ANONYMOUS SOUTH JERSEY

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

December, 2021

STEP TWELVE

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and practice these principles in all our affairs

When I came into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, my first thought was "Oh hell no, I'm not helping anyone "! I say this because I used to try and help many family members before I got sober. Without a spiritual experience, I didn't realize God was directing their path, not me. All I could do was CARRY the message of A.A.

principles in all my daily living, but I do fall short.

I also know I can't carry this message if I haven't actually been walked through the Big Book, or done a thorough 12 Steps. I can't give away is, it's very dangerous. A spiritual experience is oldest, richest or most famous member. vital to helping others. Because if I think I am the one keeping them sober, I'm setting myself up for a relapse. My Higher Power is in charge. All I try to do is place their hand in His hand.

-Sue, How Did I Get Here Group, Wednesday Night



TRADITION TWELVE

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Just like our rest of our program, tradition twelve is highly spiritual. We remain anonymous to avoid pomp and publicity. Human nature longs for us to shout from the roof tops all of our good accomplishments. We must lay aside our pride so we can work together in unity as a whole so that A.A. can grow and multiply. Remaining anonymous to those outside our fellowship was of paramount importance because if even one of us became publicly drunk, mistrust and ridicule could cause irreparable harm to For me, I do my best in practicing these A.A.. Therefore, we must put aside our pride and egotism to maintain this tradition.

What does "principles before personalities" really mean? It means we practice honesty, humility, compassion, tolerance, and patience for everyone in A.A., whether we like them or not. Putting principles something I actually don't have. I know people before personalities instructs us to treat everyone in AA that are just two-steppers, and my opinion equally. Every member has the same rights as the

> In the forward to the first addition, it states "It is important that we remain anonymous because we are too few, at present, to handle the overwhelming number of personal appeals which may result from this publication." The thought of having thousands of alcoholics coming to A.A. for help caused real concern and fear for early A.A.s. There was not enough people or time to help every alcoholic that might reach out to them. Thankfully, this is not a big problem today.

> Even though they were ex-problem drinkers, there was still the fear of contempt and distrust. Our forefathers were overwhelmed by these thoughts. For practical reasons, we must maintain the anonymity of our fellow A.A.s. We are not a secret society, but we must uphold the integrity of A.A. by keeping our brothers and sisters in A.A. anonymous to maintain each other's trust.

-Nancy L.

More on Tradition Twelve

When is Breaking Your Anonymity Not an Anonymity Break?

While much has been written in A.A. literature about anonymity, including in a General Service Conference-approved pamphlet called "Understanding Anonymity," communications coming into the General Service Office from members of the Fellowship suggest that there remains a great deal of misunderstanding about this "spiritual foundation of all our Traditions." What follows are just a few examples of the types of inquiries that arrive through phone calls, e-mails and letters, and some of the responses from A.A. literature.

Q. "We have a member who moved here from somewhere else and he is using his last name in meetings. What should we say to this person who is breaking the Tradition of anonymity?"

A. A.A. co-founder Bill W. wrote in The Language of the Heart (p. 15) that "It should be the privilege of each individual A.A. to cloak himself with as much personal anonymity as he desires. His fellow A.A.s should respect his wishes and help guard whatever status he wants to assume." It is thus up to each individual to decide how anonymous he or she wishes to be, at any level below that of the public level. Giving your last name in an A.A. meeting is not "breaking" A.A.'s Tradition of anonymity. In fact, the author of an article in the February 1969 Grapevine magazine attributed the following to A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob, regarding personal anonymity and the Eleventh Tradition: "Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition. "The A.A. who hides his identity from his fellow A.A. by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the A.A. who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to A.A. "The former is maintaining his anonymity above the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity below the level of press, radio and films — whereas the Tradition states that we should maintain our anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." (Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, pp. 264-65)

Q. "What if I see public figures at a meeting, such as an actor or actress, or the local chief of police?"

A. "Like everyone else, public figures should have the protection of anonymity to the extent that they desire it." ("Understanding Anonymity," p. 9)

Q. "I saw an ad in the paper for an A.A. group. It told where the group was meeting and everything. Shouldn't you contact that group about breaking their anonymity at the public level?"

A. "Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks it should be anonymous, too. The (Eleventh) Tradition is talking about 'personal anonymity,' remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to A.A. if they don't know that it exists...." ("The Twelve Traditions Illustrated")

Q. "I'm not ashamed of my alcoholism and don't feel any need to keep my A.A. membership a secret. In fact, I think that my story will be able to help lots of others. I think that I should be able to use my full name in my book (or television interview, blog, Web site, etc.) when I share my A.A. experience. Why should anyone else have a problem with that?"

A. Disclosing your A.A. membership at the public level, in any publicly accessible medium, is considered a break of the A.A. Tradition of Anonymity. Bill W. wrote, in an article in The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 1, p. 278, "The old files at A.A. Headquarters reveal many scores of...experiences with broken anonymity. Most of them point up the same lessons. They tell us that we alcoholics are the biggest rationalizers in the world; that fortified with the excuse we are doing great things for A.A. we can, through broken anonymity, resume our old and disastrous pursuit of personal power and prestige, public honors, and money — the same implacable urges that when frustrated once caused us to drink...."

Q. "Why do we say that 'anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our Traditions?"

A.. "... anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187)

BOX 459News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A.® Vol. 58, No. 3 / Fall 2012

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@aasj.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-onone; 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 answeringservice@aasj.org or invite us to speak at your home group.

Several time slots opened, and we are looking for volunteers.

