



[Indianola Potluck](#)

January 28, 5:30 p.m.

[Intergroup Banquet - Annual 2023](#)

February 4, Vittoria Lodge,
Ankeny.

[The Dexter Step Study Group](#)

First Sunday of each month, 7
p.m., Dexter Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall.

THE SPACES BETWEEN THE STEPS III

There is a curse that goes, "May you live in interesting times." It seems we may all be living with that curse right now. In reality, this is a gateway for great opportunity if one is prepared.

*Recovery is the greatest preparation there is for accepting and using **change**. We in recovery from addiction are better prepared than most "normal" people to deal with what is happening to us right now. Where others see strife and inconvenience, we see new possibilities. We have faced down the known that was killing us and jumped headlong into the unknown that is the life we have now, one day at a time.*



PART III - Steps Three and Four (continued)

There is a saying in AA that if you hang around long enough you will eventually hear someone tell your story. Clearly, no one is going to tell my whole story, but there will be enough similarity for me to identify more fully with the speaker's experience. With the wide variety of experiences, it's pretty unlikely that all of my story will mesh perfectly with all of someone else's story.

The instructions for telling your story are laid out in the Big Book as: "Our stories disclose, in a general way, what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now." When we talk about what we used to be like, the identification can come in the common problem. When we talk about what we are like now we are referring to the common solution. It is the area of "what happened" that shows a bridge of potentially uncommon experience. How did I get here and if I am here, where am I? Is where I am merely a physical space or is it more expansive than that?



This ultimate change process has been the subject of study for many professionals over the years. Some have spent their entire careers on this one subject. The study of change generally breaks down into two areas: what motivates a person to take actions that bring about change and what causes a person to resist taking actions that could bring about change. In these studies, the result of the change seems irrelevant.

The human reaction to most things requiring change is when there has been time to process it, and the alternatives have become untenable, then making a change may be embraced. It is an arduous process and for many things the process of avoiding change becomes protracted for as long as necessary with little adverse effect. When we are asked to change something we have come to depend on to the point of not being able to imagine a life without it then this very human process begins to work against us. This is what creates the avid resistance even in the face of tremendous negative consequences inherent in not changing.

The decision and motivation to change have to feel like ours. When it feels imposed, the instinct to reject it kicks in. This manifests itself in many ways. The most common is the impairing of hearing. It's not that the ears are suddenly unable to hear sound – it's that the brain is unable to translate what is being heard correctly. In some cases this is explained as the "addict brain" protecting the addiction. As mentioned earlier – when we've come to depend on something we are not always prepared to hear anything that contradicts what we've come to believe.

It's this that creates the greatest initial barrier to the Third Step. In Step One, we have been presented with a reality that we may not be able to accept completely – powerlessness means loss of the power of choice. If things have gotten bad enough, a person can accept this premise long enough to do something different. But for many, this is merely an intellectual exercise – more convincing is in order as is clear by the amount of pages dedicated to it in the Big Book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*).



When confronted with Step Three, it's as if we're saying, "Yes, what you intellectually admitted to in Step One must be committed to in Step Three." That's a little more extreme than what's actually said anywhere, but an accurate reaction to a brain that's not ready to make that kind of commitment.

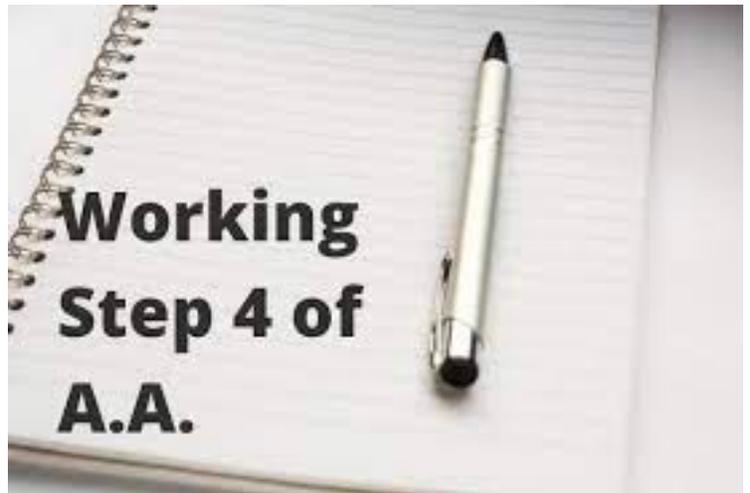
The next question is, "How committed to this change do I have to be in order to get any benefit from continuing?" The answer is, "not very committed." Moving into action – any action – changes the thought process. The impetus and objective of the first five chapters of the Big Book is to move the person into action – which is also the title of Chapter Six.

