

ALTERNATIVE

"INTER-GROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA"

April, 1999

SPRING — A Time of Awakening

Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning; it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. As it does go on, we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life -- the one that did not work -- for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever.

Regardless of worldly success or failure, regardless of pain or joy, regardless of sickness or health or even of death itself, a new life of endless possibilities can be lived if we are willing to continue our awakening, through the practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps.

A.A. Grapevine, December 1957

The Twelve Traditions

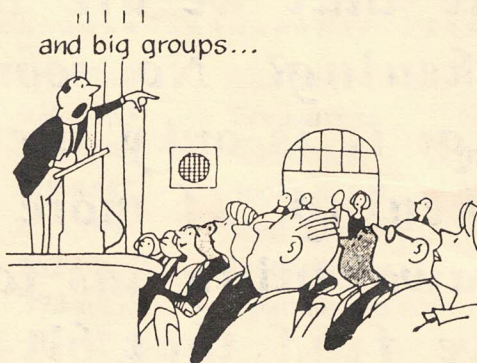
Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

A member who does any amount of traveling finds the A.A. spirit much the same everywhere. But apart from this inward kinship, there are vast differences among groups. Here, the traveler finds three members discussing the Steps in somebody's living room; there, 300 listening to speakers in a church auditorium.

There are all kinds of groups...
Little groups...



and big groups...

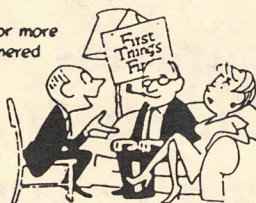


and off-beat groups...



In one part of the U.S., respectful silence greets the speaker who begins, "My name is Anne, and I am an alcoholic." In another, everybody happily shouts, "Hi, Anne!" And in many other places, she may introduce herself with her full name -- at a one-hour meetings or a 90-minute. In each neighborhood in every part of the world reached by A.A. the local group is free to work out its own customs.

But wherever two or more alcoholics are gathered together to practice A.A. principles, it is an A.A. group if they say it is.



And you are a member if you say you are!



In a way, the Fourth Tradition is like the Fourth Step: It suggests that the A.A. group should take honest inventory of itself, asking about each of its independently planned actions, "Would this break any Tradition?" Like the individual member who chooses to make the Steps his or her guide toward happy sobriety, the wise group recognizes that the Traditions are not hindering technicalities, -- they are proved guides toward the chief objective of all A.A. groups...



As always, freedom brings responsibility. Because each group is autonomous, it's up to each group to avoid any action that might harm A.A. And there have been such actions -- or this Tradition would be unnecessary. "Implicit throughout A.A.'s Traditions," Bill W. wrote, "is the confession that our Fellowship has its sins. We admit that we have character defects as a society and these defects threaten us continually."

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"The Twelve Traditions Illustrated"
A.A. World Services, Inc.

Intergroup is seeking a Liaison for the Men's Prison to replace Steve S., whose term has expired. Please call him at 678-0644, or attend our next Intergroup Meeting.

The Spring View Group meeting was inadvertently dropped by the printer on the new meeting schedule. The group meeting is held Sundays at 8:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 729 Penn Ave., Sinking Spring.

YASNY Group has added a fourth meeting on Fridays at 8:00 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Catholic Church (formerly the Mt. Penn Group meeting), at 2427 Perkiomen Ave.

HOTLINE COMMITTEE will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Temple Restaurant. For more information call Shirl O. at 689-5144.

DISTRICT 66 WORKSHOP Sunday, April 25, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., St. Peter's UCC Church (Wilshire).

EPGSA Mini-Assemblies will be held (1) May 16 in Williamsport; (2) June 27 in Philadelphia; and (3) July 25 (area to be determined). See your GSR for further information.

+++INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS FOR APRIL+++

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

4 - Leesport
11 - Recovery Riders
18 - Time to Start Living
25 - Walnut St. Recovery

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

6 - Springview
13 - Gibraltar
20 - Books & People
27 - Leesport

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

1 - Recovery Riders
8 - Recovery Riders
15 - Walnut St. Recovery
22 - Robesonia
29 - Gibraltar

(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

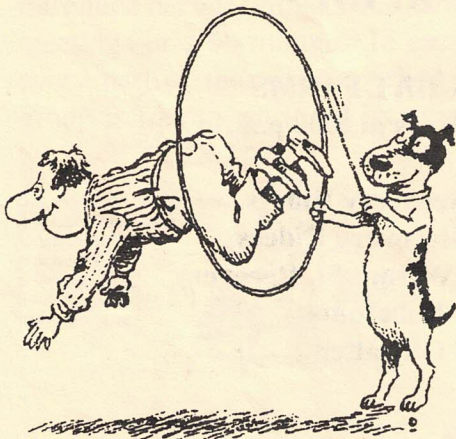
+INTERGROUP COUNTS ON YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS+

**MANY THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
FROM THE FOLLOWING DURING THE PAST MONTH:
Books and People; Muhlenberg Sunday Morning; 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: Rick F. 372-9240
Secretary: Michael I. 926-4753
Hotline: Carolyn G. 929-0598
Alternative Mary R. 478-8442
Women's Prison: Chris H. 371-0102
Archives: Harry S. 562-0924
Unity: Dawn R. 373-6236
District Liaison: Michael I. 926-4753

Alternate Chair: Dawn R. 373-6236
Treasurer: Harry S. 562-0924
Schedules: Jim A. 779-1862
Books & Lit. Bob B. 376-6007
Men's Prison: Steve S. 678-0644
Institutions: Stan S. 375-1411
Spanish Liaison: Angel R 372-2438



*"Our 'Trusted Servant' really rammed
that measure through."*

*Expecting the world to treat you
fairly just because you're sober and a
good person is like expecting a bull
not to attack you because you're a
vegetarian...*