

Flint Area Unity Council

~ Newsletter ~

November 2020; No. 62

Vol. 6; Issue 2

A.A. Help Line

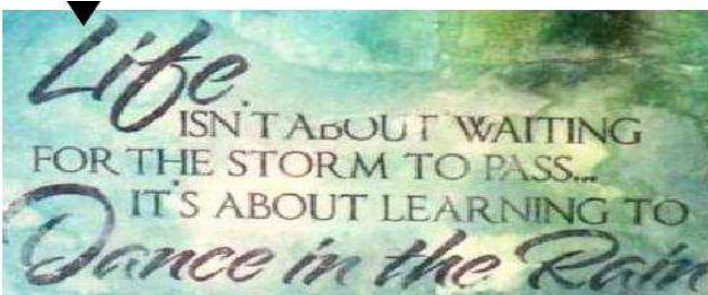
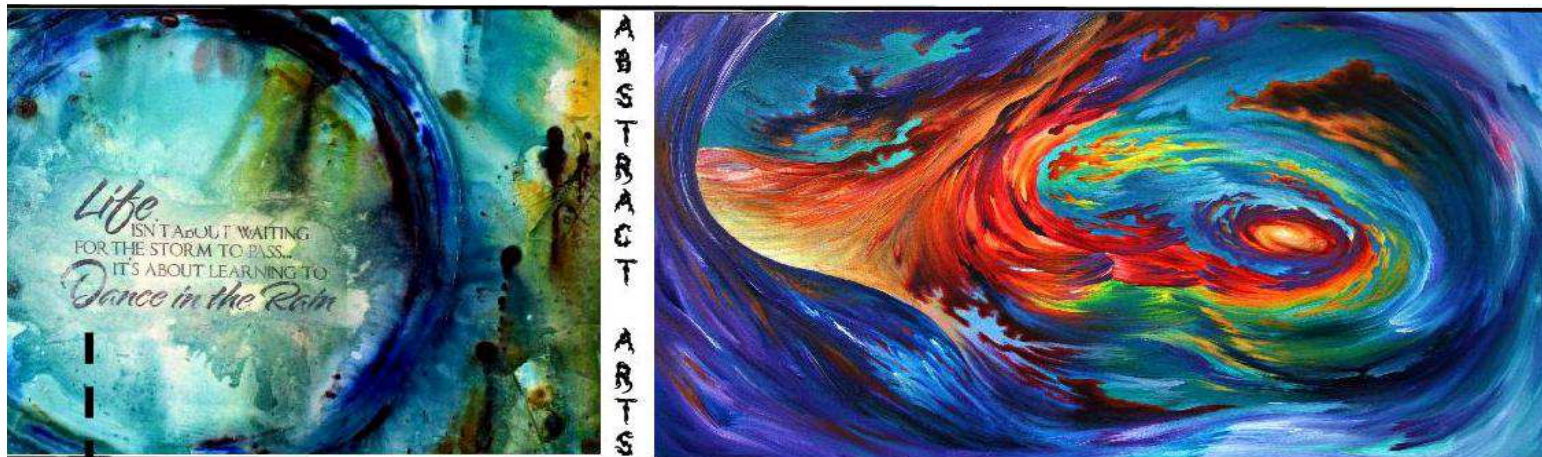
(810) 234-0815

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.



Meetings Opened and
Zoom Meetings on Website Home Page.



THE PRINCIPLE OF CONCEPT XI

The Principle of Concept XI is Humility. “This was only a beginning, though if honestly and humbly made, an effect, sometimes a very great one was felt at once.”¹

The Eleventh Concept puts forth the reasoning that “the best possible... Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and the rights and duties, will always be matters of serious concern.”² So we must recognize that either we have the necessary requirements, or we don’t. If we don’t, this in no way means our service is of no value. Far from it, by thinking differently in situations, by having willingness, by being teachable and open minded, we may have the best there is to offer. How else can we truly “...trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.”³ “But life was not easy for the two friends. Plenty of difficulties presented themselves. Both saw that they must keep spiritually active.”⁴ By growth through change, humility, and activity, we become useful to our fellow man.

