

The Lifeline



January 2018

24-Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 54 Issue 1

Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.

My name is Marc S., and I am an alcoholic.

This having been established, I nevertheless wanted to share with those that would receive them some ruminations on the First Step. As with many of us, I feel that I will always be a student in the Program of A.A. until the day I enter eternity, God willing a gratefully sober individual. Thus, having been through certain Steps with my Sponsor and others I still continue to review what I have heard, seen, and learned in the past. For me, there is no substitute for experience in the learning process.

Having begun drinking alcoholically later in life, it became a real problem with alarming swiftness. I had no idea what was taking place and my head spun like a top, save for when I was blacked out. Ultimately, as I began to lose everything, even almost my life, I realized I had a problem. This was an enormous admission from someone that was expected to attain great heights in American society.

A problem? I had a plethora of difficulties. Wasn't alcohol the answer? I sought professional help from a variety of sciences and qualified people. Some said I was an alcoholic, some said I was not. Some even said I wasn't a "real" alcoholic." I have yet to figure that one out.

All along this ever more miserable road my drinking and misery increased, but I also began to pray for a solution, still wondering whether I was an alcoholic or not.

Over the course of time, still waiting for that lightning bolt of revelation as to my condition, I found my way into the rooms of A.A. Disheveled; malodorous, hungry, and ultra-hungover I listened to the people as they shared. More importantly, I watched how they behaved and dealt with one another. They spoke with me one-on-one and in small groups before and after the meetings, and informed me that I would have to make my own determination as to my condition.

I really did want something far simpler, but at that time everything was complicated. So, with their help, I began to reflect upon my life, even going as far back as childhood. I found out that over time I had developed behaviors noxious to my soul, my mind, and my body, and that later when alcohol and I discovered one another, we complemented each other, although it was **not** a match made in Heaven.

In taking that First Step, I discovered that never in my life had I ever touched alcohol save for the effect. Later on, the only effect I desired was to pass out. Ultimately, any time I came into contact with alcohol I wound up losing, suffering, and causing others to suffer. I could not control it, and did not want to. I was powerless.

I had made my diagnosis. I was and I am an alcoholic. And the miraculous solution I had hoped and prayed for so long had been right under my nose the whole time. My situation began to improve drastically, one day at a time.

Since coming into the program, life has not been a bed of roses, but how beautiful it has been to walk about freely and breathe the fresh air whatever the season, with alcohol out of my system and, believe it or not helping others to find sobriety. Imagine, a drunk like me helping others.

- Marc S., Intergroup Volunteer

St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup, Inc.
608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102

Web Site: www.aastpaul.org

E-mail: lifeline@aastpaul.org

Fax: 651-290-0209

Office Hours: Monday through Friday — 9 AM to 6 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM

Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

I went to a meeting last week that taught me the importance of the First Tradition. Some time ago this group had decided to discuss one Step every month. They were on the Tenth Step that month, and I was looking forward to hearing everyone's experience, strength, and hope.

The chairperson started the meeting in the usual way, but then introduced his own topic. I asked him about the group's decision to discuss a Step every month. He said he knew about that, but he wanted to talk about something else. The rest of the people in the meeting didn't seem to care, and it wasn't my home group, so I didn't feel in a position to argue. The chairperson went on to talk about a relative who had checked into a treatment center. As I sat there pouting, I began to think about Bill W.'s analogy in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. He said that the AA group is like a lifeboat. If everyone in the lifeboat is to survive, then everyone needs to stick together. I carried the analogy further. If a group follows the past experiences of our Fellowship (the Steps and the Traditions), it will be following in the wake of other boats. It will have a smoother ride.

The chairperson of that meeting was steering the boat. When he introduced his own topic, it was as if he took out a chainsaw and cut off his portion of the boat. He set the boat adrift. The next person talked about her concern for the way her daughter-in-law was raising the grandchildren. She took out another chainsaw and cut off her portion of the boat. The boat continued to break up as people brought up topics that had little to do with the common welfare of the group. As a group, they not only lost their ability to stay afloat, but they also lost their effectiveness in pulling in others who were still suffering.

