



THE WESTWORD

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY INTERGROUP OF AA

To receive a digital copy of the WestWord please subscribe through www.calgaryaa.org or email westword@calgaryaa.org

District 88

IRRICANA

Hope & Unity

PIG ROAST
potluck

AA SPEAKERS
Friday - Buck B.
Saturday - Dave S.
(current Delgate)
AL-ANON SPEAKER
Wendy L.

AA Foundations Workshop
with Kevin O.

50/50 & RAFFLE
\$25 *CASH ONLY*
Kids under 18 FREE
POTLUCK
Bring your best side dish!
Aug. 21-22

CAMPING
\$38 for power & water
\$28 for power only
\$23 tent site, no services
Contact Norm @ 403-827-1869
or campspot.com

contact:
Cal @
403-554-9310
Danielle @
403-896-5045

Friday
4:00 - Snack, arrival, setup
6:00 - Bring your own dinner
(BBQ available)
7:00 - AA speaker - Buck B.
8:30 - Campfire meeting
Saturday
9:00 - Coffee & fellowship
10:00 - Registration starts
10:30 - Call-up meeting
11:45 - Lunch (provided)

1:15 - Al-Anon speaker - Wendy L.
2:45 - Foundations Workshop - Kevin O.
4:00 - Al-Anon skit
4:30 - AA Trivia
5:00 - Pig Roast potluck
6:30 - Countdown
7:00 - AA speaker - Dave S.
8:30 - Raffle & 50/50
9:00 - Campfire meeting
10:00 - Cleanup

Irricana Community Hall

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.

INTERGROUP CONTACTS:

Intergroup Chairperson	cgigchair@gmail.com	Intergroup Alternate Chair	cgigalterchair@gmail.com
Intergroup Archives Chair	cgigarchives@gmail.com	Telephone Monitoring Chair	phonemonitor301@gmail.com
Public Information Chair	pichair.calgary@gmail.com	12 Step Chair List	12steplist@calgaryaa.org
WestWord Editor	westwordeditor@gmail.com	Intergroup Secretary	cgigsecretary@gmail.com
Calgary Central Office	centraloffice@calgaryaa.org	Intergroup Treasurer	cgigtreasurer@gmail.com
Banff Roundup Chair	cgigbanffchr@gmail.com	Intergroup Special Events	cgigevents@gmail.com
Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgscintergroup@gmail.com		

CGSC CONTACTS:

Chairperson	chair@cgsc.ca.org	Alternate Chairperson	altchair@cgsc.ca.org
Treasurer	cgsc_treasurer2024@gmail.com	Secretary	secretary@cgsc.ca.org
Treatment Chair	treatment@cgsc.ca.org	Corrections Chair	corrections@cgsc.ca.org
C.P.C. Chair	cgsc_cpc@gmail.com	Grapevine Chair	grapevine@cgsc.ca.org
Bridging the Gap Chair	cgscbtg@gmail.com	Group Rec/Registrations	groupregistration@cgsc.ca.org
Tech Position	administrator@cgsc.ca.org	Treatment Facilities	treatment@cgsc.ca.org
Gratitude Roundup	gratituderoundup@cgsc.ca.org	Intro to Service Chair	introtoservice@cgsc.ca.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DATE	COMMITTEE	ADDRESS
No meeting in July Next meeting Aug 20 - 7pm	Bridging the Gap	4021 4 st SE Calgary Online @ Google Meet @ https://meet.google.com/pqz-xqwb-jjf
July 7 - 7pm	Intergroup General	1802 33 ave SW Calgary
July 8 - 7pm	District 75 Committee	Zoom Meeting ID: 838 0522 6189
July 8 - 7pm	CGSC Treatment Centre	4021 4 st SE Calgary
July 20 - 7:30pm	Calgary General Service	1802 33 ave SW Calgary
July 21 - 6:30pm	Cooperation with the Professional Community	4021 4 st SE Calgary
Sept 22 - 7pm Now a Quarterly Meeting	Public Information	Zoom Meeting ID: 764 5364 8741 Passcode: Serenity
September 28 - 7pm	Intro to Service	Zoom The Meeting ID: 924 0372 1605. Passcode: 632249

MEETING INFO & CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS:

Garnet Block - New Woman's Meeting Tuesday's at 4pm, New open meeting Monday's at 3pm. Also New Monday Night Midnigher
Hodgkiss Group - First meeting, Saturday September 19 at 8PM. 14555 84 ST.,SE,Beginner meeting, steps 1,2,3 plus maximum 3 topics.

