



## [Bike and Auto Show & Shine](#)

Saturday, July 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Both old and new vehicles can enter for a \$10 fee. Food, water, and raffle tickets available for purchase. Presented by The Deal Men's Group. White House Alano Society Fundraiser. White House, 1400 Pennsylvania Ave., Des Moines.

## [Jaywalker Group 11th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Thursday, July 21, 5:30 p.m. for cake and fellowship, meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Speaker Bobby M. St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 5720 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines.

## [White House Annual Yard Sale](#)

Aug. 5-6, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., Aug. 7, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Furniture, housewares, home decor, tools and much more!  
The White House, 1400 Pennsylvania Ave., Des Moines.

# The Blog Begins...

*We are starting a series, published with permission, written by a friend. I met Richard in the early 70's, he was my boss for a couple of summers at Y camp. We had some great fun together, and mischief!*

*We were re-acquainted at the same Y camp many years later - at an A.A. retreat. Glad to see each other, but not too surprised that each had found recovery!*

*It's interesting, as one goes through life, who you know from "pre-recovery" is in recovery. We all probably know a few who survived, and recovered. Are we surprised when we find they are in recovery? Generally, no. Save for a few of them.*

*I ran across his blog recently and was captivated by the topic and his perspective. I immediately contacted Richard and asked if we could publish it in our newsletter. He agreed.*

*We will publish each installment in order. It will take a number of issues. Hopefully, you may find it an interesting a perspective as I did.*

*Brook W.*

I've had a lot of people tell me, "You should write a blog." These are the same people that told me, "You should write a book." Today, when I mention to people, "I'm thinking about writing a blog" they look at me and say, "That's a great idea." That's what they say, but their look says, "Yeah, go ahead. Who's going to read it? Everybody's writing a blog. I'm not going to write a blog. You go ahead." So, that's exactly what I'm going to do.

I have no idea if this is following appropriate blog protocol or whether it violates some arcane 12-step rule, but I'm just going to write whatever pops into my head about whatever is going on. Since a great deal of my life has to do with recovery, that's generally what I will be writing about. I don't use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to talk about my own personal recovery. I don't even celebrate sobriety dates there. I know some people do and that's what works for them.

Over the last few years, I've become fascinated with the conception of the addict/alcoholic as a hero. Each person suffering from addiction makes a Hero's Journey. Some make it into recovery and many do not. Those reading this may relate. Many of us have heard "It's the journey, not the destination." For those who have suffered the alternative life of the active alcoholic or addict, this journey can be harrowing, terrifying and virtually death defying.

For those who have made it to recovery we're still on a journey, but it becomes more manageable day by day. We're on this journey every minute of every day. Not always conscious of the journey. We take it as it is, accepting what comes and living in constant anticipation of what's ahead. Those in recovery seem to need a little more help with not only their realization of the journey but with their course as well.

Sadly, alcoholics and addicts spend a large portion of their lives guessing what "normal" is. We believe we're supposed to. If we are fortunate enough to find recovery, we will spend the rest of our lives making little course corrections to our journey of life to stay even. Each day the alcoholic or addict stays clean and sober he or she is beating the odds by an astronomical amount. It takes courage and commitment to do that day in and day out. It truly is The Hero's Journey.

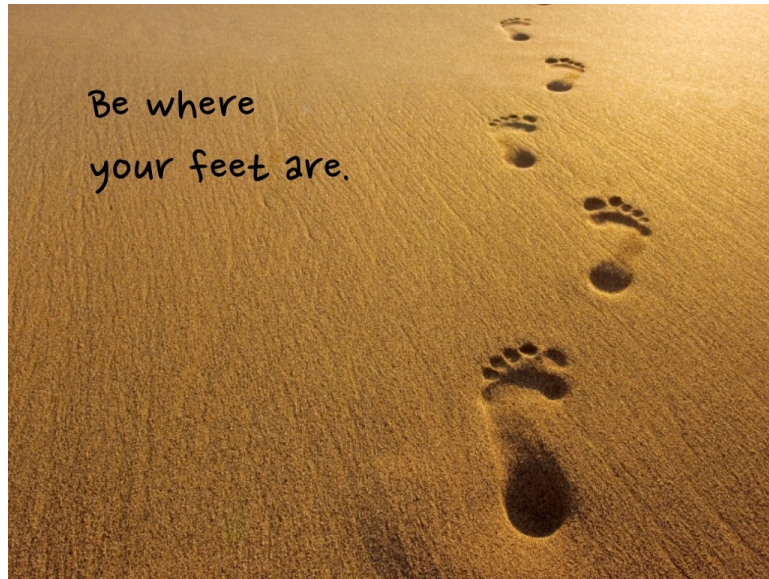
It isn't hard to convince an alcoholic or addict that he or she is being heroic. We are by our very nature grandiose. It's more difficult to understanding that one must prepare each day for the journey ahead. For many addicted individuals that journey continues to be arduous.

