

booze news

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step six

Were **entirely ready** to have God remove all these **defects** of **character**.

tradition six

An A.A. group ought never **endorse**, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related **facility** or outside **enterprise**, lest problems of money, property, and **prestige** divert us from our **primary purpose**.

long form

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.- and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

thoughts from *our membership*

God, My Higher Power

During my two and a quarter years of sobriety, I learned that Steps 4 and 5 prepared me for Step 6. I had to acknowledge that addiction often comes with harmful character defects, and each individual has their own. My top two, fear and anger.

On May 8, I finally had the courage to tell my sponsor about my experiences. His response was, "So what?" On May 10, I shared my story at the 623 Club with "God" my Higher Power by my side. My wife attended, and I felt a tremendous burden lift from my shoulders.

Step 6 to me involves being fully prepared for God to remove character defects, indicating a readiness for personal growth. With God's guidance removing all defects of character" showed me AA's spiritual side. I discovered that even though "God" is mentioned in the "Big Book," AA lets individuals interpret this higher power in their own way, whether spiritual or not. The focus is on trusting a power greater than oneself for transformation. Through my sponsor, sponsees, AA groups, AA members sharing their stories, and working the Steps, Step 6 of AA involves becoming willing to seek help from a higher power to remove character defects. It is about recognizing the need for external assistance in achieving change.

This step builds on previous steps where individuals have acknowledged their shortcomings and admitted them to themselves and others. It highlights the importance of relinquishing control over these defects and being open to receiving support from a higher power. Step 6 emphasizes humility, which means acknowledging one's limitations and vulnerabilities. It involves recognizing that no one is perfect and everyone can improve. In AA, humility allows individuals to admit their shortcomings without shame and embrace change.

I have learned that everyone completes this task on their own schedule, including me. It took me a long time to address some defects previously mentioned. Letting go of negative traits and behaviors opens up possibilities for self-improvement and recovery. It enables us to address the root causes of our alcohol addiction and tackle underlying issues. Completing Step 6 requires sincere dedication to change.

You must honestly acknowledge your flaws with humility and work hard to alter ingrained patterns of thinking and behavior. This often demands significant effort and self-reflection.

Though Step 6 can be challenging, its benefits are tremendous. It offers sobriety, personal growth, improved relationships, and a renewed sense of purpose. To me, Step 6 is an ongoing journey, acknowledging that personal growth and healing are continuous. As individuals work on their character defects, they must stay open to self-discovery and improvement. What are the readers' tips on Step 6?

John D.

"The essence of all growth is a willingness to make a change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails."

Willingness is part of an on-going process; your growth and recovery are directly proportionate to your continuing commitment to evolve as a person, both in recovery and as a responsible person that is reliable and service-oriented.

**"There is only one thing required to change your life: willingness."
-- Unknown**

"Where the willingness is great, the difficulties cannot be great."

—

Machiavelli

"We are certain that our intelligence, backed by willpower, can rightly control our inner lives and guarantee us success in the world we live in."

Willpower is quite important. At the same time it also has limits when confronting baffling, deeply-ingrained issues like addiction to alcohol. Where our willpower may have limits due to our fallibility as humans, AA remains a strong ally in our efforts to take control of our recovery.

JUNE Events

DISTRICT 14 MONTHLY GSR MEETING

June 8 at 1 pm

O'Fallon Trailer Group - 108 Carbon
Hill Road - O'Fallon, IL 62269

Join via Zoom with Meeting ID:
720 074 2222



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 21 ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025

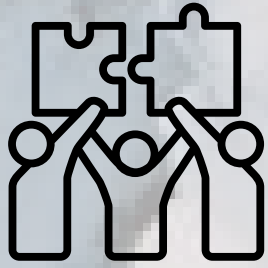
**JODI B. OUR AREA 21 DELEGATE WILL BE SHARING HER
REPORT ABOUT THE 75TH GSC.**

HICKORY POINT TOWNSHIP HALL

2335 W. MOUND ROAD

DECATUR, IL 62526

ZOOM ID: 889-8949-4288 PASSCODE: 177777



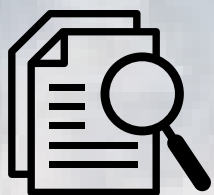
2025 Area 21 Delegate Monthly June 5 at 7 pm Roundtable

Monthly discussion forum with your Area 21
panel 75 Delegate Jodi B.

