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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 Labour Day weekend closures on:

Saturday September 2nd Monday, September 4th

Telephone: (403) 777-1212Answering service is <u>7x24</u>

Email:

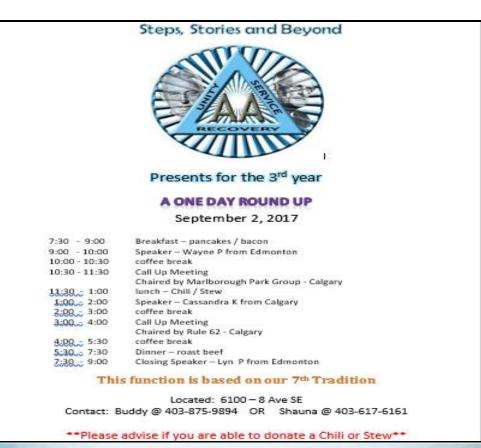
centraloffice@telus.net

See 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.





Intergroup Contacts:

Intergroup Alternate Chair	cgigalterchair@gmail.com	Intergroup Chairperson	cgigchair@gmail.com
Intergroup Archives Chair	cgigarchives@gmail.com	Telephone Monitoring Chair	cgigtelmonitorchair@gmail.com
Public Information Chair	pichair.calgary@gmail.com	12 Step Chair List	cgig12steplist@gmail.com
Westword Editor	westwordeditor@gmail.com	Intergroup Secretary	cgigsecretary@gmail.com
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Banff Roundup Chair	info@banffroundup.com	Intergroup Special Events	cgigevents@gmail.com
Sunday Morning Breakfast Chair	cgigbrkfst@gmail.com		

Meeting Changes

NEW MEETINGS

<u>5th Tradition Group</u>, Tuesdays, 8:00 pm, closed, Step/Tradition, Wild Rose United Church, 1317 – 1 St. NW, side door downstairs, wheelchair assessable (Jul/17) <u>Friday Night Fellowship Group</u>, Fridays at 8:00 PM, closed, step/discussion, All Saints Traditional Anglican Church, Renfrew, 904 Renfrew Dr. NE (Jun/17)

Garnet Block, 1609 Centre St. NW, is adding a new Night Owl meeting, Saturdays at 10:00 PM, open, discussion (Jun/17)

<u>Garnet Block</u>, 1609 Centre St. NW, is adding a new meeting: Sundays, 3:00 PM, Step Discussion, starting June 4 (Jun/17) **Happy, Joyous & Free Group**, Tuesdays 8:00 pm, open, Step/Tradition, Eastside Victory Outreach Centre, back door, 1840 – 38 St. SE, Calgary (Jul/17)

MEETING CHANGES:

<u>Desperation Group</u>, Fridays 8:00 pm, northwest, will be moving to the Highwood Lutheran Church, 419 Northmount Dr. NW as of May 26.

All else the same. (May/17)

<u>Glenmore Group</u> in the southwest will be moving (AS OF SEPT 1st) from Hochwald Court to 2509 Dieppe Ave. SW, Building B-6, Room 103 downstairs. All 24 meetings per week will be moving to the new location, everything else remains the same. (Sept/17)

<u>Grupo Nuevo Horizonte</u> (Spanish), northeast, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 7 PM & Saturdays at 5 PM has moved to Bay 6, 3850 – 19 St. NE, Calgary. AB (Jul/17)

<u>Irricana Recovery Group</u> Beginning on May 1, 2017, the Friday 8:00 pm meeting will move to Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. It will be the same location (United Church 16 km east of Airdrie on Hwy 567). There is no change to their Sunday meeting. (May/17)

<u>Monday Morning Group</u>, southeast 10:00 am, will be moving to St. Luke's Anglican Church, 2951 – 26 Ave. SE (back door) from Eastside Victory Outreach Centre. (May/17)

<u>Saturday Morning Bridge</u>, Saturdays northeast, 10:00 AM, is moving to All Saints Traditional Anglican Church, Renfrew, 905 Renfrew Dr. NE, same time and format (Jun/17)

<u>Tommy's Place Men's Group</u>, Mondays northeast (Lynda-page 6), has moved to the All Saints Traditional Anglican Church, Renfrew, back door, 905 Renfrew Dr. NE. All else the same. (Jun/17)

Tsuu T'ina meeting, Spirit Healing Lodge, Old Agency Road, Tsuu T'ina Nation is changing from Tuesdays at 7:30 PM to Thursdays at noon, same location (Jun/17)

MEETING CANCELLATIONS:

Action Group, Wednesdays southwest, is closing; last meeting May 31 (May/17)

Midnapore Group, southeast, is cancelling its Saturday and Sunday 8:00 pm meetings. The weekday meetings remain. (Jul/17)

<u>Thursday Night Bridge</u>, Thursdays, northeast is cancelled - last meeting was June 30 (Jun/17)

<u>August 20th Daily Reflections - "TOWARD EMOTIONAL FREEDOM"</u>

Since defective relations with other human beings have nearly always been the immediate cause of our woes, including our alcoholism, no field of investigation could yield more satisfying and valuable rewards than this one.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p.80

Willingness is a peculiar thing for me in that, over a period of time, it seems to come, first with awareness, but then with a feeling of discomfort, making me want to take some action. As I reflected on taking the Eighth Step, my willingness to make amends to others came as a desire for forgiveness, of others and myself. I felt forgiveness toward others after I became aware of my part in the difficulties of relationships. I wanted to feel the peace and serenity described in the Promises. From working the first seven Steps, I became aware of whom I had harmed and that I had been my own worst enemy. In order to restore my relationships with my fellow human beings, I knew I would have to change. I wanted to learn to live in emotional freedom. The beginning of the end to my isolation – from my fellows and from God – came when I wrote my Eighth Step list.

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

July				August							
ABC Gr	oup	Harvest Hills New		New Beg	New Beginnings ABC Group		Kincora Group		The Link Group		
Bev M	9 years	Big	g Book	Loreen S	25 years	Jamie S	1 year	Mike K	4 years	Wendell M	25 years
Cindy P	20 years	Chris L	5 years	Kevin C	26 years	Mike L	5 years	MAAT	Group	Walkin	g Eagle
Awakening	s Group	Andrew S	7 years	Al S	27 years	Lib B	30 years	Marshall D	35 years	Sheri M	1 year
Garry B	3 years	Bob H	27 years	Ken R	31 years	Awakenii	ngs Group	Marlborou	ıgh Park	Wednesdo	y Morning
Amanda H	23 years	Kinco	ra Group	Debbie K	35 years	Vince H	2 years	Jeanie C	11 years	Eye C	pener
Brett G	29 years	Brian C	3 years	NW Step	& Tradn	Mike K	4 years	Rayl		Orland W	31 years
Martin W	31 years	Larry L	4 years	Kevin H	4 years	Bob J	30 years	McKenzie	Towne	Whitesh	ep Group
Back Froi			AT Group	Clint P	6 years	Pat J	35 years	Melanie F	1 year	Sam S	2 years
Ray F	•	Audrey C		Adam	9 years		rom Hell	Lenny F	3 years	Wally D	8 years
Back to th			rough Park	Out to Lui		Valerie C	3 years	Jeff H	5 years	David O'C	11 years
Mary W	1 year	Rick B	25 years	Angie	1 year	Douglas K	5 years	Ryan M	7 years	Peter N	11 years
Ray F	-	Jacques	31 years	Recover	y Group	Back to	the Book	JeffI	8 years	Phil L	16 years
BYOC Lai	•		zie Towne	Claude D	1 year	Dianne J	2 years	Coleen K	11 years		
Kelly R	11 years		1 year	Pam C	1 year	Jim M	30 years	Midnapor	•		
Don C	•	Steve H	1 year	Leonard C	2 years		.angdon	Matt S	1 year		
Deer Ridge	•	Josh M	3 years	Brad K	9 years	Colleen L	20 years	Victoria	2 years		
Holly	1 year	Lisa R	5 years	South			nt Group	Matt L	3 years		
Luke	1 year	Craig M	5 years	By the	Book Book	Andrew	1 year	Rolan M	7 years		
Jack W	•	Nancy E	6 years	Rod	2 years	Ken	1 year	Alice M	43 years		
Edgemont	Group	Joe D	12 years	Steps S		Matt	1 year	Ogden (-		
Garrick	1 year	Gary R	12 years	& Be	yond	Mike	1 year	Billi Jo	7 years		
Ryan	1 year	Joanne G		Elaine	1 year	Paul	1 year	Tracy	8 years		
Stacey	1 year	Midna	oore Group	Sheldon S	1 year	Chad I	2 years	Jordan	8 years		
Michael	2 years	Gord P	1 year	Vanessa S	4 years	Monica	22 years	Elaine	9 years		
Ken	7 years	Sarah S	8 years	Walkin	g Eagle	Getting Tl	here Group	Mary	15 years		
Chad	9 years	Char V	10 years	Renee S	2 years	Lorne H	1 year	Bob B	29 years		
Joanne	13 years	Pat M	34 years	Pearl W	4 years	Jocelyn G	3 years	Karol K	41 years		
Linda	24 years	New E	Beginnings	Wednesda	y Morning	Bianca T	5 years	Recovery	Group		
Getting The	re Group	DanT	1 year	Eye O	pener	Harve	est Hills	Fred D	1 year		
Gail A	11 years	Alison B	2 years	Jackie S	2 years	Big	Book	Nicole W	1 year		
Mike P	13 years	Paul W	2 years	Whiteshe	ep Group	Becky	1 year	Jim D	3 years		
Glenmore	Group	Sekwan	2 years	Craig G	4 years	Wayne H	5 years	Tom E	41 years		
John M	2 years	Kim H	3 years	Jeff L	20 years	Sylvia S	8 years	Steps Si	tories		
Kyle B	2 years	Emma M	4 years	Al B	30 years	Scott B	11 years	& Bey	ond		
Neal	2 years	Anne M	5 years	Ken R	31 years	Jim I	15 years	Miranda H	1 year		
Mike G	3 years	Kathy C	5 years		•	Leslie P	18 years	Jaime S	6 years		
Carlos T		Tina M	7 years								
Lynn	12 years		17 years								

LIST OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	More Info
August 11-13 (Friday – Sunday) Granview Recreational Park 10 miles south of Claresholm on Hwy 2 at Granum	Claresholm Campout	Friday registration and potluck 5:30-8pm, cost \$20/person plus campground fees. Registration 5:30pm – 8:00pm Friday. For more info, contact Devon V at 403-625-0029. Saturday supper provided.
August 11-13 (Friday – Sunday) 10 km NE of Airdrie, AB Take Hwy 2 north to Veterans Blvd and go east on 567, approx. 2 km to RR 291 and go north (Left) .8 km. Turn right at Spruce trees. East on gravel road. Signs for parking.	<u>District 86 12th Annual</u> <u>Pig Roast</u>	Friday – Evening fire and fellowship Saturday – Fellowship and evening Barbeque (succulent roast pork, corn and potluck) Sunday Morning – Pancake Breakfast Onsite camping available, no hookups, campfire meetings, children welcome, dogs are absolutely not allowed. Contact Colin T at 403-473-3005 for more information.
August 12 (Saturday) Edworthy Park Picnic Site 9 Calgary, AB	Intergroup Summer Barbeque	11am – 2:30pm, hotdogs and burgers provided, please bring salads, sides and desserts. 7 th Tradition observed. Kids party bags, freezies, 50/50.
August 19 (Saturday) Trochu Lions Camp Ground Trochu, AB	Trochu Unity Day and BBQ	Registration at 11am, potluck lunch at 11:30am, \$20 registration includes BBQ dinner at 5pm.
August 20 (Sunday) Bridgeland Riverside Community Assoc, 917 Centre Ave NE, Calgary, AB	WACYPAA XXI Fundraiser – Thy Grill Be Done	Tickets \$20. Contact calgypaa@gmail.com for tickets. Open AA meeting at 3:00pm, followd by a guided meditation, BBQ and park games.
August 25 -27 (Friday – Sunday) Writing on Stone Provincial Park 41 Km East of Milk River, Alberta Group Area "A", West side of campground	International Corn Roast	Camp spots in group area \$25/night for RV's or tents, first come first serve, camp sites restricted in size. Weekend begins 6:30pm Friday night. 7th Tradition observed.
August 25-27 (Friday – Sunday) Antler Hill Community Hall just NE of Innisfail, Alberta	3 rd Annual Innisfail Campout/Roundup	\$20 covers supper and everything else. For more info contact Tom at 403-227-6717 or Don at 587-877-4692, or email innisfailroundup@gmail.com , Campers welcome to set up from 1pm Friday. Registration 6-8pm. No fires allowed at individual camp spots.
September 2 (Saturday) Pembrooke Community Hall, 6100 – 8 Ave SE, Calgary, AB	Steps Stories & Beyond 1 Day Roundup	Breakfast starts at 7:30am. Based on 7 th Tradition. Dinner at 5:30pm is roast beef, followed by closing speaker at 7:30pm. Contact Buddy at 403-875-9894 or Shauna at 403-617-6161 for more information. Please advise if you're able to donate chilli/stew for lunch.
September 8-9 (Friday – Saturday) Irricana Lions Hall, 1st Street & 2 nd Avenue., Irricana, AB	Hope and Unity Roundup	Tickets \$30 – available at Central Office call 403-777-1212 or Andy B call 403-607-3737. Friday 5:00pm registration. For camping call 403-371-7276 and reserve early!
September 22-23 (Friday – Saturday) Clarion Hotel on Hwy #1 and 7St. SW Medicine Hat, AB	Medicine Hat's 68 th Annual Roundup	Tickets: buffet \$35 or Speaker Only \$25 Meeting, dinner, speakers, raffles, 50/50's, door prizes and fellowshipCall 403-866-3970 or 587-289-2226 for more information.
September 30 (Saturday) Ramada Hotel Downtown Ballroom 708 8 th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB	<u>Ladies AA Thanksgiving</u> <u>Gala</u>	Registration starts at 5:00pm, dinner at 6:00pm. Tickets are \$45 with cutoff date September 22, 2017, Contact Nicole C at 403-477-9552 for more information.
October 7 (Saturday) Church of the Nazarene Hall 627 – 6 St. E Drumheller, AB	District 15 AA Roundup	\$25 full registration, includes Lunch & Banquet, \$10 speakers only. Registration at 10:00am. Contact area78dist15@gmail.com for more information.
October 14 (Saturday) Poplar Ridge Hall (RR 283) Sylvain Lake, AB	9 th Annual Serenity Fall Supper	\$20/person, for info, contact Morris at 403-887-4470 or Debbie at 403-341-9776.
October 21 (Saturday) Dalhousie Church 5511 Baroc Rd. NW, Calgary, AB	Annual Pioneers Dinner	Doors Open at 4:30pm, dinner at 5:30pm, \$25 tickets to be purchased in advance from GSR or Intergroup reps or from Central Office., includes roast beef dinner and refreshments. Includes AA and Al-Anon speakers.
November 3-5 (Friday – Sunday) Camp Horizon in Bragg Creek, AB	Bragg Creek Big Book Study Weekend	\$160 per guest for the weekend includes accommodation and meals. Registration deadline October 29. Inquire to fellowshipbraggcreek@gmail.com.

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.

Service Opportunities

Upcoming CGSC Service Commitments

Treatment Facility	AA Group - August	AA Group - September
Renfrew Tuesday	Out to Lunch Bunch	Go For It
Renfrew Wednesday (Bridging the Gap)	Midnapore	Southview By the Book
Renfrew Thursday	New Beginnings	ABC
Renfrew Sunday	Marlborough Park	New Beginnings
Sunrise	Midnapore	Ogden
Alpha House	Shipwreck at Sunset	Garnet
Dream Centre	Ogden	Unity

Upcoming Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Breakfast at Ramada	
served till 9:30	AA Group
August 6	Ogden
August 13	Inglewood
August 20	Shipwreck at Sunset
August 27	Rule 62
September 3	Regal
September 10	Go For It
September 17	Garnet
September 24	Go For It
October 1	Westend Step & Tradn

Telephone Monitoring	
Dates	AA Group
August 7 - 13	Southview By the Book
August 14 - 20	Ogden
August 21 - 27	Unity
Aug 28 - Sept 3	Deer Ridge
September 4 - 10	NW Calgary Group
September 11 - 17	Westend Step & Tradition
September 18 - 24	McKenzie Towne
Sept 25 - Oct 1	New Beginnings

Calls for Service

People are needed in
Calgary for the 12-Step call
list. Overnight monitors and
multi-language monitors are
especially needed.

Suggested requirement is 1 year of sobriety. For more information, please call Nate at 403-830-5086 or email to

cgig12steplist@gmail.com.

We need a new Special Events Chair in September!

If you would like to get involved in service, this might be your way to get started! Your duties would include organizing two Intergroup events: the Christmas Open House and the Summer Barbeque. You would also attend two evening Intergroup meetings per month.

If you are interested, please attend the September Intergroup general meeting on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church (formerly St. Marks), 1802 33 Ave SW, Calgary, AB.

We need daytime phone monitors to act as floaters when the regular monitors cannot fill their shift.

If you can help out with the occasional morning or afternoon shift, please call Mathew at Central Office at 403-777-1212 or email CentralOffice@telus.net

The August 2017 Issue of GRAPEVINE is Coming!

Once we get sober in AA, we carry the message to other suffering alcoholics. For over 73 years, Grapevine has been a wonderful tool to introduce members to our life-saving program. It can also reach alcoholics in prisons, hospitals and remote locations. Last year, we held a challenge to encourage member involvement with carrying the message. This month's special section features stories from Area 32, Central Michigan, winner of the 2016 Grow Your Grapevine, as well as some terrific Grapevine service stories. Congratulations Area 32. Nice job!

To view the Table of Contents, click here.

<u>Keeping my place</u> - Thanks to his Big Book, a father in Michigan built a history in sobriety—sometimes with crayons <u>Hello Mr. Blue</u> - After a personal loss, a member near Lake Huron made a four-legged friend who helped open his heart

<u>Triggered</u> - In a Michigan doctor's office, a newcomer turned the page in a magazine—and her sobriety **Good Medicine** - The two helpful sayings I still use in my tool kit

One story at a time - A former delegate challenges himself to write for Grapevine every month

Instant Topic - Just add alcoholics - When I first got sober I did the recommended 90 meetings in 90 days

Highlight of the evening - On Tuesday nights, she got to deliver some hope. And some she put right in their hands.

These stories and more in the August Issue of the Grapevine.

Big Book Studies

"Mondays At Sheldon Chumir Centre"

There is a weekly Big Book study currently running at Sheldon Chumir Centre, 1213 - 4 Street SW on Monday nights 7:00pm – 9:00pm on the 3rd floor in room 3122.

"Joe and Charlie BB Study At ODAT"

There is a weekly Back-to-Basics Big Book study on Mondays 7:30pm at ODAT, 1840 38 St SE, Calgary in the Eastside Victory Outreach Centre (upstairs room). Please bring a Big Book, Pen, Highlighter, & notebook or writing pad. For more information, directions, etc., please email odatmeeting@gmail.com.

"Big Book Comes Alive"

There is a weekly Big Book study running at New Brighton Community Centre, 2 New Brighton Drive SE, Calgary. Meeting runs on Sundays from 6:00pm – 7:15pm.

"The Cowboy Ray Way At Haddon Road"

There is a weekly Big Book study at Haddon Road on Sundays from 2:00pm—4:00pm, beginning September 10. Please bring a Big Book, a highlighter and an open mind. Big books can be purchased at the meeting or from Central Office. For any questions, please contact Steve at 403-889-5240.

51th International AA Al-anon Corn Roast
Writing On Stone Provincial Park
41 Kilometers (26 Miles) East of Milk River,
Alberta, Canada
Aug. 25, 26 & 27, 2017

We depend on 7th Tradition to pay for furnished food and the fee to reserve the group camping area.

<u>Friday:</u> 6:30pm Burgers and Hotdog Will Be Provided

<u>Saturday:</u> 8:30-10:00 Breakfast Will Be Provided

You Will Be On Your Own For Lunch

<u>Supper 5:30 POTLUCK</u> (Corn & Coffee Furnished)

<u>Sunday:</u> 8:00 Breakfast Will Be Provided

Followed by a Spiritual Meeting

We have group area "A" reserved on the west side of the campground. If you wish to stay in the regular campground, reserve a spot 90 days ahead of time. Online https://reserve.albertaparks.ca
Phone 1-877-537-2757

If you would like to camp in the group area, <u>spots are \$25 per Night for RV's and Tents.</u> These spots are on a first come basis and are restricted in size.

For more info, contact

CALGARY CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

(403) 777-1212

Email: Centraloffice@telus.net

August 19" at the Trochu lions Camp Ground.*

3" Annual Unity Day and BBQ



Check in at 11:00am with potluck lunch starting at 11:30 am
Call up meeting at 1:00pm
AA Speaker at 2:15 pm
Alanon Speaker at 3:30pm
BBQ at 5pm - \$20.00 per adult - includes registration, lunch & supper
AA Speaker at 6:30pm

For more infor Contact Calgary Central Service Office at 403-777-1212

Sponrored by

The Back Again Group

Meets regularly Wednesday's at 7:00pm in "The Eye in The Sky" building at the Trochu Lions Club. East of the rail road tracks on the North road.

The New life Group

Meets regularly Thursday's at 8:00pm Knox United Church in Three Hills.

Come and enjoy fellow/hip

* For camping enquiries please contact (403) 442-306

HOPE AND UNITY ROUNDUP SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2017 IRRICANA LIONS HALL 1ST ST. & 2ND AVE., IRRICANA, AB.

FRIDAY 5:00PM – REGISTRATION 8:00PM – DWAYNE S. (AA)

AFTER 8:00 PM SPEAKER - KARAOKE

SATURDAY 10:30AM - SHONA B. (AA)

12 NOON - LUNCH

1:30PM - MARILYN M. (ALANON)

3:00PM - JASON O. (AA)

5:00PM - DINNER

7:30PM - MIKE C. (AA)

WANT TO CAMP? CALL - 403-371-7276 RESERVE EARLY

TICKETS \$30.00

AVAILABLE FROM CENTRAL OFFICE @ 403-777-1212

Calgary Intergroup Archives Committee

ANNUAL PIONEERS DINNER



Saturday October 21, 2017

Dalhousie Church

5511 Baroc Rd. NW Calgary, Alberta Doors Open at 4:30pm, Dinner at 5:30pm SHARP \$25 includes Roast Beef Dinner and Refreshments

Tickets may be purchased from your Intergroup Rep or GSR
Tickets also available at Calgary Central Service Office, 403-777-1212,
Centraloffice@telus.net: cash, Visa, MasterCard, or personal cheque
Deadline for tickets is Friday October 13th. No tickets at the door

Speakers

Bill B (AA) – NW Step and Tradition Gerri T-A (AA) – 19th Street Big Book Lorraine F (Al-Anon) – McKenzie Circle

Step 8 & Tradition 8

<u>Step 8</u> – "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

STEPS Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure. 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 unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake. To a degree, he has already done this when taking moral inventory, but now the time has come when he ought to redouble his efforts to see how many people he has hurt, and in what ways. This reopening of emotional wounds, some old, some perhaps forgotten, and some still painfully festering, will at first look like a purposeless and pointless piece of surgery. But if a willing start is made, then the great advantages of doing this will so quickly reveal themselves that the pain will be lessened as one obstacle after another melts away.

These obstacles, however, are very real. The first, and one of the most difficult, has to do with forgiveness....

When listing the people we have harmed, most of us hit another solid obstacle. We got a pretty severe shock when we realized that we were preparing to make a face-to-face admission of our wretched conduct to those we had hurt. It had been embarrassing enough when in confidence we had admitted these things to God, to ourselves, and to another human being. But the prospect of actually visiting or even writing the people concerned now overwhelmed us, especially when we remembered in what poor favor we stood with most of them...

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.77-79.

<u>Tradition 8 – "Alcoholics Anonymous should</u> <u>remain forever nonprofessional, but our</u> <u>service centers may employ special workers."</u>

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words "Freely ye have received, freely give." We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world's best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromises him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.'s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.

Despite this certainty, it is nevertheless true that few subjects have been the cause of more contention within our Fellowship than professionalism....

At last, however, a plain line of cleavage could be seen between professionalism and nonprofessionalism. When we had agreed that the Twelfth Step couldn't be sold for money, we had been wise. But when we had declared that our Fellowship couldn't hire service workers nor could any A.A. member carry our knowledge into other fields, we were taking the counsel of fear, fear which today has been largely dispelled in the light of experience....

The job was not to do Twelfth Step work; it was to make Twelfth Step work possible. It was a service proposition, pure and simple....

This is the exciting welter of events which has finally cast up A.A.'s Tradition of nonprofessionalism. Our Twelfth Step is never to be paid for. but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire.

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.166-171.