In truth, the first "action" is the personal inventory. This is what Step Three moves the person towards. This action

doesn't necessarily seal the deal, but it moves people into new territory. Once the action is taken the person's attitude and thinking has a chance to change. It's not a guarantee of change but it's a start.

It would be great if a person could just finish a Fourth Step and have their whole life change for them. That doesn't happen. In fact, there are people who literally take these two steps over and over to no permanent or even long-lasting effect. One of the first questions one would ask at this point has to do with how thorough the person was when making this inventory. Often it's believed that people leave out key issues from their inventory and keeping secrets that continue to generate their ingrained illness and an inability to stay sober.

I also believe the leap one makes from Step Three to Step Four is often farther than the newly sober person is ready to take. Remember, the idea of the individual "being convinced" seems to be key to moving forward. Is it just conviction that allows us to move forward and be as thorough as possible or is there more to it? A person can move forward without being convinced as long as they are eventually "convinced." This comes through the process of working the Steps. Many have the conversion from unconvinced to convinced after doing a Fourth and Fifth Step. Others may not find it until they begin to make amends in Steps Eight and Nine. It's not just working steps that causes this to come about. If a person is committed to going to meetings and participating in the fellowship, this exposure can eventually move a person towards a conviction to this new way of life. *NOTE: There are many in recovery who disagree with this observation.*



There are quite a number of elements at play here:

1. Where is the person coming from? In other words, how bad has it been before they arrive at this first of many thresholds in the change process. It's a mistake to believe that only those having lost everything are more willing to change than those who have only lost a little. *What's* been lost is much more powerful than *how much*. Even then, the power of the "what" is as varied as the individual attempting to make a change. In that, weight is the true motivation, but that itself is usually not enough to convince someone to change.
2. What is the person's true reason to seek change? Again, this is as varied as the parade of newly "non-drinking" and "non-using" candidates for recovery. It is a peculiarity that this problem attracts people who have a difficult time being honest and forthcoming about anything. Not the least of these is honestly expressing what they are feeling. It is just as hard to get them to be truly forthcoming about why they might be seeking change. Seeking change should not be confused with a desire to change or even a commitment to change. The motivation to seek change may be entirely

separated from the need or ability to change. When we delve into this area, we will encounter a world of smoke and mirrors as the person begins to protect what they perceive to be their freedom to make a choice.

3. Are they finally willing to do things they don't believe in? Some people I know don't adhere to this concept because it imagines people blindly following the orders of others and they may have an opinion about the suitability of these others to lead people properly. All of the people involved in this are damaged in some way by the disease of addiction. There truly isn't one person more qualified to share their experience with another than anybody else. The process truly begins with one addict/alcoholic talking to another addict/alcoholic. Are there really qualifications?



The treatment field has done a lot to help people suffering from addiction, and they have been able to make great strides at looking at the causes and conditions which often lead someone to this disease. Unfortunately today, the same institutions that were started on the outskirts of the recovery movement are now in a scramble for how to get what they do paid for by an ever increasingly resistant insurance market. As a result, those fundamentals of recovery that used to arm everyone leaving treatment are now made available, mostly through happenstance, only to a few. The ever increasing desire to get paid for something, has allowed people to be sicker and more "excused" for their condition and by extension their behavior.

