
Q I A A NEWS

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JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2010

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. FOR **MEETING BOOK SALES** AND A LIMITED SUPPLY OF **HARD-COVER BIG BOOKS AND STEP BOOKS. INSTITUTIONS LITERATURE IS AVAILABLE ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.**

2009 Thanksgiving and Holiday Shareathons

The Steering Committee of Queens Intergroup wishes to thank everyone who participated in the two Shareathons and helped make it a success!

Whether you participated by your presence at a meeting, sharing your story, a financial contribution, availability for Twelfth Step work, or help setting up or breaking down the room, YOU helped keep alcoholics, including yourself, sober during the two holiday seasons last year.

The following article is from the July 2006 issue of **MIRUS: Minneapolis Intergroup Recovery Unity Service**, Greater Minneapolis Intergroup, St. Louis Park, MN 55426-3112 www.aaminneapolis.org. Reprinted with permission.

Tradition Seven

"The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money and authority. "

Thanks to our Twelve Traditions and, most importantly, our Seventh Tradition, we will cover the financial obligations ourselves, as members of Alcoholics Anonymous; we will not depend on anyone outside our fellowship to foot the bill.

A 1960 dollar in the hat today is really only worth twenty-seven cents in 2006. Essentially if you are still putting a dollar in the AA hat, it's only 27 cents. Doesn't leave much for the group to pay its rent let alone participate in the obligations of helping drunks find sobriety within our service entities.

Of course, if you're a small group of five or six members, it's almost impossible to meet the group's expenses on a dollar let alone anything else. Yet, I know when I go out for fellowship after the meeting, pie and coffee cost five or six dollars. At one meeting I attend, the group pays for an ASL interpreter for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing; I notice that a good number of members put anywhere from \$2 to \$5 dollars in the hat to help defray this special 12th Step service. It also allows the group to

pay a reasonable amount of rent to the church; in addition the treasurer reports each month how the 7th Tradition funds are being spent. After expenses this group sends their remaining funds as follows:

50% Minneapolis Intergroup, 30% General Service Office, 10% General Service District and 10% Southern Minnesota Area Assembly, all of which AA service entities are helping alcoholics find AA. Then they report their one month prudent reserve is intact for the next month's expenses.

I believe, in essence, if I communicate to my friends in the fellowship that the 1963 dollar doesn't provide us with more than twenty-seven cents, many members will start to contribute two or three dollars in the hat at their home group or any other AA meeting they attend.

I think most of us agree that many newcomers arrive in the rooms of AA without a dollar to their name, and we don't have dues. Eventually these same newcomers get jobs, pay off their bills, start buying newer cars etc. Then it seems that expanding beyond the twenty-seven cent dollar for 2006 might get the attention of those members who certainly can afford phones, payroll, and other necessary expenses that are needed to maintain your service office.

In short, we derive our ability to maintain financial self support and to provide vital services from the Groups and Members we serve. Intergroup's financial policy requires us to maintain both an operating and prudent reserve.

For the past several years your office along with the present and past Boards have been working to fully fund the reserve. Your office manager and staff have worked diligently to reduce expenses without sacrificing services. Operating on the principals of self support means we take care of our financial obligations on time. In addition we maintain accurate financial records, and report our financial position to the fellowship at the Reps meeting each month.

For the past four years Intergroup has been operating financially soundly. Each month we report to your IGR that our bills are being paid. We also report that our prudent reserve is not fully funded in accordance with our financial policy. In order to accomplish this we continue to rely on the voluntary contributions of the Groups and Members we serve. We entrust that through the "power of the purse" that there is a place where money and spirituality mix.

Just as the fellowship entrusts the day to day operations of Intergroup to its paid special workers and elected Board, with it comes the faith that the fellowship of the Greater Minneapolis area will continue to support the vital services that ensure the availability of recovery for those yet to come.

Thank You for your contributions in maintaining our Vital Services.
Yours in Service,
Jeff N.
Board Chair, Minneapolis Intergroup

'GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM'

"The phrase 'God As We Understood Him' is perhaps the most important expression to be found in our whole A.A. vocabulary," wrote Bill W. "Within the compass of these five significant words there can be included every kind and degree of faith, together with the positive assurance that each of us may choose his own. Scarcely less valuable to us are those supplemental expressions—'A Higher Power' and 'A Power Greater Than Ourselves.' For all who deny, or seriously doubt a deity, these frame an open door over whose threshold the unbeliever can take his first easy step into a reality hitherto unknown to him — the realm of faith."

People from other traditions echo this insight. "Alcoholics Anonymous is not a religion and cannot take the place of religion," writes Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski in "Spirituality, Prayer, the Twelve Steps and Judaism." The rest of his essay presents Jewish teachings that resonate with each of the Twelve Steps.

Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, who was the innovative and energetic rector of Calvary Church in New York City, said, "The Twelve Steps are one of the very great summaries and organic collections of spiritual truth known to history. They have an almost universal relevance."

In support of this idea, Bill W. related a story in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (p. 81), about a letter that had been received at A.A.'s General Service Office: "A minister in Thailand wrote, 'We took A.A.'s Twelve Steps to the largest Buddhist monastery in this province, and the head priest said, *Why, these Steps are fine! For us as Buddhists, it might be slightly more acceptable if you had inserted the word 'good' in your Steps instead of 'God.'* Nevertheless, you say that it is *God as you understand Him, and that must certainly include the good. Yes, A.A.'s Twelve Steps will surely be accepted by the Buddhists around here.'*"

From "About AA, A Newsletter for Professionals," Winter 2009.
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QUARTERLY EXCHANGE & INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH 2010

SCHEDULE:

8:00 A.M. EXCHANGE MEETING
9:00 A.M. REPRESENTATIVES BREAKFAST
9:15 A.M. NEW REPRESENTATIVES ORIENTATION
9:30 A.M. INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

164-02 GOETHALS AVENUE JAMAICA NY

TWO BLOCKS SOUTH OF UNION TURNPIKE ON 164TH STREET

GROUP DONATIONS WELCOME !!

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING, OR MAIL DONATIONS TO...

QIAA PO Box 754088 FOREST HILLS NY 11375-9088

...IT'S **YOUR** INTERGROUP... ...PLEASE **SUPPORT** IT!!

TRADITION TWELVE

In 1954, co-founder Bill W. was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale University. In a letter dated February 2, 1954 to then-university secretary Reuben A. Holden, Bill explained why he had to decline the degree:

"Were I to accept, the near term benefit to Alcoholics Anonymous and to legions who still suffer our malady would, no doubt, be worldwide and considerable. I am sure that such a potent endorsement would greatly hasten public approval of A.A. everywhere. Therefore, none but the most compelling of reasons could prompt my decision to deny Alcoholics Anonymous an opportunity of this dimension.

"Now this is the reason: The Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous—our only means of self-government—entreats each member to avoid all of that particular kind of personal publicity or distinction which might link his name with our society in the general public mind. A.A.'s Tradition Twelve reads as follows: 'Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of

all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.'

"Because we have already had much practical experience with this vital principle, it is today the view of every thoughtful A.A. member that if, over the years ahead, we practice this anonymity absolutely, it will guarantee our effectiveness and unity by heavily restraining those to whom public honors and distinctions are but the natural stepping-stones to dominance and personal power.

"Like other men and women, we A.A.s look with deep apprehension upon the vast power struggle about us, a struggle in myriad forms that invades every level, tearing society apart. I think we A.A.s are fortunate to be acutely aware that such forces must never be ruling among us, lest we perish altogether.

"The Tradition of personal anonymity - and no honors at the public level - is our protective shield. We dare not meet the power temptation naked."

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