

The Scoop

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(Please limit contributions to 500 words or less.)

This month's Central Office

50/50 winner is: Ticket # 369593

Name: Bob Koch Amount \$ 15.00

Yvette L. Drew the winning ticket!

Election Results of Officers of the Intergroup Steering Committee

At the March Intergroup Steering Committee Meetings, the following AA members were elected and voted into positions:

Chairman: Steve A.

Co-Chairman: Dave S.

Secretary: Cathy

Members at Large: Ron K, Wayne, and
Stephanie S

Welcome to the new board. We look forward to the upcoming year.

Faith

What is Faith? For me I cannot see faith nor smell it, taste it, feel it, or hear it. But I know it's there. I know it's been living all around me, it's been working for me and through me. When it's all said and done Faith without works is dead. I have to do my part, at the very least be willing to do it.

With a belief bring hope, with hope brings action, with action brings Faith, and with Faith brings trust. Trusting in a Higher Power that guides me in my life gives me courage and helps me to see the truth (if I allow it). In my experience thus far for me Faith is not about knowing that things will be OK one day, it's knowing that God has a plan and that things Are OK where ever I am at. In the past the only kind of Faith I had was in alcohol, hoping that it will get me to where I needed to be. The funny thing is, is that it got me to AA. When arriving to AA I just hoped I never had to go back. I don't ever have to, even when I want to. As long as I'm Willing. Stay Willing...

By. Brian M., A.A. 2012.

The 'easy' part of The Program

The Big Book does us a great favor, maybe life saving, when it defines the 'easy' part of the program on page 85. I have tried my best to identify a number of ways that could trap a recovering alky into the old ways of thinking and drinking, here are a few:

It is 'easy' to :

1. Practice dishonesty
2. Live in Denial
3. Become materialistic
4. Isolate
5. Judge others
6. Disregard The Steps
7. Skip AA Meetings
8. Skip commitments
9. Neglect physical health
10. Justify Anger
11. Justify Self-pity
12. Be Rude, Vulgar and Profane

All-in-all the Book calls it "letting up on our spirituality". I like my new Adventure in a New and Better way of life called God-consciousness !!

As Always Arne P. AA 1976

Step 4

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Creation gave us instincts for a purpose. Without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. If men and women didn't exert themselves to be secure in their persons, made no effort to harvest food or construct shelter, there would be no survival. If they didn't reproduce, the earth wouldn't be populated. If there were no social instinct, if men cared nothing for the society of one another, there would be no society. So these desires—for the sex relation, for material and emotional security, and for companionship—are perfectly necessary and right, and surely God-given.

Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions. Powerfully, blindly, many times subtly, they drive us, dominate us, and insist upon ruling our lives. Our desires for sex, for material and emotional security, and for an important place in society often tyrannize us. When thus out of joint, man's natural desires cause him great trouble, practically all the trouble there is. No human being, however good, is exempt from these troubles. Nearly every serious emotional problem can be seen as a case of misdirected instinct. When that happens, our great

natural assets, the instincts, have turned into physical and mental liabilities.

Step Four is our vigorous and painstaking effort to discover what these liabilities in each of us have been, and are. We want to find exactly how, when and where our natural desires have warped us. We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves. By discovering what our emotional deformities are, we can move toward their correction. Without a willing and persistent effort to do this, there can be little sobriety or contentment for us. Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith which really works in daily living is still out of reach.

G.ood O.rderly D.irection

The 4th Tradition

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Autonomy is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of

fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

When A.A.'s Traditions were first published, in 1946, we had become sure that an A.A. group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So confident of this had we become that the original statement of A.A. tradition carried this significant sentence: “Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups “wet,” others “dry,” still others “Republican” or Communist,” and yet others “Catholic” or “Protestant.” The A.A. group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong.

Compelling Love

The life of each A.A. and of each group is built around our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We know that the penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death for the individual and dissolution for the group. But an even greater force for A.A.'s unity is our compelling love for our fellow members and for our principles.

Twelve Concepts, P. 8

After the "Honeymoon"

The wise have always known that no one can make much of his life until self-searching becomes a regular habit, until he is able to admit and accept what he finds, and until he patiently and persistently tries to correct what is wrong.

Twelve & Twelve, p. 88

Quotable Quotes

1. Be kind to your enemies, after all, you made them.
2. Things got worse faster than I could lower my standards.
3. When you step down, God steps up.
4. I have never been so happy, to be so wrong, about so much.
5. I'm just a nobody trying to tell anybody about Somebody Who can save everybody!
6. Be patient as God is to you.
7. Somewhere is a shopping cart with my name on it.

8. When your home by yourself, you're behind enemy lines.
9. These AA meetings are ruining my miserable life.
10. Some days you're the windshield and some days you're the bug.
11. Untreated alcoholism is like a person that hasn't their 4th step.
12. If you take care out of character, what you have left is an actor.

WORD GAME

COLUMNS, FEARS, HUMILITY,
INSTITUTIONS, INVENTORY
LIST, MEDITATION, PEOPLE
PLACES, PRAYER, SPONSOR
START

G A C G V O Z U A X J F L Q S
Z Y E P R Y R O T N E V N I E
G F T S Y J A F R A X N N M R
X V Q I E Y S T R A T S E E W
O T S I L C Y S X Q T P G D N
F B N V N I A K S I E O E I H
E X T A H D M L T O E N S T T
R B T I K L Z U P I O S O A H
C D Z G N D T L H R V O M T F
C I Q A Y I E A D I A R J I N
N Y T C O L U M N S Z Y W O C
E N G N Q S N R V S Q C E N C
W O S A I D O I C U S C F R V
L B C I P H A A Z W N C F B Y
L G D W E I F E S V K B S I S