There is probably as many conceptions of what constitutes Step Four as there are people taking it. This has created a sort of "cottage industry" of Fourth Step instruction. The steps have become fairly pedantic as most of those in recovery long-term seek to "protect" the sanctity of the program and the steps from those who would seek to change it or god forbid improve it. What may have been lost in all of this is the ultimate goal of taking this step and this is seeing where we were wrong. The error handed to many is the idea that we are to look at "our part" which is argued that it makes the process more understandable to those new to the process. I contend that it allows for a potentially slurry or fuzzy utilization of the process. If we are given a pass to do the easier way we will most likely do that and not seek to do any more or seek any further.

When ultimately this plan doesn't work, we don't immediately jump to "I guess this didn't work because I was completely dishonest in my fourth step." Instead, we toy around with the idea of failure and being "constitutionally incapable," etc. This is just another way of seeking to take less responsibility. If we are not ready to take full responsibility (including things that we may be unclear about being responsible for) then we aren't really ready to move forward to the next step.

By Richard Choate

January 22, 2020

Meetings in the Spotlight - Steps and Traditions

Ankeny - AA Basics

Sunday, 5 p.m.

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church

510 E 1st St., Ankeny

Room 9, West door.

McCormick Clubhouse

Wednesday, 7 p.m.

1201 McCormick Ave., Ames

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and “have the desire to stop drinking.”

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](#)

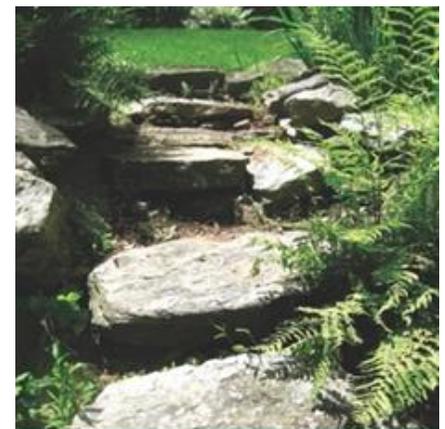
Book Review: Step By Step

From Grapevine, the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, personal stories of finding a new way of life by working the Twelve Steps. Learn how AA members of all ages and all lifestyles from around the world, including spiritual, religious and atheists, as well as newcomers and old-timers, have found serenity and sobriety through the twelve-step program that Alcoholics Anonymous is based on.

In this collection of some of the most powerful contributions from the Grapevine archive dating from the 1940s to the present, readers at any stage of recovery will gain perspective through the experiences of their peers and learn practical ways to apply the Steps in everyday life.

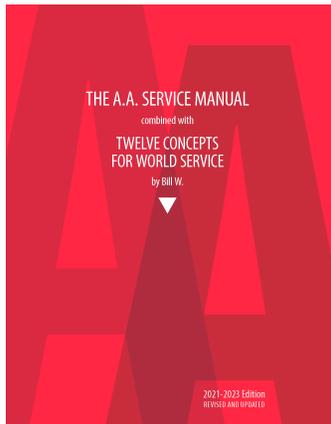
With individual chapters for each Step, this honest and intimate collection of timeless stories and letters is a great resource for sponsors and sponsees, to guide conversation at meetings, or to use in personal reflection.

[Central Office Literature](#)



