

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12

September 2021

Tradition 9 Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971.

The D18 newsletter committee thought that republishing these questions related to each tradition would help further the growth of individuals and groups in their understandings of the traditions, and might stimulate more dialogue. This month we have added answers to one of the questions to show how these principles can be practiced in all our affairs.

Tradition Nine: AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?

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Hello everyone, this is Bob S., and I am the District Committee Member (DCM) for District 18. When I began to serve in January, I thought it would be a good idea to look at my job description in the AA Service Manual (maybe a good idea for anyone in a new service position). I found I was to get to know the groups in the District and make sure we are serving their needs. I set out to visit the various groups and have completed contacting most of them. When I asked if there is anything D18 could be doing to serve them better, really none of the groups had anything significant. Some needed a few printed Where and Whens, and several asked for support along the lines of attendance. My thoughts are that between the services provided by CSO like the answering service and literature and those provided by D18 including the website, information sharing, the newsletter and a connection with the AA Service Structure, the basic needs of our groups are being met. The District is becoming more active in Corrections, Contact with the Professional Community, Public Information, Activities, as well as Treatment and Bridging the Gap. As we slowly come out of the pandemic more volunteers are needed with these activities, so please get involved. If there are other things your

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4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?

Application of Question 4

In any AA job that I take, the fact that we are all volunteers is kept at the forefront my mind. The attitude I have towards people I'm working with in AA, is going to have a direct role in whether we're successful or not. If we're not successful, this impacts our team, the groups, the district, and ultimately AA.

Patience and humility are absolutely essential for any AA job in either a leadership role or as a team player. Things may not always go as anticipated on either end, to where patience and humility can go a long way. We are all working on the same team for the same goal.

If you have a football team where the coach is not helpful and critical of anything you do on the field, are you going to want to play well for him? How about the coach is motivating you to be and do your best, being constructive, and supporting your efforts on the field? The same principles hold true for working as a team whether in AA, or on the football field.

As long as we appreciate and are supportive of each other's efforts, there is a lot we can do and accomplish. The great thing about AA work, is it has taught me a great deal with how to work well with others. I am grateful that I have been blessed with the opportunity to do so and with multiple wonderful teams.

groups need, please let us know.

The neat thing about my service job, is the fringe benefits. Going to meetings outside of my normal circles has been an absolute blast! From Fieldon to Madison, I get to see what a great bunch of folks we have, and the diversity of sobriety and personal experiences in our membership. One memory is getting to cruise up the Great River Road on a beautiful Thursday evening to see who is hanging out in Elsay. I expected a few people keeping a small meeting going. To my surprise the place was packed, and I experience a great meeting with a free scenic road trip!

Is your meeting attendance getting a little stale? A lot of groups out there that would be delighted to see you! You may hear the same things you always do but coming from someone new in a little different way really helps. Ray S. used to tell Norm R.: "Pay attention". That's easier to do in a new surrounding with new faces.

Thanks for letting me share some experiences with you. Please let us know if the District can help your group in any way. And yes, we would love to see your GSR at our District meetings on the third Sunday of every month at 2PM, now being held "hybrid" (in person at CSO and on Zoom). The contact information is on the District web page.

In Service,
Bob S.



Upcoming Events for September

DISTRICT 18 PICNIC MEETING

- DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH
- TIME: 1:30P
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
 - MEETING ID: 847 7367 1591
 - PASSCODE: 987449
 - SAME ZOOM INFORMATION AS GSR MEETING

GSR MEETING-HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 2021
- TIME: 2P
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
 - MEETING ID: 847 7367 1591
 - PASSCODE: 987449

DISTRICT 18 PICNIC

- DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
- LOCATION: HARTFORD PARK, IL
- TIME: 12-4P

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

23RD ANNUAL ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI MEN'S BREAKFAST

- DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH 2021
- TIME:
 - 8A-DOORS OPEN
 - 9A-BREAKFAST
 - 10A-SPEAKER
- Location: REGENCY CONFERENCE CENTER, O'FALLON IL
- COST: \$25
 - NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR.
 - TICKET DEADLINE: OCTOBER 10TH

IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER AA HISTORY

SEPT 1930 - BILL WROTE 4TH (LAST) PROMISE IN FAMILY BIBLE TO QUIT DRINKING.

