

# ANONYMOUS SOUTHJERSEY

**SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP**

**July 2017**

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Serves Our Primary Purpose

What does the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition mean to you?

When I first came into AA, some years ago, I didn't give much thought to the passing of the basket. I was pretty fried and just glad to be sitting somewhere that people knew how I felt and wanted to help. At the meeting, the chairperson said it paid for rent, coffee,

and literature. That was good enough for me.

It wasn't until I sobered up a bit more and started attending my home group on a regular basis that things started to click. I started going to the business meeting and began to understand the importance of the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, and all the other traditions as

well. I had a really active group and felt like they just knew everything about AA! They were so smart! ☺ But really, they taught me so much about how this AA thing works. So, if you aren't going to your business meeting, you are truly doing yourself a disservice. You are missing out on growth and understanding that you can't even

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Thoughts on Service and Intergroup

*By Brett, SJIG Chair*

After serving as the Chair of South Jersey Intergroup for the past year and a half, there are a few opinions I wish to express. These are my opinions and not necessarily the opinions of SJIG or the Steering Committee.

Service is not always easy, but it is essential to the survival of AA and therefore it is essential for my survival. Service is one of our three legacies: Unity, Recovery and Service. Without my being of service to others and to my Higher Power, I will be stuck in my own head, selfish and miserable. Without service, I will drink, and for me to

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Practicing the 7<sup>th</sup> Step

*Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*

*Prior Version: Humbly, on our knees, asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*

When we did our 4<sup>th</sup> Step, assuming that we were both thorough and honest, we noticed patterns beginning to emerge as we navigated the various columns of our inventory. We could readily see the dishonesty, selfishness, and greed that was, in fact, our "mode of living". We prayed or meditated on these facets of our lives, asking to be given the strength next time to "do the right thing". As we mature in sobriety, we find that it's easier to keep doing that next right thing more

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Inside This Issue:** ♦ Tools of Recovery ♦ Opportunities for Service ♦ SJIG Trivia ♦ 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Addresses ♦ Announcements and Things to Do ♦

# Tradition Seven and Concept VII Helps Us Understand the Meaning of Prudence

As I've pointed out in prior essays, it helps in understanding a Tradition or a Concept, to look for personal applications. Tradition

Seven concerns self-support. Am I supporting myself, is the Group supporting itself, and are the Trustees of the

General Service Board supporting the conscience of the General Service Conference?

Money: too much or not enough, is the subject of Tradition Seven. Too much money—as in the large donations that would flood in to A.A. if we allowed it—and the Group would begin to lose sight of just what our primary purpose is. Too little, and we could not pay our rent or support the important activities of the General Service Conference and our local Inter-groups in being there as a vital resource for alcoholics who are suffering and do not know where to turn.

Prudence, seems to be the cornerstone principle for both Tradition Seven and Concept VII. I know that, for me personally, too much money can make me drunk: first, drunk with myself and my ego; then perhaps literally so! As it says in the Tenth Step, “big shot-tism” is and has been, a recurring problem for me. Practicing prudence with my own finances has been and is, a daily challenge.

According to Tradition Seven, not only must a Group be “self-supporting, but it must be careful to maintain only a “prudent” reserve.



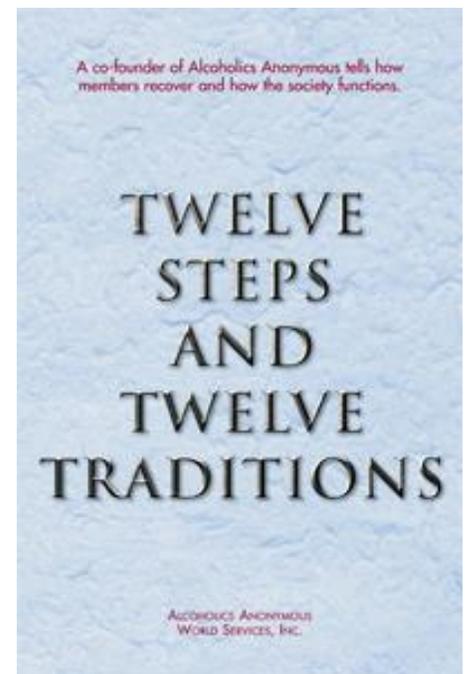
Here is a safeguard against the intra-group turmoil that can come from arguments about what to do with a large

sum of money on hand. Here is also a place to remind the Group to contribute its excess funds (“excess” here meaning, “beyond a prudent reserve for operating expenses”) up to the District, Inter-group, and the General Service Conference in New York. It is these entities that provide the life-line points of contact with the millions still out there suffering from this disease and not knowing where to turn.

