



Newsletter

The F.A.U.C. Website is 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.

LOOKING FOR THAT POT 'O GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW?

THIS ISSUE NOT ONLY DEALS WITH OUR STEP, TRADITION, AND CONCEPT 3, BUT WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE A.A. GSO.

YOUR GENEROSITY AT THE MEETING LEVEL MAKES THE EFFORT OF CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO THE NEWCOMER POSSIBLE AT THE GSO LEVEL.



KNOWING THE SERVICES OF THE GSO HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF CARRYING THE MESSAGE FROM THE STRUCTURED BOTTOM OF THE TRIANGLE (General Service Board, which is A.A. World Services - A.A.W.S., and the GRAPEVINE), TO THE TOP WHERE THE GROUPS MAKE MONEY & SPIRITUALITY MIX.

You didn't have to love me like you did But you did, but you did And I thank you.

Step Three; "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Step Three is where we truly exhibit the willingness to "Follow the dictates of a Higher Power." This then leads us to using our self will to the utmost so long as it aligns with the Will of a Higher Power, or God, as we understood Him.

Good things come in three's, and so do bad things...

GOOD

The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God, Country, Family. Wife, Children, Grandchildren.

BAD

Rock, paper, scissors, Third time and you're out!

Detrimental events, situations, outcomes,

When one turns your will and life over to God makes the difference. Love is our code, which includes patience, tolerance, and kindness.

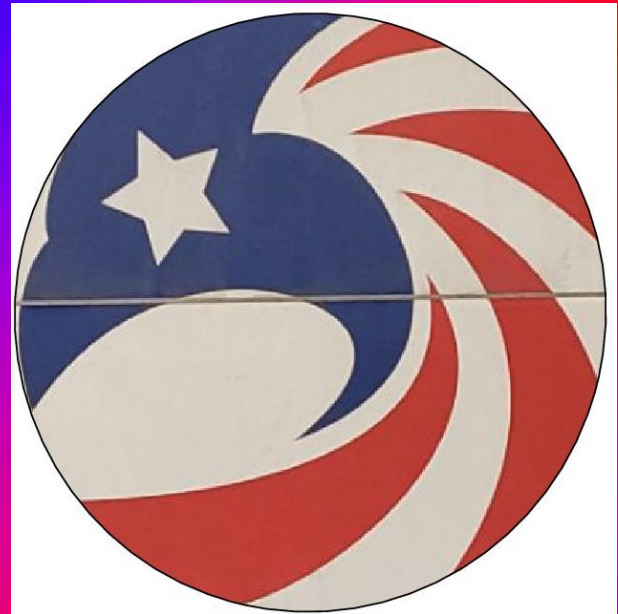
1 Excerpt from: I THANK YOU, ZZ Top, Nov. 1979.

2 Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, HOW IT WORKS, p.59.

3 Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, WORKING WITH OTHERS, p. 100.

4 Sarah Kay, (born June 19, 1988).

5 Alcoholic Anonymous, 4th ED, APPENDICES I, THE TRADITIONS, (Long Form), p. 562.



A.A.; The Freedom to Live as we want; in many cases, NEED, more than we want. One needn't be American or Patriotic to recover. All one needs is a desire to stop drinking.

The Long Form of Tradition Three states: "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."

TRADITION THREE

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”⁶ (Short 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.”⁵ *ibid* (Long Form).

The comparison and analyzing of the third Step, Tradition, and Concept helps us with perceived “worldly clamors”⁷ and brings the peace within by temporarily getting away from the voices in our head saying “My Way or The Highway.”

Tradition Three is a composite of suggestions that gets me as an individual into group understanding of conduct and noninclusion, (definition: failure to include someone or something.⁸). By that I know that I belong if I say I do, it only takes a few together, and all are welcome.

So be it, the suggestions contained in the Short and Long forms of this Tradition help us grow, get past prejudices, and acquire love from me to you, no matter what our perceived notions may be. It is with new joy of ours that the Fellowship has helped us to proceed into His created world with His Light, and not my Darkness.

So now I can understand how Step Three and Tradition Three work together in starting, and learning to maintain, “...personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism...”⁹

The word change is used 9 times, or implied through other words, such as; “manifested”, “upheavals”, “transformations”, “develop”, “alteration”, and, “reaction”, on page 567 alone.⁹ *ibid*

⁶ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, APPENDICES I, THE TRADITIONS, p. 561.

⁷ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, BILL’S STORY, p. 13.

⁸ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noninclusion>.

⁹ Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, APPENDICES II, SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, p. 567.

CONCEPT III

“To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional “Right of Decision”¹⁰ (Short Form).

“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision”¹¹ Long Form.

Concept Three ensures working together. It combines the ultimate authority of Tradition 2 to the Groups, and A.A. Structure. Then it suggests “Right of Decision”.

The A.A. suggestion for “Right of Decision”; “...practical principle has to be devised which at all levels *will continuously balance the right relation between ultimate authority and delegated responsibility.*”

“The right A.A. solution for this problem is to be found, however, in the latter part of Tradition Two, which provides for “trusted servants.” This really means that we ought to trust our responsible leaders to *decide*, within the understood framework of their duties, *how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.* This sort of leadership should be the essence of “The Right of Decision”...¹²

¹⁰ The A.A. Service Manual combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition, REVISED AND UPDATED, THE TWELVE CONCEPTS (SHORT FORM), p. IV.

¹¹ The A.A. Service Manual combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition, REVISED AND UPDATED, THE TWELVE CONCEPTS (LONG FORM), p. V.

¹² The A.A. Service Manual combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition, REVISED AND UPDATED, CONCEPT III, p. C10.

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 entire **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.

“Someone who knew what he was talking about once remarked that pain was the touchstone of all spiritual progress.”¹³

“Once more: The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink.”¹⁴

“The man in the bed was told of the acute poisoning from which he suffered, how it deteriorates the body of an alcoholic and warps his mind.”¹⁵

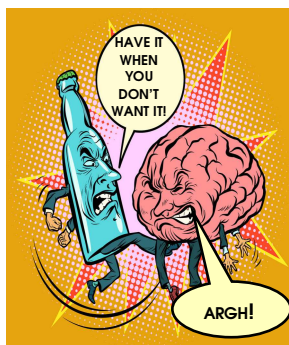
**IF YOU SEE ME
TALKING TO MYSELF,
JUST MOVE ALONG,
I'M SELF EMPLOYED.
WE'RE HAVING A
STAFF MEETING.**

“We had a new Employer.”¹⁶

“As he gained confidence, he felt it right to explain his new way of life to his employer...”¹⁷

“As we've been talking, five short words have been running through my mind...

What would the Master do?”¹⁸



OR



¹³ Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, STEP TEN, p.93.

¹⁴ Alcoholics Anonymous, MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM, p.43.

¹⁵ Alcoholics Anonymous, A VISION FOR YOU, p.157.

¹⁶ Alcoholics Anonymous, HOW IT WORKS, p. 63.

¹⁷ Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, TRADITION TWELVE, p.186.

¹⁸ Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, TRADITION THREE, p.142.



NO GLUM LOT HERE



My wife and I have reached the difficult decision that we do not want children.

If anybody disagrees, please just send me your contact details and we can drop them off tomorrow.

I asked my dad to tell me a decision he regretted.

I must have stumped him because he just kept staring at me.

A friend and I were talking about compromise in marriage.

He said “In my marriage, my wife makes all the small decisions and I make all the big decisions.

We have yet to make any big decisions.”

Taxi driver: “What I like my job independence.

I'm my own boss.

No one tells me what to do, I make my own decisions.”

Me: “Take the next left.”



Ned & Jed

Well then Jed, you good with Jethro's use of Right of Decision?

Not sure, ya know, he voted one way when we said another.

Getting more info than we did put him in a spot. He voted for the greater good I think.



Not always do we have the right axe handle ya know. It can be a bigger or smaller one is needed for the fell of the tree.

It's true, but how did he know to vote that way?