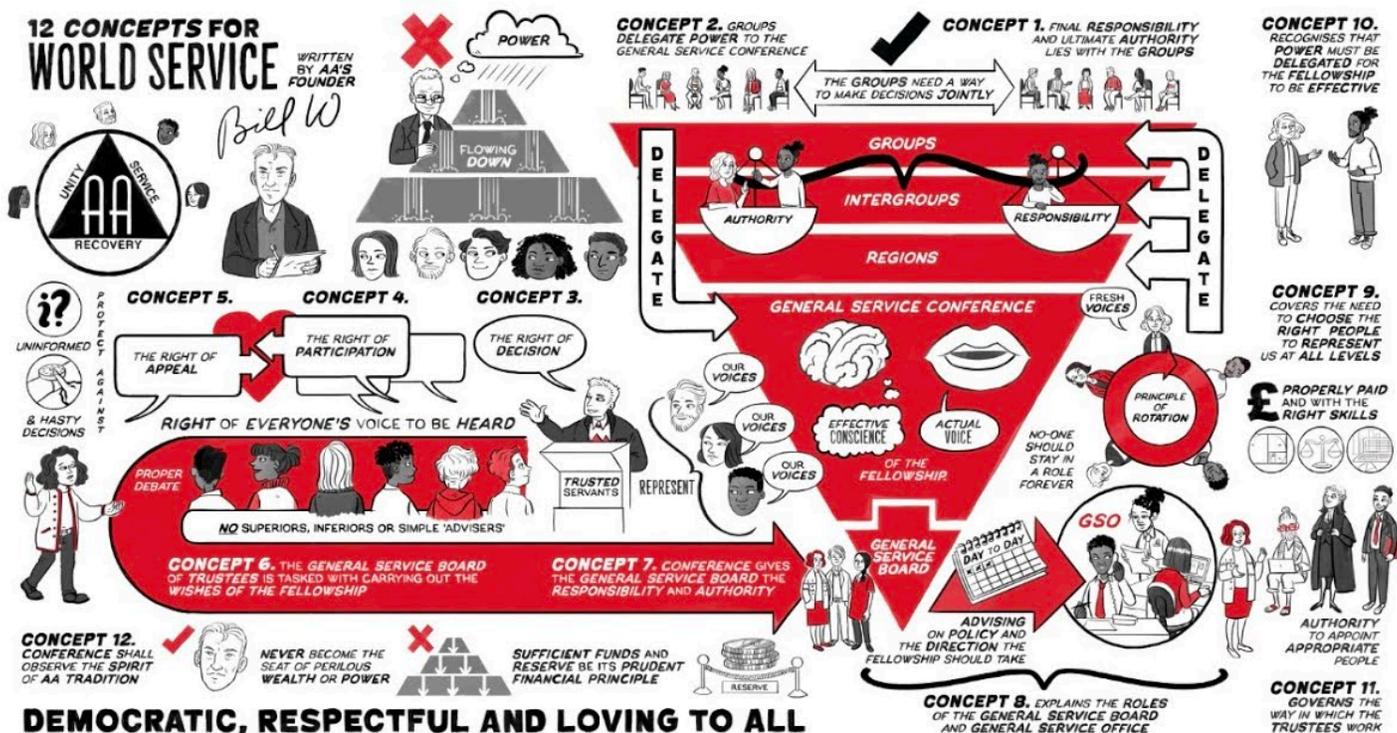
STEP BY STEP
Real AAs, Real Recovery

Hello again my fellow A.A. history buffs, Chris V. here again to ring in 2023 with some fresh fun-factoids! With Des Moines Central Office holding a new event in January, as well as its upcoming banquet in February, I thought I would kick off those talks and this round of articles by looking into the history that brought about A.A.'s Twelve Concepts.



November 16th, 1950 is truly a remarkable day in the annals of A.A. history. This is the day which our co-founder, Dr. Bob S., passed away. It is also the day that our fellowship came to terms its mortality. Prior to his passing, Dr. Bob and Bill committed enormous amounts of their time discussing what should happen to A.A. when they pass from the scene, Bill more so than Bob. The question of how A.A. should best operate became Bill's biggest obsession during the 40s and 50s, as was widely reflected amongst his various writings and talks. A quick recap to bring us to the faithful day in 1950. Our journey with the concepts can be traced to our haggling over "what" A.A. should be. My July article reviewed an event called the Akron Vote which basically is the conversation between alcoholics of the time deciding on moving forward with the publication of the book. The heart of the vote was much more than the publication of the Big Book, it was really, how will A.A. communicate with the outside world? We needed to reach the next sick and suffering alcoholic somehow, as well as insure the stability of the our society.

As the fellowship navigated the writing and publishing of the Big Book, countless lessons were learned and fed the development of our Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts. From 1937 to 1950, there was much debate about how A.A. should go about "public relations, advice to new groups, services to hospitals, connect[ing] with prisons, Loners, and Internationalists as well as cooperation with other agencies in the alcoholism field. The headquarters was also publishing "standard" A.A. books and pamphlets." Organizational attempts start with the office of Honor Dealers, the formation of The One Hundred Men Corporation (the predecessor of Works Publishing), and The Alcoholic Foundation. Honor Dealers contribution is significant for its employment of Ruth Hock, A.A.s much beloved friend, as well as a space to write the Big Book drafts. The One Hundred Men Corporation, according to its original prospectus, was formed to help publish a book, and the Alcoholic Foundation was created to allow our great friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. some of whom would go on to be our first Trustees, to participate with A.A.s development. Bill's writing in 1947, The Alcoholic Foundation of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow would help solidify his vision of a conference that would help close the gap in communication between the Groups and the Trustees, as well as provide direction to the issues listed above.