Sunday 8-10am and 12-2pm

Monday 4-6pm

Tuesday 4-6pm

Wednesday: 6-8 am and 10-12 noon

Saturday 8-10pm

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://aasj.org/resources-page/archives/ and submit it to Archives@aasj.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@aasj.org

Inside This Issue:

Step Twelve-Tradition Twelve

News and Events

Member's Artwork

Concepts Checklist

CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

A service piece for home groups, districts, areas

Some of these discussion points were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office. While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, districts or areas, individual A.A. members may find it useful along with our cofounder Bill W.'s writings, a service sponsor if you have one and reflection on your own service experience. Additional information about the Concepts can be found in The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" - pamphlet. (The Concepts stated here are in the short form.)

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the upside- down triangle of A.A.?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

Concept II: 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.

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the "Conference")?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

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."

- Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?
- Do we trust our trusted servants G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
- What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal," to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

Concept VI: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

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

Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

- Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse"?
- Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

Concept VIII: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

- Do we understand the relationship between the two corporate service entities (A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine) and the General Service Board?
- How can the business term "custodial oversight" apply to the trustees' relationship to the two corporate service entities?
- Does my home group subscribe to G.S.O.'s bimonthly newsletter Box 4-5-9? A.A. Grapevine? Do I?

Concept IX: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone "because it would be good for them"?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

- Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
- Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority"?

Concept XI: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- Do we understand how the roles of nontrustee directors and nontrustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right of Participation"?
- Do we practice rotation in all our service posit ions?

Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

- How do we guard against becoming a "seat of perilous wealth or power"?
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?

- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of A.A.'s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?



Spiritual Awakening and Connection!!

Artwork by John B.

56th Area 45 General Service Convention

"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]



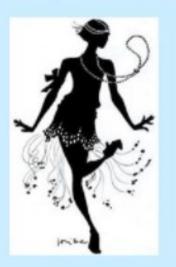
You must request an ASL Interpreter in your Registration



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

BIARRITZ (FRANCE) INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL A.A. CONVENTION

A WEEKEND EVENT - 21 – 23 JANUARY 2022
(IN ENGLISH)

HUMILITY & TOLERANCE

The attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. --As Bill Sees It

Register & receive the Zoom login URL/Password

ALL SPEAKERS; EXPERIENCED LONG-TIME AA MEMBERS,

Andrew B. (SC) Andy S. (IRL), Diane C (WLS) Bill C. (USA), Brendan JM (IRL),
Pat M. (IRL), Michael O-R (BE) John C. (IRL/USA)
Jav C (USA), James S-F (USA) & Others

Special Guest Speakers; George K. (USA), Ken R (USA), Matt W (USA), Anne de-L. (USA), Steve T (USA)

AL-Anon & YPAA, Participation

RECOVERY AND ECONOMY

NO TRAVEL! NO HOTEL! NO RESTAURANT!

'NO EXPENSE!'

WEBSITE: https://aavirtualconventionbiarritz.com contact & INFO: babanglophonegroup@gmail.com

GUIDELINES

ROOM #1 is for AA meetings

ROOM #2 is for Al-Anon meetings

- WHERE DO THE MEETINGS TAKE PLACE? See https://aavirtualconventionbiarritz.com/programme
- WHAT TIME/S ARE SPECIFIC MEETINGS AT? See https://aavirtualconventionbiarritz.com/programme
- 3, WHAT TIME IS THAT IN MY LOCAL TIME ZONE?
 See Time-zone converter <u>available here</u>
- 4, WHAT ARE THE LOGIN/PASSWORDS FOR THE ROOMS? See Logins & Passwords Page available here
- 5, VOLUNTEER TECH-HOSTS AND CO-HOSTS WELCOMED Contact email: babanglophonegroup@gmail.com
- 6, OPENING CEREMONY & PANEL / 17:00 21 JANUARY 2022 CLOSING CEREMONY & PANEL / 11:00 AM 23 JANUARY 2022
- 7, OTHER QUESTIONS, GENERAL IN NATURE.

Contact email: babanglophonegroup@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you at the event, and hope you enjoy a great time with us all.

USE YOUR PAYPAL ACCOUNT OR CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS TO REGISTER

Biarritz Virtual Convention committee, Email: babanglophonegroup@gmail.com

Attend 58th International Women's Conference - Virtually!



We invite women from all over the world to attend the 58th International Women's Conference virtually. The virtual conference will run simultaneously to the in-person event and will include opportunities to connect with the women attending in person in the host city of Santa Fe, NM. Four days of A.A. meetings, fun and fellowship!

February 2022

10-13

What is included in a virtual ticket:

- Main speakers in Santa Fe broadcast virtually straight to you.
- Live entertainment on Friday and Saturday night broadcast virtually straight to you.
- Hospitality Connection women physically attending in Santa Fe will be able to connect with women attending virtually from around the world.
- **Hybrid Panels** virtually attend select panels happening live in Santa Fe at the convention center.
- Exclusive virtual panels and workshops!
- Opportunities to be of service!
- Opportunity to purchase souvenirs on our <u>website_(U.S.</u> and Canada only).

\$10.00

Virtual Registration Fee International Credit Cards Accepted

Register Now

Attendees confirmed* for the in-person conference in Santa Fe, will also have access to the virtual conference.

The 58th International Women's Conference in Santa Fe is sold out for our in-person conference.

* Confirmed attendees are those that have paid the \$60 registration fee for the 58th IWC. Not sure if you are confirmed for in-person? Email us.

F-Troop Will be open on Christmas Day & New Year's Day @ 8 P.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church—Marsh Hall 2500 Branch Pike Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Snacks and refreshments will be provided

Come and Circle the Wagons with Us for some food, fun, & fellowship



Holiday Sale

All Grapevine Magazines Only \$1.00

Buy Several for Yourself—for Your Home Group



Holiday Sale—All Grapevine Magazines Only \$1.00

Buy Several for Yourself—for Your Home Group

To Give Away—as a Little Something for Friends

