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### **Tradition 8-Long Form**

“Our A.A. Experience has taught us that: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.



# Central Office of N Idaho

Issue 7

August 2020

## Chair Report

Greetings North Idaho A.A. Members!

The summer is quickly fading away and soon we will be dealing with cooler temperatures. One thing I look forward to each Fall is the Washington State East Area 92 October Assembly, which is typically held on the 3rd weekend of October. I am not sure of the status of the Assembly this year, but I have not heard much about GSRs having any input in this decision. I could be wrong, not sure. I just know that my homegroup GSR attends the District 8 GSR meeting each month and so far, the decision, or motion, on whether to hold a live meeting, or Zoom, has not been put out there for the GSRs to consider. I get it, these are uncertain times, however, our literature is specific, precise, accurate and gives us direction. This is all I will say on the topic, I am just putting out there as food for thought. I will end my report with thanking each of you for your contributions and support of Central Office of N. Idaho., and with a breakdown of the 6 Warranties in Concept 12.

### **The 6 Warranties in Concept Twelve**

#### **The Conference:**

1. Shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power;
2. That sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle;
3. That it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others;
4. That it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
5. That its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy;
6. That it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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I am praying for the expansion and growth of your Central Office Newsletter. I currently email the free, color PDF version to about 7 A.A. members. Please submit articles, flyers, etc. to: [soberin95@gmail.com](mailto:soberin95@gmail.com) or call me at (208) 651-2215 if you want to mail something in for publication in the Central Office of N Idaho Newsletter. Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve! Yours in service, David R Central Office Chair

## Tradition 8: Giving It Away

There is a saying in the rooms, "In order to keep it, you must give it away." Tradition eight allows contributions to be used for support services while the groups provide only non-professional, mutual support, ensuring A.A. remains an unpaid, nonprofessional organization. Anytime a newcomer reaches out for help, they will receive it, free of charge. In turn, as members freely share their own experience, strength, and hope with the newcomer, they help themselves and reinforce their own recovery.

"Twelfth step works should always be nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers." This tradition allows contributions to be used for support services while the groups provide only non-professional, mutual support.

Tradition 8 ensures that any time a newcomer reaches out for help, he will receive it, free of charge. Members freely share their own experience, strength, and hope with the newcomer and by doing so, help themselves by reinforcing their own recovery in the process.

As Step 12 says, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." There is a saying in 12-step groups, "In order to keep it, you must give it away," with the key word being "give."

## Non-Professional Mutual Support

Many times, newcomers to the program will go to their first meeting expecting to find trained professionals who are there to help them. What they find instead is a fellowship of equals who are gathered for mutual support. There are no doctors, therapists, or counselors, only other members who have or have had the same problem in their lives.

That is not to say, some of those members are not doctors and professionals, but they leave those outside affiliations at the door. It is how the 12-step programs work, by giving it away in order to keep it.

Tradition 7 says that 12-step groups are self-supporting through their own contributions. These contributions are used to employ special workers and maintain the district, area, and worldwide structure.

This tradition is reflected in the history of AA when John D. Rockefeller, Jr. rejected a giving a large donation as it would "spoil the thing" and they must become self-supporting to be successful.

Many people do not trust authority. This is true of those who want to become sober. Going to a professional counselor is different from going to a group of others who are in recovery. Twelve-step groups are different from professional recovery services, offering the support that the members feel in sharing and listening to each other's stories. There is no authority the member can rebel against.

## Hiring Special Workers

Twelve-step organizations at the national, state, and regional levels may have service centers which serve the fellowships as a whole by printing and distributing literature and meeting schedules, maintaining answering services, and other tasks.

These central offices and service centers many times involve more work than volunteer service workers can provide, so some hire full- and part-time employees to do the necessary labor to keep them running smoothly. Tradition 8, therefore, allows for the "special workers" to be hired and paid a salary to do the work that volunteers cannot cover.

Special workers may be employed to keep the AA message alive around the world through printing, communications, and other technology. This is not paying for 12th-step work but paying for the services needed to support it with literature and outreach. Members understand the difference between paying for support services but not paying for professional counselors.

