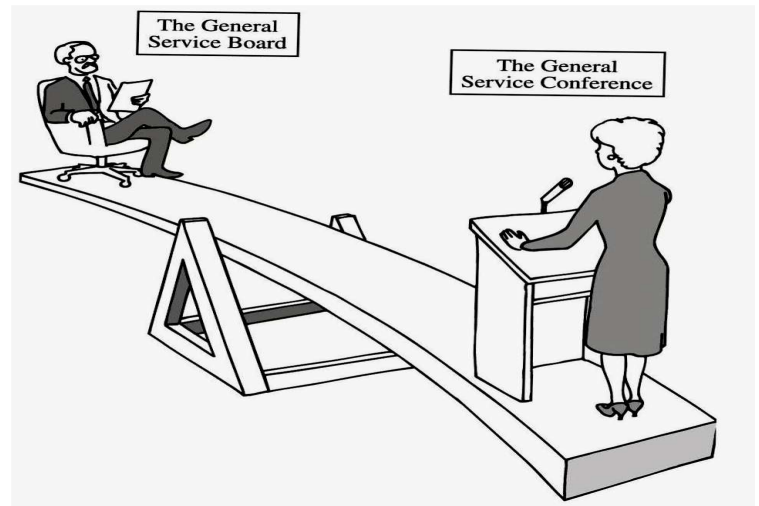


Illustration from pamphlet P-8, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 15. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

Read: (1). Concept VII, pages 27-30 in the A.A. Service Manual. (2). Current Conference Charter, Appendix C, pages S105-S110 in the A.A. Service Manual.

(3). Bylaws of the General Service Board, INC, Appendix E, pages S114-S125, A.A. Service Manual.



"I love you, and because I love you I believe in you. But if I did not believe, still should I love."

From Edgar Rice Burroughs, October 1912, Tarzan of the Apes.

SPINOZA'S Ethics, Pt. IV, Prop. LXVII; There is nothing over which a free man ponders less than death; his wisdom is, to meditate not on death but on life. 1667.

- Doug G.

CONCEPT VII SHORT FORM

"The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness."³

CONCEPT VII LONG FORM

"The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness."⁴

CONCEPT VII EXPLAINED

"This concept at first appears to set up a conflict -- the trustees are given full legal authority, but the concept acknowledges that without the backing of the Conference and through it the funds and support of the local groups, the trustees could not, as a practical matter, go completely off on their own." From: <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/recoveryinn/12-concepts-explained-t4286.html>

"If . . . the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the trustees . . . will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority . . . neither will be seriously tempted to make a 'rubber stamp' out of the other . . . In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule."⁵

2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.

³ Page S116;

⁴ Page 27;

⁵ Pages 29 – 30.

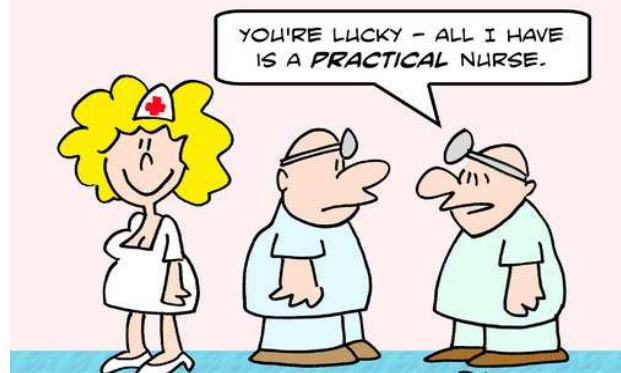
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CONCEPT VII CHECKLIST

(Service Material from the General Service Office).

- Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse"?
- Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.? ⁷

"This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the powerful traditional influence of the Charter itself. It derives from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate – viz (namely; in other words), the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need."⁸



Practical Power at Work

Life is all about balance

Be kind, but don't let people abuse you. **Trust**, but don't be deceived.

Be content, but never stop improving yourself.

⁷ https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf
2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service
⁸ page 27. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

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.

The PARADOX and LEGACIES of A.A.

April 30 A GREAT PARADOX

“These legacies of suffering and recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other... The great paradox of A.A. is that I know I cannot keep the gift of sobriety unless I give it away.”⁹

Paradoxes are discussed several times in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, and in the Big Book examples abound;

“Without unity, A.A. dies. Individual liberty, yet great unity. Key to paradox: each A.A.’s life depends on obedience to spiritual principles. The group must survive or the individual will not. Common welfare comes first.”¹⁰

“Step One showed us an amazing paradox: We found that we were totally unable to be rid of the alcohol obsession until we first admitted that we powerless over it.”¹¹

“And then he discovers that by the divine paradox of this kind of giving he has found his own reward, whether his own brother has yet received anything or not.”¹²

“We never apologize to anyone for depending upon our Creator. We can laugh at those who think spirituality (is) the way of weakness. Paradoxically, it is the way of strength.”¹³

The Legacies of A.A. left for us to follow through the experience of Bill W. and Bob S. are set forth as thus; Recovery through the 12 Steps. Unity through the 12 Traditions. Service through the 12 Concepts.