After the meeting, I talked with a lady who had been sober and coming to meetings for nine months, but was about to check herself into an outpatient treatment program. Apparently she wasn't getting what she needed to stay sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

My home group has a group conscience statement that's read at the beginning of every meeting. Part of it reads, "The format for our meeting tonight will be the discussion of a Step or Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous. In keeping with AA's First Tradition, we respectfully ask that you confine your remarks to only the Step or Tradition being discussed. Other problems may be discussed after the meeting if you wish."

When I first started attending my home group, that statement really bothered me--because I wanted to talk about whatever moved me.

Today I see that statement as saying, "Please check your chainsaw at the door."

-Brian H., Eau Claire, Wisconsin

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The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup, Incorporated. It is about, by, and for groups and members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. We welcome articles on a Step, Tradition, or Concept, in addition to descriptions of personal experience. We also welcome cartoons and drawings expressing the wry side of our A.A. experience.

Please email your article to lifeline@aastpaul.org, or send it by regular mail to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 608 Seventh Street West, St. Paul MN 55102. Materials or articles mailed to us cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length, and content that might violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc.

Thoughts From Your Board

Our group representatives held elections for Board positions at the November meeting. If you're thinking, "ho-hum," think again! The first Member-at-Large position came down to names being thrown in a hat. I am thrilled to see this kind of interest in serving on the Board. All open positions are filled for 2018!

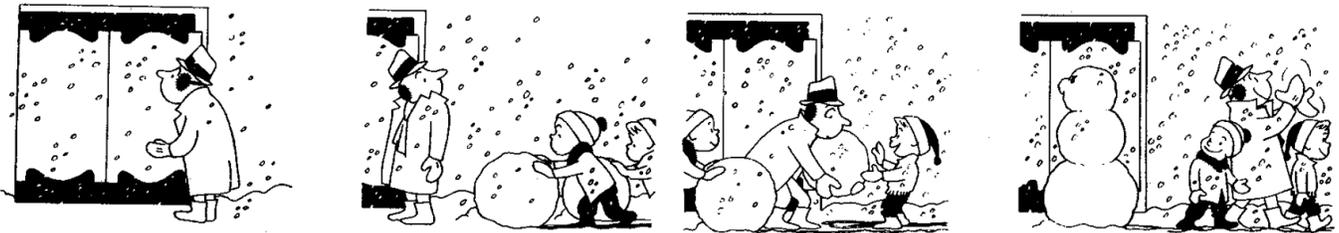
Elections for Intergroup Board and general service positions are something to behold. The Third Legacy Procedure for elections described in the AA Service Manual sounds like something out of a complicated board game (shout out to group rep Adam for that one). Three colors of ballots are issued, a two-thirds number is determined, requests for nominations are issued three times, and if things get really exciting, names are thrown in a hat! It is a fun and fascinating process. If you've never seen it in action, I encourage you to represent one of your meetings at Intergroup or in general service. This kind of service to Alcoholics Anonymous gives you a chance to see our 12 Concepts of Service in action.

Early in my recovery, I thought AA was all about me getting what I needed out of AA. Through service work, I've learned that AA is so much bigger than that. We have traditions and concepts to make certain AA as a whole survives to serve the newcomer. Today, the steps, the traditions, and the concepts all play a part in my recovery. Through them, I realize that I am just a small part of the whole of AA.

As I close out my year of serving as Intergroup Board Chair, I am so grateful to have had this opportunity. In 2018, I will serve my final year, taking on the role of Advisor to the Board. AA's spirit of rotation allows others to step forward in service. And that is as it should be.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

- Jenni S., 2017 Board Chair

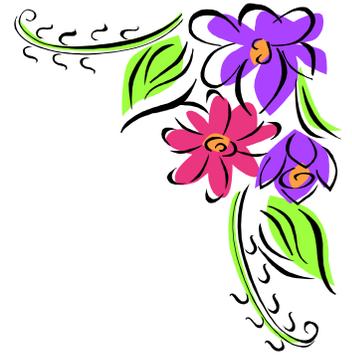


(Victor E. Cartoon reprinted with permission, Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc.)

