

# Flint Area Unity Council



December 2021; No. 74

Vol. 7; Issue 3

A.A. Help Line

(810) 234-0815

Meetings Opened and  
Zoom Meetings on Website

## ~ ~ - Newsletter - ~ ~

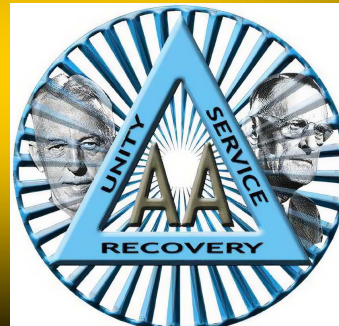
The F.A.U.C. Website is [www.geneseecountyaa.org](http://www.geneseecountyaa.org)

Newsletter at <https://geneseecountyaa.org/f-a-u-c-newsletter>

The A.A.W.S. licensed Smart Phone Meeting Guide app has Flint Area A.A. Meetings and is free at the app store.



**WHO IS DRIVING THIS THING?  
WE ARE!**



**“LET’S NOT LOUSE THIS THING UP.  
LET’S KEEP IT SIMPLE.”<sup>1</sup>**

Step Twelve: “Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”<sup>2</sup>

Received as a text message on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:56 AM, “I was amazed before I was halfway through, I missed going to a meeting this morning because I got reading the Newsletter and I could not stop I lost all track of time. Doug, you and your other editors are just absolutely amazing. I love the Newsletter.” From James P.

Through the years many, many thanks were received after the monthly Newsletter was sent out. Some of what is heard is just, “I always turn to the comics page first” to just a simple, heartfelt “Thanks!” Along with the ventful, “Its garbage, all you do is cut and paste junk.”

And we’ve kept at it; for one’s man’s trash may be another man’s treasure.

This is what the intent of the Newsletter has been since it’s inception in October 2015. Was there a readership of the Fellowship that was interested in a Newsletter? Could it carry the message and local happenings of interest on A.A? Is it a worthwhile long term investment of time and Service?

You answered that; from compliments (which humble us), to criticism (which makes us better), the Newsletter Staff Thanks You.

<sup>1</sup> A.A. Comes of Age, page 214.

<sup>2</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, HOW IT WORKS, page 59. Reprinted with A.A. W. S. permission.

The Twelfth Step for the individual in A.A. is all about the growth we have achieved through following the suggestions of this program of recovery. We saw it worked in others, and now in ourselves also. As it says, “...we tried to carry this message to alcoholics...”

Service work within District 12, the community we live in, is a significant part of carrying the message. Before us, many more than we are carried on the tradition of Service Work in and out of the District to reach the still sick and suffering alcoholic. As we’ve grown into reliable sober individuals, we have found a means to work with others who are like minded in the approach of working together to reach a greater number of people, not just an occasional newcomer - who we may adopt as our conscience guides us.

Those involved in the Service Work of the District still have time and inclination to work with individual alcoholics through sponsorship. However, reaching out to the ones we have not seen ‘come in’, and their families or friends, who are also, maybe more so, interested in the program is another thing entirely.

Won’t you consider coming to the next F.A.U.C. Meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Local 659, hosted by the Van Slyke Group and see where your interest may lead you in carrying the message?

**SERVICE WORK**

**IF NOT YOU,  
THEN WHO?  
IF NOT NOW,  
THEN WHEN?**

~ Editor

**From Dr. Bob's Farewell Talk July 30, 1950**

“There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words “love” and “service.” We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

“Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

“And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us.”<sup>2</sup>

“Let's not louse it all up...” A very apt statement as to our mindset in A.A. All that we have is a daily reprieve from “King Alcohol”.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Bob above gives us what the spiritual awakening in Step 12 refers to – love and service. (That psychic change of personality). And then he tells some parts of what practicing these principles in all our affairs is – “guard that erring member the tongue,” and also, “So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us.”

<sup>2</sup> <https://12stepstoanewlife.wordpress.com/2012/05/08/dr-bobs-farewell-talk-his-lets-not-louse-this-thing-up-talk/>

<sup>3</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, A VISION FOR YOU, page 151.

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**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.

Twelfth Step: "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." <sup>2</sup> *ibid*

Twelfth Tradition: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." <sup>4</sup>

"The Twelfth Concept of World Service, in its short form, states as follows:

'The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.'

"In its long form, the Twelfth Concept is actually Article 12 of the Conference Charter. It is considered so important that it can be changed only by written consent of three-quarters vote of the directory-listed AA groups, and then only after six months has been allowed for deliberation." <sup>5</sup>

At first look, the common theme among the Twelfth Step, Tradition, and Concept is 'principle'. Now we know that principles are ideals to strive towards. So we practice them always, place them before personality (mostly our own), and observe prudence in finances. What is paramount is that the Conference observes the 'spirit of A.A. tradition' through its decisions, votes, and adherence to avoid controversy with anonymity in democracy.

<sup>4</sup> Page 562, 4th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. Reprinted by permission of A.A.W.S. Inc.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/recoveryinn/12-concepts-explained-t4286.html>

The division of labor in lumber camps led to several specialized jobs on logging crews, such as whistle punk, chaser, and high climber. The whistle punk's job was to sound a whistle as a signal to the yarder operator controlling the movement of logs. He also had to act as a safety lookout. A good whistle punk had to be alert and think fast as others' safety depended on him.



## NO GLUM LOT HERE



Have you ever looked up the word "whistle" in the dictionary?

I found it a bit underwhelming.

My wife started a program to support whistle blowers by knitting them sweaters.

She calls the program Snitches get Stitches

How do flowers whistle?

Through their tulips.

A drunk goes up to his host at a party and says with that terrible seriousness of totally plastered adults and very small innocent precocious children, "Excuse Me."

The host turns around and there is the drunk, just plastered and glassy eyed, completely out of it. The host thinking there is something wrong says, "Yes? What's the problem? What is it?"

The drunk says, "Can you answer a question?"

And the host says, "Sure! Fire away"

The drunk speaking very carefully says, "Do lemons whistle?"

The host says, "No, lemons do not whistle. Why do you ask?"