In Appendix II, Spiritual Experience, “the personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism has manifested itself among us in many different forms.”⁵ This section of the book talks about how we change to gain a sober lifestyle. This may sound like heresy to some, (or even very many), but to our agnostic and atheist friends, to them the Spiritual referred to here is humility and a new way of life, not believing in the impossible, or an abstract idea. It is living in the moment, an opportunity to change. This is the “...effect, sometimes a very great one, was felt at once.”¹ *ibid*

¹ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, page 63.

² 2018 – 2020 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, page VI.

³ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, page 164, ⁴ Page 156,

⁵ Page 567.

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But sometimes we take our **fears** to extremes.

According to most studies, people’s number one **fear** is public speaking. Number two **fear** is death. Death is number two? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you’re better off in the gasket instead of giving the eulogy.

We couldn’t remember my dad’s blood type. As he died he kept insisting for us to “be positive”. But it’s **fearfully** hard without him.

I hope when I inevitably choke to death on gummy bears that people will say I was killed by **fearful** bears and just leave it at that.

How is it that I always seem to buy the plants that have a **fear** to live?

I always feel better when my doctor says something is normal for people my age...but then I **fear**, dying will also be normal for people my age.

Smoking will kill you. Bacon will kill you. But, no **fear**, smoking bacon cures it.



CONCEPT XI SHORT FORM

“The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.”⁵

CONCEPT XI LONG FORM

“While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.’s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.”⁶

CONCEPT XI EXPLAINED

“This concept recognizes that the trusted servants who work for the various AA entities need to be carefully selected because they will have the most day-to-day contact with members and others interested in AA. The Twelve Concepts of World Service specifically mentions the nominating, budgetary, public information, literature and general policy committees as requiring people with very specific skills and outlooks.”⁷

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

⁵ Page IV.

⁶ Page VI.

⁷ <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/recoveryimn/12-concepts-explained-t4286.html>.

⁸ https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf

⁹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acclamation.

CONCEPT XI CHECKLIST

(Service Material from the General Service Office).

- 1) Do we understand how the roles of nontrustee directors and nontrustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- 2) How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional “Right of Participation”?
- 3) Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?⁸

Flint Area Unity Council and the CHECKLIST

1) All of committees’ chairs are either elected or accepted by acclamation (meaning the voting group is asked who favors and who opposes the proposed candidate. In the event of a lack of opposition, the candidate is considered elected).⁹

All committee chairs are nontrustees, (In nonprofit practice and law today, both a “trustee” and a “director” describe an individual in a position of governance).¹⁰ Our 2nd Tradition states, “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority... a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants...they do not govern”.¹¹ So by definition and tradition, the committee chairs are nontrustees leading by example in service (by definition - to make and administer the public policy and affairs of; to not exercise sovereign authority over”.¹²

2) The Council has no ‘special paid workers’. From Council Chair to the Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Chairs or members – all are non-paid volunteers offering Service Work to help others.

3) From the F.A.U.C. “Aims and Purposes”, under the section “Election Procedures”, is item number 8, “Terms of office will be for two years; January to December”.¹³

See page 5 of Newsletter for Flint Area Unity Council Aims and Purposes, also on the website in entirety.

¹⁰ www.gordonfischerlawfirm.com/nonprofit-boards-trustee.

¹¹ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, page 561.

¹² <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/governing>.

¹³ 2015 Aims_Purposes.pdf, revised 04/19/2015.

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.

Flint Area Unity Council ~ Newsletter ~

GUEST WRITER INSIDE EDITION

The Pandemic Deadline

When asked to write this article it was interesting that the deadline was November 10th because that was the date I went back to meetings in 1974 which led to my last drink on November 13th, only moments apart from when Lorraine also had her last drink. It was only a few years ago that a member was describing me to someone who had been sober a while and could not connect until they finally said, “You know. Lorraine’s Jack”. Well, now I am Rhonda’s Jack, and by the time you read this I will be celebrating 46 years clean and sober.

