

DELEGATE's Corner

**Carrying Our Message
Beyond Your Home Group**

Dear Members of Area 09:

Please receive greetings from your A.A.W.S. Board of Directors!

As you may know, the A.A.W.S. Board has been spending a great deal of time focusing on the future of G.S.O. and how best to serve the Fellowship. Specifically, with respect to self-support, they realized that they could do a better job informing the Fellowship of how member contributions are used to carry our life-saving message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

To this end, they have created the attached "7th Tradition in Action" fact sheet which we trust will better convey to the Fellowship where and how the "dollar in the basket" is being used. **

There are some plans to make better use of Box 4-5-9, the A.A. Grapevine, the contribution acknowledgements, and aa.org to communicate to the Fellowship examples of the "7th Tradition in Action"-stories that we hope will better convey where and how the "dollar in the basket" is being used. Please feel free to send in your own 7th Tradition in Action story.

You can send your stories to A.A.W.S. by email or regular mail to Seven Tradition Stories:

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1100, NY, NY 10115 / wilsons@aa.org.

Service is legacy of love
Cesar F. Panel 64 Delegate Area 09

EDITOR'S NOTE -- "7TH TRADITION IN ACTION" FOLLOWS
AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

**AREA 09
UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 8 -Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 17

November 14 -Saturday
SERVATHON
Hosted by District 1

December 13 -Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 30

December 15 - DEADLINE
66th Conference Agenda Items

January 10 - Sunday
AREA ASSEMBLY



**Congratulations ...
Panel 66**

- Delegate - Joe C - District 5
- Alt Delegate - Jesus O - District 21
- Chairman - Ramon D - District 2
- Secretary - Ed L - District 19
- Treasurer A/P - Diane C - District 12
- Treasurer A/R - Leandro C - District 20
- Registrar - Ryan B - District 5

ANONYMITY WORKSHOP -Carlos – DCMC, District 10

June 27, 2015 – Area 09 Districts 10, 15 and 5 hosted a round table workshop on anonymity. Sharon D. (past District 10 Event Planning Committee Chair and DCMC) had the vision of doing an Anonymity Workshop for a couple of years. Her persistent passion for this event drove it into manifestation this past June. More than ever, anonymity is a topic that needs great attention in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The 4-hour Workshop started with Jeryl T. (past Delegate- Area 09) sharing ideas on anonymity. Raising the question “Are we being too anonymous?” he reminded us that our anonymity should remain 100% at the level of press, radio and films, but not in meetings or anywhere someone is suffering and needs the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous. Fueled by donuts, coffee and pizza, the members then moved into round tables on 6 different anonymity topics. Below is a summary of each table’s strongest bullet points of shared experience, strength and hope.

ROUNDTABLES

1. TRADITION 11- MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO AND FILMS
 - Disclosing your own anonymity anywhere other than press, radio and films is up to the individual.
 - Sponsors should teach sponsees the traditions and principals of A.A.
 - Humility is the foundation and our ego needs to stay out of the way so we can help others.
 - We need to remain willing to disclose our anonymity and not be afraid if it will help anyone.
2. TRADITION 12- WHY IS ANONYMITY THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR TRADITIONS?
 - There are 2 sides to anonymity- practical and spiritual. In Tradition 11 it is about the practical and in Tradition 12 it is about the spiritual.
 - “It is not about my personal accomplishments. It is about my spiritual experience. I am part of the whole. To remove the ego and insert humility takes sacrifice, and that is spiritual.”
 - Doing what is best for A.A. as a whole is very spiritual.
 - Don't gossip. Don't break others anonymity. These things chase newcomers away. What is said here stays here.
 - Personal recovery depends on A.A. unity. The **I** depends on the **WE**.

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A.A. HISTORY NOVEMBER

Nov 1

1947 - First AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska.

1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies.

Nov 3

2001 - J. P. Miller who wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died.

Nov 9

1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the first National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.

Nov 10

1940 - First AA group formed in Minneapolis.

2001 - First of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail.

Nov 11

1934 - Armistice Day; Bill started drinking after dry spell, beginning of Bill's last drunk.

Nov 12

1940 - First AA meeting is held in Boston.

Nov 13

1939 - Bill wants to go to work at Towns hospital. NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement.

Nov 14

1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes first AA Bulletin.

Nov 15

1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions.

Nov 16

1950 - Dr. Bob dies.

