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Tradition 7 Long

Form: "Our A.A. experience has taught us that: The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

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Central Office of N Idaho

Edition 66

July 2026

Editor's Two-Cents Worth

Greetings,

The Central Office is a clearinghouse of sorts for the local recovering community. The Central Office is not part of the A.A. Service Structure, is a private, non-profit 501-3c business, however, the Central Office plays an important role by providing information for people seeking help with alcoholism, literature sales, sobriety coins, and other recovery-related gifts and items.

The Central Office is seeking volunteers for the Monday 10-2pm shift and the Saturday 12 noon-4pm shift. If you want to be of service and work in the Central Office on those days please contact Mary, Central Office Coordinator, at (208) 667-4633.

There is an article in this edition of the monthly Central Office Newsletter that I hope everyone will take the time to read. It is from Time magazine back in July 1960, 61 years ago. Back then our recovery rates were still at 50% for those who came to A.A. and really tried. Perhaps our intelligence and sundry medications have contributed to lower recovery rates, not really sure what happened. I do know, however, that when a sick alcoholic comes to A.A., is connected with a sponsor who has the experience and knowledge of the recovery Program as outlined in our Basic Text and is willing to take the newcomer through that work, one page and one step at a time, he or she too does recover.

I want to personally thank the following groups for your generous support this past month: Primary Purpose Group,
Close Encounters,
Happy Hour Group,
Daily Reprieve II
Unity Meeting

Your 7th Traditions contributions are very much appreciated and helps us continue carrying the message.

David R
12/06/1995 First Day of Freedom

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Central Office Financial Report

TREASURERS REPORT: Sally A

DEPOSITS \$5,261.10

RETAIL SALES \$1,324.94

MARCH BILLS \$2,451.71

Coordinator, rent, storage, Ziply fiber, CDA Press, AAWS, Recovery Shop, Recovery Accents, Walmart, Temu

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$4,810.70

SAVINGS RESERVE ACCOUNT BALANCE \$6,088.23



Central Office Coordinator Report

I have finished the new schedule, and I hope everyone finds it more user friendly than before.

Central Office June Report for July Quarterly meeting held 7/8/26

The month of June brought in \$496.29 in contributions. Thank you to Primary Purpose Group, Close Encounters, Happy Hour Group, Daily Reprieve and Unity Meeting for your support this month. We are still in need of a volunteer for the Monday 10am-2pm shift and Saturday Noon-4pm shift. Please contact the office if interested.

No other news from the office.

Phones were slow, as usual with 10 in office calls (3 Meetings, 6 Business, 2 Other) and 8 after hour calls (2 Meetings, 3 Business and 1 AlAnon).

Mary M. Central Office Coordinator
Central Office of North Idaho
118 N. 7th St. Ste. B-5
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-667-4633



Central Office Quarterly Meeting

Date: July 8, 2026

Location: Alano Hall

Chairman: David R.

CALL TO ORDER:

Opened at 6:50 pm

ROLL CALL:

Mary M., Jan R., David R., Joe H

TREASURERS REPORT: Sally A

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A motion was made by Jan and seconded by Mary to approve the Treasurer's report. The vote was unanimous to approve.

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Joe made a motion to accept the Coordinators report as read. Jan seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS:.

If you have anything to add to the Monthly Newsletter, please email David R. at sober-in95@gmail.com by the last Tuesday in the month.