Lorraine had a severe heart condition and finally passed after 23 years of our being sober and extremely active in the fellowship. She was the first woman to serve as alternate delegate and delegate from Central Michigan. Though you may not see me at as many meetings as you did back then, I feel that I am more active in the fellowship in some ways. I chaired Unity Council for 5 years, intra-area, Chaired and held positions on many conventions. We were taught that you had to live gratitude, not talk about it.

The 5th MCYPAA was held in Flint by the young people group at the time and I still have many of those friends still in my cell phone decades later. Which brings me to my thesis, what does it take to stay sober until the natural end of your life? Also, most times when I have conversations about AA in general we can’t help asking ourselves what is different about AA today compared to some time ago.

Does it take going to a lot of meetings to stay sober? Of course, it helps; but that increasingly becomes a smaller part of the equation as we grow in sobriety. If you are shocked by that, let me explain, yes, as the literature suggests, “frequent contact with others is the bright spot in our lives”. The Steps, Traditions and Concepts become increasingly an integral part of your life. I love the part of the concepts that advises me to avoid 4 types of bad decisions. At the same time you can set in meetings collecting and expounding quaint and powerful sounding quotes and feel sober and smug. On the other hand several decades ago I heard someone ask an old-timer, “why do you guys talk about your day so much???” To be asked that today, I might respond why do you talk so much about what might happen should you drink again, when we are here to share our experience, strength and hope about being sober?

Not that we should not quote significant relevant literature; our coins typically contain a very small bit of advice from Shakespeare, “to thy own self be true” Look it up. I can’t speak for anyone else, except sometimes I know what I hear and what I do not hear from what people say. Simply, talking about my day should, I believe, be a personal report about how I lived what the steps, good advice, and spiritual living lead me to do. One old guy used to say every time he talked, “when you sober up a horse thief, what you got is a sober horse thief”. That was a comical way of making a challenge and of asking the newer people if they wanted to stay the same person who took their last drink.



“Great plan. Could we get some more details?”

Flint Area Unity Council ~ Newsletter ~

GUEST WRITER INSIDE EDITION

A bigger question is how has the fellowship survived as long as it has? During the last year we have went from being able to meet when and where we wanted to virtually all buildings being closed. Once upon a time all you needed was “a coffee pot and a resentment”. We suddenly needed new tools for sobriety and perhaps better use of some of the existing tools we already have. For example, The Grapevine was started as a newsletter during World War 2 and has evolved into an artistically designed publication. Today I receive it in English and Spanish. Even with my very limited Spanish, sometimes just the cover will overwhelm me emotionally. Besides, I subscribe just to support it and then find places to leave a copy in the hopes of someone finding it.

My home group is the Mount Morris group. We are currently not meeting as a group but as things change we will see. When the pandemic hit, we were no longer allowed to meet in the basement where we have been meeting for years. This group is the 3 oldest in the area. As a child I knew most of the original members of the Mount Morris group because they were friends of my parents. Some of my friends as I got older also went to Ala-teen. I began to distance myself from those friends.

So what happened to the fellowship when the pandemic changed everything? First, people who wanted to stay sober started calling other members more frequently and having the same talks on the phone that we were having in person. The more computer competent among us started using software like Zoom to hold meetings online. These meetings fit some of us and others not so much. For me, where else can I safely go and set with several, even dozens of others seeking and holding on to sobriety while using a laptop, iPhone, or even simply a phone! Yes, some regular meetings have started coming back, hopefully with members wearing masks. During this time have we lost some members? Tell me something new. I also see people both online and in regular meetings with only days of sobriety sharing the desire to stop drinking. In essence, those who are still looking for hope.