Nov 18

1946 - First Dublin Ireland group meeting.

Nov 21

1939 - AAs in San Francisco hold first California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel.

1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies.

Nov 26

1895 - Bill W. born in East Dorsett, VT.

1939 - Dilworth Lupton gave sermon "Mr. X and Alcoholics Anonymous" becoming one of first pamphlets on AA.

Nov 28

1939 - Hank P. writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

3. ANONYMITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Social media helps members find meetings and Facebook can help members find people that are on the amends list.
- Social media is here to stay. We need to explore ways to use it to our advantage.
- Are we teaching the traditions to our newcomers?
- Are the newer members learning the traditions?
- It is up to each member to protect their own anonymity and the anonymity of others.
- “Now that I am familiar with the traditions, I will not post anything on Facebook about A.A.”
- Private Facebook pages can be used to our advantage.

4. WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE MEET SOMEONE IN PERSON IN PUBLIC?

- You can ask someone if they are a friend of Bill W. when you are around other people.
- You can tell an outside person that you met through a mutual friend.
- Always be concerned about other members’ privacy. Respect them.
- Educate other members by sharing your experiences about anonymity in meetings.
- Let people know it is inappropriate to take pictures in the meeting. Tell them you need to ask before taking pictures. You can post signs in meeting places to remind people to respect anonymity.
- “Since I am OK with identifying myself as recovered at work, some people have come to me for support and advice with alcohol and recovery related issues.”
- If family members know you are in A.A., educate them on what you would want them to say or not say to other people about it.
 - The first two A.A. members broke their anonymity to help others.

5. WHEN IS IT APPROPRIATE TO DISCLOSE YOUR A.A. MEMBERSHIP?

- It is never appropriate to break another person’s anonymity.
- It is not appropriate at a job interview!!!
- It is not appropriate when it is coming from your ego or when you are boasting.
- Pray about it and ask your higher power if you don't know.

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A.A. HISTORY NOVEMBER ... continued

Nov 28

1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943).

November without specific dates:

1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill.

1936 - Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become AA #3 in NY with Bill W and Hank P.

1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 - Akron group withdraws from association with Oxford Group. Meetings moved from T. Henry & Clarence W to Dr. Bob's and other members' homes.

1941 - "First Mass AA Meeting" in Oklahoma City. Eight were present, 1 was drunk.

1945 - Bill's article called 'Those Goof Balls' published in *Grapevine*.

1986 - Big Book published in paperback.



“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. “

We usually conclude the period of meditation with a prayer that we be shown all through the day what our next step is to be, that we be given whatever we need to take care of such problems. We ask especially for freedom from self-will, and are careful to make no request for ourselves only. We may ask for ourselves, however, if others will be helped. We are careful never to pray for our own selfish ends. Many of us have wasted a lot of time doing that and it doesn't work. You can easily see why.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 88

- It is appropriate when it will help another alcoholic who is suffering.
 - It is appropriate to tell your doctor!!!
6. PRINCIPALS, PERSONALITIES AND ANONYMITY
- Principals: values, visions, goals, unite us, make us 'a part of', are what is best for A.A. as a whole
 - Personalities: characteristics, character defects, ego, opinions, experience
 - Anonymity: protects A.A., attractive to the newcomer, practiced with humility

I hope reading this small collection of thoughts on anonymity has helped you to learn more about what anonymity means to you personally and A.A. as a whole. Sharon was able to be at the workshop which was such a blessing. On August 23rd, she left us to be with her Higher Power. We will all miss Sharon dearly. She was always in love and service.

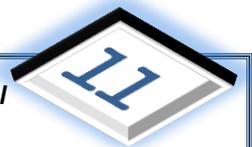
We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.

- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187



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

This concept recognizes that the trusted servants who work for the various AA entities need to be carefully selected because they will have the most day-to-day contact with members and others interested in AA. The Twelve Concepts of World Service specifically mentions the nominating, budgetary, public information, literature and general policy committees as requiring people with very specific skills and outlooks.



"Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us." (Long Form)

"So, the 11th Tradition stands sentinel over the lifelines, announcing that there is no need for self-praise, that it is better to let our friends recommend us, and that our whole public relations policy, contrary to usual customs, should be based upon the principle of *attraction* rather than promotion. Shot in the arm methods are not for us -- no press agents, no promotional devices, no big names. The hazards are too great. Immediate results will always be illusive because easy shortcuts to notoriety can generate permanent and smothering liabilities.