The drunk staggers back and smacks his forehead in chagrin and states, "Oh my Gosh! Well in that case, I just squeezed your pet canary into my Gin & Tonic"

### Ned & Jed

**Say Jed, how has your service work grown?**

Started a chain saw and axe sharpening service shop last week.



**Not talkin' about that, I mean helpin' others?**

No pay, no fix. Can't eat with no pay.

**Not talkin' 'bout the shop. Talkin' about helpin' others.**

Oh yeah, that. Took Whitter to see Girald and talked of experience, strength and hope.

**Who gained the most from that?**

Hard to say, but Girald and I gained Serenity; Whitter the punk whittled a whistle with which to help others.

**Plan on going back soon?**

You betcha. Service Work chops!



Whitter's whittlin' whistles. (Say fast three times).

**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:** Doug G.

**Pass The Hat Assoc. Treasurer (P.T.H.A.):** Steve C.

**Accessibility for All Alcoholics:** OPEN

**A.A. Answering Service:** Wayne T.

**C.P.C. - Cooperation with the Professional Community:** Sam S.

**Corrections:** Erica S.

**Grapevine:** Greg S.

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

**P.I. - Public Information:** Erica S.

**Treatment:** Joshua M.

**Website:** Doug G.

**Young People:** OPEN.

**F.A.U.C. Newsletter**

Editor: Doug G. Coeditors: Mike J, Drew K. Tim H.

The November 2021 Newsletter went to 186 emails. If you would like a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request to [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com).

**2021 F.A.U.C. Meetings; Date: Place: Host Group.**

**Next F.A.U.C. Meeting:** Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 12:30 pm for the General Assembly. **Host groups are encouraged to Host at their location** (but will meet at St. Mary's School if needed).

~~January 16: Arid Club; Van Slyke Group.~~

~~February 20: Arid Club; Alano House.~~

~~March 20: St. Mary's School; Eastside St. Mary's.~~

~~April 17: Thetford Senior Center; Thetford A.A.~~

~~May 15: St. Mary's School; F.A.U.C.~~

~~June 19: St. Bartholomew's; Swartz Creek Group.~~

~~July 17: St. Mary's School; Eastside St. Mary's~~

~~August 21: Main Street Sobriety, Flushing~~

~~September 18: St. Bartholomew's; S.C. Group.  
9252 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek.~~

~~October 16: St. Mary's School; Women in A.A.~~

~~November 20: Davison Fellowship, St. John's Out Reach Building, 425 Genesee St., Davison.~~

December 18. Local 659; Van Slyke Group, 4549 Van Slyke Rd. Flint 48507.

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

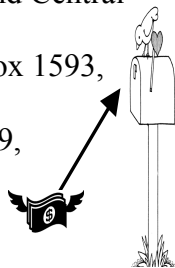
A.A.W.S., Inc., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

C.M.I.A. 32, c/o 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 F.A.U.C. meets December 18, 12:30 pm, hosted by the Van Slyke Group will be at the Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Rd., Flint.

CMIA32 is on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, in Houghton Lake, MI (Dist 26). 7784 Stone School Rd, Houghton Lake, MI 48629.

The Young People in A.A. meeting; Thursday 7 PM moved to the Unitarian Church, G-2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint.

The Flint Alano House Meetings have been updated on the Website.

**{ Thetford AA Meeting; Holiday Alchathon }**  
**December 24 thru Jan 1; 8am-10pm.**  
**December 25 OPEN TALK at 7 PM.**

The 2022 Mock Conference is in March 2022 on Zoom. Zoom number 460-390-181, no password required.

**New Meeting!** Primary Purpose/Women Only. Tuesday 6:30 PM. St. Matthews, 220 W. Neppessing St, Lapeer. Closed & Handicap accessible. (Enter on side of building; take elevator to 2nd floor, room at end of hall.

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

**THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.**

**December 2021 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings \***

\* = Addresses of Locations can be found in the 2021 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book or on the website [www.geneseecountyaa.org](http://www.geneseecountyaa.org) under the Meetings Tab.

- Thu 2 7:00 pm, Van Slyke (17).
- Fri 3 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club (8).
- Sat 4 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's (6)
- Sun 5 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club (8).
- Sat 11 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's (6)
- Sun 12 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club (8).
- Sat 18 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's (6)
- Sun 19 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club (8).
- Sat 25 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's (6)
- Sun 26 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club (8).
- Mon 27 7:00 pm, Montrose HOPE (10).

If your meeting opened for attendance with an Open Speaker, please contact [farfromittoday@aol.com](mailto:farfromittoday@aol.com) to list it.



In the book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, a brief history of A.A., June 1, 1957, Bill W. and Dr. Bob struggled with the thought of creating an A.A. World Service Conference in which the work of A.A. would pass from their hands to the Conference. There was talk of the old order changing and the need for approval from these two stalwarts to make it happen.

“If thereafter the Headquarters should collapse for lack of Conference linkage, the A.A.’s could rightfully say, ‘Why didn’t Dr. Bob and Bill tell us? Why didn’t they give us a chance to look after our own business and policy?’ I ventured the idea that we ought to call the Conference anyhow, even if it was a failure at first...

“He continued to reflect, and I waited. Finally he looked up and said, ‘Bill, it *has* to be A.A.’s decision, not ours. Let’s call that Conference. Its fine with me.’ ... That would make it a movement decision, rather than one taken in silence by Dr. Bob and me.

“A few hours later I took my leave of Dr. Bob, knowing that the following week he was to undergo a very serious operation. Neither of us dared say what was in our hearts. We both knew that this might well be the last decision that we would ever make together. I went down the steps and then turned to look back. Bob stood in the doorway, tall and upright as ever. Some color had come back to his cheeks. And he was carefully dressed in a gray suit. This was my partner, the man with whom I never had a hard word. The wonderful, old, broad smile was on his face as he said almost jokingly, ‘Remember, Bill, let’s not louse this thing up. Let’s keep it simple!’ “<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, a brief history of AA., page 214. Reprinted with A.A.W. S. permission.

What is another word for "louse up"?