In 1948, Bill and Bob continue their lively correspondences about how to proceed with organizing A.A. Bill, ever the super-promoter, argues diligently for the formation of what he calls, the Conference. Bill had been speaking about the “perishability” of the Old Timers since the rapid expansion A.A. experienced from Jack Alexander’s famous article which made the Fellowship a national institution. On the other hand, Bob (and most all of Akron and Cleveland) was very much opposed to this type of action, some going as far as to call Bill’s efforts to organize a scheme! For some time, Bob’s typical response was “Lets keep it simple.” One note here, these correspondences usually ended in a positive, loving spirit, which seems to help smooth over a tough topic. Surprisingly, several of the current trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation were opposed to Bill’s ideas as well. What changed? In May, Bob wrote Bill, again reiterating that “easy does it, may be the best course of action.” Bill, undeterred by Bob’s rebuff of his conference ideas, responds by pointing out that the Alcoholic Foundation board is about to rotate and will be replaced by similarly minded individuals who were most likely against a conference. It should be noted that the non-alcoholic chair, Leonard Harrison, resigned in early ’48 over the matter. Then the hammer drops, Bob is diagnosed with cancer. Bill’s forewarning regarding perishability suddenly seems much more important. Despite his sickness, Bob continues to entertain the pro and con forces and eventually acquiesces to Bill’s vision, and so does the board of the Alcoholic Foundation. They come to a compromise of sorts, which allows for a test run of the conference starting in 1951 and ending in 1954, with the results to be evaluated in 1955. Just prior to Dr. Bob’s passing in 1950, Bob listened to Bill’s pitch one more time and replied “Bill, it has to be A.A.’s decision, not ours. Let’s call the Conference. It is fine with me.” This proved to be one of the final pieces of the puzzle to how our fellowship would operate without its founder’s guidance. April 1951 brought about the first General Service Conference, 1955 brought its solidification, with 2023 marking the 73rd annual meeting. This is just the start of what would become our 12 Concepts for world service, the principals embodying how A.A. continues to serve and relate to the rest of society. More to come!

Chris V. Feel free to contact me at cvanme6758@yahoo.com if you ever have questions or wish to discuss sources.

Our Great Responsibility. A.A. World Service Inc. 2019

The A.A. Service Manual. A.A. World Service Inc. 2016

The Start and Growth of A.A. | Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org). <https://www.aa.org/the-start-and-growth-of-aa>

Hank Parkhurst | No Hank, No Big Book | You Are NOT Forgotten!. <https://hankparkhurst.com/2022/03/03/prospectus-for-the-hundred-men-corporation/>.

AA History Lovers Groups IO Message Board. “Our AA General Service Center-The Alcoholic Foundation of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” Posts # 262-267. AAHistoryLovers@groups.io | “Our AA General Service Center-The Alcoholic Foundation of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.”

1951 Final Report of The General Service Conference.

Third Legacy of Service

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 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!!

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

A red, distressed-style stamp with the words "WE NEED VOLUNTEERS" in all caps, slanted slightly to the right.

Faithful Fivers

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
- 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

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 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. 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

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 One

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

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship? 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.

