

SUGGESTED 25¢ DONATION

# 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](http://www.calgaryaa.org) or email [westword@calgaryaa.org](mailto:westword@calgaryaa.org)

Calgary

## Gratitude Roundup 2026

June 5-7, 2026

The Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre,  
1000 Glenmore Ct SE, Calgary, AB T2C 2E6

Martin A  
Hamilton  
ON Canada

Patt O  
Redlands  
CA USA

Andy C  
Calgary  
AB Canada



Nancy C  
Los Angeles  
CA USA

Mark C - Al-Anon  
Saskatoon  
SK Canada

### Group Conscience

You asked, we listened  
Lower cost - Buffet Dinner

### Early Bird Pricing

Registration + Buffet— \$95

Registration Only — \$45

[gratituderoundup.com](http://gratituderoundup.com)



*Alcoholics Anonymous*

COOPERATION WITH THE  
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

## Luncheon for Professionals



Lunch and presentations  
from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

### GLENMORE INN & CONVENTION CENTRE

1000 GLENMORE COURT SE, CALGARY  
HERITAGE ROOM

RSVP TO JUDY BY MAY 29, 2026  
[CGSCCPC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CGSCCPC@GMAIL.COM)

PLEASE INDICATE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS WHEN RSVP'ING

AA MEMBERS WELCOME - LUNCH \$25  
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS - COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH



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	cgigtelmonchair@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	cgsc_treatment@gmail.com	Corrections Chair	corrections@cgsc.ca.org
C.P.C. Chair	cgsc_cpc@gmail.com	Grapevine Chair	grapevine@cgsc.ca.org
Records & Registration Chair	cgsc_records@gmail.com	Intro to Service Chair	introtoservice@cgsc.ca.org
Bridging the Gap Chair	cgsc_btg@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		

**UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
<b>June 18 - 7pm</b>	<b>Bridging the Gap</b>	<b>4021 4 st SE Calgary</b> <b>Online @ Google Meet @</b> <b><a href="https://meet.google.com/pgz-xgwb-ijf">https://meet.google.com/pgz-xgwb-ijf</a></b>
<b>June 8 - 7pm</b>	<b>Intergroup General</b>	<b>1802 33 ave SW Calgary</b>
<b>June 10 - 7pm</b>	<b>District 75 Committee</b>	<b>Zoom</b> <b>Meeting ID: 838 0522 6189</b>
<b>June 10 - 7pm</b>	<b>CGSC Treatment Centre</b>	<b>4021 4 st SE Calgary</b>
<b>June 15 - 7:30pm</b>	<b>Calgary General Service</b>	<b>1802 33 ave SW Calgary</b>
<b>June 16 - 6:30pm</b>	<b>Cooperation with the Professional Community</b>	<b>4021 4 st SE Calgary</b>
<b>June 23 - 7pm</b> <b>Now a Quarterly Meeting</b>	<b>Public Information</b>	<b>Zoom</b> <b>Meeting ID: 764 5364 8741</b> <b>Passcode: Serenity</b>
<b>September 28 - 7pm</b>	<b>Intro to Service</b>	<b>Zoom The Meeting ID: 924 0372 1605. Passcode: 632249</b>

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# 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:

**SMOG Wednesdays** – New meeting time 7pm. 1st Wed of the moth is fellow ship at Denny's 2450 16 Ave N  
**Glenmore Group** – Starting on Thursday, April 30, 2026, all Glenmore Group meetings will be held in Building B5

### 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](mailto:rob.pull@shaw.ca)

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

**Fellowship Room:** Starting May 3 Sunday night at 7:30pm we will have a Big Book study all are welcome

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

## Monthly Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Morning (9:00am) Ramada Breakfast Meeting	AA Group
June 7	Glenmore Group
June 14	ABC Group
June 21	19th Hole Mens
June 28	272 Group
Phone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
June 1-7	19th Hole
June 8-14	Garnet Block
June 15-21	ABC Group
June 22-28	Go For It

## 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!

May Birthdays						June Birthdays			
Whitesheep		Midnapore Group		New Beginnings		MAAT		Midnapore	
Dave W	8 Years	Aldina S	1 Year	Abby	1 Year	Keith M	2 Years	Chris N	1 Year
Brian Mac.	10 Years	Corrina B	5 Years	Rob S	3 Years	<b>Just For Today</b>		Dillon H	1 Year
Les M	26 Years	Matthew L	8 Years	Deneen	3 Years	Bill	6 Years	Barr A	2 Years
George G	32 Years	Bill G	9 Years	Heather C	3 Years	Sylvia	37 Years	Russ G	3 Years
Brian P	45 Years	Dame M	10 Years	Mary Jane	4 Years	<b>Candlelight</b>		Wayne G	10 Years
<b>Just For Today</b>		April S	11 Years	Jen S	8 Years	Betty H	18 Years	Dan C	12 Years
Bonnie Ann	29 Years	Tracey B	11 Years	Evan	13 Years	<b>Deer Ridge</b>		Ron O	32 Years
Doddie	55 Years	Chuck N	15 Years	Jill L	13 Years	Daniel P	5 Years	<b>Haddon Group</b>	
<b>Deer Ridge</b>		Bruce S	19 Years	Barb L	25 Years	Rachelle T	10 Years	Johnny R	3 Years
Jodi Y	2 Years	<b>Fellowship</b>		Clarence	31 Years	Nancy P	22 Years	Verona S	37 Years
Arie	5 Years	Jael	1 Year	Richard C	39 Years	Tammy G	34 Years	<b>Recovery Group</b>	
Megan M	8 Years	Scott K	2 Years	<b>Edgemont</b>		Denny B	36 Years	Michael T	2 Years
Taylor Y	9 Years	Doug H	11 Years	Kellen M	22 Years	Margot C	43 Years	<b>Kincora</b>	
Katie M	16 Years	<b>NADZIELA</b>		Dave R	24 Years	<b>272 Group</b>		Brayden	2 Years
Harold V	18 Years	Hubert K	6 Years	Fraser G	54 Years	Ida S	42 Years	Sean L	4 Years
<b>Ogden</b>		Iwona K	7 Years	<b>Garnet Block</b>		<b>Regal Group</b>		Janice	17 Years
Ervin	1 Year	Krzysztof M	16 Years	Dorothy	1 Year	Taylor I	11 Years	Emilian	39 Years
Dawn F	4 Years	Yoanna O	17 Years	Terry	1 Year	Balwinder S	36 Years	<b>Awakenings</b>	
Diane D	11 Years	<b>MAAT</b>		Ariel	1 Year	Iva P	42 Years	Gerry A	47 Years
Brenda M	31 Years	Ryan S	3 Years	Pehr	1 Year	Ted M	49 Years	<b>Wed Eye Opener</b>	
Roy F	34 Years	Carol L	37 Years	Floyd	1 Year	<b>ABC Group</b>		Doug D	37 Years
<b>ABC Group</b>		<b>Awakenings</b>		Tyler L	2 Years	Karen OC	36	Dwayne S	54 Years
Karen OC	36	Deb W	16 Years	Cashe	3 Years	<b>Freedom Group</b>		<b>Back to the Book</b>	
<b>Regal Group</b>		Keith S	19 Years	Tim S	5 Years	Karl B	3 Years	Jodie A	2 Years
Paul G	12 Years	<b>Freedom Group</b>		Adell	8 Years	<b>Stampeders</b>		Raylene D	5 Years
Laura P	33 Years	Charisse L	1 Year	Case	10 Years	Ian H	12 Years	Leanne	7 years
Wade Mc	46 Years	Alan B	1 Year	James	15 Years	Tim S	45 Years	Doug D	31 Years
Peter G	48 Years	Aaron B	7 Years	Marty B	21 Years	<b>Ogden Group</b>		<b>Knox Nooners</b>	
Deny B (Pos)	52 Yzears	<b>NW Calgary Group</b>		Bea	45 Years	Johnny G	1 Year	Russ T	1 Year
<b>Amen Group</b>		Ollie M	2 Years			Bug M	2 Years	Dave M	18 Years
Dean S	18 Years	Keith O	16 Years			Renette H	4 Years	Brian S	29 Years
Alex M	26 Years	Brian M-C	35 Years			Kirby L	9 Years	Phil D	38 Years
<b>Eye Opener</b>						Deb D	15 Years	Bob C	53 Years
Marty B	21 Years					Don B	16 Years	<b>NW Calgary Group</b>	
Dave B	23 Years					Tony K	18 Years	Manish J	6 Years
Tom M	31 Years					Lawrence E	18 Years	Adam W	9 Years
						Shannon T	20 Years	Nick W	10 Years
						Maryam M	28 Years	David R	21 Years

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# Calls for Service & Announcements

