SUGGESTED 25¢ DONATION



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY INTERGROUP OF AA

To receive a digital copy of the WestWord please email westwordeditor@gmail.com

# Calgary's AA 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 for the Victoria Day weekend, including Saturday May 19 and Monday May 21.

**Telephone: (403) 777-1212** (Answering service is <u>24-7</u>) **Email:** 

centraloffice@calgaryaa.org

Visit <a href="www.calgaryaa.org">www.calgaryaa.org</a>
for the most current
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, CDs, DVDs, anniversary chips, medallions, birthday cards, Roundup tickets, etc.

# 37th Annual AA Gratitude Roundup

Calgary, AB June 8, 9, 10 - 2018

# **AA Guest Speakers**

Heather M. – Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta Adam T. – Los Angeles, California Marion W. – Miami, Florida Josh H. – Toronto, Ontario

Andy C. - Calgary, Alberta



# Registration

\$25 for the entire weekend \$70 includes registration & Saturday banquet (deadline for banquet ticket sales June 7, 2018) \$15 for Sunday-only Fellowship meeting (at the door)

Tickets may be purchased from your G.S.R., Intergroup Rep., or from Calgary Central Service Office, online at: www.gratituderoundup.com (Credit cards accepted)
Phone: 403-777-1212

# Al-Anon Guest Speaker

Jackie S. - Calgary, Alberta

### ROUNDUP-FEATURES

Fellowship—Speaker Meetings—AA Meetings — Saturday Dance— Ice Cream Social — AA Literature Table— AA Archives Display — Al-Anon Literature Table—World's Largest AA Gratitude Globe

#### Conference headquarters and accommodations:

## The Glenmore Inn

2720 Glenmore Trail SE Calgary, AB Hotel Reservations: 403-279-8611 (ask about special rates for Roundup guests) Tollfree: 1-800-661-3163

Website: www.glenmoreinn.com

# Sponsored by Calgary General Service Committee

For ticket sales and schedule of events visit our Website at: www.gratituderoundup.com

# **INTERGROUP CONTACTS:**

Intergroup Chairperson	cgigchair@gmail.com	Intergroup Alternate Chair	cgigalterchair@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
Calgary Central Office	centraloffice@calgaryaa.org	Intergroup Treasurer	cgigtreasurer@gmail.com
Banff Roundup Chair	info@banffroundup.com	Intergroup Special Events	cgigevents@gmail.com
Sunday AM Breakfast Chair	cgigbrkfst@gmail.com	Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgscintergroup@gmail.com

# **CGSC CONTACTS:**

Chairperson	cgscchair@gmail.com	Alternate Chairperson	cgscaltchair@gmail.com
Treasurer	cgsctreasurer@gmail.com	Secretary	cgscsecretary@gmail.com
Treatment Chair	cgsctreatment@gmail.com	Corrections Chair	cgsccorrections@gmail.com
C.P.C. Chair	cgsccpc@gmail.com	Grapevine Chair	cgscgrapevine@gmail.com
Records & Registration Chair	cgscrecords@gmail.com	Intro to Service Chair	cgscintro@gmail.com
Bridging the Gap Chair	cgscbtg@gmail.com	Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgscintergroup@gmail.com

# **MEETING CHANGES:**

# **NEW MEETINGS**

Garnet Block (1609 Centre St. NW.) adding new meeting DAILY at 5:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 1, 2018.

Garnet Block is starting a new meeting on steps 6 +7 every Saturday starting April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

*Garnet Block* is starting a new closed women's meeting at the Garnet Block. It will be taking place Saturdays at 1pm, and the start date will be Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

**Bridging the Gap at The Alex**, Mondays 6:30 pm, open, Speaker meeting, closed on stat holidays, The Alex Community Health Centre, #102, 2840 – 2 Ave. SE

Mustard Seed Wellness Centre, the meeting advertised last month 7:00 pm Thursdays, closed at <u>the mustard seed is</u> <u>only open to persons staying at the Mustard Seed and not to 'outsiders'.</u>

**Next Step Meeting**, Wednesdays, noon, open, women's, Beginners Meeting (Speaker last Wednesday of the month), meets at Next Step Ministries, #200, 317 – 37 Ave. NE. This meeting is sponsored by the CGSC Treatment Facilities Committee.

**Parkdale Ladies**, Thursdays 7:00 pm, open, Women's, Step & Tradition, Parkdale United Church, main door downstairs, 2191 – 8 Ave. NW

## **MEETING CHANGES**

**Better Days Group** The group 7:30 old time group has changed their name to "BETTER DAYS GROUP". Also, there is a time change from 7:30pm To 8:00pm. The address is still 1432 19 st NE. We will have a speaker on May 12th.

**Candlelight Group** Thursdays, southeast, will be moving to St. Luke's Anglican Church, 2951 - 26 Ave. SE. Last meeting at Southview Com. Centre Nov. 30. First meeting at new location is Dec  $7^{th}$ . All else the same. (Dec/17)

**Glenmore Group** Thursday night's Tradition meeting at 8:30 pm is changing to a big book study format as of Jan/18. **Haddon Road Conscious Contact** Sundays 7:00 pm (1½ hours), open, meditation/discussion, 200 Haddon Road, upstairs. (Jan/18)

**Recovery Group** Tuesday 8:00 pm is no longer a Men's meeting; it is now mixed.

**Recovery Group** As of March 1, the Recovery Group in the southwest will be changing its evening meeting times from 8:00 to 7:30 pm; applies to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday meetings. They also have a meeting on the first Saturday of each month for birthdays, also changing to 7:30.

**Sunday morning 11 am** now meets at the Montgomery Community Hall, 5003 – 16 Ave. NW. Everything else the same. **Unity Group** has moved!! New Address: Grace Lutheran Church 3610 Sarcee Road SW (Back Door) First meeting will be FRIDAY, FEB.02,2018 at 8:30PM (Regular Time)

**Bring Your Own Cup** Langdon, AB meeting has moved from Friday at 8pm to Sunday at 8pm. Effective immediately. Location of Langdon Field House remains the same.

# **MEETING** cancellations

**Only Takes Two Group**, Mondays southeast, has folded, effective immediately.

**The New Beginnings Group** has cancelled their Saturday 9:00 AM Women's "As Bill Sees It" meeting. That meeting only – all the rest are as usual.

**Southlanders Pancake Group** as of April 1 the Southlanders Pancake Group, southeast, will be cancelling its Wednesday meeting only. Monday and Friday meetings stay the same.

**Recovery Group** has cancelled their Monday 7:30 pm and their Wednesday 7:30 pm meetings. All other meetings continue **Haddon Road Group**, southwest, is cancelling its' weekdays (Monday to Friday) 5:30 pm meeting. Effective March 1. **Weekend Serenity** 1:00 pm meeting Saturday and Sunday **has been voted to remain open**, contrary to what was posted in the Westword last month.

**Service Opportunity** 

# Chairpersons needed for Corrections

Calgary Corrections Committee aims to provide chairpersons to conduct more than 30 AA meetings per month at the three Corrections facilities in Calgary — Calgary Young Offenders Centre (CYOC); Calgary Corrections Centre (Spyhill); and Calgary Remand Centre. CYOC and Remand each have separate mens' and womens' meetings.

While there is a dedicated core of chairpersons, there is need for more names on the chair roster at various facilities to chair one hour-long AA meeting per month.

If you are interested in "carrying the message" at a Corrections facility, here is the process:

- Contact the Corrections committee at: cgsccorrections@gmail.com to express your interest and obtain necessary forms.
- Stop in any Calgary Police Service office to apply for necessary security clearance. (It may take four to six weeks to actually receive clearance letter in mail.)
- Once you receive your clearance letter, contact Corrections committee again, advise that you have your clearance and find out when the next orientation meeting will be held at the jail where you will be chairing meetings. Once you complete orientation you will be added to the chair roster.

### Requirements:

- · Minimum one year of sobriety
- Hopefully the ability to commit to chair one meeting per month for at least one year.

If you are interested in a rewarding service opportunity — may sound intimidating, but meetings are a non-threatening environment — contact Calgary Corrections chair at: cgsccorrections@gmail.com for forms and details.

These are opportunities to "carry the message" and you never know when something said at that meeting may make all the difference.

# BRIDGING THE GAP 12 STEP WORK

"Bridging the Gap" is a Temporary Contact Program for the newcomer coming out of a treatment facility an into Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH BRIDGING THE GAP.

#### VOLUNTEERS:

AA members volunteer to meet with individuals who are fresh out of a treatment facility and accompany the newcomer to a variety of meeting types and introduce them to other AA members.



#### CONTACT BRIDGING THE GAP AT:

# cgscbtg@gmail.com

Bridging The Gap will have a table set up at this years Calgary Round Up Committee meeting Tuesday May 22 at Central office 7:00 pm. Anyone wanting to get involved in service work at Treatment and Round Up is welcome to attend.

# **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 <a href="mailto:westwordeditor@gmail.com">westwordeditor@gmail.com</a>

Deadline for submissions is the last Thursday of the month. Please submit to westwordeditor@gmail.com  April  May											
Airdrie Back From Hell Glenmore Group Linda R					2 years	White Sheep		1			
Brian T.	9 years		•	Linua K	2 years			Nicole		Bill M	37 years
Don W.	13 years	James Jon	1 year 2 years	Chris G	5 years 20 years	Stephen Brian M	1 year 2	Tania	1 year 16 years		55 years e Sheep
Airdrie Coun		Jeremy	3 years	Linda M	20 years	George	24	Jimmer	40 years	Brian	3 years
Carol – Ann	2 years	Bill W	3 years	19 <sup>th</sup> I	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Ma		Kince	<u> </u>	Sven G	4 years
Awakening		Sonia	4 years	Les M	18 years	ABC G		Linda W	3 years	Brydon	5 years
Alison B.	1 year	Kevin S	5 years	Dan M	27 years	James D	2	Maureen K	7 years	Len K	7 years
Kevin D	34 years	Cam S	5 years	NW Ca		Christine	8	MA	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Dan R	8 years
Deer R	<u> </u>	Fran	13 years	Doug F	1 year	Dave R	16	Carol L	29 years	Gary O	46 years
Riley B	2 years	Lyle M	23 years	Michelle	1 year	Byron L	19	Gary O	36 years	, ,	, , , , ,
Hugh F	8 years	Joni	30 years	Luke P.	2 years	Karen C	28	Tony S	42 years		
Gord E	27 years	Doug H	30 years	Arie V.	2 years	Tim S	35	Marlborough			
Edgemont	-	Erik	34 years	Andrew	5 years	Airdrie Ba		Shelan	1 year		
Doug	1 year	Jack H	37 years	Ogd		He		Robb D	5 years		
Thomas	2 years	Carole H	37 years	Andy S	2 years	Cory H	1 year	Marilyn D.	5 years		
Krista	2 years		r Today	Ange N	4 years	Lucas S	1 year	Brian F	17 years		
Sergio	3 years	Jarrett	3 years	Laura-	8 years	Ken V	2	Midnapore G	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Marquitta	9 years	Kin	cora	Peter K	10 years	Dave R.	2	Bill G	1 year		
Linda	14 years	Trish Y	4 years	Cor	10 years	Murray	10	Sierra V	1 year		
Audrey	19 years	Bali G	7 years	Bill M	21 years	Airdrie C	Country	Jen C	2 years		
Harvest Hills	Monday	Bobby A	10 years	Open	Door	Casey	7	Tracy B	2 years		
Gina H	1 year	The Lin	k Group	Wade A	8 years	Awake	nings	Dave M	2 years		
Justin P	2 years	Craig S	15 years	Recovery	y Group	lan H	4	Angelina O	3 years		
Jennifer H	6 years	MAAT	Group	Serena L	2 years	Deb W	8	April S	3 years		
Garnet l	Block	Doug B	2 years	Andrew K	5 years	Richard	11	Chuck N	7 years		
George J.	1 year	Ron D	24 years	Natalie L	22 years	Keith S.	11	Bruce S	11 years		
Jimmy D.	1 year	Marlboro	ugh Group	Keith H	27 years	Jen A.	13	Brad W	13 years		
Jim K.	1 year	Devin	1 year	Tom M	30 years	Better	Days	Nadzieja			
Cam	2 years	Rose F	2 years	Regal (	Group	Gordon	17	Krysztof M	8 years		
Kyle	2 years	Marilyn	5 years	Kent	1 year	Bring Yo		Joanna O	9 years		
Jon	2 years	Karen M	14 years	Rule	62	Cup Langdon		NW Ca	lgary		
Bill W.	3 years	Judy S	38 years	Hannah P	1 year	Brandy	24	Jason F	24 years		
Ron Mac	6 years	Midn	apore	Glen F	4 years	Deer r	ridge	Northla	nders		
Sheila	12 years	Andy S	2 years	Step Sto	ries and	Harold	10	Carrie P	4 years		
JP	16 years	Margaret	3 years	Shauna	6 years	Cliff B	29	Rule	62		
Ron O.	18 years	Derek J	6 years	Southvie	w By the	Edgen	nont	Nate M	4 years		
	22 years	Brian W	24 years	Dereck G	3 years	Kellen	14	Chico	6 years		
Debbie	23 years	Dilaii VV	_ , ,	Wednesday Morning		Fraser 46		Shipwreck			
Debbie Wendy R.	25 years	Sandy M	28 years	Wednesda	y Morning	Fraser	46	Shipw	reck		
		Sandy M	-	Wednesda Eyeop		Fraser <b>Garr</b>		Shipw Joel M	reck 1 year		
Wendy R.	25 years	Sandy M	28 years					-	1 year		
Wendy R. Yvan	25 years 35 years	Sandy M  New Be	28 years ginnings	Eyeop	12 years	Garr	net	Joel M	1 year  Morning		

# **Service Opportunities**

# **Upcoming CGSC Service Commitments**

Treatment Facility	AA Group - <b>May</b>	AA Group - <b>June</b>
Renfrew Tuesday	Desperation Group	NW Calgary
Renfrew Wednesday (BTG)	Midnapore	Thursday Night Ladies
Renfrew Thursday	McKenzie Towne	Southview By The Book
Renfrew Sunday	Haddon Road	Glenmore
Sunrise	Haddon Road	Unity
Alpha House	New Beginnings	Daily Reflections
Dream Centre	Primary Purpose	Haddon Road
The Alex (BTG)	Ogden	

# **Upcoming Intergroup Service Commitments**

Sunday Morning Breakfast at Ramada **served till 9:30**	AA Group
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Go For It
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	The Link Group
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Regal
June 3	
June 10	
June 17	Ogden
June 24	Haddon Road

Phone Monitoring Dates	AA Group	
May 7 - 13	Marlborough Park	
May 14 -20	Daily Reflections	
May 21 -27	Harvest Hills Big Book	
May 28 – June 3	Edgemont	
June 4 -10	Go For It	
June 11- 17	New Beginnings	
June 18 -24	Deer Ridge	
June 25 – July 1	Shipwreck at Sunset	

# **Calls for Service**

CGSC treatment is looking for a chair for Sunday night dream center at 7 pm. They are also requesting 2 volunteers to set up a new meeting at The Mustard Seed in their new residential building 1010 center street s.e. Email cgsctreatment@gmail.com for more details.

In anticipation of a COMC (Central Office Management AA membership. Business and service experience as well as a working knowledge of our 12 Steps and Traditions an asset. Time commitment is one evening meeting per month to provide leadership to the business of our Central Office.

Please submit a resume to Central Office. Committee) member

rotation, resumes are requested from our

Daytime phone monitors are needed at Central Office. If you can help by taking a regular morning or afternoon shift, please call Mathew at Central Office at 403-777-1212 or email CentralOffice@calgaryaa.org

LIST OF EVENTS			
DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	
Saturday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> ,2018	Cochrane Round Up	Weedon Hall, North of Cochrane Hwy 22 & Big Springs Rd. Registration only: \$10/person Registration + Banquet: \$30/person	
Saturday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> ,2018	Nanton Round up	Nanton Community Centre  18 St., Nanton, AB  Registration: \$15/person, with Banquet: \$30/person  Children under 12 free	
Saturday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> ,2018	New Beginnings 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	Kingsland Community Hall – 505 78 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW 4-8pm Speakers, Potluck, 50/50, Sobriety Countdown, 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition & Fellowship. Come Join us to celebrate!!	
May 25 –26, 2018	Area 78 Committee Meeting	Pioneer Cabin 4936 – 7 Ave., Edson, Alberta	
June 8 - June 10	Gratitude Roundup	The Glenmore Inn  2720 Glenmore Trail S.E., Calgary, Alberta Registration: \$25/person Registration + Banquet: \$70/person For event schedule & ticket sales: www.gratituderoundup.com	

# **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.

## "The Monday Night Big Book Meeting (Closed)"

This Big Book study needs your support! Dust off your Big Book and let's read and share. We are located downstairs in St. Peter's Anglican Church 903 - 75th Avenue SW (corner of Elbow Dr. & 75th Ave.) 8 p.m. - Big Book Discussion format.

## "Recovery Group Women's BB Study"

The weekly women's Big Book study on Sundays at the Recover Group, Room 104, 4820 McLeod Trail SW, 2:00pm-4:00pm will be closed for the summer and resume in the fall.

# "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.

### "Joe and Charlie Big Book Study at Haddon Road"

The weekly Big Book study at Haddon Road on Sundays from 2:00pm-4:00pm has been shut down for summer.

## Joe & Charlie BIG BOOK STUDY

In the tradition and memory of Joe & Charlie. As presented by Chris H and Laurence M formerly at Cedarbrae Community Center, St. Peters Anglican Church, & Chris, Laurence, Tom and John at Haddon Road, since 2009. Starting on 13 March 2018, we will be leading a Big Book Study at Recovery Group, <u>4820 Macleod Trail SW</u>. We will begin at 7:30 pm, and end at 9pm sharp. We will closely follow the format as laid out by Joe and Charlie, and we will share their

stories, as well as stealing their jokes! For more info: Text Chris H: 403 860 5313 anytime, Calls after 6pm, or email bigchrish@shaw.ca.

# The May 2018 Issue of GRAPEVINE is here!

On the cover: Our 12 steps.

To view the Table of Contents, click here.

Some stories include:

## Our 12 Steps: 80 Wonderful Years

Our Steps would have to be more explicit. There must not be a single loop-hole through which the rationalizing alcoholic could wiggle out.

#### Take the Steps

An old-timer, once known as Shaky Jake, walks us through the program that changed his life

### **Smooth Ride**

As an alcoholic, I'm always driving an unsafe vehicle—me. Today, I no longer drive it drunk. I need this program every day.



32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL AA COCHRANE ROUNDUP ON THE TRAIL TO SOBRIETY SATURDAY MAY 12, 2018 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: \$30.00 ticket - all day events, breakfast, lunch, catered roast beef & salmon dinner

\$10.00 at the door - all day events, breakfast, lunch

TICKETS: Brent 403.966.8516 Myla 403.970.7673 Bobbi 587.832.4965 (Cochrane)

#### Schedule:

8-45 a.m. doors open 9:00-10:30 a.m. Tuesday Night Freedom Group; panel on "Came to Believe" 10:30 – 12:00 Speaker Lester P., Saturday Cochrane Castaways Group

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30-2:30 p.m. Al-Anon presents Jason D., Calgary 2:30-4:00 p.m. – Head to Heart group presents Scott E

4:00-5:30 p.m. – Thursday Night Men's Group presents Matt B. Speaker

5:30 p.m. - Countdown

6:00 p.m. - Dinner - Choice of Roast Beef or Salmor

7:00-8:00 p.m. - Banquet Dinner speaker Sandra M. 28 years of sobriety. From the Better Days

Location: Weedon Hall is at the corner of Hwy 22 and Big Hill Springs Road. Camping is available across the highway at the Shell Station trailer lot. Call (403) 932-2010; open 6:00 am to 11:00 pm.

# **NEW ALCOHOLICS** ANONYMOUS MEETING

# STARTING OFF YOUNG

at

# HADDON ROAD

Starting off Young is a new youth group aimed at an understanding of what and why "AA" is.

We stand together to say:

- Young people can succeed in AA.
- · Young people can live healthy life styles while focusing on the steps and traditions

## Meeting format

- 1. AA Step and Tradition Meeting.
- 2. The chairperson speaks briefly about their "experience, strength and hope"
- 3. Discussion pertains to problems and solutions in everyday life using the AA Steps & Traditions.
- 4. Discussion is centered on the idea of healing the baggage of the past: Sharing is important and encouraged.
- 5. All meetings begin with a re-affirmation of the purpose of Starting off Young - encouraging an understanding of what and why "AA" is.



- Fridays 9:15pm
- Open Meeting | Mixed

PROUD TO BE INCLUSIVE



. Speaker Meeting on the 3rd Friday of every month.

A Speaker that either got sober in their youth or is a youth

HADDON ROAD AA GROUP 200 HADDON RD. S.W. [Room 200L, upstairs]



**Between Southland and Heritage C-Train Stations** 

**CALL THESE GUYS FOR** MORE INFO: TAYLOR YANTZ-WELLS (403) -808-4803 SOREN BRADLEY (403)-918-0085

**NEED HELP?** 403-777-1212 FOR MORE INFO REGARDING AA

# **Step & Tradition 5**

# <u>Step 5</u> – Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Having made our personal inventory, what shall we do about it? We have been trying to get a new attitude, a new relationship with our Creator, and to discover the obstacles in our path. We have admitted certain defects, we have ascertained in a rough way what the trouble is; we have put our finger on the weak items in our personal inventory. Now these are about to be cast out. This requires action on our part, which, when completed, will mean that we have admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our defects. This brings us to the *Fifth Step* in the program of recovery mentioned in the preceding chapter.

This is perhaps difficult – especially discussing our defects with another person. We think we have done well enough in admitting these things to ourselves. There is doubt about that. In actual practice, we usually find a solitary self-appraisal insufficient. Many of us thought it necessary to go much further. We will be more reconciled to discussing ourselves with another human being when we see good reasons why we should do so. The best reason first: If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. Time after time newcomers have tried to keep to themselves certain facts about their lives. Trying to avoid this humbling experience, they turned to easier methods. Almost invariably, they got drunk. Having persevered with the rest of the program, they wondered why they fell. We think the reason is that they never completed their housecleaning. They took inventory all right, but hung on to some of the worst items in stock. They only thought they had lost their egoism and fear; they only thought they had humbled themselves. But they had not learned enough of humility, fearlessness and honesty, in the sense we find it necessary, until they told someone all of their life story.

From Alcoholics Anonymous, Chapter 6 Into Action p.72-73

# <u>Tradition 5</u> – Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

"Shoemaker, stick to thy last! ", better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this Tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

Alcoholics Anonymous can be likened to a group of physicians who might find a cure for cancer, and upon whose concerted work would depend the answer for sufferers of this disease. True, each physician in such a group might have his own specialty. Every doctor concerned would at times wish he could devote himself to his chosen field rather than work only with the group. But once these men had hit upon a cure, once it became apparent that only by their united effort could this be accomplished, then all of them would feel bound to devote themselves solely to the relief of cancer. In the radiance of such a miraculous discovery any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety...

It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away. If a group of doctors possessed a cancer cure, they might be conscience-stricken if they failed their mission through self-seeking. Yet such a failure wouldn't jeopardize their personal survival. For us, if we neglect those who are still sick, there is unremitting danger to our own lives and sanity. Under these compulsions of self-preservation, duty, and love, it is not strange that our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission—to carry the A.A. message to those who don't know there's a way out.

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.150-151.