

Booze News

AREA 21 - DISTRICT 14

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STEP 2 . . .

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

TRADITION 2 . . .

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

. . . LONG FORM

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

FUN FACT

In Alcoholics Anonymous, **the long form of Tradition 2 is shorter than the short form** because the "long form" represents the **original wording published** in the Grapevine by Bill W.

Later revisions to Tradition 2 actually added **more details**, making the current "short form" longer than the original version; essentially, **Tradition 2 was expanded upon in its wording over time**, making the initial version appear shorter in comparison to the current, more detailed version.

authority noun au·thor·i·ty

1 : a. power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior
the president's *authority*

2 : a. persons in command

believe verb be·lieve

1 : a. to consider to be true or honest
b. to accept the word or evidence of

conscience noun con·science

1 : a. the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good
She had a guilty conscience.
b: a faculty, power, or principle enjoining good acts guided by conscience
c: the part of the superego in psychoanalysis that transmits commands and admonitions to the ego

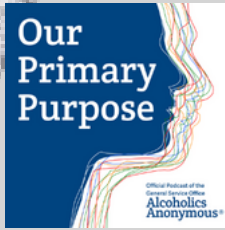
2 : conformity to what one considers to be correct, right, or morally good : conscientiousness

3 : sensitive regard for fairness or justice; scruple

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

on the go!

Episode 1 is available now!



Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) is thrilled to announce the launch of **Our Primary Purpose, the official podcast** from the General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous for the U.S. and Canada. Through engaging interviews with GSO staff and A.A. members—and voices from A.A. history—this new podcast explores how GSO supports A.A. groups and members to carry the message of recovery to those who need it most—which is Our Primary Purpose.

Step two in AA encourages us to realize we need spiritual help to move forward in life. Many people take a religious approach, but there are other ways to fulfill the spiritual aspect of your journey. For those who aren't religious, focusing on attaining your best self, the love you want your family to feel, inspiration from a famous person in history, or even a fictional character can all help guide your actions on your journey toward sobriety. The key is to accept the faith and guidance one's Higher Power reserves for us.

In the second step you'll come to the understanding that you're not able to overcome alcohol use disorder on your own and that you need the support of a higher power—whatever that may mean to you—in order to focus your efforts and help you establish positive mental health. This Step lays a solid foundation that you'll be able to lean on as you continue through the recovery process.

In my case the recognition and acceptance of my Higher Power was the key to my recovery. As a teacher one of the important topics I teach is the Declaration of Independence. For years I told kids that the words "endowed by their Creator" meant that people are graced at birth with certain rights that can't be taken away. These rights come from whomever or whatever they believe created them. It dawned on me upon entering AA that I had been talking about—and connected to—my Higher Power all along! This simple understanding led to both immediate acceptance of my Higher Power's influence in my life and the understanding that I now possessed the most important tool I would ever need in my battle with alcohol. A weight was immediately lifted from my shoulders when I realized I can hand my struggles to my Higher Power (Give it to God).

-Chris H.



GET THE NEW GRAPEVINE & LA VINA APPS!



AAGRAPEVINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE [GRAPEVINE WEBSITE](#)

- Read or listen to every issue
- Search the vast GV/LV Archives
- Keep track of your sobriety & Spiritual practices
- Listen to the podcast
- Share AA stories & Area Events with Friends
- App subscription includes full online access to aagrapevine.org
- it's only \$2.99/month to subscribe - that's less than a cup of coffee!

purpose noun
pur·pose

- 1 a : something set up as an object or end to be attained : intention
b : resolution, determination

power noun
pow·er

- 1 : ability to act or produce an effect
2 : possession of control, authority, or influence over others

sanity noun
san·i·ty

- : the quality or state of being sane
especially : soundness or health of mind

trust noun

- 1 : assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something
b. one in which confidence is placed
2 : dependence on something future or contingent : hope
3 : care, custody
a. : a charge or duty imposed in faith or confidence or as a condition of some relationship
b. : something committed or entrusted to one to be used or cared for in the interest of another

Save These Dates

DISTRICT 14 MONTHLY GSR MEETING

If you are looking for **service opportunities**, getting involved is easy & a vital part of recovery! Meet committee chairs, ask questions, & find out where opportunities are available.