- To commit a mistake or error.
- To mess up or perform a task incompetently.
- Ruin or foil.
- To be detrimental to.
- To deliberately hurt, annoy, or offend (someone).
- To cause disarray or disorganization in the order of.

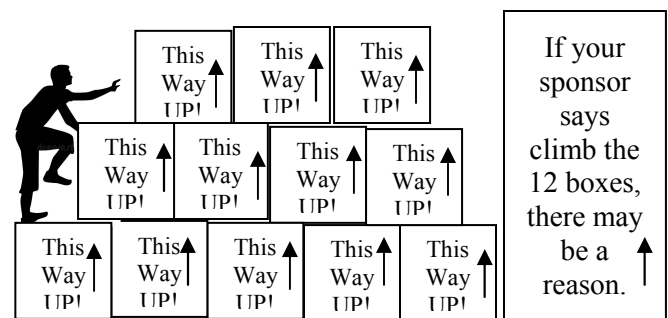
[https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/another-word-for/louse\\_up.html](https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/another-word-for/louse_up.html)

The second definition above may be what Dr. Bob was referring to. To perform the task incompletely, and not leave it in the capable hands of others was what he and Bill W. struggled with. Their combined perception that it must carry on, and that it could, and would without them, if only they would get out of the way, was an unselfish act of Service. Sounds reminiscent of the phrase from the Big Book, “That God could and would if He were sought.”<sup>5</sup>

. They recognized that no gain is likely without a risk of failure, but also had the sense of the situation that it was in good hands at Headquarters with Trustees already in place. Their faith in the Fellowship allowed them to make the hard decision to step aside, and let others of need, want, and experience carry the message of A.A. recovery

From these thoughts in 1950, “This Conference Charter was drawn up and unanimously adopted by the 1955 Conference. It has been updated by the 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1986 and 1988 Conferences”<sup>6</sup> as per *Comes of Age’s* Thirty-Third Printing in 2007.

A.A. Service Work is so important that the World Service Conference is continually looking at it and updating it through the Charter for the times in which it is lived. That’s experience, strength, and hope!



<sup>5</sup> *Alcoholics Anonymous, HOW IT WORKS*, page 60.

<sup>6</sup> *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, a brief history of AA., page 300. Reprinted with A.A. W. S. permission.

## “ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Comes Of Age  
a brief history of A.A.  
First Printinig1957.

### Foreword

“This book is for A.A. members and their friends. It is for all who are interested to know the history f how A.A. started, how its principles of Recovery, Unity, and Service were evolved, and by what means this fellowship has grown and spread its message the world. Here is an inside and wide-angled view of Alcoholics Anonymous.”<sup>7</sup>

“THE A.A. PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE  
(As expressed in the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Steps)

“Each A.A. group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

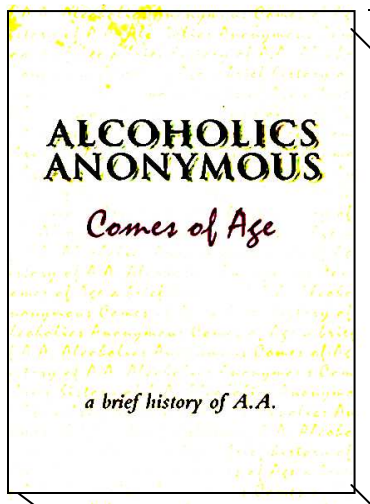
Every A.A. group ought to be self-supporting. Alcoholics Anonymous should forever remain nonprofessional.

A.A. as such ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

We try to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Note: The traditional principles of A.A. service stated above have been amplified by Bill W. and made a part of The A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service.”<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, Foreword.

<sup>8</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age", page 138. Reprinted with A.A.W. S. permission.

So we've all heard the acronym for God to be Good Orderly Direction. Ever wonder how it got its start in A.A.?

“To some of us, the idea of substituting ‘good’ for ‘God’ in the Twelve Steps will seem like a watering down of A.A.’s message. But here we must remember that A.A.’s Steps are suggestions only. A belief in them, as they stand, is not at all a requirement for membership among us. This liberty has made A.A. available to thousands who never would have tried at all had we insisted on the Twelve Steps just as written.”<sup>9</sup>

“... We obey A.A.’s Steps and Traditions because we really want them for ourselves. It is no longer a question of good or evil; we conform because we genuinely want to conform. Such is our process of growth in unity and in function. Such is the evidence of God’s grace and love among us.

“Much of our discussion so far leads straight to Tradition Five, which states: ‘Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.’

“We think we should do one thing well rather than many things to which we are not called. That is the central idea of this tradition. Our society gathers in unity around this concept. The very life of our fellowship requires its preservation.”<sup>10</sup>

“A.A.’s Twelfth Step, carrying the message, is the basic service that our fellowship gives; it is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of recovered alcoholics in action. We *must* carry A.A.’s message; otherwise we ourselves may fall into decay and those who have not yet been given the truth may die. That is why we so often say that *action* is the magic word. Action to carry A.A.’s message is therefore the heart of our Third Legacy of service.”<sup>11</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, page 81.

<sup>10</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, page 106.

<sup>11</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, page 139-140.

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“APPENDIX E:b

“THERAPUTIC MECHANISM OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS <sup>1</sup>  
BY HARRY M. TIEBOUT, M.D.  
Greenwich, Connecticut

“(Reprinted by permission from *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, January, 1944. Dr. Harry’s first paper on the subject of Alcoholics Anonymous. Three recent papers are indexed at the close of this one.)

“The work of Alcoholics Anonymous has a threefold aspect. First, the group has weekly gatherings where experiences are related and problems discussed. Second, all are urged to read their book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which contains their basic tenets and must be read if one is to arrive at any understanding of their program. Third, the members work with prospects who are making their initial contact with the group. Helping others is a two-way situation since it not only assists the beginner in his first efforts but also aids the helper, who derives from his efforts something which is essential for his continued sobriety.