That's what the Conference and Delegates are all about Chopper. Send Delegates to the Conference with our voice, then they can modify it due to new information. Didn't he explain it well enough for you?



Having said that, yep, he did. But I did not know the why of the change of our vote is all. Now I do. Whatever size axe they want me to use, I can handle it! From all the deedadding around them feller's did, it may now be possible to fell ¼ acre before lunch if we work together and not quarrel over the small stuff. Well I'm for a ¼ fell to eat hardy!

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: Gerri L.

F.A.U.C. Secretary: Sandra C.

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

Al-Anon Liaison: OPEN.

Accessibility for All Alcoholics: Dennis S.

A.A. Answering Service: Wes S.,

Gordon G. – co-Chair

C.P.C. - Cooperation with the Professional

Community: Jim F. **Corrections:** Dan M.

DCM-Doug G. LCM's-Jim M., Brad S., Lisa M-T.

Grapevine: Kamesha M..

Literature/Meeting Books: James P.

Sub-Committee: **Newsletter:** James P. / Doug G.

P.I. - Public Information: Jason Z.

Treatment: Moe M. **Website:** OPEN.

Young People: Jason J., Sam – co-Chair.

F.A.U.C. Newsletter

Editor: Doug G. Coeditor: Randy H.

The February 2024 Newsletter went to 256 emails, with 102 Website Hits = 358 readers.

2024 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 20: St. Mary's School; Women in A.A.

February 17: St. Mary's School, Torrey Rd. Grp.

March 16: St. Robert's School, Flushing,

April 20: Thetford.

May 18: Davison Fri Night

June 15:

July 20:

August 17:

September 21: Fenton Alano Club.

October 19: FLYPAA

November 16: St. Francis; Quaderer Hall, 212 Center St, Otisville, Otisville A.A.

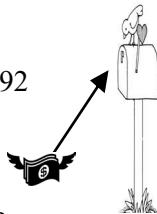
December 21:

A.A Treasurer's addresses:

G.S.O. P.O. Box 2407, James A. Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407

CMIA 32 Treasurer c/o Ed LaLonde
527 Handy Drive, Bay City, MI 48706-4292
(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 March 16, 2024 at 11:30 AM for Committee Meetings, 12:30 PM General Assembly, St. Mary's School, 2600 N. Franklin, Flint, Hosted by the Flushing Group.

- * March 17, Flint Alano Alkathon.
 - * March 23, MI Mock Conference.
 - * CMIA32 Meeting on April 7th, 2024, Hosted by District 26 – Gladwin. 9 AM Coffee.
 - * 71st Michigan & ECR Convention June 7 -9, 2024.
 - * A.A. 2025 International Convention News.
 - * OTM Flyer.
 - * Together We Can Convention, March 15 – 17, 2024.
 - * F.A.U.C. February Minutes.
 - * GSO Nov & Dec 2023 Letters.
 - * GSO Services
 - * The Big Book in Plain Language.
- * = Flyer at end of Newsletter; New F.A.U.C.

Committee Chairs have been elected, Openings still for Al-Anon Liaison, Grapevine, Website. Please Step Up to Service Work!

Group wants a Newsletter announcement? Email farfromittoday@aol.com by the 20th of the month. The F.A.U.C. Newsletter is looking for articles & ideas.

THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

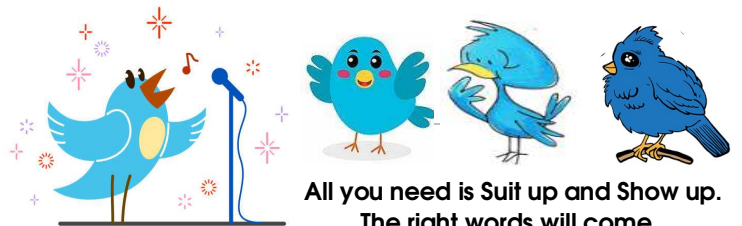
March 2024 Flint Area Open Speaker Meetings

* = Addresses of Locations can be found in the 2023 Flint Area Groups Meeting Book or on the website www.geneseecountyaa.org under the Meetings Tab.

- Fri 1 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club.
- Sat 2 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's.
- Sun 3 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club.
- Thu 7 7:00 pm, Van Slyke.
- Fri 8 12 noon, Eye Opener, Arid Club.
- Sat 9 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's.
- Sun 10 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club.
- Sat 16 7:30 pm, East Side St. Mary's.
- Sun 17 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club.
- Sat 23 7:00 pm, Thetford A.A., Thetford Senior Center
- Mon 25 7:00 PM, Montrose HOPE.
- Sat 30 7:30 pm, Eastside St. Mary's.
- Sun 31 6:00 pm, Torrey Rd. Group, Arid Club.
- Sun 26 6:00 pm, Otter Lake, St. John's the Baptist Ch.

Meeting has an OPEN Speaker? Email farfromittoday@aol.com.

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL OPEN SPEAKER



'Anytime you put 12 in a box, anything is possible'

THE 12 STEP TOOLBOX – MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.

The only way to pull off a Sunday afternoon "quickie" with their 8-year-old son in the apartment was to send him out on the balcony with a Popsicle and tell him to report on all the neighbourhood activities.

"There's a car being towed from the parking lot," he shouted.

He began his commentary as his parents put their plan into operation:

"An ambulance just drove by!"

"Looks like the Andersons have company," he called out.

"Matt's riding a new bike!"

"Looks like the Sanders are moving!"

"Jason is on his skate board!"

After a few moments he announced, "The Coopers are having sex!!"

Startled, his mother and dad shot up in bed. Dad cautiously called out,

"How do you know they're having sex?"

"Jimmy Cooper is standing on his balcony with a Popsicle."

Maybe everything is as it seems after all...

ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS!

- Grapes must be crushed to make **WINE**.
- **DIAMONDS** form under pressure.
- Olives are pressed to release **OIL**.
- Seeds **GROW** in darkness.

Whenever you feel **crushed, under pressure, pressed, or in darkness**, you're in a powerful place of transformation.

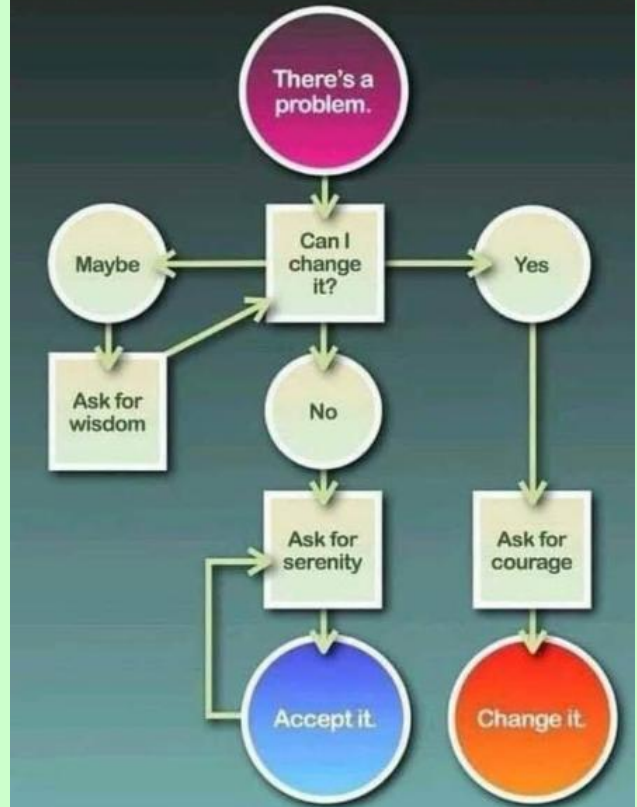
TRUST THE PROCESS.

Thanks Ted S.

"Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength." – Theodore Roosevelt

Thanks Marv G.

The Serenity Flowchart.



Thanks Dist 10 in Tennessee



Tried that in a bar one time,
got the snot beat out of me!

810-234-0815; Flint Area A.A. 24/7 Helpline.