Because I've started this project through the lens of the hero's journey I will share a story of my own. This isn't from the "early days of my sobriety" it's from what's happening right now as I write these words. It's a story that serves to remind me that I'm still on the journey of recovery even though I haven't had a drink or used a mood-altering substance in many, many years.

To put this in context, I've moved a lot. Over nearly 30 years I've moved approximately 10 times. That averages one move every three years. This may not be a lot for some, but personally it's a lot for me. As I have attempted to navigate an ongoing program of recovery over that same period I can say that moving this often has created challenges for this alcoholic.

Because we want them to succeed, there is a lot of advice given to the newcomer regarding what to do early in the recovery process. You'll hear things like "Go to 90 meetings in 90 days." Or "find a home group and find a sponsor and start working the steps." And mostly because "we have no opinions on outside issues" and "ought never be organized" pretty much every newcomer who puts himself or herself out there will get an "opinion" about how they ought to "organize" their program of recovery.

What I don't see so much is any "opinions," or more importantly any experience for "long timers" who find themselves moving around and ending up in different places. I can tell you from personal experience that AA is not the same "all over the world." As a matter of fact, it can differ from county to county and city to city. Is it fundamentally the same from place to place? I would say yes. This is fortunate. For if we want the "I am responsible..." commitment to remain vital, AA's fundamentals need to remain vital as well.



So, what about the guy who moves around? Starting over in a new place is really a challenge especially for someone who has been sober for a while and has established a strong support group in his home area. It's possible to maintain some support long distance, but eventually that's going to become inconvenient and less and less effective in helping the alcoholic remain properly centered. You need a recovery program close to where your feet are.

What are the inherent differences between meetings and what are the things that could potentially trip me up? (read that as "stop going to meetings.") First, the people aren't right. I know, that sounds simplistic but let's work it through. You go to a meeting in a place you've never been before. Maybe it's on the same night you used to go to your home group meeting. It could be at a church or an Alano Club or in the basement of a travel agency. It's all pretty much the same for your first meeting in your new location.

When I watch television shows or movies where characters go to meetings there is always a good group of people hanging around talking before the meeting starts and the drunks are always straight out of Central Casting. Usually the same age as the character and sporting a similar history. Now in reality, this first meeting in your new place won't be like that. When you arrive there might be one or two people setting up chairs, making coffee and putting out Big Books or other literature. One or both may greet you, ask you a few questions like, "where you from?" or "is this your first meeting?"

Once they find out you're not new and have been around for a while, they'll welcome you and then move on with their work. As the meeting time nears you take your place or seat anywhere in the configuration. Other people will filter in and eventually the meeting will begin. In this first part of the meeting is where many of the true differences will occur. Some will have readings. This can vary in complexity and length from anything between the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to a couple of pages shy of the first 164 pages of the Big Book.

Make no mistake, this scenario is in no way characteristic of all AA meetings but merely serves as a possibility when facing the prospect of starting over in a new location. One of the other realities that may need to be faced is that in some areas of the country there just aren't that many meetings. Remote, rural areas often depend on a few hardy individuals and their "pigeons" to carry the message from small town to small town. I've got such strong admiration for the guys who do that and their additional commitment to making sure that whenever someone needs a meeting there is a meeting at the time and place listed in the meeting directory.

