

# ANONYMOUS SOUTH JERSEY

## SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

October, 2021

### STEP TEN

**CONTINUED TO TAKE PERSONAL INVENTORY AND WHEN WE WERE WRONG PROMPTLY ADMITTED IT.**

Steps 4 through 9 all rolled into one; with the exception of the word “continued.” Why do I continue to take personal inventory? Because resentment can and will kill me. I cannot afford to sit in a resentment and let it fester. I certainly cannot afford to allow people and situations to rule over my emotional sobriety. After all, my sobriety and recovery are my responsibility.

Sometimes, I take a tenth step in my mind and through prayer. Sometimes, I need to write a situation out in column form, as in the 4th step. And oftentimes, I need to discuss it with a trusted AA friend or sponsor. You see, one of my character defects is to gloss over my part of all situations, especially the negative ones. Daily, I ask my Higher Power to show me a better way of life so that I may stay sober and help someone else.

By taking a regular 10th step, I am keeping my side of the street swept clean of my character defects that will see me dead if I allow them to rule over my life. In this way, I can live a sober and useful life to God and my fellows. Thank you Alcoholics Anonymous for showing me how to live again.

Respectfully submitted, A Sober Alcoholic.

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of each individual and do not necessarily represent the opinions or policy of South Jersey Intergroup or AA as a whole.

### TRADITION TEN

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES; HENCE THE AA NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.**

It is quite easy to see why this tradition is needed today and even easier to see examples from the past that prove how essential the 10th tradition was and is still. However, the fact that we do not take sides on outside issues is as Bill said, no earned virtue. Just like I didn't get sober and start applying the principles of AA because I'm so virtuous...I did it to save myself from death. Similarly, we AA's stay out of controversy so that we don't die. Since we are human, we will always find there are issues we do not agree on. Regardless of what side we take in our personal lives, in AA those opinions are left at the door.

Remember, it has been said that we are people who would normally not mix, yet here we are...why? Probably because God granted us the insight to learn from the Washingtonians, who as Bill put it, almost figured this thing out. What happened to them anyway? Politics and religion happened to them and where are they now besides dead because of their age...disbanded...all because they couldn't stick to one goal: to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. Here is a story that I will share with you. Once I was chairing a meeting at the 482 back when it was located next to Flanigan's truck repair place. Two old timers were discussing Trump and the upcoming election. They were not seeing eye to eye. As a newcomer in AA, I was afraid to speak up, but God gave me the courage to say, “this is not the place to discuss those issues do y'all mind taking that conversation outside”. Little did I know there was a man with less than 24 hours who was new to our meeting there. He was sitting out of my sight when

this happened. I was not aware that he was listening intently and watching to see the outcome. Months later that man returned, sober, and he shared during the meeting. He stated that he watched how that situation was handled and prior to me stopping that controversial conversation, he was seconds from walking out. He came there to find hope and what he found was two men arguing about politics until this little Puerto Rican girl told them about themselves. The man continued sharing. He said, "I stayed that day because of her courage to stand up to them and I'm still sober today thanks to my decision to stay". We never know who is watching. We are charged with being walking examples of the principles of AA. Can I get any credit for that man's sobriety? No, but when I do the will of my Father, miraculous things tend to happen. There is virtually no way to take sides on controversial issues in an AA meeting and not give the impression that this is the belief of most AA's. Fights often caused by religious and racial differences, issues such as vaccinations, law enforcement and racial injustice, Trump and Biden, and whether or not AA members should be considered sober if they take psychotropic medications... all issues that we have no business discussing in AA. Not if we wish to stay alive. This tradition also bears fruit when applied to my life outside of AA at home as a mother to my 3 sons, at work as a colleague, and in my social circle among non-AA's. I become neutral and thus appear humble. Notice I said "appear". Sometimes I just act as if and the results are still the same...if I keep my mouth shut the promises keep coming true. And we have ceased fighting everyone and everything.

Nilda Natal -Tuesday Night Maple Shade Group

**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)

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**Inside This Issue:**

**Step Ten-Tradition Ten**

**This Month In AA History**

**News and Events**

**Members' Articles**

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

**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.

**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).

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12 STEP LIST AND ANSWERING SERVICE NEED

**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.

Volunteers are needed for the Answering Service. Where else can you do 12th step service from the comfort of your home or even from your bedroom. Please considering volunteering so the desperate alcoholic can speak to a live person when reaching out.