Discuss what's important in your Group, District,
Area, and AA.

This is a recurring meeting every month on the
first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Meeting ID: 883 6069 3283 Passcode: 413794



LITERATURE & GRAPEVINE WORKSHOP EXTRAVAGANZA

JUNE 28, 1PM - 3PM

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE - 409

BROADWAY, SOUTH ROXANA, IL 62672

Full details for these events are listed on the District 14 website!

tradition six

a checklist for groups

An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with “Guidelines on Clubs” (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor’s advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

**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.*

“Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness. Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing.”

– August Wilson

“YOUR LIFE
DOES NOT
GET BETTER
BY
CHANCE;
IT GETS
BETTER BY
CHANGE.”
– JIM ROHN

“Confidence
is the
willingness
to try.”
– Mel
Robbins

“IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING
TO LEARN, NO ONE CAN
HELP YOU. IF YOU ARE
DETERMINED TO LEARN, NO
ONE CAN STOP YOU.”
– ZIG ZIGLAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FOUNDERS DAY FOCUS

90 years of *Alcoholics Anonymous*

A.A. began in 1935 in Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron surgeon. Both had been hopeless alcoholics.

1 Before their meeting, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group. This mostly nonalcoholic fellowship emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. The Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, led the Oxford Groups in the U.S. at that time.

9 Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions, and body. Bill learned this important fact from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York. Bill had often been a patient of Dr. Silkworth. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill's convincing ideas, Dr. Bob soon got sober, never to drink again. This sparked the founding of A.A.

3 Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital. One patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. These three men made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group (though the name Alcoholics Anonymous was not yet used.)

5 In June 1945, a historic gathering took place in Cleveland, Ohio. It commemorated A.A.'s tenth anniversary. Over 2,500 members of Alcoholics Anonymous attended the two-day event. Members came from 36 states, two Canadian provinces, and Mexico.

Celebrations kicked off on Saturday, June 9th. Two regular A.A. meetings and two "open house" meetings held in different parts of Cleveland. On June 10th, co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob spoke to a crowd of 1,000 at the Music Hall in downtown Cleveland.

In his talk, Bill spoke about the growth of A.A., briefly retelling his own story and about the writing of the Big Book. Bill concluded his talk by stating that "A.A. is much bigger than any of us." He joked that Dr. Bob and himself were "a couple of old, cracked antiques who have had a little more experience than others." Following Bill, Dr. Bob spoke briefly about the development of A.A. in Akron, Ohio. He concluded by saying, "Our program must be followed by each individual. And each individual is the only one who can do it for himself."

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

FOUNDERS DAY FOCUS

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- A second International Convention in **St. Louis** celebrated the Fellowship's 20th anniversary.
- The General Service Conference had by then completely proved its worth. Here, on behalf of A.A.'s old-timers, Bill turned the future care and custody of A.A. over to the Conference and its trustees.
- At this moment, the Fellowship went on its own - A.A. had come of age.

A million members and growing. Alcoholics Anonymous begins its fourth decade on firm footing, garnering respect far and wide.

Over the next 20 years, cooperation and sponsorship among A.A. countries will grow, the Fellowship's International Conventions will expand in size and spirit, and the language of the heart will be spoken in at least 40 different tongues.

A.A. Archives open at General Service Office.

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- In November 1975, Lois W. and Tom S. of Jacksonville, Florida (a trustee who chairs the archives committee), cut a blue ribbon to officially open the A.A. Archives at G.S.O. New York.
- In a brief speech, Dr. John L. Norris points out that A.A. must continually renew itself by going back to its source, recalling Bill W.'s frequent request that the Board and G.S.O. "should put everything they do on the record." The archivist is nonalcoholic Nell Wing, who served as Bill's secretary for many years and is described as a "one-woman walking encyclopedia of A.A. lore."

Dr. Bob's house opens in Akron.

The Akron house where Dr. Bob and his wife lived and raised their children — 855 Ardmore Avenue — is opened to visitors in 1985.