## **Central Office Representatives Meeting Minutes**

Date: 08/04/2020

Location: Zoom

Chairman: David R.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting Started at 6:04pm. Serenity Prayer led by David R.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present were David R., Sally A., Mary M., Ron B., Maddie, Trish & Jan R

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes were read by Jan. There was a motion to accept the minutes as read. There was a second and it was unanimous to accept the minutes.

### **CHAIR; David R.**

David welcomed everyone and expressed that he is honored in being the Central Office chair. He reported that he really didn't have a lot to report except that he is working hard to get more people interested in our monthly meetings.

David expressed his concerns for the uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation. However, we will continue to meet monthly, either by zoom or in person.

David expressed how he had originally started the newsletter by subscribing to and reading the Akron Newsletter and the Spokane Central Office Newsletter.

Alternate Chair: Madelyne

Maddie said she had nothing to report.

Central Office Coordinator: Mary M

Greetings from the Central Office of North Idaho,

July has come and gone so fast and here we are in August. Throughout July, the office was open regular hours, i.e., Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., almost every day. We have trained 2 new volunteers for our Monday and Saturday shifts. I am so grateful to all my volunteers for their service and help. I am also grateful to the other members of the board who help keep the Central Office running.

Please come see us sometime and browse all the new and old merchandise I have available. I am running a sale on the book covers, so this would be a good time to get your Big Books and Twelve and Twelve's protected with a beautiful cover. We have some new covers in with the 3rd Step Prayer on them and a new Silver cover with the Serenity Prayer.

Thank you to all who support this Office especially for contributions this month from: Terrance, Ist things Ist, Fort Sherman, Kim, Serenity Sisters, Best Avenue Group, Daily Reprieve, Miners Group and WIES group.

A huge thank you to Stan and Connie B. and Carol S. for taking the hotline calls while I was off the

grid last weekend for some much-needed time away. We are averaging about 35-40 calls a month during open hours, with about 20 of those being about meetings. After hours calls average about 40-50 calls per month, also with the majority being about meetings. We had one (1) 12 step call this month.

Have a Blessed Month of August.

Sincerely,

Mary M.

C.O. Coordinator

**Phone Co-Ordinator: Mary M.**

**July 2020 Central Office Phone Report**

OPEN HOURS:    AFTER HOURS:

Meetings	18	Meetings	30
Business	2	Business	5
Other	7	Other	10
AI Anon	0	AI Anon	0
12 Step	1	12 Step	0

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Sally A. read the central office Treasurer's report for July 2020:

Debits that occurred in July for new retail items were

Culver Enterprise	\$250.02
New merchandise for the Central Office	\$119.67
Recovery Accents	\$104.52
Recovery Emporium	\$58.85

Bills for the Central Office due in August:

BID (Business Development for downtown Cda)	I X YEARLY	50.00
INSURANCE for the year due Aug 1st	I X YEARLY	500.00
Zippy Fiber		65.52
Cda Press		29.00
Coordinator		600.00
Tamarack Properties (rent)		275.00

<b>Central Office contributions for July 2020</b>	<b>\$1024.59</b>
<b>Central Office retail sales for July 2020</b>	<b>\$1032.49</b>
<b>Central Office deposits made for July 2020</b>	<b>\$2057.03</b>

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.

**Newsletter:**

David R. reported that he is enjoying doing the newsletter but is anxious for it to reach more people. Mary and Sally are both working on getting email addresses to send the newsletter out. He asked for people to also send articles.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary is still in need of CO volunteers and reported that her Monday volunteer isn't able right at this time. Given all of the problems with Covid-19, CO has continued to remain open as much as it can and lucrative in sales. Right now, the old stock of book covers is all half price, hoping to sale and make room for some new items.

Ron B. reported that he is frustrated trying to find open (f2f) meetings that are Covid compliant, with everyone wearing masks. The discussion turned to group autonomy and it was accepted that the decision to wear masks lies with each group. However, it was mentioned that possibly this could be brought to the district meeting and GSRs to discuss. The end result would ideally be that some indication in the schedules could indicate the groups that are requiring masks.