MEETING CHANGES:

Woman of SMOG – Friday 7pm-8pm Zoom meeting Zoom Meeting ID: 403-397-1392, Password: 649183

Regal Group – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY MEETINGS HELD AT SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7pm. ARE CANCELLED.

Ogden Group - The Thursday night 8:30pm meeting is changing to 8pm

MEETING INFO / SUPPORT:

Recovery Group: Looking to share their meeting room on Sunday's, Wednesday's & Friday's, contact Robert @ 403-836-7026 or rob.pull@shaw.ca

Front Runners: LGBTQ group meeting at Hillhurst United Church is seeking support for the Tuesday literature/discussion meeting at 8PM.

Freedom Group: The Freedom group will be doing a Stampede BBQ on Tuesday July 7th at 5pm prior to our 7:30pm meeting.

Awakenings: No meeting June 6th. Will resume June 13th

Monthly Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Morning (9:00am) Ramada Breakfast Meeting	AA Group
June 5	Airdrie Country Group
July 12	Sunday 11am Group
July 19	Homeward Bounders
July 26	19th Hole Mens
Phone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
June 29-July 5	Sunday 11am Group
July 6-12	Unity Group
July 13-19	Rule 62
July 20-26	NW Group
July 27-Aug 2	SMOG

Treatment Speakers

Location & Time	AA Group
Alpha House Tuesdays 8pm	NA
Alpha House Fridays 8pm	NA
Dream Centre Sundays 7pm	NA
Drop In Centre Thursdays 7:30pm	NA
Renfrew Detox Fridays 7pm	NA
Sunrise Healing Lodge Tuesdays 8pm	NA
Nam Recovery Tuesdays 10am	NA
Simon House Tuesdays 7pm	Bridging the gap (volunteers)

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Happy Birthday!

June Birthdays						July Birthdays			
MAAT		Midnapore		Unity Group		Back to the Book Airdrie		NW Group	
Keith M	2 Years	Chris N	1 Year	Keene	1 Year	Billie Sue P	8 Years	Allison F	1 Year
Just For Today		Dillon H	1 Year	Travis M	7 Years	Mary R	10 Years	Travis F	1 Year
Bill	6 Years	Barr A	2 Years	Linda VL	12 Years	19th Hole Mens		Andy D	2 Years
Sylvia	37 Years	Russ G	3 Years	Jim H	25 Years	Travis M	2 Years	Deanna S	4 Years
Candlelight		Wayne G	10 Years	Iva P	42 Years	Daniel B	3 Years	Kelli F	9 Years
Betty H	18 Years	Dan C	12 Years	Unity Group		Craig B	6 Years	Joanne T	10 Years
Deer Ridge		Ron O	32 Years	Keene S	1 Year	Benjamin F	8 Years	Amy B	40 Years
Daniel P	5 Years	Haddon Group		Travis M	7 Years	Stampedeers		ABC Group	
Rachelle T	10 Years	Johnny R	3 Years	Linda VL	12 Years	Gary V	32 Years	Cindy P	29 Years
Nancy P	22 Years	Verona S	37 Years	Jim H	25 Years	Ogden Group		Awakenings	
Tammy G	34 Years	Kincora		Iva P	42 Years	Shaun J	1 Year	Garry B	12 Years
Denny B	36 Years	Brayden	2 Years	NW Calgary Group		Che S	3 Years	Tracy S	18 Years
Margot C	43 Years	Sean L	4 Years	Manish J	6 Years	Blake B	5 Years	Amanda H	32 Years
272 Group		Janice	17 Years	Adam W	9 Years	New Life		Fellowship Room	
Ida S	42 Years	Emilian	39 Years	Nick W	10 Years	Adrian W	10 Years	Alex	1 Year
Regal Group		Awakenings		David R	21 Years	Unity Group		Jonelle	8 Years
Taylor I	11 Years	Gerry A	47 Years	New Beginnings		Andrew P	1 Year	Knox Nooners	
Balwinder S	36 Years	Wed Eye Opener		Sarah A	1 Year	Amen Group		Martin W	40 Years
Iva P	42 Years	Doug D	37 Years	Sean C	1 Year	Gerard Y	1 Year	Stephen D	42 Years
Ted M	49 Years	Dwayne S	54 Years	Chris	2 Years	Recovery Group		Just For Today	
ABC Group		Back to the Book		Helen	2 Years	Lynda M	6	Bryan N	3 Years
Karen OC	36	Jodie A	2 Years	Bart	2 Years	Chris H	25	Lionel G	28 Years
Freedom Group		Raylene D	5 Years	Lisa B	3 Years	Marsh E	52	Kincora Group	
Karl B	3 Years	Leanne	7 years	Brianne	5 Years	Rule 62		Allison	1 Year
Stampedeers		Doug D	31 Years	Nicole	6 Years	Steve H	10 Years	Dale	1 Year
Ian H	12 Years	Knox Nooners		Les Y	7 Years	Deer Ridge		Rob H	9 Years
Tim S	45 Years	Russ T	1 Year	Natalie	11 Years	Gord P	10 Years	Chad H	18 Years
Ogden Group		Deborah J	9 Years	Cornelia	25 Years	Holly S	10 Years	Adam M	18 Years
Johnny G	1 Year	Soren B	10 Years	Gail	28 Years	Char V	16 Years	Step, Stories and Beyond	
Bug M	2 Years	Dave M	18 Years	Anne H	28 Years	Jack W	20 Years	Matt A	1 Year
Rennette H	4 Years	Brian S	29 Years	Jan	37 Years	Midnapore		Vanesa S	12 Years
Kirby L	9 Years	Phil D	38 Years	Bob R	41 Years	Dustin H	1 Year	John B	66 Years
Deb D	15 Years	Bob C	53 Years	Recovery Group		Jared V	1 Year	Regal Group	
Don B	16 Years	West End		Nicole O	6 Years	Hannah M	3 Years	Jason F	2 Years
Tony K	18 Years	Brian D	15 Years	Lynda A	6 Years	Susan A	9 Years		
Lawrence E	18 Years			Soren B	10 Years	Richard H	10 Years		
Shannon T	20 Years			Chris H	25 Years	Pat M	43 Years		
Maryan M	28 Years			Michael T	2 Years	Candlelight			
Fellowship Room				Garnet Block		Kelly R	20 Years		
Kattie L	1 Year	See page 7!							