## Bridging the Gap

**Next BTG Meeting  
Thursday June 18th at  
7pm in person and NOW  
on Google Meet**

The BTG Committee meets at 7pm on the third Thursday of every month in person at Central Office (4021 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE), AND NOW on Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/pqz-xgwb-ijf>

### Become an “AA Tour Guide”

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](mailto:cgsctg@gmail.com)

### Come and see BTG at the Gratitude Round Up

Bridging the Gap will be at the June 5-7 Gratitude Round Up at the Glenmore Inn...stop by our table and ask how you can do service through Bridging the Gap. Become a: Temporary Contact, a Bridger, a Chair/Speaker at Renfrew and Simon House, or a BTG Committee Member, AND join us for our BTG Workshop on Saturday in the Heritage Room at 12:15. It will be an interactive session on how to be a Temporary Contact and/or A Bridger.



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

**4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:introtoservice@cgscaa.org).

## 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

## 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

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# 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE Calgary  
For further information please reach out to our CPC Committee Chairperson at: [cgsccpc@gmail.com](mailto:cgsccpc@gmail.com)

## Sunday Night Speaker Meeting

- June 7: Mario (SMOG)
- June 14: Graham (Friday Fellowship)
- June 21: Karen C.
- June 28: Myrna



WHEN: **EVERY SUNDAY 7:30 – 8:30 PM**  
WHERE: **PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH**  
2919, 8 AVENUE NW, CALGARY

SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 77

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm (excluding September and December which will be the 22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Contact the C.P.C. Committee for more information at [cgsccpc@gmail.com](mailto:cgsccpc@gmail.com)

## We Want You

Great service opportunities available to volunteer and carry the AA message to the newcomers in treatment

Treatment Committee Meeting every second wednesday or the month

Central office  
4021 4 street s.e.  
7:00pm

Or

Via Zoom Id 914 3848 6447

Password 663975

Email [cgsctreatment@gmail.com](mailto:cgsctreatment@gmail.com)

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# Fellowship & Events

## 2026 Western Canada Regional Forum

June 12-14, 2026 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

<b>EVENT LOCATION</b>	Travelodge Hotel 106 Circle Drive West
<b>HOTEL RESERVATIONS</b>	Call: 306-242-8881 Code: 061126AAW Rate: \$139.00 per night Expires May 20, 2026
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	Opens April 12, 2026 <a href="https://www.aa.org/event/2026-western-canada-regional-forum">https://www.aa.org/event/2026-western-canada-regional-forum</a>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Airport transportation assistance: <a href="mailto:wcrf2026@gmail.com">wcrf2026@gmail.com</a>
<b>QUESTIONS &amp; VOLUNTEERS</b>	Lori R., Volunteer Chair <a href="mailto:loririnservice@gmail.com">loririnservice@gmail.com</a>
<b>GSO INFORMATION</b>	Diana L., Regional Forum Coordinator <a href="mailto:regionalforum@aa.org">regionalforum@aa.org</a>

Scan to Register after April 12, 2026



See you in Saskatoon!!!!



### 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 4<sup>th</sup> st SE), 6pm**

**Or contact the committee chair for more details at [corrections@cgscaa.org](mailto:corrections@cgscaa.org)**

## District 77 Annual Family Potluck Picnic Saturday June 20

**Bowness Park Site 3**  
**10 AM - 3 PM**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

We will have  
Burgers - Hotdogs  
Condiments  
Coffee Tea Water Juice Pop  
Games for kids

**POTLUCK ITEMS APPRECIATED**

- ✓ Vegetables
- ✓ Fruit
- ✓ Salads
- ✓ Chips/snacks
- ✓ Cookies/Squares
- ✓ Desserts
- ✓ Ice Cream
- ✓ Watermelon



Come join us for an afternoon of Fellowship  
Bring your own chairs, musical instruments,  
Football Frisbees Fun!