My experience with "starting over" and going to new meetings is mixed. I should point out that the "mixed" refers to me as I'm the common denominator in all these experiences. Here's my personal timeline. I got sober in Chicago (after spending 31 days in Tucson, AZ), I moved to Los Angeles at nine months (after a two month stopover in western Illinois for summer stock), at three years and some months I moved back to Chicago, at seven years I moved to Des Moines, IA, at 16 years I moved to Mankato, MN, at 18 years I moved to Hopkins, MN, and then at 22 years and some months I moved to White Bear Lake, MN. A month before my 29-year anniversary, I moved to Bend, Oregon where I have been for over a year. Each of these moves has taught me something about myself and how perilous it is for this alcoholic to navigate his sobriety alone.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to tell my story of near calamity in the Grapevine. That story had its genesis in one of these moves. Because I've had the chance to move a few more times since that event I have also had the chance to develop a "multi-function" tool to add to my toolbox that addresses this very thing. There are several things a person can do if they find themselves in a situation like this.

Let me start by saying, "You most likely won't 'fit in' at the first meeting you go to." As with most of the examples I give, this may not always be the case, but as a student of human nature and the dynamics of the alcoholic's ego these examples will resonate often. We really do want to be accepted and feel easily rejected by the smallest or most insignificant gesture by someone else.

We have been the person handing out this slight without even realizing it. Every time we focus on our friends at meetings we run the potential of ignoring the new person. This is particularly true for those who may be suffering but don't look like they are. One of the inherent problems with being the "not new" newcomer is just that, I'm not new. Not like the newcomer who is the lifeblood of the group, the alcoholic who is looking for a solution early in sobriety. You're the "new in town" newcomer that nobody knows what to do with.

After making a move a few years go to a place in which we would spend the next four years, I set out to "find my meetings." I was very committed to not repeating the substantial emotional and spiritual drubbing I had taken the last time I moved and didn't feel "welcomed" enough in my new community to sustain a commitment to my own sobriety. Big mistake!

There was one meeting at a local club a short distance from my home that met on Wednesday night. I went for several weeks and tried my hardest to fit in, but I just didn't seem to fit in at all. I could have "let it go" and found another meeting, but I wasn't going to let what happened before happen again. I "kept coming back." One evening after several weeks my wife said to me, "You can't go to that meeting anymore." I said, "Why not?" She responded by taking a reasoned pause and saying, "Because you're worse when you get home than when you leave."

It was true. I had been working so hard to "fit in" and not feeling very successful I was bringing my frustration home with me. I was acting all superior because, "Look at me. I'm going to meetings like I'm supposed to and not being appropriately recognized for the effort." Gee, I must still be exhibiting some grandiosity.

Now I must confess that I was willing to blame the location we had moved to, with the support of my wife I might add, for exhibiting some substantial parochial barriers that may prove too difficult to overcome. But the very next week a member of the group asked if I would do a lead on the Ninth Step for the meeting. I eagerly agreed and had an opportunity to share a little something about myself with the group. Problem solved. It seemed like after that I was fully accepted in that group. I was invited to do things with them and it began to feel as if I had found my "home group."



This wasn't the only group I had gone to during these early weeks and months. One of the most exciting things about being back in a metropolitan area was the access to a wide range of meetings every day. It had been a while since I'd been able to really pick and choose a meeting or meetings to try.

I first identified a meeting place in my town where there were noon meetings six days a week, Monday through Saturday. Because of my work, I went to the Saturday meeting. These meetings were held in the back room of an old train depot that had been converted into a coffee shop that was owned by the local school district.

This place offered its own set of challenges. For one, the only thing between the meeting and the rest of the coffee shop clientele was a large, thick curtain. This wasn't a soundproof curtain. Every time the barista ground the espresso beans you'd lose some element of the group member's story. Despite this little anomaly, the meeting became very popular and was often standing room only.

Another meeting I attended in my first month at my new location led to finding another meeting. There is a very large and very popular Friday night speaker meeting in my home area. It was at this meeting that I heard a speaker mention his home group as a Monday night Men's Group and he invited any guys looking for a meeting to come on over and visit.

I took that invitation seriously and went to his meeting the next Monday night, three days later. This was an all men's meeting that had been together for over 25 years and most of the attendees had been coming to the meeting for that long. They automatically broke up into groups after an initial lead where the members could choose between a step group and a topic group. They had a way of greeting the newcomer that was led by members with long-term sobriety. Several members would volunteer to conduct a Step One group for the newcomer. It was very impressive having a wide variety of sober experience in one group passing on their experience, strength and hope to the newcomer.