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Calls for Service & Announcements

Bridging the Gap

Next BTG Meeting
Thursday August 20th at
7pm in person and NOW
on Google Meet

There will be no BTG meeting in July. However, starting back in August, BTG Committee meets at 7pm on the third Thursday of every month in person at Central Office (4021 4th Street SE), AND NOW on Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/pqz-xgwb-jjf>

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Temporary Contacts VERY MUCH NEEDED!

If you are interested in working with the newcomer and taking them to their first one or two meetings, please sign up to be a "Temporary Contact" using this QR Code:



Become a "Bridger"

Would you like to attend the occasional Treatment Speaker Meeting at Alpha Detox, the DI Detox or Renfrew Detox, or at Simon House, Sunrise, or NAMH, and explain the Bridging the Gap "Temporary Contact" Program to clients at the end of the meeting...then think about becoming "A Bridger."

If you are interested, PLEASE reach out to the Chair of BTG, Leslie M., by email cgsctg@gmail.com

Volunteer with Intro to Service

Help Shape Our Intro to Service events that welcome and support new AAs twice a year.

4th Monday of Every Month (Hybrid)

7 to 8 pm

Calgary Central Office

4021 4 St SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2W4

For the Zoom link, please email introtoservice@cgscaa.org.

DISTRICT 77

Sunday Night Speaker Meeting

TWO AA PIONEERS SHARE
THEIR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & HOPE

SPEAKERS

JIMMY S. AND JOHNNY B.



Sunday, July 19th
7:30PM - 8:30PM

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH
2919 8 AVE NW, CALGARY AB

HADDON GROUP PRESENTS



MAY 30, JUN. 27,
AUG. 29, OCT. 31

JUL. 25, SEPT. 26

**FOLLOWING THE BIRTHDAY
MEETING FROM 8:30 - 10:30PM**

@ ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
703 HERITAGE DR. SW

For more information contact
Peter 403.589.2682 or
Kevin 403.863.1673

Calls For Service & Announcements

SPONSOR/SPONSEE
Service Opportunity

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ACTIVITIES
 INVOLVING SERVICE FOR YOU AND
 YOUR SPONSEE?

Come and join us at the
Cooperation with the Professional Community
 Committee meeting, held on the 3rd Tuesday of
 each month at Central Office

- Multiple CPC committee positions available
- Continuous volunteer and service opportunities

Come learn and grow with us!

AA Central Office: 4201 4th Street SE Calgary
 For further information please reach out to our CPC
 Committee Chairperson at: cgsccpc@gmail.com

Alcoholics Anonymous 13 Week Traditions Study Through our Second Legacy of Unity!