To find a meeting, scan this QR Code into your phone for immediate information on meetings, days, and, times in this area.



The Wisdom of the Rooms

12 Months of Reflections for People in Recovery

February 12, 2024

Quote of the Week

"Recovery isn't for people who need it; it's for people who want it."

After I was sober awhile, I started thinking about all the people I knew who could really benefit from—and, in fact, really needed—the recovery I had found in the program. I began thinking of some of my family members, my drinking buddies, and especially the newcomers who kept relapsing. “They really need this program,” I’d say to my sponsor. “Why can’t they get it?”

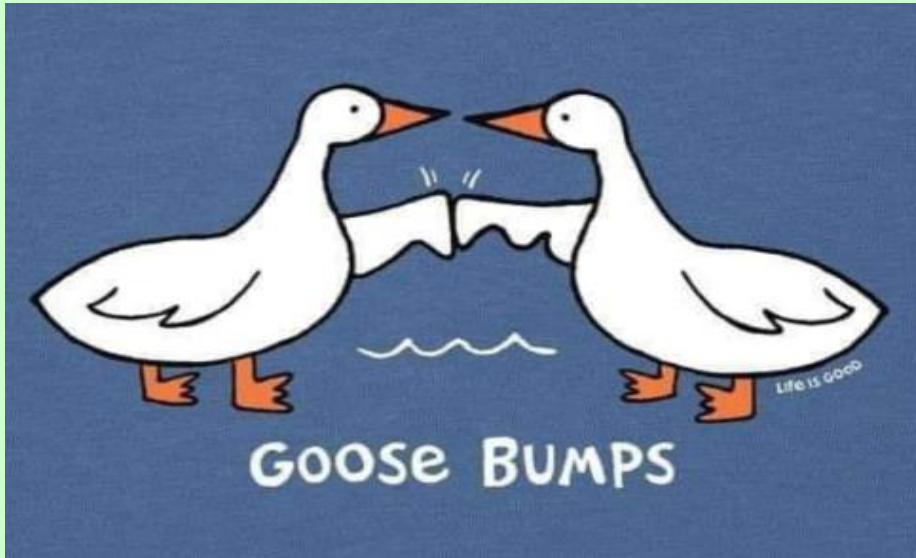
And that’s when he told me that this program isn’t for people who need it; it’s for people who want it. He said that if everyone who needed the program attended meetings, we’d have to rent out stadiums, not just rooms and dining halls. He told me that only the desperate can become willing enough to do what we do to get what we have. And that’s when I thought about my own journey.

For years I needed recovery, but I still had better ideas. It wasn’t until I had hit my bottom, and was willing to abandon myself to this program, that I began to recover. I now understand when someone says to a newcomer, “I wish you desperation,” because it is only by bottoming out that one can go from needing this to wanting it. Today, I realize that everyone is on their own journey, and that although many may need recovery, until they want it, they won’t be able to get it.

“We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.”

Alcoholic Anonymous, 4th ED, A VISION FOR YOU, p. 164.

The opposite of isolate is yousoearly.



Instead of Honking, this is really how Geese connect.



“Where humility had formerly stood for a forced feeding on humble pie, it now begins to mean the nourishing ingredient which can give us serenity.”
 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, STEP SEVEN, p.74.
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Please...
 Wash your hands
 Before returning to
 God's work.
 Thank you!

Roman Numerals

I	1	XX	20	CC	200
II	2	XXX	30	CCC	300
III	3	XL	40	CD	400
IV	4	L	50	D	500
V	5	LX	60	DC	600
VI	6	LXX	70	DCC	700
VII	7	LXXX	80	DCCC	800
VIII	8	XC	90	CM	900
IX	9	C	100	M	1,000
X	10				

Intelligence ^{Graditude}		Creativity ^{Humble}	
Courage		Neatness	
Quiet		Hardworking	
Attentive		Kindness	
Obedient		Politeness	
Reverent		Sings	
Participation		Perseverance	
Helpful		Cheerful	
Honesty		Temperate	
Strong		Quick	

These two images Thanks to the Swartz Creek A.A. Group.



Heard it *'Round the Rooms!*



From a Big Book study, quotes read from the Story PERPETUAL QUEST, from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 4TH ED, pp. 395, 397.

"The hardest thing I had to deal with in sobriety was my own anger and the violence I lived through in childhood." p. 397.

"When I was five years sober, I met a man in A.A. who was also five years sober.

He said that the rocks in my head fit the holes in his." p. 395.

"I was repeatedly told to seek more spiritual development..." p. 397.

SPONSOR: Some Person Offering Needed Success Of Reality.

The Traditions are in place to help fit the groups into their right size.

Do I get to pick and choose all the time? NO!

I am an atheist. In rehab two A.A.'s came in to talk to us. A needed outside objective point of view.

I sat there smart and smarmy. In step Two they talked of the Higher Power.

Seems as if I was living under a Higher Power that directed my destructive lifestyle.

All I had to do was find a different Higher Power, for me, not a diety, but a force greater than me.

I thought I was beginning to see the nonsense that kept deteriorating me,

and the will to find the Higher Power that could help me,

as I watched them walk out the door, and I could not.

Pain is temporary, Love is eternal.

The 12 Steps are a design for living.

Practice Principles before Personalities.

These four psychological "Tricks" taught me to help cope with "worldly clamors". (Big Book, p. 13).

- 1) Instead of inappropriate remarks, practice inappropriate silence.
- 2) Practice instead of ruminating, (dwelling in the past on unpleasantness), to reminisce, (remembering pleasantries in the past).
Change your mindset from dirge to joy.
- 3) Practice only you can remain calm.

(Being told to relax and listen has the opposite effect on me, I seethe and shut down).

Learn to listen objectively, be like the fly on the wall, taking no part in the turmoil I perceive.

- 4) Practice avoidance of toxicity: "...person, place, thing, or situation...", (Big Book, p. 417), if that is the best for you.

All page quotes used with A.A.W.S. permission.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed.,

A *Appendix I, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 562.*

B *Into Action, p. 84.*

C *Into Action, p. 77.*



Trust God, Clean House, and, Help Others.



"We vigorously commenced this way of living as we cleaned up the past." B



"... fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." C

The Wisdom of the Rooms

12 Months of Reflections for People in Recovery

March 4, 2024

Quote of the Week

"I learn to stop trying hard, and learn to try different."

We alcoholics are a stubborn lot. When I entered the program, I was a big ball of self-will run riot, and there was only one way to do something—my way. And if that didn't work, I would just try harder: I would manipulate, lie, convince, or cajole until I got what I wanted. My ego convinced me I could get anything I demanded, and even though it was exhausting for me and many others, much of the time I succeeded.

Unfortunately, the things my self-will got me didn't make me happy. In fact, they generally made me miserable and got me into trouble. And that's when my sponsor said that instead of trying hard to get what I wanted, I might want to try different. He suggested that I pray for the knowledge of God's will and the power to carry that out. While I was unconvinced this would make me happy, I was beaten down just enough to be willing to try.

Recovery, like life, is a process. Sometimes it's one step forward and two steps back. But I've found that as I kept praying and taking right actions, my life did get better. I also found that the new things God gave me made me happier and more fulfilled than the other things I thought I wanted. As I worked the Steps and got a few years of recovery, I realized that the easier and softer way was to try different. And because of this, I now know what the "road to happy destiny" means.

"We have been especially stupid and stubborn about them... Our egomania digs two disastrous pits. Either we insist upon dominating the people we know, or we depend upon them far too much"

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, STEP FOUR, p.53.

"...the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot, though he usually doesn't think so."

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, HOW IT WORKS, p. 62.

"But the actual or potential alcoholic, with hardly an exception, will be absolutely unable to stop drinking on the basis of self-knowledge."

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM, p. 39.

"Much has already been said about receiving strength, inspiration, and direction from Him who has all knowledge and power."