**Group Histories**

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 [Archives@asj.org](mailto:Archives@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)

**AA NEEDS YOU...**

**GRAB A SPONSEE, CALL YOUR TRIBE.  
COME ON OUT AND LEND A HAND. YOU  
MIGHT MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE A  
GOOD TIME.**

## To The LGBT Alcoholic

My journey into sobriety and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous began when I was fully closeted and a fairly young adult; it was not easy. However, this year I celebrated 30 years of being sober. I actually "came out" years ago at an AA convention in Southern New Jersey. I was asked to speak there and I went for it; I was all in. Apparently they couldn't find another transgender alcoholic that was sober, so I was elected. Most of the few hundred or so attendees in the ancillary room stayed as I spoke, but a few got up and walked out. I noticed those that walked out a bit more than those that stayed to listen. After the meeting, I went upstairs to the 24-hour meeting and stayed for a bit, then I walked down the stairs and toward the exit. I heard a voice say, "Where are you going?" I replied "Home". The reply back was, "and leaving your friends here?" I stopped and walked over to this lovely woman and was invited to sit down. This one action changed my life. That night, I met so many cool people and we had so much fun. I was deeply moved and it left an enduring impression upon me. I knew that I could be "me".

Let's talk about us. As LGBT Alcoholics, we often encounter rejection and even hate, this is very common within society at large. As a transgender Alcoholic, I sometimes find this phenomenon within the LGBT community itself. In the outside world, this attitude is so common that when someone walks away from me, my first reaction is "well, that didn't last long". It's so common that I have grown accustomed to it. There's a lot of rejection; it can be a lonely feeling as this type of thing often occurs.

Within the fellowship of AA I find the opposite to be absolutely true; I find acceptance, love and understanding. I even have true friends within the AA fellowship. It's as if the numbers become the inverse of those in society at large. Instead of hate and intolerance being the rule, within AA the opposite is realized. I would never have imagined this. It is absolutely refreshing and encouraging. The love is real.

We are on the same journey together: the spiritual, physical and mental journey of recovery. This attitude amongst those in recovery is so powerful that it actually becomes enjoyable to attend meetings and meet with others in recovery. We are so similar in this respect, we become almost indistinguishable from the next, yet we are each a bit unique. We also have healthy boundaries. It is still wise to keep the women with the women and the men with the men. This is where being trans, I identify with the feminine. This is where I find acceptance. I also find acceptance and understanding among the men except at men's meetings, those I do not attend.

So if you are interested in recovery and AA, come in and try it out. You don't need any money or to be particularly influential or even well dressed. Come as you are and just give it a try. You don't have to talk, you can show up early or late, leave early, stay or go, none of that matters at all. You don't even have to say that you are alcoholic. If someone asks, you can say I'm just here to observe and listen. I have even seen students visit the rooms of AA, listening to us and apparently working on their term papers concerning addiction, if they were welcome, then you certainly are. We don't have bosses in AA and we don't give orders to anyone. We simply want people that are afflicted, as we are, to get sober. So give us a try.

If you would like to attend a meeting from home via Zoom, there is a Monday to Friday 8:00 AM open meeting, a 7:30 AM men's meeting on Saturday morning and a 9:30 AM open meeting on Saturday. There is a 7:30 AM meeting on Sundays. The passcode and meeting ID are both the same: 609-709-8099. It is called "Morning Glory".—Patricia A.

The term "AA" and "Alcoholics Anonymous" belong to: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. New York City  
Patricia resides with her Wife Denise at their home in South Jersey.

## OCTOBER HISTORIC EVENTS IN A.A. HISTORY

**October 15, 1904 – Marty M., early AA woman, is born in Chicago.**

**October 20, 1928 – Bill wrote promise to Lois in family Bible to quit drinking. By Thanksgiving added second promise.**

**October 17, 1935 – Ebby T, Bill’s sponsor, moves in with Bill and Lois.**

**October 14, 1939 – Journal of American Medical Association gives Big Book unfavorable review.**

**October 24, 1942 – L.A. Times reports AA groups in 14 California cities.**

**October 24, 1943 – Bill & Lois start 1st major A.A. tour, returned Jan 19, 1944.**

**October 2, 1944 – Marty M. founded National Committee Education Alcoholism, later became National Council on Alcoholism.**

**October 3, 1945 – AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA.**

**October 1, 1957 – Book “A.A. Comes of Age” published.**

**October 9-11, 1969 – 1st World Service meeting held in New York with delegates from 14 countries.**

**October 10, 1970 – Lois reads “Bills Last Message” at annual dinner in NY.**

**October 5-7, 1972 – 2nd World Service meeting held in New York.**

**October 24, 1973 – Trustee’s Archives Committee of AA has its 1st meeting.**

**October 5, 1988 – Lois W. died.**

**October 8, 1988 – Memorial Service for Lois W at Stepping Stones, NY.**

**October 10, 1988 – Lois is buried next to Bill in Manchester, Vermont.**



Bill and Lois in front of Stepping Stones. A National Historic Landmark in Katonah, New York, where Bill and Lois lived and worked from 1941 until their deaths in 1971 and 1988, respectively.