“Statistics at the New York office of the organization read as follows:

- 5 recovered at the end of the first year.
- 15 recovered at the end of the second year.
- 40 recovered at the end of the third year.
- 100 recovered at the end of the fourth year.
- 400 recovered at the end of the fifth year.
- 2000 recovered at the end of the sixth year.
- 8000 recovered at the end of the seventh year.

<sup>1</sup> Read at the ninety-ninth annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, Detroit Michigan, May 10-13, 1943.” <sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, pages 309-310.

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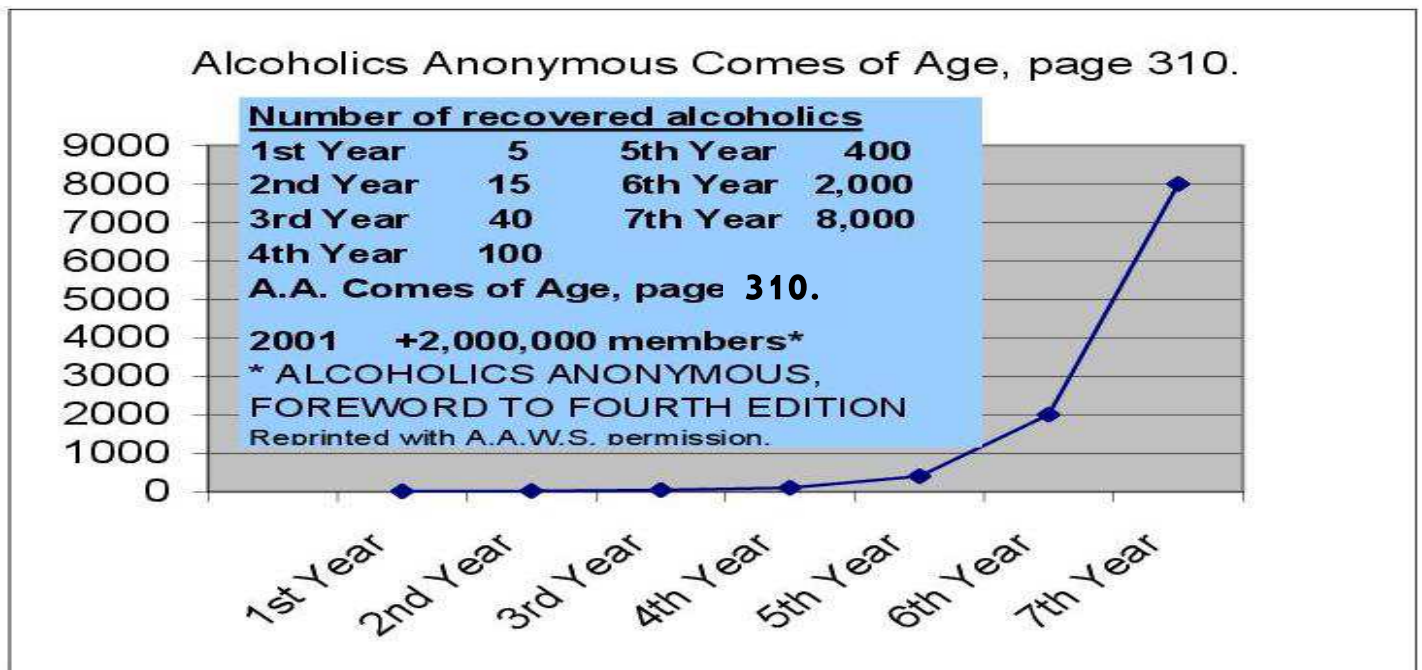


Chart compiled by editor using sources cited.

SOMETIMES GOD DOESN'T  
CHANGE YOUR SITUATION  
BECAUSE HE'S BUSY  
CHANGING YOU.

A CLEAR  
CONSCIENCE  
IS THE SIGN OF  
A FUZZY MEMORY

RESPECT YOUR  
PARENTS  
THEY PASSED SCHOOL  
WITHOUT GOOGLE

IF PRIDE COMES  
BEFORE A FALL  
HUMILITY SHOULD  
COME BY WINTER

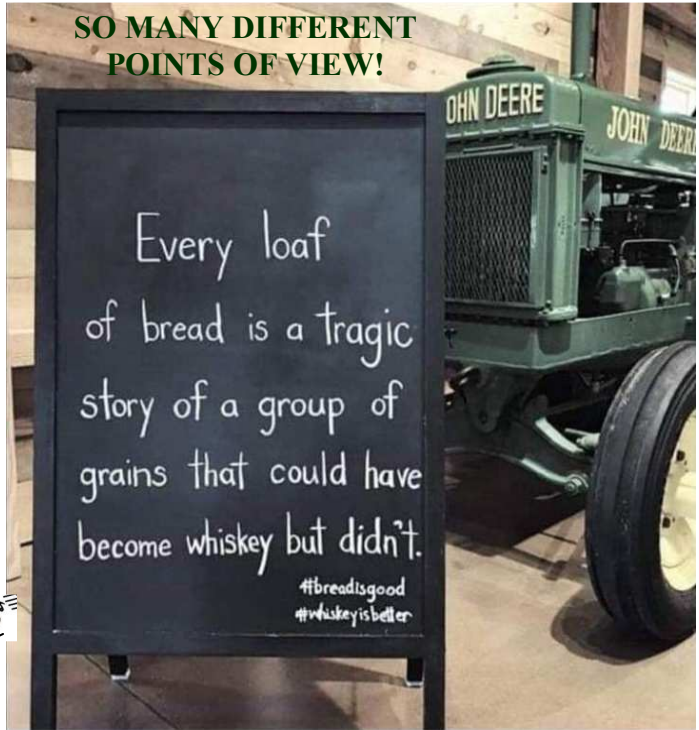
I'LL JUST PUT AN  
OUT OF ORDER  
STICKER ON MY HEAD  
& CALL IT A DAY

SCHOOL STARTS  
SEP 4  
RESISTANCE  
IS FUTILE

I WANT TO GROW  
MY OWN FOOD  
BUT I CANT FIND  
BACON SEEDS

A.A. NEEDS  
SPIRITUAL FRUIT  
NOT RELIGIOUS NUTS

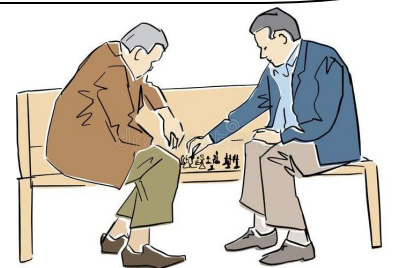
KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
WHISTLE  
WHILE YOU  
WORK



THAT THERE'S A  
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN  
AND A HIGHWAY TO HELL  
SAYS A LOT ABOUT TRAFFIC

JUST SOLD MY  
HOMING PIGEON  
ON EBAY FOR THE  
22ND TIME.

