



## White House Conference

77th Annual White House Conference, White House, Des Moines, September 24-26, 2021.

## Area 24 Fall Conference

"I Stood In The Sunlight At Last" Area 24 Fall Conference hosted by District Seven, Embassy Suites, Des Moines, October 8-10, 2021.

[Register Now](#)

## Capital City Conference

Capital City Conference 2021, Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, November 5-6, 2021.

[Register Now](#)



*The article below is reprinted from the September 1974 issue of The AA Tribune.*

A WEEKEND OF SHARING AT THE  
MIDWEST CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

SEPTEMBER 28, 29, 1974

IT SEEMS TO US THERE ARE TWO WORDS THAT HAVE SPECIAL MEANING TO THOSE OF US IN THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE; FAITH AND SHARING.

WE HAVEN'T MET OUR SPEAKER FOR THIS CONFERENCE, BRIAN K., OF TORONTO, CANADA, BUT WE'LL WAGER A FIFTH OF NESTEA THESE TWO WORDS WILL COME THROUGH OFTEN, WE UNDERSTAND THIS CHAP HAS BEEN SOBER ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF HIS LIFE; THAT HE HAS ATTENDED MEETINGS IN THE STATES, CANADA - INDEED, ALMOST AROUND THE WORLD, HE IS COMING TO OUR MIDWEST CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TO SHARE HIS STRENGTH, EXPERIENCE, AND

HOPE WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. PLEASE, WON'T YOU COME TOO, THAT YOU MAY SHARE WITH HIM, WITH IRISH, THE NUT FROM WALNUT STREET AND ALL THE REST?

MAY I SHARE WITH YOU RECOLLECTIONS FROM A FEW MORE PAST CONFERENCES? THE YEAR NOT IMPORTANT - WHAT'S TIME TO A DRUNK? A SATURDAY AFTERNOON SHARING SESSION. SHORTY B. FROM DAVENPORT RECALLING DOING SIX MONTHS OR WAS IT THREE? - IN THE SLAMMER. THEN MAY RECALL, HE SAID, 'THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED A HELLUVA LOT. NOW I'M DOIN' SIX MONTHS AT STATE FINANCE AND 20 YEARS WITH HOME FEDERAL, BUT I MADE THOSE COMMITMENTS MYSELF.'

ANOTHER CONFERENCE SPEAKER SHARED THIS: "A USUAL SUNDAY MORNING OCCURRENCE, WE CAME TO - IN JAIL, LAID THERE ON THE IRON FOR A FEW MINUTES, THEN CALLED THE TURNKEY. CALL MAMA, WE TELL HIM. HAVE HER DOWN HERE AND BAIL ME OUT. THEN WE NOTE THE SOLUMN EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE AS HE SAYS, 'FELLA, YOU AIN'T GONNA GET OUT - THIS TIME IT IS DIFFERENT, YOU KILLED A KID LAST NIGHT.'"

PERHAPS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING MESSAGES OF FAITH WE 1 VE HEARD AT AN AA MEETING WAS FROM "THE MISSING LINK" FROM DUBUQUE. AL WAS SUFFERING FROM TERMINAL CANCER, HE KNEW AND WE KNEW WHEN HE SAID, "EACH DAY IS NEW; I MUST USE IT WISELY; I MUST SHARE THIS GREAT GIFT OF SOBRIETY WITH OTHERS - TODAY, FOR I MAY NOT HAVE ANOTHER." PERHAPS WE'D HEARD THAT BEFORE AND SINCE, BUT FROM AL ON THAT DAY, IT HAD A SPECIAL MEANING TO US.

FOR A 180 DEGREE TURN - TO HUMOR, WE RECALL DEWEY FROM WATERLOO, THE YEAR, 1951. AT A SATURDAY SESSION HE RELATES THE DAY - HE'S BROKE AND MAMA LAYS THREE BUCKS ON HIM ABOUT 3 P.M. WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO COME STRAIGHT BACK WITH THE HAMBURGER. IN THOSE DAYS, THAT'S LIKE 11 OR 12 POUNDS. OL' DEWEY BELIEVES HE CAN SPEND A DIME FOR A BEER - YOU GUESSED THE REST - HE BLEW IT ALL! ABOUT 10 P.M., HE MEETS A CO-WORKER AND HIS GIRLFRIEND. DEWEY PUTS THE MAKE ON HIS FRIEND FOR THREE BUCKS AND A RIDE HOME, THEY STOP AT A MARKET, GET THE MEAT. DEWEY PITCHES IT IN THE BACK SEAT FOR THE RIDE HOME. HE ENTERS THE HOUSE TRIUMPHANTLY, ANNOUNCES IN A LOUD VOICE, THERE IS THE MEAT!" MAMA HAS THE SKILLET READY AND THE KIDS ARE STILL WAITING. DEWEY TOSSES THE PACKAGE ON THE TABLE. ALAS, HE HAS RETRIEVED THE WRONG BUNDLE, AS MAMA TEARS THE PACKAGE OPEN, NO MEAT - WHA-A-AT THE HELL IS THIS? THE FEMALE OCCUPANT OF HIS FREE RIDE HOME HAS ALSO DUNKED A PACKAGE IN THE BACK SEAT - HER GIRDLE! NEED WE TELL YOU MORE? BUT THIS SAME GREAT GUY HAD ANOTHER SIDE. NOONE EVER HEARD HIM SAY MUCH ABOUT PRAYER, GOD, OR 'NUTHIN' LIKE THAT', BUT WE RECALL ON DAY EARLY, SUNDAY, WE WERE GOING TO FT. MADISON FOR THE AA ANIVERSARY IN FEBRUARY. (DEWEY LAID THE STORY ON THOSE GUYS TOO.) WE GOT TO HIS HOUSE ASOUT 6:30 A.M. HE'S BEEN UP FOR AN HOUR DRINKING COFFEE, HE SAYS. AND ADDS "I GENERALLY GET UP A LITTLE EARLY, SO I GOT TIME FOR MY MEDITATION." HE'S GONE NOW, AND DIED SOBER. BUT MANY A GUY AROUND WATERLOO, LIKE OLD SHAG, IS SOBER TOO BECAUSE OF DEWEY'S UNIQUE WAY OF SHARING, AND HIS FAITH THAT, "ANYBODY WHO REALLY TRIES CAN MAKE THE DEAL. HELL, I DID."

AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU ARE A GUY OR GAL WHO IS STILL SEARCHING, IF YOUR PROBLEM SEEMS OVERWHELMING, COME SHARE THAT WITH US TOO. IT WILL BE LIGHTER FOR YOU, WE KNOW.

SO - YOU ALL COME TO THE MIDWEST CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, SEPTEMBER 28TH AND 29TH IN Des MOINES. JOIN US AS WE PRAY, "GIVE US THIS DAY, OUR DAILY BREAD" AND THANK GOD FOR KEEPIN' US ALL SOBER FOR THIS, ANOTHER DAY,

SIGNED: THE NUT FROM WALNUT STREET

COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE STARTING WITH SHACK'S PAST PRESIDENT'S MEETING THROUGH BRIAN'S KEYNOTE TALK WILL BE MAILED TO YOU NEXT WEEK.

TICKET: \$7.50 EACH {\$6.50 IF PAID BEFORE SEPTEMBER 20)

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## Meeting in the Spotlight

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New Hope Group - Hybrid meets in-person and online Sunday's at 5 p.m. The meeting format is Big Book study and is open and wheelchair accessible.

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

Lutheran Church of Hope  
925 Jordan Creek Pkwy  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Rehearsal Room 1



## 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 (some of which are listed on (A.A. Near You).

[Download on the Apple App Store](#)

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## Traditions Checklist

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?

### *Tradition Nine*

AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.



1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?

2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?

3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program - even if no one makes me do so - with a sense of personal responsibility?

4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?

5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?

6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?

7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully - and profit thereby - when the time comes?

8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

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## **Book Review**

A co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous tells how members recover and how the society functions. Originally published in 1952, this classic book is used by A.A. members and groups around the world. It lays out the principles by which A.A. members recover and by which the fellowship functions. The basic text clarifies the Steps which constitute the A.A. way of life and the Traditions, by which A.A. maintains its unity.





## Anniversaries

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If you have an upcoming Anniversary and would like to be recognized here, email us at [Sobriety Anniversaries](#). We print only first name and last initial, and sobriety date.

Tiffany L., 9 years, 8/13/2012

Shawn N., 25 years, 9/6/1996



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## Something to Consider

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*"It must never be forgotten that the purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to sober up alcoholics. There is no religious or spiritual requirement for membership. No demands are made on anyone. An experience is offered which members may accept or reject. That is up to them."*

Bill W.

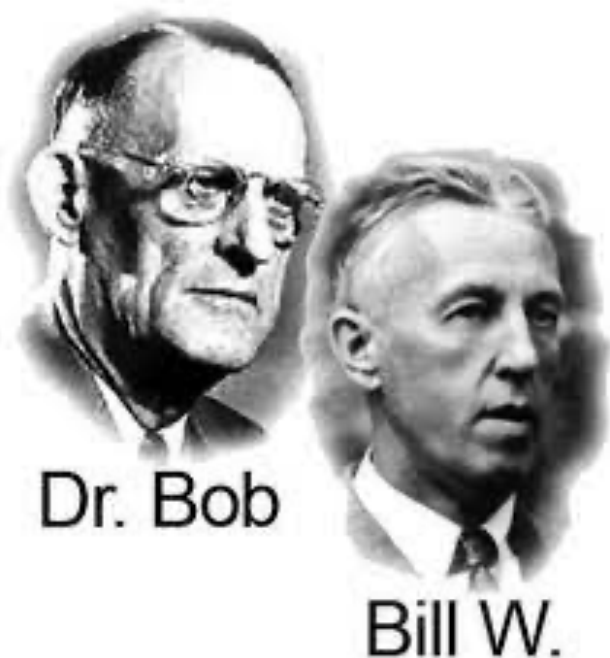
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## AA History

