



AA Area 73 District 11 Newsletter

May 2024 Volume 113

West Virginia – Wild, Wonderful, and Sober

“Happy 80th Birthday! Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears.” - John Lennon

“Behind you, all your memories; before you, all your dreams; around you, all who love you; within you, all you need.” Happy 80th Birthday, Grapevine.

“80 years, 29,223 days!”

It’s June and Grapevine’s 80th anniversary! To celebrate, the feature stories by members are about how much Grapevine has meant to them. The titles include: “Come for the ride”; “Lost & found”; “Hooked”; “Saved in Honduras”; and “80 reasons I love Grapevine”. This is a very good issue and I hope you enjoy it as much as I have!

Grapevine and La Vina now have apps. Check out the various ways you can obtain an app for your phone by going to www.aagrapevine.org.

To receive the Grapevine quote of the day, log on to www.aagrapevine.org and provide your email address at the end of the quote. Grapevine has started providing stories of the week in email which is another good reason to sign up. While on the website you can subscribe to The Grapevine magazine, order books, and play with the sobriety calculator among other things.

Please don’t forget to read At Wit’s End which is near the end of the magazine.

*Also, every Monday is Grapevine’s fun half-hour Grapevine Podcast. It features jokes, interviews, and member sharing at www.aagrapevine.org/podcast. You can also follow Grapevine on Instagram at: [alcoholicsanonymous_gv](https://www.instagram.com/alcoholicsanonymous_gv).

And finally:

A farmer had 5 female pigs. Times were hard, so he decided to take them to the county fair and sell them. At the fair, he met another farmer who owned 5 male pigs. After talking a bit, they decided to mate the pigs and split everything 50/50.

The farmers lived 60 miles apart, so they decided to drive 30 miles each morning and find a field in which to let the pigs mate.

The first morning, the farmer with the female pigs got up at 5 a.m., loaded the pigs into the family station wagon (the only vehicle he had) and drove the 30 miles.

While the pigs were in the field mating, he asked the other farmer, "How will I know if they are pregnant?"

6th Step

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

6th Tradition

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

6th Concept

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

6th Promise

The feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.

6th Reward

Self-confidence instead of helplessness.

The other farmer replied, "If they're lying in the grass tomorrow morning, they're pregnant. If they're lying in the mud, they're not."

The next morning the pigs were rolling in the mud. So he hosed them off, loaded them into the family station wagon again and proceeded to try again.

This continued each morning for more than a week and the farmers were worn out from the daily trips.

The eighth morning, one was too tired to even get out of bed. So he called out to his wife, "Honey, please look outside and tell me whether the pigs are in the mud or in the grass." "Neither," yelled his wife, "They're in the station wagon. And one of them is honking the horn."

Happy beginning of summer...soon.

Pat M.

6th TRADITION (LONG FORM)

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.- and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

AREA INFO

1. Here's some info for those wishing to make financial contributions:
 - District 11
Make check payable to
District 11
PO Box 1831, Martinsburg WV 25402
 - Area Contribution:
Make check payable to
Area 73
PO Box 461, Morgantown WV 26507-0461
 - General Service Office contribution:
Make check payable to
GSO
Po Box 459, Grand Central Station. New York, NY 10163

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.....



10% off Big Book Sale happening now! That means large print study editions (Abridged B-24) are only \$5.40 each for a very limited time only. Stock up and order a large quantity and save even more on large quantity discounts <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Big-Book-Large-Print-Abridged> Can't have too many copies of the original program of action! These bad boys are perfect also for Big book studies because they are large print and accessible to everyone in the room to read. PS. 1st edition replica



Big books are on sale for only \$3 for this limited time! <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/BB-Facsimile-first-printing-1st-ed>

DISTRICT 11 Anniversaries.....

We are asking all groups and individuals to send their Name, sobriety celebration date, years of sobriety and meeting they are celebrating at.

Send to Rusty.danstuxedo@hotmail.com. Put in the subject matter ***“AA Anniversary”***.

IN OTHER NEWS..... Since the monthly district meeting minutes are now being published on the website: <https://aawv11.org/> they will no longer be published here.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

1. FULL District Meeting minutes are now being posted monthly, and you can view them at <https://aawv11.org/>
2. Please note that if you'd like to view the monthly newsletter online, you can do so at <https://aawv11.org/>
3. And, if you'd like to have the newsletter delivered to your inbox every month, please send an email request to AAdistrict11@gmail.com

Coming Events & Announcements.....

Behind The Star Meeting-TEMPORARY location change:

June 17-21 the noon meetings held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will move to the United Methodist Church located at 49 S Green Street Berkeley Springs, WV.