## NEWCOMER

In truth, I've begun to think about the fact that there are newcomers at every meeting (hopefully) and that in the end this is the grandest thing about the weekly meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. It's generally my own self-centeredness that creates the greatest barrier. It's not about whether I fit in, but rather what am I doing to help the alcoholic who still suffers. I have often experienced the feeling when trying to help a newcomer of not being very effective. This has continued to be a problem for me, but again this is at its core the product of my own self-centeredness. If I truly embrace and understand the concept of powerlessness I

would also see that I do the footwork and the outcome is out of my hands. The resistant newcomer is just that, a resistant newcomer.

In my next installment (if there is one) I'm going to talk about what strategies I have used to stay sober as I have continued to move from place to place.

Take good care.

By Richard C.

April 12, 2017

## We Want YOU!

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The ODAAT Times is looking for personal story submissions! Please send your 500+ word story to [dsm.central.office@gmail.com](mailto:dsm.central.office@gmail.com).

## Events

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Events can still be found at the [Des Moines Central Office Website](#). Continue to send your events to [The Manager](#).

## Meetings in the Spotlight - Big Book Online

Beaverdale Group - Hybrid

Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Des Moines Young People's Group - Hybrid

Friday, 7 p.m.

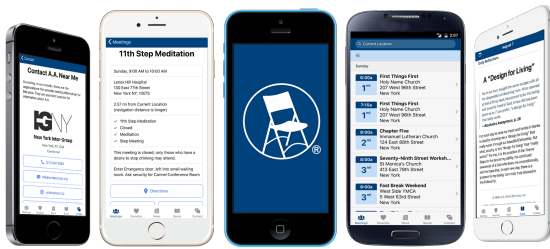
Both meetings are at St. Andrews Episcopal Church

5720 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.



## Meeting Guide



Brought to you by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Meeting Guide is a free of charge app that provides meeting information from A.A. service entities in an easy-to-access format.

Over 100,000 A.A. meetings are currently listed. The information is refreshed twice daily by relaying meeting information from more than 300 A.A. service entities; area, district, intergroup/central offices, and international General Service Office websites.

[Download on the Apple App Store](#)

[Download App on Google Play](#)

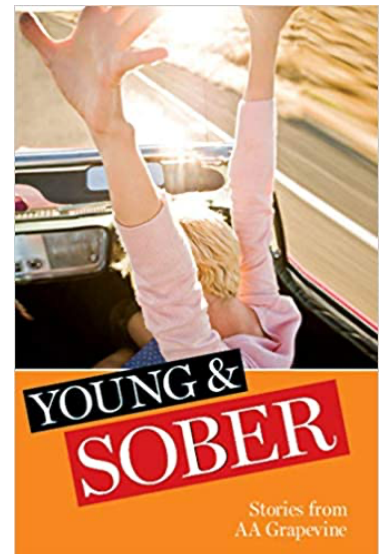
## Book Review: Young & Sober - Stories from AA Grapevine

From *Grapevine*, the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, inspiring stories by AA members who achieved sobriety in their teens, 20s and 30s.

What's it like to stop drinking at an early age? You'll find out in this collection of *Grapevine* stories about the joys and challenges of being young and sober. Written by members who got sober as young as 14, these fresh, original and sometimes startling stories are about growing up in AA, finding ways to connect when feeling different and learning how to live a sober life joyously.

From the young alcoholic for whom drinking once represented "the relief I'd been looking for," to the college graduate who feels "a part of something for the first time," when introduced to the AA community, this book speaks to the growing number of young people who have found a sense of belonging and hope in AA.

An instructive and inspiring read for family, counselors and healthcare providers alike, *Young & Sober* beautifully captures the experience of what it's like for a young person to live with addiction.



[Central Office Literature](#)

Hello again! Chris V. here with your bi-monthly A.A. history fix. Have you ever wondered the details behind some of our fascinating history? I do, all the time! Some of the fellowship's most riveting history comes around the lessons learned in traditions Six and Seven. This issue, I thought it would be great to look at the history of these traditions and how they have so significantly impacted the fellowship. A wonderful jumping off place from which to start this story, is an event referred to as "The Akron Vote."