Tradition Two

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge? Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

January 2023

This day in A.A. History!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>1943 - Columbus Dispatch reports 1st Anniversary of Columbus AA.</p> <p>1946 - The A.A. Grapevine increased the cost of a year's subscription to \$2.50.</p> <p>1948 - "Columbus Dispatch" reported first anniversary of Central Ohio A.A. Group.</p> <p>1948 - First A.A. meeting was held in Japan, (English speaking.)</p> <p>1988 - West Virginia A.A. began first statewide toll-free telephone hotline.</p>	<p>1889 - Bridget Della Mary Gavin (Sister Ignatia) was born in Ireland.</p> <p>2003 - Mid-Southern California Archives moved to new location in Riverside.</p>	<p>1939 - First sale of Works Publishing Co. stock was recorded.</p> <p>1941 - Jack Alexander told Bill Wilson the Oxford Group would be in his Saturday Evening Post article on A.A.</p>	<p>1939 - Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere. (May be January 5th or 10th)</p> <p>1940 - First A.A. group was founded in Detroit, Michigan.</p> <p>1941 - Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY, to see Stepping Stones and broke in through an unlocked window.</p>	<p>1941 - Bill and Lois visited Bedford Hills again.</p> <p>1941 - Bill Wilson told Jack Alexander that Jack was "the toast of A. A. -- in Coca Cola, of course."</p>	<p>2000 Stephen Poe, compiler of the Concordance to Alcoholics Anonymous, died.</p>	<p>1984 "Pass it On" was published on this date.</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>1938 New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.</p>		<p>1940 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.</p>		<p>1943 Press reported the first A.A. group in Pontiac, Michigan.</p>	<p>1988 - Jack Norris, M.D., Chairman/Trustees of A.A. for 27 yrs. died.</p> <p>2003 - Dr. Earle Marsh, author of "Physician Heal Thyself," sober 49 years, died</p>	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>1937 - Fitz M brings AA meetings to Washington DC.</p> <p>1941 - A.A. Bulletin No. 2 reported St. Louis group had ten members.</p> <p>1941 - Bill Wilson asked Ruth Hock to get him "spook book," "The Unobstructed Universe."</p> <p>1945 - First A.A. meeting held in Springfield, Missouri.</p> <p>1948 - Polk Health Center Alcoholic Clinic for Negroes started operations with 14 willing subjects. The Washington Black Group of A.A. cooperated with the clinic.</p>		<p>1919 18th amendment, "Prohibition," became law.</p>		<p>1940 - First A.A. group met in Detroit, Mich.</p> <p>1943 - Canadian newspaper reported eight men met at "Little Denmark," a Toronto restaurant, to discuss starting Canada's first A.A. group.</p> <p>1943 - 1st discussion for starting AA group in Toronto.</p> <p>1943 - Wilson's returned from 1st major A.A. tour started in Oct 24 1943.</p> <p>1999 - Frank M., A.A. Archivist since 1983, died.</p>	<p>1954 Hank Parkhurst, author of "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book, died in Pennington, NJ.</p>	<p>1951 - A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob.</p> <p>1954 - Hank P who helped Bill start NY office dies in Pennington, New Jersey.</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<p>1961 Bill W. sent an appreciation letter, which he considered long-overdue, to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.</p>	<p>1918 - Bill Wilson and Lois Burnham were married, days before he was sent to Europe in WW I.</p> <p>1945 - 1st black group St. Louis</p> <p>1971 - Bill Wilson died in Miami, Florida, only weeks after sending a postcard to Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa, saying he wanted to live long enough to see Hughes become President.</p>	<p>1915 Dr. Bob Smith married Anne Ripley.</p>	<p>1971 New York Times published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.</p>	<p>1971 The Washington Post published an obituary of Bill Wilson written by Donald Graham, son of the owner of the Washington Post.</p>	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	<p>1961 Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."</p>					
5	6	<p>1938 - Jim Burwell, author of "The Vicious Cycle," a former atheist, gave A.A. "God as we understand Him."</p> <p>1939 - 400 copies of manuscript of Big Book circulated for comment, evaluation and sale.</p> <p>1940 - First AA meeting not in a home meets at Kings School, Akron, Ohio.</p> <p>1942 - "Drunks are Square Pegs" was published.</p> <p>1944 - Dr. Harry Tiebout's first paper on the subject of "Alcoholics Anonymous".</p> <p>1944 - Onset of Bill's 11 years of depression.</p> <p>1946 - Readers Digest does a story on AA.</p> <p>1948 - 1st A.A. meeting in Japan</p> <p>1951 - The A.A. Grapevine published a memorial issue on Dr. Bob.</p>				
		<p>Other significant events in January for which we have no specific date:</p>				