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ED, INTO ACTION, p.85

Out of an Alcoholics Anonymous book at the Lunch Bunch I used one day. Somebody prior had made an arrow notation of importance of this passage in the Doctor's Opinion. Glad they did, I needed that.

from reality, or were things were true to some extent, in fact, to a considerable extent with some of us. But we are sure that our bodies were sickened as well. In our belief, any picture of the alcoholic which leaves out this physical factor is incomplete.

The doctor's theory that we have an allergy to alcohol interests us. As laymen, our opinion as to its soundness may, of course, mean little. But as ex-problem drinkers, we can say that his explanation makes good sense. It explains many things for which we cannot otherwise account.

Though we work out our solution on the spiritual as well as an altruistic plane, we favor hospitalization for

The Little Doctor Who Loved Drunks



William D. Silkworth, M.D.

Dr. Silkworth wrote the "The Doctor's Opinion" in the book "Alcoholics Anonymous"

"Of course an alcoholic ought to be freed from his **physical craving** for liquor" xxvii

Dr. Silkworth defines alcoholism!

We believe, and so suggested a few years ago, that the action of alcohol on these chronic alcoholics is a manifestation of an allergy; that the **phenomenon of craving is limited to this class** and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. xxviii

(**Never means** not one time!)

Silkworth.net

Flint Area Unity Council
P.O. Box 465, Flint, MI 48501
(810) 234-0815

www.geneseecountyaa.org

Committee Meeting: 11:30 am

General Meeting: 12:30pm

Minutes for February 17, 2024

Hosted By: Torrey Rd.

Call to Order: Chair Gerri L. at 12:30pm

Serenity Prayer

Welcome GSRs and Guests

Persons in Attendance: Gerri L. Jason J. Jason Z. Robert L. Bob W. Angela B. Kamesha Gordon G. Jim F. Daniel L. Wes S. Dennis S. Esther H. Troy U. Dan M. Steve C. Doug G. Tom D. Sharon B. Fred T. Jim M. Jacob F. Moe

Motion to forgo reading the Aims and Purposes. Seconded. Passed.

FLINT AREA UNITY COUNCIL AIMS AND PURPOSES

1. To promote Unity among Flint Area A.A., and harmony with Al-anon and Al-Ateen groups.
2. To exchange group ideas.
3. The G.S.R.'s and Alternates shall act as trusted servants of their groups.
4. Each group shall be represented by a G.S.R. or Alternate. One vote per group shall be allowed in determining matters of policy and action affecting the groups. (Committee Chairs are allowed one vote.)
5. To continue advancement of Twelve Step work and sponsorship.
6. To help financially any member group of this Council who needs help. A two-thirds majority vote will pass on any such loans which shall not be in excess of sixty days.
7. The Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of A.A. shall prevail at all times.
8. No monies will be spent or sent out of the Council area without a two-thirds majority vote of the groups that have paid into the council in the last three months. If they are not present they will be contacted for a vote on the issue within one week.
9. The Council will create Service Committees and be financially responsible for them.
 - 9a. Each Service Committee shall receive \$50.00 seed money reimbursable upon submission of receipt for
less than \$50.00 Amounts over that must be pre-approved by the F.A.U.C.
 - 9b. D.C.M.'s are to receive \$50.00 seed money under the same terms as Service Committees.
 - 9c. D.C.M.'s can submit mileage to be paid for attending the CMIA32 meetings.
This was approved by the F.A.U.C. during the June 18th, 2022, F.A.U.C. meeting. Mileage to be
paid at I.R.S. reimbursement rate. (2023 standard mileage rate is \$0.65.5 per mile – Revised 6/17/23).

ELECTION PROCEDURES

1. Nominations will be held at the November meeting for the following offices and committee chairs: Chairperson, Answering Service, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Public Information, Grapevine, Literature/Meeting Books, Special Needs, Treatment Facilities, Website, and Young People.
2. The Election will be held at the December meeting.
3. Election by written ballot and plurality (majority) rule.
4. One vote per group, D.C.M.'s are allowed one vote. Past and Present Delegates that are presently active in the Council Area have one vote.
5. On any tie vote, a drawing will take place to determine the winner.
6. No requirements will be placed upon the G.S.R. as to length of sobriety or donation to the Council.
7. The groups voting must be registered in the New York Office.
8. Terms of office will be for two years; January to December.
9. Office holders must be members of Unity Council.
10. Alternates will be the choice of the office holder.
11. After a second consecutive absence from the FAUC meeting, with neither an alternate nor a report submitted by a committee chair, the FAUC chair shall try to notify that committee chair of action pending upon their third consecutive absence.
12. Office holders shall be removed from any position if failing to attend three consecutive FAUC meetings and have neither an alternate nor a report submitted. Upon removal the FAUC chair will ask the removed committee chair that the committee seed money and any FAUC materials provided to do that service work be returned. (Revisions voted and passed from June 2022 FAUC meeting).

Motion to forgo reading of the minutes was made. Seconded and passed.

Committee Chair Reports

Treasurer: Steve C. read report. Ending balance is \$8,912.65. Report attached separately.

Accessibility Chair- Dennis S. While attending a meeting of The Swartz Creek Group (which, by the way, qualifies as Handicap accessible) I was approached by a man who said his home group should be included as well. Upon inspection, everything was perfect except the turn radius in the bathroom stall. Unfortunately, it could not be added.

If you think your meeting place qualifies, contact me at: sawdennis@hotmail.com. I will be happy to inspect it. If you need an American Sign Language interpreter for a member who is hard of hearing, email me as well.

Answering Service Chair (P.O.Box 465 committee): Wes S.

	Female Wheel 711207	Male Wheel 711206	Totals	Average per day	Average Time (Minutes)	Calls For Information 711202*
IN	5	6	11	.35	1.73	6
Out	18	9	27	.87	1.35	
Dropped	0	0	0	0	0	

Total	23	15	38	1.22	2.22	6
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Cooperation with Professional Community Chair: Jim F. CPC Chair has contacted area 32 registrar, and is now registered with the GSO - N.Y. CPC Chair was in attendance for the Area meeting in Owasso, attended the CPC committee meeting and conferred with CPC/PI chair

Corrections Chair: Dan M. Corrections committee meeting was held today with 12 people in attendance. They covered the basic functions, regulations, and conduct requirements, as well as literature distribution and meeting procedures. Doug G. is the treasurer for the Corrections Committee and he reported that they have a balance of \$67 from the Jail Pail.

Grapevine Chair- Kamesha reported that she is seeking new committee members and encouraged each person to consider being a Grapevine Representative, which means to encourage other members to engage with the Grapevine publication and be an advocate for what the GV has to offer. They offer a daily quote through email, paperback and digital subscriptions for about \$30/year and an App available on Google Play and Apple Store with a podcast, daily spiritual checklist (morning meditation, meeting, call an AA member, evening meditation), and a sobriety counter. Kamesha said she would like to host a writing workshop this year.

DCM Report: Doug G. Report is attached separately. Doug encourages the LCMs to use it as a guideline for your Talking Points when visiting Groups, ask do they have a GSR and encourage GSR's to attend the F.A.U.C. Meetings. If the Group has no GSR, encourage the Group to get one.

Literature Chair: James P. not present. Doug G. reported that James was recovering from surgery.

Sub-Committee Newsletter Chair: Doug G. reported that approximately 360 newsletters were sent out or accessed between the email list and the website last month.

Public Information Chair: Jason Z. reported that the Street Smart Sobriety Group has a fund started for those wanting to go to Founder's Day. He is also interested in working with the DCM and other committees to encourage groups to make sure they have a GSR and to invite them to the FAUC meetings.

Treatment Facility Chair: Moe Reported that he is looking for more committee members and asked who might be willing to help get access to New Paths. Troy U. stated that he would help.

Young People Chair (FLYPAA): Jason J. reported on activities. There is an event today at the Flint Alano Club and they are still planning to make a bid to host MCYPAA in 2025.

Internet/Website Chair: Nick- not Present. FAUC Chairperson confirmed that Nick accepted chair position by acclimation and that there were a few days that the website had been down this month, but it is fixed and working now.