The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (12 and 12) provides a looking glass for which to view this event. Bill W. describes that A.A. should have paid missionaries, its own hospitals and, you guessed it, a book, which just may "prove to be the spearhead of a new spiritual advance!" (12 and 12, p, 156). The Akron Vote took place in the fall of 1937, some accounts say November, but was most likely October. During the meeting Bill outlined his plan for paid missionaries, funded mainly by A.A. brand hospitals and book sales. Reports of how the meeting proceeded vary (as with a lot of A.A. history!) but the end result will significantly shift the path of our fellowship. Bill W. reported 18 voting alcoholics with two rounds of voting. The first vote appears to have gone contrary to Bill's expectations, as he recounts having to "return to the fray with renewed pressure" along with Dr. Bob (AACOA p. 144). It should be noted that Dr. Bob was not all in on this plan.

While he was somewhat supportive of a book, several accounts

have Bob as a dubious supporter of the full plan, resistant to the idea of missionaries and hospitals. By a vote of 10 yeas to 8 nays, Bill W. is granted the authority to go back to New York and raise funds to help A.A. take its next steps. Not only do these events lay the groundwork for our Sixth Tradition, as we will see, will be the inspiration for our Seventh Tradition of Self-Support.

Having been granted license to run with the ideas presented during the Akron Vote, Bill W. returns to New York. Bill being the sole "promoter" of these ideas was also a result of the fall meeting, as Akron made clear it would not help with fundraising efforts. If change was coming, Bill would be the power driver behind the wheel. Bill W. immediately returns to New York and begins "A.A.'s first (and last) great crusade to raise money" (AACOA, p. 146). Bill's efforts, along with right hand man Hank P., initially concentrate on institutions like the Red Cross and the ultra-wealthy, all of which showed little interest. Having had no luck, and in desperation, Bill suffers what he called "an imaginary ulcer attack" (WTBB, p. 37). After several home treatments, he decides to see his brother-in-law (who also happens to be very well connected in New York society), Dr. Leonard Strong. During the appointment, Bill opines about his troubles and Dr. Strong, being the good brother-in-law, endured his diatribe. The Dr. remained sympathetic to Bill and his mission to save the drunks of the world and proceeds to call the brother of an old high school friend, who just happens to run a charitable wing of the Rockefeller Foundation, Willard Richardson. Over the next few weeks, Mr. Richardson, Bill and Dr. Strong set up the base for what will become the revered "Rockefeller Dinner" held on December 13th, 1937. In the space of a few months, A.A. was on its way to fulfilling its dream of becoming the agent of change its early members so eagerly desired. On top of these high hopes, Bill's ulcer attack relieved itself!

The Rockefeller Dinner, attended by 14 (8 alcoholics, 4 of Mr. Rockefeller's associates, Dr. Silkworth and Dr. Strong), lasted 5 hours ending with high hopes for an "Akron Hospital" to treat drunks. As the weeks passed, so did the letters between the attendees and the end result is a donation of \$5000.00. Much more importantly, early A.A. starts to come to terms with its relationship with money, property and prestige and how it can divert us from our primary aims. Much more impactful than the small donation, came the idea that as a society, A.A. needed to be self-supporting and remain poor, "because it had to" (12 and 12, p. 160). Mr. Rockefeller seemed to see the wisdom of our Seventh Tradition well before we the fellowship was able. Thank goodness for this guidance which was to be the bedrock for how the fellowship will find Where Money and Spirituality Mix.

Given that A.A. had not been around terribly long at that time, groups were still figuring out how to best operate. Mort was looking to make an impression on his 11 other fellows and since there was no rule book, he used the only reference he had, the Big Book. During early attempts at meetings in L.A., chairpersons had chosen to read the first few pages of the book

### SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

itself. If you recall from previously articles, the Preamble did not come around until 1947. According to the Los Angeles Archives, having only read the book and never actually attending a meeting prior, Mort decided How It Works would be a good reading to kick off with.

