

# 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.



September 2020;  
No. 60, Vol. 5; Issue 12  
A.A. Help Line  
(810) 234-0815

Meetings Opened and  
Zoom Meetings on Website Home Page.

The 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary is the wood anniversary. Why? No one's quite sure. Some say it dates back centuries, but actually more likely to date back to 1922 when Emily Post, the American 'etiquette' expert published her book "Etiquette."

The book identified symbolic gifts for each of eight milestone wedding anniversaries: paper, wood, tin, crystal, china, silver, gold, and diamond for the 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th 50th & 75th anniversaries. It's been accepted ever since.

The Newsletter grew from a start of 100 copies each month to a high of 550 copies in a month. There's email distribution that grew from 42 addresses to 120 to send to. Email distribution only since the 2020 April Issue. There's more A.A. message to carry!



On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 the Flint Area Unity Council (F.A.U.C.) Newsletter No. 1 was published as a one page flyer style.

The original Editor, Debbie G. was F.A.U.C. Literature Chair at that time. She had a vision of service to the Fellowship guided by the G.S.O. Guideline of the Central Office which reads; "A.A. Bulletin or Newsletter—The preparation of a publication for periodic distribution to A.A. groups is often a function of the central office."<sup>1</sup>

On August 16, 2015, at the F.A.U.C. meeting, a motion was made, seconded, discussed, and passed to have the F.A.U.C. publish a monthly Newsletter. Approved were Debbie G. as Editor, and Doug G. as co-Editor.

As the F.A.U.C. is not a central office, and there is no G.S.O. Guideline for a District Committee; the consensus was to follow the aforementioned G.S.O. Guideline that did pertain to Bulletin/Newsletter. In addition, the Service Manual was cited; "Newsletters and bulletins published by area committees or intergroups/central offices may include local A.A. news, information about groups and committees, and reprinted material from A.A. literature....Local A.A. publications are permitted to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and to quote a phrase, sentence or brief paragraph excerpted from A.A. literature"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MG 02 Central or Intergroup Offices, page 1.

<sup>2</sup> 2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, page S41.

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### PRINCIPLE OF CONCEPT IX

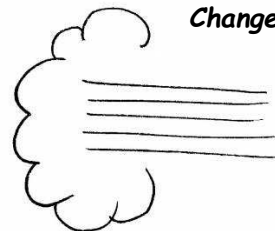
The principle of Concept IX is Ability. To be able to do something means one has a willingness. This willingness in A.A. also pertains to service structure.

"First let's remember that the base for our service structure rests on the dedication and ability of several thousand General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s), several hundred area Committee Members, and nearly a hundred Delegates. These are the direct agents of the A.A. groups; these are the indispensable linkage between our Fellowship and its world service; these are the primary representatives of A.A.'s group conscience. Without their support and activity we could not operate permanently at all."

2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission. Page 34.



*Intelligence is the  
Ability to Adapt to  
Change.*



*Damn whiz kids  
any ways!*

### CONCEPT IX SHORT FORM

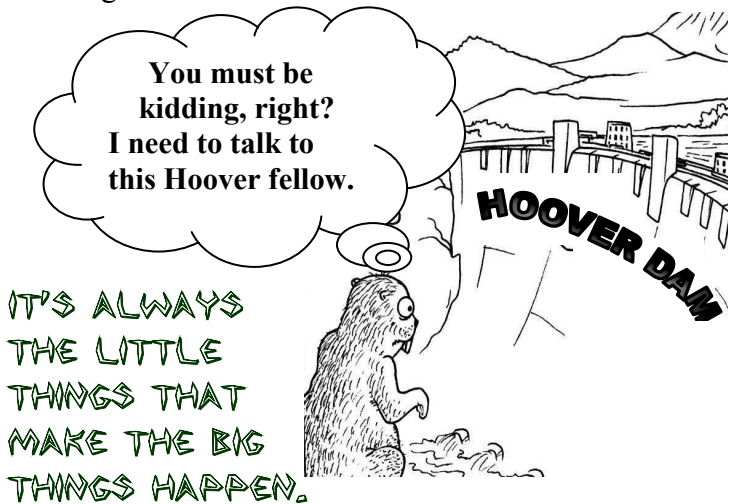
“Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.”<sup>1</sup>

### CONCEPT IX LONG FORM

“Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”<sup>2</sup>

### CONCEPT IX EXPLAINED

“At first blush, this might seem to be at odds with the Twelfth Tradition that reminds us to place principles before personalities. However, it recognizes the fact that A.A. members will permit themselves to be lead but they do not generally suffer being told what to do. As Bill Wilson said, it is like we are saying to our leaders, "Act for us, but don't boss us." If A.A. is to survive to be able to help more suffering alcoholics, it is imperative that we all find and support the very best General Service Representatives ("GSR's") -- after all, they are the ones who select District Committee Members ("DCM's") and who ultimately select Delegates to the Conference.”<sup>3</sup>



### CONCEPT IX CHECKLIST

(Service Material from the General Service Office).