Much of the furniture is original (as is the still-working refrigerator, which Dr. Bob and Anne bought in 1934), and many of Dr. Bob and Anne's books line the shelves.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

FOUNDERS DAY FOCUS

- 1 With approval of the General Service Board, G.S.O New York launches aa.org on the World Wide Web on December 22, 1995.
- 9 With a click, users can now instantaneously access information about the Fellowship in English, Spanish, and French. G.S.O.'s A.A. Website is constantly evolving.
- 9
- 5 In spring 1998, G.S.O. New York shares the experience of computer-savvy A.A.s when it issues a list of Frequently Asked Questions for A.A. entities looking to set up their own website. In 2000, 2006 and 2014 "aa.org" will undergo major expansions.

INTERESTING EVENTS

2005 - 2019

Twenty-Five Millionth Big Book

The twenty-five millionth copy of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, is presented to the warden of San Quentin prison, at the International Convention in Toronto. The gift of the book is A.A.'s way of expressing gratitude to that institution's long history of supporting A.A. as a resource for alcoholic inmates. The first A.A. meeting in San Quentin was held in 1941.

A Milestone Presentation

The 30 millionth copy of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, is presented to the American Medical Association, which in 1956 formally declared alcoholism an illness. The book is accepted by Rebecca Patchin, M.D., immediate past president of the AMA.

Launch of Meeting Guide App

After years of development, a new app, "Meeting Guide," is launched. The app retrieves meeting information from the websites of Areas, Districts, Central Offices, and Intergroups, and provides it to users. Originally developed by an individual A.A. member, it was licensed by A.A.W.S. in 2018 and updated, and provides information on over 100,000 A.A. meetings available on any given week.

ALL OF THIS INFORMATION & MUCH MORE
CAN BE FOUND ON GSO'S WEBSITE!

Pamphlet of the Month

The
Co-Founders
of Alcoholics
Anonymous

This pamphlet provides brief biographical information about Alcoholics Anonymous' two founders; Bill Wilson & Bob Smith aka Dr. Bob.

Also included in this pamphlet are transcripts of each of the two founders last major talks.

A downloadable PDF as well as purchase options can be found online.

Founders-focused Suggested Reading

Our Great Responsibility

A SELECTION OF
BILL W.'S
GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE TALKS
1951-1970

A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference talks from 1951 to 1970. Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words. Chapters also cover the early history of Alcoholics Anonymous and include talks given by early "friends of A.A." With over 60 color and black-and-white images.

DR. BOB

and the Good Oldtimers



A biography, with recollections
of early A.A. in the Midwest

Filled with interviews with friends and family, this deeply researched biography follows A.A. co-founder Dr. Bob S. from his New England childhood to his days as a surgeon and father who couldn't stop drinking; to his transformative meeting with Bill W. and the birth of A.A. in Akron; and finally to his untimely death in 1950. The early history of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Midwest is chronicled along the way. With 26 archival photographs.

You can now submit your own content to the Booze News for publication!



There is a brand new submission form on the District 14 Website where you can submit feedback, articles, art work, birthdays, events, poetry, your favorite sober stuff, literature recommendations, sober playlists, **ANYTHING!**

Submissions will be reviewed & may be lightly edited for clarity or space, but the original will not be modified. Submissions may not include harmful language, images, or violent content. Being included in the Booze News is at the sole discretion of the committee. Please remember our 12 Traditions where applicable when making a submission.



A MESSAGE FROM THE *Booze News* COMMITTEE

We will be sending postcards to all of the addresses we have on file in the next couple of weeks – If you have previously signed up through the [District 14 website](#) to receive paper copies of the Booze News via USPS, you will get this postcard with instructions to confirm your delivery. **If you want to continue receiving the Booze News via USPS, you will need to respond to confirm.** Instructions on how to do that will be provided on the postcard.

We are working to refine our processes & want to ensure everyone who wants a copy of this publication gets one, so if you do not receive a postcard & want a paper copy sent to you via USPS, you will need to sign up on the [District 14 website](#). There is also an option to receive the Booze News via email instead, which is faster & more cost effective for our district!

You can always reach us via email at boozenews.d14.a21@gmail.com

*Thank you
for reading!*