Other practices seem to stem from Southern California as well. While researching for this article I came across a wonderful September 1961 Grapevine article that give the Formula For An AA Meeting In Southern California: Some warm and friendly customs have spread from the Golden State. These meetings had a “certain distinctive flavor which might be called the “Hi!” flavor.” This “Hi flavor” was the practice of introducing oneself as an alcoholic with the rest of the room responding “Hi <insert name here>!” The article also reports [w]hoever is chosen to read the excerpt from Chapter Five is also greeted with the “Hi!” when he (or she) gives his name, applause as he walks to the podium and applause when he concludes.” Sounds familiar to me.

I am not sure how you or your group feel about the different readings, but I can report that my experience is when I sit down in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and have the opportunity to hear these introductory words and claim my spot by admitting my alcoholism, I sure do feel at home when you respond with a warm welcome.

In Love and Service,

Chris V.

Feel free to contact me at [cvanme6758@yahoo.com](mailto:cvanme6758@yahoo.com) if you ever have questions or wish to discuss sources.

[Bill W. on the origin of Rule 62](#)

[Where Money& Spirituality Mix](#)

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age – Anonymous (Bill Wilson)

Writing the Big Book: The Creation of A.A. – William H. Schaberg

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions – Anonymous (Bill Wilson)

## **Third Legacy of Service**

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*A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer — ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. ~Bill W.*

Click on the links below, or visit [aadsmco.org](http://aadsmco.org) then Menu, then Volunteer Sign-Up!  
All the forms are there!

The links below take you directly to each form!

[12 Step List - Sign Up Link](#)

[Phone Army - Sign Up Link](#)

[Central \(In\)Office Volunteer - Sign Up Link](#)

The below link is not a Volunteer form, but a handy, and hopefully informative Newsletter! You will automatically get the next issue in your in-box when it's Posted to the website!!

[ODAA Times Newsletter - Sign Up Link](#)



**WE NEED  
VOLUNTEERS**

## Faithful Fivers

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What Is a Faithful Fiver? A.A. Members who support the Des Moines Central Office/ Intergroup with direct contributions. These contributions help stabilize our Budget. In addition to Contributions from Groups and Literature sales, Faithful Fivers can be a source of funds that help provide a predictable operating budget.

We invite A.A. members to contribute affordable, tax deductible amounts directly and regularly as supporting members or Faithful Fivers. You are a Faithful Fiver if you are an A.A. member and you say you are a Faithful Fiver.

What's affordable? \$5 per month, \$1 per week, \$15 per month. Any amount that fits your budget and level of gratitude.

Faithful Fiver contributions are not to take the place of, nor affect Group Contributions!

How do you contribute? You may set up regular 'recurring' contributions through our website: [Donate Here](#)

Simply look for the Faithful Fivers contribution line and fill in the amount and the rest of your payment information!

Or you can simply send a check, or if you prefer, bring in cash or a check. Please note 'Faithful Fivers' on your check/money order!

Every A.A. service is designed to make 12th Step work possible. They include:

- 24/7 phone answering (by A.A.'s) inquiries from those seeking help
- Direct callers to your AA Meetings
- Publishes an AA Meeting Directory
- Maintains a current 12th Step list to help the still suffering Alcoholic
- Maintains an informative and up to date website: [aadsmco.org](http://aadsmco.org)
- Publishes ODAAT Times Newsletter every other month
- Acts as an information exchange for all Greater Des Moines Metro (and Southern Iowa) meetings
- Contributions are limited to \$5,000 per member per year.

YES! I want to be a Faithful Fiver!

I am a  New member  Current Member  Returning Member

Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly\_\_ Quarterly\_\_\_ Annually\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to or set up automatic bill pay to:

A.A. Central Office  
1620 Pleasant St., Ste. 228  
Des Moines, IA 50314



# AA Volunteers

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A variety of activities and service opportunities are available! Complete the Gratitude with Service form below.

Des Moines Central Office / Intergroup - Gratitude with Service (10/21)

Return to: [dsm.central.office@gmail.com](mailto:dsm.central.office@gmail.com) or DSM Central Office - 1620 Pleasant St., Ste. 228, Des Moines, IA 50314

Date \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ \*Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_ \*Gender \_\_\_\_\_

\*Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group \_\_\_\_\_

\*email \_\_\_\_\_ \*Alt Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required for inclusion in 12-Step list

**Check your selections below!**

ODAAT Times Newsletter - email only

## 12th Step List Volunteer

Weeknights

Weekdays

Weekends

Or complete online at [12-Step sign up](#)

## Phone Army Volunteer

Weekday mornings

Weekday Evenings

Weekends

Or send email to [dsm.central.office@gmail.com](mailto:dsm.central.office@gmail.com). You will receive a schedule, pick your time(s) instructions and info to follow.