SEPT 1939 - GROUP STARTED BY EARL T IN CHICAGO.

SEPT 1940 - JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASES GIVES BIG BOOK UNFAVORABLE REVIEW.

SEPT 1946 - 1ST A.A. GROUP IN MEXICO.

SEPT 1946 - BILL & DR. BOB BOTH PUBLICLY ENDORSED NATIONAL COMMITTEE EDUCATION ALCOHOLISM FOUNDED BY MARTY M.

SEPT 1948 - BOB WRITES ARTICLE FOR GRAPEVINE ON AA "FUNDAMENTALS - IN RETROSPECT".

SEPT 1949 - 1ST ISSUE OF GRAPEVINE PUBLISHED IN "POCKETBOOK" SIZE.

SEPT 11, 2001 - 30 VESEY ST, NEW YORK. LOCATION OF AA'S FIRST OFFICE IS DESTROYED DURING THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK.

SEPT 12, 1942 - U.S. ASSIST. SURGEON GENERAL KOLB SPEAKS AT DINNER FOR BILL AND DR BOB.

SEPT 13, 1937 - FLORENCE R, 1ST FEMALE IN AA IN NY.

SEPT 21, 1938 - BILL W & HANK P FORM WORKS PUBLISHING CO.

SEPT 24, 1940 - BILL 12TH STEPS BOBBIE V, WHO LATER REPLACED RUTH HOCK AS HIS SECRETARY IN NY.



IMPORTANT

When I first came to A.A., I often would hear members talk of the old days, where the newcomers were given jobs of service at the meetings. A newcomer would stand at the door entrance, greeting those attending the meeting. When smoking was still allowed, they were to clean ashtrays. Some were assigned to make coffee and keep it flowing. And some helped set up for the meeting and cleaned up after the meeting. When a newcomer began working with a sponsor, the sponsor may suggest the newcomer call members on the call list they received, maybe one or more a day, just to talk. All of these and more ways were to introduce the newcomer to service.

Back when I was a Boy Scout we would recite the Boy Scout Law at our meetings, and the first three of the 12 Laws were Trustworthy, Loyal, and Helpful. After being in A.A. for a while, I often would think about these laws. What I had done, was throw those to the wayside as I prioritized drinking in my life. I simply didn't want to be inconvenienced helping someone else out because that would interfere with my drinking. I had to make up excuses or lie to get out of helping someone. And I certainly couldn't be trusted to be there when someone needed help. The early days of my drinking were not like this, but as time progressed, these progressed to the point

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Service is Important cont'd

where everything was just about me. I wasn't thinking of how I could be of service to someone.

There is a scene in the movie 'Peaceful Warrior' that I really like. The dialog goes like this:

Dan Millman: What would you say if I told you that I keep seeing those shoes in a dream I keep having?

Socrates: I'd say maybe you're still asleep. You can live a whole lifetime without ever being awake.

Dan Millman: Hey, Socrates. If you know so much how come you're working at a gas station?

Socrates: This is a service station. We offer service. There's no higher purpose.