More and more, therefore, are we emphasizing the principle of personal anonymity as it applies to our public relations. We ask of each other the highest degree of personal responsibility in this respect. As a movement, we have been, before now, tempted to exploit the names of our well known public characters. We have rationalized that other societies, even the best, do the same. As individuals, we have sometimes believed that the public use of our names could demonstrate our personal courage in the face of stigma; so lending power and conviction to news stories and magazine articles.

But these are not the allures they once were. Vividly, we are becoming aware that no member ought to describe himself in full view of the general public as an A.A., even for the most worthy purpose, lest a perilous precedent be set which would tempt others to do likewise for purposes not so worthy. We see that on breaking anonymity by press, radio or pictures, anyone of us could easily transfer the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous over onto any enterprise or into the midst of any controversy.

So, it is becoming our code that there are things that no A.A. ever does, lest he divert A.A. from its sole purpose and injure our public relations. And thereby the chances of those sick ones yet to come."

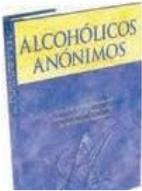
- Bill W.

A.A. Grapevine, October, 1948

YOUR SEVENTH TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS

Carrying Our Message beyond Your Home Group

When you or your home group contributes to the General Service Office (G.S.O.) your contribution helps an alcoholic around the corner or around the world. Here are some of the ways that happens:



1 The G.S.O. Publishing Department has coordinated translations of the Big Book in 68 languages and translations of other A.A. literature in more than 80 languages. Further translations are constantly in process.

2 Each year G.S.O. staff responds to over 90,000 emails, letters, and phone calls from A.A. members, suffering alcoholics, professionals, students, the press and others interested in A.A. Thus accurate and consistent information about A.A. is provided.



3 Staff communications often help someone find local A.A. meetings, link members in service, and support the start of A.A. in countries where there are no A.A. meetings.

4 G.S.O. maintains and updates the aa.org website that averages over 30,000 visits per day. The website provides information about A.A., including how to find A.A. in their community, and provides help to members and those seeking help with their drinking problem, as well as to families and friends of problem drinkers, and professionals.

5 G.S.O.'s Publishing Department publishes and distributes all A.A. Conference-approved literature. Approximately 8 million books, pamphlets, video and audio products are distributed annually. Some of this literature is specifically designed for sight- or hearing-impaired members. *Box 4-5-9*, news and notes from G.S.O., is published four times a year in English, French and Spanish.



6 G.S.O. coordinates the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting Correspondence Service (LIM)*, which is often the only link to A.A. for many A.A. members in remote areas, homebound, or deployed in active military service.

7 The Corrections coordinator at G.S.O. responds to over 6,500 letters a year, primarily from incarcerated alcoholics. Letters often request literature and many express gratitude for a Big Book supplied or a link to an outside member who can take a soon-to-be released alcoholic to his or her first meeting on the outside.



8 G.S.O.'s Corrections staff member also coordinates a Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), which each year connects over 1,000 alcoholics behind the walls with outside members in order to share A.A. recovery by mail. *Sharing From Behind the Walls*, containing excerpts from inmate letters to G.S.O., is printed four times a year.



9 The G.S.O. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities desk responds to letters and communications from residents or patients in treatment centers and connects them with local committees. The staff member on this assignment supports groups and members in making the A.A. message receivable to alcoholics with special needs.

10 Professionals are frequently the first contact for an alcoholic seeking help. The Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) staff member at G.S.O. provides information about A.A. to hundreds of professionals each year, often sending them basic literature. This assignment also coordinates A.A. exhibits at over 25 national conferences of professionals in various fields each year and publishes the newsletter *About A.A.* for professionals.



11 The Public Information desk coordinates the production and broadcast of audio and video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to help reach the still-suffering alcoholics. Each year PSAs produced by Public Information are broadcast on television and radio. The most recent PSA, *Tengo Esperanza (I Have Hope)*, was viewed approximately 30,000 times the first year of its release. The Public Information staff member also responds to approximately 600 emails per month from the press and other media, A.A. members and the general public.



12 G.S.O.'s Archives documents the activities of Alcoholics Anonymous for the future and makes the history of the Fellowship accessible to A.A. members and other researchers. Each year the Archives staff responds to over 1,500 requests for information and research. *Markings: Your Archives eNewsletter*, an electronic newsletter, is published three times a year.

General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 • www.aa.org