

### STEP SIX

### TRADITION SIX

#### WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE GOD REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF CHARACTER.

#### 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 PURSE.

If we can answer to our satisfaction, we then look at Step Six. We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all - every one? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing.

The Traditions hold us together as a unique group. Tradition 6 gives us direction as to what to focus on, **OUR PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL!** As a group, we do not support anything else. What freedom that gives us to dive into our primary purpose!

These few sentences encompass Step 6 in the Big Book. Therefore, the step is sometimes regarded as, easy or not so important, but the Principal to Step 6 is willingness, and what can we do without that? The answer is nothing!

As a group (and that's the purpose of the Traditions, healthy groups), we have no organizations to please, we have no political platform, no leaders to back, no axes to grind, no fights to win. We just carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in it's purest form.

I personally love the simplicity and directness of this step. We are asked a simple question, "Are we entirely ready". Although willingness is a thread that runs through all 12 Steps, here, the Principal is presented to us as a yes or no question, there is no maybe.

It's a really novel idea. So novel, it's incredible that it works. Not only does it work, but it's been flourishing for over 80 years!

The day I walked in the doors of Alcoholic Anonymous, I was willing to sit through a one hour meeting. Fortunately, I met people who shared with me how they once were where I was in life and were no longer there. They were able to wake up everyday and not want to die. They had homes, jobs, families, friends, dreams, ambitions, and willingness. A woman once gave me an old-fashioned key, that I still have today. She told me the "key" of willingness could help me get another day sober. She was right. Since that day, my willingness has grown. Not only do I need to be willing to stay sober, I need willingness to be patient, kind and loving. I need to be willing to do the work of my Higher Power, not just put effort forth to get what I want. It started with a one hour meeting of Alcoholic Anonymous, and the promises looked so appealing to me, that I became more and more willing. Boy has it paid off!

It seems a shame sometimes to think that we should not endorse outside AA, being that we have a solution. But the solution we have found is open and available to all, right here in AA. We don't have to partner with anyone. Those suffering come in droves, so we as sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous must stay focused on our Primary Purpose to carry the message to these who are suffering, just has the message was carried to us. We have found a way out, and Tradition 6 makes it possible for us to pass the solution on freely!

Thank you AA and Happy Birthday!!

-Anonymous

- Anonymous

#### Inside This Issue:

Step Six-Tradition Six

This Month In AA History

News and Events

Members' Articles



## QUESTIONING THE PROCESS

“Rarely have we seen a person fail”... Have I “Thoroughly followed their path”, as written, not as I chose to interpret?  
Have I truly “Given myself to this simple program”?  
Have I truly “Gotten honest with myself”? How honest? Which Step (s) did I “balk at”? Have I “circled back” and completed them? (Sorry, I couldn’t help myself with that “circle back” thing... LOL )  
Have I “Let go absolutely”? If not, then why not?  
Have I come to know and communicate with a “Higher Power” of my understanding?  
Have I read “How It Works” aloud, at a meeting, so that I could absorb each word of this lifesaving passage to its fullest?  
Have I become “Willing to grow along spiritual lines”?  
Have I been able to deflate my own EGO (Easing God Out) enough to be helpful to a fellow alcoholic?  
Have I admitted that there is a God, and that it ain’t me?  
Have I seen the aforementioned Higher Power doing things in my own life that I can’t explain away?  
Do I have the Third Step Prayer memorized? Do I use it?  
Have I truly completed my Fourth Step Inventory?  
Have I reviewed it closely, looking for the obvious patterns that caused or led to my “character defects”?  
Have I done a Fourth Step since then?  
Do I practice the Tenth Step daily, honestly?

These are many more subtle things that happen. These are the keys to a sane, sober, and serene lifestyle. Please do not sell yourself short. Use this program to live the best life that you can.

### Ways To Accept The Things You Cannot Change

1. Focus on what you can do now. You may not be able to do anything about something in the past, but you can still do something to make your life better now. ...
2. Forgive yourself. ...
3. Find the lesson.

