

# Booze News

JUNE 2026

AREA 21

DISTRICT 14

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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.

# 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. Why is it important that we not get involved in outside enterprises?
2. Is it ever wise for a group to lease a small building or endorse an outside event?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local clubhouse familiar with the “A.A. Guidelines on the Relationship between A.A. and clubs,” which is available free from GSO?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor’s advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Our group’s landlord is raising money to pay for a new roof on the building. Should the group make a contribution? What if the landlord specifically asks the group to make a contribution?

*\*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.*

# dictionary definitions

## **Character**

*(noun)*

The mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.

## **Defects**

*(noun)*

Imperfections or shortcomings that impair something or make it incomplete.

## **Endorse**

*(verb)*

To approve openly; to support or recommend publicly.

## **Enterprise**

*(noun)*

A project or undertaking that is especially difficult, complicated, or risky.

## **Entirely**

*(adverb)*

To a complete degree; wholly.

## **Prestige**

*(noun)*

Respect and admiration given to someone or something because of a reputation for success or influence.

## **Primary**

*(adjective)*

First in order of time or importance.

## **Purpose**

*(noun)*

Something set up as an object or end to be attained; intention.

## **Ready**

*(adjective)*

Prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action.

## **Remove**

*(verb)*

To eliminate or get rid of something.

# Ready, Set, Grow

Sometimes spiritual growth looks dramatic. More often, it shows up looking ordinary.

Step Six can feel deceptively simple. After all, we've already admitted our powerlessness, taken inventory, shared our wrongs, and started cleaning house. But now comes a harder question: **Am I actually willing to change?** Not just willing to stop drinking. **Willing to let go of the attitudes, fears, resentments, control, ego, and old survival tactics that once kept us comfortable**—or at least distracted.

The Big Book doesn't say, "Were perfect." It says, "**Were entirely ready.**" That readiness is often a process. Some defects we gladly surrender. Others we grip like emotional heirlooms. We may recognize them as harmful while secretly believing we still need them.

Step Six **invites us into honest willingness.** It asks us to stop bargaining with our shortcomings and start trusting that recovery offers something better than the protection our defects once provided.

**This step is less about instant transformation and more about openness. A softened heart. A loosening grip. A growing willingness to become teachable.**

*Recovery is not a personality transplant. It is a gradual spiritual awakening.*

## Tiny Examples of Step Six in Action

- Pausing before reacting in anger
- Admitting "I was wrong" without defending it
- Listening instead of planning a comeback
- Letting someone else get credit
- Asking for help
- Being honest when it would be easier to hide
- Accepting criticism without spiraling
- Choosing patience in traffic (the true spiritual test)

*Recovery doesn't happen because we become flawless. It happens because we become willing.*

## Step Six Reminders

- Awareness is progress & Willingness counts.
- Defects lose power when brought into the light.
- Spiritual growth is usually uncomfortable before it is freeing.
- Humility isn't thinking less of yourself—it's thinking about yourself less.



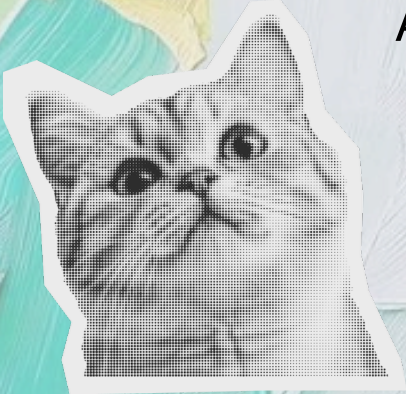
# HIGHER POWER POP PLAYLIST

*For A Summer Spiritual Experience*

Lady Gaga — Rain On Me  
Britney Spears — Gimme More  
Ariana Grande — Into You  
Chappell Roan — Pink Pony Club  
Dua Lipa — Dance The Night  
Kylie Minogue — Padam Padam  
Charli XCX — Von dutch  
Beyoncé — ALIEN SUPERSTAR



Madonna — Hung Up  
ABBA — Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!



Donna Summer — Hot Stuff  
Gloria Gaynor — I Will Survive  
Lady Gaga — Stupid Love

Britney Spears — Toxic  
Charli XCX — 360

Ariana Grande — No Tears Left to Cry  
Madonna — Ray of Light

Robyn — Dancing On My Own  
Whitney Houston — I Wanna Dance with Somebody

Cher — Believe

Chappell Roan — HOT TO GO!

Beyoncé — CUFF IT

Carly Rae Jepsen — Run Away With Me



# Thoughts From our Membership

## Tradition 6 -Financial Aspects

Based on my observations from attending meetings and reading Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) literature, issues involving money, property, and authority can easily distract us from our primary spiritual purpose.

Therefore, we believe that any substantial property that is useful to AA should be separately incorporated and managed, keeping material matters distinct from spiritual ones. An AA group should never operate as a business. Supportive services such as clubs or hospitals that require significant property or administration should be separately incorporated and structured so that groups can let them go if needed. For this reason, such facilities should not use the AA name. Their management should rest solely with the people who financially support them. In the case of clubs, AA members are the caretakers. Hospitals and other recovery facilities, however, should remain outside AA and be medically supervised. Although an AA group may cooperate with others, that cooperation must never become affiliation or endorsement, whether explicit or implied. An AA group must not be bound to anyone.

