



# AA Area 73 District 11 Newsletter

July 2024 Volume 114

West Virginia – Wild, Wonderful, and Sober

“In the middle of a difficulty lies opportunity.” - Albert Einstein

“The primary obligation of any prisoner is to escape. Whether that means actually leaving or figuring out a way to handle things so you don’t go crazy is up to you.” - Emmanuel Goldstein

“Prison itself is a tremendous education in the need for patience and perseverance. It is, above all, a test of one’s commitment.” - Nelson Mandela

“Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” - Mahatma Gandhi

It’s July! and this month is Grapevine Magazine’s annual prison edition, this year titled, We are Brothers about incarcerated AA members and other people struggling to stay sober. Five years ago I wrote:

“I’ll never forget what Morgan Freeman’s character, Red, in “Shawshank Redemption” said: “Get busy livin’ or get busy dyin’.” The July issue of Grapevine features stories from alcoholic residents in prisons and jails and their struggles to get and or stay sober. It’s a daunting task, no doubt. I have friends in AA who have been institutionalized and share their stories, some of which are the stuff of nightmares.”

That doesn’t change, but what changes are the people in and out of institutions and their stories. Here are some of their stories from a prison in Arizona in 2024: “Inside job”; “164 pages of hope”; “Finally free”; “A beautiful finish”; and “We are Brothers”. I can’t pick a favorite this month.

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](http://www.aagrapevine.org).

To receive the Grapevine quote of the day, log on to [www.aagrapevine.org](http://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.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Step

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

## 7<sup>h</sup> Tradition

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

## 7<sup>th</sup> Concept

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Promise

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Reward

The respect of others instead of their pity and contempt.

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\*Also, every Monday is Grapevine's fun half-hour Grapevine Podcast. It features jokes, interviews, and member sharing at [www.aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast). You can also follow Grapevine on Instagram at: alcoholicsanonymous\_gv.

And Finally:

1. How do snails fight?  
They slug it out.
2. Which bear is the most condescending?  
A pan-duh!
3. How do you get a country girl's attention?  
A tractor.
4. Why do bees have sticky hair?  
They use a honeycomb.
5. Why can't you trust duck doctors?  
They're all quacks.

Pat M.

## 7<sup>th</sup> TRADITION (LONG FORM)

"In the middle of a difficulty lies opportunity." - Albert Einstein

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They use a honeycomb.
5. Why can't you trust duck doctors?  
They're all quacks.  
Pat McElroy

## **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

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto:AAdistrict11@gmail.com)

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## ***Coming Events & Announcements.....***

**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.org](http://www.district16wv.org)

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

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## **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](mailto:AAdistrict11@gmail.com)

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# JULY 2024



## STEP 7

*“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”*

Although Step 7 is the shortest step in terms of wording and is perhaps the least discussed, for me it is probably the most potent of the twelve. It embodies the miracle of transformation as I turn over to my Higher Power my broken, defective personality so that God can mold me into healthy, effective instrument of Her/His/It’s will.

For me it was only powerlessness and tremendous pain that drove me to be willing to take this Step. For many of us taking Step Seven is the greatest act of authentic humility we have ever attempted since it is asking us to transfer control of our life to God/Higher Power. According to the Twelve and Twelve, humility is a clear recognition of who we are followed by a sincere attempt to become what God calls us to be. That is, humility is seeing ourselves as we actually are and a sincere attempt to live in that the truth. When we face the truth of our shortcomings, the fact that we are powerless to change ourselves and begin to let God take our defects away, we have finally begun to enter the pathway of humility.

In Step Seven we become willing to stop clinging to our character defects and commit to living by the spiritual principles. Working on the seventh step requires constant willingness, thoughtfulness and commitment to humility. We need humility for three reasons:

1. So that we can recognize the severity of our character defects.
2. So that we can acknowledge the limits of human power in addressing these character defects. We cannot do it by sheer willpower, intellect or reasoning.
3. So that we can appreciate the enormity of God's power to transform lives. When asked, “how did you do it?” my response is always the same, “I didn’t do it...I simply cooperated with my Higher Power, the program of AA and my sponsor.”

Of course, this Step requires effort and action. Simply asking for your shortcomings to be removed and then not taking action in practicing the opposite spiritual principle will not produce very satisfactory results. In Step Seven we are ready to stop thinking so much about ourselves, what we are going to get in life and making everything about ourselves and instead we start living our primary purpose—to serve God and God’s kids.



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When ready, we say something like this: "My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen." We have then completed Step Seven.

A.A. Big Book, p. 76

## TRADITION 7

*"The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."*

As much as Step Seven is often overlooked, the opposite could be said about Tradition 7, at least in theory, because there is hardly a meeting held that this Tradition isn't mentioned as the basket gets passed. The Seventh Tradition does more than simply prevent outside interference. In fact, it assists our spiritual growth. Tradition 7 refers to AA "groups" and I think this is a vital point that goes to the responsibility of being a member of my Home Group. I have been taught that I am responsible to first do my part to make my Home Group self-supporting because my Home Group is my first AA financial obligation. After I take care of that responsibility, if my budget allows it, I can contribute to other AA meetings I attend. The self-supporting principle in Tradition 7 also addresses and prohibits outside contributions...meaning being given/donations for AA by someone who is not an AA member. If such contributions were accepted, AA and members might feel obligated to make some kind of concessions to the individual or organization making the donation. Declining these contributions keeps the fellowship independent from outside influences. It also cuts out the need to constantly chase donor funding and government grants.

The 12&12 notes make it clear that it was difficult to put this tradition into place. While some members felt as if outside donations could do a lot to help AA, others felt that it would interfere with the organization's spiritual focus. They had seen this in action already, as noted in the 12&12: "Now and then, grateful benefactors had endowed clubhouses, and as a result there was sometimes outside interference in our affairs. We had been presented with a hospital, and almost immediately the donor's son became its principal patient and would-be manager. One A.A. group was given five thousand dollars to do with what it would. The hassle over that chunk of money played havoc for years. Frightened by these complications, some groups refused to have a cent in their treasuries." Passing the Tradition 7 basket at meetings is our way of taking care of our responsibility for the work of AA and in carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic.

## CONCEPT 7

*"The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness."*

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This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and “balance of powers” between the Conference and the General Service Board. Sometimes, this relationship looks like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object, because the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.’s funds and services however, the Conference is clothed with great influence and financial power that it could overcome the legal rights of the board. So in theory, the practical power of the Conference is superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power comes from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members and also from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups, referred to having “the power of the purse.”

Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all the ultimate power it may ever need. The Conference “recommends” and those recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board then executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation, but in actual practice, it never has done so. As such, if the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board and if the trustees will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority, neither will be seriously tempted to make a ‘rubber stamp’ out of the other. In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule; hopefully this harmonious cooperation will always remain