Al-Anon Liaison- Open

Special Committees:

New Year's Eve committee Moe stated that there will be a final report given next month because he has to meet with the treasurer today to finalize the money from the NYE event.

Adhoc Website committee: Brad and Nick were not present. No report

Picnic Committee: Picnic is always held the last Sunday of July. The committee is encouraged to start talking about a chairperson to make a motion next month so the desired location at Flushing Park will be available. Two grillmasters were identified.

Prudent Reserve Committee: A motion was passed that a committee be formed to discuss the details surrounding having a Prudent Reserve and other things that will affect the decision, including the accounts being together or having literature and seed money separated. The committee is identified as Gerri L. Steve C. Troy U. Dan M. Jason J. Jim F. Jacob F. and Tom D.

Old Business:

-Elections: Nick Accepted the position of Website chair by acclimation.

-Seed money discussion and guidelines. Request a clarifying amendment to Aims & Purposes 9. Treasurer is going to work to craft a motion about the guidelines for appropriate use of seed money to ensure IRS guidelines are being met that will uphold the Aims & Purposes of the FAUC.

-Lapeer County (District 14) was reported as no longer being a part of the FAUC and a representative of that fellowship was in attendance and challenged this because the decision did not represent the fellowship. Two recommendations were made: Troy U to contact the DCM for District 14 to request that he attend FAUC to confirm and FAUC Chair requested that the Aims & Purposes (#1) be amended to reflect the areas being represented by the FAUC once there is confirmation.

New Business:

-Prudent Reserve: Committee formed to discuss next steps.

Answering Service																				
Cooperation W/Prof																				
Corrections																				
Grapevine																				
Literature																				
Newsletter																				
Public Info																				
Treatment Cent																				
Young People																				
Internet	NA	X																		
Al-Alon Lia	NA	NA																		
Secretary	X	X																		



Dick B & Dan C

A A Members
Manteca CA

December 25, 2023

Dear A A Member:

Alcoholics Anonymous
Areas 001-077 092 and 093

It has been brought to our attention that the GSO is estimated to be 997,000 dollars short of budget in 2024. We are sending this letter to ALL Area Chairs, asking that they forward it to their Districts/Intergroups and that the Districts/Intergroups forward it to their Groups and finally the Groups present it to the members.

The GSO letter indicates that we, Alcoholics Anonymous members can overcome this burden through additional contributions. At first, when reading this letter, We thought there was no way that we could make up this deficit by April 2024 and after. However, upon reflection of how big Alcoholics Anonymous is, and how generous we are as a whole, We began to have faith that the issue will be resolved by additional donations from Members, Groups, Districts, and Areas.

Simple math tells us that there are an estimated 1.2 million members, 70,000 groups, and 514 intergroups in the U.S. alone, and if all chipped in, GSO would be able to meet their financial obligations and carry the message of recovery to all who need it. If all U.S. A.A. members would donate a dollar that alone would cover the deficit.

We are challenging all members to donate what they can using the address provided in the GSO letter dated November 17, 2023, and at the end of this letter, We have also included a link at aa.org where members can contribute. We further challenge the 70,000 groups to increase the GSO part of the pie. It would also help if the 514 Intergroups donate each month. The combined effort would certainly right the ship and GSO would be able to continue the much-needed services.

This is a call for all hands on deck, Alcoholics Anonymous has faced many perilous times before, and as always, the individual member has made the difference. Please make checks payable to the General Service Board:

**General Service Office
P.O. Box 2407
James A. Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407
aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support**

The November 17, 2023, letter can be viewed on the Meeting Guide app under, News, **Message from the General Manager at GSO**. Read more about the app at aa.org/meeting-guide-app

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. We pray this letter reaches every A.A. Member in your area. Together we can overcome this deficit.

Dick B Dan C

November 17, 2023

**Please direct all
communications to:**

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

Dear A.A. Friends:

As a Fellowship, we celebrate and recognize November as Gratitude Month. This is a time when we A.A.s reflect on the many gifts and blessings sobriety has given us. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous encompasses many facets: our home groups, sponsorship, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Fellowship among each other, service on many levels, and many more. As the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO), I'm grateful to see firsthand the many services GSO provides that support the spiritual purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers. These services assist the many facets of the A.A. program.

With the spirit of Gratitude Month in mind, I write today to share with you the difficult news related to the current financial health of Alcoholics Anonymous and the potential continued challenges ahead as we strive to fulfill our spiritual purpose. I hope this letter will be met with understanding, and that the honesty and sincerity in my heart are apparent throughout. The last four years have been very challenging for A.A. in many respects. This began with the worldwide shutdown in early 2020 due to the pandemic, which immediately forced nearly all A.A. groups to close their physical doors and either stop meeting altogether or find other means of gathering. This was followed by a slow return of groups meeting in person, an economy filled with uncertainty, and a workplace that changed in many ways. During this time, GSO and our Boards, like other organizations and businesses, were forced to change dramatically. We quickly transitioned to working 100% virtual to continue serving the Fellowship.

The office, along with the A.A. World Services (AAWS) and General Service Boards (GSB), have worked hard to manage our finances through these last four years with the hope that many of the challenges we faced would subside and return to pre-pandemic conditions. It is apparent now that the financial challenges we face cannot continue to be met with the deferral of essential projects and office development that are necessary to carry out Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference and support the vital services GSO provides.

Our tradition of self-support has always been vital to the health and future of the Fellowship and been our main source of income. However, there has always been a need for additional support from the sale of our literature. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, the initial impact on our revenue was significant, with a steep decrease in contributions. Income from sales of A.A. literature was also significantly reduced as sales came to an almost complete halt. The Fellowship responded with tremendous generosity, resulting in contributions reaching record levels. That continued in 2021, and contributions in 2022 nearly matched the 2021 level. This year to date, we are on pace to reach similar levels to the last three years. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and heartwarming.

Unfortunately, literature profits have not rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels. In addition to the slow return of sales, inflation has resulted in substantial increases in the cost to produce and distribute literature. Conscious of the challenges facing groups and members, the AAWS board held literature prices steady for as long as possible until earlier this year, when it became apparent the costs to produce and distribute were not going to return to pre-pandemic levels. Despite increased contributions after the pandemic, the loss in literature revenue has left our total revenue short by approximately \$1,000,000 compared with pre-pandemic times.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on virtually all our expenses. Of note are increased costs related to meetings, events, and travel, which are a key necessity to support the Regional Forums, board meetings, and the General Service Conference. However, we have managed to reduce total operating expenses to an average of \$15,768,000 compared with pre-pandemic levels of \$16,258,000. Reducing total expenses below pre-pandemic levels truly illustrates the diligence the office and the boards applied to the budget and operations to offset losses.

Because of the significant decline in literature sales and revenue and the large cash outlay needed to continue printing and distributing our literature, we have also experienced a very tight cash position. Our reforecast budget for this year estimates a loss of \$997,000, after depreciation and the GSB support of *La Viña*.

The office and all three boards have worked diligently to address these financial challenges. A systematic and dedicated approach to budgeting has been developed over recent years and allows for the most informed group conscience possible. Throughout, budget managers and the AAWS Board work together to find the most effective ways to prioritize and execute services, maximizing the use of each A.A. dollar. In addition to the annual budget process, a reforecast is done midyear to adapt to the direction brought forth by the April General Service Conference and other factors impacting original estimates.

As difficult as this letter is to write, I'm hopeful and optimistic for A.A.'s future. Together we can overcome the challenges we're facing. We need your help to continue to adjust to and plan for the reality of current economic conditions and changes in our Fellowship. As members we often say that when A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. This is one of those times. Your generosity has sustained us through very difficult times in the past. If your group is able, in the spirit of Gratitude Month, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board. You can make a contribution through aa.org by clicking [here](#) or by mail.

Make your check payable to the General Service Board to:

General Service Office
P.O. Box 2407
James A. Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Moving forward, more frequent, and incremental contributions would be much appreciated as the office incurs many of its expenses during certain parts of the year. In particular, many of

See next five pages.