Please relax! And put your hearing aids in the next time you go out. They are WHEEZING, NOT whistling.



HOW WE WALK WITH THE  
BROKEN SPEAKS LOUDER  
THAN HOW WE SIT  
WITH THE GREAT.



“WE WILL NOT REGRET THE PAST NOR WISH TO SHUT DOOR ON IT... WE WILL INTUITIVELY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SITUATIONS THAT USED TO Baffle US.” 13

Some artists of the 50's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accomodate baby boomers. Here's a few:

1. Herman's Hermits- Mrs. Brown you've got a lovely walker.
2. The Bee Gees- How can you mend a broken hip.
3. Bobby Darin- Splish Splash I was Having a flash.
4. Ringo Starr- I'll get by with the help from depends.
5. The Commodores- Once, twice, three times to the bathroom.
6. Marvin Gaye- Heard it from the Grape Nuts
7. Leo Sayer- You make me feel like napping.
8. Willie Nelson- On the commode again.
- 9- Procol Harem- A whiter shade of hair.
10. Johnny Nash- I can't see clearly now.
11. Helen Reddy- I am woman hear me snore.
12. Abba- Denture Queen. ~ a GJDG submit

**THINGS WE DIDN'T DO:**  
 - Start The Fire  
 - Shoot The Deputy

**THINGS WE DID DO:**  
 - Built This City  
 - Shot The Sheriff

**THINGS WE WANT TO DO:**  
 - Break Free  
 - Hold Your Hand

**THINGS WE WILL DO:**  
 - Rock You  
 - Survive  
 - Anything For Love

**THINGS WE WON'T DO:**  
 - That  
 ~ a GJDG submit

“This improved perception of humility starts another revolutionary change in our outlook.” 14

“Even among those who occasionally land back in here again, we observe a profound change in personality.” 15

“They will change in time.” 16



“Looking at those who were only beginning and still doubted themselves, the rest of us were able to see the change setting in.” 17

“God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference.” 18

<sup>13</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, INTO ACTION, (From the Ninth Step Promises), pages 83-84.

<sup>14</sup> 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, STEP SEVEN, page 74.

<sup>15</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, APPENDIX III, THE MEDICAL VIEW ON A.A. page 570.

<sup>16</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, INTO ACTOIN, page 83.

<sup>17</sup> 12 Steps & 12 Traditions STEP TWELVE, page 109.

<sup>18</sup> 12 Steps & 12 Traditions STEP TWELVE, page 125.



Heard it  
**'Round the  
Rooms!**



The single best thing I've ever heard in an AA meeting. In a meeting a lot of years ago, one of the silverbacks said:

“We have good news, and we have bad news.

The good news is that the Steps are only suggestions.

The bad news is that we don't have any other suggestions.”

After 20+ years of AA meetings, it's still the best single bit of wisdom I've ever heard. What's yours?

I also really like something I heard recently when we were doing a BB study and were reading Working With Others. As it was talking about not forcing a specific religion or version of God on anyone, this old guy said “I mean, for alcoholics, we have to save their ass before someone can save their soul” and I really loved that as an agnostic in AA.

[https://www.reddit.com/r/alcoholicsanonymous/comments/p303b8/the\\_single\\_best\\_thing\\_ive\\_eve\\_r\\_hear\\_in\\_an\\_aa/](https://www.reddit.com/r/alcoholicsanonymous/comments/p303b8/the_single_best_thing_ive_eve_r_hear_in_an_aa/)

---

I alone can do it...but I can't do it alone.

I like to say that AA has given me the life I never knew I always wanted!

<https://aa.activeboard.com/t34758440/funny-or-bizarre-things-heard-at-aa-meetings/>

If you're sitting in a meeting thinking about drinking, that beats the hell out of sitting in a bar thinking about getting sober.

<https://eastbayaa.org/heard-at-a-meeting/>



**“A.A. does not demand belief; Twelve Steps are only suggestions.”**

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, CONTENTS, Step Two, page 5.

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**IF ONLY SARCASM  
BURNED CALORIES...**



**I DON'T MISS A  
WORKOUT. I GIVE THE  
WEIGHTS A DAY  
(OR TWO) OF REST.**

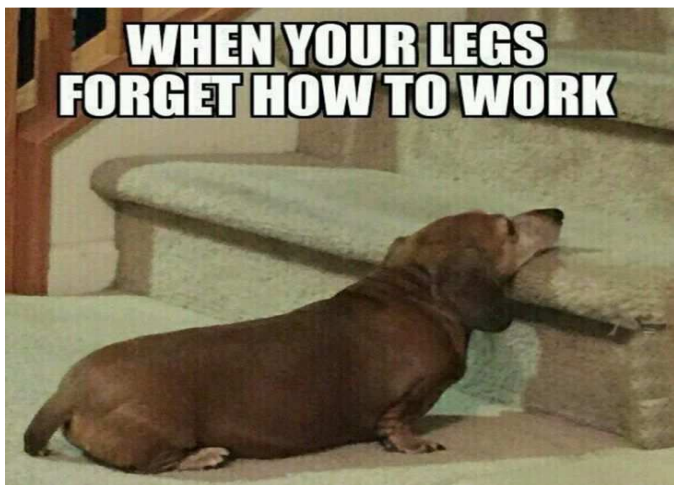


**Oh, could it be so easy?**

**DON'T TURN OFF YOUR BODY,  
CHANGES MAY BE LOST.  
INSTALLING UPDATES TO MUSCLES.**



**NEVERTHELESS,  
HE PERSISTED.**



“The tyrant alcohol wielded a double-edged sword over us: first we were smitten by an insane urge that condemned us to go on drinking, and then by an allergy of the body that insured we would ultimately destroy ourselves in the process.”<sup>19</sup>