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For our second issue, I felt it appropriate that we move from the founding of A.A. as a whole to the founding of A.A. within Iowa. Our local founding is a truly remarkable story as well as a testament to the strength of the good news A.A.'s message brings to those suffering. Iowa's A.A. journey begins in October of 1941 when 'Emil W.' reported to the New York office there were four fledgling members trying to cement A.A. in Iowa. Unfortunately, this small group did not take hold, however, Iowa did not have to wait long to find a way out.

Just prior to Oct. 29, 1943, Don F. of Omaha traveled to Des Moines to make a 12th step call on Judge Ray H. This meeting occurred in Ray H.'s office and is reported that he had actually been dry for a month, while Don F. had been without a drink for two weeks. Judge Ray, in a 1968 talk, reports that Don F. (his sponsor) had been arrested 78 times and told him he was sober 10 weeks in their initial meeting. Judge Ray jokes that if Don had told him his real sobriety time of two weeks, he would not have listened to him. The language of the heart kicked was in full effect!



The next meeting of A.A. again takes place in Judge Ray's office, the faithful Oct. 29th meeting occurs, officially founding A.A. in Iowa. Prior to the meeting, Judge Ray reads the Big Book which Don F. provided him during their initial meeting, and persuades Don to return to Des Moines from Omaha. I feel 'action' is the key theme for Ray H., he waists no time and persuades a few more drunks to come to the Oct. 29th meeting at his office, A.A. in Iowa now numbered five. During his 1968 talk, Judge Ray outlines nothing short of a small miracle here in Central Iowa. The Judge talks of action, action and more action, he holds a second meeting of local drunks, this time at his house. All five from the office meeting returned, this time with three NEW attendees. The next meeting not only returned the original eight, but added five more, and the 4th returned ALL 13 adding 10 more! In a few short meetings, only armed with one 12th step call, a good reading of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and a willingness to take action, Judge Ray H helped A.A. plant its stake. According to Silkworth.net, Iowa A.A. had reached 50 members by the end of January 1944, only two and one half months.

The small group of drunks who found the answer eventually move to more formal meeting grounds at the old Savery Hotel, then bouncing around Downtown Des Moines, using various spaces including Babe's Restaurant which had been padlocked for liquor law violations. Seems like a fitting spot for a meeting room to me! The entire time, the members of this group are spreading the good news to the rest of Iowa, helping set up clubs in Burlington, Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, Newton and Davenport, not to mention new meetings on the East and West sides of Des Moines. A.A.'s phenomenal growth in Iowa culminated with a state convention a mere 11 months after the faithful October meeting with Judge Ray and his Drunk Line Up.\*

The Des Moines alcoholics, experiencing the normal growing pains which A.A. growth suffers, did eventually settle too, and their legacy lives on in meeting houses, most specifically the White House, who took its current space in 1955. Tradition lives on through the White House newsletter "The A.A. Tribune" which was started by Judge Ray in December 1943.

Through "an immediate stream of lively, witty and wonderful correspondence [which] sprang up between Ray H. and the New York service staff," his early actions, holding meetings, writing newsletters and working tirelessly with other alcoholics, are surely a result of those letters. The power of the language of the heart runs deep.

A.A. in Iowa continued to grow astonishingly in the early years. 1945 brought yet more expansion around the state, and TWO women's meetings (one in Des Moines, one in Fort Dodge)! October 1948 brought a special moment to Des Moines with a visit from Bill and Lois W. as a Midwest Conference was held in our city. Bill was the keynote speaker of course, a speech during which he pronounced "There is a wonderous spirit (which) is rising in this place, it is of course the spirit of gratitude, and if that spirit could it speak, would thank God for this wholesale miracle of regeneration that has befallen us in A.A."\*\*\*

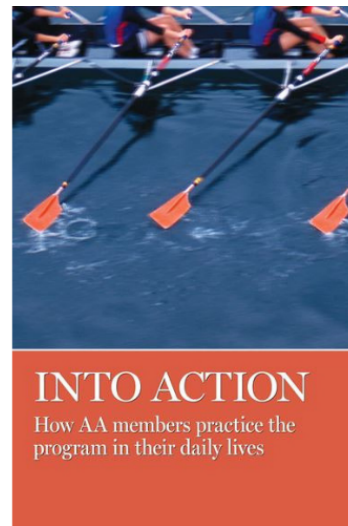
In Love and Service,\*\*\*

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.