Like everyone else, my life has changed. I no longer have the physical immune system that I had when I was younger. On the other hand, I believe there is a spiritual immune system that is available to me as long as I remember that I don't own it; I am not “recovered”, I am recovering. Each day I ask the Higher Power for the strength to not drink today and to seek and recognize what I should be doing. This gives me another day that I have something to talk about. It gives me another day to be grateful for and at the end of it and more experiences to share. Gratitude is not something I can talk about, it is something that has to be recognized by those around me. If not, then it is just noise that keeps others from hearing a message; a message that could change the lives of a whole family. It has not only changed me, it has changed some of those around me. And for those who I don't see change, maybe that is not for me to see. Those may be someone else's opportunity.

Jack B.



The last sentence of the Alcoholic Anonymous' Preamble is "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety".¹⁴ "In our personal stories you will find a wide variation in the way each teller approaches and conceives of the Power that is greater than himself."¹⁵ "Well, that's exactly what this book is about. It's main objective is to enable you to find a Power greater than yourself that will solve your problem."¹⁶

THE "BIG BOOK"

The Alcoholics Anonymous book was published and began circulation in 1939. It has been revised periodically to keep the stories in it concurrent with the eras of time and people. The publishing years for the Editions were 1939, 1955, 1976 and 2001. The Original 164 pages have not been altered in these revisions. Here are the titles of the 49 short stories in Part I, Part II, and Part III in the 4th Edition.

| "Part I: Pioneers Of A.A." | Page |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Dr. Bob's Nightmare. | 171 |
| 2. Gratitude in Action. | 182 |
| 3. Women Suffer Too. | 193 |
| 4. Our Southern Friend. | 200 |
| 5. The Vicious Cycle. | 208 |
| 6. Jim's Story. | 219 |
| 7. The Man Who Mastered Fear. | 232 |
| 8. He Sold Himself Short. | 246 |
| 9. The Keys To The Kingdom. | 258 |
| "Part II: "They Stopped In Time" | |
| 1. The Missing Link. | 281 |
| 2. Fear of Fear. | 289 |
| 3. The Housewife Who Drank at Home. | 295 |
| 4. Physician Heal Thyself! | 301 |
| 5. My Chance to Live. | 309 |
| 6. Student of Life. | 319 |
| 7. Crossing The River Of Denial. | 328 |
| 8. Because I'm An Alcoholic. | 338 |
| 9. It Might Have Been Worse. | 348 |
| 10. Tightrope. | 359 |
| 11. Flooded With Feeling. | 369 |
| 12. Winner Takes All. | 375 |
| 13. ME An Alcoholic? | 382 |
| 14. The Perpetual Quest. | 388 |
| 15. A Drunk Like You. | 398 |
| 16. Acceptance Was The Answer. | 407 |
| 17. Window Of Opportunity. | 421 |
| Part III, "They Lost Nearly All". | |
| 1. My Bottle, My Resentments, And Me. | 437 |
| 2. He Only Lived To Drink. | 446 |
| 3. Safe Haven. | 452 |

Part III, "They Lost Nearly All". (Continued).

| | |
|---|-----|
| 4. Listening To The Wind. | 458 |
| 5. Twice Gifted. | 470 |
| 6. Building A New Life. | 476 |
| 7. On The Move. | 486 |
| 8. A Vision Of Recovery. | 494 |
| 9. Gutter Bravado. | 501 |
| 10. Empty On The Inside. | 512 |
| 11. Grounded. | 522 |
| 12. Another Chance. | 531 |
| 13. Late Start. | 535 |
| 14. Freedom From Bondage. | 544 |
| 15. A.A. Taught Him To Handle Sobriety. | |

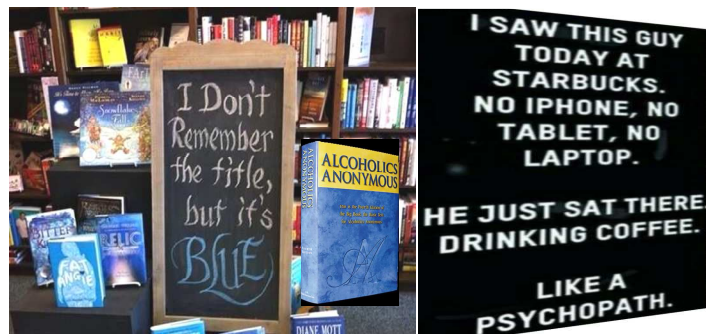
For an avid reader or not, there may be a Title of interest, being similar to your life, or not.