February 9
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm



O'Fallon Trailer Group
108 Carbon Hill Road
O'Fallon, IL
Join via Zoom with Meeting ID: 720 074 2222

DELEGATE ROUNDTABLE

Meet our Area 21 Delegate at the next Delegate Roundtable. Meetings will be held the first Thursday of every month & are open to every member of Area 21.

Thursday, February 6th at 7:00PM CST.

This meeting is an open forum each month where we have a Tradition presented and then have a topic or speaker, followed by a discussion. For this month's meeting, there will be a presentation/discussion of Tradition Two by Tom Hensold, past Delegate (A21/P73) and current Area 21 Chairperson. Following this will be a presentation on "Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need" by Don Miller, past Delegate (A10/P49), past Non-Trustee Director on AAWS and past General Service Trustee on the GV board. This topic is based on the essay by Bill W. within Concept IX. I felt this would be a timely topic as we prepare for the Conference of Delegate's Past and Present and discussions of choosing our next Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large-US in the next several months.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88360693283?pwd=MN72jH2jZGlnQlMnEVmkollXsgQTa.1>
Meeting ID: 883 6069 3283
Passcode: 413794

GREAT RIVER ROUNDUP
www.GreatRiverRoundup.com
PERE MARQUETTE LODGE
MARCH 14th & 15th, 2025
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 14th, 2025
1:00PM Roundup Check-In
3:00PM AA Talk Meeting
5:00PM AA SPEAKER OLIS S. OAKLAND, CA
10:00PM Best Bull Meeting

Saturday, March 15th, 2025
9:00AM AA Open Meeting
10:00AM AA SPEAKER MATT W. EUREKA, MO
1:30PM AL-AVON SPEAKER MELANIE D. ALABAMA, GA
3:30PM Discussion Meeting
6:30PM Banquet
AA SPEAKER POLLY P. JACKSONVILLE, FL

"Love and Tolerance"

REGISTER ONLINE NOW

2025 Great River Roundup - Registration Form

Please fill out (1) registration form \$25 per person and list year for 2025. \$1000 to better understand the registration process. Banquet seating is assigned on a first come first served basis. \$1000 to register for the 2025. \$1000 of the proceeds will benefit the AA of the South. Register online at www.GreatRiverRoundup.com or send registration and payment to Great River Roundup, P.O. Box 1222, Wood River, IL 62295.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
EMAIL: _____ VENUE/ENTER AT EVENT? _____ IF YES, PHONE # _____
PURCHASE A REGISTRATION \$25.00 \$ _____ PURCHASE A BANQUET \$25.00 \$ _____ TOTAL: _____
DONATE A REGISTRATION \$25.00 \$ _____ DONATE A BANQUET \$25.00 \$ _____ TOTAL: _____
GRAND TOTAL: _____

PRE-GSC WORKSHOP 2025 Southern Illinois Area 21

12 April 2025
9.00 am - 3.00 pm
St. Nicholas Catholic Church
625 St. Nicholas Dr.
O'Fallon, IL

Help prepare our delegate for this year's General Service Conference by discussing proposed agenda items and providing feedback. Free to Attend Continental Breakfast Provided Fried Chicken Lunch \$10

MORE EVENTS ARE LISTED & UPDATED REGULARLY ON THE DISTRICT 14 [WEBSITE!](#)
GET YOURS LISTED BY EMAILING OUR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AT TECHNOLOGY.D14.A21@GMAIL.COM

Young People in AA!

These are for any & all members of AA, and is organized primarily by young, recovering alcoholics. We define young as "room to grow"

Get the Keys To The Kingdom at...
ISCYPAA XLII
MARCH 28TH-30TH, 2025
WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD CITY CENTRE
700 E ADAMS ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE! AND BOOK YOUR ROOM!