“Therefore, the main problem of the alcoholic centers in his mind, rather than in his body.”<sup>20</sup>

“We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.”<sup>21</sup>

“Now about health: A body badly burned by alcohol does not often recover overnight nor do twisted thinking and depression vanish in a twinkling.”<sup>22</sup>

“With clear understanding and right, grown-up attitudes, very happy results do follow.”<sup>23</sup>

“You can't mix the Twelfth Step and money.”<sup>24</sup>

“Although financial recovery is on the way for many of us, we found we could not place money first.”<sup>25</sup>

“First Things First.”<sup>26</sup>

“Hence our common welfare comes first.”<sup>27</sup>

“The birth of our Society dates from his first day of permanent sobriety, June 10, 1935.”<sup>28</sup>

“We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery. The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed.”<sup>29</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, STEP ONE, PAGE 22.

<sup>20</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, THERE IS A SOLUTION, PAGE 23.

<sup>21</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION, page xiii.

<sup>22</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, THE FAMILY AFTERWARD, page 133.

<sup>23</sup> Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, STEP TWELVE, page 119.

<sup>24</sup> Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, CONTENTS, (TRADITION EIGHT), page 11.

<sup>25</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, THE FAMILY AFTERWARD, page 127.

<sup>26</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, THE FAMILY AFTERWARD, page 135.

<sup>27</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, APPENDIX I, THE A.A. TRADITIONS (THE LONG FORM), page 563.

<sup>28</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, DOCTOR BOB'S NIGHTMARE, page 171.

<sup>29</sup> Alcoholics Anonymous, MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM, page 30.

<sup>19-29</sup>; Reprinted with permission of A.A.W. S.

# THE PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP **BIG** BOOK STUDY GUIDE

The Big Book Study Guide was developed by the Primary Purpose Group of Dallas -- the group that inspired OAPP. The purpose of the Study Guide is to enable the student to better understand the information the authors of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, intended to impart to each of us based on their experience and knowledge of alcoholism and their Program of Recovery.

## **A Study of the Basic Text for Alcoholics Anonymous**

### **WORKING WITH OTHERS**

(Pages 89 through 103)

We are then given directions on how to “sponsor” them into sobriety. Those of us who are willing to apply the experience and knowledge revealed in this Chapter will be blessed with many friends and realize the true joy of living. It is an experience we must not miss. If we do, we will very likely return to drinking and may never have another chance at sobriety.

Notice a rather significant change in the wording of this Chapter. Through the first Six Chapters, the word “we” is used extensively. He now begins using the word “you.” He points his finger at each of us to make it clear as to whose responsibility it is to try to “Carry this message to other alcoholics!” It is the responsibility of each of us to protect our sobriety by searching out the still-suffering alcoholic and go to them with an attitude of love and service.

It is easier to stay sober than it is to sober up! Working with others is our insurance against returning to drink.

## TO WIVES

(Pages 104 through 121)

Step Twelve states, “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and practice these principles in all our affairs.” We have received the Promise: the spiritual awakening. We have received clear-cut directions on sponsorship. Now, we will be given directions on how to apply these principles to all our affairs.

Our Founders recognized that alcoholism is a family disease, that all who care about a suffering alcoholic also suffer. Oftentimes, their misery is even greater than that of the alcoholic. The alcoholic has a means of escape but, in most cases, the ones who love and care for the drinker must take it cold sober and experience much of what the alcoholic has missed while under the influence.

This Chapter will identify the problems the loved ones will experience as they continue life with the alcoholic. It provides a way in which to gauge where the drinker is in the progression of the disease. It then provides specific suggestions as to how one can go about trying to help the alcoholic begin to learn the truth. It then points out that, if the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous can bring about the miracle of sobriety with the attendant promises of the Program, it can provide a path for their loved ones to find a spiritual way of life that will more than compensate them for the suffering and misery they have experienced.

From this Chapter came the wonderful Program of the Al-Anon Family Group. Without this Program, many suffering alcoholics would never have found a solution to their alcoholism. Al-Anon is a great friend to alcoholics and Alcoholics Anonymous.

## **THE FAMILY AFTERWARD**

(Pages 122 through 135)

This Chapter is for the whole family. The alcoholic has found the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous as a solution for his problems. The family has found the Programs of Al-Anon, Alateen and/or Pre-teen as the solution to their problems. All is going well in their relationships within their respective Fellowships and in the world in general -- except for one of the most important places and that is in the home. As was pointed out in the preceding Chapter, when drinking ends, all the problems do not.

Before proceeding with the study of the material in this Chapter, go back to page 116 and begin reading at the middle of the page. Continue reading to the end of that Chapter to refresh your thinking. Chapter 9, "THE FAMILY AFTERWARD", shows each family member how to apply the Twelve Steps to family life and thereby bring the return of peace, harmony and love to the family unit.

Every member of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon should be knowledgeable of the information contained in this Chapter. It is truly a design for living.

## TO EMPLOYERS

(Pages 136 through 150)

The authors of this Text Book were farsighted enough to recognize that, as alcoholics sobered up and began to return to a more normal type of life, they would, of course, be returning to the workplace. There is little doubt that any business employing a number of people will have in its midst, active alcoholics.

It is most easy for us to think of the ordinary contacts we might make in searching for the suffering ones such as doctors, ministers, attorneys, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, etc.; but all too often, one of the places offering the greatest potential is overlooked. That, of course, is the workplace. Some of our members have made certain that the Chief Executive Officer of their place of employment are recipients of the Big Book. In some cases, it is in keeping with their attempt to make amends for their past deeds or maybe just to try to make what could prove to be a significant contribution to their employer. In any case, it is more than possible that another suffering alcoholic will find our Program and thereby be spared from a tragic ending.