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

As early as we can remember, most of us have felt 'not a part of.' We hear that all the time in AA. So, it should come as no surprise that the principles of full equality and participation are the first elements in both the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. We insist upon it!

It really doesn't matter if we are talking about a family, and AA group, or our Fellowship as a whole. These two principles of equality and participation (really just one) are the true means to survival. We want our families to survive – both our biological family and our AA family. For that we all have an equal opportunity and responsibility.



St. Paul
Intergroup's
annual

Spring Fling!

2018 - Date & Time TBA

NEW LOCATION

*Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 North Dale Street
(just south of 94)
Saint Paul, MN 55101*



Dinner –TBD

**Open
Speaker Meeting
Dance**



Contribution: \$10 Entire Evening, or \$7 Dinner Only, or \$5 Dance Only

~~No one turned away for lack of funds~~

For More Information Call 651-227-5502



ASL Interpreted, upon request.
Please contact Staff at St. Paul
Intergroup to make arrangements:
651-227-5502



Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

Happy New Year to all of our Night Owl volunteers.
You are **awesome!!!**

**We currently have the following shift needing an owl:
4th Tuesday 10pm (overnight)**

WANTED: 2 Night Owl Committee volunteers

The Night Owl Committee members take turns carrying the back-up Phone) for one week at a time. We help out if a volunteer has a problem and we also make the reminder calls.

Requirements:

- +1 year sobriety
- +Answer the back-up phone during your rotation
- +Experience with Night Owl
- +2 year commitment

CHANGES ARE COMING TO THE NIGHT OWL PHONE SERVICE IN EARLY 2018. MORE INFO COMING SOON....

Reminders to all groups! When you get a new Night Owl Coordinator for your group, please send an e-mail to let me know who it is and update their phone number so the committee person making reminder calls is taking to the correct individual. Send e-mails to me at nightowl@aastpaul.org

This is my last month as coordinator for the Night Owl Committee. Patti M. will be filling that role in 2018. I will still be on the committee for a time, but this is my last note to you. I have really enjoyed this service commitment and it has been fun getting to know so many of you!

Thank you!

Cheryl B.
Night Owl Committee Coordinator

Group and Area News

New Meeting: The *St. Stephanus Big Book Study* group starting hosting meetings every Saturday 8:30AM, beginning December 16th. The Group meets at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Ave, St. Paul 55104. The Meeting is Closed, Big Book, Mixed, All-Ages, & Handicap Accessible.

New Meeting: The *Positively 4th Street* group is hosting a Monday 12-Noon Step Study at Big River Pizza, 280 5th street East, St. Paul, MN 55101. The meeting is Closed, Mixed, All-Ages & Handicap Accessible.

New Meeting: The *Hasting Alano* is now hosting a Tuesday 6:30PM Women only meeting. The club is located at 205 East 3rd Street, Hastings 55033. The meeting is Closed, Topic & All-Ages.

Meeting No More: The *Line By Line Monday 7:30 Big Book* group at the Eastside Club is no longer meeting.

Your News?

We invite you to share your AA news here!

Please send your items to:

lifeline@aastpaul.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.



**Looking for a Service Opportunity?
Become a St. Paul Intergroup Night Owl!**

**Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Jan 20th, Feb 17th, Mar 17th**

Every Third Saturday from 10:00 - 11:00 AM

St. Paul Intergroup Office

608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102

To RSVP please call: 651-227-5502



St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, November 21st 2017 7:30pm

Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.

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Minutes from last month were reviewed, Cheryl motioned and Matt seconded, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report, – Matt R went over the report. The prudent reserve is \$35,019 and the Checking Acct is at \$23,647.

For October the total contributions are down, group contributions are up and office sales are down. Expenses decreased \$1,239. October is typically a slow month heading into the holidays See Treasurer's Report for full financial details. Contact Matt at treasurer@aastpaul.org.

Office Report, Dennis – The office will be open normal ours on Nov 22nd and Nov 24th, and closed on the 23rd

(Thanksgiving). The office has a great variety of gift options for the holiday. There is a new Grapevine Publication:

Voices of Women in AA: Stories of experience, strength and hope from Grapevine. It is a collection of 61 excellent stories selected from Grapevine with articles by or about women.

New Business:

2018 Board Elections

2018 Alternate Chair: Rob C

2018 Secretary: Carolyn M

2018 Treasurer: C.J.

2018 Alternate Treasurer: Madeline S.

2018 At Large: Brian L.

2018 At Large: Guillermo O.

Group AA Announcements: None

Suggestions for next months' agenda: None

Grapevine Report, None; Volunteer for December, Sandi

Concept IX review, None; Volunteer for Concept X for December, Brian

Mock Rep Report, None; Volunteer for December, Lindsey

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove; District 8; District 15; East Side 12&12, St. Paul; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; Lakeview AA, Maplewood; Look To This Day, St. Paul; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano, Maplewood; Meeting of the Waters Mendota Heights; No Time Like the Present, Roseville; Outright Mental Defectives, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Problems & Solutions, St. Paul; Rule 62 Step & Tradition, St. Paul; St. Paul Speaker Meeting, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Third Edition, St. Paul; Uptown Groups, St. Paul, West Ends, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

2018 Steering Board:

Chair:	Lesli D.
Alternate Chair:	Rob C.
Secretary:	Carolyn M.
Treasurer:	CJ. M.
Alternate Treasurer:	Madeline S.
Members-at-Large 2018:	Tom S. & Erik M.
Members-at-Large 2019	Brian L. & Guillermo O.
Advisor to the Board:	Jenni S.
Manager	Dennis B.

Office Calls/Visitors—November 2017

Meeting information	110
Inventory/hours	33
12th Step calls	7
Temporary sponsor	17
Speaker request	25
Special events	3
Outside issues	7
Info for professionals	0
Administrative	74
Other	67
Total Calls	343
Average Calls/Day	15.6
Total Visitors	253

January 2018 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, January 16th @ 7:30 PM

SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH

398 West Superior Street; St. Paul, MN 55102

**7th Tradition
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

The Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” offers the following suggestions for the distribution of group funds after group expenses have been paid:

50% St. Paul Intergroup
608 Seventh Street West
St. Paul, MN 55102

30% General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

10% Southern MN Area 36
Area Assembly
P.O. Box 2812
Mpls., MN 55402

10% District Committee

Ramsey County:
District 8, P.O. Box 131523
St. Paul, MN 55113

Dakota County:
District 19, P.O. Box 1466
Burnsville, MN 55337

Washington County:
District 15, P.O. Box 181
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

SE Ramsey County:
District 26, P.O. Box 75980
St. Paul, MN 55175

NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	36
Total Group Contributions:	\$3885
Number of Faithful Fivers:	14
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$370



District Meetings

District 8 (Ramsey Co.)
Fairview Community Center
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 108
Roseville
3rd Wed., 7:30 PM

District 15 (Wash. Co.)
Christ Lutheran Church
11194 N. 36th St.
Lake Elmo
4th Mon., 7:00 PM

District 19 (Dakota Co.)
Rosemount Community Center
13885 South Robert Trail
Rosemount
2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)
Grace Lutheran Church
1730 Old Hudson Rd.
St. Paul
2nd Sun., 7:00PM
www.district26-area36.org



**Thanks to all the Groups
that contributed in November**

- 11th Step FINE Group
- 11th Step Meditation
- Anoka Day By Day
- Book Club- 'The book club'
- Dakota Alano SAT 6PM There is a Solution
- Dakota Alano WED 8PM
- Dakota Alano WED AM Roosters
- Day by Day Women's Group
- Fellowship Club AA
- Forest Lake Alano
- Friday Morning Ol' Timers
- Gloria Dei AA
- Hampden Park Group
- Hastings Club
- Hazelwood AA
- Highland Park Groups
- Holy Redeemer Parish AA Group
- Lakeland Group
- Lindstrom Groups
- Little Canada Happy Hour
- Look to This Day
- Macalester Group AA
- No Time Like the Present
- North Road Group
- River Rats
- Rivertown BB Group-Hastings
- Rosemount Groups
- Sisters of Serenity
- Stepsisters of Northfield Group
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Summit Hill
- There's a Better Way
- Third Edition Group
- Uptown Club
- White Bear Wed AM Women's
- Women's 12 & 12 Monday

Thanks to all of the FANTASTIC Office Volunteers who helped in November:

Adam S., Bill S., Bob P., Carly D., Chrissie S.,
Chuck L., CJ M., Dan F., David M., Frank D.,
Henry O., Jake B. Jimmy D., John, Ken C.,
Lori D., Marc S., Mike H., Nancy F.,
Peg F., Suzanne B., Woody W.