Sally A. (CO Treasurer) indicated that she and Mary M. (CO Co-Ordinator) , along with David R. (Chair), if needed, will go to Numerica Credit Union to open any and all new Central Office accounts as they see fit. It was agreed upon unanimously.

**QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS:**

If you have anything to add to the **Monthly Newsletter**, please email David R. at [sober-in95@gmail.com](mailto:sober-in95@gmail.com) by the last Tuesday in the month.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm. There was a motion and a second. It was unanimous to close

Respectfully Submitted

*JAN R*

Central Office Secretary

## Central Office Coordinator

Greetings from the Central Office of North Idaho,

July has come and gone so fast and here we are in August. Throughout July, the office was open regular hours, i.e., Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., almost everyday. We have trained 2 new volunteers for our Monday and Saturday shifts. I am so grateful to all my volunteers for their service and help. I am also grateful to the other members of the board who help keep the Central Office running.

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Sincerely, Mary M. C.O. Coordinator

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Al Anon	0	Al Anon	0
12 Step	1	12 Step	0



## FROM THE GRAPEVINE

Beautifully hand-lettered in 3 colors on quality paper suitable for framing are five A.A. slogans (\$1.00 per set) and the Serenity Prayer (10¢ each)...which make beautiful, appropriate decorations on any meeting room.

Order all from Grapevine P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

### SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

June, July & August

ALASKA:	
G.S.R.'s Anchorage.....	\$ 100.00
CALIFORNIA:	
District 5-6-12 Workshop	
Costa Mesa.....	5.50
Desert Round Up	
Palm Springs.....	1,000.00
DELAWARE:	
6th Annual Delaware Assembly	
Rehobath.....	172.55
MAINE:	
District 1, Portland.....	16.00
MINN.:	
Lake Region Area Group	
Fergus Falls.....	96.49
MISSOURI:	
Missouri State Roundup	
Jefferson City.....	66.75
OREGON:	
District 2, Portland.....	20.00
PENNSYLVANIA:	
Cook Forest Conference	
Cook Forest.....	700.00
WASHINGTON:	
In Memoriam - Washington	
State Assembly.....	50.00
CANADA:	
Provincial Committee	
Edmonton, Alberta.....	15.00
Night Light Breakfast	
Regina.....	73.00

## It's Miami in '70

It's still a few 24 hours away, but A.A.'s can begin planning right now to join in the Fellowship's great 35th Anniversary Year International Convention in Miami, Fla., U.S.A. in 1970.

Delegates at the 1966 G.S. Conference unanimously favored the famous resort city, and the Convention Committee has made it official. Details on reservations will come in plenty of time - but we've tracked down this much for you: average high temperature at convention time will be 86°, with average low at 77°.

Nobody who was in Cleveland in '50, St. Louis in '55, Long Beach in '60, or Toronto in '65 needs to be told about the place of International Conventions in A.A. life.

## Will Your Group Be Listed Correctly In The '67 Directory?

GROUP INFORMATION CARD													
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)													
1. CITY OR TOWN	2. STATE OR PROVINCE												
3. NAME OF GROUP	4. INDICATE MONTH OF MEETING												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>SEP</td> <td>OCT</td> <td>NOV</td> <td>DEC</td> <td>JAN</td> <td>FEB</td> <td>MAR</td> <td>APR</td> <td>MAY</td> <td>JUN</td> <td>JUL</td> <td>AUG</td> </tr> </table>	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG		

Ever notice the list of A.A. *World Directory* corrections carried in each *Exchange Bulletin*? Probably not, unless you were looking for a correction about your Group.

When the *World Directory* is inaccurate, chances are it's because Groups have not sent in proper information *in time*. Deadline Dec. 15th.

So, in a few weeks now, when your "Group Information Card" (pictured above) arrives, PLEASE be sure that all information is *double checked* (Zip Codes are now required by the Post Office, too) and sent to us PROMPTLY. It's a shame when any travelling A.A. can't find a meeting because the *Directory* data is incorrect.

DELEGATES, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND G.S.R.'s, it has been sug-

gested by the Conference, should take particular responsibility for this communication tool.