This is the only Chapter that was not drafted by Bill W... The principal author of this Section was Hank P., a terminated executive of a large corporation in the Northeast part of the country. He tells a little of his story as an introduction to his contribution here but, going back to "The Doctor's Opinion," Dr. Silkworth tells of the alcoholic who thought his case so hopeless that he had gone to a deserted barn to die. That hopeless alcoholic turned out to be Hank P., the author of this Chapter. His story, "The Unbeliever," can be found in the Original Manuscript and the First Edition of the Big Book.

**Eastside St. Mary's**, St. Mary's School,  
2600 N. Franklin, Flint.  
11:30 AM C Sun. w/Al-Anon.  
7:30 PM C Sun. Tue. Thu. Sat.  
**Theford** - at the Senior Center, Lower Level.  
810-686-2040 G-11495 N. Center Rd. Clio.

Sunday  
9:00 AM, 12:00 PM.  
5:00 PM C Men's Meeting.  
7:00 PM.  
Monday  
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM.  
Tuesday  
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM.  
5:30 PM, Women's Meeting.  
7:00 PM.  
Wednesday  
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM.  
Thursday  
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM.  
Friday  
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM.  
Saturday  
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM.

**PREAMBLE**

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

(June 1947; Tom Y., Revised Sept. 1958 International Convention).  
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**A Declaration of Unity**

This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

Service Manual, page 2. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

**Fenton Alano Club**, 800 North Rd. Fenton.  
810-354-8279 ALL ☺

Sunday  
10:00 AM C Sunday Serenity - Upstairs.  
5:00 PM C Steps To Freedom - Upstairs.  
Monday  
10:00 AM C New Horizons - Upstairs.  
7:00 PM O North Road Group - Upstairs.  
Tuesday  
10:00 AM C New Horizons - Upstairs.  
10:00 AM C S.O.S. (Sisters of Sobriety) Dwnstrs  
7:00 PM C North Road Group - Upstairs.  
7:00 PM C Big Book Study - Downstairs  
Wednesday  
9:00 AM C Men's Meeting - Downstairs  
10:00 AM O New Horizons - Upstairs.  
6:30 PM C Steps and Traditions - Dwnstrs  
Thursday  
10:00 AM C New Horizons - Upstairs.  
7:00 PM O Spirit Group - Upstairs.  
Friday  
10:00 AM C New Horizons - Upstairs.  
6:30 PM C 11<sup>th</sup> Step Meditation Meeting - Downstairs.  
8:00 PM C Open Talk - Downstairs  
Saturday  
6:30 PM C Young People - Downstairs.

**I AM Responsible**

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible.

(1965 A.A. International Convention)

Service Manual, page 2. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

**THE SERENITY PRAYER**

God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change...  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And wisdom to know the difference.

(Karl Paul Reinhold Niebuhr 1892-1971)

A.A. ZOOM Meeting list can be found at  
<https://geneseecountyaa.org/zoom-meetings/>

This tri-fold is a Service Work of the F.A.U.C. and is not intended to replace the regular Meeting Book. The purpose of this Tri-fold is to put the weekly A.A. Meetings that are open for attendance *at this time* (160) in a resource available to the Fellowship & beyond.

2022 Flint Area Unity Council A.A. Groups



Donations go to:  
Pass The Hat Association, Inc.  
4225 Miller Rd. Ste. 119  
Flint, MI 48507

A.A. 24 Hour Help Line  
810-234-0815

Flint Area Unity Council  
(District 12) Website:  
[www.geneseecountyaaa.org](http://www.geneseecountyaaa.org)

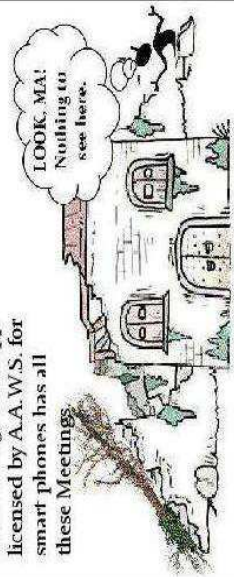
Flint Area Al-Anon  
Telephone  
810-234-1460



The Meeting Guide app licensed by A.A.W.S. for smart phones has all these Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings Meeting Guide

Flint Area Al-Anon Website  
[www.gaais.webs.com](http://www.gaais.webs.com)



"He is like the farmer who came up out of his cyclone cellar to find his house ruined. To his wife, he remarked, "Don't see anything the matter here, Ma. Ain't it grand the wind stopped blowin'?"  
Big Book, INTO ACTION, page 82.  
Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission. Revised: 12/06/2023

C = Closed; Closed meetings are for those with a desire to stop drinking.

O = Open; Open meetings are for A.A. members and those who seek information on the A.A. program of recovery.

Handicap Accessible = ☺

Arranged by Location, Day, Time.

Please contact farfromtoday@aol.com for any changes, revisions, additions needed. Thank you.



**Arid Club**, 715 East St. Flint 810-232-7691  
 Sunday ALL ☒  
 2:00 PM C S.I.N. (Spiritual In Nature)  
 Atheist & Agnostics  
 6:00 PM C Torrey Road Grp. - Open Talk.  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
 Monday ALL ☒  
 12:00 PM C Eye Opener-Big Book Study.  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
 Tuesday ALL ☒  
 12:00 PM C Eye Opener-Big Book Study.  
 7:00 PM C Women's Group  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
 Wednesday ALL ☒  
 12:00 PM C Eye Opener-Big Book Study.  
 6:00 PM C Torrey Rd. Grp-Big Book Study.  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
 Thursday ALL ☒  
 12:00 PM C Eye Opener-Big Book Study.  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
 Friday ALL ☒  
 12:00 PM C Eye Opener-Big Book Study.  
 7:00 PM C Drop The Rock. Book study of Drop  
 the Rock, book on Steps Six and Seven.  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
 Saturday ALL ☒  
 12:00 PM C Downtown Group.  
 9:30 PM C Last Call.  
**Burton**, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, Maple Group.  
 8:00 PM C ☒ Blessed Sacrament Church,  
 Rms. 4/5. 6336 Roberta Street, Burton.  
**Clio**, Thursday, Bethany United Methodist  
 7:00 PM C Church, 353 E. Vienna Rd.  
**Davison**, Fellowship Group, Tuesday,  
 8:00 PM C ☒ St. John's Catholic Church,  
 404 N. Dayton, Davison.  
**Davison**, Friday Night Group, Friday,  
 7:30 PM C ☒ St. John's Catholic Church,  
 404 N. Dayton, Davison.

**Durand**, Durand Group, Thursday  
 7 PM C ☒ Congregational Ch, 403 N. Saginaw  
**Fenton**, LK Fenton Methodist Ch; Saturday  
 10:00 AM C ☒ 2581 N. Long LK Rd. Fenton.  
**Flint**, Early Bird Special, S-M-Tu-W-Th-F-Sa  
 6:30 AM C ☒ Unitarian Church.  
 G-2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint  
**Flint, Alano House**, M-W-F 7:30 PM  
 S-M-Tu-W-Th-F-Sa 9:30 PM  
 Alano House, 2608 Maplewood. All "Closed".  
**Flint**, Fog Lifters, Mon, Thu, Sat, 10:30 AM  
 C ☒ Wed 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Episcopal  
 Church, 1922 Iowa  
**Flint**, Lunch Bunch, Mon, Wed & Fri;  
 12:00 PM C ☒ Unitarian Church  
 G-2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint  
**Flint**, Oak Park, M-Tu-W-Th-F-Sa  
 11:00 AM C Christ Fellowship Missionary Ch.  
 317 E. Hamilton Ave., Flint  
**Flint**, Richfield Road Group, Mon & Thurs;  
 7:00 PM C ☒ United Brethren Church.  
 6259 Richfield Rd. Flint  
**Flint**, The Solution, Tues, Catholic Charities,  
 4:00 PM C ☒ 901 Chippewa St. Flint  
**Flint**, Van Slyke Group, Thursday;  
 7:00 PM C ☒ Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Rd  
**Flint**, Thursday; Young People in A.A.  
 7:00 PM C ☒ Unitarian Church.  
 G-2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint  
**Flushing** Sun, Wed, Sat; Main St. Sobriety,  
 8:00 AM C Trinity Epis. Parsng. 745 1/2 E. Main St.  
**Flushing** Victory Today, Trinity Epis. Parsng. 745  
 1/2 E. Main St.  
 2:00 PM C Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat.  
 7:00 PM C Sun, Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, (NO Wed).  
**Flushing** Wed, Fri; Flushing Group,  
 7:00 PM C St. Roberts, 214 E. Henry.  
**Gaines**, A.A. Group, Wednesday; Faith  
 7:00 PM O ☒ Church, 303 Walnut St.  
 S. State Rd., Goodrich.

**Goodrich-Atlas** Group, Wednesday,  
 10:00 AM C ☒ St. Mark's Ch, 296 Gale Rd.  
**Goodrich** Sober at Seven Group, Friday,  
 7:00 PM C ☒ United Methodist Church, 8071  
**Grand Blanc** Primary Purpose, Tuesday, 1st  
 7:00 PM O ☒ Congregational Ch, 6494 Belsay Rd.  
**Grand Blanc** Grapevine, Wednesday, Faith  
 8:00 PM C ☒ Lutheran Ch, 12534 Holly Rd.  
**Grand Blanc** Open Door, Thursday, Holy  
 8:00 PM C ☒ Family Church, St. Joseph Hall,  
 215 Bush St., Grand Blanc.  
**Hadley**, Country Comfort. Mon & Wed; Old  
 7:30 PM C Twnshp. Hall, 3551 Hadley Rd  
**Imlay City**, Thursday; West Goodland  
 8:00 PM C ☒ United Methodist Church,  
 2008 N. Van Dyke, Imlay City.  
**Metamora**, Wednesday; Lions Hall, Done  
 7:00 PM O ☒ Horsing Around, 3790 N. Oak St  
**Lapeer Clover School**, 3496 Davison Rd.  
 Sunday 10:00 AM C, 8:00 PM C  
 Mon-Wed-Thu 11:00 AM C, 8:00 PM C  
 Tuesday 11:00 AM C, 6:30 PM C, 8:00 PM C  
 Friday 9:00 AM C, 11:00 AM C,  
 8:00 PM C, Open Talk  
 Saturday 10:00 AM C, 8:00 PM C  
**Lapeer**, Primary Purpose/Women's meeting.  
 6:30 PM C ☒ St. Matthews 220 W. Nepeensing  
 St. Use side entrance, elevator to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor,  
 room at end of hall.  
**Montrose**, Tue, Fri. H.O.P.E. Family Worship  
 7:00 PM C ☒ Center, 9453 Vienna Rd.,  
**Otisville**, Mon, Thu-Big Book Study  
 7:00 PM C ☒ 212 Center St.  
 St. Francis Xavier Church  
**Rankin (Mundy)**, Wednesday; Swartz Creek.  
 8:00 PM C ☒ Presbyterian Church,  
 3506 W. Grand Blanc Rd.,  
**Swartz Creek**, Tuesday; Thursday  
 8:00 PM C St. Bartholomew Anglican Church,  
 9252 Miller Rd. Swartz Creek.  
 Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. Open Talk & OPEN Meeting.



Central Michigan Intra-Area 32  
will be meeting  
December 5 in Houghton Lake, MI  
at the **Northern Event Center**  
**7784 Stone School Rd, Houghton Lake,**  
**MI 48629**

## AGENDA:

### Morning Session

9:00-9:30 Fellowship and Coffee (Main Room)

9:30-9:45 Opening and Group Concerns  
(Main Room)

9:45-11:00 General Service Meeting, "GSR Meeting"  
(Main Room)

9:45 -10:30 Finance Committee (Auxiliary Room)

10:30-11:30 DCM Meeting (Auxiliary Room)

11:00-12:00 Committee Meetings (Main Room)

**12:00-12:30 LUNCH BREAK**

### Afternoon Session

12:30-2:30? General Assembly Meeting  
(Main Room)

Zoom: 460 390 181 Further committee instructions  
will be on that Zoom number