MIDWEST CAMPYPAA
ALPHA CHAPTER
THE EFFECT WAS ELECTRIC

GAME NIGHT

623 ALANO CLUB
120 N 3RD ST, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
5:00-7:30PM

Join us for dinner provided by the committee. Stay for the fellowship & games. Choose from a variety of classic board games, card games, or bring your own!

To donate or register for 2025 conference visit: <https://mwcampypaa.square.site/>

DISTRICT 14'S
Cornd BEEF & CABBAGE POTLUCK

SATURDAY MARCH 22 AT NOTRE DAME

DINNER AT 5PM
SPEAKER MEETING AT 6PM
AA Speakers Joe J. & Erin A

BRING A SIDE TO SHARE

200 S 2ND ST
BELLEVILLE, IL

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC) & PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

District 14 PI/CPC Outreach Quarterly Meeting

Looking to get involved in service?
Interested in building connections
between the public and professional
communities in AA?
District 14 has an opportunity for you!

February 1 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
[Join us on Zoom](#)

In the spirit of rotation, An enthusiastic new chair has stepped in to serve this committee for the next two years! Great strides have already been made & valuable information learned.

Flyers and other relevant information are being posted regularly on the Facebook page to re-engage the audience.

Over the past month, the page has achieved the following metrics:

- People reached: 44,965
- Views: 12,498
- Content interactions: 151
- New followers: 15

By attending the CPC/PI Working Group's first meeting of the year valuable insights were gained. Notably, the U.S. now ranks 5th globally for alcoholism and 1st for the prevalence of alcoholism among women. Concerning senior citizens, it was shared that:

- 50% of seniors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities face alcohol-related problems.
- 43% of drivers aged 65 and older who died in crashes were involved in alcohol-related incidents.
- Alcohol use disorder among individuals aged 65 and older has increased by 107% since 2013.

If you'd like to send flyers or other materials, please email Kelsey at the [technology_email](#), or feel free to [contact me directly](#).

It's Not About Any Specific Religion

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, during what co-founder Bill W. often referred to as the Fellowship's period of "trial and error." The basic principles of Alcoholics Anonymous were worked out, and there were conservative, liberal, and radical viewpoints." Founder's thought the book ought to be Christian; others could accept the word "God" but opposed to any other theological proposition. And the atheists and agnostics wanted to delete all references to God and take a psychological approach. The group finally began to talk about the possibility of compromising. In Step Two they decided to describe God as a "Power greater than ourselves." In Steps Three and Eleven they inserted the words "God as we understood Him." From Step Seven they deleted the words "on our knees." As a lead-in sentence to all the steps they wrote these words: "Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery." AA Twelve Steps were to be suggested only.

More than sixty years later, those crucial compromises, articulated after weeks of heated controversy, have made it possible for alcoholics of all faiths, or no faith at all, to embrace the A.A. program of recovery and find lasting sobriety.

Alcoholics Anonymous maintains that it is "spiritual, not religious." Unfortunately, an uncountable number of people of the population, find that distinction is meaningless, since "spiritual" is associated with religious experiences and the presence of group prayers opening and closing many AA meetings is patently religious. I did not believe in God or a Higher Power that had let me down all my life when things were bad. It was full of religion in which I had measurable discontent for. This was my thought up until attending an AA meeting fresh out of rehabilitation. This all changed when I found a sponsor and worked on the AA Twelve Steps, which constitutes its program of recovery, are in no way a statement of belief; they simply describe what the founding members did to get sober and stay sober. They contain simple ideas of surrender, self-inventory, confession to someone outside us, and meditation and prayer. These spiritual concepts found throughout the world and for thousands of years. The Steps are a framework of principles for the suffering alcoholic who is sick, frightened, defiant, and determined not to be told what to do or think or believe. There are no rules to spirituality. As opposed to following a specific ideology or a set of estimated 4200 religions rules, spirituality simply lets you follow your heart. It encourages you to listen to your intuition as well as do what is right for yourself and others around you. Spirituality is based only on love and not fear. Dotted throughout religion, there are an abundance of fears regarding the consequences of your actions. You become afraid of what might happen after you die if you don't live your life accordingly. AA spirituality is sharing your fears with group members who have the same fears and what actions that helped them in never ending maintenance to retain sobriety.

