February 2024 Step, Tradition, and Concept Two

Step Two

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

My journey of belief in a power greater than myself started when I was a child. My family were C.E. Catholics; we went to church on Christmas and Easter. God was a man with a beard in the sky who you saw when you went to heaven. I was willing to believe that but I never considered that man in the sky could or would do anything for me. I just hoped I would go to heaven when I died.

My hope was crushed when, at age 15 and a heavy alcohol and drug user, my mom told me there was no hope for me and threw me out of the house. My lesson was that I was the one who had control over my life and that I could do anything I wanted.

The first time I realized God could have an impact in my life was shortly after the birth and death of my infant daughter. I was in a state of total despondence and cried out to God, as I then understood him. I felt an immediate sense of calm come over me and had had the feeling that everything would be alright. Shortly after that I was confirmed into the Catholic church. I believed that there was a power greater than me that could help me and restore my hope.

As my alcoholism progressed, I started and continued to look to my higher power as a pinch hitter who could step in for me during the rough spots. There were many occurrences of what one of my therapist' referred to as "cheap Grace". This is where I asked for forgiveness for what I had done, God forgave me, but I kept doing the same thing over and over again, which I have been told is a definition of insanity. The truth was I was not desperate enough yet.

I came into AA, got a sponsor and tried to work the steps. Step 2 for me then was that there was a God and it was not me. Eventually I fell into a pattern of chronic relapsing. With a head full of AA and a gut full of vodka I came to believe that it was Gods' will for me to keep drinking till the bitter end because I had tried recovery and it didn't work. This of course was pure insanity. I was seemingly hopeless. One of my sponsors taught me the set aside prayer. I prayed this prayer many times daily yet I still continued to drink.

Finally, after what I hope to God was my last drunk, I woke up in the hospital. From there I went to a Mental Health facility and then to impatient treatment. In treatment I finally received the gift of desperation. I woke up one morning and with the firm resolution that I never wanted to go through that again I literally raised my arms in surrender. Shortly after that I was convinced that what happened in the hospital was God doing for me what I could not do for myself. Step 2 had finally taken hold in my recovery. I was blessed with hope and willingness.

Today, because of my continued participation within the program and fellowship of AA that hope and willingness persists and grows. My beliefs about my God and my relationship with him has been radically changed. My sanity has been restored both in my beliefs and my actions. I may not know everything but I do know something. I continue to ask for help and have the ability to be of service to others. I thank God for AA and thank AA for an increased awareness and understanding of my God.

Rob Y.

Columbia Heights



Greater Minneapolis Intergroup • Alcoholics Anonymous ®

Notes from your Service Office:

The General Service Theme for 2024 is:

"Connecting with Love, Unity, and Service."

I hope you are used to writing 2024 by now. We have begun planning for our 41st Annual Gratitude Night coming on Saturday, April 6th. We are fortunate again to be at the Minneapolis Convention Center in downtown Minneapolis and excited to have Kent C, from Sandusky, Ohio as our A.A. speaker and Lisa D., from Minneapolis to be our Al-Anon speaker.

For me it is one of the most special nights of the year. Gratitude Night is a celebration of all volunteers we have the honor to have met and that makes Minneapolis Intergroup the special place that it is. Our misson to reach the still suffering alcoholic is only made possible by all you who have given selflessly of your time. Here are a few ways you have been of service.

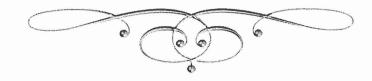
- Answering the phone to help someone find a their very first meeting and help them understand all they have to do is show up and have a seat.
- Volunteering to be on the 12th Step list and being willing to call someone back asking for help with their drinking problem.

- Every AA Group that is scheduled to answer phones in the evening when the office is closed; they know it will be a quiet night, but they also know they will be there to answer the call and the caller does not have to leave a message and wait for a call back. It can be the difference between life and death.
- Every member that came into the office when called to fold, tape and label the monthly MIRUS newsletter to be mailed.

Thank you all for being the hand of A.A. I look forward to seeing you all at Gratitude Night 2024!

