

SUGGESTED 25¢ DONATION

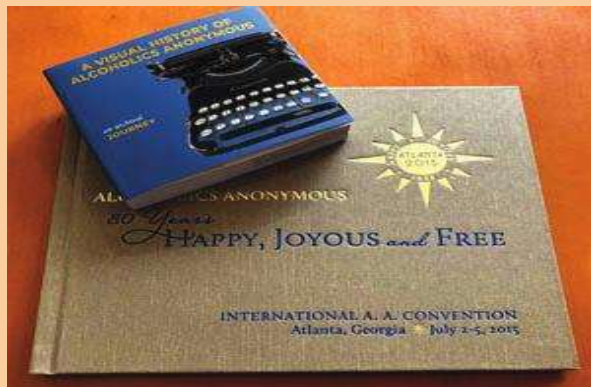


# THE WESTWORD

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY INTERGROUP OF AA

To receive a digital copy of the WestWord please email: [westwordeditor@gmail.com](mailto:westwordeditor@gmail.com)

## Price reduced



**International Convention books  
Atlanta 2015 & Detroit 2020  
\$12.00 each**

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS**

**Mon–Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm**  
(Closed 1-2pm for lunch)

**Saturdays 9:00am–1:00pm**

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES****HERITAGE DAY**

**Sat. Aug.5 + Mon. Aug.7, 2023**

**LABOUR DAY**

**Sat. Sept.2 + Mon. Sept.4, 2023**

**AA Central Service Office**  
**4021 – 4 St. S.E.**  
**Calgary, Alberta T2G 2W4**  
[centraloffice@calgaryaa.org](mailto:centraloffice@calgaryaa.org)  
[www.calgaryaa.org](http://www.calgaryaa.org)

**Our Service  
Committees  
need YOU!**

**Fellowship  
Events**

Intergroup Annual

# BBQ

## Party



**August 12:  
2023  
11am-2pm**

**Edworthy Park  
site2A**  
5050 Spruce Dr SW Calgary

Kids face  
painting/  
Games/  
Bring your  
own  
chairs

INFO (403)479-8732

**INTERGROUP CONTACTS:**

Intergroup Chairperson	cgigchair@gmail.com	Intergroup Alternate Chair	cgigalterchair@gmail.com
Intergroup Archives Chair	cgigarchives@gmail.com	Telephone Monitoring Chair	telmonitor.calgary@gmail.com
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Sunday AM Breakfast Chair	cgigbrkfst@gmail.com	Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgscintergroup@gmail.com

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Treasurer	cgsc treasurer@gmail.com	Secretary	cgscsecretary@gmail.com
Treatment Chair	cgsc treatment@gmail.com	Corrections Chair	cgsc corrections@gmail.com
C.P.C. Chair	cgsc cpc@gmail.com	Grapevine Chair	cgsc grapevine@gmail.com
Records & Registration Chair	cgsc records@gmail.com	Intro to Service Chair	cgsc intro@gmail.com
Bridging the Gap Chair	cgsc btg@gmail.com	Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgsc intergroup@gmail.com

**MEETING INFO & CHANGES:****NEW MEETINGS / BOOK STUDIES:****MEETING CHANGES:**

**\*\*\*272 Group Location Change:** pleased to announce after 30 plus years at North Minster United Church due to the building selling we are moving. As of August 14, 23 we will be meeting at Thornhill Baptist Church 128 Tache Ave NW.

**\*\*\*272 Group Meeting Change:** Our Step and Tradition meeting will continue to be held on Mondays at 7:30pm, our Friday speaker meeting has been moved to a Thursday Speaker meeting starting at 8pm.

**\*\*\*Oldtimer Group Meeting Format Change:** We are removing the 25 year requirement to share. This is a closed big book, topic meeting.



**\*\*\*New Beginnings Meeting Change** - made a change to their Saturday afternoon 2:00 pm ladies meditation meeting. **Starting September 1** it will be moved to Noon.

**MEETING INFO / SUPPORT:**

**NEEDS SUPPORT – “Getting There Group”** - We are a Step and discussion group an meet every Tuesday at 8:00pm, 2828- 19th Street NW{ Holy Cross Anglican Church}.

**CHANGE: Garnet Block - Saturday Ladies Meeting** time change:  
SATURDAY from (old time) 1:30pm-2:30pm to (new time) 12:00pm-1:00pm



JULY BIRTHDAYS				AUGUST BIRTHDAYS			
272		Rule 62		272		Regal	
Christine	15 years	Steve H	7 years	Gary L	33 years	Chris D	2 years
Len	33 years	Steps, Stories & Beyond		ABC Group		Brad I	9 years
ABC Group		Vanessa S	9 years	Mike C	1 year	Jim M	24 years
Michael S	5 years	Thursday Night Ladies		Lib B	36 years	Wed. Eye Opener	
Cindy P	26 years	Ali G	9 years	Awakenings		Orland W	37 years
Back from Hell		West End Step and Trad.		Ryan G	10 years	Whitesheep	
Blaine U	2 years	Dale S	12 years	Mike K	10 years	Phil L	22 years
Jjaye M	6 years	Whitesheep		Bob J	36 years		
Back to the Book		Keith B	9 years	Back from Hell			
Christina	2 years	Paul W	9 years	Danielle F	2 years		
Billie Sue	5 years	Matt B	9 years	Valeria C	9 years		
Mary	7 years	Kevin C	32 years	Beautiful Hope Women's			
Deer Ridge		Brian W	35 years	Colleen	26 years		
Tamara K	1 year	Ken R	37 years	Nadine	44 years		
Joel T	2 years	Awakenings		Deer Ridge Group			
Holly S	7 years	Garry B	9 years	Blake B	1 year		
Gord P	7 years	Amanda H	29 years	David P	1 year		
Jack W	17 years	Glenmore Group		Chad L	8 years		
Edgemont		Craig B	3 years	Gord D	15 years		
Ken P	13 years	Brandy J	3 yeras	Edgemont			
Chad H	15 years	Benjamin F	5 years	Haley S	1 year		
Joanne M	19 years	Daryl A	13 years	Mike R	2 years		
Linda G	30 years	Linda A	15 years	Harry C	9 years		
Fellowship Room		Lynn	18 years	Kincora			
Jonelle R	5 years	Regal		Glen H	2 years		
John B	63 years	Chris D	2 yeas	Melissa M	4 years		
Homeward Bounders		Brad I	9 years	MAAT			
Paul G	2 years	Jim M	24 years	Doug B	3 years		
Kincora		Zoom in the Room		Marshall M	41 years		
Alexa R	4 years	Myrna	1 year	Reid M	53 years		
Rob H	6 years	Better Days Group		Midnapore			
Adam M	15 years	Tresa R	37 years	Kim B	5 years		
MAAT				Lynda W	5 years		
Audrey C	1 year			Matt B	7 years		
Midnapore				Rolan M	13 years		
Patrick F	1 year			Alice M	49 years		
Anita C	6 years			New Life Group			
Susan A	6 years			Reid M	53 years		
Gord P	7 years			Ogden			
Richard H	7 years			Levi A	2 years		
Tyler R	7 years			Stacy G	7 years		
Pat M	40 years			Jim K	15 years		
New Life Group				Mary S-J	21 years		
Adrian	7 years			Karol K	47 years		

## UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMITMENTS

DATE	EVENT	Posters with details
August 11 - 13	District 86 Campout and Pig Roast	Page 6
August 12	Intergroup Summer BBQ	Cover Page
August 12	High River Campfire Fellowship	Page 7
August 25	Okotoks Summer Sizzler	Page 6
August 27	Midnapore Group Picnic	Page 6
June 24, July , Aug 26, Sept 29	Daily Reflections - Monthly Slow Pitch	Page 7

Treatment Facility	AA Group for August	AA Group for September
Renfrew Fridays	District 83	Ogden Group
Alpha House - Tuesday	New Beginnings	Glenmore Group
Alpha House - Friday	Bridge Group	Go For It
Sunrise	Recovery Group	NW Group
AARC – alternate Mon	Daily Reflections August 14 & 28	Deer Ridge Sept 18
Dream Centre	Ogden	Edgemont Group
Sandstone (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday)	NW Calgary Group	District 83
Drop-In Centre	Walking Eagle	Walking Eagle

## Monthly CGSC Service Commitments



## Monthly Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Morning (9:30am) Ramada Breakfast Meeting	AA Group
August 6	TBD
August 13	TBD
August 20	TBD
August 27	TBD

Phone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
July 31 – August 6	Kincora
August 7 - 13	Airdrie Reflections
August 14 - 20	District 85
August 21 - 27	TBD
Aug 28 – Sept 3	TBD

**Service**

*"Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs."*



## Public Information Committee (PI committee):

\*\*\*PIC needs committed members to trial / prepare for high school and other speaking engagements for the 2023-2024 school year. PIC membership requires attendance/interaction at at least 3 meetings including presentation of your story and recovery ideas. Sponsors please encourage your sponsees to join and participate initially as 'shadows' to learn and grow from the service work. For details contact: [getoutside@shaw.ca](mailto:getoutside@shaw.ca) or [pichair.calgary@gmail.com](mailto:pichair.calgary@gmail.com)

## 12 Step List Service –

(1-Year Sobriety): Looking for a service opportunity? Add your name and number to the list for 12 step calls. This list is used when a caller needs to talk to another alcoholic. All we need is your availability and which part of the city you live in/are willing to travel to. E-mail: [cgig12steplist@gmail.com](mailto:cgig12steplist@gmail.com)

## "Fall" into Service with Bridging the Gap this Autumn

Come and learn about opportunities with Bridging the Gap (BTG) at the upcoming [Introduction to Service Seminar](#) on **Saturday September 9th, 9:30am-3pm, at the Renfrew Community Centre (811 Radford Rd NE, Calgary)**. Members from The Bridging the Gap Committee will be part of a panel, partnering with members from The Corrections Committee and The Treatment Committee, and expounding on the myriad of opportunities in these areas of service. Bill W. reminds us, in Bill's Story, how it is "imperative to work with others" and BTG has a smorgasbord of service opportunities including speaking at facilities, being a Temporary Contact, sharing the BTG message at Round Ups, and helping with workshops for professionals in the detox, treatment, corrections, and healthcare arenas, just to name a few.

### What else is BTG up to?

BTG participated in a very successful District 83 Service Seminar, at McKenzie Towne Hall on July 15th. Nicole W., Chair of BTG, spoke eloquently about: what are the duties of a BTG Chair, how she got this position and what impact this work has had on her recovery.

BTG is sending a member to the 2023 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in Houston, Texas from September 8th-10th. The annual BTG Workshop Weekend consists of presentations, discussions, shared experiences, and breakout sessions on BTG topics. It is through sharing "**best practices**" that BTG Committees across North America improve their service offerings, and can better support clients coming out of detox/treatment and corrections facilities, helping them "bridge the gap" into AA.

Finally, there are some key positions on the BTG Committee to be filled in 2024, **including Chair**. Keep an eye out for the CGSC elections to be held in the fall.

If you are interested in a BTG service opportunity, join us around the table at our monthly meetings, held at 7pm at Central Office, or via Zoom, on the 3rd Thursday of every month. (Zoom Meeting ID: 945 772 8029 and Password: BTG). If you have any questions about BTG, please email us at [cgscbtg@gmail.com](mailto:cgscbtg@gmail.com) and we hope to see you at our next committee meeting on August 17th.

*Service*

## Treatment Committee is looking for:

\*\*\*Alternate Chairs for treatment. Alternate chair, chair every second meeting at the Treatment Centre.

\*\*\*Secretary for Treatment.

Contact: Dave at [cgscctreatment@gmail.com](mailto:cgscctreatment@gmail.com)

## COMC WANTS YOU!

Central Office Management Committee is looking for members at large to join our committee

Requirements: must have minimum 5 years sobriety

Previous Alcoholics Anonymous service experience outside of the group level, as well as experience in business such as Finance, Human Resources, Law, Business, Labour relations, Management etc.

Interest and knowledge of computers / websites is an asset!

Please drop off or email your resume to Central Office for



**BETTER DAYS GROUP**

• **Saturday 12<sup>TH</sup> •**  
**AUGUST**

• **8:00 •**  
**PM**

• **1432 •**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> ST., N.E.**

**SPEAKER MEETING**  
**PAIGE F.**  
FR, primary purpose group  
COME TO HEAR WHAT IT WAS LIKE, WHAT HAPPENED  
AND WHAT ITS LIKE TODAY

TGIF in Okotoks  
9th Annual Open  
**Summer Sizzler**  
rain or shine

**Friday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

We fire up the grill at 6:00 for hot dogs and smokies with all the fixings, then stick around for a campfire meeting at 8pm

- bring a lawn chair
- enjoy family games & fellowship
- we provide: hot dogs, smokies, buns, toppings & condiments, water, pop, juice, coffee, chips & salad

cost: by donation

location:  
Okotoks Alliance Church  
338 Ave & Hwy 2A  
(just North of Okotoks Honda)



## ***Fellowship Events - August***

**District 86**

**Airdrie AA**

**PIG ROAST**  
Potluck

**FRIDAY**  
4:00 Set-up  
6:00 Bring Your Own Dinner (BBQ available) 7:00- Games & Fellowship  
9:30 Campfire Meeting  
**SATURDAY**  
10:00 Campfire Meeting  
12:00 Lunch  
2:00 Al-anon Speaker  
5:00 Pig BBQ Potluck  
6:00 Countdown  
6:30 Raffle & 50/50 7:00 AA Speaker  
8:30 Entertainment/Fellowship  
9:30 Campfire meeting  
**SUNDAY**  
8:00 Breakfast (leftovers) 9:00 Clean-up & Fellowship  
11:00 - Farewell Campfire Meeting

\*On-site camping (Fri & Sat night), no hook-ups  
\*BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair)  
\*Potluck (Bring your best side dish)


**RAIN or Shine Indoor Facility Available**


**CONTACT:**  
Shannon @ 587-215-2182  
Billie Sue @ 403-921-6343

**FROM WEST:** Drive 3.2km East on Veterans Blvd., from the lights at East Lake Blvd. Turn North onto Range Rd 290 & drive straight for 0.3km.  
**FROM EAST:** Drive 1.6km West on Hwy 567, from the intersection at Range Rd 285. Turn North onto Range Rd 290 & drive straight for 0.3km.

\*Campfire Meetings\*  
\*Raffles & 50/50\*  
\*Games\*  
**\*NO DOGS\***

**WHEN:** August 11th - 13th  
**COST:** 7th Tradition  
**WHERE:** 51,302588, -113,942752  
(Enter coordinates in Maps or Scan the QR code for directions)



  
**Midnapore AA Group Picnic and  
45th Anniversary Celebration**

**When:** August 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00AM to 3:00PM

**Where:** Fish Creek Park – Glennfield Group B "Aspen" site  
14428 Bannister Road SE, Calgary

**Event Details will include:**  
Hot Dogs and Hamburgers  
BBQ and Snacks  
Guest Speakers  
Other Activities

**Additional Details:**  
Bring your Family  
Bring your Lawn Chairs  
Pet Friendly  
Games and Treats for Kids  
Rain or Shine -it's gonna be fine ☺

**From Bill's Story : Fellowship**  
"We Commenced to make many fast Friends and a Fellowship has grown up among us, of which it is a Wonderful thing to feel a part."

**Changes coming to 272 Group!**

New Location as of Aug 14

128 Tache Ave NW  
Thornhill Baptist Church  
3KM north and 1 block  
west from old location

**Meeting Changes**

Speaker meetings will take place on  
Thursday's at 8pm as of Aug 17  
Monday meetings will see no change



**Fellowship - August  
(cont'd)**

Daily Reflections  
Updated Dates and Times

**Lets Play Ball**

All welcome to join in the fun with some  
slow pitch baseball on the  
last Sunday of the following months

July 30th

August 27<sup>th</sup>

September 24<sup>th</sup>

From 5 pm - 8 pm

William Reid School, 1216 36 Ave SW

All equipment is provided.  
Everything else is up to you.

Come join the High River Group for

**Campfire Fellowship**

Saturday, August 12th, 2023  
6pm - 9pm  
George Lane Park, Community Site C



Feel free to bring your family - this will be an Open gathering.  
It will **not** be a meeting, just a time to visit and enjoy fellowship.

The High River Group will provide hot dogs, buns, marshmallows, pop,  
water, coffee, and roasting sticks!!  
Feel free to bring other snacks if you wish.

We will likely have some music & activities, and we welcome any  
games or talents you'd like to share with us : )





### Big Book Study

Big Book Study held at New Beginnings  
3216, 380 Canyon Meadows Drive SE  
Fish Creek Village  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Sept. 18, 2023  
Time 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Facilitated by Mary S and Steve MC  
Bring your big book and highlighters.

Enjoy and great night of teaching and  
fellowship.

Hope to see you there.

For Information email:  
SteveMonstermac13@gmail.com



### "In The Fellowship of The Spirit"



### Bragg Creek Big Book Study Weekend



#### 20th ANNUAL JOURNEY

JOIN US ON THE BROAD HIGHWAY  
AS WE TRUDGE THE ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY

**Facilitated by:**  
**Steve L - Redondo Beach, CA**  
**Joe C - San Diego, CA**

**WHEN:** November 10, 11 & 12, 2023  
**WHERE:** CAMP HORIZON IN BRAGG CREEK  
(35 Minutes West of Calgary)

**PRICE:** \$225.00 PER GUEST FOR THE WEEKEND INCLUDES:  
ACCOMMODATIONS - MENS AND WOMENS DORMS  
SOME SINGLE AND RUSTIC COUPLES PRIVATE BUNK ROOMS  
AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

**ALL MEALS:** FRIDAY NIGHT: SUPPER  
SATURDAY: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER  
SUNDAY MORNING: BREAKFAST  
SNACKS SERVED THROUGHOUT THE EVENT

□ **REGISTRATION OPENS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9 - CLOSES MONDAY NOVEMBER 6**  
**REGISTER AT:** [fellowshipbraggcreek@gmail.com](mailto:fellowshipbraggcreek@gmail.com)

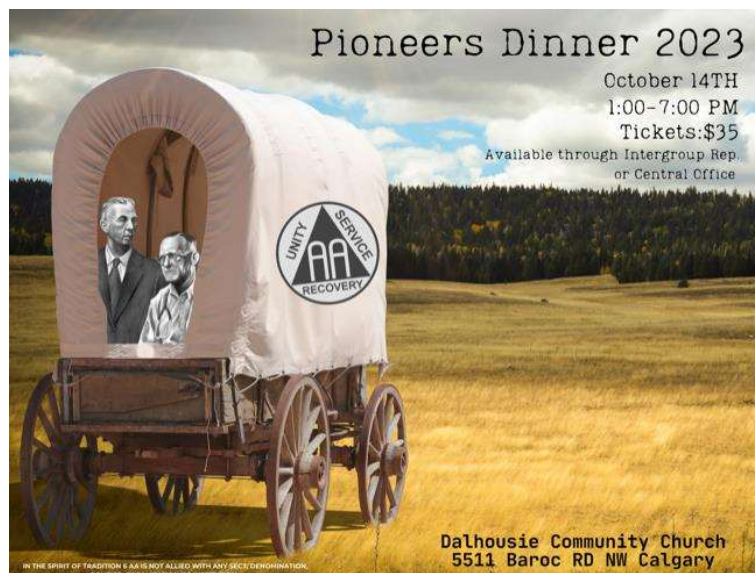
□ **LIMITED SEATING - RESERVATION CONFIRMED WHEN PAYMENT RECEIVED**

□ **EVENT SELLS OUT - REGISTER EARLY!**

□ **FELLOWSHIP, NATURE WALKS, CAMPFIRE MEETINGS**

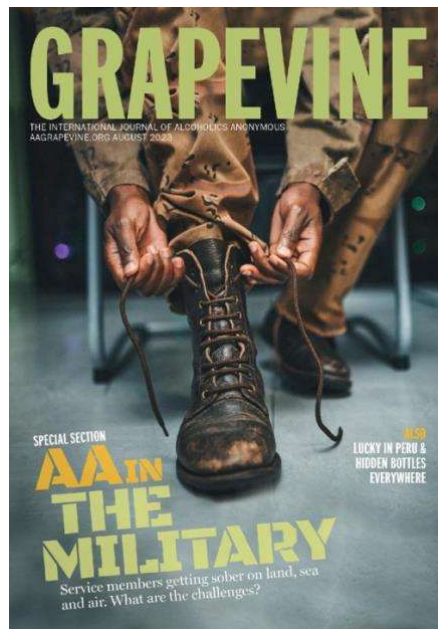
□ **MEDITATION CLASSES**

□ **NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 31, 2023**





## The August 2023 Issue of GRAPEVINE is here!



### On the Cover: This issue is for "AA in the Military"

[To view the Table of Contents, click here.](#)

Some stories include:

#### [One of the Guys](#)

I'm not an alcoholic; I'm in the military. That's what I thought. I had many reasons. I only drank a few days a week, not every day.

#### [Trudging in Korea](#)

My first week at Camp Casey in Dongducheon, South Korea, was in the late days of November 2020. There I stood outside of the dark stone chapel, hoping that the 7:00 P.M.

#### [Shaping Up](#)

I retired from the Navy six years ago after 22 years of active service. I used to embrace the saying "Drink and cuss like a sailor" with reckless abandon.

#### [Active Duty](#)

After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, I was sent to Germany. All I knew about that country was great German beer. That sounded like paradise to me. I was looking forward to it.

#### [Military Members: We're listening](#)

In early 2022, two sober alcoholics and long-serving military AA members, now retired, began serving as consultants to the GSO's Trustee's Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment.

#### [Sinking ship](#)

My introduction to AA came in 1984, when I was in the Coast Guard. I was at a district headquarters teaching computer classes.

#### [Friends in Every Port](#)

By the grace of God, I was sober for 21 years in the Navy until I retired from service. It was a career I would have never had without AA.

Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well in Area 78. Such joy to visit with you in all our many places:

[Alberta, NWT, west NV, NE/SE corners of BC & Maidstone, Sk.](#)

Thank you for the invitations to share the longer, warmer summer days at campouts, roundups,



workshops, seminars, unity and gratitude events, and to your in-person or online group meetings—all the things that extend the hand to our ever-evolving fellowship. During my travels I witness a Higher Power's light shining in so many eyes because of what Alcoholics Anonymous does for them and for others. I'm overjoyed at the excitement of recovery, the real-ness and connection happening when members, groups, and districts share the secret

ingredient of Service, our Third Legacy.

Oh, the wonder of paradoxes in our program. All these fantastic activities mix in with our continued challenges with other people, or perhaps our group, or district, maybe the area, or even with all things AA in New York. All this because we are spirits having a human experience!

This brings me to my noodling on Tradition Twelve ... "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." What exactly is anonymity? How is it spiritual? How is anonymity connected to our personalities? Who's personality anyways, theirs or mine? How does the spirituality of anonymity guide all our traditions, thereby serve as our very foundation?

Reading through the pamphlet "A.A. Tradition How it Developed" by Bill W., "A.A. Come of Age", "Our Great Responsibility" and throughout our "Service Manual and Twelve Concepts of World Service" we find the answers. In short, 'anonymity' allows our pride and egoic instincts to become right sized so we may gain enough humility to truly serve humanity.

With our desired 12 Steps, the first legacy of *recovery*, anonymity can look like confidentiality, respect, hope, and safety when our inner world is falling apart. We come in suffering and get relief. From humiliation to becoming humble enough to be willing to change our thinking and actions. Then day by day, we stay sober. A miracle in the making.

In our needed 12 Traditions, our second legacy of *unity*, anonymity insists we put the group before what "I" want, think, or believe is right for others or the group. It cloaks itself in tolerance, open-mindedness, love, and acceptance so we can look past the problems to find the solution to any difficulty. These actions ensure the very existence and continuity of Alcoholics Anonymous, guaranteeing a place for us and for others to come to when their world is falling apart.

Through our beloved 12 Concepts, our third legacy of *service* a whole new world explodes into our hearts and actions. Our own sobriety is treasured, and we care so deeply for those who come into our program. They show us how God works in wonderful and mysterious ways. Anonymity asks us to sacrifice many comforts, extending ourselves to others in ways we had never known. This is where the rubber meets the road! Here we find the power and grace of Alcoholics Anonymous to live life on life's terms in a principled, loving, accepting, kind-hearted manner. It is here we practice anonymity and humility, sometimes painfully, as we replace our instincts of our personalities with spiritual principles that build our character, and the character of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We do not do it merely for ourselves, but in the wise words of GSB Chairperson, Bernard Smith, in his 1954 talk: "We do need [A.A.] to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. ... to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics.... because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A.... to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; ... to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. .... that [A.A.] is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services. (Full talk - 2021 Service Manual pg. 40)

In our world, we are not one individual acting out alcoholically, we are a spiritual program, uniquely (and successfully) reliant on "an ultimate authority - a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience." We grow to realize the paradox of challenges and grace as we humbly apply our 36 principles (12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts) in all situations in our daily lives.

We have a few weeks before the Fall Assembly where we will elect the Table Officers and select the Committee Chairs for Panel 74. We hope everyone comes to Red Deer! Share your thoughts, ask your questions, and be fully enveloped in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Serving you with much Love,

*Tami*

Your Panel 72 Delegate 💜





***Step 8 – “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.***

***Tradition 8 – “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”***

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 non-professionalism. 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 non-professionalism. 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.***