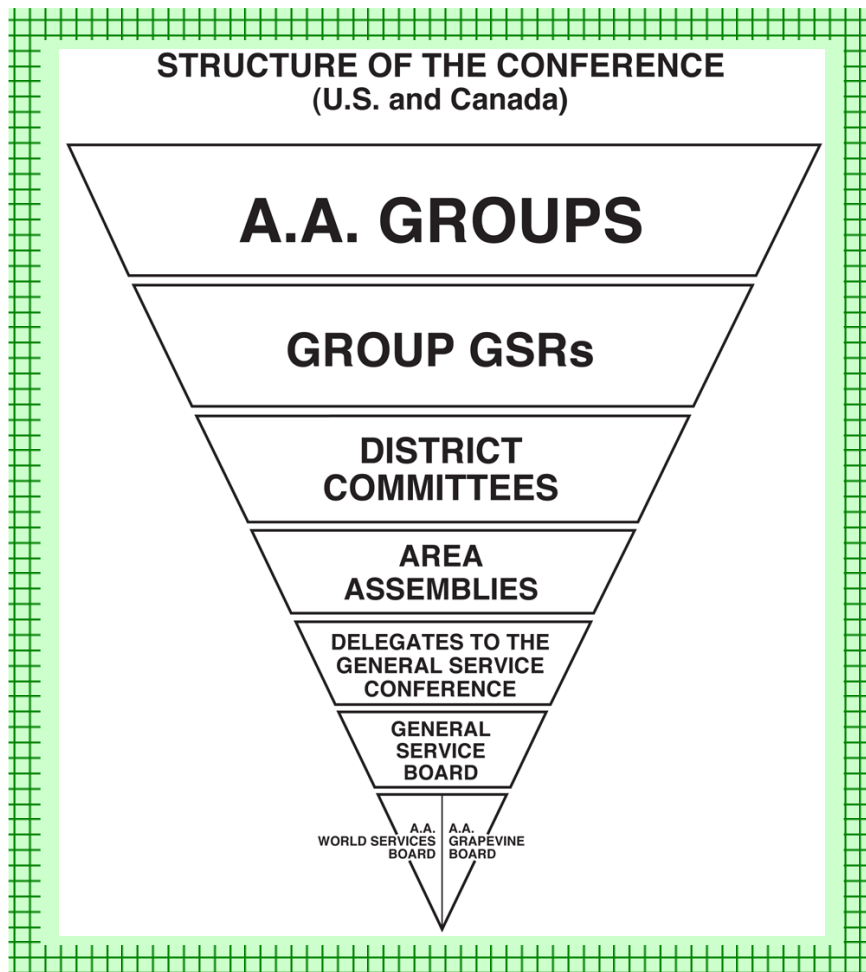
our more significant expenses are incurred from January to May, due to planning, preparation, and operation of the General Service Conference each April.

[Attached to this letter](#) you will find a summary of the operations of GSO and details of many of the vital services GSO provides. I hope this information gives you a greater understanding of the vital work and services your contributions help to support. Thank you so much for everything each of you do for Alcoholics Anonymous.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.,



Bob W.
General Manager, GSO



Services Provided By GSO

The General Service Office (GSO) is composed of 87 dedicated employees, each deeply committed to the mission of Alcoholics Anonymous. Throughout the year, the office responds to thousands of inquiries from groups and members. These requests encompass a wide range of topics that are carefully considered and answered with collected experience from other groups and members. The time and effort put into responding to these requests is substantial and done with exceptional dedication to serving the Fellowship. Other departments at GSO not only support this service, but also help to deliver a wide range of services managed by the office. Among their many functions, our departments support the General Service Board and its operating corporations, AAWS and the AA Grapevine, all of which hold meetings and events throughout the year, such as General Service Board (GSB) weekends, the annual General Service Conference, four Regional Forums, and regular corporate board meetings. The following is an overview of our departments and the vital work supported by the generous contributions of our Fellowship.

Publishing

The Publishing department's primary goal is to **maintain and distribute AA Literature to assist groups and members carry the message to the next person who is struggling with alcoholism**. Publishing strives to maintain high standards in editorial, production, and distribution while looking for ways to reduce backorders and communicate regularly with local groups, Intergroups, central offices, and the Fellowship. Despite the ongoing industry-wide print supply-chain disruptions, we are committed to the ongoing exploration and implementation of new processes and formats to achieve our goals. Overall, the Publishing department is responsible for meeting the publishing goals set by the General Service Board, AAWS, and the General Service Conference.

Communication Services

Communications Services became an official department at GSO in November 2019—previously it was a staff assignment desk.

This department is responsible for the ongoing development, management, and operation of digital platforms and initiatives—with the goal to reach members and the suffering alcoholic where they are—and to communicate effectively with other key audiences, including the professional community. **The department manages aa.org**, our official website; **the Meeting Guide app**; social media channels, which currently include YouTube and LinkedIn, and planning and production for the GSO podcast; analytics for digital platforms; **production and distribution of Box 4-5-9**; and coordination of mass communication distribution to the memberships and across digital platforms, among other areas of responsibility.

The department works closely with the Public Information Staff Assignment on a wide range of public-facing initiatives. In addition, the department regularly collaborates with other departments to support projects and initiatives that serve the evolving needs of the Fellowship in keeping with the group conscience and board directives.

Staff Services

The department was officially launched in September 2020, bringing together GSO staff and staff assistants to form a unified department. **Its primary mission is to provide A.A. services to the Fellowship, guided by the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts for World Service**. The department is composed of one director, one manager, **11 staff members (all of whom must be A.A. members)**, and 11 staff assistants. The department's 12 service

assignments are performed by its staff assistants, including the 2025 International Convention assignment, which was activated in September 2023. The Convention will be held in Vancouver, B.C., and promises to be a very special event with the theme, "90 Years - Language of the Heart."

The department provides **administrative support and resources to the General Service Board, the General Service Conference, and AAWS**. This includes support for AAWS Internal Audit, Publishing, and Technology/Communication/Services committees, as well as various ad hoc and internal committees. The department is also a key source of information on A.A., providing access to GSO's repository of collected group and member experience. The department receives correspondence by mail, email, fax, and phone calls from around the world, responding to correspondence and phone calls from the eight regions in the U.S./Canada structure.

In addition to day-to-day communication with the Fellowship and the public, **the department staff is responsible for regional correspondence and coordination of several GSO newsletters, including Sharing from Behind the Walls, LIM, and About A.A.** Staff members are also invited to A.A. events throughout the U.S. and Canada, such as assemblies, conventions, workshops, and days of sharing. The International assignment coordinator regularly attends events in different zones and regions worldwide. During the COVID-19 pandemic, events were virtual, allowing greater staff participation. Now, as more events have transitioned to hybrid or in-person formats, staff members are back on the road and excited to participate in your next local event, if invited.

Member Services

The Member Services unit **oversees and resolves member and customer issues in order fulfillment, contributions, and records processes**. They manage warehousing, shipping, and literature delivery to ensure smooth and timely operations. Handling orders from various channels, including mail, phone, fax, email, and the online bookstore, they process daily orders from the U.S., Canada, and overseas. The team also handles invoices, price quotes and provides information on literature ordering. Additionally, **they process complimentary literature, update group information, manage new group applications and serve as a direct link to Area Registrars**. The Member Services team **is crucial in handling contributions**, posting them to group accounts, and addressing research and inquiries related to member contributions.

Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property (LLIP)

LLIP carries out legal related functions vital to carrying and protecting the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and provides direct oversight and organization of all legal matters including contract review. This department was created as part of the restructuring of the Publishing Department, with the aim to provide more direct oversight of the licensing function, including **licensing A.A. literature to other international structures and translation and distribution of literature around the world**. The reorganization allowed for a complete overhaul of the licensing process, which involved the development of an automated management tool in close collaboration with Technology services. This enabled the successful resolution of more than a thousand outstanding inquiries related to international licenses and literature distribution.

