



May 2017

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500 word limit, please!

The Scoop

AVCO Steering Committee

At the Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting, the following AA members were voted in as the new board:

Chairman: Veronica H.
Co-Chairman: Bruce L.
Secretary: Leslie G.
Member At Large: Fred H.
Member At Large: Stephanie S.

The Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting is on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. All Alcoholics Anonymous members are welcome.

Integrity

According to the *Oxford University Press*, Integrity is defined as follows:

1. the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness;
2. the state of being whole and undivided or internal consistency
 - a. the condition of being unified, unimpaired, or sound in construction:
 - b. internal consistency or lack of corruption

Having an experience with this step, both in the giving and receiving end, is both an act of and results in, a integrity. Placing ones' trust in a Higher Power and closed mouth friend is tantamount to practicing the honesty that is necessary for continued recovery. The sense of completeness and solidity is a springboard for upcoming steps.

Fun Fact: Works Publishing Inc - May 1940

In May 1940, Works Publishing Co was legally incorporated as a publishing arm of the Alcoholic Foundation. This action ensured that the ownership of the Big Book would be held in trust for all members of the AA Fellowship. Bill W and Hank P gave up their stock with a stipulation that Dr. Bob and Anne would receive 10% royalties on the Big Book for life.

Step 5

"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

"We have a written inventory and we are prepared for a long talk." (p. 75)

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 person 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 have 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 else all their life story. A.A. Big Book, p. 72-73

As the old-timer said, "You don't have to dance with everybody, but you DO have to dance with *somebody*."

Death or Dance

by David S.

You were once such a happy boy the world was like a brand-new toy
 You would wake up every morning feeling the same couldn't wait to get out and pay with it again
 You went out and played every day, the world would never be in the way
 Your heart would tell you what to be, all of life's joys it would bring
 Then came the ages of 7 and 8, the world you found it wasn't so great
 Showed you lots of thing you didn't know, then in your heart it began to snow
 With your heart bogged down such a terrible thing, your mind with all its power it began to sing
 It sang of lots of things you couldn't believe, your pain it told you it would relieve
 You lived like this through your teenage years, never dealing with your fears
 Feelings soon became a thing of the past; your mind was the only thing you thought would last
 You believed in your mind all this me because of the things it said it would
 It tricked you once, it tricked you twice, it almost fooled you into taking your life
 Then one day you took a look at yourself couldn't believe what you had put on the shelf
 You couldn't believe what your mind had done, it had given away everything one by one

The 5th Tradition

"Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Tradition Five Checklist:

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?

2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?

3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?

4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?

5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?

6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

The short form of the 5th traditions states, "Better do one thing well than many badly. The life of our Fellowship depends on this principle. The ability of each A.A. to identify himself with and bring recovery to the newcomer is a gift from God . . . passing on this gift to others is our one aim. Sobriety can't be kept unless it is given away." (12x12, p. 11) This idea is further explain in the on page 151, " Better

do one thing well than many badly. The life of our Fellowship depends on this principle. The ability of each A.A. to identify himself with and bring recovery to the newcomer is a gift from God . . . passing on this gift to others is our one aim. Sobriety can't be kept unless it is given away. 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. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe. There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. 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."

"NOT A GLUM



LOT"

Two men are drinking in a bar at the top of the Empire State Building. One turns to the other and says: "You know last week I discovered that if you jump from the top of this building-by the time you fall to the 10th floor, the winds around the building are so intense that they carry you around the building and back into the window."

The bartender just shakes his head in disapproval while wiping the bar.

The 2nd Man says: "What are you a nut? There is no way in hell that could happen."

1st Man: "No it's true let me prove it to you." So he gets up from the bar, jumps over the balcony, and careens to the street below. When he passes the 10th floor, the high wind whips him around the building and back into the 10th floor window and he takes the elevator back up to the bar.

The 2nd Man tells him: "You know I saw that with my own eyes, but that must have been a one time fluke."

1st Man: "No, I'll prove it again" and again he jumps and hurtles toward the street where the 10th floor wind gently carries him around the building and into the window. Once upstairs he urges his fellow drinker to try it.

2nd Man: "Well what the hell, it works, I'll try it." he jumps over the balcony, plunges downward, passes the 11th, 10th, 9th, 8th floors... and hits the sidewalk with a 'splat.'

Back upstairs the Bartender turns to the other drinker: "You know, Superman, you're a real a*****e when you're drunk."

Quotable Quotes

Simplicity, clarity, singleness: These are the attributes that give our lives power and vividness and joy as they are also the marks of great art. They seem to be the purpose of God for his whole creation. Richard Holloway

A confession has to be part of your new life. Ludwig Wittgenstein

Nobody can hurt me without my permission. Mahatma Gandhi
Be impeccable with your word. Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love. Don Miguel Ruiz



I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend. Thomas Jefferson

Integrity means that you are the same in public as you are in private.

Joyce Meyer

Calamity is the test of integrity. Samuel Richardson

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. Mother Teresa

A friend should be one in whose understanding and virtue we can equally confide, and whose opinion we can value at once for its justness and its sincerity. Robert Hall

MY DEBT

In paying off, my debt incurred, so very long ago,
I had to put some "extra" back, interest we called it, bro.

This extra payment could be seen as steep, a price I had to pay,
but I took the deal, with no regrets,
that's why I'm here today.

We come in new, not much to give,
bankrupt in every way,
But we open up, that place inside, and start to take "it" away.

Back to our home, our family, the hearts we need to heal.
We use the tools, they give to us,
eventually, we feel.

This deal we made, it ain't so bad, it's called "the payment plan",
A day at a time, we pay it back, by reaching out our hand.

We took so much, from those we loved;
we need to make it right.
Until I die, I'll pay it back, A.A. is outta sight.

Written by Andrew H. on his 35th anniversary of sobriety.

The Ick'ism

By Natalie S.

I thought all my problems were alcohol,
you see
But it's the "ism" in alcohol, conspiring
against me.

Confronting life's issues, I only craved
one answer,
My ship headed for an iceberg, always
doomed for disaster.

My storm thunders like war with shots
fired,
My anger raging, yet always leaving me
tired.

This battle has just begun, only partially
won,
When the sip of that last drink, is finally
done

The clock is counting down, and will
continue to tick,
Finding the lowest bottom, that feeling
is "Ick!"

But that's when the real work is
intended,
For nothing worth having is easily
mended

The rock of this disease, is a gem we
call alcohol-ism,
A diamond's clarity, clouded from its
color pr-ism.

Illuminating over the darkness in the
beginning,
Then a few black outs leave our light
ever dimming.

Our once grand dreams, become
infinitely elusive,
But we don't comprehend, when the
darkness is so intrusive.

We know it so well, yet it only recalls
our last name,
That name we all share, it's the "Ick-
ism" that's to blame.

The first name your parents got to pick
And this last one will forever stick,
Hello, I'm Natalie, Alcohol-Ick.

INTEGRITY Word Search

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

Word List

CHARACTER
COHERENCE
COHESION
DURABILITY
GOOD
HONESTY
HONOR
PRINCIPLES
RECTITUDE
SOLIDARITY
SOLIDITY
SOUNDNESS
STABILITY
STOUTNESS
STRENGTH
STURDINESS
TOGETHERNESS
TOUGHNESS
UNIFICATION
UNITY

Fifth Concept:

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

Read Concept V in The A.A. Service Manual, pages 22-25.

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered. Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a "substantial unanimity" is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself.

This is A.A.'s "Right of Appeal" in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees, trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual duty of presenting its views. This "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority. "Trusted servants," according to Bill, "do for the groups what the groups cannot or should not do

for themselves." And in exercising their "Right of Decision" trusted servants are almost always "a small but truly qualified minority" — whether in the form of area committees, staffs, boards or even the General Service Conference itself. It is incumbent upon them, therefore, in their own meetings, to pay special deference to the minority voice. **Every member has a voice!**

This Concept also warns us of "the tyranny of the majority" and points out that in A.A., a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision. That's why we usually require at least a two-thirds majority. Lacking this, it is preferable to delay the decision; or in the case of an election following the "Third Legacy Procedure," to "go to the hat." The "Right of Appeal" also permits any person in the service structure, whether paid or volunteer, to petition for redress of a personal grievance. He or she can complain directly to the General Service Board, without prejudice or fear of reprisal. Does the minority wish to speak any further?

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

Perhaps, this example of practical application can shed some light: The Speak No Evil Group is losing some of its longest members because of profanity-laced shares by residents of the nearby Harvard House halfway house for men without driver's licenses. At an emergency business meeting, one of the few remaining longtime group members, Polly Purebred, moved to ban the use of the Seven Words You Can Never Say on TV during the group's meetings in order to stem the tide of departing members. Since the business meeting was held at the same time as the Harvard House house meeting, the motion passed with only a few harrumphs and virtual unanimity. The only member voting against the measure, the humble but lovable Shoeshine Boy, was not given the

opportunity to speak for the minority, because it was obvious the group was overwhelmingly in favor of the measure and it might disturb what was left of group unity to waste more time with it. At the next meeting, when asked to clean up his language or find another group, Harvard House resident Riff Raff told the group in very colorful language what they could do with their new rule and stormed out.

-Should Shoeshine Boy have been given the opportunity to speak for the minority? Why or why not?

-Did Shoeshine Boy have an actual duty to speak for the minority or does group unity come first?

-Does Riff Raff have a right of appeal?

-Should Riff Raff and/or Shoeshine Boy be encouraged to raise this at the next business meeting and/or to file a minority report because they feel a majority to be in considerable error. -If so, with whom? The group? District? Area? Delegate? General Service Board?

-Suppose a minority report is filed with the Delegate — what does the Delegate do?

-What role, if any, do Traditions 2, 3 and 4 Play?

-Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?

-Why is there such an emphasis on respect for and hearing of the minority such a critically valued principle and practice in AA?

This example is courtesy of nc23.org We are a part of Area 93 and our District meeting is the second Saturday of the month in Agua Dulce.

Editor's Note: Thank you for allowing me to be of service, I look forward to receiving more submissions of your experience, strength and hope! Morgan J.

April 2017 Office Manager Report

Jan - Mar '17 Apr '17 YTD Total



2017



BIRTHDAYS



Sales of Goods	\$11,525.93	\$4,111.09	\$15,637.02
Expenses	(\$6,642.30)	(\$4,850.65)	(\$11,492.95)
Cost of Goods	(\$8,587.24)	(\$2,361.47)	(\$10,948.71)
Contributions	\$4,902.57	\$866.19	\$5,768.76

Net Income \$1,198.96 (\$2,234.84) (\$1,035.88)

Contributions

Group	Jan - Mar '17	Apr '17	2017 Total
A Gathering of Women	\$100.00		\$100.00
A.M. Attitude Modification	\$107.84		\$107.84
A.V. Hospital ~ 2 West	\$0.00		\$0.00
A.V. Men's Stag Quartz Hill	\$266.75	\$137.73	\$404.48
A.V. H & I	\$0.00		\$0.00
Alano Club Thursday Night	\$0.00		\$0.00
Alano Club Wednesday Dare to be Different	\$0.00		\$0.00
Anonymous Donations	\$183.27	\$81.98	\$265.25
Any Lengths Group	\$55.00		\$55.00
Arbor Court Tuesday	\$0.00		\$0.00
A Women's Story	\$0.00		\$0.00
Birthday Celebrants	\$0.00	\$71.00	\$71.00
B.Y.O.C. A.V. Y.P.	\$0.00		\$0.00
Big Book Ladies Women	\$0.00		\$0.00
California City Clubhouse	\$167.24	\$284.56	\$451.80
Crown Valley Group	\$0.00		\$0.00
Founders Month	\$0.00		\$0.00
Friday Night Non-Smoker Sneaker Mtg	\$120.00		\$120.00
Fund Raiser Monthly 50/50	\$0.00		\$0.00
High Desert Big Book	\$697.41		\$697.41
High Desert Hospital Friday	\$0.00		\$0.00
High Desert Medical Group	\$0.00		\$0.00
Intergroup Fundraisers	\$1,009.00		\$1,009.00
Into Action	\$110.00		\$110.00
Lake Hughes Friday Night	\$0.00		\$0.00
Lake Hughes Men's Stag	\$214.00		\$214.00
Lake Hughes Monday Night	\$0.00		\$0.00
Mid-Day Modification	\$636.73	\$158.92	\$795.65
Mojave Big Book Awakening	\$0.00		\$0.00
Mojave Group New Beginnings	\$0.00		\$0.00
Open Door	\$0.00		\$0.00
P.M. Modification	\$0.00		\$0.00
Palmdale Group	\$112.73		\$112.73
Pearlblossom Group	\$360.00		\$360.00
Rosamond Thursday 7 Minutes to Sobriety	\$0.00		\$0.00
Rosamond Sunday Night	\$0.00		\$0.00
Rule 62 Grp	\$75.00		\$75.00
Saturday Morning Men's Stag	\$0.00		\$0.00
SCV Sun Night Spkr	\$17.00		\$17.00
Stepping Stones	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sunday Night B.B.S. 7th Day Advent	\$0.00		\$0.00
The 10,11,12 Group	\$0.00		\$0.00
We Care	\$50.00		\$50.00
Wednesday Night BBS @ The Grange	\$0.00		\$0.00
Westside Group	\$40.00		\$40.00
Women in Progress	\$0.00		\$0.00
Women in Recovery	\$0.00		\$0.00
Women Seeking Serenity Monday	\$120.00	\$132.00	\$252.00

Adolfo T.	5/3/2015	2	James S.	5/12/2000	17
Erica B.	5/9/2015	2	Liz K.	5/30/2000	17
Jaclyn W.	5/13/2015	2	Stephanie H.	5/27/2000	17
Terrv B.	5/16/2015	2	Carl F.	5/27/1999	18
Joel	5/11/2013	4	Scott T.	5/30/1998	19
Andre' A.	5/31/2013	4	Terry M.	5/30/1998	19
Brice C.	5/22/2012	5	Bob H.	5/27/1997	20
Frank M.	5/4/2012	5	Kathv D.	5/5/1997	20
Tom K.	5/1/2012	5	Paul M.	5/29/1997	20
Brian W.	5/6/2011	6	Rav R.	5/17/1997	20
Diane M.	5/29/2011	6	David P.	5/30/1995	22
Karen M.	5/10/2011	6	Erich R.	5/15/1994	23
Mario G.	5/17/2011	6	Linda M.	5/31/1994	23
Tammy S.	5/15/2011	6	Ron H.	5/14/1994	23
Theresa B.	5/7/2011	6	Ron J.	5/9/1994	23
Valerie Jo H.	5/25/2011	6	Tom H.	5/7/1994	23
Ernesto H.	5/3/2010	7	Earl W.	5/16/1993	24
Kevin G.	5/10/2010	7	Marsha Y.	5/15/1993	24
Paul B.	5/20/2010	7	Steve W.	5/9/1993	24
Wendell F.	5/27/2010	7	Tom M.	5/14/1993	24
Amy M.	5/2/2009	8	Betty C.	5/27/1992	25
Danielle G.	5/29/2009	8	David G.	5/16/1992	25
Edward S.	5/20/2009	8	Laura E.	5/17/1992	25
Eric M.	5/31/2009	8	Lee M.	5/25/1992	25
Kathi D.	5/6/2009	8	Cathv R.	5/1/1991	26
Kathryn M.	5/29/2009	8	De Andre M.	5/29/1991	26
Kathy S.	5/19/2009	8	Kevin Mc	5/16/1991	26
Lisa K.	5/20/2009	8	Sharon L.	5/10/1991	26
Yvonne E.	5/5/2009	8	Deto	5/21/1990	27
Chris G.	5/21/2008	9	Joh F.	5/22/1990	27
Georgia A.	5/21/2008	9	Robert G.	5/9/1990	27
Jonie R.	5/21/2008	9	Scott T.	5/5/1990	27
Michael S.	5/13/2008	9	Walt B.	5/13/1990	27
Rickey C.	5/17/2008	9	Robin K.	5/6/1989	28
Robert M.	5/13/2008	9	Bill M.	5/20/1988	29
Ashlev A.	5/8/2007	10	Kim C.	5/18/1988	29
Bayla	5/15/2007	10	Sandy C.	5/1/1987	30
Brian O.	5/21/2007	10	Gene S.	5/7/1986	31
Cathleen K.	5/30/2007	10	Lou B.	5/1/1986	31
Melissa G.	5/14/2007	10	Michele R.	5/26/1986	31
Rive C.	5/10/2007	10	Tom K.	5/27/1986	31
Stan V.	5/9/2007	10	Kim T.	5/12/1985	32
Dave K.	5/14/2006	11	Beverly M.	5/12/1984	33
Charlie P.	5/26/2005	12	Paul E.	5/4/1984	33
Kevin M.	5/4/2004	13	Barbara	5/8/1983	34
Steve H.	5/2/2004	13	Dawn E.	5/22/1983	34
Sylvia	5/7/2004	13	Herbert H.	5/12/1983	34
Cathy W.	5/9/2003	14	Lori H.	5/15/1983	34
Dave M.	5/15/2003	14	John C.	5/3/1982	35
Debbie T.	5/7/2003	14	Jose T.	5/3/1982	35
Patti B.	5/21/2001	16	Loretta R.	5/25/1978	39
Robert B.	5/27/2001	16	Don M.	5/2/1976	41
Tomas C.	5/29/2001	16	Ken L.	5/7/1976	41

Get your groups birthday list to Central Office
... That's how they appear here!

TOTALS \$4,441.97 \$866.19 \$5,308.16

Total Years = 1,873

Managers Corner

In addition to your groups birthday list, Central Office would love to maintain a speaker list from each group.
That way, if anyone is looking for speakers, they can just call!

Thank You Saturday Volunteers!!

Don't forget to visit us on the Web!

1st ~ Larry W. & Barbie Q.
2nd ~ Darin F. & Alonna T.
3rd ~ Stephanie S. & Mike B.
4th ~ Judie M. & Christine B.
5th ~ Christine F. & Wendy W.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service!!

Jeffrey Harlow