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them”?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?<sup>4</sup>

#### From the October 2015 F.A.U.C. Newsletter

“Flint Area Unity Council is the business end of helping the still suffering alcoholic. It's the fellowship of G.S.R.'s and A.A. members as a group putting A.A. donated dollars to use for A.A. Service work. FAUC has committees that work in the communities. These committees have a chair and co- chairs consisting of a two year term. All committees' terms end at the end of this year. Nominations start in November. FAUC is informing the fellowship of the service work available to the membership in the Genesee Co. Area. The A.A. Preamble states, “*Our primary Purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety*”

Contact us 810-234-0815  
[www.geneseecountyaa.org](http://www.geneseecountyaa.org)



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<sup>1</sup> Page S116.

<sup>2</sup> Page 34.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/recoveryinn/12-concepts-explained-t4286.html>.

<sup>4</sup> [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.

## CHANGE IS AN INSIDE JOB OF REFLECTION

One day, some friends decided to visit their oldest friend who had decided on a simple life full of prayer and helping others instead of the way of the world.

One of them asked, "Will you teach us what you have learned over the many years?"

"I am old," he said.

Another friend said, "Old and wise. All these years we've watched you pray. What should we be praying for?"

The old man smiled, "In the beginning when I was young, I would kneel and pray to give me the strength to change human kind. Gradually I realized I couldn't do that. Then I began to kneel and pray to just change the world around me."

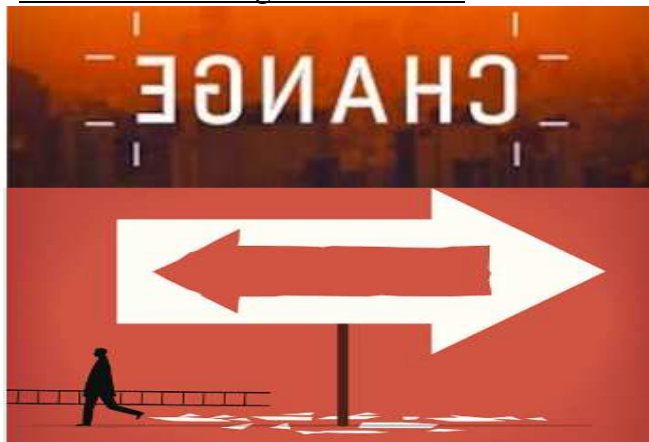
Another said, "Well, your wish was granted. We know that you have helped many people."

The old man said, "Well, I feel as if I have been a help to some, but I still knew I hadn't found the right prayer for me, what I should have been praying for from the start."

Hearing that, almost in unison the friends all asked, "And what is that?"

"To be given the ability to change myself."

Adapted from: <https://moralstories26.com/short-stories-about-change-time-oneself/>



### **“Why do A.A.s keep on going to meetings after they are cured?”**

“We in A.A. believe there is no such thing as a cure for alcoholism. We can never return to normal drinking, and our ability to stay away from alcohol depends on maintaining our physical, mental, and spiritual health. This we can achieve by going to meetings regularly and putting into practice what we learn there. In addition, we find it helps us to stay sober if we help other alcoholics.”

From the pamphlet A Newcomer Asks, P-24, page 2. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.



## NO GLUM LOT HERE



Our Abilities Vary...

My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down to that.

I heard there were a number of break ins at the car parking ramp. That is just wrong on so many levels.

When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.

I told him to just be himself. In retrospect, that was pretty mean.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with revenge. We'll see about that.

Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I nap with brownies in the oven.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list...

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you do criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

I was riding a donkey the other day when someone threw a rock at me and I fell off. I guess I was stoned off my ass.



### **Ned & Jed**



### **Say Jed, you picked up some of that ability to change yet?**

Have to admit, with my eyes to the ground I see change to pick up fairly often.



**Do tell, well your future safety means you have to look up and see where you're going and who you are with.**

Put that way means a level head is indispensable.



**Tis true, it was a primary function of our founders to be of service to others. That benefited them also. It can't be done staring at the dirt.**

“That is then if I don't change you see that I may be penny wise but pound foolish.”