## **FAMOUS QUOTES FROM BILL WILSON**

**'WE TALKED OF INTOLERANCE, WHILE WE WERE INTOLERANT OURSELVES.'**

**"WHEN I AM UNWILLING TO DO THE RIGHT THING, I BECOME RESTLESS, IRRITABLE, AND DISCONTENT."**

**"FOUR HORSEMEN-TERROR, BEWILDERMENT, FRUSTRATION, AND DESPAIR."**

**"WHEN I AM DISTURBED, IT IS BECAUSE I FIND SOME PERSON, PLACE, OR SITUATION - SOME FACT OF MY LIFE - UNACCEPTABLE TO ME, AND I CAN FIND NO SERENITY UNTIL I ACCEPT THAT PERSON, PLACE, THING, OR SITUATION AS BEING EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE AT THIS MOMENT."**

**"WHEN I AM WILLING TO DO THE RIGHT THING I AM REWARDED WITH AN INNER PEACE NO AMOUNT OF LIQUOR COULD EVER PROVIDE."**

**"IF WE STILL CLING TO SOMETHING WE WILL NOT LET GO, WE ASK GOD TO HELP US BE WILLING."**

**"THOSE EVENTS THAT ONCE MADE ME FEEL ASHAMED AND DISGRACED NOW ALLOW ME TO SHARE WITH OTHERS HOW TO BECOME A USEFUL MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE."**

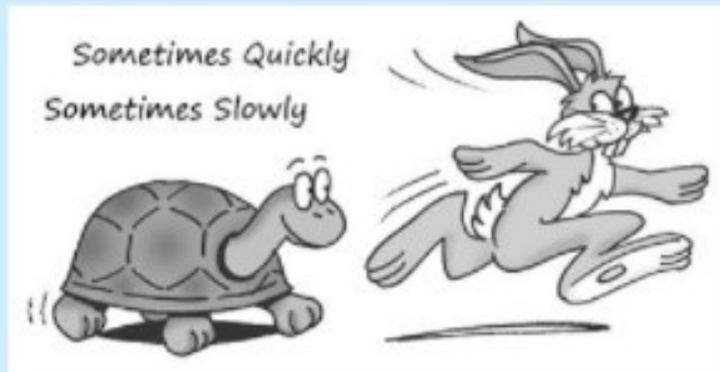
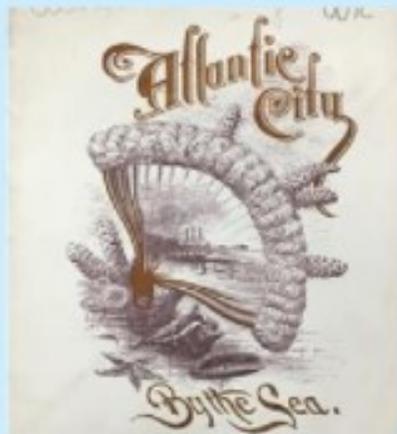
**"ADVERSITY TRULY INTRODUCES US TO OURSELVES."**

**"IT IS ALWAYS MY CHOICE."**

# 56<sup>th</sup> Area 45 General Service Convention

**LIVE** "Sometimes Quickly, Sometimes Slowly"

VIRTUAL (Key Events only)



## March 18-19-20, 2022

### *The Claridge Hotel*

123 S. Indiana Ave  
Atlantic City, NJ

[No On-Site Casino]



You must request an ASL Interpreter in your Registration



- AA Speakers
- Al-Anon Speakers
- Roaring 20's Banquet & Dance
- Sobriety Count Down
- Marathon Meetings
- Al-Anon Skit (TBD)
- Entertainment
- Selfie Stations
- AA's Got Talent (Open Mic)
- Karaoke

More to come on the website

#### Hotel Amenities

- Great Hotel Stay Discount
- \* Arcade \* Gym \*
- \*Indoor Pool \* Starbucks \*



<https://area45convention.org/>

See website for: information, sign-ups, events, activities, etc registration opens in Nov 2021