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



The West Central Region – What's Up

I've shared in recent months about the work taking place on the General Service Board as a Trustee and also the work that takes place at AAWS, where I serve as a director. This month I'd like to share a bit about your region – the West Central Region (WCR) – and the service work taking place in and for the WCR.

I was immediately tasked with some regional "housekeeping" when I came on board as the WCR trustee. The region has guidelines for the annual West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC). It had been a number of years since it had any attention, and the changes in technology alone required that we make changes to accurately reflect how the process is managed. Dennis, the St. Paul Intergroup Manager provided us with a wealth of support and the net result was a re-written document that will serve us well. He also took the time to organize the available documents that frame the region's history. This will serve as a valuable resource in the future as our own regional archive.

On Thursday evenings prior to the start of the WCRAASC, the WCR trustee meets with the WCR delegates. It is an opportunity to discuss the upcoming weekend as well as address any regional business. This year we initiated two new projects for the region. The delegates supported researching a venue to provide enhanced communications between the eight delegate areas of the WCR. While at the 2017 WCRAASC, we recruited 4 volunteers that formed a committee (I call it the Technology/Communications Services (TCS) Committee to mimic our AAWS Committee) that discussed a range of options and have settled on seriously considering a web site that includes a blog system to allow posting of information to be shared area-to-area. I see tremendous potential in this web site, predominantly as a resource sharing site on topics such as elections, committee systems, reporting, technology, and other mechanics on how we can best carry the message.

The work that was done organizing the documents (referenced above) also has tremendous future potential. Sometime in the future some of this could be made available on the site or in some other fashion. We have a good deal to collect, yet, and a matrix was made in a spreadsheet to highlight missing documents. Even in an incomplete state, however, there's already a great resource, and I am looking for someone to assist in continued cataloging of this information. Please feel free to email me if you are interested....

Another initiative that the WCR delegates supported was to develop a regional history. The cornerstone of this and to kick off this project is to record Carl B., a past WCR trustee. He has known virtually every regional trustee since the inception of the West Central Region, and is a goldmine of information. This is in the works in the near future. We will also need to engage each area in the region to assist in this project. Any interested individuals for this project can contact me, too.

After each quarterly General Service Board meeting, I have a conference call with the regional delegates. This is just one of the ways in which trustees on the General Service Board (GSB) work to improve the General Service Conference (GSC) process.

(Continued Pg. 2)

The West Central Region – What's Up (Con't)

Currently, the delegates are provided with the minutes of the GSB Quarterly meetings, the chair of each trustee committee calls the chair of the respective GSC committee, and submitted GSC agenda items for upcoming conferences are posted on the delegate dashboard. My calls are incredibly valuable for me and I also believe for the WCR delegates. It gives me contact in a dynamic fashion with the delegates, it provides a superlively conversation forum between the delegates, and we also have a chance to discuss plans and progress on the regional projects.

Besides the priceless value of the quarterly calls, I ask that each area consider asking me to visit their area once or twice during my rotation. I characterize it as a GSR needing to attend his home group so that she/he knows what the group conscience is when he/she attends an assembly. I hear from delegates via email, calls, we take the opportunity to meet when a Forum takes place, we get together while at the GSC, but to be part of an assembly, to hear the discussions, see how each area operates, read the various documents areas author to operate effectively, hear presentations – all these give me a better idea of the heart and soul of each of the eight delegate areas that comprise the WCR.

