

ALTERNATIVE

"INTER-GROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA" January, 1996

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE NEW YEAR (Or What To Do Between Meetings)

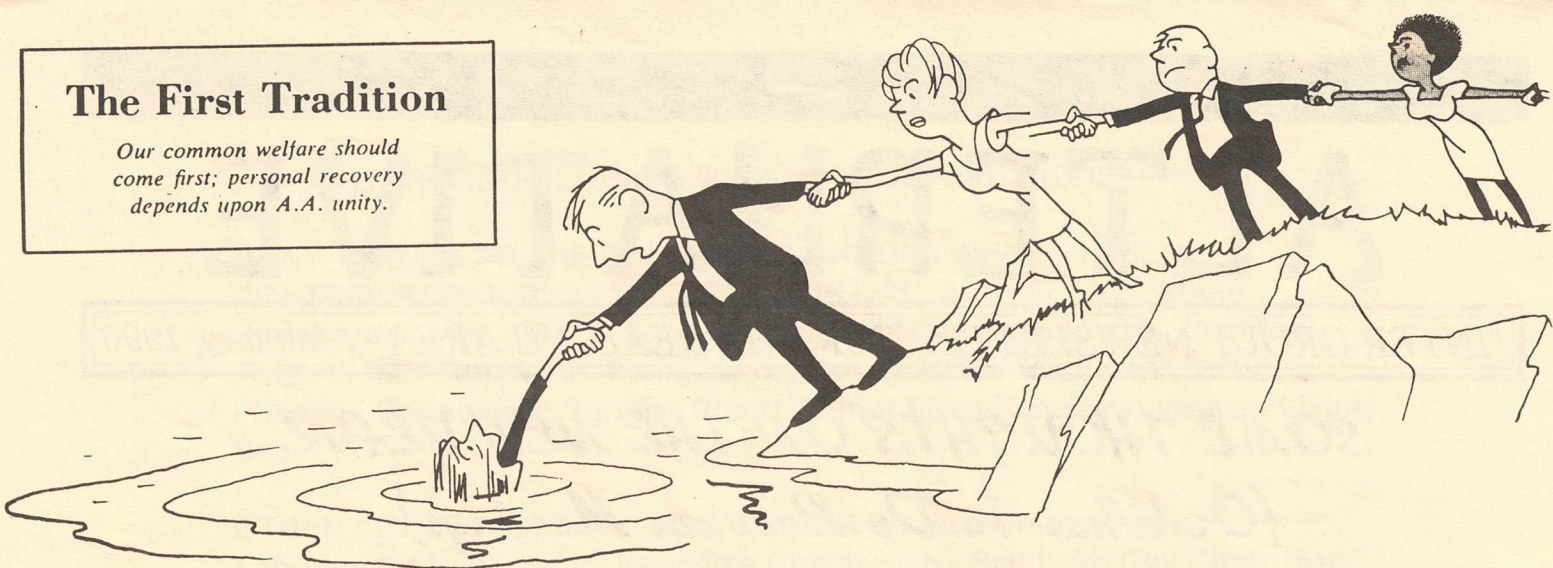
*THIS YEAR ... Be Alive ... Smile Often ... Practice Patience
... Savor Special Moments ... Live the A.A. Message ... Make
New Friends ... Tell Those You Love That You Do ... Forgive An
Enemy ... Hope ... Grow ... Count Your Blessings ... Observe
Miracles ... Make Them Happen ... Give ... Give In ... Trust
Enough To Take ... Keep A Promise ... Look For Rainbows ...
See Beauty Everywhere ... Work Hard ... Be Wise ... Take Time
For People ... Make Time for Yourself ... Laugh ... Spread Joy
... Reach Out And Let Someone In ... Believe In Yourself
... Trust Others ... Have Faith ... Comfort A Friend ... Make
Some Mistakes ... Learn From Them ... Hug A Little Kid ...
Hug a Big One.*



*HAPPY NEW YEAR
From Your Friends at
Intergroup*

The First Tradition

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



Our individual sobriety depends on the group. The group depends on us. We soon learn that unless we curb our individual desires and ambitions, we can damage the group...