Concept VII takes the principle of prudence to another level still. The Concept, while recognizing that the General Service Board Trustees are, for all intents and practical purposes, in charge of managing A.A. as an international entity, places a final “check” on any unlimited power that such responsibility might entail. It states, once and for all, that the ultimate authority within A.A. remains always with the A.A. group conscience, as that may be expressed through and by the individual group delegates to the General Service Conference. At **any** time, the General Service Conference can step in and block a proposal or

an action by the Trustees, where the Conference feels that the Trustees are just not acting prudently on a given issue. Not, of course, that this has occurred in anything but rare instances in A.A.'s history. Nevertheless “prudence”, as expressed by the General Service Conference, remains firmly enshrined in A.A.'s history and its daily functioning, and Concept VII makes that clear.

--Masonville Marty





## July Service Opportunities

reach out to the Budget & Finance Committee at [budget@asj.org](mailto:budget@asj.org) and we can include you on the committee activities now for a smooth transition.

**Newsletter Articles:** Please submit articles for the August newsletter to [newsletter@asj.org](mailto:newsletter@asj.org) by July 5th.

**Public Information:** Eileen T continues to spearhead programs with local High Schools, Doctor's offices, and local police departments. Eileen is still looking for volunteers for other programs. She can be contacted at [publicinfo@asj.org](mailto:publicinfo@asj.org). Please consider volunteering for this important service opportunity.

**Treasurer:** Intergroup will be looking for a new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for the 2018-2019 term. If you are interested in learning more about these positions please contact the Treasurer now at [treasurer@asj.org](mailto:treasurer@asj.org). Strong sobriety and interest in or experience with Quickbooks is needed for these elected positions.

### Answering Service:

Currently we have shifts open on Thursday 10am until noon, Friday 8 am to 10 am, and Wednesday 12 pm to 2 pm.

We also continue to take name for our waiting list, and are still taking AA members to sign up to be available for a 12 Step call, so please have interested people continue to contact us via [answeringservice@asj.org](mailto:answeringservice@asj.org).

**Budget and Finance:** We will need a new Budget Chair & Co-Chair for 2018-2019 term. If you are interested in either of these positions or learning more about the Budget & Finance responsibilities please

## SPEAKING COMMITMENTS

**Hospitals and Institutions (H&I)** is looking for speakers to visit the following facilities: Please contact Patti or Frank at [handi@asj.org](mailto:handi@asj.org) if you are able to take one of these commitments.

**Sunday:** Inspira – July 30

**Monday:** Ancora State Hospital - 202 Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ, 7-8 pm June 19, 26

**Tuesday:**

- Delaware House – 21 Ikea Drive, Westhampton NJ 2-3pm June 27
- Hope Hall - July 4
- Solstice - July 4

**Wednesday:**

- Unity Place I - 1 Keystone Ave, Cherry Hill NJ 12:40-1:30pm June 21, 28
- Solstice Counseling Services – 1561 Rt. 38 W, Lumberton NJ 12-1pm June 28, July 26

**Thursday:**

- Ancora State Hospital - 202 Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ 7-8pm July 6, 13
- Unity Place II – 121 S White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ 10-11:30am June 29; July 6, 20
- Daybreak -368 White Horse Pike, Atco NJ 10:30-12pm June 22, 29; July 13, 20, 27

**Saturday:**

- Cooper University Hospital Psych Unit - 1 Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ 10:30-11:30am July 15, 22
- Virtua July 1, 8, 22, 29

## Editorial Policy

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey. 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 edited for space and clarity. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

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

Please send your submissions to newsletter@asj.org.

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SJ INTERGROUP:

South Jersey Intergroup Association, Inc.  
PO Box 2514  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08035  
Office/Literature Sales: 1-856-486-4446  
Email: Info@asj.org  
Website: www.asj.org  
24-Hour Hotline 1-856-486-4444

SJIG holds its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 pm at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 1989 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ

## July Trivia Question

How do I make sure your homegroup's concerns and suggestions are heard?

*Answer next month*



**Answer to May Trivia,** Why does Intergroup keep Group History Information and how do groups submit it?

**Answer:** Your Intergroup Archives Committee can maintain your group history information so that your group can use it for anniversary celebrations or just general interest in the future. So even new groups can provide their start up information that will eventually become "history". Group History Questionnaires are available at the Intergroup Office, at Intergroup Meetings and on the Website (under resources). They can be returned by e-mail, dropped off at Intergroup, or handed to Lou S or Ian G at Intergroup.

