

# THE WESTWORD

25 Cents

(suggested donation)



The Westword is a monthly newsletter published by Calgary Intergroup  
*The deadline for submission for publishing in the Westword is the last Thursday of the month.*  
*Additions will not be made after this date.*

TO RECEIVE ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE WESTWORD PLEASE EMAIL [westwordeditor@gmail.com](mailto:westwordeditor@gmail.com)

## Calgary Alcoholics Anonymous Central Service Office

#2, 4015 – 1 Street S.E.  
Calgary, AB, T2G 4X7

### Office hours:

Mon–Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm  
 Closed for lunch 1-2pm  
 Saturday, 9:00am–1:00pm  
 Closed holiday weekends

**Telephone: (403) 777-1212**  
 Answering service is 7x24

Email: [centraloffice@telus.net](mailto:centraloffice@telus.net)

See [www.calgaryaa.org](http://www.calgaryaa.org) for  
 up-to-date Information,  
 meetings and events schedule.

Please email or call us for any  
 changes to the meeting  
 schedule or to post in the  
 online calendar of events.

**Check out the AA bookstore at  
 Central Office for:**  
 AA & Grapevine books,  
 pamphlets, committee  
 information, CD's and DVD's,  
 chips/medallions. etc

## STAMPEDE BREAKFAST

Calgary Central Service Office Invites Friends and Neighbors

**Saturday JULY 9, 2016**  
**8:30AM - 11:30AM**  
**Central Service Office**  
 4015 1 Street SE  
 (Near 39th Ave SE LRT Station)  
 Cost: 7th Tradition

High From The Horse's Mouth.

ENTREE MUST HAVE  
 Pancakes  
 Scrambled Eggs  
 Hash Browns  
 (more & #)

SPONSOR APPROVED

- Live Music - The Common Welfare Band and Open Mic
- Toe Tappin' o' Knee Slappin' o' Finger Slappin'
- Great Food! o' Great Fellowship! o' Great Times!

GROUP DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO CENTRAL OFFICE  
 PLEASE ANNOUNCE AT YOUR MEETING  
 For More Info: (403) 777-1212

## DISTRICT 77 ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP FAMILY FUNDAY

## PICNIC

**Saturday June 18th 11AM – 3PM**  
 Bowness Park ~ Site 3  
 7th Tradition

We will have  
 hamburgers and hotdogs  
 with the works!!  
 ALONG WITH:  
 Coffee, water, juice  
 and pop.

**Summer Potluck**  
 ✓ Chips  
 ✓ Cookies  
 ✓ Salads  
 ✓ Veggies  
 ✓ Fruits

Don't forget to bring  
 your children & pets!



Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship  
 with a delicious BBQ, MUSIC & lots of GAMES

Hosted by: Go Egg It  
 For further information, please contact:  
 Calgary Central Service Office at 403-777-1212

## Intergroup Contacts:

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Banff Roundup Chair	cgigbanffchr@gmail.com	Intergroup Special Events	cgigevents@gmail.com
Sunday Morning Breakfast Chair	cgigbrkfst@gmail.com		

## Meeting Changes

### NEW MEETINGS:

**Alpha House:** Open step meeting in Punjabi/Hindi/English, Mondays, Alpha house board room, 203 – 15 Ave SE (Mar/16)

**Came to Believe Group,** Sundays, 7:30 PM, open, Beginners, New Brighton Residents Association, 2 New Brighton Dr. SE (Feb/16)

**Chimes of Freedom Group,** 8:00 PM Mondays, J.C. Charyk School (Mezzanine), 801 – 4 St. W, Hanna AB (Feb/16)

**Group Nuevo Horizonte** has added 2 new meetings: Wednesdays & Fridays. Both are open, Spanish (with some English) 2 hour meetings, 7:00 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church, 204 – 6A St. NE (May/16)

**Penbrooke Community Centre,** new Al-Anon Meeting, Mondays, 7:00pm (Feb/16)

**Tsuu T'ina Thursday Night Meeting,** Open, Discussion, 7:30 PM Thursdays, Tsuu T'ina Spirit Healing Lodge, Old Agency Road A7 (3 km south of Bullhead Road, off Anderson Road, SW), Tsuu T'ina Nation (Feb/16)

**Weekend Serenity Group:** new Big Book Discussion meetings, Saturday and Sunday at 1pm, 2020 33rd St S.E., Kadiac Room (May/16)

### MEETING CHANGES:

**The Harmony Group,** Wednesdays, southeast, is changing their meeting time from 7:30 to 7:00 as of February 3 (Feb/16)

**Mustard Seed Group,** Mondays, northwest, time is now 8:00pm - changed from 8:15pm (Apr/16)

**Out to Lunch Bunch,** meeting starts at 11:55am Mon/Wed/Fri, rather than at noon (Feb/16)

**Shipwreck at Sunset,** Fridays southwest, has moved to the Central United Church, 131 – 7 Ave. SW, side door, basement, same time. (Mar/16)

**Thursday Men's Group** in Cochrane has moved to All Saints Anglican Church, 404 – 4 Ave. N, in the rectory building. Time remains the same. (June/16)

**Unidos** (Monday and Saturday, northeast) have changed their name to "Group Nuevo Horizonte"(May/16)

### MEETING CANCELLATIONS:

**McKenzie Towne Group,** open Came to Believe meeting (Sundays at 7:30 p.m.) has been cancelled (Feb/16)

**Rounders:** Wednesday southwest, has been cancelled (Feb/16)

**TriCurrie** Group, Mondays, has been cancelled (April/16)

***Calgary AA needs one of those special kind of people who enjoys organizing and sorting through the Archived Information stored at Central Office. This person has typically been a long time member who can continue to make sense of our collected history so that it can remain vital and relevant to us all. It is our connection to those who have gone before us and to preserve what unfolds today for those yet to come. You would be interested in spending some time each week carefully sifting through and preserving our continually growing and unfolding history. This position is called an Archivist, it is an appointed position and has no set term. It requires dedication and responsibility. If interested please submit your resume to the Chair of Intergroup for careful consideration.***

**Shifts are available for daytime phone monitors at Central Office. This position is perfect for those who can make a dedicated commitment to be available for a specific shift one day/week at Central Office; either in the morning from 9:00am to 1:00pm (4 hrs.) or the afternoon from 2:00pm to 5:00pm (3 hrs.). Suggested requirements are a minimum of 5 years of sobriety, a practical knowledge of the Traditions + Steps, and knowledge of the AA service structure in Calgary. There is also a brief training session given to show new daytime monitors where to find all the info they may need to access during their shifts. If you are interested in this vital area of 12 Step service, please contact Central Office at 403-777-1212 during regular office hours.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



All birthdays are entered as received. Birthdays are posted for the month past, and the current month of issue.

Deadline for submissions is the last Thursday of the month. Please submit to [westwordeditor@gmail.com](mailto:westwordeditor@gmail.com)

May					June	
ABC Group	Glenmore Group	MacKenzie Towne	New Beginnings	Rule 62 Group	Action Group	Ogden Group
Byron L 17 years	Cory B 1 year	Raj 4 years	June J 14 years	Ben 1 year	Scott L 14 years	Donnie B 6 years
Karen C 26 years	Jim P 1 year	Skip (April) 5 years	Clarence L 21 years	Nate M 2 years	<b>A wakenings</b>	Chelsea M 7 years
Tim S 35 years	Mike G 1 year	Mark 5 years	Bernie P 27 years	Chico 4 years	Gerry A 37 years	Shannon T 8 years
<b>Action Group</b>	Nicole D 1 year	Raf 6 years	Greg P 30 years	<b>Steps Stories Beyond</b>	<b>Back from Hell</b>	Krista Z 10 years
Keith S 9 years	AJ M 3 years	Kyle (April) 10 years	<b>NADZIEJA Group</b>	Nate M 2 years	Brad 2 years	Maryanne 18 years
JR H. 20 years	Dwight 3 years	Josh P 20 years	Krzysztof M 6 years	<b>The Link Group</b>	Ute B 6 years	<b>Recovery Group</b>
Bob B. 27 years	Jeff 5 years	Brent 22 years	Joanna O 7 years	Brenda M 21 years	<b>By the Book</b>	Donna G 1 year
<b>A wakenings Group</b>	Melissa 6 years	James 22 years	<b>NW Calgary Group</b>	<b>Tues Morn Ladies</b>	Carol 2 years	James S 3 years
Deb W 6 years	Darren O 8 years	Judy (April) 28 years	Glen K 3 years	Lena 5 years	Sylvia 26 years	Randy T.R. 5 years
Richard T 9 years	Marla 8 years	Wayne C 34 years	<b>NW Step &amp; Tradn</b>	Shirley 29 years	<b>Forest Lawn</b>	<b>The Link Group</b>
Jen A 11 years	Bob 10 years	<b>Marlborough Park</b>	Thomas B 3 years	Marjorie 32 years	Andrew F 5 years	Linda VL 2 years
<b>Back from Hell</b>	Dave W 10 years	Brian F 15 years	Sam A 4 years	<b>Walking Eagle</b>	<b>Edgemont</b>	<b>Tues Morn Ladies</b>
Lisa B 1 year	Doug B 10 years	<b>Midnapore Group</b>	Ryan F 8 years	Colton B 2 years	Allan H 1 year	Gail P 12 years
Ernie 7 years	Frank C 11 years	Angelina O 1 year	<b>Ogden Group (Thurs)</b>	Marilyn S 13 years	Janice K 1 year	Susan M 29 years
Murray B 8 years	Mark F 19 years	April S 1 year	Christina G 1 year	<b>Wed Morn Eye Opener</b>	Paul S 1 year	<b>Walking Eagle</b>
<b>Edgemont Group</b>	<b>Haddon Road</b>	Ted W 1 year	Diane 1 year	Tom M 21 years	Stan A 11 years	Leanne F 10 years
James E 1 year	Leona J 4 years	Chuck N 5 years	Wayne 6 years	Stella B 35 years	Lynda B 16 years	<b>Wed Morn Eye Opnr</b>
Rob G 1 year	Ed V 6 years	Bruce S 9 years	Roy F 24 years	Bill M 53 years	Brent M 18 years	Dennis L 42 years
Ian H 2 years	<b>Kincora Group</b>	Brad W 11 years	Frank T 27 years	<b>West End Step/Tradn</b>	Joanne D 29 years	Dwayne S 44 years
Thomas B 3 years	Linda W 1 year	<b>New Beginnings</b>	<b>Recovery Group</b>	Dana S 2 years	<b>Kincora Group</b>	<b>West End Step &amp; Tradn</b>
Kellen M 12 years	Maureen K 5 years	Leslie S 1 year	Brandon C 1 year	Shannon S 3 years	David M 27 years	Carl B 1 year
Bill F 16 years	<b>Langdon BYOC</b>	Lorena S 1 year	Gen B 1 year	Nick W 5 years	<b>MAAT Group</b>	Brian D 14 years
Tom W 18 years	Brandy W 22 years	Shannon E 2 years	Susan E 1 year	Peter G 38 years	James L 1 year	Iva P 32 years
Fraser G 44 years	<b>MAAT Group</b>	Todd M 2 years	James S 3 years	<b>Whitesheep</b>	Adam C 2 years	<b>Whitesheep</b>
<b>Garnet Block</b>	Theo 3 years	Evan C 3 years	Alex J 5 years	Sven G 2 years	Derric F 4 years	AJS 8 years
Mike 1 year	Carol L 27 years	Jill L 3 years	Laura F 25 years	Brydon D 3 years	Grant C 31 years	David G 24 years
Morgan 1 year	Gary O 34 years	Shereen 3 years	Keith H 25 years	Len K 4 years	<b>Marlborough Park</b>	Brandon C 1 year
Dean 15 years	Tony S 40 years	Shelley R 4 years	Tom Mc 25 years	Dan R 6 years	Larry B 17 years	Gen B 1 year
Steve 19 years		Stephanus 4 years		Gary O 44 years	Emilian D 29 years	Alex J 5 years
Heather 44 years		Ken A 5 years				

The Calgary Intergroup Committee meeting  
has a NEW VENUE at:

**Hillhurst United Church - 1227**  
**Kensington Close NW**

### Help Needed

We need help with setup and cleanup for the Intergroup Stampede Breakfast on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. If your or your group would like to help out, please contact Daryl at **(403) 228-1520**.

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

# LIST OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	More Info
June 10-12, 2016 (Friday-Sunday) Glenmore Inn and Convention Centre 2720 Glenmore Trail SE, Calgary	<u><b>Gratitude Roundup 2016</b></u>	\$25 for entire weekend, \$70 includes registration & Saturday banquet, registration opens at 5:00pm Friday
June 10-12, 2016 (Friday-Sunday) Rosebud Community Hall, Didsbury, AB	<u><b>Didsbury Campout</b></u>	Call Central Office for more information 403-777-1212
June 18, 2016 (Saturday) Bowness Park Site #3 Calgary, AB	<u><b>District 77 Picnic</b></u>	Cost 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition, 11:00am – 3:00pm, barbeque and picnic. Hamburgers, hotdaogs with the works provided, along with coffee, water, juice and pop.
June 24-25, 2016 (Friday-Saturday) Centennial Civic Centre 120 Brent Blvd, Strathmore, AB	<u><b>Strathmore Roundup</b></u>	Cost 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition, registration 7-8pm Friday night, camping at Strathmore Ag Society Campground within walking distance of Civic Centre, service is extract fee, call 403-325-0794 (campground), also call Central Office for more info 403-777-1212.
June 25, 2016 (Saturday) Christ Moravian Church 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB	<u><b>Southlanders Pancake Breakfast</b></u>	\$5/person, breakfast 9-10am, speaker 10-11am
July 9, 2016 (Sunday) 4015 – 1 St SE, Calgary	<u><b>Stampede Breakfast (Central Office)</b></u>	See poster on front page. From 8:30 – 11:30 am, 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition observed.
July 15-17, 2016 (Friday-Sunday) Island Lake Provincial Park (rockymountaincamping.ca)	<u><b>Crowsnest Pass 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Campout</b></u>	Self-registration at entrance upon arrival, AA and Alanon speakers, Campfire meetings, potluck supper Saturday, Pancake breakfast Sunday, for more info call: Jennifer 403-988-4448, Adam 403-200-4686, Barry 403-563-5473
July 16, 2016 (Saturday) 1609 Centre Street NW, Calgary, AB	<u><b>Garnett Block Alcahthon</b></u>	doors open at 10 am-10 pm, meetings all day, potluck 4-5:30 PM. Join us for fellowship
July 22-24, 2016 (Friday-Sunday) Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park 8 miles north of Consort on Highway 41 and 1 mile east	<u><b>28<sup>th</sup> Annual Consort Campout</b></u>	Registration 6pm July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Registration fee \$20 per person, children 12 and under free, for camping, provincial park fees are in effect.
August 5-7 2016 (Friday- Sunday) 10 miles south of Claresholm, on Highway 2 at Granum	<u><b>6<sup>th</sup> Annual Claresholm Campout</b></u>	Registration and pot luck at 5:30pm on Friday, cost \$20 per person. Contact Devon at 403-625-0029 or Al L at 403-489-0471
August 6, 2016 (Saturday) Valley View Park, 3224 26 St SE, Calgary	<u><b>Intergroup BBQ</b></u>	More details to follow
August 20 (Saturday) Trochu Lions Camp Ground	<u><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Unity Day and Barbeque</b></u>	Check in at 11:30am, \$20 per adult, pot luck at noon. For camping inquiries, call 403-442-3061. For more info call Fiona 403-877-1350 or Carrie 403-714-4624
August 26–28,, 2016 Calvary Community Church 1205 Rogers Way, Kamloops, BC	<u><b>Western Canada Regional Forum</b></u>	Register online <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a> (will be available soon). There is no registration fee.
August 26-28, 2016 Antler Hill Community Hall, Innisfail, AB	<u><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Innisfail Campout</b></u>	Camping setup allowed at 3:00pm Friday, Registration at 6:00pm, \$200 per person, kids under 13 free. For more information, contact Tom 403-227-6717 or Dwayne403-350-0407???

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## Upcoming Service Commitments

Treatment Facility	AA Group - June	AA Group - July
Renfrew Tuesday	SMOG	
Renfrew Wednesday (Bridging the Gap)	McKenzie Towne	
Renfrew Thursday	Knox Knooners	Primary Purpose
Renfrew Sunday	Saturday Morning Bridge	New Beginnings
Sunrise	MAAT	Regal
Alpha House	Action/Thursday Night Ladies	The Link Group
Dream Centre	NW Calgary Group	MAAT

Sunday Breakfast at Ramada	AA Group
June 5	Rule 62
June 12	Namaste
June 19	
June 26	
July 3	Primary Purpose
July 10	
July 17	
July 24	
July 31	

Telephone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
June 6 - 12	Kincora
June 13 - 19	Glenmore
June 20 - 26	McKenzie Towne
June 27 - July 3	MAAT
July 4 - 10	NW Step & Tradition
July 11 - 17	Back From Hell
July 18 - 24	Ogden
July 25 - 31	By the Book

## **Big Book/Step Studies**

### **"At Sheldon Chumir Centre"**

*There is a Big Book study at Sheldon Chumir Centre, 1213 - 4 Street SW on Monday nights 7:00pm – 9:00pm on the 3rd floor. It runs every Monday.*

### **"At New Beginnings"**

*There is a Big Book & Tradition study at New Beginnings Sunday afternoons from 2:00pm-4:00pm. It is presented by James P.*

### **"At Haddon Road"**

*There is a Step study at Haddon Road begun Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm. It is presented by Chris H.*

**People are needed in NE Calgary for the 12-Step call list. Suggested requirement is 1 year of sobriety. For more information, please email Derek at [cqig12steplist@gmail.com](mailto:cqig12steplist@gmail.com)**



## **The June 2016 GRAPEVINE: Issue Has Arrived!**

**This month's special section features stories about having fun in sobriety.**

When we put the bottle down and come into AA, many of us think our lives are over, that years of fun are behind us. But we soon discover that sobriety can be the beginning of an exciting new life. In the "Twelve and Twelve," our co-founder Bill W. writes hopefully about the newcomer who comes into AA and begins to help others: "... he stands at the edge of new mysteries, joys, and experiences of which he had never even dreamed." In this month's special section, members share about the many ways they are enjoying the sober life.

In the story "**Out of the Gutter**," a group of fun-loving AAs teams up and hits big strikes bowling. With gusto and grace, pies and love, a group of sober women have a good time in "**Heart and Hip**." In "**Fellowship on Ice**," Ontario AAs take to the ice in a long-time regional sober hockey tournament. With a guitar and a little courage, a newcomer in New York walks through fear and joins his fellows onstage in "**Like Madison Square Garden**." And a Kansas man hops on his bike and heads to Atlanta for AA's big 80th anniversary party in "**1100 Incredible Miles**."

You can find these stories and many more on the [AA Grapevine Web site](#).

**To view the Table of Contents, click here.**

**Listen or download the recorded version here.**

### June 3 Daily Reflections

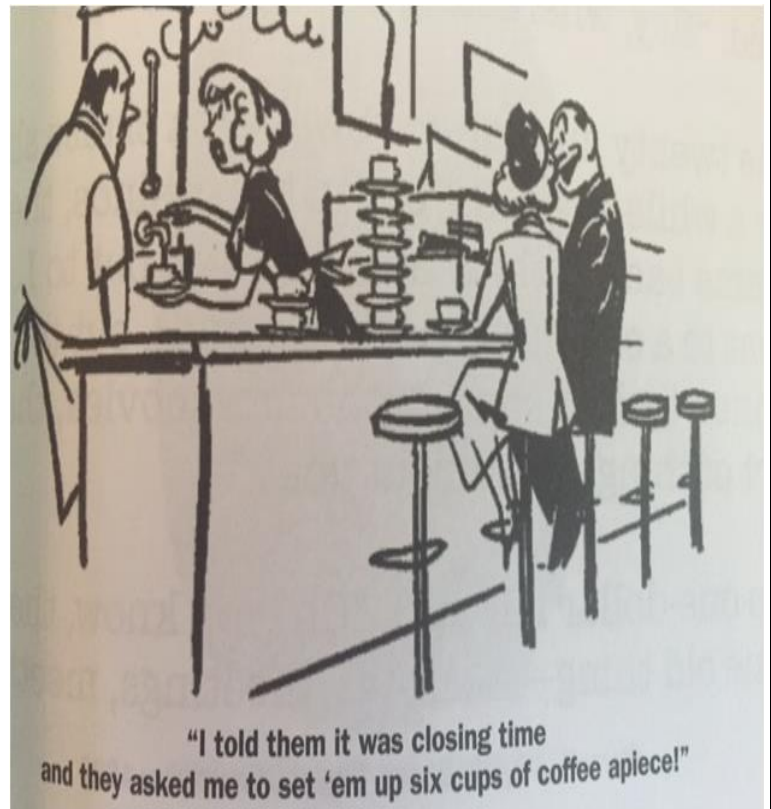
#### **On a Wing and a Prayer**

*...we then looked at Step Six. We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable.*

Alcoholics Anonymous, p.76

Steps Four and Five were difficult, but worthwhile. Now I was stuck on Step Six and, in despair, I picked up the Big Book and read this passage. I was outside, praying for willingness, when I raised my eyes and saw a huge bird rising in the sky. I watched it suddenly give itself up to the powerful air currents of the mountains. Swept along, swooping and soaring, the bird did things seemingly impossible for mortal birds to do. It was an inspiring example of a fellow creature "Letting go" to a power greater than itself. I realized that if the bird "took back his will" and tried to fly with less trust, on its power alone, it would spoil its apparent free flight. That insight granted me the willingness to pray the Seventh Step prayer.

It's not easy to know God's will in each circumstance. I must search out and be ready for the currents, and that's where prayer and meditation help! Because I am, or myself, nothing, I ask God to grant me the knowledge of His will and the power and courage to carry it out – today.



Dear readers, I was recently passed this copy of an article published in the Box 459. (Box 459 is a newsletter sent out by AA's General Service Office in New York).

Please enjoy.

The Westword Editor

## Reaching the Older Alcoholics—the 'Invisible Epidemic'

Alcoholism in older adults has been called the "invisible epidemic." It has been estimated that up to 10 percent of the elderly adult population meet the criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence, but health care providers often mistake symptoms of alcoholism for dementia, depression or other problems. Also, elderly alcoholics are more likely to hide their alcoholism, and less likely to seek help, and their alcohol use is often made more dangerous by the cocktail of prescription drugs many seniors take daily.

The problem will only get worse as the baby boomer population ages—by 2030, 21 percent of the U.S. population will be over 65. Even when they ask for help, many older adults have difficulty getting to A.A. meetings; they may have trouble driving, and shrinking social networks can sometimes mean that fewer friends are available to help them.

This is why elderly outreach programs have become so important within Alcoholics Anonymous. At the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta there was a panel discussion devoted to the topic "*Carrying the Message to Older Alcoholics*." One of the panel members was Chris S., who is C.P.C. chairperson for Area 5, Panel 63 and CEC (Contact with the Elderly Community) chairperson for Area 5, Panel 59.

"Reaching out to elderly alcoholics has been a passion of mine for a number of years," Chris says. "Partly it's because of my own age—I'm 75 and I understand the challenges of staying sober while you are aging. In particular things like loss of health and mobility, financial insecurity, the death of loved ones. It isn't easy."

What is the best way to reach out to elderly alcoholics? "There are different ways of doing it," Chris says. Forming a CEC committee in your area is a good start. The committee can send out letters to health fairs and geriatric physicians and assisted living centers. Chris's own approach "is to try to do one thing well, so I decided to focus on senior centers. Senior citizen centers are generally pretty easy to approach. Most of the staff let us put literature, Big Books and Grapevines in their libraries. We took panels into senior centers, for seniors and staff alike—sometimes they weren't alcoholics, but knew that so-and so was at home drinking too much.

"Another approach people can use is to start a Seniors in Sobriety (SIS) meeting, or at least designate certain meetings Senior Friendly (SF). Seniors isolate themselves, they don't identify, they retreat, they decline. They need to know they are welcome. When I got sober it was the 'meeting after the meeting' that was so important, one alcoholic talking to another. This is what seniors need—another person to talk with about sobriety and these special challenges older people face."

Another type of elderly alcoholic who needs help is the alcoholic who is already sober. Jeanmarie M., sober 22 years and a nursing student in Tennessee, has mostly elderly patients.

"I have found sober alcoholics in hospice and assisted living and was able through conversations to recognize that they are alcoholics," she says. "A situation I had in the spring was when I came across a patient with a Big Book in his lap. And I said to him: 'I got one of those.' He had been sober 32 years at the time, had just moved to the area and hadn't been to a meeting in a month. He was dying of cancer. I said, 'I'll get you a meeting by tonight.' It was the most powerful thing to carry the message to him. The guys in my home group came and said they would get him a temporary sponsor, and he said: 'Temporary is the only kind I can have.'

"We have members within our home group who have been living in assisted living. I have been able to work with a grandmother who was not yet sober. It's a different kind of population. One thing older people say is that they find it difficult to come to meetings and open up when people are so much younger." What might help the elderly, Jeanmarie says, is individual outreach by younger people. "They really enjoy people who are younger and who want to talk one on one about what it is like today in the Fellowship. But it has been a challenge to find younger people who are interested in working with older ones. When they do they find it becomes mutually beneficial.

"It has been very rewarding for me to come across patients who have been sober 41 years, 32 years, and get them a Big Book and watch how they come alive again. It really invigorates their sobriety to have that contact with the Fellowship once again. It's easy for them to get isolated and we need to take care of that."

The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey shows 18% of A.A.s are age 61-70. In 2007, that was 12.3%. Currently, 7% of A.A.s are over age 70; in 2007, that was 5.3%. As the general population ages, the need for the service work of reaching out to elderly alcoholics will become even more crucial.

Box 4-5-9, Winter 2015



## Step 6 & Tradition 6

***Step 6 – Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.***

***From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.63,65-66***

“This is the Step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well-loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults – *without any reservations whatever* – has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can – and will, under certain conditions – remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life...

So Step Six – “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character” – is A.A.’s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The key words “entirely ready” underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know of or can learn.

How many of us have this degree of readiness? In an absolute sense practically nobody has it. The best we can do, with all the honesty that we can summon, is to try to have it. Even then the best of us will discover to our dismay that there is always a sticking point, a point at which we say, “No, I can’t give this up yet.” And we shall often tread on even more dangerous ground when we cry, “This I will never give up!” ...

***Tradition 6 – 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.***

***From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.155-157***

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.

Here are some of the things we dreamed. Hospitals didn’t like alcoholics so we thought we’d build a hospital chain of our own. People needed to be told what alcoholism was, so we’d educate the public, even rewrite school and medical textbooks. We’d gather up derelicts from skid rows, sort out those who could get well, and make it possible for the rest to earn their livelihood in a kind of quarantined confinement. Maybe these places would make large sums of money to carry on other good works...

Yes, we of A.A. did dream those dreams. How natural that was, since most alcoholics are bankrupt idealists. Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout. Providence, through A.A., had brought us within reach of our highest expectations...

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We, of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.