

DISTRICT 35 AA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020



Recovery, Unity, Service

Step 9:

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Long Form of Tradition 9

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Concept 9:

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Most District 35 meetings are back to meeting in person! We went many months on the "online", but we are happy to be reunited and connected once more, in the flesh! Our fellowship remains intact after all that's gone on in the world, well here in District 35 anyways. I want to say kudos to all the District 35 Groups who did their best at navigating this pandemic, and coming together not only as separate groups but as a district. You continued to carry the message, and you stayed sober doing it!

As summer comes to an end, we would have had a Round-Up to look forward to, but because of current world events this will not be able to happen. The Special Events Committee will be awaiting changes to the COVID-19 Health Orders, so they could organize some type of Round-Up/Gratitude Night. In light of that news, there is one thing to look forward to and that would be the Area 78 Fall Assembly happening on September 18-20. It will be held online much like the May ACM, which was hosted by your very own District 35 (Please see information for the Fall Assembly below).

Let us continue to be resilient during these times,

Your District 35 DCM,
Riane P.



Area 78 Fall Assembly.

Will be held online September 18th-20th, 2020

If you are a GSR of your home group, it would be a wonderful idea for you to attend the assembly and witness and partake in the happenings of AA at the Area Level.

It will be an enhanced and entertaining online assembly experience. With Committee Meetings, ACM bid presentations, PowerPoints, breakout rooms, and musical interludes and more.

You will need to REGISTER, if you wish to attend. You can access the agenda and link to register on the Area 78 Website (www.area78aa.org)

WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE
REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A.
ALWAYS TO BE THERE.
AND FOR THAT, I AM
RESPONSIBLE.

Alcoholics Anonymous

**HONESTY WITH
OURSELVES AND OTHERS
GETS US SOBER, BUT IT IS
TOLERANCE THAT KEEPS
US THAT WAY**

- BILL W.

“

*“An honest regret for
harms done, a genuine
gratitude for blessings
received, and a
willingness to try for
better things tomorrow
will be the permanent
assets we shall seek.”*

*~ Twelve Steps and Twelve
Traditions
p. 95*

THE 9TH STEP PROMISES

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us—sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.



A.A. Historical Events in September

- Sept 1 1939** – First AA group founded in Chicago.
- Sept 11 2001** – 30 Vesey St, New York. Location of AA's first office is destroyed during the World Trade Center attack.
- Sept 12 1942** – U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob.
- Sept 13 1937** – Florence R, first female in AA in NY.
- Sept 13 1941** – WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA.
- Sept 17 1954** – Bill D, AA #3 dies.
- Sept 18 1947** – Dallas Central Office opens its doors.
- Sept 19 1965** – The Saturday Evening Post publishes "Alcoholics Can Be Cured Despite AA"
- Sept 19 1975** – Jack Alexander, author of original Saturday Evening Post article, dies.
- Sept 21 1938** – Bill W. & Hank P. form Works Publishing Co.
- Sept 24 1940** – Bill 12th steps Bobbie V., who later replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY.
- Sept 30 1939** – article in Liberty magazine, "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey.

Other significant events which occurred in September, but for which we do not have a specific date:

- 1930** – Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking
- 1939** – Group started by Earl T. in Chicago.
- 1940** – AA group started in Toledo by Duke P. & others.
- 1940** – Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases gives Big Book unfavorable review.
- 1946** – Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.
- 1946** – First A.A. group in Mexico.
- 1948** – Bob writes article for Grapevine on AA, "Fundamentals In Retrospect".
- 1949** – First issue of A.A. Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size.

"HOW HAS HELPING OTHERS BEEN A CORNERSTONE IN YOUR RECOVERY?"

Step 12 says, 'Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.' I have to try to help. I don't always get it right. I aim to grow in understanding and effectiveness. I'm sure there are people I've spoken to at a meeting, or met in a detox centre, or talked to on the phone briefly, who found help because of something I said/did or someone else said/did later. It's important to show up and carry the message, to try and talk about the program and recovery from alcoholism through the twelve steps. My friend in California, Clancy I, died on Aug. 24 2020 with over 62 years of sobriety. Clancy helped thousands of alcoholics recover and worked tirelessly. He helped me when I was a newcomer, whether he knew it or not, when he told me and a group of young people, "you are the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank God I'm going to be dead!" If I compare myself to Clancy, I've helped a small number of people. But I will keep trying to carry the message with a sense of humour and good faith like those who went before me did. - Joe L.

Helping others is what keeps me sober, one hundred percent. It allows me to use my story to help others find their way in sobriety. Connecting with other people who have similar experiences and I'm learning that you can go through anything with the help of the fellowship. I love seeing some light up when they start to connect with themselves and their higher power. I try to give what was given to me when I first arrived. It's my way of showing gratitude and being apart of the fellowship. - Nicole L.

I have so much gratitude to have the God given program and the people of Alcoholics Anonymous in my life today! I'm grateful that I made it here alive. The first guy I used with didn't and over the years have watched many friends and family not make it. We recently lost a cousin to alcohol. When confronted with the loss of a friend or family member to alcohol I wonder what they were thinking at the end. Were they experiencing the loneliness that I experienced at the jumping off point? The loneliness that few will know. I have that connection with our friends that don't make it. Through the grace of God I was 12th stepped to my first meeting through an AA commercial. I could relate to what the blacked out faces were talking about. I learned early on in the fellowship that 12 step work is an avocation (part time) and I had to give it away to keep it. I was fortunate enough to have people around me that pushed me into doing service work. I finally realized that I was a part of something. By working the steps and continually searching and seeking for the God of my understanding, the root of my old self is being removed. Passing on the message seems so natural today and you never know when you will come across someone who needs to talk. It happens in the strangest places. Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. Helping others is the Foundation stone of our recovery. A kindly act once in a while isn't enough. From Working With Others chapter 7. Bill W loved to use words like stone, cement, bedrock, foundation to describe the steps.

Love and Peace,

Phil

Area 78 Grapevine Writing Workshop!

September 12, 1:00 to 3:00 pm



For an afternoon of reflection and creativity, plus everything you wanted to know about getting your stories, pics, art into the Grapevine!

Zoom info: 708-555-5414