**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

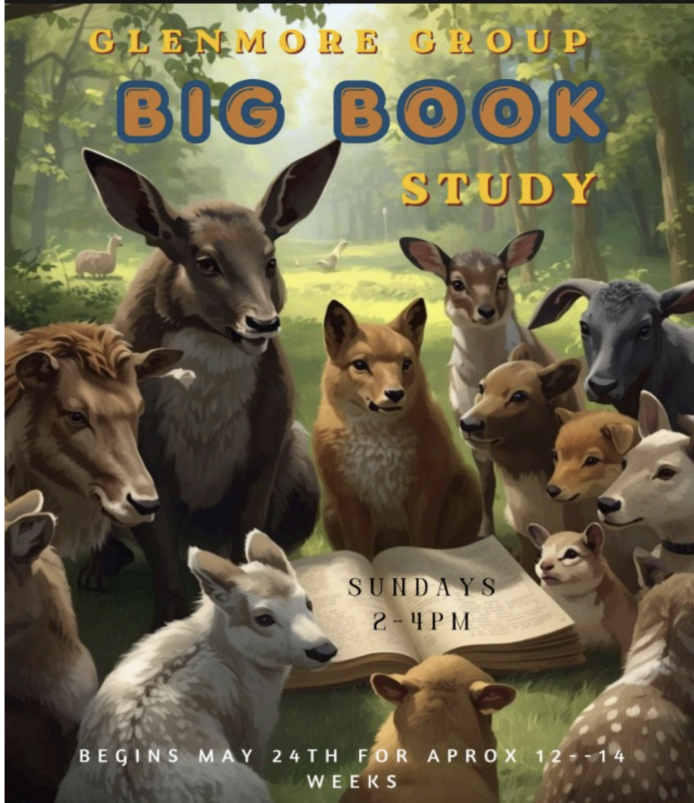
**Recovery**  
**POTLUCK!**

**When:** Sunday June 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm  
*Followed by AA, Al-Anon, & Alateen meetings at 7 pm*

**Where:** Room 1 (basement) of Unitarian Church,  
1703 1 St NW, Calgary

**Family, friends, and kids are welcome!**  
Bring a dish to share if you can

**Questions?** Contact [firststreetrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:firststreetrecovery@gmail.com)

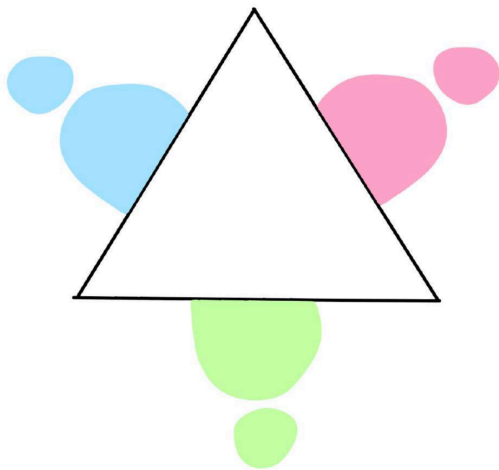
**GLENMORE GROUP**  
**BIG BOOK**  
**STUDY**

SUNDAYS  
2 - 4 PM

BEGINS MAY 24TH FOR APPROX 12-14  
WEEKS

## FAMILY RECOVERY MEETINGS

AA - Al-Anon - Alateen  
Same time - Same building



Babysitting available  
Sundays 7 pm    1703 1st St NW  
Calgary Unitarian Church  
Contact [firststreetrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:firststreetrecovery@gmail.com)



### Calgary's Central Office Stampede Breakfast

*Hosted By Your Central Office Management Committee*

When: July 4, 2026, 10-2pm

Where: Calgary Central Service Office 4021 4 St SE

Traditional Stampede Breakfast Provided

Cost: 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

Please Come for Pancakes and Stay for Fellowship

For Any Questions or Inquiries

Please Call Nate M 403-830-5086

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# Grapevine June 2026



## Young & Sober

The June issue is “Young and Sober,” featuring inspiring stories by AA members about coming into the program at an early age, the challenges they faced and how they found other young members enjoying sobriety.

### Finding My People

By: Sasha P. | Edmonds, Washington

Seventeen is too young to be an alcoholic. Aren't alcoholics old people who drink from brown paper bags and live under bridges?

### Lessons Learned

By: Bill B. | Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

I walked into my first AA meeting in September of 2011. I was a shell of the man I had been. Only 22 years old, beaten and broken, with no hope and nowhere else to go.

### Drive to the Bottom

By: Emily B. | Riverview, Florida

I was 7 years old when I picked up my first drink. I immediately wanted more. I knew I was an alcoholic by age 9, because my mind would obsess about drinking.

### One Long Crazy Ride

By: Allie A. | Woodland, California

I came to AA completely and absolutely broken. I had just gotten an alcohol-monitoring bracelet, because even the courts knew I had a problem before I did.

### If You Build It, They Will Come

By: H.A. | Saint Paul, Minnesota

I moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota in 2022 to attend treatment after yet another slip. I had entered the rooms of AA after finding recovery in an Alaskan prison at age 17.