“The circle stands for the whole world of A.A., and the triangle stands for A.A.’s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. Within our wonderful new world, we have found freedom from our fatal obsession. That we have chosen this particular symbol is perhaps no accident. The priests and seers of antiquity regarded the circle enclosing the triangle as a means of warding off spirits of evil, and A.A.’s circle and triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service has certainly meant all of that to us and much more.”¹⁴

From: Daily Reflections,
⁹ page 124.

From: Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
¹⁰ page 9.

¹¹ page 107.

¹² page 109.

From: Alcoholics Anonymous,
¹³ page 68.

From: Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age,
¹⁴ Bill W.’s 1955 speech. Page 139.

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NO GLUM LOT HERE



There may be only one way to go, but that doesn't mean you don't need to watch where you are going.

A.A.'s the world's biggest 'Lost & Found' department.

A.A. is the only place you can get change for a dollar.

Some years back, after my fifth trip to the host's bar for refills, my wife said, "Aren't you embarrassed to go back so many times?" Me: "Nope, not at all. I keep telling them it's for you."

Then there was the time I was telling the judge I want a divorce, "I can't take it anymore, she's out going from bar to bar every night way past midnight" The judge responds "What's she doing?" I said "Looking for me." Judge said "Maybe I should grant her one instead of you..."

Ned & Jed



Do tell, gaining our freedom of choice and giving away how we gained that freedom lets us keep it.

Is that like don't spell part backward, it's a trap?

Say Jed; do ya trust the paradox of gotta give it away to keep it?

Can't give away what I don't have, can't keep what I can't give. Why give away something I do have?



Not quite... No, it's how freedom from self will comes. If we say we are unable, the admitting helps us get rid of no choice.

So we say we can't so we can?

Do tell... Now you're getting it. Weakness becomes strength with balance through humility.

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.

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 June 2020 Newsletter went to 112 emails. If you want a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request at 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 at 1:15 pm for the General Assembly.

July 18: F.A.U.C., Arid Club

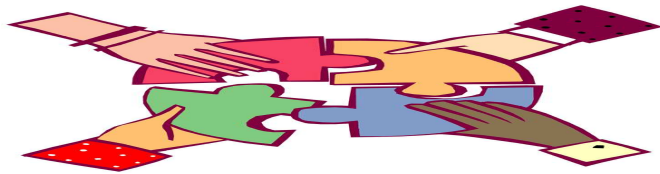
August 15: Clover School, Lapeer

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:

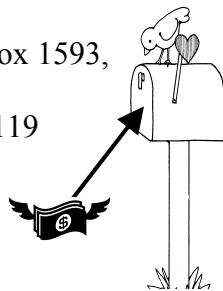
A.A.W.S., Inc., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Group NEWS

The 2020 A.A. International Convention is CANCELLED. Visit www.aa.org for virtual convention. MCYPAA 41, November 22-24, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Detroit, MI.

Many 'Brick & Mortar' A.A. meetings opened. Meetings days and times are on the Website under the Meetings tab and also in the 2020 Meeting Book: Check the Home page of the website www.geneseecountyaa.org for this list.

The Pass The Hat Association, Inc. has a notice for openings for Trustees, with application. See the last page of this Newsletter and also on the website.

The Aug. 2 CMIA32 has not been announced yet.

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

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE TO SEE IF MEETINGS ARE OPEN.

July 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. Andrew's (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. Andrew's (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. Andrew's (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. Andrew's (6).
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
- Mon 27 7 pm Montrose HOPE (9).

Website and Announcement to be emailed for Pass The Hat Association, Inc. application for Trustees.

The Pass The Hat Association, Inc. (PTHA) is the financial arm of the Flint Area Unity Council (FAUC). It has the I.R.S. status of being a 501 (C) non-profit organization.

The PTHA is composed of six members, all receiving no salary or compensation. The Terms of Office are for three years. The executive officers shall be, Chairman, Registered Agent/Secretary, and a Treasurer. The FAUC is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

There are four Trustee positions to stand for terms at this time.

Each Trustee shall one vote and serve at-large, without representing any fractional jurisdiction, interest, or constituency.

The PTHA Treasurer serves the FAUC with monthly reports, shall have custody of the FAUC funds with full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements for the FAUC. The PTHA is responsible for any and all I.R.S. filings and accuracy.

The Board of Trustees oversees as a check and balance the workings of the Treasurer with each Trustee having one vote upon matters of consideration and electives of new Board Trustees.

The PTHA is accepting applications for consideration of joining the PTHA as a Trustee.

Pass The Hat Association, Inc.
4225 Miller Road , B-9
Ste. #119
Flint, MI 48507

There is an opening as a Trustee of PTHA, Inc. If you are interested in this 3 year, non-paid Trustee position, please fill out and mail this form to Pass the Hat Association, Inc. to the above address.

Requirements for consideration are the same as for a GSR. (Please see the AA Service Manual)

Name (first and last): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Member of AA how long: _____ Active in Area/District Service? _____

What service positions have you held? (Member, GSR, DCM, Officer, or Committee/Alt. Chair)

Other information about you to consider:

