

The F.A.U.C. Website is <u>www.geneseecountyaa.org</u> Newsletter at <u>https://geneseecountyaa.org/f-a-u-c-newsletter</u> The A.A.W.S. licensed Smart Phone Meeting Guide app has Flint Area A.A. Meetings and is free at the app store.

STEP 6: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

By being entirely ready, one is prepared for the unknown; you are in a fit state for what's ahead and open to change.

What is this Step's benefit? At its most basic level, the aim is to identify and to use God-consciousness to displace defects of character.

"We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable." ³

STEP 6 – "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." $^{1 \text{ ibid}}$

TRADITION 6 – "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any facility of outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose" ⁴ **CONCEPT 6** – "The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board." ⁵

WARRANTY 6 - "Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action." ⁶

These four parts of the A.A. program of recovery are all linked together; thorough Willingness, Purpose, Service, and Action.



- ¹ Alcoholics Anonymous, HOW IT V. Alcoholics Anonymous, WE ACNOSTICS, page 4
- ² Alcoholics Anonymous, WE AGNOSTICS, page 45.
- ³ Alcoholics Anonymous, INTO ACTION, page 76.
- ⁴ Alcoholics Anonymous, APPENDICES I, page 562. THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE, 2021-2023 Edition,
- ⁵ page C19.⁶ page C58.

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od remove all these defects of character." ¹ "And it means, of course, that we are going to talk about God."²
Some are more ready

than others.

"At the start, this was all we needed to commence spiritual growth, to effect our first conscious relation with God as we understood Him."⁷

STEPS TRADITIONS

CONCEPTS

WARRANTIES

"Results are tranquility and consciousness of God." 8

"To some extent we have become God-conscious." 9

"Religion says the existence of God can be proved; the agnostic says it can't be proved; and the atheist claims proof of the nonexistence of God." ¹⁰

The next short discussion is on the four quotes above.

The 'start' referred to in the first quote is Step Four, where we completed an honest inventory of ourself. We start the spiritual growth which is following God's will, not ours which is mentioned in Step Three.

The "results" of the second quote come from Step Five; where we gain inner serenity in knowing more of ourself through an honest admission "to God, to ourselves, and to another human being."

A simple version put forth of God-conscious is this, "...lived in conscious companionship with his Creator." ¹¹

The fourth quote definition is self explanatory; as we have gained a "God as we understood Him." (STEP 3).

- ⁷ Alcoholics Anonymous, WE AGNOSTICS, page 47.
- ⁸ TWELVE STEPS and TWELVE TRADITIONS, CONTENTS (STEP FIVE), page 6.
- ⁹ Alcoholics Anonymous, INTO ACTON, page 85.
- ¹⁰ TWELVE STEPS and TWELVE TRADITIONS, STEP TWO, page 28.
- ¹¹ Alcoholics Anonymous, WE AGNOSTICS, page 56. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

"These four parts of the A.A. program of recovery are all linked together; thorough Willingness, Purpose, Service, and Action." (From page 1).

Step Six declares "were entirely ready", that is willingness to the core.

Tradition Six reminds us to be willing to veer away from activities that may divert us from our primary purpose, from the Preamble; "...stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety".¹²

Concept Six displays willingness through "active responsibility" which is discussed in Concept XII, Warranty II as the prudent financial principle A.A. adheres to. For it says, "Financial prudence has paid off in lives saved." ¹³

Warranty VI states the democratic thought and action of the Conference, which is the willingness to give all an equal voice.

remove these defects of character." ^{1 ibid}

Tradition Six reminds us "But soon the sense of His presence had been blotted out by worldly clamors."¹⁴

Concept Six refers to the "chief initiative" which is stated to be, "...our objective is always a spiritual one, but this service aim can only be achieved by means of an effective business operation." ¹⁵

Warranty Six has its purpose as "it shall never perform any acts of government...the Conference itself will always remain democratic ... " ^{5 ibid}

The service of Step Six comes in when we are preparing ourself "to be of maximum service to God and the people about us."¹⁶

¹² A.A. Preamble, revised at the International Conference, September 1958.

- ¹³ THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE, 2021-2023 Edition, page C51.
- ¹⁴ Alcoholics Anonymous, BILL'S STORY, pages 12-13.
- ¹⁵ THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE, 2021-2023 Edition, page C20. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

The service of Tradition 6 is our primary purpose.

The service of Concept Six is derived from exercising leadership of the Conference Service Board through the trustees. At a group, district, or area level, this comes to the G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s and Delegates doing service work for A.A. as a whole; be that in the group, district, area, or Conference.

Service of Warranty Six states, "...each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes - it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole \dots ¹⁷

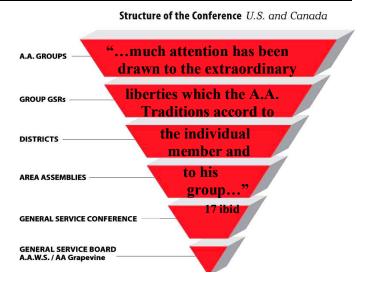
"Outline the program of action...and why you are now endeavoring to be helpful to him." 18

The decision made in Step Three, sets up action. Step Six's action is being entirely ready...

Tradition Six actions protect the primary purpose.

Concept Six has actions of 'chief initiative', 'active The purposes: Step Six is being "ready to have God responsibility", 'service matters', 'the Conference acting as the General Service Board'.

Warranty Six is democratic in thought and action.



- ¹⁶ Alcoholics Anonymous, INTO ACTON, page 77. 17 THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE, 2021-2023 Edition, page C58.
- ¹⁸ Alcoholics Anonymous, WORKING WITH OTHERS, page 94.

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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*.

The circle/triangle symbol of A.A. that was used for many years has been removed from this Newsletter in accordance with the following statement by A.A. "In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks was being discontinued."

From "THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE" 2021- 2023 by Bill W. page 64, reprinted by permission of A.A.W.S. Please read paragraph seven on page 64 to understand this change.

So how many of you watched those "Epic or Fail" videos out there? Some of those are either really awesome, or really hilarious in their outcome. Not wanting to intrude on anybody's success or shortcomings here, but even that first 24 hours without a drink due to a desire to stop drinking is what might one might call supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Exceptional. Superb. Sublime. Outstanding. Magnificent. Marvelous. Wonderful. Perfect. Supreme. One might even say EPIC! Its all there in the short form of Tradition Three: "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." ¹⁹ Furthermore, the long form of Tradition Three gives the sense of belonging to being with just a very few, or many. No matter your sense of overuse, abuse, problems, or any other thing, if you have suffered from alcohol, even just a bit, or may be a whole lot, you are welcome. Tradition Three in its long form; "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."²⁰ Hey, you are not even asked to conform! Your desire (may be along with your willingness) are all that is required.

"We A.A.s do not stay away from drinking [one day at a time] -- we grow away from drinking [one day at a time]." ("Lois Remembers", page 168, quoting Bill). And now you know where that came from.. Sounds like it should have come out of the chapter in the Big Book, HOW IT WORKS, but it didn't. What does is this, "Half measures availed us nothing." (Page 58).

There are no epic fails in A.A. There are no failures of an epic if we put our mind to it. Give it what you have, one day at a time; take that day hourly if needed. The progress is the perfection of desire.

I know of an A.A. who when asked how long he'd been sober will say, "Well, let me see. I've been up five hours so far, so yeah, five hours is it." Other times you'll hear him say, "I've been sober a minute." (He's well over twenty years sober).

- ¹⁹ Alcoholics Anonymous, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS, page 561.
- ²⁰ Alcoholics Anonymous, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS (THE LONG FORM), page 562. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.





Man like Mum!!!

A child asked his father: "What is a man?" The father replies, "A person who takes responsibility for his family and his house and takes care of them." Then the child said, "I hope I will be a man like Mum one day"!!!

Why is Spiderman so good at comebacks?

Because with great power comes great response ability.

A Bar opened opposite a Church!

The angry congregants of the church prayed daily against the bar business....

Days later the Bar was struck by lightning, catching fire. The Bar owner sued the church authorities for damages, as an action of the result of their prayer.

The church denied all responsibility!

So, the judge commented:

"It's difficult to decide this case because we have a Bar owner who believes in the power of prayer and an entire group of church congregants that does not believe in it!!!"

The Judge declared, "This case is hereby dismissed!"

Ned & Jed (on CONCEPT & Warranty Six)

Hey Jed you say you don't understand our active responsibility. Want to hear about it?

I am not certain what that means, so sure, explain that.



Start with the Primary Purpose; "... stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety." That I understand.

Then move to the chief initiative, "...achieved by means of an effective business operation." It's part of the Concept VI, which means financial prudence.

Then making sound business decisions based on the money in our treasury to help others is what you're talking about?

That's it right there.



Well that's not near as confusing as I thought. Even makes sense, comes down to our needs are based on prudence.

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: Jim M. F.A.U.C. Secretary: Lynn N. Pass The Hat Assoc. Treasurer (P.T.H.A.): Steve C Al-Anon Liaison: OPEN.. Accessibility for All Alcoholics: Brad S. A.A. Answering Service: OPEN C.P.C. - Cooperation with the Professional Community: Gerri L. Corrections: Buck K. Grapevine: Randy R. Literature/Meeting Books/Newsletter: James P./Doug G. P.I. - Public Information: Randy R. Treatment: Joshua M. Website: Nick E. Young People: Christian H. F.A.U.C. Newsletter Editor: Doug G. Coeditors: Mike J, Tim H.

Editor: Doug G. Coeditors: Mike J, 1 im H. The May 2022 Newsletter went to 191 emails. If you would like a Newsletter via email, send Editor a request to <u>farfromittoday@aol.com</u>.

2022 F.A.U.C. Meetings; Date: Place: Host Group. **Next F.A.U.C. Meeting:** Meetings are on the 3rd 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 15: St. Mary's School,; Eastside February 19: Arid Club, Torrey Rd. Group.. March 19: St. Bartholomew's; Swartz Creek Group April 16: Thetford Senior Center; Thetford A.A. May 21: St. Mary's School. FAUC.

June 18 St. John's Out Reach Building, 425

Genesee St., Davison, Davison Friday Night Grp. July 16:

August 20: St. Francis Ch. 212 Center St. Otisville, Otisville A.A.

September 17: Fenton Alano Club, 800 North Rd., Fenton, Men's Morning Group.

October 22: H.O.P.E. Family Worship Center, 9453 Vienna Rd. Montrose, Montrose HOPE A.A.

November 19:

December 17: Local 659, 4549 Van Slyke Rd. Van

A.A Treasurer's addresses: G.S.O. P.O. Box 2407, James A. Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407 C.M.I.A. 32, c/o Sherri L, 635 Woodcreek Court Saline, MI 48176 (For F.A.U.C.) P.T.H.A, Inc. 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 June 18 at 11:30 AM for Committee Meetings, 12:30 PM for General Assembly. Hosted by the Davison Friday Night Group at St John's Parish Outreach Building, 425 Genesee St. Davison. We'd like to ask, and offer to list our

Oh That Meeting's private Face book page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/FlintsGayAAOhThatM eeting to be listed in the newsletter, and/or F.A.U.C. & Genesee County AA website. Daily readings, other online AA resources, and of course the monthly F.A.U.C. Newsletter are posted. Keep connected nicely to people virtually!

July 17th is SOBERFEST, Flyer at end of Newsletter. Several new people are sitting in as Chairs of Committees of the F.A.U.C. Thanks to all of you for your Service Work! See listings left of ANNOUNCEMENTS.

2022 Mackinaw Island Fall Weekend Oct 14 - 16.

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

THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND LISTED ON THE WEBSITE. June 2022 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 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 7:00 pm Thetford A,A, with a Potluck.
- 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



A.A. Acronyms

From: https://club12.org/reference/aa-acronyms/ Club 12 102 Thames San Antonio, TX 78216 Phone: 210-344-8981 AA = Absolute Abstinence... AA = Adventurers Anonymous... AA = Altered Attitudes...AA = Altruistic Action...AA = Attitude Adjustment...AA's-R-US = Alcoholics Anonymous Recovery Unity Service... ABC = Acceptance, Belief, Change... ACTION = Any Change Toward Improving One's Nature... ACTION = Any Change To Improve Our Natures... ADDICT = Anybody Doing Drugs In Compulsive Trouble.. AFGE = Another F***** Growth Experience... AIDS = Active In Dangerous Sex... AIDS = Addicts Injecting Dirty Syringes... ALCOHOLICS = A Life Centered On Helping Others Live In Complete Sobriety... ANONYMOUS = Actions Not Our Names Yield Maintenance Of Unity & Service... ANGER = A No Good Energy Rising... ASK = Ass-Saving Kit...BAR = Beware Alcohol, Run... BAR = Beware Alcohol Ruin... BIG BOOK = Believing In God Beats Our Old Knowledge... BS = Before Sobriety...BUT = Being Unconvinced Totally... CALM = Can Anger Leave Me... CARE = Comforting And Reassuring Each Other... CHANGE = Choosing Honesty Allows New Growth Everyday... CIA = Catholic Irish Alcoholic... CLEAN = Completely Leaving Every Addiction Now!... COURAGE = 'Cause of Using Recovery's A Great Effort... CRAP = Carry Resentments Against People... DEAD = Drinking Ends All Dreams... DENIAL = Don't Even Notice I Am Lying... DENIAL = Don't Even Notice It's A Lie... DETACH = Don't Even Think About Changing Him/Her... DT'S = Don't Think Shit... DUES = Desparately Using Everything But Sobriety... EDI not DIE = Easy Does It not Does It Easy...

EGO = Easing God Out...EGO = Edging God Out...FAILURE = Fearful, Arrogant, Insecure, Lonely, Uncertain, Resentful, Empty... FAITH = Fear Ain't In This House... FAITH = Facing An Inner Truth Heals... FAITH = For An Instant Trust Him... FAITH = Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him... FAITH = Fear And Insecurity? Trust Him!... FAMILY = Father And Mother I Love You... FEAR = Failure Expected And Received... FEAR = False Evidence Appearing Real... FEAR = Feelings expressed Allows Relief... FEAR = Feelings Every Alcoholic Rejects... FEAR = Fighting Ego Against Reality... FEAR = Forget Everything And Run... FEAR = F**k Everything And Run!... FEAR = Face Everything And Recover!... FEAR = Forgetting Everything's All Right... FEAR = Frantic Effort to Appear Real... FEAR = Frantic Efforts to Appear Recovered... FINE = Faithful, Involved, Knowledgeable and Experienced... FINE = Feeling Insecure, Numb and Empty... FINE = Frantic, Insane, Nuts and Egotistical... FINE = Freaked out, Insecure, Neurotic and Emotional... FINE = Feeling Insecure Neurotic & Emotional... FINE = Frustrated, Insecure, Neuroticj & Emotional... FINE = F-cked, Insecure, Neurotic & Emotional... FOG = Fear of God...F CKED = Feeling Useless 'Cause I'm Kicking Every Drug... GAYS = Go Ask Your Sponsor... GIFT = God Is Forever There... GIFTS = Getting It From The Steps... GOD = Good Orderly Direction... GOD = Get Out Devil...GOD = Go On Dreaming...GOD = Group Of Drunks... GOD = Group Of Drug Addicts... GOYA = Get Off Your Ass...GUT = God's Undeniable Truths... HALT = Honestly, Actively, Lovingly Tolerant... HALT = Hope, Acceptance, Love and Tolerance... HALT = Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired: Fix these situations before you make any decisions... HALT = Horny, Arrogant, Lazy and Tragic: if you're any one of these, get to a meeting!... HALTS = Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired and Stupid... (continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5) HALTS FEAR = Hope, Acceptance, Love and Tolerance Stops Forgetting That Everything's All Right... HEART = Healing Enjoying and Recovering Together... HELP = His Ever Loving Presence... HELP = Her Ever Loving Presence... HELP = Hope, Encouragement, Love and Patience... HOPE = Happy Our Program Exists... HOPE = Hearing Other Peoples' Experience... HOPE = Hang On! Peace Exists... HOW = Honesty, Open-Mindedness, Willingness; that's how we do it... HOW = Honest, Open-Minded and Willing... ISM = I, Self, Me... ISM = Incredibly Short Memory... ISM = InSide Me...ISM = ISabotage Myself... ISM = I Sponsor Myself... KISS = Keep It Simple, Stupid... KISS = Keep It Simple, Sugar... KISS = Keep It Simple, Sweetheart... KISS = Keeping It Simple, Spiritually... LET GO = Leave Everything To God, Okay?... LOVE = Living Our Victories Everyday... MMM = Meetings, Meditation and Masturbation (recommended for the first year)... NEW = Nothing Else Worked... NOW = No Other Way...NOWHERE or NOW HERE... NUTS = Not Using The Steps...OUR = Openly Using Recovery... PACE = Positive Attitudes Change Everything... PAID = Pitiful And Imcomprehensible Demoralization... PAIN = Pause And Invite New... PHD = Pretty Heavy Drinker...PMS = Pour More Scotch... PMS = Pour Me Syndrome... PRIDE = Personal Recovery Involves Defeating Ego... PROGRAM = People Relying On God Relaying A Message... RAGE = Real Angry Gut-level Ego... RELAPSE = Recovery Exits Life And Program Seem Empty.. I'm Thinking... The Inventory Of Needed Steps... Earn... Knows...

RELATIONSHIP = Really Exciting Love Affair Turns Into Outrageous Nightmore Sobriety Hangs In Peril... RID = Restless, Irritable and Discontented... RUN + I = RUIN...RUIN - I = RUN (let God run the show 'cause I ruin everything)... SASTO = Some Are Sicker Than Others... SHIT = Simply How... SLIP = Sobriety Loses Its Priorty... SOB = Sober Old Bag...SOB = Sober Old Bastard...SOB = Sober Old Biker...SOB = Sober Old Bitch...SOBER = Staying Off Booze Enjoying Recovery... SOBER = Son Of A Bitch, Everything's Real... SOBRIETY = Stay Off Booze Recovery Is Everything To You... SOLUTIONS = Saving Our Lives Using... SPONSOR = Sober Person Offering Newcomers Suggestions On Recovery... STAR = Start Talking About Recovery... STEPS = Solutions To Every Problem in Sobriety... STEPS = Solutions To Every Problem, Sober... STOP = Sicker Than Other People... TIME = Things I Must... TIME = This I Must Earn... TRUST = Try Relying Upon The Steps... WASP = Worry Anger Self Pity... WILLING = When I Live Life, I Need God... WISDOM = When Into Self, Discover Our Motives... WILLING = When I (Let Go & Let God) (Live & Let Live) I Normally Grow... WORK = What Our Recovery... WORRY = Wrong Or Right Remain Yourself... YET = You're Eligible Too... YET = You'll End Up There

The Editor apologizes for some of these acronyms as they may be inappropriate. But it's not my list, and SOBER - I may be wrong about that!





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Bill W. and His Critics

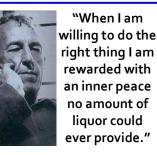
"Concerning those cracks about me - you shouldn't be too much bothered...You see, people have been trying to save A.A. from me for years." - Bill W.

"In the above excerpt, from a 1961 letter written to a couple of A.A. friends, Bill W. used self-deprecating wit to address the criticism that had been coming his way almost from the moment he and Dr. Bob cofounded the A.A. program in 1935. (Bob, less of a controversial character, managed to avoid the worst of it.) Even if Bill became somewhat inured to it over the years, such criticism rankled, and he could and did defend himself and Alcoholics Anonymous vigorously. But at the same time, he used it as occasion for self-inventory. 'Were it not for my severe critics," he wrote, "I might have for off track lots of times.""

"Will there be a Grand Pooh-bah of A.A.?"

"In the early decades of A.A., much of the criticism came from within the program and was directed at what some perceived as Bill's attempts to enrich himself via the Alcoholic Foundation (now the General Service Board), which controlled royalties from the Big Book. Given the strong egos of many of the alcoholics who focused their newly sober energy on building the program, this type of clash was inevitable. Clarence S., who founded Cleveland A.A., was an early and vocal critic. Bill wrote one correspondent that Clarence 'has done a lot of wonderful A.A. work and was largely instrumental in getting our Cleveland situation started...But he has been a maverick on the subject of the Foundation and me from the very early times.""

"Bill had a painful experience with another early critic, Hank P., one of the early A.A.'s (after Bill) to get sober in New York. A former Standard Oil of New Jersey executive and, like Bill, a natural salesman, Hank ended up in Towns "Hospital, where he was described by Dr. William Silkworth as 'a case of pathological mental deterioration.' Yet, under Bill's guidance, Hank sobered up and helped start Honor Dealers, the gasoline cooperative in Newark, New Jersey, at whose William St. offices Bill dictated much of the Big Book to Ruth Hock.





"In close partnership with Bill, Hank formed Works Publishing to publish the Big Book, but when it was decided in 1939 that shares in the company (of which Hank named himself president) should be turned over to the Foundation, Hank balked. He started drinking again and wrote Bill a memo in late 1939 asking, 'Did Jesus Christ have an office? Was there a central clearinghouse? Is work going on soundly? Are drunks being cured?....Will there be a grand Pooh-bah of A.A.?"

"Hank's drinking increased, as did his resentment of Bill, and the two never healed their rift. To make matters worse, Hank's stories about Bill's supposed financial malfeasance found receptive ears in Clarence S. and others in the Midwest, leading Bill and Dr. Bob to take the extraordinary step of attending a Cleveland A.A. dinner with a certified audit of A.A. financial matters in



hand.

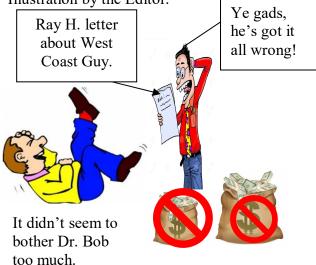
"Rumors about Bill and A.A. finances would continue for a long time, however, Bill often heard about these criticisms second hand, from friendly correspondents. One A.A., Ray H., wrote to Bill in 1955 to say that he knew of "a guy on the west coast...who does a lot of speaking out there and around [and] has a bad attitude on 'your getting rich' from your writings."

"Bill replied: 'Fellows like [the west coast A.A.] used to worry me some. Not that I mind being lambasted, that's good for me. But I used to feel they could talk people out of supporting the Foundation Office. But critics such as he do us no harm. In fact...they make one ask about one's own motives. And if some people are unreasonable, they teach us patience...But thanks for standing up to him.""

"Alcoholics Anonymous at first enjoyed a honeymoon relationship with the press and public. Articles in *Liberty*, the *Saturday Evening Post, Reader's Digest*, and scores of other magazines, as well as radio and early television commentary, were almost uniformly glowing. However, Bill was aware, as he wrote ruefully, that 'our public reputation probably far exceeds our actual character,' meaning that the pink cloud could not last forever. In the early 1960's two different authors challenged A.A.'s mission and methods, prefiguring some of the criticism directed at the program in recent magazine stories."

Except; full story can be found at https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/ f-151-markings_fall-2015.pdf

Illustration by the Editor.



HIS IS GOING TO HURT

THE HIGHER YOU GO, THE FURTHER YOU FALL.



THE HIGHER YOU GO, THE FURTHER YOU FALL.



DID YOU HAVE TO DO AS I DO?



THE A.A. CIRCLE AND TRIANGLE SYMBOL

The Circle and Triangle symbol has long been connected to the A.A. Fellowship. It was adopted as an official A.A. symbol at the International Convention in St. Louis in 1955, and from that point on was widely used in the Fellowship.

For the Fellowship, the three legs of the triangle represented the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, and the circle symbolized the world of A.A. In Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, Bill W.'s 1955 speech, in which he describes the adoption of the symbol, is printed:

"Above us floats a banner on which is inscribed the new symbol for A.A., a circle enclosing a triangle. 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 chose 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 the 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." (p. 139)

Nevertheless, in the early 1990s, A.A.W.S. decided to phase out the use of the Circle and Triangle symbol on its literature, letterhead and other material. It was decided to phase out the "official" or "legal" use of the Circle and Triangle symbol, and in 1994 the General Service Conference resolved that the logo be discontinued on all Conference-approved literature. However, the symbol is still associated with Alcoholics Anonymous (and other kinds of 12-Step recovery fellowships) and has a special meaning for AA members all over the world.

From: https://carm.org/alcoholicsanonymous/alcoholics-anonymous-and-the-occult/



"In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks were being discontinued." THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE, 2021-2023 Edition, nage 64.



Alcoholics Anonymous and the occult by Chad Prigmore | Jun 21, 2016

Chad Prigmore is Pastor and President of The Way Ministry Church (The Way R12:2, inc.), a conservative, evangelical, non-denominational Christian Church committed to the great commission of making disciples of all nations and reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the homeless, addicted, outcast, and suffering in the Boise Idaho area.

Chad Prigmore, Author at Christian Apologetics. (a·pol·o·get·ics: reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine). The Editor is going to follow Tradition 10 avoiding controversy on outside issues with no opinion on his writings. What you read, make your own mind up. Now back to last months message; Take what you need, leave the rest behind!

"There is a very common misconception that Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was Christian in origin. However, when those origins and the practices of its founders are examined, it becomes clear that AA has never been a Christian program. In fact, it originated from occultic practices.

"The misunderstanding that AA was originally Christian usually arises from its being influenced by the quasi-Christian Oxford Group. A wellknown sermon regarding the Oxford Group was preached by Pastor H. A. Ironside during the 1920s, and a few excerpts from his sermon bring to light what this group actually believed and practiced:



(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

"First Century Christianity emphasized with tremendous force the precious atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as we come to examine the few books that have already been put before the public by the advocates of this latter-day movement, we are struck at once by the fact that these great truths are practically absent. I have gone through book after book, supposedly setting forth the teaching of the Oxford Group Movement, and have not found one reference to the precious blood of Christ in any of them, nor any reference to the fact that the worst sin that anyone can possibly commit is the sin of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ."1

"Some of my friends who have had a more intimate connection with it have said that again and again they have put the question to the advocates of the movement, "What place do you give to the atoning blood of Christ?" They have been answered evasively or, if not evasively, sometimes like this, "Oh, we are not a doctrinal movement, we are not advocating any view of the atonement, we are simply out to change the lives of people. It does not make any difference to us what they believe theologically as long as their lives are changed. If their lives are not changed, theological differences are of very small moment.""2

"There are some things about this movement that seem very commendable. One is what they call, "Waiting for guidance." They place a great deal of emphasis on that. Each one is urged in the morning to sit down quietly with the mind emptied of every thought, generally with a pencil in hand, waiting for God to say something to them.

"Sometimes they tell me nothing happens, at other times the most amazing things come. Tested by the Word of God many of these things are unscriptural. They lay themselves open for demons to communicate their blasphemous thoughts to them. That is not the Christian way of getting guidance.

"What is the Christian way? It is to get alone with God over your Bible. Not to say, "Lord, speak to me in some strange, mysterious way," but to say, 'Lord, speak to me as I read Thy Holy Word.""3



Henry Allan "Harry" Ironside (October 14, 1876 – January 15, 1951)

For anyone who has spent time in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, it is very interesting, when reading Pastor Ironside's sermon, to notice the similarities between how he explains the teachings of the Oxford Group and the program of AA of " or the atonement. The Oxford Group took a very human-centric approach in which the only thing that really mattered was helping people. The Alcoholics Anonymous program is also aimed at "helping people," which sounds nice but without the gospel of Jesus Christ people are being helped to get sober but are led away from the truth. The Oxford Group, through emptying the mind and the practice of spirit writing, also resembles the AA's "all inclusiveanything goes" spiritual atmosphere, which pervades the AA community. Spend any amount of time around the AA program and you will encounter everyone from atheists to Luciferians worshipping at the altar of a god of one's own conception, as the Alcoholics Anonymous program so affectionately labels idolatry.4

1, 2, 3 http://www.orange-papers.org/orangerroot900.html

4

Ref. Alcoholics Anonymous, page 47

So much to think, so little room to write. Yet Bill W. did say this, "To Christ I conceded the certainty of a great man..." Alcoholics Anonymous, BILL'S STORY, page 11. So much for Chad Prigmore's claim of, "In AA there is no mention of Jesus Christ..." Once an untruth is spotted, one wonders how many more there are.

Quote of the Week

"No' is a complete sentence."

Having been raised in an alcoholic home, I didn't learn much about boundaries. My mother, an untreated Al-Anon, scurried about the house trying to make everything okay. I learned that the best way to avoid trouble and get my limited needs met was by stuffing my feelings, letting everyone else have their way, and never saying no.

As I grew older, these very adaptive living and defense strategies became character defects that caused me to be insincere in relationships, continually unhappy, and ultimately unable to form meaningful bonds with other people. Without healthy boundaries, I couldn't stand up for myself and make my true needs known. Instead of looking at my role in this, I just blamed other people and formed a lot of resentments.

When I entered the program, boundaries, self-care, and responsibility for my own happiness were new ideas to me. One of the most helpful concepts was learning that my needs and well-being were not only my responsibility and right, but that I didn't have to justify or defend them to anybody. I learned that if something wasn't right for me, I could simply say no; I didn't need to argue, convince, or explain why. More importantly, I didn't need to feel guilty for stating my truth. Today, "No" is a complete sentence.

> **"ONE"** by Three Dog Night, April 1969 One is the loneliest number that you'll ever do Two can be as bad as one It's the loneliest number since the number one

No is the saddest experience you'll ever know Yes, it's the saddest experience you'll ever know

'Cause one is the loneliest number that you'll ever do One is the loneliest number, whoa-oh, worse than two

Here are two very different takes on "one". The first is that the one lived always trying to please others as a defense mechanism. That had its drawbacks, namely not having a healthy lifestyle with the lacking of 'to thine own self be true."

Then there is the song that bemoans being alone. It is a result of losing the one that "went away". Due to unhealthy boundaries? The song does not say.

We in A.A. have learned we are not alone. No one goes away other than by their own choice. The A.A. Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties all help guarantee this. And we live productive, safe, healthy spiritual lives. The Atheist and Agnostics among us are welcome as they are seen by the many as children of God, and as children of God, they are not to be trod upon. Although they may not think of themselves that way, our patience, tolerance, kindliness and love lets us do other thing.



"You're fired, Jack. The lab results just came back, and you tested positive for Coke."

Submitted by Greg .B.



Congratulations Willie!!!



"Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

From the Long Form of the A.A. Tradition Three, Alcoholics Anonymous, page 562. Some get it, some don't...

"I was coming back from deer camp, totally polluted. Had two illegally tagged deer on the roof of the car and another untagged one quartered up in the trunk. I was driving on a revoked license, hadn't transferred the title yet, so there was no registration. It wasn't insured yet, either. Had a loaded 30-06 laying across the back seat just in case I saw a monster buck crossing the road and I was on about a two week bender. If they would have pulled me over that night they would have made that cop the honorary governor. And look at us now." *He got it.* Editor deemed this to be Anonymous for protective anonymity.



STEVE T MCQUEEN

"My recollection is that McQueen was roaring up and down 4th Avenue at very high speed and turning brodies -- drunker than hell. It was not just a time or two -- he really raised hell for quite a while. When they did finally get him stopped they administered a field sobriety test, and he somersaulted down the white line. Once they got him arrested it was a pretty good time -- sort of an autograph party in handcuffs." (Anchorage, Alaska).



"The Man In The Moon" hairbeard combo, 1895. "We have no idea what, if anything, Mr. Man-in-the-Moon accomplished in his life." McOueen & Hair-Beard from https://historydail y.org/the-mosticonic-cringeworthy-momentsin-history-tier-1/23?utm source =aol&utm camp aign=hd aol ico nic&utm mediu m=hd aol iconic



Hello, my name is XXXX and I'm an alcoholic that doesn't need alcohol.

Don't analyze, utilize this program. That means use it.

You don't see too many people in an A.A. meeting that aren't alcoholic.

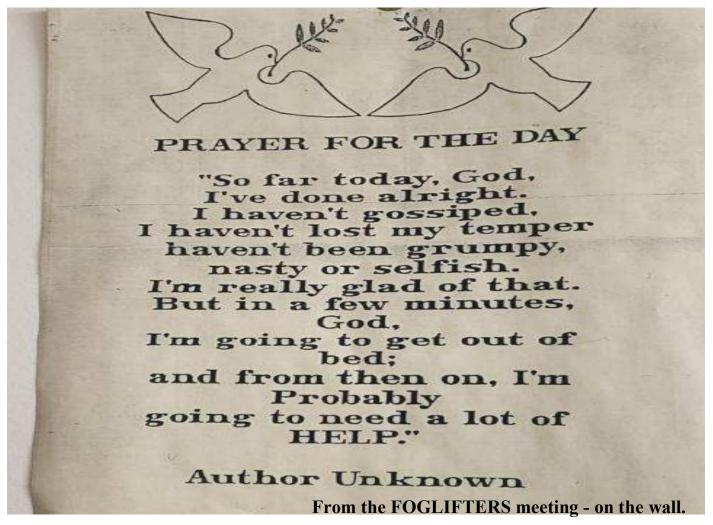
I have good news and bad news for you (to a newcomer). The good news is you have a chance to listen, change, and live a new lifestyle. The bad news is we are your new friends.

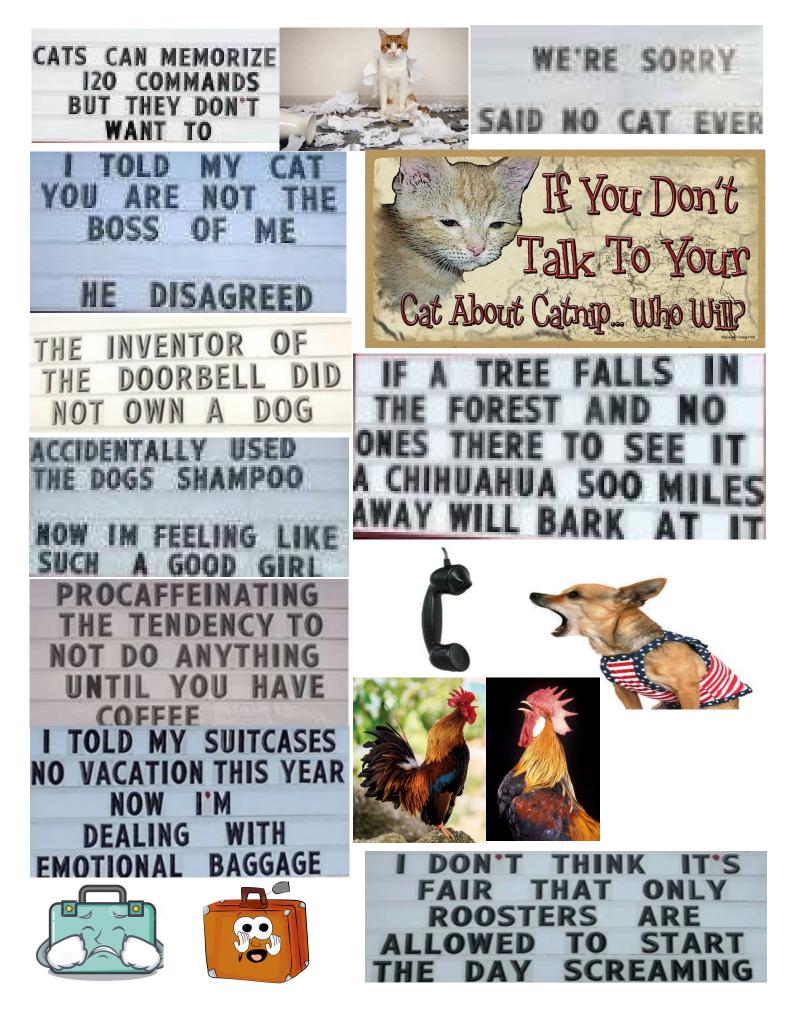
Grace – Getting what you don't deserve.

Mercy – Not getting what you do deserve.

Each morning I draw a circle around my feet. Everything inside the circle is my business, everything outside the circle is not.. One morning my wife started saying something about the neighbors and I told her that's outside your circle. She's having problems with my attitude.

Living in a small town where your drinking buddies are now in A.A. left me dodging and weaving from my friends. It was painful. Freedom from alcohol gave me my friends back as I learned more and it gave me my life back also.





PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP BOOK STUDY GUIDE

A Study of the Basic Text for Alcoholics Anonymous

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. Read this Study Guide in it's entirety at https://www.aastudy.org/ bbsg/The Big Book Study Guide.pdf.

INTO ACTION

(Page 76)

(P) 1. If we know we have done the very best we can, have held back no secrets in Steps Four & Five, we can look at what? (The WHEN)
2. What have the First Hundred emphasized as absolutely necessary? (The HOW)

Comment: To be successful in this Program, we must be completely willing to follow the clear-cut directions the First Hundred laid down for us in this Book. They are just reminding us of that fact at this point in our recovery.

- 3. Are we really ready to have God do what?
- 4. What question is running through our mind at this point? (The WHAT)

Comment: The following is the "Sixth Step Prayer."

5. If we have one or more character defects we are unwilling to part with, what do we do?

Comment: If we truly have the willingness to continue our study of the Steps and apply them to our lives, then we are ready.

- (P) 6. WHEN we are ready, what do we do? (The HOW)
 - 7. What parts of our lives are we willing to let Him take?
 - 8. What do we ask Him to remove?
 - 9. We ask Him to grant us what?
 - 10. How do we know we have completed this prayer?

Comment: Review the formal prayer on page 63 and notice that is was not concluded. There was no "Amen". Notice that the Seventh Step Prayer is concluded. These may be considered as a single prayer, separated by Steps Four and Five to learn what it is we must be willing to have Him remove and promise Him that we have the willingness to do our part. We can then ask Him to do His part. [The WHAT]

Step Three prayer on page 63.

"God, I offer myself to Thee To build with me & to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy love & Thy way of life. May I do Thy will always.²¹

Step Seven prayer on page 76.

"I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen." 22

Some may consider it quite a stretch to go to two prayers 13 pages apart and conclude that they are indeed connected, part of a single prayer. This may be a novel approach to understanding the Big Book. What is evident is that willingness is the glue that binds these two prayers together to help us not only with Openmindedness, but Honesty as well.

The other thing that comes out of these prayers is the will to help others, the Third Step prayer, "...to those I would help..." and the Seventh Step prayer, "... of my usefulness to you and my fellows." This is all in the A.A. Preamble where it states, "...and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."²³

This then becomes a good time to examine the A.A. Preamble.

"The preamble ensures that everyone who attends AA meetings can understand the expectations of their attendance. But this twoparagraph creed plays a larger role than purely a description of AA.

"It Defines and Governs the Community of Members"

"The preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous starts, 'Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other...'

"This tells us who the group is for but also provides one of the core ways meetings are conducted. (This is different than the many ingroup sayings and points of etiquette one is likely to hear during meetings.) It focuses on reminding members that AA meetings revolve around sharing your experiences.

"This is important for a few reasons. First, because AA encourages people to have an open mind and communicate via sharing experiences

rather than giving lectures. People struggling with addiction are more likely to take what another person says to heart if it's part of a shared experience.

"It Defines the Purpose and Goals of AA"

"The preamble serves as a mission statement for every meeting and the identity of the group as a whole. It continues, '...share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.'

"This clearly states the mission of every meeting: to serve a collective goal of helping members recover from their struggles with alcoholism.

"This hints at one of the core values of AA: You're never alone. As many veterans of AA will tell you, "working the 12 Steps" isn't something easily accomplished without the help of a sponsor and a support system. As such, the preamble provides the basis for a group that leans heavily on fellowship as a driver for self-improvement.

"It Welcomes New Members, Regardless of **Background**"

"The second paragraph of the preamble is a statement about the openness of the organization. "It starts, 'The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.' This means that the thing you need to take value away from the 12 steps of AA is the willingness to take the first one.

"The preamble goes on to say, 'There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are selfsupporting 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 causes.'

"This part is a testament to the openness of the group. It communicates that membership in AA doesn't discriminate on the grounds of race, class, religion, politics, gender or any other demographic factor. This kind of openness helps new members feel welcome ...

"Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety," is the way the Preamble ends. There is the goal of the 'mission statement'.