¹⁴ September 1958 A.A. International Convention.

¹⁵ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, page 50.

¹⁶ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, page 45.

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Ned & Jed

Say Jed, we have talked of humility before haven't we?



Like the unknown comic, it comes with anonymity, partly.

Tis true. And knowing to surround ourselves with the best, getting assistance working together means accepting help.

Do tell, and how we gain strength with balance through humility.

Yep, need that balance when chopping a tree off some thirty feet above the ground.

Well yes, the fella on the ground has to yell Timber! Comes out louder than Watch Out Below! from way above.

Do tell, and so by being simple one can help the largest tasks and welfare of others.

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: 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.

There's been no hard copy distribution of the Newsletter since March 2020 due to closing of meetings as to Executive Order compliance.

The October 2020 Newsletter went to 130 emails. If you would like a Newsletter via email, send Editor a 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 at 1:15 pm for the General Assembly.

November 21: Arid Club, New Strength

December 19: Local 659, Van Slyke Group



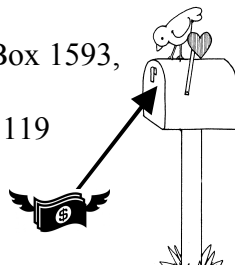
A.A. Treasurer's addresses:

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.**



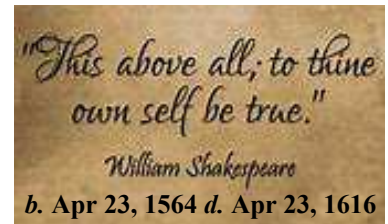
Group NEWS

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

The Flint Alano House has announced the closure remain until at least Nov 22's Board Meeting. See Flyer attached to end of Newsletter.

Group wants a Newsletter announcement?

Email farfromittoday@aol.com by the 20th of the month.



THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND LISTED ON THE WEBSITE. November 2020 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings *

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

- Thu 5 7 pm Van Slyke (16).
- Sun 8 7:30 pm Torrey Road Group Arid Club (6).
- Fri 13 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (18).
- Sun 15 7:30 pm Torrey Road Group Arid Club (6).
- Sun 22 7:30 pm Torrey Road Group Arid Club (6).
- Sat 28 ** 7 pm Thetford With a POTLUCK (21).
- Sun 29 7:30 pm Torrey Road Group Arid Club (6).
- Mon 30 7 pm Montrose HOPE (9).

If your meeting is now opened for attendance with an Open Speaker, please contact the editor at farfromittoday@aol.com so it can be listed.

James P, Literature chair texted this to me.

From: 313-613-3703 Sent: Sat, Oct 03 20 12:22pm
Msg: "It has been called to my attention as literature chair in Genesee county I have not been informing the membership as I should. Sorry. New York has lowered the price of the abridged big book large print to\$5. The abridged CD set of six of the book Alcoholics Anonymous has been lowered from \$18 to \$5. I have conferenced approved and non-conference approved literature. I will make arrangements to meet you somewhere with your order or I have curb side pick up. Although there are no curbs where I live."

~ James P.

Editor's note: The Abridged Edition was previously announced on the Website and in the Newsletter in September 2020. Our Sincere 'Thanks' to James for that. The recent price change of the CD set is now hereby announced also. See page at the end of the Newsletter for more \$5 CD sets.



FLINT AREA UNITY COUNCIL AIMS AND PURPOSES

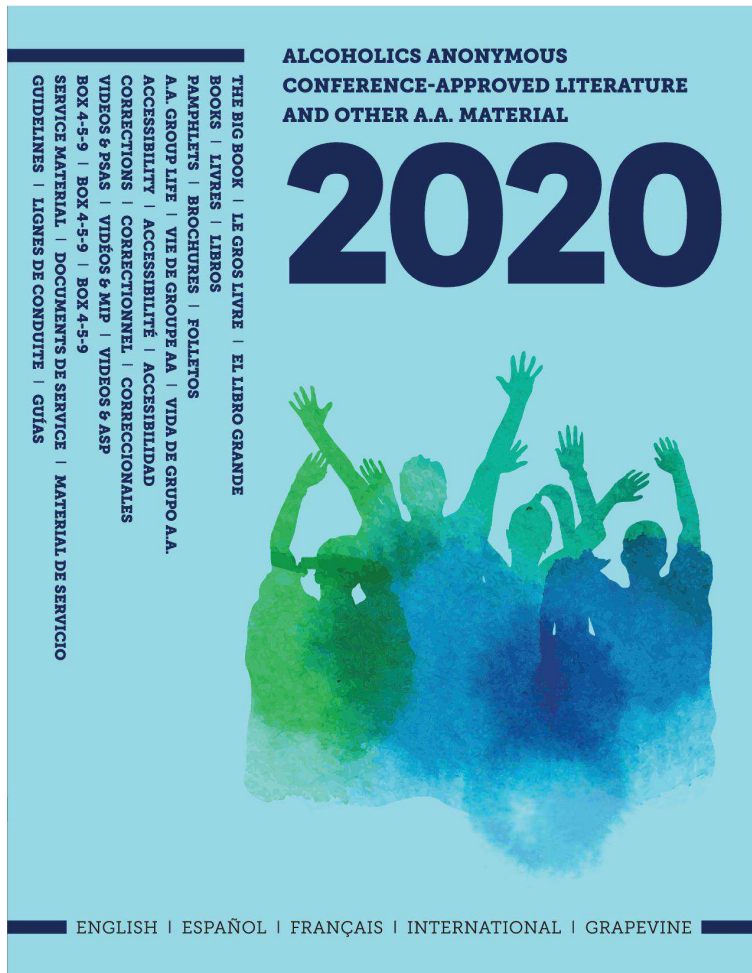
1. To promote Unity among Flint Area A.A., and harmony with Al-anon and Al-Ateen groups.
2. To exchange group ideas.
3. The G.S.R.'s and Alternates shall act as trusted servants of their groups.
4. Each group shall be represented by a G.S.R. or Alternate. One vote per group shall be allowed in the determining matters of policy and action affecting the groups. (Committee persons are allowed one vote.)
5. To continue advancement of Twelve Step work and sponsorship.
6. To help financially any member group of this Council who needs help. A two-thirds majority vote will pass on any such loans which shall not be in excess of sixty days.
7. The Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of A.A. shall prevail at all times.
8. No monies will be spent or sent out of the Council area without a two-thirds majority vote of the groups that have paid into the council in the last three months. If they are not present they will be contacted for a vote on the issue within one week.
9. The Council will create service committees and be financially responsible for them.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

1. Nominations will be held at the November meeting for the following offices and committee chairs: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Answering Service, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Public Information, Grapevine, Literature/Meeting Books, Special Needs, Treatment Facilities, Website, and Young People.
2. The Election will be held at the December meeting.
3. Election by written ballot and plurality (majority) rule.
4. One vote per group, D.C.M.'s are allowed one vote. Past and Present Delegates that are presently active in the Council Area have one vote.
5. On any tie vote, a drawing will take place to determine the winner.
6. No requirements will be placed upon the G.S.R. as to length of sobriety or donation to the Council.
7. The groups voting must be registered in the New York Office.
8. Terms of office will be for two years; January to December.
9. Office holders must be a member of Unity Council.
10. Alternates will be the choice of the office holder.
11. After a second consecutive absence from the FAUC meeting, with neither an alternate nor a report submitted by a committee chair, the FAUC chair shall try to notify that committee chair of action pending upon their third consecutive absence.
12. Office holders shall be removed from any position if failing to attend three consecutive FAUC meetings and have neither an alternate nor a report submitted. Upon removal the FAUC chair will ask the removed committee chair that the committee seed money and any FAUC materials provided to do that service work be returned.