**Do tell, if you change for the now, the ability of the future grows.**



**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:** Gordon G.

**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.

**CPC- Cooperation with the Professional Community:** Gordon G.

**Corrections:** Chris R.

**Grapevine:** Greg S.

**Literature/Meeting Books/Newsletter:** James P.

**PI-Public Information:** OPEN

**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 August 2020 Newsletter went to 119 emails. If would like a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com).

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

**F.A.U.C. Meeting:** Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 1:15 pm for General Assembly.

**September 19:** St John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Otter Lake Group. Church is not available. Notification will be posted on website and emailed.

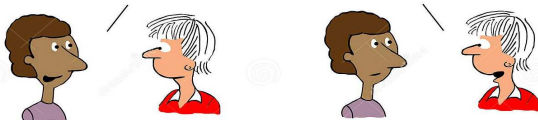
**October 17:** Arid Club, Women in A.A.

**November 21:** Arid Club, New Strength.

**December 19:** Local 659, Van Slyke Group.

How long before they notice the massive changes?

With their ability? About three years.



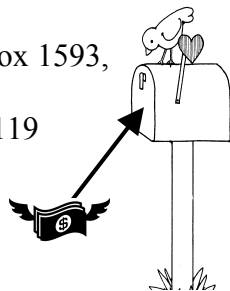
**A.A Treasurer's addresses:**

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**

The September F.A.U.C. meeting scheduled to be in Otter Lake has been cancelled for this location as the Church is abiding by Pandemic Precautions.

Notification will be posted on website and emailed.

The F.A.U.C. Literature Committee now has the Alcoholics Anonymous book as an Abridged Large Print edition for \$5. Call 313-613-3703 to get yours.

Thetford Saturday 5 pm; now a Big Book Study.

ICYPAA 62, September 3-6, New Orleans, LA.

MCYPAA 41, November 22-24, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Detroit, MI.

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

**CHECK WEBSITE HOMEPAGE TO SEE MEETINGS OPENED. September 2020 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \***

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

- Thu 6 7 pm Van Slyke (16).
  - Fri 7 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (18).  
8 pm, Fenton Alano (19).  
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
  - Sat 8 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 14 8 pm Fenton Alano (19).  
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
  - Sat 15 7:30 pm Eastside St. Mary's (21).  
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (21).  
8 pm St. Jude's Fenton (21).
  - Sun 16 7 pm St. Andrew's (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
  - Fri 21 8 pm Fenton Alano (19).  
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
  - Sat 22 7:30 pm Eastside St. Mary's (21).  
7:30 pm Episcopal Church Owosso (21).  
8 pm St. Jude's Fenton (21).
  - Sun 23 6 pm Otter Lake (6).  
7 pm St. Andrew's (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
  - Fri 28 8 pm Fenton Alano (19).  
8:00 pm Clover School Lapeer (19).
  - Sat 29 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 30 7 pm St. Andrew's (6).  
7:30 pm Torrey Road Grp Arid Club (6).
  - Mon 31 7 pm Montrose HOPE (9).
- Change is inevitable-except from vending machines.

## Alcoholics Anonymous (Large Print Abridged)

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**\$5.00**

Quantity discounts available ▾

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QUANTITY

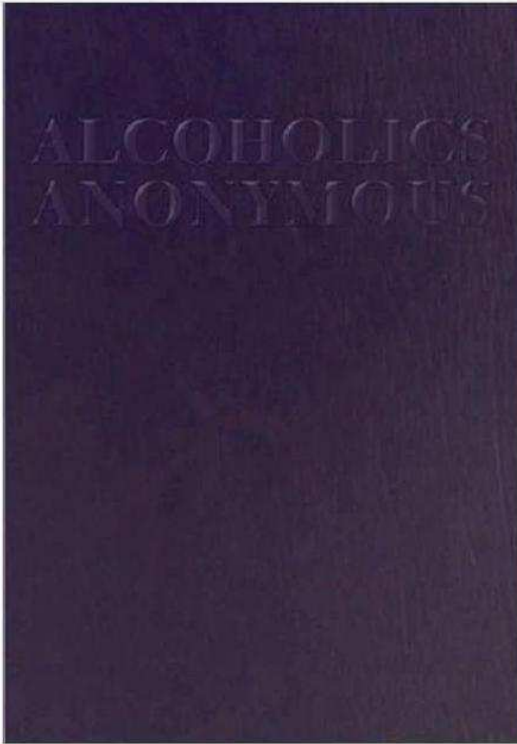
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### Details

Abridged, large-print softcover, 7" x 10 1/4", in type size recommended as suitable for the visually handicapped. Fourth edition.



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