## Central Office Volunteer

Office Phone Volunteer

Other Office Help

Literature Sales Help

[www.aadsmco.org](http://www.aadsmco.org)

## Traditions Checklist

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These questions were originally published in the Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

### *Tradition Seven*

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

### *Tradition Eight*

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? To the pamphlet AA Tradition—How It Developed?

# July 2022

# This Day in A.A. History!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						<p><b>1965</b> - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold</p> <p><b>1965</b> - 1st La Vigne, Canadian Grapevine Published</p> <p><b>1993</b> - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada</p> <p><b>2000</b> - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis</p> <p><b>July 2-3:</b>  <b>1955</b> - Bill W turns "the fellowship" over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention</p> <p><b>July 2-4:</b>  <b>1965</b> - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration</p> <p><b>1960</b> 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA. July 1 - 3.</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><b>July 3-5:</b>  <b>1970</b> - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA</p> <p><b>July 3-6:</b>  <b>1980</b> - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans. First true marathon meeting was held here.</p> <p>LGBTQ AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY</p> <p><b>1999</b> - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth.</p> <p><b>July 4-6:</b>  <b>1975</b> - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day</p>	<p><b>July 5-7:</b>  <b>1985</b> - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days.</p> <p><b>July 5-8:</b>  <b>1990</b> - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time</p>		<p><b>1940</b>  Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University</p>	<p><b>1940</b>  1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio</p>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p><b>1941</b> Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group</p>				<p><b>1939</b> - Blythewood Sanitarium Dr Harry Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty M. who promptly throws it back at him.</p> <p><b>1979</b> - Dr. Ernest Kurtz publishes NOT-GOD, History of AA</p>		<p><b>1965</b>  Frank Amos AA Trustee dies</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<p><b>1941</b> First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington</p>		<p><b>1877</b> - Willian Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY.</p> <p><b>1980</b> - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent.</p> <p><b>1943</b> - New Haven Register CT reports arrival of AA's to study with E. M. Jellinek.</p> <p><b>1943</b> Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p><b>1943</b>  L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group.</p>				<p><b>July 28-30, 1950</b>  1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland.</p>		
31	1	None!				
<p><b>1972</b>  Rollie H dies sober in Washington DC - July 31, 1972</p>		<p>Other significant events in July for which we have no specific date:</p>				

# August 2022

# This Day in A.A. History!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p><b>1946</b> Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address.</p>		<p><b>1954</b> - Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hosp after 50th detox. <b>1989</b> - Liberty Bell Group founded in Lake Elsinore, CA - August 3, 1989.</p>			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<p><b>1879</b> Dr. Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont.</p>			<p><b>1938</b> Akron &amp; NY members begin writing stories for Big Book.</p>		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<p><b>1890</b> E. M. Jellinek is born, author of The Disease Concept of Alcoholism and the Jellinek Curve.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio.</p>		<p><b>1988</b> 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver.</p>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				<p><b>1943</b> AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> Bill writes Dr. Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated.</p>	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<p><b>1954</b> 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond Walker.</p>						
4	5		<p><b>1934</b> - Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them. <b>1939</b> - Dr. Bob wrote &amp; may have signed article for Faith magazine. <b>1941</b> - 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim. <b>1981</b> - Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000.</p>			
		<p><b>Other significant events in August for which we have no specific date:</b></p>				

## About

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*The ODAAT Times* is a local newsletter published by the Des Moines Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. This publication provides current information about new meetings, upcoming AA-related events, and articles of interest submitted by local members. For more information and for submissions please email the office. Opinions contained herein are strictly those of the author(s). We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length, and any content which may violate the AA Traditions, etc. Publication of opinions, articles, and announcements does not represent, express, or imply endorsement or approval by AA at any level. AA literature reprinted with permission of AAWS.

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