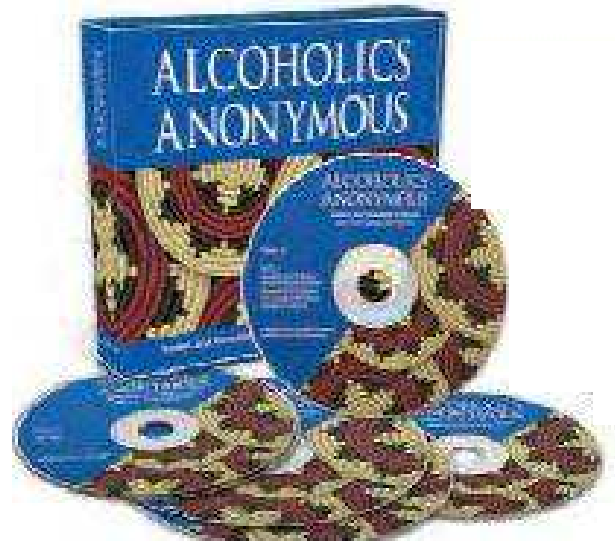
These CD sets are available for \$5.00 through the F.A.U.C. Literature Chair at 313-613-3703 or at www.aa.org in the Catalog.

2020 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CATALOG



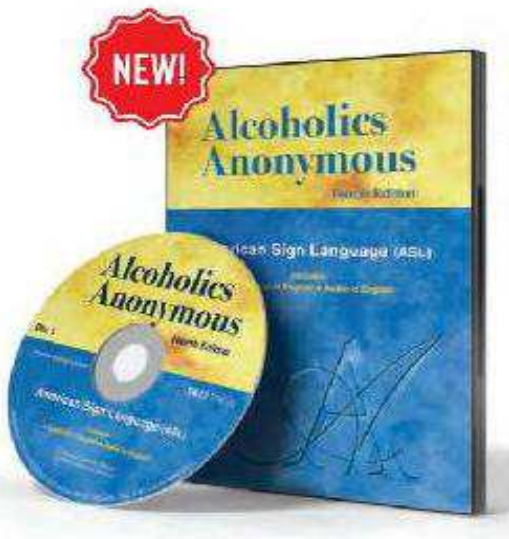
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

(M-81A) \$5.00 Audio version of the abridged Big Book. (no stories) on 6 CDs. On page 4 of the Catalog.



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS— NAVAJO
(NAVAM-81A) \$5.00 The Big Book spoken and recorded in Navajo. Package of 14 CDs.

Le Gros Livre parlé et enregistré en Navajo. Lot de 14 CD. El Libro Grande hablado y grabado en navajo. Estuche con 14 CD. On page 4 of the Catalog.



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – ASL

(DV-11) \$5.00 New translation of the Big Book in American Sign Language for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Contains the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” the first 11 chapters and “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare.” With audio and subtitles in English. On page 17 of the Catalog.

The 2020 Catalog cover picture, the descriptions and depictions of the CDs all reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

Alano House of Flint



2608 Maplewood Ave. Flint, MI 48506 . Ph: 810-233-0737
Email: alanohouseofflint@gmail.com

****UPDATE - 10/30/20****

Alano House of Flint - Continued Closure

(Previous closure: 9/27/20-11/1/20)

-The club will remain closed until further notice-

The board held a meeting on 10/29/20, there was a motion to keep the club closed, the motion passed unanimously.

- Two factors were discussed in relation to extending the closure.
 - Ongoing construction within the club
 - Uncertainty related to COVID.
- This was not an easy decision however, it was a necessary one.
- A board meeting will be held on 11/22/20 (Sunday) to discuss the plan to reopen, the following will be discussed:
 - Discussion of reopening date
 - Evaluation of club status
 - Evaluation of current health considerations and requirements

The following meetings will continue at their current locations:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 730p - East Side St. Mary's

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 130p - Arid Club

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 930p - Arid Club

Grand Reopening Date: TBD