LLIP also **handles Intellectual Property & Copyrights and responds to hundreds of inquiries from groups and members requesting permission to reprint portions of A.A. literature or use it on local A.A. websites**. Their primary objective is to ensure that A.A. literature is protected in terms of content and integrity of the A.A. message. They are also responsible for ensuring that A.A.'s copyrights remain undiminished by infringing activities.

Meeting Events & Travel Department (METs)

The METs department handles **planning and logistical coordination for GSO-supported events, such as the annual General Service Conference, General Service Board Weekends held three times a year, quarterly Regional Forums, seven AAWS Board meetings at GSO each year,** and technical assistance for virtual meetings among trustees and directors. Their responsibilities include managing travel, lodging, meals, and technical support for trustees, directors, and employees participating in these events.

Technology Services

The Technology Services Department not only **keeps all necessary equipment operating and up to date in today's fast-paced technical world, but they are also responsible for implementing software, process, and project management solutions across the office for all departments.** They also **ensure the integrity of our databases and that our networks are safe and secure.**

Language Services

The Language Services Department centralizes the function of **translation of our literature and thousands of documents into several languages each year.** It also **coordinates essential interpretation services** that allow for direct interaction and communication with other A.A. structures around the world. These services ensure full participation and help to unify our worldwide Fellowship. It is staffed by four dedicated employees including a French and Spanish editor, French and Spanish translators, and freelancers when needed.

Finance

The Finance Department takes great care in the **stewardship of A.A.'s finances, carefully accounting for all literature sales; managing and processing accounts payable; and, providing regular reporting to the GSB and AAWS Boards. They also process more than 80,000 individual contributions from members and groups.** In alignment with our Seventh Tradition, they take great care in "scrubbing" each one to ensure they are all from members and groups. They also **lead the annual budget and reforecast processes, working with budget managers across the office to ensure fiscal prudence.**

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department's primary objective is to create a work environment that is positive, safe, and focused on recognizing the contribution and worth of the employees. **The HR team manages all aspects of the employee life cycle, starting from recruitment to offboarding,** encompassing areas such as learning and development, performance management, employee relations, and well-being practices. By working closely with senior management, HR supports the recruitment feedback process while promoting communication throughout the organization by leveraging technology and organizing events. The team ensures that GSO complies with all the relevant laws, communicates company policies transparently, and advises the general manager on industry trends, compensation, and benefits. Additionally, HR provides resources to AA Grapevine as needed.

Office Services

This department has responsibility for all office services: **building services, phones, maintenance, supplies, and reproduction used daily, and** transporting office equipment and supplies within the NYC area for Conferences, Quarterly Meetings, and Conventions.

Operations

The Warehousing unit is **responsible for managing inventory levels and projecting future requirements by monitoring depletion rates and establishing reorder points based on monthly distribution.** They maintain optimal inventory levels, update item records, and handle new item setups. Safety stock for each item is established and monitored through daily safety stock alert reports. The unit is also responsible for addressing goods received reports, resolving inconsistencies, and posting all receipts and transfers. They review warehouse activity reports on a monthly basis, reconciling significant variances.

The Inventory unit is **responsible for researching and negotiating with freight companies to ensure competitive pricing and secure new vendors.** They audit freight invoices for accuracy, assign carriers for shipments, and process invoices from printers and manufacturers. Additionally, the unit updates the production log and reviews warehousing invoices, investigating any discrepancies.

Archives

The main mission of the Alcoholics Anonymous GSO Archives is to **permanently document the organization's work, making its history accessible to A.A. members and researchers. The Archives receives, classifies, and indexes relevant material, preserving it while granting controlled access, all aligned with A.A.'s primary purpose of maintaining sobriety and aiding recovery.** It serves as a resource for learning and research, providing information services to support A.A. operations and promoting understanding of the organization's origins, goals, and programs.

Mail and Shipping

This team is responsible for **processing incoming and outgoing mail. They also manage the assembling, packing, and shipping of various packages including, but not limited to, Conference, Public Information, and DCM packages. They also manage the selection and shipping of literature for Regional Forums and Health Fairs.** An additional responsibility of this team is to provide support to AA Grapevine for all matters related to their mail and shipping needs.

Administration

The General Manager is an A.A. member employed by AAWS and General Service Boards. This position encompasses a **wide range of responsibilities, including participation and support for the General Service Board and the AAWS Board, leadership of GSO, and accountability for the oversight and management of GSO operations.**

The General Manager also serves on the AAWS Board as president and co-chairs the annual General Service Conference. After substantial collaboration and research, the General Manager has recently reorganized departments and functions within the office to fulfill the demanding role and various responsibilities. The Executive Assistant role was reorganized to assist the General Manager, and the position of Administrative Coordinator to the General Manager was created.

The Executive Assistant plays a crucial role in handling scheduling and administrative tasks, facilitating communication with the Fellowship and contributing to interoffice communications and special correspondence. As the secretary to the AAWS Board, the Executive Assistant manages corporate records, develops meeting agendas, and supports the Nominating Committee. The Administrative Coordinator, working closely with the Executive Assistant and General Manager, supports administrative functions, including updating confidential directories and filing systems,

AA TRADITION MEETING AND POTLUCK

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

	POTLUCK AT 6 PM	
	MEETING AT 7 PM	
Lead-in Speaker	Group Discussion	

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Location: Faith Church
303 Walnut st. Gaines 48436

FLINT ALANO HOUSE



ST. PATRICK'S DAY ALKATHON

REUBENS, DESERTS,
50/50 RAFFLE, FELLOWSHIP
AND FUN!!!
\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION

5PM-11PM SUNDAY MARCH 17TH

2608 Maplewood Ave Flint MI 48506

Follow us @flintalano.com



Michigan Mock Conference

Connecting with Love, Unity and Service

Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:00AM - 4:00PM



**First United Methodist Church
400 South Main St., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858**

What is a Mock Conference?

"Mock" means a practice or rehearsal for a later event. The Michigan Mock Conference simulates the General Service Conference held annually in New York. Attendees are just like the Delegates at the GSC.

Upon registration, you will be assigned to one of the Conference Committees and provided with two agenda items for your assigned committee to consider, along with relevant background materials.

Come, listen, and learn. Give your input to your Delegates.

All attendees are strongly encouraged to pre-register online at www.michiganmockconference.com or use the QR code below.

After you register, you will receive Conference background material prior to the event via the email provided at registration. If registering in-person the day of the event, you will not have the background material in advance.

This year, there will be a **virtual option** for either full day committee assignment or as an afternoon session observer only. Virtual participation is limited so register ASAP. Registration on the day of the event is not available for virtual participation.

Deadline for pre-registration and virtual participation is Friday, March 15th.



Planning on coming Friday?

Friday night at 8:00PM, join us for an AA Meeting at the Mt. Pleasant Alano Club, 1201 N. Francker St. Mt. Pleasant, MI.

If staying overnight, there are discounted rooms (\$115/nt) at the Hampton Inn by Hilton, 5205 E. Pickard Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI. Cut off date for reservations is 2/23/24.

Call the front desk at (989) 772-5500 or go to <http://group.hamptoninn.com/goqfmt> and use Group Code: Mock Conference 2024

Questions? Email 2024mockconference@gmail.com

or call (734) 834-5386

71st Michigan State Convention

combined with the

ECR Conference

June 7th-9th, 2024

Calvin University

3201 Burton S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49546



CONNECTING WITH

LOVE



UNITY



SERVICE

Keynote Speakers:

Friday: *Rich H.*, Hebron, IL

Saturday: *Madonna V.*, Auburn Hills, MI

Saturday Al-Anon - *TBA*

Sunday: *Barefoot Scott S.*, Hersey, MI

CARRYING THE A.A. MESSAGE OF RECOVERY

What makes an A.A. convention click for its participants?