Our brother the noisy drunk affords the simplest illustration of this Tradition. If he insists on disrupting the meeting, we “invite” him to leave, and we bring him back when he’s in better shape to hear the message. We are putting the “common welfare” first. But it is *his* welfare, too; if he’s ever going to get sober, the group must go on functioning, ready for him.

Yet he is only one rare aspect of the problem. When we do get sober in A.A., we shed a few small bits of the Big Ego: We admit, “I can’t handle alcohol, and I can’t stay away from it on my own.” Fine so far! Then we find there is plenty of that Ego still with us. It may lead us to take other members’ inventories and to gossip about their supposed shortcomings. It may lure us into hogging the floor at every discussion meeting.

Oh well, it’s a selfish program, isn’t it? After all the miseries of active alcoholism, why shouldn’t we indulge ourselves a little? We all know one good reason why we shouldn’t: Self-indulgence of this kind is an immediate personal danger; it threatens the individual’s own sobriety. More than that, it threatens the very basis of our sobriety—the unity of the A.A. group. For a self-righteous gossip *can* damage the mutual trust that is vital to every group. And a compulsive talker *can* ruin the effectiveness of a discussion meeting—“I’ve stopped going to that group. Nobody but Joe can get a word in edgewise.”

When A.A. was very young, the first members clearly saw the preservation of its unity as a life-or-death matter for themselves and for the alcoholics still unrecovered. The First Tradition states this aim, and it is the common aim of all Twelve Traditions. When A.A. reached the age of 35, the aim was restated in the theme of the 1970 International Convention:

This we owe to A.A.’s future:

To place our common welfare first;
To keep our Fellowship united.
For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
And the lives of those to come.

Each of the other eleven Traditions explains one specific way to protect the unity of the Fellowship and the A.A. group. Those early members quickly recognized power-drivers as potential group-wreckers. And they’re still around—the members who are always sure that they’re always right—the members who are happily ready to assume all the burdens of leadership and grimly unwilling to share them, let alone give them up. But a group does need officers. How can we cope with this dilemma? Tradition Two provides the answer. . . .



NEW MEETING SCHEDULES MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE NEXT MEETING OF INTERGROUP, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 7:30 P.M., FLAME ROOM, UGI BUILDING.

HOTLINE: Male and female volunteers needed for our Hotline. Please call Carolyn G. at 929-0598.

WOMEN'S PRISON: Intergroup is seeking a female replacement for the meetings at the Women's Prison. If you have two years' sobriety and are interested, please call Della J. at 375-0365.

MEN'S PRISON: Orientation Classes for meetings at the Men's Prison are being scheduled. Call Lane C. at 373-6586 for information.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY: 611 Washington St., Thursday, January 11 at 12 Noon. Speaker and refreshments. Contact: Harry S. 372-7803.

=====INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS FOR JANUARY=====

ST. JOSEPH'S

Sundays at 8 PM

7 - Leesport
14 - Robesonia
21 - Come As You Are
28 - St.Alban's Women(Mon)

WERNERSVILLE

Tuesdays at 7 PM

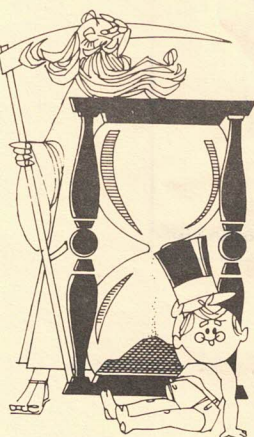
2 - Springview
9 - Leesport
16- Southside
23 - Walnut St.

CHIT CHAT

Thursdays at 7:30 P0M

4 - Take The Light
11 - Springview
18 - Men's 12&12
25 - K.I.S.

NOTE; If you cannot meet your commitment, please arrange for a back-up and call Stan S. at 375-1441.



*Quote
of the
Month*

Moral Force

. . . The crying need of America today – and of the world today – is the total mobilization of our moral forces. . . . Some may inquire, “What, indeed, is moral force?” To my own mind it is the application of common sense and the Golden Rule. It is the will to see the other fellow’s viewpoint. It is the will to give specific and concrete examples of unselfish purpose and sincerity. Moral force is a genuine expression of the will to peace. It always places the guidance of God above a bigoted nationalism. It is the conscience of men and women in action.

– Senator Margaret Chase Smith (1960);
AA Today, page 87