



# AA Area 73 District 11 Newsletter

August 2024 Volume 115

West Virginia – Wild, Wonderful, and Sober

“The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.” - Carl Jung

“We’re all a little weird, and life’s a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love.” - Dr. Seuss

“A soul mate is the one person whose love is powerful enough to motivate you to meet your soul, to do the emotional work of self-discovery, of awakening.” - Kenny Loggins

Welcome to August. Grapevine Magazine’s feature stories about relationships and dating. It is titled Boy Meets Girl on AA Campus. Hmm, I wonder where that campus is located. Oh well, I’ve haven’t been there yet. The featured member stories this month include: “It’s worth the work”; “Love at first sight”; “Lesson learned”; “My new boyfriend”; and “Boy meets girl on AA campus. I don’t have a favorite and won’t comment further on these feature stories. I suggest you read them and draw your own conclusions.

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.

\*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](https://www.instagram.com/alcoholicsanonymous_gv).

And finally, for the hot weather:

How hot is it outside? So hot that I saw a dog chasing a cat, and they were both walking. Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Step

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Tradition

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

## 8<sup>th</sup> Concept

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Promise

Self-seeking will slip away.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Reward

A clean conscience instead of a sense of guilt.

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What do you call a sunburned snowman? A puddle with an attitude!  
And: "Remember, sweat is just your fat crying."

## **8<sup>th</sup> TRADITION (LONG FORM)**

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.

## ***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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# AUGUST 2024



## Step 8

*“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”*

The previous seven Steps called for us to look inward and upward, toward ourselves and toward a Higher Power. So far, we have recognized our powerlessness, acknowledge our own faults, and cultivate a sense of humility. However, recovery doesn't happen inside a person's head. It takes place in the real world, where real consequences followed real actions and real people suffer real harm because of us. Anyone who wants to make solid progress toward must take concrete steps to amend past wrongs and harms.

So now in Step 8 we must look outward and forward. While Step 4 is considered to be a our personal housecleaning, Step 8 is the public application of the restitution we owe for the damage we caused; which we discovered in Step 4. In working Step 8 we simply make a list of people we have harmed and the specific ways we harmed each one. By making a list of the people we harmed, we start to take action toward healing the past with others, learning how to live in the world without shame and to experience freedom. In short, Step 8 is about identifying the people whom we have harmed (it doesn't matter if we intended to cause harm nor do we get to determine the extent of the harm), and if we're not sure we owe an amends in a particular situation, our sponsor can offer valuable help in going over our 8th Step list with us.

Spiritual principles abound in Step 8; forgiveness, honesty, courage, willingness, accountability, humility and compassion all which help build awareness and, little by little, bring new attitudes that transform how we deal with other people. As we focus on our comprehensive eight step list, with prayer and meditation, we begin to sense that a new freedom is available from our dark past. As we forgive, we heal...as we let go, we grow. “Every A.A. has found that he can make little headway in this new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and un-sparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake.”

– Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 77



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## Tradition 8

*“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. “12 Step” work is never to be paid for.”*

The eighth tradition makes it clear that A.A. may employ professional secretaries and other professional staff members. Their job is not to DO Twelve Step work; but to make Twelve Step work possible. “Our Twelfth Step is never paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire.” (12×12, Page 171). We must always remember that we cannot do the work of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic if we don’t have people in our various service centers assisting us in the logistics of carrying out our primary purpose. AA does have, at the national, state, and regional levels, service centers which serve AA as a whole by printing and distributing literature and meeting schedules, maintaining answering services, and other tasks.

These offices and service centers many times involve more work than volunteer service workers can provide, so some hire full- and part-time employees to do the necessary labor to keep them running smoothly. Tradition 8, therefore, allows for the “special workers” to be hired and paid a salary to do the work that volunteers cannot cover. Special workers also may be employed to help spread the AA message around the world through printing, communications, and other technology. This is not paying for 12th-step work, but paying for the services needed to support it with literature and outreach.

In the early AA days, Bill W. learned quickly that money interferes with spirituality. Doctors and religious leaders may play their part in the lives of many alcoholics, but AA could not employ such people to do our work for us. Sponsors and other individuals who help their fellow sufferers in AA must do so not for financial gain but in order to stay sober themselves. A large organization such as AA cannot do all that is required through volunteers alone. However, according to the 12&12: In the early groups, special workers often received little pay. It was thought that making less money would allow them to maintain their spiritual growth with no profit motive. Some may still think that this should be the case. But the prevailing opinion these days remains that special workers are not “professionals” in any harmful sense. They aren’t being paid to sponsor people—they’re paid to ensure that a program of sponsorship and spiritual growth is possible in the first place.

Tradition 8 insures that anytime a newcomer reaches out for help, s/he will receive it, free of charge. Members freely share their own experience, strength, and hope with the newcomer and by doing so, help themselves by reinforcing their own recovery in the process.

### Concept 8

*“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities:*

*(a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs.*

*(b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”*

This Concept deals with the ways the General Service Board “discharges its heavy obligations,” and its relationship with its two subsidiary corporations: A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Tradition 8 makes clear that the Board’s attitude should be one of custodial oversight. The Trustees are responsible for good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A.



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Grapevine, Inc., and they do this by electing the directors. The executive direction of these functions is lodged in the service corporations themselves, rather than the General Service Board. As such, each corporate service entity possesses its own bylaws, its own working capital, its own executives, its own employees, its own offices and equipment. To explain the reason behind having separate corporations, Bill W. draws from earlier mistakes by the General Service Board in trying to run the service functions directly and he warns repeatedly against “too much concentration of money and authority.

Another practical reason for the structure AA has is that long experience has proven that the Board must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger questions of policy, finance, group relations and leadership. In these matters, the Board must act with great care and skill to plan, manage and execute. The Board, therefore, must not be distracted or burdened with the details or the endless questions which arise daily in the routine operation of the General Service Office or the publishing operations, including the Grapevine, etc. As such it is vital that the Board delegates to subsidiary, operating Boards.