In meetings today AA members refer to religious readings and politely state they hope this doesn't offend anyone. Does it or does it not is up to the readers' thinking? What are your thoughts on this topic?

I am not for sure about God. I know there is a power greater than me and with time and learning from fellow AA group members I may change my mind. Spirituality to me is the friendships we develop at meetings and feeling of security.

My ending words are from two highly respected AA spiritual leader's. I reached out for help because I could not find quotes on difference between spirituality and religion that I wrote down and misplaced. I am always grateful for their help. Here are their quotes: Religion is for people who are afraid of going to hell. Spirituality is for people who have already been there!!!! Religion saves your soul; AA saves your a\$\$!!!!

We at Booze News would appreciate your thoughts and views. This is how we open our minds to spirituality and share our thoughts for new commers and AA members for continued sobriety.

Tradition Two

A CHECKLIST FOR GROUPS

FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY – A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS; THEY DO NOT GOVERN.

Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?

Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?

Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?

Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?

Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?

In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

*These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

♡

Step Two can be broken down into two parts:
 Belief in a power greater than ourselves
 Belief that this power can restore us to sanity

I took no issue with the first part of this step, as I had a core belief in a Higher Power. Having sat in a meeting or two, I have come to hold an immense gratitude for this core belief, as I know this is a major hurdle for many to jump.

The second part of this step, I have come to realize, was a stumbling block. While I believed in a God of my understanding, I held tight to the belief that "God helps those who help themselves." In placing the emphasis on "helping myself," I was giving myself all the power, and blocking His ability to help me. Consequently, it took many months before I could finally let go of the belief that I had to do this on my own. Since that time, my concept and my relationship with my Higher Power has deepened and grown, and I believe will continue to do so for the rest of my life... good stuff!

Okay, onto to the wisdom I have gained from my fellows: One gentleman, who has almost 3 decades of sobriety, made the following statement: "The longer I stay sober, the less interested I become in defining my spirituality." This idea rocked my world... the idea that I can be less precise about my spirituality as time goes by. I'm not sure where I got the idea that the more time sober I have, the clearer picture I should have of a Higher Power, but this man's simple statement opened my mind in a way I hadn't even realized was closed. It is enough to know that there is a power greater than me, and that power is helping me to live, day by day, a better life. Enough said. Brilliant!

-- Attributed to themiracleisaroundthecorner

Pamphlet of the Month:



"Circles of Love & Service"

It's often said that a great way to stay sober & work a solid program involves service; service to our fellow humans, service to other alcoholics, & service to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Below are some common questions & answers that might help you get started.

- Q. Why should I get involved? Does it really matter?
 A: "... in order for A.A. to run itself without bosses or rules, in accordance with our Twelve Traditions, we need a system of communication for finding out how A.A. as a whole feels about its world affairs, and how it wants to operate."
- Q. What's the most important part of AA's service structure?
 A. "... For A.A. to run its own affairs, each A.A. group needs to make its voice heard on overall A.A. policies. This starts with a group's general service representative (GSR), who represents the voice of the group conscience and has the job of linking his or her group with A.A. as a whole. GSRs make sure their groups receive services from the U.S. and Canada General Service Office (GSO) and help groups stay informed about worldwide A.A."
- Q. Where do I get more information about AA's service structure?
 A. A wonderful resource is [this leaflet](#) which is available as a downloadable PDF or available for purchase. You are always welcome at District 14's GSR meetings, & a sponsor &/or home group would be a great place to ask for opportunities to serve.