February 2023

This day in A.A. History!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			<p>1918 - Original date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. The date was moved up because of the war.</p> <p>1942 - Ruth Hock, A.A.'s 1st paid secretary, resigns to get married</p>	<p>1942 Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock, A.A.'s first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. She had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help</p>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>1941 Pittsburgh Telegram ran a story on the first A.A. group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."</p>			<p>1940 - Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other A.A.'s asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr., for money at the Union Club, NY. They got \$2,200 (plus a few thousand over the next few years.)</p> <p>1940 - Houston Press ran first of 6 anonymous articles on A.A. by Larry J.</p>	<p>2002 Sue Smith Windows, Dr. Bob's daughter died.</p>	<p>1922 Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. After his recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a United States Senator, and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until he announced he would not run. He authored the legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.</p>	<p>1938 Clarence Snyder ("Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd & 3rd editions) had his last drink.</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>1945 World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.</p>	<p>1937 - Oxford Groups "Alcoholic Squadron" met at the home of Hank Parkhurst ("The Unbeliever" in the 1st edition of the Big Book) in New Jersey.</p> <p>1940 - With about two years of sobriety, Jim Burwell ("The Vicious Cycle") moved to the Philadelphia area and started the first Philadelphia A.A. group.</p>	<p>1971 - A.A. groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.</p> <p>2000 - William Y., "California Bill" died in Winston Salem, NC.</p>	<p>1918 - Sue Smith Windows, Dr. Bob's adopted daughter, was born.</p> <p>1941 - Baltimore Sunday Sun reported that the city's first A.A. group, begun in June 1940, had grown from 3 to 40 members.</p> <p>1946 - A.A. Tribune, Des Moines, IA, reported 36 new members since Marty Mann had been there.</p>	<p>1941 Baltimore Sunday Sun reported city's first A.A. group begun in 1940 had grown from 3 to 40 members, with five being women.</p>		<p>1943 A.A.'s were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>1967 Father "John Doe" (Ralph Pfau), 1st Catholic Priest in A.A., died.</p>	<p>1941 The Toledo Blade published first of three articles on A.A. by Seymour Rothman.</p>	<p>1939 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment. This was the "multilith" Big Book.</p>	<p>1842 Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.</p>	<p>1959 A.A. granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.</p>	<p>2002 Hal Marley, "Dr. Attitude of Gratitude," died. He had 37 years of sobriety. Hal testified, anonymously, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on December 3, 1970.</p>	
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
		<p>1940 First organization meeting of Philadelphia AA was held at McCready Huston's room at 2209 Delancy Street.</p>				
5	6		<p>1908 - Bill Wilson made boomerang.</p> <p>1916 - Bill Wilson & sophomore class at Norwich University was suspended for hazing.</p> <p>1939 - Dr. Harry Tiebout endorsed AA, the first psychiatrist to do so.</p> <p>1939 - Dr Howard of Montclair, NJ suggests swapping "you musts" for "we ought" in the Big Book.</p> <p>1940 - 1st AA clubhouse opened at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, NYC.</p> <p>1943 - San Francisco Bulletin reporter Marsh Masline interviewed Ricardo, a San Quentin Prison AA group member.</p> <p>1946 - Baton Rouge, La., AA's hold their first anniversary meeting.</p> <p>1946 - The AA Grapevine reported the New York Seaman's Group issued a pamphlet for seamen "on one page the 12 Steps have been streamlined into 5."</p> <p>1946 - Des Moines Committee for Education on Alcoholism aired its first show on KRNT.</p> <p>1946 - Pueblo, Colorado, had a second group, composed of alcoholic State Hospital patients.</p> <p>1951 - Fortune magazine article about AA was published in pamphlet form.</p> <p>1963 - Harpers carried article critical of AA.</p> <p>1981 - 1st issue of "Markings," AA Archives Newsletter, was published, "to give the Fellowship a sense of its own past and the opportunity to study it."</p>			
		<p>Other significant events in December for which we have no specific date:</p>				

About

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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