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## Where to Mail 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions

South Jersey Intergroup  
PO Box 2514  
Cherry Hill NJ 08034

Southern NJ GSA Area 45  
PO Box 3724  
Cherry Hill NJ 08034

The General Service Office  
PO Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163-0459

## Get Out and Get Involved



**June 23-25** – 6th Annual Liberty Bell Round-up. “The Woodstock of Philadelphia”. 10 Featured Speakers. Registration: \$40. Clarion Philadelphia Airport, 76 Industrial Hwy. [libertybellroundup.com](http://libertybellroundup.com) Contact: Dave W. (610) 342-6876 | [info@libertybellroundup.com](mailto:info@libertybellroundup.com)

**Saturday Jun 24** – Moorestown meeting of the NEW LIFE Group will be celebrating 34 years. Food is at 11:30 With speakers at noon. The meeting is held at St. Matthews Church at 318 Chester Ave., Moorestown

**Sunday July 9** – Sunday Spiritual will celebrate their anniversary. They will have a continental breakfast starting at 10 am with the regular meeting to follow. Try to make it for some fun food and fellowship & a great meeting.

### Special Notice

The "**We Shall Know Peace Group**" that meets at Prince of Peace in Marlton at 12 pm, will be meeting at St. Bart's for one week this summer— **July 24-28**.

#### Step 7

From page 1

often, and our inner peace grows to the point that we would no longer even consider the “not right” thing when the situation presents itself next time.

From my own experience, as I became better at “Letting Go and Letting God”, my serenity increased incredibly, and I could handle those situations that always seemed to trip me up and send me reeling back to my “old ways”. My friends and family commented that I had a “right” to be upset with someone or something, but I found that if

I surrendered instead of becoming angry or planning retaliation, I slept a lot better, and that wasn’t the only reward. The trick for me was in avoiding that “knee-jerk” reaction I had practiced for so many years, and just taking a minute to think prior to acting. That short span of time proved to be time well spent, in terms of my comfortableness with myself. Being happy when looking at that person in the mirror in the morning is the other part of the reward. Practice, practice, practice. Eventually you’ll get it right! ;-)

--Anonymous

#### Tradition

From page 1

imagine.

Now back to the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. Why do we really pass the basket? For me, the long and short of it is to keep the doors of AA open for the next sick and suffering. Isn’t that our primary purpose? To help those who need us, just like the ones that were there for us when we came through the door.

There is much more that the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition pays for, so join your home group and find out where the money really goes...GSO, Area 45, Intergroup and maybe even the district. Then the next time you put your money in the basket, you can ask yourself if you are really contributing to the program that saved your life? Are you? Am I really giving back all that I can now that I am financially back on my feet?

Maybe, I can put a few extra bucks in the basket next time? It’s your sobriety, so how important is it to you? Enjoy life, Enjoy Sobriety, Give back!

---Patti

## Thoughts

From page 1

drink is to die. But being blessed to be the Chair of SJIG, I do not govern and I try not to control (emphasis on try).

At best, I am a trusted servant, entrusted to facilitate the smooth and effective operation of Intergroup. I have said on more than one occasion, If the service one does is always convenient, then perhaps it isn't service. A good friend reminded me of that recently, for which reminder I am grateful. Service in AA is not about getting what you want, it is about helping others, doing what is in the best interest of AA as guided by group conscience. Service is about putting the needs of others ahead of my own.

Unity requires us to work together, not fight each other. Our Twelve Traditions guide us in how to work together, starting with Tradition One – personal recovery depends on AA unity (it's not about me), and, Tradition Two – a

loving God expressed through group conscience, through Tradition Twelve – anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions (it's not about me). At SJIG, the Steering Committee, which is comprised of the elected panel (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Ass't. Treasurer, Secretary and Ass't. Secretary), Trustees, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, meets once a month to discuss the details of the day to day operations of SJIG. Some of the Committees have monthly meetings as well as discuss the efforts of those Committees. The reports of each Committee and the minutes of Steering Committee are distributed at the regular Intergroup meeting, attended by the Intergroup Representatives, so that business may be conducted, questions may be asked and actions of the Committees and Steering may be communicated to the participating home groups. Without the participating home groups, there is no Intergroup. Intergroup is the coming together (Unity) of volunteers (Service) to carry the AA message (Recovery).

SJIG has experienced increased participation over the past few years, thanks in large part to the efforts of our Unity Committee, which has brought in new Intergroup Representatives. I am grateful for the service of each Intergroup Representative, our Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, our Trustees and the members of the elected panel. Thank you for your service. SJIG has many opportunities for service.

In six months, SJIG will need new elected panel members, new Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, and new Trustees. You could be one of them! Now is the time to start thinking about getting more involved, doing more service, giving of yourself and your time a bit more. Or don't wait until elections, join a committee. Participate! If you are an Intergroup Representative and feel that all you do is pass along to your home group the Intergroup minutes and a few anniversary flyers, that is important service, but you have the opportunity to do so much more.



## Built by the One and the Many

It is not only to the few that we owe the remarkable developments in our unity and in our ability to carry A. A.'s message everywhere. It is to the many; indeed it is to the labors of all of us that we owe this prime blessing

*As Bill Sees It, page 155*