\*Judge Ray H held "meetings" in his courtroom where there would be a "drunk line up". The new members would have their mug shot taken. Old Timer celebrants would traditionally take a new mug shot and to celebrate they would view the side-by-side pictures!

\*\*Bill also mentions Judge Ray H. during his talk, which he admits that we do not give much praise in A.A. we thank Ray H. He goes on to state that in all the growth in all the meetings, there is no greater, rampant, successful, and no more joyous achievement than in the example of A.A. in Iowa and Des Moines. Pretty cool.

\*\*\* Today the Greater Des Moines area has 352 per week and 38 meetings Online, some are Hybrid. Several with a heritage that stretches back to these early days, White House Thursday night and Ray Harrison Dinner Group to name a couple.



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## Events



If you have an upcoming Event you would like showcased in the next issue, email us at [Events](#).

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

Click on the image to be automatically directed to the calendar.

## October 2021

## This Day in A.A. History!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					<p><b>1939</b> First A.A. group in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1941</b> - Local news reports 1st AA Group in New Haven, CT. <b>1957</b> - Alcoholics Anonymous book A. A. Comes of Age is published.</p>	<p><b>1944</b> National Committee for Education on Alcoholism formed by Marty Mann - later to become "National council on Alcoholism."</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><b>1945</b> AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA.</p>		<p><b>1972</b> 2nd World Service meeting held in New York.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> - 900 dine at Cleveland dinner for Bill D, AA #3 <b>1988</b> - Lois W, Bills wife and a co-founder of Al-Anon, dies at age 97</p>		<p><b>1988</b> Memorial Service for Lois Wilson at Stepping Stones, NY</p>	<p><b>October 9-11, 1969</b> 1st World Service meeting held in New York with delegates from 14 countries.</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p><b>1943</b> - 6 of 1st 9 AA's attend clubhouse anniv. in Toledo. <b>1970</b> - Lois reads "Bills Last Message" annual dinner in NY. <b>1988</b> - Lois is buried next to Bill in Manchester, Vermont</p>	<p><b>2001</b> A.A.'s first office is destroyed in 9/11 attacks.</p>		<p><b>1937</b> - Florence R., first female A.A. in New York, gets sober. <b>1939</b> - Bill W. gets his drivers license. <b>1947</b> - "The Melbourne Group" held its first meeting in Australia.</p>	<p><b>1938</b> - Bill W. &amp; Hank P establish Works Publishing Co. <b>1939</b> - Journal of American Medical Association gives Big Book unfavorable review.</p>	<p><b>1904</b> Marty M, early AA woman, is born in Chicago.</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p><b>1935</b> - Ebby T, Bills sponsor, moves in with Bill and Lois. <b>1954</b> - Bill D. (A.A. # 3) dies.</p>			<p><b>1928</b> Bill wrote promise to Lois in family Bible to quit drinking. By Thanksgiving added second promise.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> Cleveland Plain Dealer begins series on AA by Eldrick B. Davis.</p>	<p><b>1963</b> - E M Jellinek, alcoholism educator and AA friend dies. <b>1949</b> - Florence R, AA's 1st sober woman, begins drinking again, commits suicide.</p>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p><b>1942</b> - L.A. Times reports AA groups in 14 California cities. <b>1943</b> - Wilson's start 1st major A.A. tour, returned Jan 19, 1944. <b>1973</b> - Trustee's Archives Committee of AA has its 1st meeting.</p>				<p><b>1994</b> National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence celebrates 50 years.</p>	<p><b>1943</b> Don F. of Omaha, Nebraska traveled to Des Moines to make a Twelfth Step call on Judge Ray H. Founding A.A. in Iowa.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> Liberty Magazine publishes "Alcoholics and God".</p>
31	1	<i>Notes</i>				
		<p>Other significant events in October for which we have no specific date:</p>	<p><b>1936</b> - Bill C. a Canadian alkic staying at Bill's house, committed suicide using a gas stove.</p> <p><b>1939</b> - 1st central committee formed in Cleveland; 1st example A.A. rotation. <b>1942</b> - 1st issue of Cleveland Central Bulletin is published. <b>1944</b> - First non American branch started in Sydney, Australia by Father T V Dunlea &amp; Rex.</p> <p><b>1951</b> - Lasker Award presented to AA in San Francisco. <b>1951</b> - Sister Ignatia wrote "Care of Alcoholics - St.Thomas Hospital &amp; A.A. Started Movement Which Swept Country" article in "Hospital Progress" the journal of Catholic Hospital Association.</p> <p><b>1954</b> - The "Alcoholic Foundation" renamed the "General Service Board of A.A." <b>1958</b> - Playhouse 90 TV airs "The Days of Wine and Roses".</p>			

## About

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*The ODAATimes* 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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