Paul H., AA Area 73 Delegate, will present on topics discussed at the **74th General Service Conference**, which was held earlier this year in New York City.

When: Saturday, June 22, 2024; 12 - 2 pm

Where: 118 East Martin Street (Clubhouse), Martinsburg, WV

All are welcome and there will also be Zoom info to attend virtually. A flyer will be shared soon. Please spread the word.

Area 73 Annual Convention – August 9-11 2024 at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown West Virginia – (304) 594 1111. Rooms at \$109 +tax per night use room code "Area 73"-

See flier below



Area 73 Convention

August 9-11 2024

Lakeview Resort
1 Lakeview Dr.
Morgantown, WV
304-594-1111

Rooms 109+tax/night
Room code: Area73

TO SOBRIETY AND BEYOND

4th Dimension

Rocketed to the

ONLINE
REGISTRATION



Hosted by District 16
www.district16wv.or

For more detailed information on these events, please speak with your group's GSR.

District 11 Meetings On-line

According to the latest Where and When published June 2021, all groups are meeting in person or have a hybrid meeting format except for the following which are on-line.

Daily at 7:30am- Eye Opener Group Hybrid

<https://www.gotomeet.me/EyeOpenerGroup>

Dial in at [\(646\) 749-3122](tel:6467493122)

Access Code: 604-461-373

Daily at 5:30pm - Early After Work Friends of Bill W. Group

Zoom Meeting ID 671-314-2769

Password: 118

Daily at 7:00pm - Doomsdayers Group

Join Zoom Meeting ID 942-899-066

Password 049396

Sundays at 2:00pm - Women On A Journey Group

Join Zoom Meeting ID 274-008-239

Password: woaj

Wednesday at 7:00pm – Wednesday Night Men’s Group Hybrid

<https://www.gotomeet.me/EyeOpenerGroup>

Dial in: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:16467493122) Access Code 604-461-373

CALL FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS.....

Anyone wishing to submit an announcement, or story for the newsletter is encouraged to do so by emailing Pam W. at AAdistrict11@gmail.com

JUNE 2024



Step 6

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

There is a saying around AA that you can get a horse thief sober, but you still have a horse thief, or, "you can take the rum out of the fruitcake, but you still have a fruitcake." What they mean is that if all you do is stop drinking but are not willing to change other behaviors you will continue to suffer, be unsuccessful in life and very likely relapse.

Step six is notable for what it doesn't say. It doesn't ask people to change their lives because we do not have the power to do so. It asks us to be willing to change and to ask for help. AA knows we cannot change on desire or willpower alone. Yes, we must be willing to abandon old ideas and beliefs, and we must take action towards the change but the change comes from a Higher Power. This Power removes the harmful things we cling to in life while we focus on practicing the spiritual principles. Are we willing to make changes? Are we willing to take actions to bring about those changes?

Willingness and action are the keys. We come to realize that our ideas, beliefs and behaviors control us—not the other way around. If we don't understand that we will never take the needed action. To abandon our old ideas, approaches and defects to our Higher Power is winning in life not losing.

If we are completely honest with ourselves, we have to admit that sometimes we enjoy some of our defects- they are what we know and in a spiritually sick way, we really don't want to give some of them up. Unfortunately, we hold on to them as if they were cherished treasure. Pride, envy, bitterness, anger—they seem to serve a purpose and often seem to work for us. So, the question becomes, are we willing to try a new way and use a new kit of spiritual tools? Step 6 is all about the removal of what harms us, others and what doesn't match up to a spiritual way of life. We become willing to allow a Higher Power to remove anything and everything which blocks us, to let go of the character defects that have been ruling our lives and those things which destroy any opportunity to have a wonderful life. The sixth step can bring about significant and very noticeable change when it comes to the thinking and behaviors that have been with us for a very long time. It doesn't happen overnight obviously, and there is nothing like perfection when working the twelve steps of AA. However, we can't use that as an

excuse not to grow towards perfection a little each day. It's about making a commitment (shown through action) to being willing, open and honest...and being content with patient but consistent improvement.

When breaking down Step Six, I like to focus more on the word "ready" rather than "entirely." I don't know if anyone is ever "entirely" ready, especially for the unknown. However, the word "ready" is a reminder that we remain in a position of being prepared, open and available. We can become entirely ready to aim for the very best we know, can learn and can do. In Step Six, we strive to gain a spiritual state of mind so we become aware of our character defects and we trust that a Higher Power will remove what should go...with our best interests in mind.

While working on Step Six we learn about the humility it takes to see ourselves more clearly. We see that character defects and our basic instincts work hand-in-hand. According to the 12x12, we all have natural basic instincts; social, security and ambition. However, when our basic instincts or desires far exceed their intended purpose, they then motivate us to act blindly, make us willfully demand and we become entitled, resentful, self-centered and afraid. We all have needs; it is in how we go about meeting those needs is where defects come into play. When we get to those issues deep down and are willing to let them go, then real long-lasting change occurs.

Tradition 6

"Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. - and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one."

Bill Wilson comments in "A.A., Comes of Age", (p. 109), "The more A.A. sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence everywhere."

As individuals, we are free to endorse, finance, or affiliate with any organization, religion, political party, charitable or civic organization that we want. But if AA does, such endorsement will not only lead to a great deal of misunderstanding and confusion, but actually keep people from coming to AA. Even very worthwhile projects such as starting a club to have a place to hold AA meetings for example can create confusion and harm. AA does NOT have clubs, although many people think they are meeting in the local "AA Club." AA groups simply hold meetings at clubs and the group pays rent to those clubs for use of the facilities. Those groups are as separate from the club as the group down the street is separate from the church they meet in. For good reason too, as often there are internal struggles of Clubs and at times lawsuits have threaten to tear a club apart. However, if that happens the unaffiliated AA group has the freedom to easily dislocate and relocate itself somewhere else, ensuring the AA group's continued survival. The danger of "endorsement and affiliation, real or implied" also

has applications when helping to get a meeting started within a facility. Caution must be exercised in naming the group so that it remains an obviously distinct and separate entity. We need to make sure there is no implied affiliation and no possible endorsement that the group is associated with and maybe controlled by the facility.

Invariably, situations involving struggles over finances and control will divert us away from our primary focus on carrying the message of AA. Desperate and dying people come into AA meetings every day seeking help with a life and death struggle. We are to share our experience, strength, and hope so they too can have the gift of recovery, but that will be hindered if the group spends time discussing outside activities or issues. When a group forgets its primary purpose it robs individuals of hearing the message that will save their life.

The accumulation of money, property, power has been the downfall of many an organization. The most well-intentioned AA group will eventually get into a massive bickering session, and harm is caused. The fact is, money is not the lifeblood of AA. We need just enough to cover expenses, any more than that is a nuisance. Just attend a business meeting in your district or Area and whenever the subject turns to money the problems begin. "The core of AA procedure is one alcoholic talking to another, whether that be sitting on a curbstone, in a home, or at a meeting. It's the message, not the place; it's the talk, not the alms, that does our work. Just places to meet and talk, that's about all AA needs. Beyond these, a few small offices, a few secretaries at their desks, a few dollars apiece a year, easily met by voluntary contributions. Trivial indeed, our expenses!" Bill W.

The sixth step posed the question, how can I become entirely ready to have my defects of character removed? The answer is in the sixth tradition. In fact, the sixth tradition describes my main character defects: the problem rooted in self, seeking money, property, and prestige. The sixth tradition contains the solution to my problems of money, property and prestige: the more primary in my life carrying the message becomes, the less problems of any kind I have.

Concept VI:

"On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Bill W. made the point that although "our objective is always a spiritual one," nevertheless our world service is a "large business operation." Indeed, our whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation; just imagine that the A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them (like proxy-holders), at the annual meeting and the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a 'holding company.' This holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two 'subsidiaries' (A.A.W.S and the A.A. Grapevine) which carry on the services. This very real analogy makes it clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill purposely chose this corporate model for our entire service structure over an institutional or government model because in his words, "it is a far superior vehicle when it comes to the administration of policy and business." (Service Manual, pg. 28)

As such, Concepts VI, VII & VIII all have to do with the balance of power and the relationship between the General Service Board, the Corporations, and the Conference. The Trustees are invested with full legal and practical responsibility for the management and oversight of our two Corporate Boards (AAWS and the Grapevine, Inc.) in addition to GSO. What is the overall mission and tasks of this large 'corporations? To carry our message around the world to other countries, for our Public Information activities and for overseeing our budget and operating funds. While the groups have final responsibility and ultimate authority through the conference, they delegate the day-to-day operations and oversight of our World Services to their elected trustees. The conference exerts its authority by issuing "directives" to the trustees in the form of committee recommendations. Once passed, these become Advisory Actions, so called because we are advising the trustees to carry out the agreed-upon actions of the conference.

We have seen that the "final responsibility and ultimate authority" for A.A.'s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. It is helpful to be familiar with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the trustees must have. The trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. (which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office) and of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for A.A.'s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They oversee the financial operations and investing A.A.'s substantial Reserve Fund.