After a year in AA, I was invited back to the Chicago rehab center I had graduated from (ha-ha) to speak as a guest. I shared material from one of my Booze News articles. They liked the newsletter's format and asked if we would endorse their center in Booze News. After talking with my sponsor and other elders, I learned that doing so would not be ethical. I would not have known that otherwise. The longer you stay in AA, follow the simple Twelve Steps, and truly work them, the more valuable your knowledge becomes in helping others.

These experiences left us deeply convinced that we could not endorse any related enterprise, no matter how worthy it seemed. We in Alcoholics Anonymous could not be everything to everyone, nor should we try. We in AA had those dreams, and that is understandable, since many alcoholics are idealists whose hopes have been disappointed. Most of us wanted to do good, achieve meaningful things, and live by high ideals. But as perfectionists, when we fell short, we often swung to the other extreme and ended up with the bottle and the blackout. Through AA, wisdom brought us within reach of our highest hopes. So why would we not want to share our way of life with everyone?

Consider this strange form of endorsement. Years ago, the principle of "no endorsement" faced a serious test when some major distilling companies proposed entering the field of alcohol education. They believed it would reflect well on the liquor industry to show a sense of public responsibility. Their message was that alcohol should be enjoyed, not abused, heavy drinkers should cut back, and problem drinkers and alcoholics should not drink at all. That is like supplying bullets for the gun or removing the brakes from the car you are driving.

My final thought is that as AA continues to evolve, new challenges will arise. Looking at the long form of this tradition, it is clear that Bill intended it as a warning to groups that might take on projects outside our primary purpose of carrying the message. AA clubs are clearly exempt from this concern, but starting a recovery center or a local charitable project could become a major distraction. Even beyond Bill's examples in the long form, the principle of avoiding endorsement remains important in every area. Let Booze News know your thoughts!

John D.

# Pamphlet of the Month

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE

LGBTQ  
Alcoholics  
in A.A.

This month's featured pamphlet, LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A., is a collection of personal stories from LGBTQ members of Alcoholics Anonymous sharing their experience, strength, and hope in recovery. The pamphlet emphasizes that alcoholism does not discriminate — and neither does recovery.

At its heart, the pamphlet reinforces one of AA's foundational principles: "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking." Through deeply personal stories, members describe struggles with identity, fear, shame, rejection, isolation, trauma, and alcoholism — and how they found acceptance, belonging, and sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Its message is clear: no one has to recover alone.

Especially during Pride Month, this pamphlet serves as a powerful reminder that AA's doors are open to all alcoholics, and that authenticity, inclusion, and compassion can save lives.

AA rooms are strongest when every alcoholic who walks through the door feels welcome, heard, and seen.

View the PDF or purchase  
this pamphlet [here](#)

## The Opposite of Addiction is Connection

### **Connection, Belonging, and the Language of the Heart**

One of the cruelest lies alcoholism tells us is that we are different. Different from other people. Different from other alcoholics. Too broken, too ashamed, too complicated, too far gone. Many of us entered AA carrying what the program often calls "terminal uniqueness" — the belief that nobody could possibly understand us. And so we isolated.

Even surrounded by people, many alcoholics describe feeling profoundly alone. Alcohol may have temporarily eased that loneliness, but eventually it deepened it. Isolation became both a symptom and a fuel source for the disease.

Perhaps the miracle of Alcoholics Anonymous is not just sobriety, but connection. We walk into a room full of strangers and hear someone tell our story. Maybe not the exact details — but the feelings. The fear. The hiding. The exhaustion. The longing to feel okay. Identification saves lives. In AA, we discover that while our backgrounds may differ, the language of recovery is universal. We learn that honesty sounds familiar no matter who is speaking. We begin to understand that belonging is not earned through perfection or performance. It begins the moment we admit we need help.

AA does not erase our differences, nor does it require us to all be the same. Instead, it reminds us that our common suffering and common solution are greater than the things that divide us. The opposite of addiction is not simply abstinence. The opposite of addiction is connection. And every time one alcoholic reaches out to another, that connection grows stronger.

# Upcoming Events

## So. IL Serenity Campout

May 27 - 31

Rend Lake North Sandusky Campground  
8420 Loon Ln, Sesser, IL

## Speaker & Potluck Meeting - Thursday Night

Joe McQ Step Study

May 28

New Day Recovery Club  
4046 Forest Blvd, East Saint Louis

## Area Assembly

June 7, 9 AM - 2:30 PM

In-Person option at The Parish Center  
1900 Richmond Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938  
Zoom Option available as well - more  
information can be found [here](#).

## District 14 GSR Meeting

June 14 1:00 PM

In Person at O'Fallon Trailer Group  
108 Carbon Hill Road, O'Fallon IL  
Or online via Zoom Meeting ID: 720 074 2222

## Unity Camping & Float Trip

June 19 - 21

Huzzah Valley Resort  
970 E Hwy 8, Steelville

## District 14 GSR Meeting

July 12 1:00 PM

In Person at 623 Club  
120 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Belleville IL  
Or online via Zoom Meeting ID: 720 074 2222

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From you!



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

There is a submission form on  
the District 14 Website where  
you can submit feedback,  
articles, art work, events,  
poetry, quotes, 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.  
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making a submission.*

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THESE EVENTS ARE  
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DISTRICT 14  
WEBSITE!**

Reminder!

You can always reach us via email to make  
suggestions or comments at:  
[boozenews.d14.a21@gmail.com](mailto:boozenews.d14.a21@gmail.com)

## RECOVERY IN PRINT

District 14's monthly newsletter offering encouragement, inspiration, and education grounded in AA literature and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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