In Love and Service,

Gail S., your Office Manager



Notes from Your Board Chair:

I hope everyone's 2024 is going well so far! February is the second month so this issue of the MIRUS discusses Step and Tradition Two. Tradition Two states, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." I had no idea what that meant when I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous. At about six months sober I was feeling very insane (despite having worked up to Step 8) so I changed sponsors. At the Tuesday night meeting my new sponsor and I both attended she asked me if I was going to the business meeting after the main meeting. I had never been to the business meeting because it didn't sound like a lot of fun. I hesitated and my sponsor asked me if the meeting was my home group. I said yes and the look on her face told me I would be attending my first business meeting that evening. I was nominated for a service position at the business meeting and though my home group has changed over the years my attendance at the business meetings and participation in my home group has continued.

Through working the steps with my new sponsor as well as service to my home group I was eventually restored to sanity by a Higher Power I came to believe in over time (Step Two – in case you didn't catch that). I have learned a lot about Tradition Two in the business meetings I've attended as well as the service positions I've held in meetings, on conference committees, in general service, and now on the Intergroup Board. In all of the positions I've held I have never had any authority over another member of

AA. My role has always been to be helpful in some capacity and I typically felt like I was just starting to get the hang of the position when it was time to rotate out. The group conscience is determined through are always made through a voting process which includes an opportunity for someone from the minority opinion to share after the first vote. I have witnessed decisions being completely overturned after someone from the minority opinion shared their perspective and people wanting to change their vote as a result. If that isn't a Higher Power at work then I don't know what is. There are some strong disagreements in AA business meetings, but that is because we all want what is best for AA. I don't always agree with what the group decides, but as a home group member it is my job to honor the group conscience. One lesson I have learned is that I don't always know what is best. The service commitments I have held helped deepen my faith in a Power greater than myself, given me freedom from the bondage of self, and introduced me to some of the most amazing people I know. I am so grateful to that sponsor that made me go to my first business meeting. If you have never been to one I highly recommend it!

One important event coming up soon is the West Central Regional Service Conference. It will be held Friday, March 1st through Sunday, March 3rd at the Grand Hotel in Minot, ND. Please check out the Intergroup website for more information.

Yours in Service,

Intergroup Board Chair, Kelli B.

Intergroup Board

Board Officers

Chairperson Co-Chairperson Kelli B. Jeff A.

Secretary

Maverick M.

Treasurer

Christina M.

Board Members

John M.

Steve S.

Grace C.

Mark S.

Pam N.

Thomas D.

Andy D.

Gabriella R.

Gail S. Office Manager, Ex-Officio

General Service District Board Liaisons

District 7 Pam N.

District 13 John M.

District 14 Steve S.

District 17 Christina M.

District 18 Gabriella R.

District 19 Jeff A.

District 20 Linda M.

District 21 Andy D.

District 22 Mark S.

District 24 Thomas D.

District 25 Grace C.

Intergroup Staff

Gail S.

Office Manager

Erin D.

Office Assistant

Terri N.

Office Assistant

Scott F.

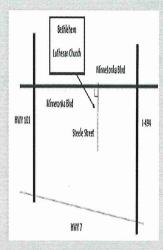
Office Assistant

Your Intergroup board meets every month at 6:30 pm on the Tuesday before the Rep's meeting in the

Intergroup Office.

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The MIRUS represents the experience of A.A. members. Their thoughts, expressed herein, are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or Greater Minneapolis Intergroup.



The Intergroup Rep Meeting will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church 16023 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
This is a HYBRID meeting.
Thursday,
February 22nd at 6:30pm

Metro District General Service Meetings

District 7

Second Monday, 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 851 2052 3806

Passcode: District7

District 13

First Tuesday, 7:00 pm

United Methodist Church

10506 Hanson Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433

District 14

First Monday, 7:30 pm

United Methodist Church 609 8th St NW, Buffalo, MN 55313

District 17

Second Tuesday, 7:30 pm Lighthouse Assembly of God

10478 Bell Ave., Plato, MN 55370

Second Thursday, 6:30 pm

Meeting on Zoom

Please email dist18@area36.org for info

District 19

District 18

Second Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Rosemount Community Center, Room 210 13885 S. Robert Tr., Rosemount, MN 55068

District 20

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm Twin Lake Alano Club

4938 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

District 21

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Pilgrim United Methodist Church

4325 Zachary Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442

District 22

Second Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Vista Lutheran Church

4003 Wooddale Ave. St. Louis Park, MN 55416

District 24

First Wednesday, 6:30 pm HYBRID

Shakopee Community Center 1255 Fuller Street Shakopee, MN Downstairs

Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0086 5659 Passcode: h5XNU1

District 25

Second Wednesday, 7:30 pm

Woodlake Lutheran Church 2120 W 76th St., Richfield, MN 55423

Intergroup A.A. Orientation Open Meetings

The Saturday Orientation Open Meeting takes place every week at 10 A.M. In person at Bethlehem Lutheran Church 16023 Minnetonka Blvd. Minnetonka, MN

2/3 Step Twelve/ Tradition Twelve

His Story

2/10 Importance of Having an A.A. Home Group

Her Story

2/17 Step One/ Tradition One

Her Story

2/24 Staying Away from the First Drink

His Story

Twelve Concepts for World Service, written by Bill W. in 1962

Concept II

Long form - When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

Short form - The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.

In Concept II Bill lays out the evolution of delegation of responsibility for the Fellowship to the Fellowship.

Delegation of the decision-making process goes to the General Service Conference held once a year. Bill says in the Concept II essay: The final say—the ultimate sanction in matters of large importance—has not been given to the Trustees alone. By the Conference Charter, confirmed at St. Louis, this authority is now delegated to the A.A. groups and thence to their Conference, a body which is a representative cross section of our entire Fellowship.

It is not enough therefore, to simply send our Delegate to the GSC. We all have the responsibility to participate in the decisions made there. How do we do that, you may ask? We do that through our home groups, of course. It is in our home groups that we have a great opportunity to learn about the issues facing our Fellowship. We rely on our GSRs to be the conduits of information from, and to, the General Service Conference. We do not only hear the information, we are invited to discuss these issues, to share our own opinions and hear the opinions of others, to come to a group conscience on what we'd like to see happen with these issues. In this way we are active participants in the life of our Fellowship, which is crucial to keeping the doors open for the still suffering alcoholic, one who has yet to realize they need us.

Any A.A. is welcome to attend any A.A. business meeting, with the exception of the General Service Conference. This means, locally, that anyone can attend an Area 36 Assembly or an Area 36 Committee Meeting. It also means that everyone is *encouraged* to do so. Please think about attending; to see what goes on, and how you might be of service. For it is by being of service in and to our Fellowship

that we ensure its health and continuation. Concept II reminds us all of our responsibility, not only to choose a Delegate, but to inform that Delegate of the group conscience of the Area, so they can best share it at the GSC. We are all connected, we all have a voice in A.A., and we do this so others may find us and the program of recovery which saves lives and restore us to usefulness. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Panel 73 Delegate, and I need all of you to help me serve effectively for you, and for A.A. as a whole.

In love and service, Meg H., Area 36 Delegate, Panel 73

The Twelve Traditions -How They Apply In Our Lives

These questions * were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.

TRADITION TWO: 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 servant; they do not govern.

- 1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- 2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
- 3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- 4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
- 5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
- 6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

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Yes! Please enroll me as a Faithful Fiver!

become a starful Fiver Faithful Fiver

"Every A.A. wants to make sure of his survival from alcoholism, and his spiritual well-being afterward. This is just as it should be. He also wants to do what he can for the survival and well-being of his fellow alcoholics. Therefore he is bound to have a vital interest in the permanence and well-being of A.A. itself."

Bill W., Language of the Heart, p. 166

originally published in the April 1958 Grapevine

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Greater Minneapolis Intergroup (FAQ) Frequently Asked Questions

What is Intergroup?

Intergroup is a service office dedicated to supporting its members in helping newcomers who are seeking Alcoholics Anonymous.

How is it operated?

A small staff of "special workers" which includes Office Manager & Staff Assistants who manage daily office activities. There are over 500 regular volunteers and a 12-member elected board. Each person is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. (*Tradition Eight)

Who pays for it?

AA Group and member personal contributions, the sale of publications from AA World Services, Inc. and publications from the A.A. Grapevine.

Does my group have a voice in its affairs?

Yes, each A.A. Group should have an Intergroup Representative. In addition to participating in the affairs of Intergroup, they inform their home group about Intergroup and the local service opportunities available.

We have our own meeting place. Why do we need Intergroup's help?

Intergroup phone volunteers help newcomers find your meeting location. Your Intergroup phone lines are the permanent link to connect members to A.A. Groups in the Greater Minneapolis Intergroup service area.

How can my group be of service?

You can start by seeing that your group has a voice at the monthly Intergroup Reps meeting. Additionally, your group members can contribute their time for 12th Step opportunities ensuring that the A.A. message reaches the still-suffering alcoholic.

What services does your AA Intergroup Office provide? Intergroup provides the following "Vital Services" to all A.A. Groups and their members:

Answer Phones 24 Hours a Day

Publish& Distribute MIRUS Newsletter

AA 12-Step Calls

Public Information

Information & Meeting Location Calls

Special Events

AA Literature-Englisher Spanish

Meeting Directories

AA Non-English Literature AA Grapevine Publications Daytime Office Volunteers

AA Orientation Meeting

Cooperation with Outside Agencies

***** ** 1

Website Updates/Announcements

Information to Outside Agencies

Media Requests

Communication Linkfor General Services - Area 36, Metro General Service Districts & AA World Services



Sponsored by

Greater Minneapolis Intergroup

of Alcoholics Anonyous Welcome Al-Anon & Alateen

41st Annual

Gratitude Nicht

"Also known as the A.A. Prom"

Saturday, April 6th, 2024

6:30pm - 12:00am

Minneapolis Convention Center

1301 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis Ballroom A-Across from Dunn Bros

Al-Anon Speaker, Lisa D., Minneapolis, MN AA Speaker, Kent C., Sandusky, OH

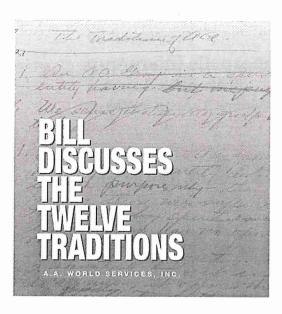
(Speakers ASL Interpreted)

About Intergroup/Volunteer Countdown/Sobriety Countdown/Area 36 Service Committees Info Tables/DJ and Dance/Photo Booth

*Tickets: \$15

Available at the Intergroup Office and IG Representatives

*This Intergroup event is self-supporting through the sale of tickets

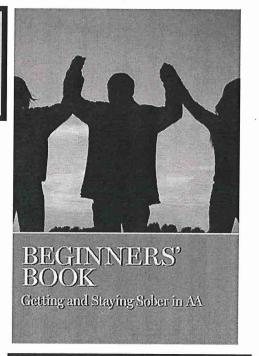


AA DVD of the Month: Bill Discusses the **Twelve Traditions**

A.A. Pamphlet of the Month: Circles of Love and Service

Circles of Love and Service





Grapevine Book of the Month: Beginners' Book **Getting and Staying Sober** in AA

Sunday Night AA Isanti

This Simple Program

Tonka Alano Society

Turning Point Women's

Wayzata Women in Recovery

Tradition Five

Third Tradition Group of AA Northfield

Thursday Night Women's Group

Group Contributions - December 2023 Thank you all, in the Spirit of Hope.

