



Knox news

District 15 Happenings

New meeting

Women's Open
Discussion

Saturday, 8:30 am

UU Church, Broadway,
Rockland

Showing it Works! September Anniversaries

Wendy, 1 yr

Camden Women's
meeting
Friday, Sept 5

Lily, 7 yrs

Dennis, 14 yrs

Camden 12-Step
Monday, Sept 8

Laura, 2 Yrs

Brown Bag
Thursday, Sept 11

Ozzie, 19 yrs

Attitude Adjustment
Friday, Sept 19

Nick, 1 yr

Camden 12 Step
Friday, Sept 19

Judy R, 4 yrs

Safe Harbor
Tuesday, Sept 30
(Potluck preceding)

Joe B, 28 yrs

Greg W, 21 yrs

Steve R, 19 yrs

Phil S, 10 yrs

Cushing/Warren
Tuesday, Sept 30

District Meeting

Sunday, Sept 14

5-6:30 pm

GSR Roundtable and
committees, 4-5 pm

UU Church, Broadway,
Rockland

The fundamental law of right human conduct is the Golden Rule. It is one of the marks of a real man that he be ready to make good for his misdeeds and that he be ready to confess his error to those he has offended or harmed. ...

After we have made our moral inventories, our next step is to strive to undo the damage we have done. We should make a list of all the persons we have harmed and should make amends.

There is no moralizing in this demand. Of course it is the right thing to do, the manly thing to do. But what is important for us is that this step is a necessity in meeting the demands of conscience. (*Cleveland Central Bulletin*, May, 1943)

As a plumber un-
plugging a sink
20 years
ago, I'd
stolen a
bracelet
that was
on the
counter.
Twenty
years later I
went back
old lady an-
asked her how
replied, "All my
life; my husband
passed away a few
years ago." I told
her I stole a bracelet
long ago. She fell
back and said, "Oh,
my God. All this time
we thought our son
took it." The chain
effect.

**Step, Tradition and Concept Nine
Taking Responsibility**
This month the Step, Tradition, and Concept all have to do with taking responsibility—taking responsibility for our past misdeeds, taking responsibility for the service needed to fulfill our AA purpose, and taking responsibility for the continuous effort to develop good leadership. Mostly, this September newsletter is a collage of thoughts and quotes on these three principles.

Reaching those still suffering right here

At the beginning of Chapter Seven of the Big Book, there is a discussion of how we connect with the still-active alcoholic in need of help: "You can easily find some by asking a few doctors, ministers, priests or hospitals." Nowadays, of course, it hardly makes sense for each of us to call—it's not respectful for them to get hundreds of phone calls from eager AA's. That's why we have a CPC/PI committee (Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information).

That committee works with and even meets with doctors, lawyers, judges, corrections officers, police officers, teachers, counselors, ministers, hospital staff, and others who are likely to come in contact with still suffering alcoholics. We even have special pamphlets and packets of information to help them understand our disease and help us **get connected with the suffering alcoholic**. That's also why we have a hotline committee, treatment committee, corrections committee, and meeting list committee.

Right now, District 15 does not have a CPC/PI committee chair. We do not have a Hotline Committee chair. We don't have a Meeting List committee chair. Please come to the District meeting September 14 and step up to fill one of these positions.

Step Nine

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

There is no recovery in saying sorry. There is only recovery in actions.
(Grapevine online sharing, 2008)

Bill said: "Due to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a **continuous effort**."

Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

"Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group's chores, if the area's telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then A.A. as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken." (Bill W, 12 & 12)

Those who say that service work goes against the Ninth Tradition have simply never read it.

leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

“A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him “Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, ‘Act for us, but do not boss us.’”

(Bill W, AA Concepts Illustrated)

"The fruit of faith is love," Mother Teresa said. "And the fruit of love is service. And the fruit of service is peace."

“No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of *real*

The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative.

Tradition Nine

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or inter-group committee, which often employs a full-time secretary.

The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine.

All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

“Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it discloses a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service—a **true fellowship**.” Bill W, 12&12

Tradition 9 is the tradition that actually inverts the triangle for us, by making all service committees answerable to the groups, or rather their representative, most commonly the General Service Representative. (www.miseryisoptional.info)

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. **It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service**, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart.

(Bill W, 12 & 12)

My Brother, My Truth

How do you make amends to an active alcoholic or to someone you can no longer reach? ...

“Dave remains my reminder that each of us may be the only recovering alcoholic a suffering one ever reaches out to.”

Pamy H., Logan, Utah, This article on the Ninth Step can be found in this month's *Grapevine*, Sept 08

Like A Tornado

Responding to requests for a list of local **Al-Anon meetings** for family and friends:
Monday, 7 pm, St. Thomas Episcopal, Thomaston
Tuesday, 7pm, Catholic Church, 7 Union St, Camden
Thursday, 6:30 pm, Board Room, Rockland Library
Saturday, 10 am, Physicians Bldg, Pen Bay Hospital

Are You an Active Member?

Are you an ACTIVE MEMBER,
 The kind that would be missed,
 Or are you thoroughly contented
 To have your name on the list?
 Do you always attend the meetings,
 And mingle with the crowd,
 Or do you prefer to stay away
 And crab—both long and loud?
 Do you always take an active part
 To help the Group along,
 Or are **you** completely satisfied
 To be the kind that “just belong”?
 Do you welcome every opportunity
 To visit fellows who need your help,
 Or leave this work for others
 And then crab, complain and yelp?
 OUR Daily Plan is scheduled—
 It means success for me and you.
 And it CAN be accomplished,
 If we are honest, tried and true.
 So, attend the regular meetings
 And make calls—do your part.
 Don't be “just another member,”
 Fellow—take an active part.
 THINK IT OVER, FELLOW,
 Are you right or are you wrong?
 Are you an ACTIVE MEMBER,
 Or—Do you JUST BELONG?
 (Cleveland Central Bulletin, May, 1943)

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- Alt. Treasurer, Service Opportunity
- Secretary, Karen S. 701-1040
- Alt. Secretary, Eileen J, 590-6987, binki51@yahoo.com
- DCM I, Judy R, 596-1057
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- Archives, Service Opportunity
- Boomerang, Service Opportunity
- CSO Liaison, Service Opportunity
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- PI/CPC, Service Opportunity
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