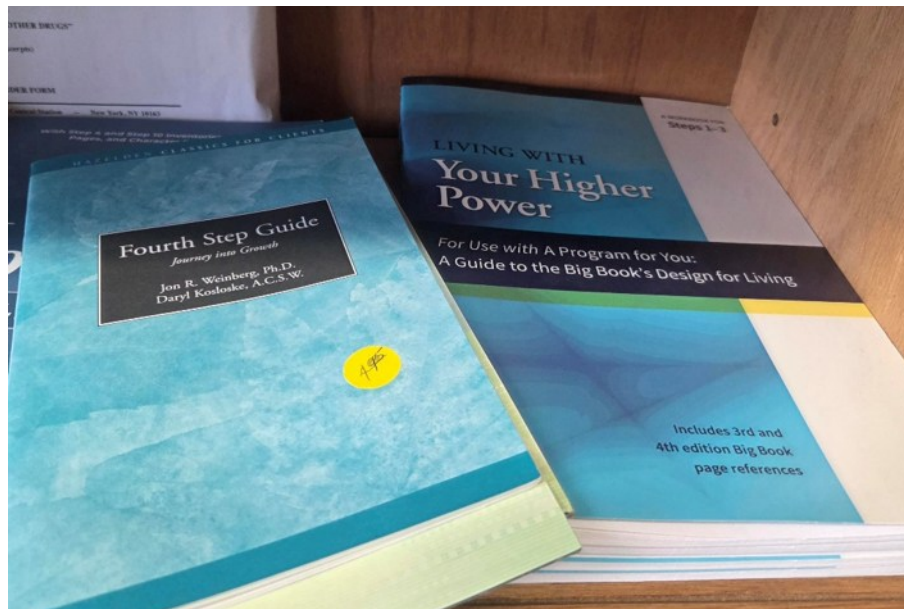
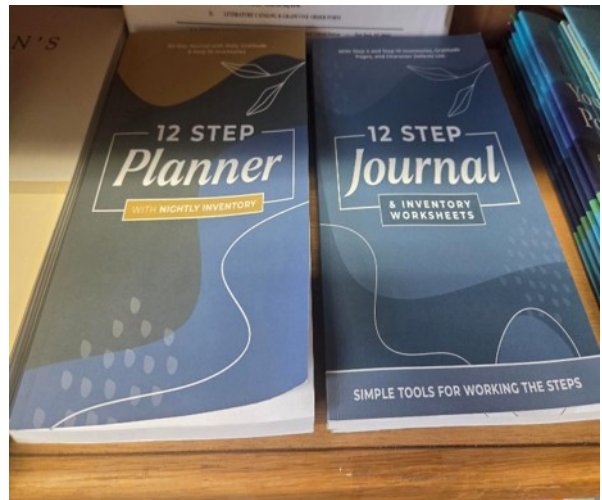
There was a motion to adjourn made by Jan and seconded by Mary. It was unanimous and the meeting closed at 7:30

Respectfully Submitted
JAN R--Central Office Secretary

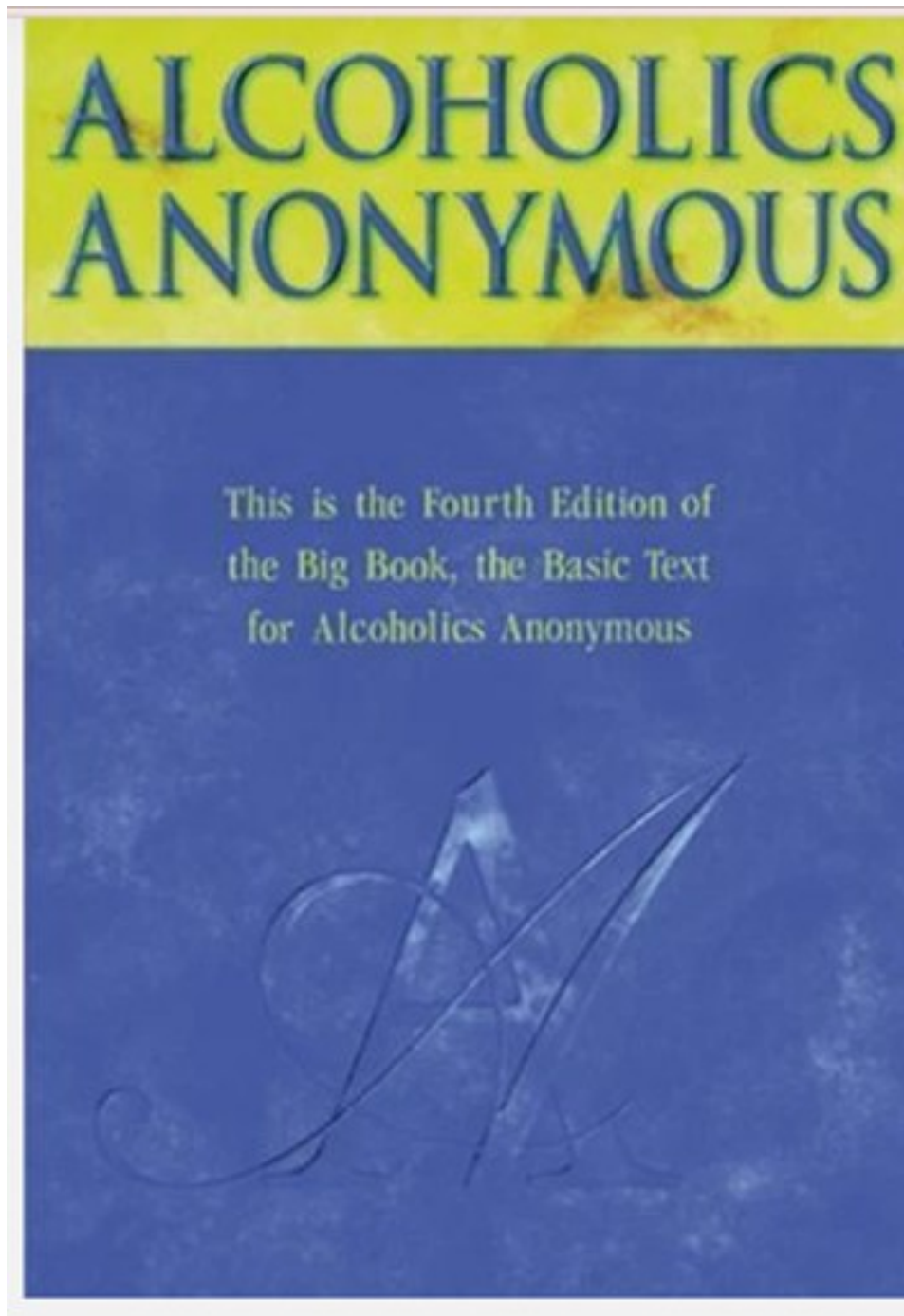


Item of the Month

The Big Book is the absolute best and number one suggested book to go through the steps with, but if you want some additional help with other books and workbooks, we have some great choices. Prices vary so be sure to come and check them out.



**And We Always Carry Big Books!
Support Your Local Central Office Store**



Thank You For Your 7th Tradition Contributions To The Central Office!

5:15 Happy Hour Group

Daily Reprieve II

Primary Purpose Group of N Idaho

Close Encounters

Unity meeting

Your Support Helps Us Keep The Doors Open And Carrying The Message To The Still Suffering Alcoholic!



June 2026

FORT SHERMAN AA GROUP SUMMER
GRILL & CHILL
Speaker Meeting



Summer Sundays with the Fort Sherman AA Group!
Join us on the last Sunday of June, July, and August for an evening of good food, great speakers, and fellowship. We'll be firing up the grill at 5:00 PM with burgers and hot dogs for everyone to enjoy before our 7:00 PM speaker meeting. Friends and family are welcome! Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish to share, such as chips, salads, or another favorite potluck item.



This month's guest speaker
Lou L.



5PM BBQ - SPEAKER MEETING STARTS @ 7PM

WHERE | CITY PARK

Human Rights Education Center
414 W Fort Grounds Dr, Coeur d'Alene

WHEN | 5PM

Sunday June 28th
Sunday July 26th
Sunday August 30th

July A.A. History

Here are notable events in AA history that occurred in June, spanning from the founding of the fellowship to major anniversaries and cultural milestones:

1939 – Warren C. joined A.A. Cleveland, caused debate because he was not hospitalized.

1944 – Bob writes article for Grapevine “On Cultivating Tolerance”.

1962 – ‘Victor E’ cartoon first appeared in Grapevine. (some say May 1962).

July 1-3, 1960 – 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA.

July 2-3, 1955 – 20th Anniversary Convention at St. Louis, MO. The Three Legacies, of Recovery, Unity, and Service, turned over to the movement by the old timers. AA comes of Age.

July 2, 1960 – Father Ed Dowling dies.

July 2, 1965 – “Best of Bill” and Pocket-Sized “12 and 12” 1st sold.

July 2, 1965 – 1st “La Vigne”, Canadian Grapevine, published.

July 2-4, 1965 – 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. Adopted “I Am Responsible.”

July 2, 1993 – 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada.

July 2, 2000 – 20 millionth copy of Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis, MN.

July 3-5, 1970 – 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. “Declaration of Unity”. Bill’s last public appearance.

July 3-6, 1980 – 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans. First true marathon meeting was held.

July 3-6, 1980 – Gay AA’s have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans.

July 4, 1939 – 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY.

July 4-6, 1975 – 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver. Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day.

July 5-7, 1985 – 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada. Ruth Hock given 5,000,000th Big Book. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days.

July 5-8, 1990 – 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA. Nell Wing given 10,000,000th Big Book.

July 7, 1940 – Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University.

July 8, 1940 – 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio.

July 10, 1941 – Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group. (Larry J)

July 11, 1960 – Time published article called “Passionately Anonymous” on the 25th

July A.A. History (Continued)

Convention.

July 14, 1939 – Dr Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty M. who promptly throws it back at him.

July 15 1938 – 1st documented use name Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A. archives letter Bill to Willard Richardson.

July 16, 1965 – Frank Amos, AA Non-Alcoholic Trustee, dies.

July 18 1938 – in letter to Dr. Richards at Johns Hopkins, Bill used Alcoholics Anonymous as working title for Big Book & name for the fellowship.

July 20, 1941 – First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington.

July 22, 1877 – Willian Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY.

July 22, 1980 – Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies.

July 23, 1940 – Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent.

July 23, 1943 – New Haven CT Register reports arrival of AA's to study with E M Jellinek.

July 24, 1943 – L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group.

July 28-30, 1950 – First AA International Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio. Twelve Traditions adopted. Dr. Bob made last appearance at large AA gathering.

July 31, 1972 – Rollie H dies sober in Washington DC.



Passionately Anonymous – Time, July 11, 1960

The 15,000 men and women who thronged California's Long Beach Memorial Stadium last week differed from most conventioners in one major respect, there was no danger that any of them would get together in a hotel room to kill a bottle. For this was Alcoholics Anonymous, mustering its recovered, sworn-off drinkers, their relatives and well-wishers to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Uncrowned but undisputed head of A.A. is Bill W., a tall Vermonter in his early 60s who drank himself out of a lucrative career as a high-risk stock operator. "In 1934," he recalls, "My doctor told my wife that if I didn't stop, I'd have to be locked up because I'd either go mad or die." Bill W. didn't stop until he drank himself into a hospital and realized that he must stop or die. He had to find another drunk in the same predicament so that by helping each other they would ensure their own survival. In Akron, in June of 1935, he found his friend, Dr. Bob (who died of cancer in 1950). Together they founded A.A. and laid out the basis for its famous twelve tenets.

Neither Chase nor Chastise. Last week, in his unofficial presidential address, Co-Founder Bill W. noted that the organization today counts 300,000 members in more than 8,000 groups in about 80 countries. Yet A.A. did not congratulate itself for any wholesale success. "In the U.S. alone there are still at least 5,000,000 active alcoholics, and perhaps 25 million worldwide. It is an awesome number that A.A. would be glad to help, said Bill W. We are not going to chase them, chastise them or campaign for them. All we can hope is that they will come to us for help when help is what they want."

A.A.'s wait-and-accept philosophy is the key to its success to date. About 50% of those who enroll themselves stop drinking as against 5% reported by physicians with any pre-A.A. treatment. Of the drop-outs about half return to the fold. This is not to say that 50% to 75% of all alcoholics will respond to A.A., many of the toughest cases simply never enroll.

The Thought of Power. The passion for public anonymity is readily understandable at the individual level. Every alcoholic needs pals on whom he can lean for help, and whom he can help to bolster his own ego. At the organizational level the anonymity is more complex. Bill W., a forceful speaker with a cutting wit explains: "Identification leads to power drives. The thought of power is one reason we were drunks in the first place. A.A. takes no denominational, political or economic stands. It stays out of controversy. We do not claim that anonymity is a virtue. Rather it is a protection." In proof of his own passion for anonymity, Bill W. has refused an honorary doctorate from Yale. "A degree for what?" he asks. "For being the world's leading drunk?"

(Source: Time, July 11, 1960)



Founder of the Primary Purpose Group of Dallas, TX

Joe McQ of Joe and Charlie was Cliff's Sponsor

We miss them all!

Cliff Bishop

JANUARY 11, 1924 – JULY 28, 2016

Obituary of Clifford William Bishop

IN THE CARE OF

Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home & Hillcrest Mausoleum & Memorial Park

Clifford William Bishop entered this world on January 11, 1924 In Fargo, Oklahoma, to Clifford Page and Grace Lawrence Bishop. Reared in Enid, during the Depression, Cliff went to work at age 12 to help support his family. It was also in Enid that he met his life's love, Elaine, under a ping-pong table. Together they shared over 65 years of life. Shortly after they were married, Cliff joined the Army Air Corps (eating bananas in order to make the minimum weight requirement) serving in the European Theater in WWII.

After the War, he returned to Oklahoma to earn his degree in physics and education from Oklahoma A&M (OSU). As his family grew, he became an aerospace representative working with NASA on the Mercury Seven, Gemini and Saturn programs. Eventually he found himself an enrolled actuary and estate planner and it was from this work that he formally retired.

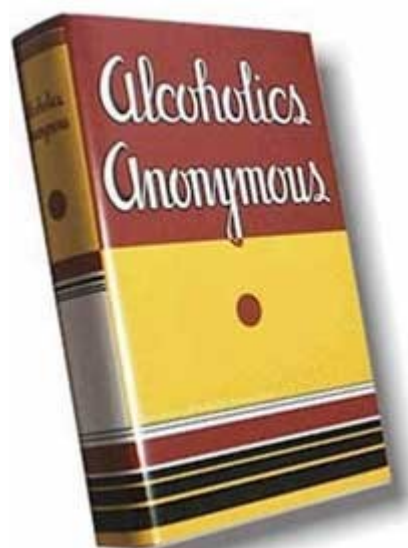
In later years he achieved sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous and began his real life's work, helping others recover from alcoholism. His efforts were directed almost exclusively at reintroducing that membership to the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous. He lived the last several decades of his life sober, trying to live as God would have him, faithful to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, and in service to its members.

Cliff left this life July 28, 2016 at home. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Elaine Keith Bishop and infant son, William Keith Bishop. He is survived by his daughter, Carol Ina Bishop Rutenberg of Arkansas and a son, Clifford Lawrence Bishop of Colorado, three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and a host of friends and others who loved him dearly.

Services will be held at Monday, August 1st 2016 at Midway Hills Christian Church, 11001, Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229 at 3:00PM

In lieu of flowers make donations payable to the 24 Hour Club or The Magdalen ("Maggie's") House.

That Ain't in the Big Book!



Since the suggestion made by “The Grapevine” in the late 60’s that “Open Discussion” (OD) meetings might be a good idea, there has been a change in the message being presented in the rooms from a focus on the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous to “group therapy” where anyone and everyone is privileged to speak on whatever might be on their mind. The result of this has been a severe decline in the success rate of alcoholics finding lasting recovery. We hear a lot of stuff said in meetings that can’t be reconciled with the program as described in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. Here is a list of the opinions, perspectives, and slogans we often hear in rooms and what our original Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous basic text (4th Edition) has to say about it.

“There are no musts in this program.” Or “There are no musts in A.A.”

Here are 96 Must (s) Listed in the Big Book (Doctors Opinion to page 164)

We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. (76)

Under no condition do we criticize such a person or argue. (77)

We must lose our fear of creditors no matter how far we have to go, for we are liable to drink if we are afraid to face them. (78)

We may lose our position or reputation or face jail, but we are willing. We have to be. We must not shrink at anything. (79)

Before taking drastic action, which might implicate other people, we secure their consent. If we have

obtained permission, have consulted with others, asked God to help and the drastic step is indicated we must not shrink. (80)

Sometimes we hear an alcoholic say that the only thing he needs to do is to keep sober. Certainly, he must keep sober, for there will be no home if he doesn't. But he is yet a long way from making good to the wife or parents whom for years he has so shockingly treated. (82)

Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. We must take the lead. (83)
The spiritual life is not a theory. We have to live it. (83)

We must remember that ten or twenty years of drunkenness would make a skeptic out of anyone. (83)

Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all of our activities. (85)

"How can I best serve Thee—Thy will (not mine) be done." These are thoughts which must go with us constantly. (85)

If we have carefully followed directions, we have begun to sense the flow of His Spirit into us. To some extent we have become God-conscious. We have begun to develop this vital sixth sense. But we must go further and that means more action. (85)

But we must be careful not to drift into worry, remorse or morbid reflection, for that would diminish our usefulness to others. (86)

To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends—this is an experience you must not miss. (89)

The family must decide these things. (90)

To be vital, faith must be accompanied by self-sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action. (93)
Never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop; simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for his inspection. (95)

If he is sincerely interested and wants to see you again, ask him to read this book in the interval. After doing that, he must decide for himself whether he wants to go on. (95)
He should not be pushed or prodded by you, his wife, or his friends. If he is to find God, the desire must come from within. (95)

Never avoid these responsibilities but be sure you are doing the right thing if you assume them. (97)

To Be Continued.....

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This Newsletter is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous, nor is it endorsed by Alcoholics Anonymous.

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