4100 AA Group A Better Way AA Andover Alano Back To Basics Women's Group Basic 12 Golden Valley **Beltline Groups** Blaine Alano Squad 99 Breakfast Club-Saturday A.M. **Bridges AA Group** Cavalier West Thursday Men Cedar Lake Women's Group Changing Lanes AA Clay City AA

Common Solution Big Book Study Continuous Action

Design for Living For Today Group Foxhall Chapter 7 Group Garage Dogs Men's Group Golden Valley Group

Gratitude Group Great Blessings

Hillside AA Group

It Might Have Been Worse

Kenwood Group Kozy's Noon Men's AA

Ladies Night Happy Hours Lourdes AA Group

Meditation At Peace

Minnetonka Big Book Study Group Senior Men's Barn Group

Monday Primary Purpose Monticello Alano Squad 10

New Freedom - Chanhassen New Hope Alano Squad 7

Nicollet AA Group Nu-Life AA Group

Our Friends Place Squad 9

Pearls of Wisdom

Plymouth 2 Monday Night Group

Primary Purpose Group

Relapse Enders

Rich/Blmngtn Alano Sunday Speaker

Ridge Runners I Group Ringmasters AA Group River Valley AA Grp

Saturday Night Live Group

St. George Thurs Night AA Group

St. Louis Park Sunday Night AA Group

St. Luke's Mon Nite AA Group Suddenly the Thought

We Are Not Saints-Richfield Wednesday Lunch Bunch Westwood AA Group Women's AA Group at Elim You Are Not Alone

Every AA group that sends a contribution is sent a receipt along with a "Thank You" letter from the office. It is the responsibility of the group treasurer or trusted servant to share the receipt and "Thank You" letter with their respective group. Every AA group that sends a contribution will be listed in the MIRUS. Upon inquiry your AA group can request a contribution summary

Group Contributions/Birthday Plan** December 2023 Foxhall Chapter 7 (3)

**On their sobriety birthday, many AA members contribute one dollar or more for each year of sobriety to any or all of our four service entities; District, Area Assembly, the General Service Office and the local Intergroup. Some members attribute their birthday contribution to their home group. Those groups receive a receipt and "Thank You" letter from the office and are listed in the MIRUS.

Calendar of Events Open Speaker Meetings

Thursday:

<u>Central Pacific Group</u>, 7:30 PM Hybrid Meeting 511 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403 <u>Foxhall Chapter 7 Group</u>, 7:30 PM Hybrid Meeting ASI

Gethsemane Lutheran Church 715 Minnetonka Mills Rd., Hopkins, MN 55343

Friday:

From the Heart Open Speaker Meeting, 7:00 PM St. Paul's Church of Christ 201 Buffalo St. Delano, MN 55328
Three Legacies, 7:30 PM Hybrid Meeting Cross of Glory Church

4600 Shady Oak Rd., Hopkins, MN 55343 **Saturday:**

A.A. Orientation Meeting 10:00 AM
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
16023 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345
Saturday Night Live 7:30 PM
Basilica School 3rd floor (behind the church)
1601 Laurel Ave W., Minneapolis, MN 55403
Saturday Night Open Speaker Meeting, 8:00 PM
2218 1st Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404

Sunday:
Open Speaker Meeting, 11:00 AM
Richfield Bloomington Alano

9321 Bryant Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420

The Intergroup Office will be closed Monday, February 19th in observance of President's Day







February 8th - 11th

60th International Women's Conference

ONLINE FROM PORTLAND, MAINE

Questions? iwcportland24@gmail.com

Back To Basics In A New Age Workshop

By Happy Destiny

Crowne Point Church

7121 Bloomington Ave S., Richfield

In Person and

Online Zoom: 937-0299-1173

General Service Announcements

February 3rd

Trusted Servant Leadership Training

Free - Online Only 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zoom ID: 828 9629 0778

Zoom Pass: 3wnGkw

February 17

Area Committee Meeting

Committees 9:30-11:30am

Area Committee 12:30-5:00pm

Zoom Only

March 1st - 3rd

West Central Regional Service Conference

Grand Hotel

1505 N Broadway

Minot, ND 58703



INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION 7204 W. 27th St., Suite 113 St. Louis Park, MN. 55426

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