Finally, the one major function that the region provides to all AA members is the West Central Region Service Conference. This annual event, on the first weekend in March, brings people from all over our region together for workshops and presentations, plus the majority of the weekend is spent discussing the upcoming General Service Conference agenda items. Delegates chair sessions of respective committee agenda to which they are assigned, and the body provides their thoughts on what is best for AA with regard to the item under discussion. It provides a wealth of information for the upcoming GSC participants – the WCR delegates and me – an opportunity to be heard from all our areas and from voices of any and all service bodies to help develop an informed group conscience for AA at the GSC. And, of course, the attendees learn a great deal that they can take back to their groups, districts and areas. Plus, we always have a speaker meeting on Saturday night, with this year's guest being Clement from the General Service Office.

This is a synopsis of what your West Central Region is all about. I am available as always for calls, emails, etc. if you would like further information on the WCR. Additionally, your delegate will be distributing information so that all AA members can register and attend the WCRAASC in West Des Moines, IA in March of 2018.

With Gratitude,
Thomas A.
WCR Trustee & AAWS Director



Why the Pink Can Gives Me Pause

Before you judge me for what I'm about to say, I want to first qualify myself as someone who, for fifteen years, spent one Saturday morning each month driving from Helena, MT to Deer Lodge, MT to take an A.A. meeting into the Montana State Prison. Along with the regular monthly meetings, I attended all but one of 20 consecutive biannual A.A. conferences that were held inside the facility. I sponsored men there. I wrote to others there. Along with my prison commitment, I also spent more than a decade taking meetings into the Lewis & Clark County Detention Center, the Helena Pre-Release Center, the Forensics Unit of Warm Springs State Hospital, and the WATCH Program – a locked treatment program for men with felony DUI records. I am enthusiastic about carrying the message to correctional facilities.

With that history of service, you might be surprised that I am not a fan of the Pink Can. For those unfamiliar, the Pink Can refers to cans (literally painted or covered in pink) that are passed around or placed around A.A. meetings to collect money to buy literature to share with A.A.s and potential A.A.s inside correctional facilities.

My objection to the Pink Can has nothing to do with our principle of self-support where it concerns the inmates themselves. I have never cared how someone gets ahold of an A.A. book. I don't care if they pay for it. I don't care who pays for it. I've always allowed for less purity of thought where it concerns getting the message out. I would prefer we erred on the side of overreach when it comes to getting our basic text into the hands of alcoholics. A newcomer who stays sober reading freely-provided A.A. literature will have ample opportunity to set right any debt he or she owes A.A. It helps to get sober first before you can become self-supporting or before you can make amends.

My resistance to the Pink Can has everything to do with an important principle hidden in the middle of the long-form of Tradition Seven. The long-form of the Traditions begin on page 563 of *Alcoholics Anonymous* or on page S13 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. In this version of Tradition Seven, it reads that acceptance "of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise." You may have heard or seen this principle expressed in communications from our General Service Office where it states that A.A. does not accept any earmarked contributions. The idea is that we don't allow the person or entity who is contributing money to A.A. to dictate how that money is used. Instead, we let the group conscience decide what our priorities are for our 7th Tradition contributions. Tradition Two reminds us that the group conscience is where God shows up. The Pink Can circumvents our group conscience by allowing individuals and groups to prescribe where their contributions are spent.

While I clearly want lots of literature to reach A.A.s in correctional facilities, I would much rather we get rid of the Pink Can altogether. What the Pink Can has proven to me is that A.A.s can afford to contribute way more than they have been in the 7th Tradition basket. We have been having conversations for years about how throwing a buck in the basket is a terribly outdated practice. We're still far too timid in correcting our thinking about what would be an appropriate amount to give at each meeting.

(Continued pg. 4)

Why the Pink Can Gives Me Pause (Con't)

Based simply on inflation, our personal contribution in the 7th Tradition should be in double digits compared to the buck in the basket measure that originated decades ago. Moving ourselves into the 21st century in our thinking about 7th Tradition would open all sorts of possibilities for supporting our groups, carrying the message, and supporting our A.A. world services.

Unfortunately, because the Pink Can appears to be so successful in providing literature to correctional facilities, some A.A.s are talking about setting up similar programs to fund other projects or needs in A.A. Most recently in our districts and at our Area, there has been discussion of establishing a Green Can to gather contributions to cover the expense of ASL interpretation at A.A. meetings. As with literature for corrections, I am enthusiastically supportive of providing ASL interpretation for any deaf or hard-of-hearing A.A. member who needs it. But I don't think establishing a separate funding mechanism like a Green Can is the right way to go about it.