Commencing: Wednesday, April 1, 2026

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Okotoks Evangelical Free Church

28 Westland Road, Okotoks

Enter through the South Entrance

Bring your own copy of these books:

1. **AA Comes of Age**
2. **2025 edition of AA Service Manual**

Crosstalk, arguing and double dipping encouraged.
 Bring an open mind! Highlighters if you wish.

For inquires call (250) 295-5334

**CALGARY CORRECTIONS
 COMMITTEE**

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SERVICE POSITION??

Calgary Corrections Committee is seeking volunteers (Male &
 Female) to chair and speak at various institutions in the
 greater Calgary area.

1 Year sobriety suggested

**Background check is required, cost is reimbursed upon
 success**

**Next committee meeting is June 12 at Central office (4021
 4th st SE), 6pm**

**Or contact the committee chair for more details at
corrections@cgscaa.org**

Public Information!!!

**Public Information Is
 Looking For Speakers
 To go to Schools and
 Institutions If
 interested Attend the
 Committee Meeting
 to find out how you
 can give back**

Fellowship & Events



Garnet Block Birthdays for June

Jocelynn T 1 Year

Kasey B 1 Year

Jeff B 1 Year

Agi 1 Years

Darren 3 Years

Mychaela 3 Years,

Arlin 3 Years

William R 3 Years

Madelaine 4 Years

Kimberley L 10 Years

Krystle B 12 Years

Tye 17 Years

Lawrence 18 Years

Mike R 34 Years

Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C)

Grow in your recovery!

Attend a CPC Committee meeting!

C.P.C. is an AA. committee offering unique service opportunities giving you a chance to carry the message directly to various industry and professional groups, either through your own network connections, or by participating in already established projects like the Student Doctor's Meeting and the Student Nurses Information session - both ongoing for many years.

Committee members can bring the A.A. message to professionals and to students at professional schools in your community, helping them to understand how and why A.A. works. A.A. has always valued friends in all professional fields. These associations have been mutually beneficial and completely in keeping with the A.A. Traditions.

We are looking for new C.P.C. members who would be interested in sharing the message of A.A. or helping to open doors to:

- Accounting Professionals
- Clergy
- Criminal Justice Students
- Social Work Students
- EAP Providers
- Educators
- Health Care Professionals
- HR Professionals
- Legal and Law Enforcement Professionals
- Medical and Nursing Students
- Not-for-profits
- Unions
- Etc., etc., etc.



Attend a C.P.C. Committee Meeting in person at Central Office or via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm (excluding September and December which will be the 22nd).
Contact the C.P.C. Committee for more information at cgscpc@gmail.com

STAMPEDE
Sober Dance
The Garnet Block

Join us for a night of music, dancing & community spirit!

JULY 11

LOCATION
Wildrose United Church
1317 1st NW

ADMISSION
\$13

FUNDRAISING FOR
Summer Camping

50/50
ALSO

DOOR PRIZES

EVENT IS FROM
7:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Everyone WELCOME **POTLUCK BBQ**
WITH **WALKING EAGLE FAMILY**

PEARCE ESTATE PARK
Bring your famous dish or just come fellowship

AUGUST 8, 2026
12 TO 4 PM

1440 17A ST SE

Hot Dogs

Walking Eagle

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Fellowship & Events

BROOKS AA CAMPOUT COMMITTEE

WILL BE HOSTING A CAMPOUT

JULY 24, 25 & 26

EMERSON BRIDGE CAMPGROUND GROUP AREA 81

FROM HIGHWAY 1 GO NORTH ON HIGHWAY 36. FOR CAMPGROUND INFO AND AMENITIES SEE:
www.albertacampgroundguide.ca/campgrounds/emerson-bridge-park-campground

FRIDAY – JULY 24 6:00 PM OPEN MEET AND GREET

CAMPFIRE MEETING TO FOLLOW LATER IN THE EVENING

SATURDAY – JULY 25 POTLUCK SUPPER AT 5:30 PM

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS WILL BE PROVIDED BY COMMITTEE.