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# Delegates Corner

Area 78 – Panel 76 - Delegate's Corner – June 2026

Dave S here and I am an alcoholic.

It was truly the privilege of a lifetime for this once hopeless drunk and chronic relapse with 5 one-year medallions (who does that?) to travel to New York to the 76<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Canada/US.

My wife Val (as a plus one) and I had the most mind-blowing spiritual experience of being in New York. Val spent time with all the plus-ones, and I was your member of the Conference for six solid, long days.

The Conference ran very smoothly with much respect, deference and decorum. I believe it was a lot smoother than the last few conferences.

A couple of tidbits of information;

1. The "Everything AA" app is now owned by Alcoholics Anonymous.
2. The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Big Book was approved with new stories and other more updated items – you can expect it late spring or early summer 2027.

Many advisory actions and considerations were voted upon and passed at the Conference. This information is posted on the Area78.org website under private downloads. For further information, call me or speak to your GSR or DCM.

The weekend before last we were in Fort McMurray for a fun-filled Unity Day in District 21. Thanks to DCM Bev. This past weekend I had an amazing Area Committee Meeting hosted by District 1 – Fort St John, BC. In gratitude to DCM Graham and past Registrar Raymond.

Both of those northern communities are thriving with the enthusiasm of helping the still suffering alcoholic and being of service to each other.

I've been invited to do an abbreviated Conference Report at the Calgary General Service Committee (CGSC) on June 15, 2026.

This weekend we will be travelling to beautiful District 24 (Cranbrook, BC). The fabulous Gratitude Round up is the weekend following and then the Western Canada Regional Forum is in Saskatoon from June 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Who owns Alcoholics Anonymous? Answer – We do! All the members and the groups. It has been a rough few years since covid – the GSO reserve fund is down quite a bit. Response is needed from the fellowship to bring us back up to nine to 11 months of operating expenses. In your next splits, please consider sending a little extra to New York. This is easy to do on AA.org or you can mail a cheque to GSO at PO box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 USA (make cheques payable to the General Service Board).

I love and appreciate you all. Have a safe and sober summer.

Yours in love, service and hugs,

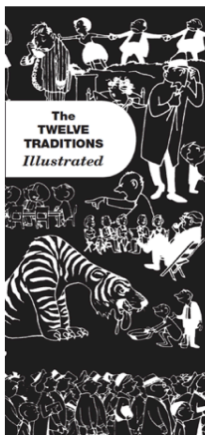
Dave S – (403) 852-7659 [delegate@area78.org](mailto:delegate@area78.org)

# Tradition 6

## The Sixth Tradition

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.- and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

AA members employed by outside agencies “wear two hats” - but Tradition Six cautions any such members against wearing both at once! **On the job, they may be alcoholism counselors; they are not “AA counselors.” At meetings they’re just AA’s, not alcoholism experts.**



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<https://www.aa.org/twelve-traditions-illustrated>

### Naming an A.A. Group

No matter how noble the activity or institution, experience has taught A.A. groups to carefully avoid any affiliation with or endorsement of any enterprise outside A.A.

**Tradition Six:** *An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

Even the appearance of being linked to any organization, club, or political or religious institution needs to be avoided. **Therefore, an A.A. group that meets in a correctional or treatment facility or a church should take care not to use the institution's name, but to call itself something quite different.** This makes it clear that the A.A. group is not affiliated with the hospital, church, prison, treatment facility, or whatever, but simply rents space there for meetings.



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<https://www.aa.org/aa-groupwhere-it-all-begins>

## Step & Tradition 6

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

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

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

Some who feel they have done well may dispute this, so let's try to think it through a little further. Practically everybody wishes to be rid of his most glaring and destructive handicaps. No one wants to be so proud that he is scorned as a braggart, nor so greedy that he is labeled a thief. No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to be agonized by the chronic pain of envy or to be paralyzed by sloth. Of course, most human beings don't suffer these defects at these rock-bottom levels.

We who have escaped these extremes are apt to congratulate ourselves. Yet can we? After all, hasn't it been self-interest, pure and simple, that has enabled most of us to escape? Not much spiritual effort is involved in avoiding excesses which will bring us punishment anyway. But when we face up to the less violent aspects of these very same defects, then where do we stand?

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

### ***Tradition 6 – An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.***

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

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

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

Whereupon we tried A.A. hospitals—they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement?

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

***From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.155-156.***