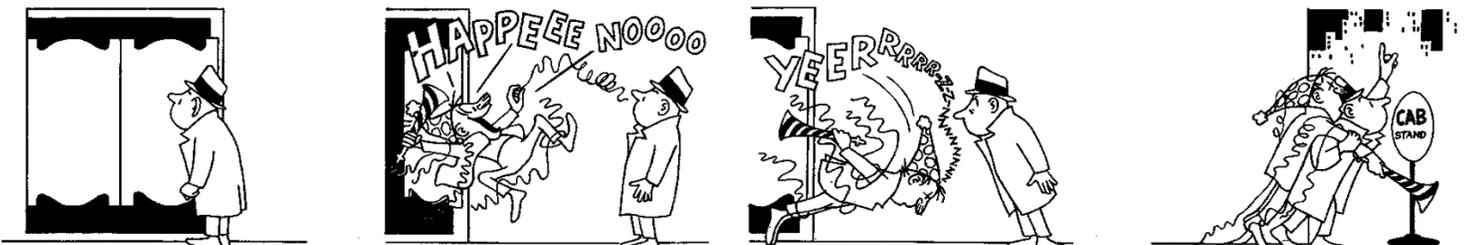
Rather than setting up numerous Can Plans that have the potential to become competitive, I would argue that we are better served to emphasize the importance of the group conscience (Tradition Two) and to redefine self-support (Tradition Seven). I believe we are wrong to be so shy when talking about money. We need more open and free conversation in our meetings about the financial needs we have as groups and as a Fellowship. I believe we need to take the time to educate ourselves about all the ways we could spend our 7th Tradition contributions. Then our full discussion of all the possibilities could lead us to a group conscience about how and where we could best carry the message.

The money is there as we can see by the fact that the Pink Can already lives next to our regular 7th Tradition contributions. In Area 36, the annual contributions to the Pink Can are nearly two-thirds of the entire Area budget. What if we tried a radical approach to see if we could merge all those contributions back into one place. We would be honoring the long-form of the 7th Tradition and practicing our 2nd Tradition group conscience. We should be arguing for fewer Cans, not more.

Thanks for all your service,

Curt K.

Panel 67 Delegate, Area 36 – Southern Minnesota
 delegate@area36.org

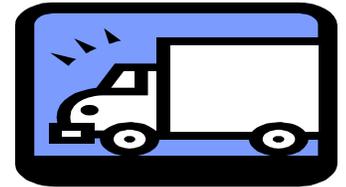


St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities MN
Permit No. 7451

Please let us know if your address changes one month ahead of time. It saves us the cost of return postage and enables you to get each issue of *The Lifeline*. Our mailing permit does not provide for mail forwarding. Thank you!



St. Paul Intergroup *Individual Contribution* Enrollment Form

Your Intergroup strives to be self-supporting, and with your personal support we can continue to carry our vital message of Hope and Recovery to all who need and want it. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to *The Lifeline*. Contributions may be made annually, bi-annually, quarterly or monthly. Please consider becoming one of our *Faithful Fivers* (\$5.00/month), *Terrific Tenners* (\$10.00/month), or *Fantastic Fifteeners* (\$15.00/month).

1. Contact information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____

2. Amount & Frequency:

Amount: \$ _____
Frequency: (check only one)
 Monthly Quarterly Bi-Annually Annually
Start on ____/____/____
 Faithful Fiver (\$5.00/month)
 Terrific Tenner (\$10.00/month)
 Fantastic Fifteener (\$15.00/month)

3. Choose a Payment Method:

Credit Card/Debit Card*
 Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover
Card # _____/_____/_____/_____
Expiration Date: ____/_____
Name on Card _____
Signature _____

*I authorize St. Paul Intergroup to automatically bill my account as specified (monthly, quarterly, etc.). I understand that I am free to cancel this authorization at any time by contacting Intergroup.

Check - Please make payable to:

Saint Paul Intergroup
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010