PLEASE ADVISE ONE OF THE CONTACTS LISTED BELOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND POTLUCK SUPPER & SUNDAY BREAKFAST

SIDES DISHES OR DESSERTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

CAMPFIRE MEETING TO FOLLOW SUPPER

SUNDAY – JULY 26 PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT 9:00 AM

ALL SUPPLIES FOR BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED BY COMMITTEE

MEETING TO FOLLOW BREAKFAST

7TH TRADITION WILL BE OBSERVED AT ALL MEETINGS

LOTS OF FREE TIME TO ENJOY GAMES, VISITS AND ALL THE CAMPGROUND HAS TO OFFER
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY SOME GOLF THERE IS A COURSE IN DUCHESS JUST A FEW MILES AWAY

MUST REGISTER & PAY AT CAMPGROUND OFFICE

NO SERVICES IN GROUP AREA, GENERATORS ARE PERMITTED

GROUP AREA CAMPING HAS BEEN RESERVED, LOT HOLDS UP TO 15 UNITS
 \$22/NIGHT FOR TRAILERS AND TRUCK CAMPERS AND \$ 17/NIGHT FOR TENTS

ALL OTHER CAMPSITES ARE FIRST COME FIRST SERVICE, NO RESERVATIONS ALLOWED

IF YOU PREFER A SITE WITH POWER, COST IS \$ 32/NIGHT

SITE WITH FULL SERVICE COST IS \$40/NIGHT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

PENNY 780-893-9450

BILL 403-369-1144

DONNA 403-793-0315

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

A friendly reminder that we have some great speakers in the months ahead.

We are a HYBRID meeting and would love to have you join us in person or online.

In Person:

The Hope Center
 2275 Morello Avenue
 Pleasant Hill, CA
 Sundays at 6:00 PM PDT

Online:

Meeting ID: 761 118 6101
 Passcode: LNS12tcnb

[Online Zoom Link](#)

Additional Information

- Birthdays are celebrated on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- ASL interpretation is available on the 4th Sunday.
- Closed captioning is available for online participants.

[7th Tradition \(PayPal\)](#)

[Printable Flyer](#)

We now welcome speaker recording submissions!

If you know an AA member—preferably from the western part of the United States—who carries a strong message of recovery through the Alcoholics Anonymous program, we would love to hear them. Please send a link to a recent speaker recording for our committee to review. Click button below.

speakers@loveandservicegroup.org

Thank you for helping us discover speakers who carry a message of depth, strength, and hope.

In gratitude and service,
 Love & Service Speaker Committee

[Love and Service Group of AA](#)

If you have any questions or comments, need to update your email or would like to unsubscribe, please reply to: speakers@loveandservicegroup.org.

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Grapevine July 2026

Annual Prison Issue

The July issue is the “Annual Prison Issue,” featuring powerful, hopeful stories by AA members inside corrections facilities and the members who do the important service corresponding with and sponsoring them.

Inside Job

By: Y.K.P. | Agassiz, B.C.

Because our prison was so overpopulated, a third guy was added to our two-man cell. Imagine no room to walk, and the third inmate’s bed touching the toilet.

Bigger Than Us

By: Glenn K. | Phoenix, Maryland

“This is hardcore AA!”

Bad Girls Club

By: Cerina B. | Ada, Oklahoma

For 20 years I was a regular in jails, courtrooms and counselors’ offices. Most of the AA meetings I attended were mandatory.

The New Me

By: John S. | Newark, New Jersey

I am now residing at a halfway house, my final step before freedom. I was imprisoned for 20 years.

A Helping Hand

By: Nina M. | Louisville, Kentucky

Today I’m trusted to bring an AA meeting into a maximum security correctional facility.

Delegates Corner

Delegate's Corner – July 2026 - Area 78

Hello again – my name is Dave S and I am a grateful alcoholic. It was truly a gift to attend the Western Canada Regional Forum in Saskatoon, Saskatoon June 12-14, 2026. I hope every AA member gets to attend one of these magnificent fellowship and service events that happens every second year in Western Canada. These events are hosted by the General Service Office in New York. The next one will be in Area 78 Calgary, Alberta at an undetermined date in 2028.

Summer has begun and it is a time of expanded fellowship opportunities with pig roasts, camp outs, meetings around firepits and small-town roundups that are truly worth travelling to and not to be missed. AA does not take the summer off! We dig in and continue to share our experience, strength and hope with our area detoxes and treatment centres, usually at full capacity. The opportunity for 12 step work never ends.

Please keep up the good work out there my fellows! I have never been more grateful to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, witnessing you make a difference in so many lives of still suffering alcoholics who continue to come our way.

Our next big event in Area 78 is the Fall Business Assembly in Edmonton, AB September 25th – 27th, 2026. The poster is now up on area78.org to reserve your rooms. Area 78 will be electing our nominee for the next Canada Trustee at Large at this assembly. There are also several motions coming from you, the membership. These motions are aimed at improving ways that we can carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

On a brief sad note – just a few days ago we lost one of our much-loved trusted servants. We send our condolences and prayers to the family of Michelle D.K. – Past Delegate Area 78 - Panel 64.

