

ALTERNATIVE

"INTER-GROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA" November, 1998

NOVEMBER - IS GRATITUDE MONTH

Everyone must agree that we A.A.'s are unbelievably fortunate people; fortunate that we have suffered so much; fortunate that we can know, understand, and love each other so supremely well.

These attributes and virtues are scarcely of the earned variety. Indeed, most of us are well aware that these are rare gifts which have their true origin in our kinship born of a common suffering and a common deliverance by the grace of God.

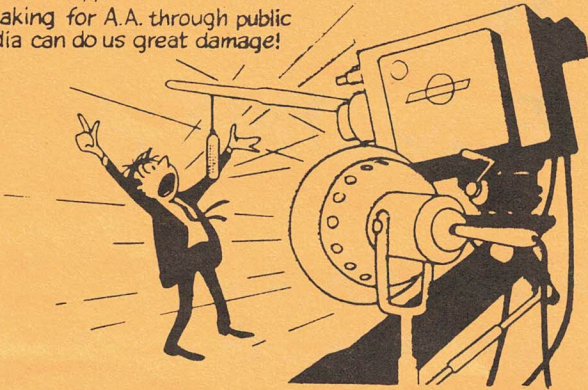
Thereby we are privileged to communicate with each other to a degree and in a manner not very often surpassed among our nonalcoholic friends in the world around us.

(Bill W., Grapevine October 1959)

The Eleventh Tradition

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

But we must ever be aware that self-appointed messiahs speaking for A.A. through public media can do us great damage!



Alcoholics who have recovered through our Program are themselves the strongest attraction that AA has. When people are asked what led them to seek AA help, the answer given most often is: "An AA member." Their chances would have been slim if all of us had remained completely in hiding. But many of us have chosen to tell our friends, neighbors, employers, co-workers, doctors, or spiritual advisers that we are in AA - and when we do so, we are not breaking our anonymity in the meaning of this Tradition.

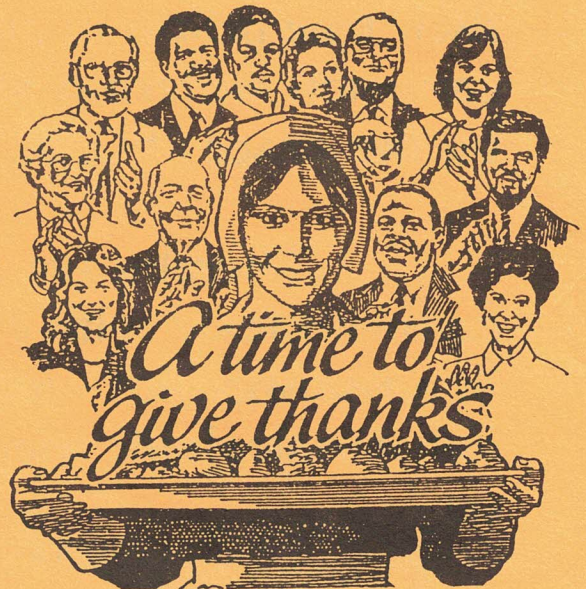
Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an AA. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks it should be anonymous, too. The Tradition is talking about "*personal anonymity*" remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to AA if they don't know that it exists or if they have distorted, unfavorable impressions of its members or its Program

Giving the general public an accurate picture of AA is the chief job of our public information committees. In addition, they often carry the message to certain groups - from police officers to personnel directors - whose work includes contact with active alcoholics.

Information about AA is being offered to the public through all the communications media, in print and over the air. On radio, it's easy to guard members' anonymity, of course. But TV (not in wide use when the Traditions were written) is another matter. According to a Conference opinion, members are breaking their anonymity when they are identified on TV as AA's and their faces are shown - whether or not their names are given. And yet, this medium, with its vast audiences, cannot be ignored.

Different techniques have been employed to preserve anonymity on TV: masks; screens; back-lighting that shows AA's only as silhouettes; camera angles showing them only from the back. The "shadow" method diagrammed here is simple, relaxed - and appropriate. For we are not selling personalities - we are explaining AA. Personal anonymity breaks in the public media not only may discourage timid prospects; they may threaten the anonymity-breakers' own sobriety, by violating the spirit of the AA Program and Traditions. ...

November-



!!!NOTICE TO INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES!!!
intergroup will hold elections for new officers at the meeting on Tuesday, November 24. The following offices are up for election: Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

Hotline: Intergroup is in the process of setting up our own Hotline and is seeking volunteers to cover telephones. Please call Scott D. at 921-2789.

NEW MEETING SCHEDULES will be going to the printer sometime in November or early December. DCM's are requested to call Irish at 670-5066 with any changes in the meetings in their District.

BABY SITTING AVAILABLE!!! \$1.00 per child at the following meetings: Come As You Are; Leesport; Recovery Riders; Saturday St. Alban's Women; Time to Start Living.

ALCATHON: Donations requested for the New Year's Eve Alcathon. Please mark them for "Activity Fund."

+INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS FOR NOVEMBER+

CHILDREN'S HOME
Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

WERNERSVILLE HOSP.
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

CHIT CHAT FARMS
Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

1 - Leesport
8 - River Road
15 - Gibraltar
22 - Time/Start Living
29 - Recovery Riders

3 - Leesport
10 - Hilltop
17 - Gibraltar
24 - Another Chance

5 - Recovery Riders
12 - Recovery Riders
19 - Walnut St. Rec.
26 - Turning Point

(If you cannot meet your commitment, please arrange for a back-up or call Stan S. at 375-1441)

SERVICE WORK IS GRATITUDE IN ACTION

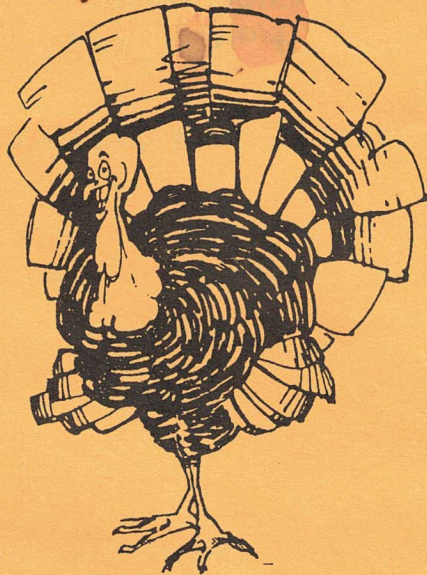
Call
Kathy
McD. 12/20
1/17

+INTERGROUP COUNTS ON YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS+

MANY THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING DURING THE PAST MONTH: Books and People; Come As You Are; Leesport; St. Alban Women (Monday); Skylight Room Meeting; Walnut St. Recovery.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND INTER-GROUP AND DISTRICT MEETINGS. SEE YOUR MEETING SCHEDULE OR GSR FOR TIME AND PLACE.

Chairperson:	Bob B.	376-6007	Alternate Chair:	Irish G.	670-5066
Secretary:	Rick F.	372-9240	Treasurer:	Harry S.	562-0924
Hotline:	Carolyn G.	929-0598	Schedules:	Irish G.	670-5066
Alternative	Mary R.	478-8442	Books & Lit.	Bob B.	376-6007
Women's Prison:	Chris H.	371-0102	Men's Prison:	Steve S.	678-0644
Archives:	Harry S.	562-0924	Institutions:	Stan S.	375-1411
Unity:	Scott D.	921-2789	Spanish Liaison:	Angel R	372-2438
District Liaison:	Michael I.	926-4753			



"I don't know about you, but I always give thanks the day after Thanksgiving!"

Happy Thanksgiving