It's probably not style or form that matters so much as the spirit and feeling behind it. As one member puts it, the best A.A. convention is "*just a darned good A.A. meeting blown up big.*" Just watch enthusiastic members at any A.A. convention and you'll get what he means. The atmosphere alone is worth the trip. Here you'll find fellowship, laughter, warmth, and understanding — "*heaped up, pressed down, and running over.*"

Mg-04 A.A. Guidelines, Conferences, Conventions, and Roundups

Please visit area34aa.org for more information as it becomes available.

Co-Chair Contacts: Linda B 269.329.3159 • linbow421@gmail.com | Brian S. 616.366.5827 • digi@wmis.net

International Convention

Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W's first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. A.A. members and their families and friends from around the globe attend the event. At the International Convention people attend meetings, workshops, dances and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.

Make plans to attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention scheduled in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding. The International Convention will take place from July 3 - 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium.

As the Convention approaches, we will update our website with registration information. Let's celebrate sobriety together in Vancouver in 2025!

From: aa.org
Reprinted with A.A.W.S. permission.

OH, that Meeting

a AA - LGBTQIA+ Group For Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime aka a Queer, GayAA that meets virtually on  ZOOM and NOW in-person at Passenger's in Hamtramck every **Sunday & Wednesday** at 5:30pm

DM on Facebook messenger, or email at;
Flintotm@gmail.com

us for ZOOM meeting ID & direct link

[note; we open/start Zoom at **5:00pm** to have an open chat, to catch-up & hangout before the 5:30pm EST meeting begins]

PASSENGER

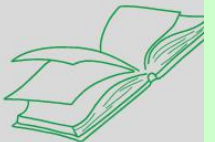
passengerrecovery.com



please join our PRIVATE Facebook group 
www.facebook.com/groups/gayaaohtthatmeeting



*O.T.M. post, and shares daily readings;
AA's - Twenty-Four Hours A Day, 'Thought,
Meditation & Prayer for the Day', and
Just For Today, 'Daily Recovery Readings'*



'Oh That Meeting' was established; on the 12th of April 1982 for Flint, and the greater Genesee County's Gay & Lesbian, and allies community, but switched virtually in early 2020 due to the pandemic, and has stayed virtual until 2024!



TOGETHER WE CAN • 2024

MARCH 15-17, 2024
Plan now to attend!

DETROIT MARRIOTT LIVONIA
17100 N Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, MI 48152

Follow us on twcdetroit.com
for all the exciting details!



The Website www.twcdetroit.com reveals:

Together We
Can
The goal of Together We Can is to provide educational opportunities on substance abuse issues
to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied communities.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EN-anonymity?fbclid=IwAR3tdwzaRQS4_fjb4IVDc63QA1xuK7VZTGFohGikWmDW5ZmV7_7Qg2-75v8

Take this Survey by holding "ctrl" while clicking on the Link above.

From: [Carrie Blake](#)

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 2:18 PM

Subject: [3rd-legacy] A.A. and Anonymity Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EN-anonymity>

Everyone please fill out the survey. If you need any help or if you have any questions as you are filling it out, feel free to reach out to me if I can help in any way.

Thank you,

Carrie Blake

541-788-7276

JandCBlake@Gmail.com

"It's better to do one thing supremely well, than many badly." -Bill W.

Anonymity on Social Media- Questionnaire

A Request for Feedback from A.A. Members

Greetings from the P.I. Desk:

The Public Information desk is seeking sharing from the Fellowship on the topic of Anonymity, specifically on social media platforms.

Anonymity has been a concern for A.A. members since the earliest days of this Fellowship.

One of the concerns we hear about most frequently is related to social media. Members tell us that protecting anonymity is a major concern, but that they want to balance that with making sure A.A. is available on the platforms in which problem drinkers search for help.

As a result, we are trying to gather additional perspectives from the Fellowship about if, and how you use social media, and how you apply A.A. principles related to Anonymity.

Your responses to the attached survey will provide vital perspective on the topic of anonymity on public and private media platforms.

After taking the survey, it may be helpful to review A.A. Traditions as outlined in [Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions](#) and the Conference-approved pamphlets [Twelve Traditions Illustrated](#) and [Understanding Anonymity](#).

This survey is not meant to be exhaustive. Instead, we are hoping to gather information about how A.A. members are managing and balancing the complexity of applying A.A. traditions in a changing media landscape.

Please Click on Link at top of page to take survey.

In the questions below, when appropriate, please click all answers that apply.

“The meeting that night was at New York's old 24th Street Clubhouse. During the intermission, the treasurer gave a timid talk on how broke the club was. (That was in the period when you couldn't mix money and A.A.) But finally he said it—the landlord would put us out if we didn't pay up. He concluded his remarks by saying, 'Now boys, please go heavier on the hat tonight, will you?'

“I heard all this quite plainly, as I was piously trying to convert a newcomer who sat next to me. The hat came in my direction, and I reached into my pocket. Still working on my prospect, I fumbled and came up with a fifty-cent piece. Somehow it looked like a very big coin. Hastily, I dropped it back and fished out a dime, which clinked thinly as I dropped it in the hat. Hats never got folding money in those days.

“Then I woke up. I who had boasted my generosity that morning was treating my own club worse than the distant alcoholics who had forgotten to send the Foundation their dollars. I realized that my five-dollar gift to the slippee was an ego-feeding proposition, bad for him and bad for me. There was a place in A.A. where spirituality and money would mix, and that was in the hat!”

TWELVE STEPS and TWELVE TRADITIONS, TRADITION SEVEN, p. 163.
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Contributions and Self-Support

A.A.'s Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." This means that only A.A. members contribute financially to A.A. – and even A.A. members are limited in the amount they can contribute. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose – to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of the contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.



[READ PAMPHLET >](#)

Our Contributions Address Has Changed!

Checks in U.S. dollars payable to "General Service Board" may be mailed to:

Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

[Make a Contribution Today](#)

Checks in Canadian dollars payable to "General Service Board" may be mailed to:

Post Office Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10163

Where Money and Spirituality Mix

Members celebrate sobriety by giving time, energy and money in support of carrying the A.A. message. Members assure that group expenses are paid by voluntarily putting money into the basket passed at each meeting. Contributions support the group and A.A. worldwide. Contributions ensure that:

- Groups get meeting space
- Phones get answered
- Alcoholic persons in custody get Big Books
- Professionals get correct information about A.A.
- Lone A.A. members get letters
- Newcomers get literature and meeting lists
- A.A.s around the globe share experience, strength and hope



“THE BIG BOOK IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

“2021 Conference Resolution

“That a draft of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) be translated into plain language and be developed in a manner that is accurate and reliable to as wide an audience as possible and that a program report or report or draft be presented to the Publishing Committee of the 2022 Conference.

“Why a plain language version of the Big Book?”

“A study was done in the US to find out the literacy level of people. Literacy means the ability to identify or evaluate one or more pieces of information, which requires different levels of interpretation of a text.

“Experts have addressed the level required to read and understand the text of the Big Book. They have determined that it corresponds to level 3 on a scale of 5. According to studies conducted in the US, 48% of the population was at a level 3 or higher. This means that 52% of the population would not be able to sufficiently understand what is written in the Big Book.”

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DCM remarks:

1. BIG BOOK IN PLAIN LANGUAGE due to come out in Oct or Nov of 2024.
2. GSO needs Group contributes by April 2024 to bolster funds so GSO Prudent Reserve is not dipped into for publication.
3. Please convey to your Group treasurer the importance, and urgency, of a contribution this A.A.W.S. project and to generous in your Groups timely contribution. Thank you.

Not all groups received both messages; however, this will be corrected by Carrying The Message of the GSO through the LCM attending, and a GSR from your Group attending the F.A.U.C. March 16, 2024 meeting when this report is presented by Jim M. as I will be out of State from Mar 12 to Mar 20th.

Please, in good conscience remember this A.A. Slogan.

KISS.

Keep It Simple Stupid.

**And remember a couple things Dr. Bob said in his Farewell Speech,
Sunday July 30, 1950 at the First International A.A. Convention
in Cleveland, Ohio.**

**“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.”**

**“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.”**