I first met Michelle in 2012 before I ever had an inkling for serving as a GSR. I had met her many times since. Right until the end she continued to give herself to service in Alcoholics Anonymous, especially in District 24 encompassing the Crowsnest Pass and southeastern BC in Area 78. Michelle will be missed.

Do your best to enjoy the summer – we are not a glum lot! Have some fun.

Love, Service and Hugs,

Dave S – 403 852-7659 – delegate@area78.org

Tradition 7

The Seventh Tradition

Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix

From its earliest beginnings, A.A. has always incurred expenses — whether it be the cost of a pot of coffee or the price of a place to meet. In the early days, these costs were often absorbed by individual A.A.s or nonalcoholic friends who offered their parlors and living rooms for A.A.s to meet in. However, as A.A. outgrew the generosity of these early friends and members, the Fellowship's need for income became more and more apparent.

Bill W., A.A.'s co-founder, and some of the early A.A. members initially felt the only way for the Fellowship to survive was to solicit financial support from philanthropic institutions or individuals outside A.A. These "high rollers" could then supply the funds the Fellowship would need to carry out the vital Twelfth Step work the early A.A.s envisioned — to bankroll the army of paid missionaries, the chain of A.A. hospitals, and the library of books they were certain to write.

One potential A.A. patron, however, when approached by the pioneering members for money, instead helped to lay the groundwork for A.A.'s Tradition of self-support: **"I am afraid that money will spoil this thing,"** said John D. Rockefeller Jr., while at the same time endorsing the work of the fledgling Fellowship.

This marked a turning point in A.A. history, and, as the reality of Mr. Rockefeller's statement sank in and A.A. members began to see the truth in the old cliché, "Who pays the piper calls the tune," the seed of the Seventh Tradition took root.

Footing the bill

"Now, where do A.A.'s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things?" asked Bill W. in an October 1967 article in the AA Grapevine. "Why should we provide these functions with money?" According to Bill, **"The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible,** whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office . . . or the world service Headquarters

"Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion —

to our survival as a Fellowship. **Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us.** Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

...

Q Do all groups contribute to A.A.'s service entities?

A No. Contributions are strictly voluntary and some groups simply cannot afford additional contributions after covering their basic needs. Additionally, there are groups who, for whatever reasons, choose not to be a part of the selfsupport network. These groups, nevertheless, will receive basic services from the district, area and intergroup if they wish, and are welcome to list with GSO, where they will receive the same basic services as other groups. In 2023, the percentage of all active groups who contributed to GSB was 31.6%.

Q How much does it cost, per group, for GSO to supply basic services?

A At the end of 2023, the annual cost of services per group was \$162.72 USD, while the average contribution per group was \$140.09 USD. The shortfall between these two figures is made up from income from A.A. publications.

SELF-SUPPORT:

Where
Money &
Spirituality
Mix



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

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Step & Tradition 7

Step 7 – Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

SINCE this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it can mean to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.'s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven't even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life...

The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear—primarily fear that we would lose something we already possessed or would fail to get something we demanded. Living upon a basis of unsatisfied demands, we were in a state of continual disturbance and frustration. Therefore, no peace was to be had unless we could find a means of reducing these demands. The difference between a demand and a simple request is plain to anyone.

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.70, 76.

Tradition 7 – Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

SELF-SUPPORTING alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that's what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can't cure. Always, we've had our hands out. Time out of mind we've been dependent upon somebody, usually moneywise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it's going to pay its bills, that's really news.

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now—sober—paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because it had to.

There was another reason for our collective poverty. It was soon apparent that while alcoholics would spend lavishly on Twelfth Step cases, they had a terrific aversion to dropping money into a meeting-place hat for group purposes. We were astounded to find that we were as tight as the bark on a tree. So A.A., the movement, started and stayed broke, while its individual members waxed prosperous...

Despite these misgivings, we had to recognize the fact that A.A. had to function. Meeting places cost something. To save whole areas from turmoil, small offices had to be set up, telephones installed, and a few full-time secretaries hired. Over many protests, these things were accomplished. We saw that if they weren't, the man coming in the door couldn't get a break. These simple services would require small sums of money which we could and would pay ourselves. At last the pendulum stopped swinging and pointed straight at Tradition Seven as it reads today.

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.160-162.