Peace... Prayers... Anonymous ;-)

## SAVE THE DATE

CAPE ATLANTIC INTERGROUP  
15TH ANNUAL WAVES ROUNDUP

NOVEMBER 5 TO 7, 2021

SEAVIEW HOTEL IN GALLOWAY NJ

For registration and hotel reservations go to

[www.capeatlanticaa.org](http://www.capeatlanticaa.org)



**Want to get involved, make new friends and  
have some fun?**

2022 AREA 45 CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
MEETS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting Location: 449 Club  
6 Pemberton Street  
Pemberton, NJ

Zoom Meeting ID: 810 1861 0818

Password: SNJAA45

## Group Histories

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey Alcoholics Anonymous. Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or South Jersey Intergroup. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are printed with permission from AA World Services, Inc., and/or the AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from readers are encouraged—you can write about your experience, strength and hope in general, or you can focus on one of the steps or traditions. You can also write about something that touched you at a meeting, something that bothered you at a meeting, or some service commitment you especially enjoy. Submissions are sometimes edited for space and clarity. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Use your imagination or use one of the following topics: **Beginners, Young People, My Best Advice in AA, Recovery in the Time of Coronavirus.** You can also send us information on your group's anniversary or other event.

Write one yourself or ask a sponsee or friend to write, as well.

No time to proofread, no worries. Our editing team will fix it up in a jiffy!

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE IN WORD, PUBLISHER OR A GOOGLE DOC.**

**Artists:** Send some original paintings, drawings or photography (no photos of faces please in keeping with tradition.)

Due to space limitations, we are sometimes unable to publish flyers for A.A. events in this newsletter. However, we are happy to include your A.A. gathering in the general list of fellowship announcements for A.A. events.

Please send your submissions to [newsletter@asj.org](mailto:newsletter@asj.org).

### 12 STEP LIST NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

As meetings begin to open and people willing to meet others one-on-one; please continue to remind everyone that more volunteers are need for the 12-step list. Areas we need most help: Berlin, Camden, Hammonton, and Salem. We have signup sheets available for anyone wishing to take a copy to their home groups. If you know anyone who would like to be of service, please have them contact us at [answerservice@asj.org](mailto:answerservice@asj.org) or invite us to speak at your home group.

**Do you know your group's history? Your group's history is an important part of the growth of AA in southern New Jersey. The Archive Committee of South Jersey Intergroup is collecting the histories of the groups in our area. Why not download our group history questionnaire located at <https://asj.org/resources-page/archives/> and submit it to [Archive@asj.org](mailto:Archive@asj.org).**

**The Archive Committee organizes and stores historic materials regarding the South Jersey Intergroup. We gather histories of the groups and Old-timers for our area. If you have historic documents/literature to donate or would like to be interviewed about your group's story or your own personal story, please email us at [archives@asj.org](mailto:archives@asj.org)**

**BIARRITZ (France)**

**INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL A.A. CONVENTION (in ENGLISH) 25 to 27 June 2021**

**Friday 25 (14h30) – Sunday 27 January (12h00) 2021**

**LOVE and SERVICE** Click here: to register for the Zoom login URLs and passwords

and to receive your 'registration access' ALL speakers experienced long-time members

**Illir T. (USA), John F. (USA), Joe K. (USA), Jay C. (USA), Joe C. (USA), Kiki R (USA), Karen C, (USA), America K. (USA),**

**Paul McC. (IRL), Colin F (UAE), Sean N. (IRL), Clive B. (UK) & others. Speakers include Bob Darrell Las Vegas**

**(NV/USA) and Karen Casey (author Each Day a New Beginning)**

**AN AA FELLOWSHIP EVENT**

**AL-Anon & YPAA, Participation**

**RECOVERY and ECONOMY**

**NO TRAVEL! NO HOTEL! NO RESTAURANT!**

**NO EXPENSE!**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

**Welcoming Panel (more than 300 years recovery)**

**Website: <https://aavirtualconventionbiarritz.com>**

**Contact & info: [babanglophonegroup@gmail.com](mailto:babanglophonegroup@gmail.com)**

**(This article was first printed in the March 2012 Anonymous South Jersey)**

## **SERVICE WITH A SMILE**

*At the beginning of the A.A. Service Manual, Bill W. talks about the A.A.'s Legacy of Service: "Our Twelfth Step-carrying the message-is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.*

*Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us reach a fellow sufferer-ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, to the A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service." (Bill wrote these words in 1951 so his words reflect that time period in their details.)*

*Below, a member reflects on how service has helped keep him sober for 27 years.*

John K. of Collingswood says he's done pretty much everything you can do in service within A.A. He's been greeter, coffee maker, secretary, treasurer, meeting chair, General Service Representative, District Committee Member, Area 45 Delegate and A Trustee of A.A. World Services. Did he ever feel that one of those jobs was more important than the other?

"No, I just make myself available and the good Lord will point me in the direction he wants me to go. They can't elect me to dog-catcher, though."

John is modest-his home office is filled with mementos from his years of service, including a framed resolution from the A.A. World Services Board dated April 22, 2010. It thanks him for his service as Trustee, Director and Chairs of the 35th Area 45 Convention.

Read page 20 of the Big Book, he told me. It says, in part, "our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers, depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may help meet their needs."

He remembers the day he stopped drinking-it was St. Patrick's Day 27 years ago this month. He didn't plan it that way-his family staged an intervention, and he attended his first A.A. meeting in April of 1985. He did not drink in the Interim.

"I know A.A. works because an Irishman got sober on St. Patrick's Day."

With all of that time, how does he stop himself from becoming a

"Bleeding Deacon", something Bill W. writes about, and the type of A.A. we all may have met a few times in the rooms.

"The book that I read says if you're having trouble, go find a drunk. It doesn't say go find a guy with time."

John isn't sure how many people he's sponsored over the years ("maybe 50" is his best guess), but he is currently a recovery sponsor to 3 people, and a service sponsor to 4 others. I asked him for some advice on how to stay sober, and this is what he told me:

"We don't have any control over anything at all and we never will. If we had control, we would not ever get sick. One of the sicknesses that we have is alcoholism and the only way to treat it that I know of is through A.A. And the way they treat it is that they give us manageability. We don't get control, but we get the tools. And if we use the tools, we'll never drink."

"The Course in Miracles says the only aspect of eternity which we'll ever experience is now, and if I don't drink now, I'll never drink. A day at a time is a huge amount of time. But this moment is not. It is manageable. Manage this instant."

So what would he tell a newcomer about service? "Don't drink, go to meetings and get a job." HIS sponsor volunteered him as greeter when he had about three months, and taught him to always say yes when someone asked for help. He points out that this is a more positive way of saying "never say no."

He points me to another passage from the Big Book on page 102: "Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most sordid spot on earth on such an errand. Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed."

He urges everyone, especially newcomers, to attend the Area 45 convention being held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, this month. He says it's a "huge benefit" to people who are struggling to see the success of so many others-it's anticipated that there will be about 1500 people at the convention this year. Will he be there?

Of course, he says. "It keeps me out of the saloons."

Patty H. Newsletter Chair



## **JUNE'S IMPORTANT EVENTS**

### **IN A.A. HISTORY**

#### **THE PERFECT DATE**

**I embraced this fellowship with the guidance and direction of quality sponsorship, service, and GOD; doing my best on a daily basis living steps 10, 11**

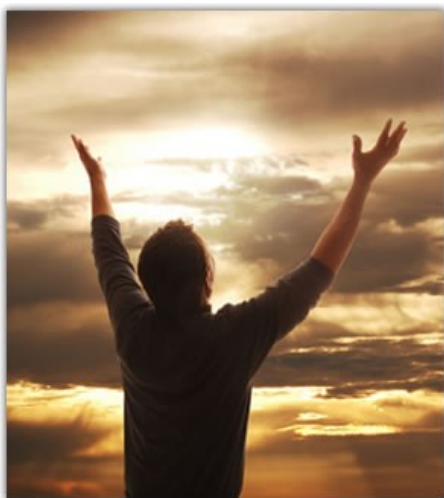
**and 12.**

**At almost nine years of continuance sobriety, I realize that I am living life as a sober woman.**

**My next journey is to live life in its beautiful entirety. I want to experience and do things I always dreamed of no matter how big or small.**

**If no one is available to accompany me on my adventures, I know GOD is with me every step of the way and that is all I need. HE IS THE BEST DATE EVER.**

**Authored by: Tonette J., Women of Grace, Voorhees**



June 10, 1935 – The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 26, 1935 – Bill D. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28, 1935 – Dr. Bob and Bill W. visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 16, 1938 – Jim B., "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 7, 1939 – Bill and Lois W. had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

June 24, 1938 – Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

June 25, 1939 – The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 6, 1940 – The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

June 18, 1940 – One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

June 30, 1941 – Ruth Hock showed Bill W. the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

June 17, 1942 – New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 21, 1944 – The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 1, 1949 – Anne S., Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June, 1979 – AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois W., Bill's wife, in New York.

June 4, 2002- Caroline K., author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober.

**AASJ SOCIAL COMMITTEE SPONSORED**  
**KAYAK TRIP**  
**MICKS CANOE AND KAYAK RENTAL**

Come kayak the Wading River for a 2-3 hour trip from Hawkins Bridge to Evans Bridge.

Contact Micks to make your reservation before June 26th.

DATE: Saturday, June 26th (Rain cancels trip)

TIME : 8:30 AM

PRICE : \$50 + Tax for Single Kayak

\$70 + Tax for Canoes and Double Kayaks

\$25 + Tax for shuttle only, if you have your own kayak

Rental includes canoe or kayak, life vests, paddles and shuttle to river.

LOCATION: Micks Canoe and Kayak Rental

3107 Rt. 563, Chatsworth, NJ 08019

609-726-1380

[mickscanoerental.com](http://mickscanoerental.com)

HOSTED BY:

AASJ SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Sherrill Barrett Cell: 856-889-5595

Make sure to check the [AASJ.org](http://AASJ.org) website under EVENTS for future Fun in Sobriety events. We plan to sponsor a minimum of 1 activity per month.

**LIFE...LIVE IT...LOVE IT**



## **AASJ SOCIAL COMMITTEE GOLF OUTING - VINEYARD NATIONAL AT RENAULT**

We have secured 8 tee times, so the FIRST 32 golfers who are PAID will play at our discounted rate...there are no refunds, so, if you are paid and can't play, it is up to you to find a replacement.

**DATE:** Thursday, August 12th with tee times beginning at 11:00 am

**LOCATION:** Vineyard National at Renault  
72 N Bremen Avenue  
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

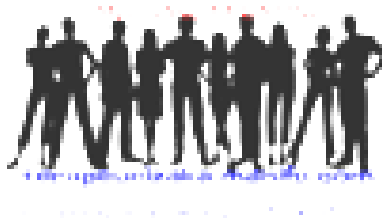
**PAYMENT INFO:**

- Cost is \$65.00, which covers cart and greens fees.
- Each \$65 (check, Venmo, PayPal) should reference "Golf Fellowship" with First and Last Initial of golfer.
- A multitude of payments (\$130, \$195, etc.) should include a multitude of player names.

Name

Checks payable to: South Jersey Intergroup PO Box 2514 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

**CONTACT:** Brendan C for further info Cell: 856-906-4330 Brencan@yahoo.co



Responsibility Statement. I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,. I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that, I am responsible.