

THE WESTWORD

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY INTERGROUP OF AA

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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

Nancy C
Los Angeles
CA USA

Patt O
Redlands
CA USA

Mark C - Al-Anon
Saskatoon
SK Canada

Andy C
Calgary
AB Canada



Group Conscience

You asked, we listened
Lower cost - Buffet Dinner

Early Bird Pricing

Registration + Buffet— \$95

Registration Only — \$45

gratituderoundup.com



District 77 Annual Family Potluck Picnic Saturday June 20

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

Bowness Park

Site 3

10 AM - 3 PM

7th Tradition



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

64 words

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	cchair@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

DATE	COMMITTEE	ADDRESS
May 21 - 7pm	Bridging the Gap	4021 4 st SE Calgary Zoom Meeting ID 945 772 8029 Passcode: BTG
May 11 - 7pm	Intergroup General	1802 33 ave SW Calgary
May 13 - 7pm	District 75 Committee	Zoom Meeting ID: 838 0522 6189
May 13 - 7pm	CGSC Treatment Centre	4021 4 st SE Calgary
May 18 - 7:30pm	Calgary General Service	1802 33 ave SW Calgary
May 19 - 6:30pm	Cooperation with the Professional Community	4021 4 st SE Calgary
June 23 - 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

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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 Midnighter

MEETING CHANGES:

SMOG Wednesdays – New meeting time 7pm. 1st Wed of the moth is fellow ship at Denny's 2450 16 Ave

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

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: Needs support for their Saturday morning 9:30am meeting, Conference Room at the Parkdale United Church

Monthly Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Morning (9:00am) Ramada Breakfast Meeting	AA Group
May 3	Go For It
May 10	New Beginnings
May 17	272 Group
May 24	Daily Reflections
May 31	Recovery Group
Phone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
April 27-May 3	Daily Reflections
May 4-10	Edgemont
May 11 - 17	Recovery Group
May 18 - 24	Deer Ridge
May 25 - 31	Haddon Group

Treatment Speakers

Location & Time	AA Group
Alpha House Tuesdays 8pm	Walking Eagle
Alpha House Fridays 8pm	Garnet Block
Dream Centre Sundays 7pm	Ogden Group
Drop In Centre Thursdays 7:30pm	Primary Purpose Group
Renfrew Detox Fridays 7pm	New Beginnings
Sunrise Healing Lodge Tuesdays 8pm	Elbow Park
Nam Recovery Tuesdays 10am	Tim H
Simon House Tuesdays 7pm	Bridging the gap (volunteers)

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Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays					May Birthdays				
Whitesheep		Midnapore Group		New Life Group		Whitesheep		Midnapore Group	
Dave W	8 Years	Justin H	1 Year	Myrna T	20 Years	Dave W	8 Years	Aldina S	1 Year
Brian Mac.	10 Years	Danny F	2 Years	Edgemont		Brian Mac.	10 Years	Corrina B	5 Years
Les M	26 Years	Troy S	7 Years	Tylar B	2 Years	Les M	26 Years	Matthew L	8 Years
George G	32 Years	Andy S	10 Years	Marquitta H	17 Years	George G	32 Years	Bill G	9 Years
Brian P	45 Years	Brian W	32 Years	Linda H	22 Years	Brian P	45 Years	Dame M	10 Years
Just For Today		Sandy M	36 Years	Debrah H	29 Years	Just For Today		April S	11 Years
Sasha	2 Years	West End Step & Trad.		New Beginnings		Bonnie Ann	29 Years	Tracey B	11 Years
Jarret	11 Years	Malissa M	9 Years	Dee	1 Year	Doddie	55 Years	Chuck N	15 Years
Marie	14 Years	Mark T	12 Years	Jenna	1 Year	Deer Ridge		Bruce S	19 Years
Ivan	44 Years	Regal Group		Terry	2 Years	Jodi Y	2 Years	Fellowship	
Stampeders		Mike A	8 Years	Francois	2 Years	Arie	5 Years	Jael	1 Year
Kevin D	42 Years	Deer Ridge		Christina S	2 Years	Megan M	8 Years	Scott K	2 Years
Garnet Block		Amy O	1 Year	Jenn B	12 Years	Taylor Y	9 Years	Doug H	11 Years
Candace	1 Year	Hugh F	16 Years	Collin	20 Years	Katie M	16 Years	NADZIELA	
Chelsea	1 Year	Gordon E	35 Years	Linda M	28 Years	Harold V	18 Years	Hubert K	6 Years
Kate	1 Year	Unity Group		Recovery Group		Ogden		Iwona K	7 Years
Shayne M	1 Year	Dave S	16 Years	Tom M	38 Years	Ervin	1 Year	Krzysztof M	16 Years
Stephanie	1 Year	MAAT Group		Marsh E	52 Years	Dawn F	4 Years	Yoanna O	17 Years
Aidan	1 Year	Richard S	2 Years	Haddon Group		Diane D	11 Years		
Damian	1 Year	Gerry B	51 Years	Robin D	5 Years	Brenda M	31 Years		
Llucc	2 Years	Freedom Group		Erin R	15 Years	Roy F	34 Years		
Robyn V	2 Years	Krista B	10 Years	Margrit	28 Years	ABC Group			
Clinton	3 Years	Candlelight		Ogden		Karen OC	36		
Janeska	4 Years	Andrew B	14 Years	Alyjah	12 Years				
Andrea	4 Years	Shauna M	14 Years	Finley L	18 Years				
Nadia	5 Years	Knox Nooners		Bill M	29 Years				
Jim D	9 Years	Tasi P	5 Years	Terry W	36 Years				
Cam H	10 Years	Ashleigh M	5 Years						
Bill W	11 Years	Lorene K	10 Years						
Ron M	14 Years	Cory F	12 Years						
Lori L	45 Years	Kincora Group							
Ruth S	51 Years	Renee	1 Year						
NW Calgary Group		Adam B	2 Years						
Jim T	1 Year	Darrel	3 Years						
Mike H	4 Years	Rob M	3 Years						
Kevin W	9 Years	Rick F	4 Years						
Sergio A	11 Years	Jennifer	14 Years						
Andrew K	13 Years	Bobby	18 Years						
272 Group		Fellowship Room							
Conrad D	42 Years	Leslie	43 Years						

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Calls for Service & Announcements

Bridging the Gap

**Next BTG Meeting
Thursday May 21st 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 4th Street SE), AND NOW on Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/esp-aagx-udm>

We are deeply grateful for the support of our AA community, which, in partnership with the Treatment Committee, has fuelled the significant growth in sharing the BTG Temporary Contact Program at treatment and detox facilities across the city.

To better serve our community, we have transitioned to the Google One platform and implemented booking calendars for all these service opportunities at Alpha, Renfrew, Sunrise, Simon House etc.

Starting May 21st, we will be taking advantage of the Google Meet video conferencing app (similar to Zoom) to host our "hybrid" Committee Meetings and we look forward to

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 or Renfrew Detox, Simon House or Sunrise, and explain the Bridging the Gap "Temporary Contact" Program to clients at the end of the meeting...then think about becoming "A Bridger."

If yes, please reach out to the Chair of BTG, Leslie M., by email cscbt@gmail.com or text



**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.

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 4th Street SE Calgary
 For further information please reach out to our CPC Committee Chairperson at: cgscpc@gmail.com

SUNDAY NIGHT SPEAKER MEETING



- May 3 – Nancy
- May 10 – Sam (Desperation Group)
- May 17 – Nikki (Go For It)
- May 24 – Rick D (Go For It)
- May 31 – Kara (NW Calgary Group)

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

SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 77

* Graphic adapted from "Best Cartoons from the Grapevine" Copyright 1970 by the AA Grapevine, Inc.

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

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 cgscptreatment@gmail.com

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Fellowship & Events

2026 Western Canada Regional Forum

June 12-14, 2026 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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

Scan to Register after April 12, 2026



See you in Saskatoon!!!!



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

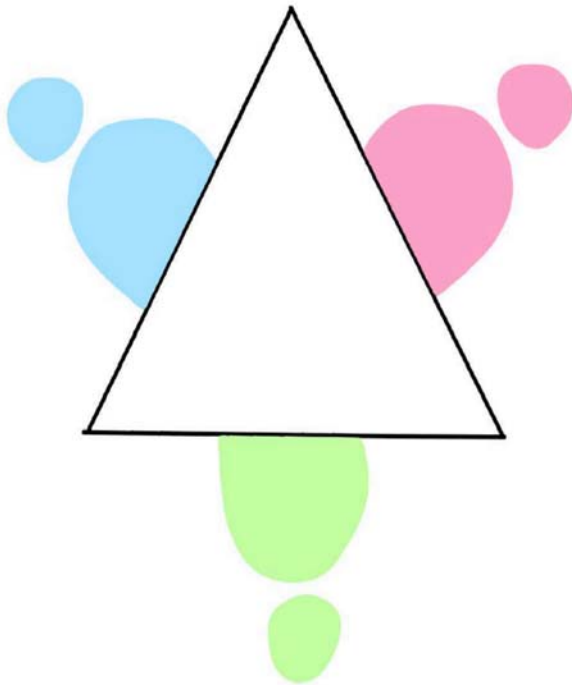
Public Information!!!

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

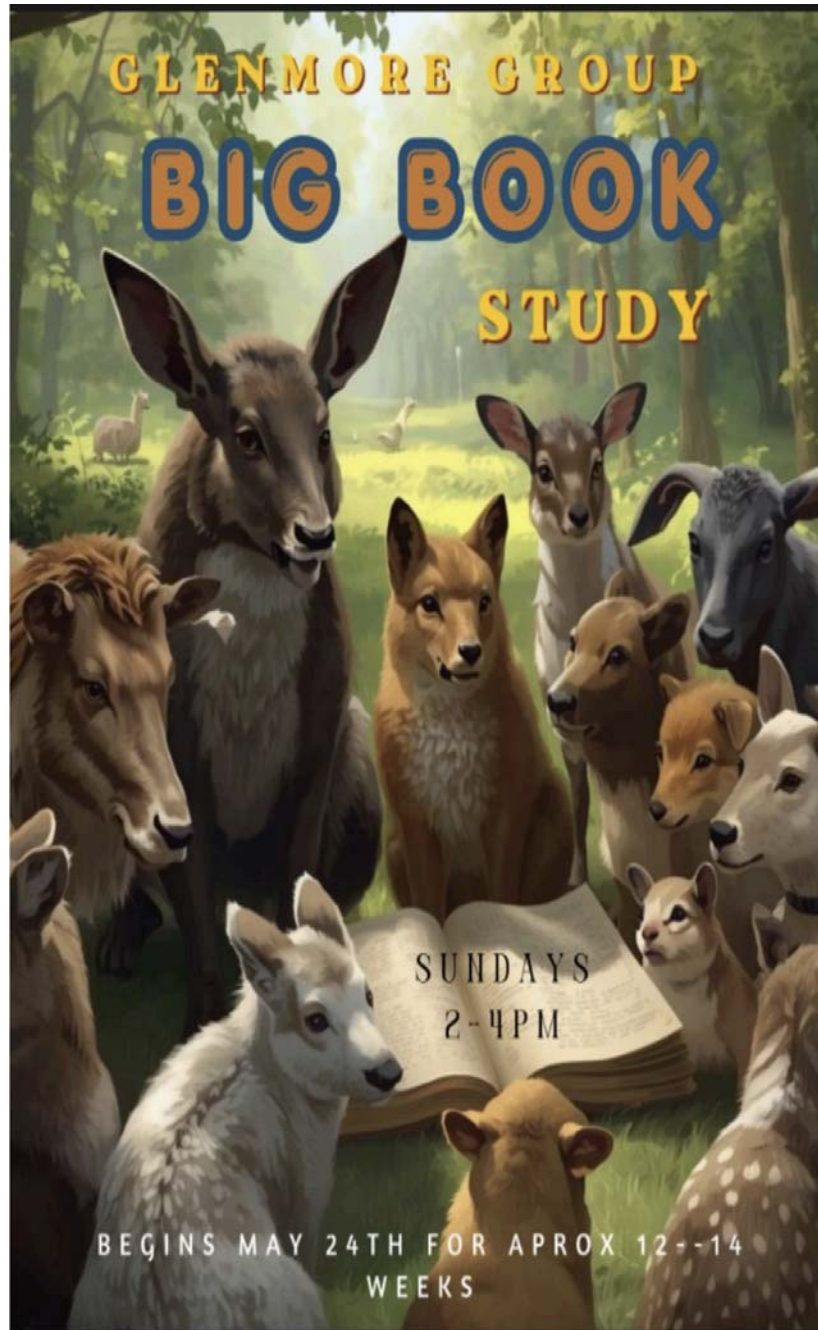
Fellowship & Events

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



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Grapevine May 2026

April 2026

How the steps changed my life

The May issue is “How the Steps Changed My Life,” featuring powerful stories by AA members about the many ways the Steps improved their sobriety and changed their lives.



From My Head to My Heart

By: Terri R. | Fort Worth, Texas

This past December I decided to visit one of my favorite recovery clubhouses to commemorate 28 years of sobriety.

Broad, Roomy, All Inclusive

By: Dave G. | Murfreesboro, Tennessee

One of the great joys of my time in AA has been the search for divine truth, wherever it may be.

Out of Order

By: J.D. | Big Lake, Minnesota

Occasionally you'll hear in a meeting that the Steps must be worked in order, and you can't skip around. For example, you can't do Step One and then Step Twelve.

Prescription for a Good Life

By: Paul H. | Cary, North Carolina

I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered at age 11 that hard liquor eased that feeling of not fitting in and quenched a burgeoning angst. I blacked out the first time I got drunk.

Unmanageable

By: Daisy C. | Mesa, Arizona

My car was backed into by a pizza delivery truck as I was rushing through a parking lot on my way to meet a friend for brunch—late as usual.

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Delegates Corner

Area 78 – Panel 76

Delegate's Corner | May 2026

Dave S. here— a truly grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous, honored to serve Area 78 as your Delegate for Panel 76 (2026–2027).

I write this on the night before I fly to New York City to the General Service Conference. I am truly humbled to be serving as a servant/leader as your Delegate in Area 78.

I leave to carry the group conscious of our Area, fully prepared with the help of our Pre-Conference Assembly and all the hard committee work done. All the GSRs bringing their group conscious, the DCMs with their leadership and votes for their districts and of course, my fellow Area committee officers.

I am excited and a little bit scared, but I am also fully prepared. By the time you are reading this we will be on our flight home from New York. I have also been invited to District 21 (Fort McMurray) to give my first Conference report. On May 22 I fly to Fort St John for the Area Committee Meeting (ACM).

This is a busy time but I'm looking forward to it – I love being in general service. Hopefully spring has fully arrived, and we are prepping for summer.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Canada Western Regional Form in Saskatoon – June 12-14, 2026.

I love alcoholics – they are the best people in the world once you get them heading in the right direction and working together in our primary purpose to help the still suffering alcoholic.

The season of roundups is soon upon us. We got to spend a day and a half in Banff and look forward to several others. The campout events are always fun. We are not a glum lot!

There is so much action going on in Area 78. There are all sorts of workshops, roundups, barbecues, Unity nights and picnics. I hope you get out and enjoy some of these things, especially if you are in the first year or two of sobriety. Next to my sobriety, my most treasured things in Alcoholics Anonymous is the friends and relationships I have made, as well as working with newcomers.

My schedule is starting to fill up but I will be available to attend your Districts to give a conference report. See contact information below.

Of course, we want to continue to support our General Service Office in New York, Area 78 and our Intergroup offices, our Districts and local committees. A dollar doesn't go as far as it used to. At the Calgary Flames games, the cheapest beer is \$13.50 for ONE BEER. This is the usual contribution I make at my home group – the cost of one beer at the Saddledome (and I never ever had one only beer!)

I just heard that the Grapevine has a new book entitled "Gratitude!" I am grateful to all the members of Area 78 who entrusted me and put whatever they can in the basket to support these vital services to help carry our message around the world.

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Tradition 5

Singleness of Purpose

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend *open* A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings.

Today many A.A. members find themselves faced with difficulties that ostensibly have nothing to do with their alcoholism and for which they seek help from persons or agencies outside A.A. Although this is not a new practice (the early A.A. members also sought help for other problems), it is perhaps more widespread today because both A.A. members and the helping professionals are more aware of the problems encountered by alcoholics during their recovery process.

Whatever the cause, it is a fact that alcoholics who are recovering in A.A. often confront problems other than alcohol for which they must seek help. Most frequently, these problems include family difficulties, mental and emotional troubles requiring psychiatric help, spiritual or religious dilemmas, eating disorders, etc. **Alcoholics Anonymous does not offer any panaceas for the multitude of problems that A.A.s may experience in sobriety. For these difficulties, extra help should be sought.** A.A. does offer a solution to one problem: alcoholism. This singleness of purpose unites alcoholics in a common bond, which is the key to recovery in A.A.

One recurring problem faced by A.A.s who carry the message into treatment facilities is the increasing number of nonalcoholic drug addicts being referred to A.A. Some treatment settings are inclined to view all “substance abusers” and alcoholics as having the same common addictions and they are treated accordingly. A.A.s who carry the message into treatment settings often find that nonalcoholic drug addicts are encouraged by professional staff to attend A.A. meetings within the facilities. In addition, because of the effectiveness of the A.A. program in providing post-treatment support to alcoholics, nonalcoholic drug addicts are often referred to A.A. when they are discharged. In such cases, the practices of the treatment facility are clearly at odds with A.A. Traditions.

A.A. policy regarding nonalcoholic drug addicts is clear. *Open* meetings are available to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from alcoholism. *Closed* meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and “have a desire to stop drinking.”

A.A.’s singleness of purpose must be communicated to the administrators and staff of treatment settings by the

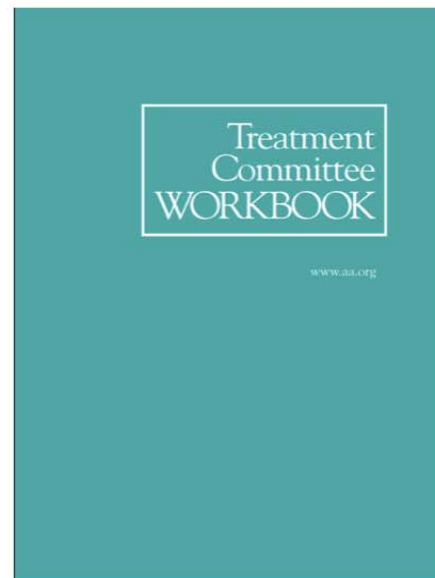
A.A. Treatment Committee, as that committee has the task of informing and sharing with these professionals about A.A. policy and Traditions. **A.A. meetings within a facility cannot be “substance abuse meetings.”**

Although enlightening treatment facilities personnel on the reasons for abiding by A.A. policy on this matter is often difficult and time consuming, experience has shown that the most effective communication by A.A.s is handled in a cordial manner and in the spirit of cooperation.

In the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” Bill W. addressed his concern for the growth and survival of the A.A. Fellowship. This concern led our co-founder to answer “no” to the following questions:

- Can a nonalcoholic pill or drug addict become an A.A. member?
- Can A.A.s who have suffered both alcoholism and drug addiction, and who have formed a group to help other A.A.s who are having drug problems, refer to such a special-purpose group as an A.A. group?
- Can nonalcoholic drug or pill addicts attend closed A.A. meetings?

Regardless of our sympathies, Bill explains that it is the first duty of A.A. members to ensure our own survival. To stray from our single purpose will result in the collapse of the A.A. Fellowship, leaving the suffering alcoholics who follow us with no place to go.



Reprinted from M-40i, Pg. 18: The Treatment Committee Workbook, with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

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Step & Tradition 5

Step 5 - 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***

Tradition 5 - 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.