These letters illustrate:

*From Norwalk, Conn.:* "Would you encourage Groups that send notices of meetings and special events to consult the *World Directory* for correct addresses? Our Group has had the same P.O. Box for years, but mail still goes to individuals, or to the church. Yours for faster deliveries."—Bill R.

*From Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico:* "The A.A. Intergroup Association here did not communicate with G.S.O. to give correct information as to Box No. and Tel. No. in time to be included in 1966 *Directory*. The telephone number published *does not exist!* Please all travelling A.A.'s the correct number is 782-9312. warm regards Charlie C.

## About 'Stale' Meetings - - -

There's space to share only a glimpse or two:

*Faribault, Minn.:* "For our weekly closed meeting we break up into small Groups of 10-12 so all get to talk. On Saturday night, speakers from outside Groups. Once a month, pin night. After Saturday meeting, a social—cards, home talent, picnic, Christmas tree, etc."—Martin B.

*Garterville, Ga.:* "Few years ago A.A. was nearly dead here, but 3 or 4 men got together and we started having Area Meetings once a month for all Groups in the area, on Sunday night. It has been a big help here."—Stoney.

*Tacoma, Wash.:* "In 2½ years we have gone from one meeting a week to four. Best meeting is Sunday morning, informal, restricted to alcoholics and their immediate family...two to three hours. People come and go free to talk on any subject, have peaceful background music. Closed meetings discuss Steps and Traditions from "12 & 12."—Dan R.

*Glasgow, Scotland:* "Each week a visiting chairman and speaker tell us how the program works for them. Best part is when the chairman throws open the meeting so anyone can say a few words. I never fail to take away something to digest. Thank you for the best export to come from U.S.A. to Great Britain."—Harvey L.

*From Victoria, B.C.:* "...we also have a 'phoner.' The night of the meeting he calls everyone early to remind them of the meeting. These calls are a great morale booster."—Willard S.

## A.A. IN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The new edition of ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA will contain a new 225-word article on A.A. prepared by Dr. John L. Norris, Rochester, N.Y., chairman of the General Service Board, with the assistance of the Trustees' Public Information Committee.

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If you would like to subscribe to the Central Office Newsletter, or submit an article, local A.A. news, flyer, etc., please call, text or email the Editor:  
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This Newsletter is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous, nor is it endorsed by Alcoholics Anonymous.

All information and opinion expressed in this Newsletter is solely that of the author (s).



Let us Ask Bill W.

Question & Answer # 1

How do you justify calling alcoholism an illness, and not a moral responsibility?

Answer

Early in A.A.'s history, very natural questions arose among theologians. There was a Mr. Henry Link who had written "The Return to Religion (Macmillan Co., 1937). One day I received a call from him. He stated that he strongly objected to the A.A. position that alcoholism was an illness. This concept, he felt, removed moral responsibility from alcoholics. He had been voicing this complaint about psychiatrists in the American Mercury. And now, he stated, he was about to lambaste A.A. too. Of course, I made haste to point out that we A. A.'s did not use the concept of sickness to absolve our members from moral responsibility. On the contrary, we used the fact of fatal illness to clamp the heaviest kind of moral responsibility on to the sufferer. The further point was made that in his early days of drinking the alcoholic often was no doubt guilty of irresponsibility and gluttony. But once the time of compulsive drinking, veritable lunacy had arrived and he couldn't very well be held accountable for his conduct. He then had a lunacy which condemned him to drink, in spite of all he could do; he had developed a bodily sensitivity to alcohol that guaranteed his final madness and death. When this state of affairs was pointed out to him, he was placed immediately under the heaviest kind of pressure to accept A.A.'s moral and spiritual program of regeneration – namely, our Twelve Steps. Fortunately, Mr. Link was satisfied with this view of the use that we were making of the alcoholic's illness. I am glad to report that nearly all theologians who have since thought about this matter have also agreed with that early position. While it is most obvious that free will in the matter of alcohol has virtually disappeared in most cases, we A.A. 's do point out that plenty of free will is left in other areas, It certainly takes a large amount of willingness, and a great exertion of the will to accept and practice the A.A. program. It is by this very exertion of the will that the alcoholic corresponds with the grace by which his drinking obsession can be expelled. (N.C.C.A. 'Blue Book', Vol.12, 1960)