Adapted from: https://fherehab.com/learning/aa-preamble

²³ June 1947: Tom Y., Revised September 1958 International Convention.

Alcoholics Anonymous, INTO ACTION,

²¹

²¹ page 63. ²² page 76.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service

How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

Title and CONCEPT V: From the pamphlet "P-8 Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated",

CONCEPT IV is on pages 12 & 13. Illustration from page 13 shown page 18 of Newwsletter. Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

Concept VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.



We have seen that the "final responsibility and ultimate authority" for A.A.'s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. Again, it is helpful if you are familiar with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the trustees must have.

The trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. (which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office) and of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for A.A.'s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They are A.A.'s "bankers," overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.'s substantial Reserve Fund. (Read the text of Concept XI for a more detailed account of their functions.)

From the Service Material "SMF-91 – Concepts Checklist"

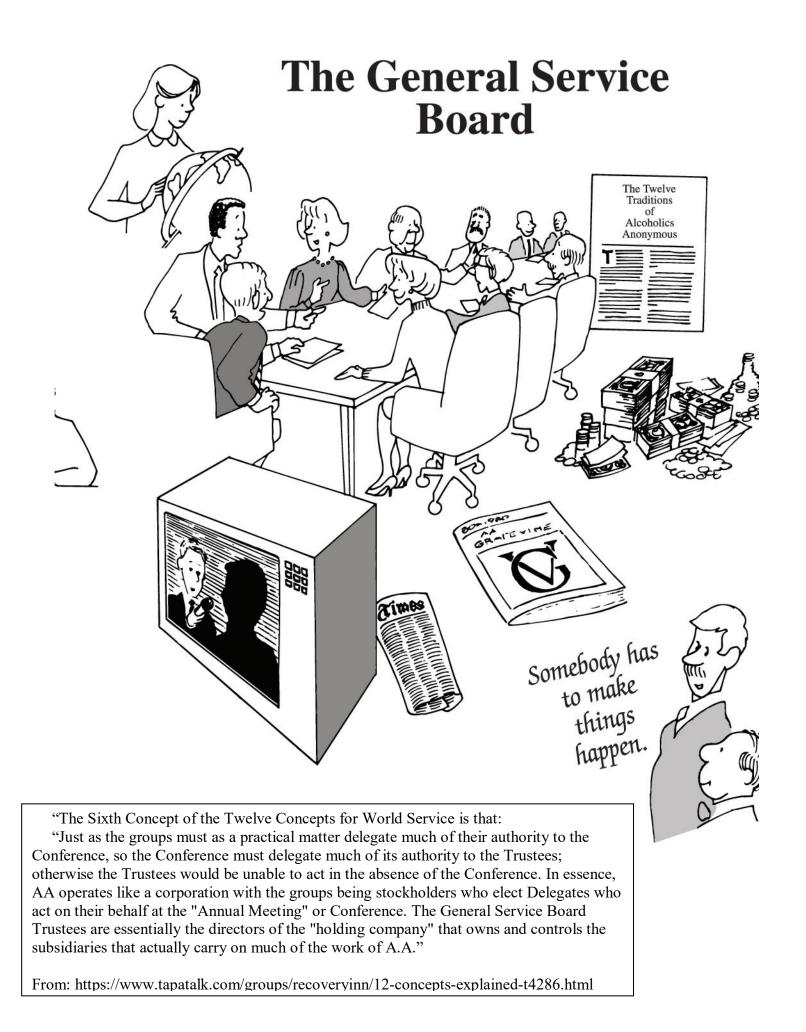
"Concept VI:

- "Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- "Are we clear about the terms, 'chief initiative' and 'active responsibility'? Can we see a direct link to our home group?"

Bill makes the point that although "our objective is always a itual one," nevertheless our world service is a "large business ration." "Indeed," he says, "our whole service structure embles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the kholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, he annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are tally the directors of a 'holding company.' And this holding hpany (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls two 'subsidiaries' (A.A.W.S and the A.A. Grapevine) which carry on ... services.

This very real analogy makes it... clear that, like any other board irectors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to nage the... affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous."





Mackinac Island Fall Weekend October 14-16, 2022

Name:	Weekend Registration	Quantity Total \$
Phone: ()	\$45 Each (add \$10 after September 15)	1
Address:	Zip Hoodie - \$45 Circle one: S M L XL 2X 3X add \$3 for 2X/3X	
Email:	Baseball T - \$30	
Rooming With:	Circle one: S M L XL 2X 3X add \$3 for 2X/3X	
Saturday Evening Menu Selection: (check one) Chicken Piccata Seared Salmon Pork Ribeye Vegetable Napoleon Yes, I'm willing to be on a panel! (check one)	Long Sleeve T-Shirt- \$25 Circle one: S M L XL 2X 3X add \$3 for 2X/3X Check out the merchandise designs at AALansingMI.org or on our Facebook pag	Total:
AA Alanon Either	Method of Payment: Cash Make checks payable to La 1915 E. Michigan Ave. Ste D,	nsing Central AA

Join us at Mission Point for the 33rd Annual Mackinac Island Fall Weekend as we come together to celebrate a sober and more joyful life. Here, we will be surrounded by others fulfilling the promise of living happy, joyous and free in AA and Alanon.

Rates are \$296 per person for double occupancy or \$460 for single occupancy, plus \$45 registration fee (\$55 after Sept. 15), and include two nights lodging; breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday; breakfast Sunday and luggage transfer to and from the ferry. Arrive early or stay late and take advantage of a special nightly rate of \$139!

- 1. Fill out the form above (one per attendee)
- 2. Mail or hand deliver it to LCAA along with your registration fee and merchandise payment
- When you receive your confirmation email from LCAA, call Mission Point to reserve your room

AA & Al-Anon Speakers · Fellowship · Panel Discussions · Fireside Meetings Presented by Lansing Central AA · 517-377-1444