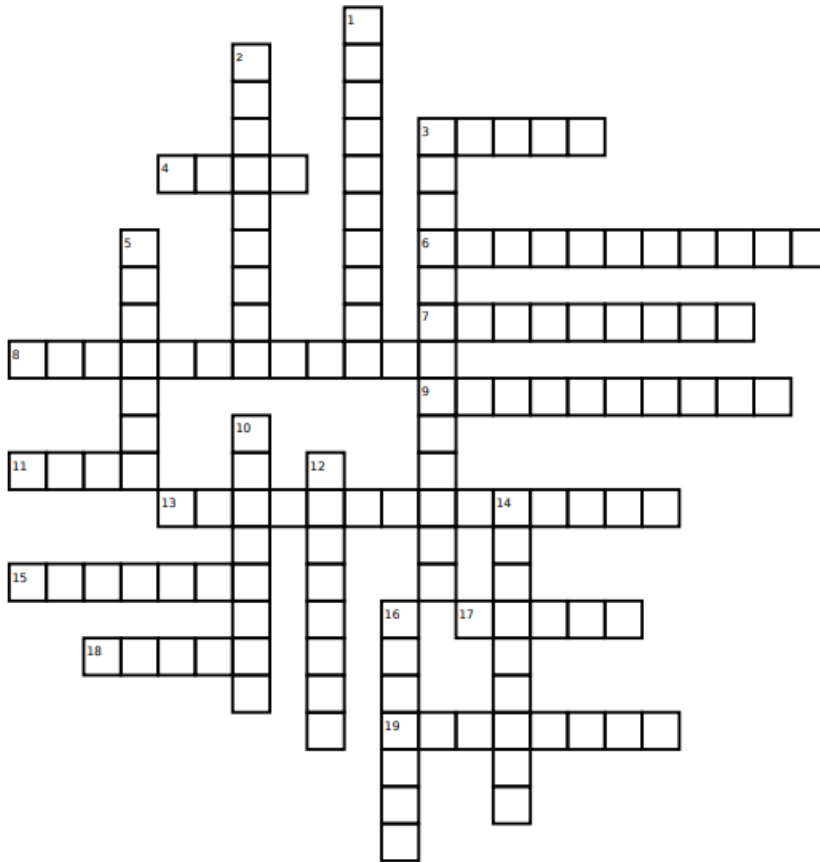
Dan Millman: Than pumping gas?

Socrates: Service to others.

As my drinking progressed, my work at my job suffered because I had stopped viewing my job as service. I am offering my talents as a service to a company and the company gave me paycheck as a thank you. But when I stopped believing that, I began to believe I was giving something expecting something in return. Then it progressed to just expecting something for nothing.

When I do something for someone or something without expectation of anything in return, I am providing service. Providing service keeps my ego in check and makes me feel worthwhile. It provides a sense of humility, that I would be willing to do something for someone else. A.A. has provided me the foundation for providing service. That foundation needs to be expanded to people and areas outside of A.A. as the opportunities for service are everywhere. I just have to be willing to let go of my ego and be humble enough to do those. And when an opportunity for service presents itself and I really don't feel like doing it, I might pause to consider that just maybe, my Higher Power might believe this opportunity would benefit me right now, as well as those I would be of service to. **-John G**

D18 September Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. pain is the _____ of all spiritual progress
2. what happens when we step on the toes of our fellows.
3. is the key to right attitudes in Step 12
5. came to _____ that a power greater than ourselves....
10. the whole emphasis on step 7 is on _____.
12. And when we were wrong we _____ admitted it
14. we need always to maintain this at the level of press.
16. An AA group ought never endorse, _____, or lend the AA name to any facility or outside enterprise.

Across:

3. Personal recovery depends upon AA _____.
4. something we inventory.
6. what is done with motives in Step 10
7. the types of tools we use in AA.
8. one of the four hideous horsemen.
9. what we're never cured of.
11. one of the things that is shared when someone tells their story
13. pitiful and incomprehensible _____.
15. the type of workers employed at AA service centers.
17. an item that can lead us straight back to drinking
18. what we do in the first step
19. one of the things that changes with the promises

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to info@aa-district18.org by 10/2/21 being mindful of our steps and traditions for incorporation into October's newsletter. Any suggestions or comments are always appreciated and can also be sent to info@aa-district18.org . Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter!