

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 9

June 2022



There have been some recent technical issues with the D18 website. They are currently being worked on and I am hoping they will be resolved soon.

- The upcoming meetings was having issues with displaying on the front page of the website. While it is displaying more regularly due to several recently installed updates, there have been times it still does not work or display properly.
- The upcoming events also continues to have issues displaying on the front page of the website. This has been a far more significant issue and I have not seen any resolution even with newly installed updates. It is possible to see what is going on within the district by clicking on events tab on the front of the website or by going to <https://aa-district18.org/events/>
- A lot of work has gone into trying to fix these issues, but this is where things are at.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	A note from the D18 webmaster, Tradition 6
2	What came out of the closet door?, Tradition 6 (cont'd)
3	What came out of the closet (cont'd), June AA history
4	D18 June calendar,
5	D18 June Wordsearch Challenge!
6+	Fliers and other information

Tradition 6 Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine. This month's questions reflect questions related to Tradition Six. We hope that these questions will stimulate dialog on practicing these traditions in all of our affairs.

We have attached the "Guidelines on Clubs" written by the General Service Office to this newsletter to encourage those within District 18 to become familiar with these guidelines.

Within the "Guidelines on Clubs", it refers to another resource, "A.A. Traditions, How It Developed" by Bill W. This second resource contains a lot of helpful information regarding a number of the traditions. There are several very good articles on tradition 6, including, "Hospitals and A.A.", "Clubs in A.A., Are they here to stay?", and "Dangers in linking A.A. to Other Projects". We highly recommend reading these articles as they provide additional information and insight into tradition 6. Additionally, these articles help in answering some of the questions below. We have not attached this second resource due to its length, but it can be easily found online for free.

Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?

continued on page 2



What just came out of the closet door?

At work, I had just finished working with an intern for the past couple of months, teaching her what I do in my job. I had an intern last summer, who proved to be a great asset, by helping us with a huge project. This past intern was a senior in high school participating in program that allowed her this type of internship. Prior to her coming to my company, I thought I was done with interns for a while, but here she was. I enjoy teaching new individuals what I know, but I often found myself thinking of the inconvenience she caused me, working during my lunch time.

Not long after she had finished working with me, rumors started that I would soon get another intern. At the time, I didn't believe it. But then two weeks ago, here he was, ready to learn.

I recently heard someone sharing at a speaker meeting, where they talked about being in the comfort zone, that I've got this under control (that's me paraphrasing). Then all of a sudden, God opens the closet door. One never knows what comes out of the closet door. That really made a lot of sense to me, because God did open the closet door when this new intern appeared, and character defects that I thought I had under control were unleashed. Selfishness, self-pity, why me, anger, mad at the world and mad at my boss. I didn't want this intern, not at this time. I thought I did a good job on my last intern, that I'd catch a break. I did not take out anything on my new intern, I knew that would be wrong and I do like teaching and helping new students. My communication to my co-workers ceased and became minimum. I'm sure my facial expressions showed a lot of what I was feeling. I'd tried fooling people my whole drinking career, but that seldom ever worked. I

continued on page 3

Tradition 6 cont'd

5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

Answer to Question 2:

Is it good for a group to lease a small building? If you would have asked me this question a week ago, my answer would have been no strictly based on tradition 5. Tradition 5 states that the primary purpose of a group is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. If a group gets tangled up in leasing a small building, it complicates what the group's primary purpose should be.

However, this question also gets into traditions 6 and 7. In the chapter on Hospitals and A.A. from "A.A. Traditions: How it Developed", Bill states in reference to A.A. groups founding hospitals, "Where this has been done under the direct auspices of an A.A. group it has almost always backfired. It has put the group into business, a kind of business about which few A.A.'s know anything at all. Too many clashing personalities, too many cooks spoiling the broth, usually bring about the abandonment of such attempts. We have been obliged to see that an A.A. group is primarily a spiritual entity; that, as a group the less business it has to transact, the better".

This passage is also directly relevant to a leasing a building. If a group leases a building, they have made a commitment to a legally binding contract involving money. What happens if the group isn't raising enough money in their meetings to cover the building? If the group defaults on the contract, who is legally responsible? It tends to get very messy very quickly.

One of the temptations for any group that undertakes this venture, is to use the A.A. name either in naming the building or for fundraising to undertake this venture. If it benefits the alcoholic, it surely has to be okay, doesn't it? However, this is where the crux of tradition 6 is. If a group attaches the A.A. name to a building and the venture goes south, how is A.A. going to look? A.A. would look terrible! This tradition gives ample warning for groups not to get involved in other ventures, and against using the A.A. name, even if the venture serves to benefit the alcoholic. -KS

What came out of the closet door (cont'd)

knew I couldn't express my aggravation or take it out on anyone, so I kept it bottled up and my positive attitude disappeared.

I'd like to share a section out of the Daily Reflection, from May 28 2022: "Today I try to replace my fear and intolerance with faith, patience, love and acceptance. I can bring these strengths to my A.A. group, my home and my office. I make an effort to bring my positive attitude everywhere that I go."

Wow. Up to the point of this new intern, I felt I had been doing everything this passage said. I enjoyed my job, co-workers, daily challenges a job can bring on. I'd been working my AA program, going to meetings, and providing rides to those that needed rides to meetings. I thought my program was strong. But God felt I needed a test. And the closet door was opened, to see how I have progressed in the program. I cannot say I failed the test, but rather was exposed to some defects that linger in me. Quite a few defects are still silently waiting in the background for their chance to breathe life again. Just like my alcoholism, it is just waiting, waiting, for the opportunity. Each of those defects needed only one defect to start with, selfishness. Once selfishness is in full bloom in me, the others just hop on the band wagon, and it's off to the races. And it can be a vulnerable time for an alcoholic like me.

What a lesson God has provided me. A chance to see where I am at. I thought I had it under control, that everything was smooth sailing. God knew better and he showed me. What he showed me, is something I don't like to see in me. This was a really hard lesson for me to learn, and it is not fixed yet, but is being worked on. And what I've learned is selfishness is separation from God, where I try running the show again. I thank God for showing me that there is still work to be done.

And finally, I really enjoy working with my new intern. He doesn't shy away from what I ask him to do, he asks questions with an eagerness to learn, and is just a nice guy. This past week became rather enjoyable, once I put selfishness back in the closet and gave the driver's seat back to God.

- John G

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY AA HISTORY

JUNE 1947 - "AA PREAMBLE" FIRST PRINTED IN GRAPEVINE.

JUNE 1953 - "TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS" PUBLISHED.

JUNE 1, 1949 - ANNE RIPLEY SMITH, BOB'S WIFE, DIED.

JUNE 5, 1939 - NEW YORK TIMES FAVORABLY REVIEWED THE BIG BOOK.

JUNE 10, 1935 - DR. BOB HAS LAST DRINK (SOME SAY IT MAY HAVE BEEN ON JUNE 17 BASED ON DATE OF MEDICAL CONVENTION HE ATTENDED.).

JUNE 11, 1935 - DR. BOB SUGGESTS HE AND BILL START WORKING WITH OTHER ALCOHOLICS.

JUNE 16, 1938 - DATE OF JIM B'S, "VICIOUS CYCLE" FROM BIG BOOK, LAST DRINK.

JUNE 18, 1940 - MEETING HELD IN FIRST 'AA CLUBHOUSE', AT 334½ W. 24TH ST, NYC.

JUNE 19, 1942 - NY PAPER REPORTS 6 COPS SENT TO AA ARE SOBER. POLICE COMMISSIONER CREDITS AA WITH "FEWER SUICIDES" ON HIS FILES.

JUNE 21, 1944 - THE A.A. GRAPEVINE ESTABLISHED.

JUNE 26, 1935 - BILL D, AA#3, HAD LAST DRINK BEFORE BEING ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.

JUNE 28, 1935 - BILL AND DR. BOB VISIT BILL D, FIRST "MAN ON THE BED." HE BECOMES AA#3.

JUNE 30, 1939 - DR. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK FAVORABLY REVIEWED THE BIG BOOK.

JUNE 30, 1941 - JACK C & RUTH HOCK BROUGHT THE 'SERENITY PRAYER' TO BILL'S ATTENTION.

Upcoming Events for June

SOBRIETY HIKE

- DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH
- TIME: 9:30-12P, CARPOOL: WILL BE LEAVING AT 8:30A FROM THE CSO.
- PLACE: NATURE INSTITUTE IN GODFREY,
- OTHER DETAILS: BRING WATER AND A LUNCH

SUNDAY MORNING BIG BOOK PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH
- TIME: BREAKFAST 8:30A, MEETING 9:00A
- PLACE: CSO

GSR MEETING-HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH 2022
- TIME: 2:00P
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
- PASSCODE: 093088

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH 2022
- TIME: 3:00P
- PLACE: CSO

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEETING

- DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH 2022
- TIME: 6:00P
- PLACE: ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 4525 2243
- PASSCODE: 508512

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ARCHWAY TO FREEDOM CORRECTIONS WORKSHOP

- PUT ON BY DISTRICT 18 AND DISTRICT 2 (MISSOURI)
- DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH
- TIME: 9:00A-12P
- PLACE: CSO AND ON ZOOM
- PLEASE SEE FLIER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



I was doing some reading and a quote from Sir John Lubbock captured my attention this morning. The quote said, "To render ourselves insensible to pain we must forfeit also the possibilities of happiness".

When thinking about that quote, it describes the situation I found myself in with drinking. For many years, I drank because it was a solution for dealing with uncomfortable feelings and thoughts. I didn't know how to turn my mind off, so drinking was one way taking care of this problem. It also made me numb. At the same point, I missed out on a lot of other things as well; sources of potential happiness and how to deal with these issues on my own.

In the reading that used this quote, it mentioned that we isolate to protect ourselves from pain, just like a caterpillar is protecting itself when it goes into its cocoon. To expand upon this reading further, the caterpillar can't stay in the cocoon forever. If it stays in the cocoon, it will die. If it gets out of the cocoon, it has to face what may be going on outside. This can be a scary proposition as the outside is now largely unknown as it's been isolated. Eventually the pain from staying inside the cocoon outweighs the fear of what may be going on outside, and that is when things change.

I found this above description similar to the process we go through when we get sober. We initially find ourselves stuck and having to make the painful choice of whether to keep drinking and staying in the cocoon, or getting sober and facing the fear of what life will be like without alcohol. While getting sober and facing life on life's terms can be initially scary, we eventually realize that life outside the cocoon is much better than life within the cocoon. We also realize that with getting sober, we are no longer who we once were. While we may have been a caterpillar while we were drinking, with the process of getting sober and working the 12 steps, we soon begin to find that we're a beautiful butterfly. We also find that we a new freedom, one that we would have never found if we'd stayed in that cocoon as a caterpillar. -KS

D18 June Wordsearch Challenge Puzzle

Directions: How many words can you find in the below wordsearch puzzle? The challenge is finding all of them without looking at which ones are contained. When you are done, check what you found with the answer key that is upside down below. Many of these words are connected with June's newsletter.

S	E	A	R	C	H	I	N	G	T	L	I	W	O
R	R	E	H	G	I	H	E	Y	E	N	O	M	D
P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y	P	O	W	E	R	S
T	S	E	L	A	E	G	N	E	M	U	S	T	C
P	U	R	P	O	S	E	D	I	S	T	U	O	I
E	N	T	E	R	P	R	I	S	E	N	C	M	L
E	N	L	E	N	G	T	H	E	A	E	N	U	O
N	G	N	I	L	L	I	W	E	C	S	E	P	H
D	P	R	I	M	A	R	Y	N	T	E	R	P	O
O	R	E	N	A	M	E	A	C	O	O	A	E	C
R	L	V	E	U	A	N	E	N	R	N	E	T	L
S	W	E	H	R	I	F	A	S	Y	N	N	S	A
E	V	N	N	F	E	S	S	E	L	R	A	E	F
R	M	H	U	D	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R

There are 24 words in the above puzzle: 1)never, 2)primary, 3)money, 4) property, 5)length, 6) any, 7)alcoholics, 8) muppets, 9)higher, 10) fearless, 11)lend, 12) searching, 13)finance, 14)name, 15)endorse, 16)outside, 17)lest, 18)must, 19)enterprise, 20)willing, 21)power, 22)character, 23)defects, 24)purpose

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN JULY, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to info@aa-district18.org by 7/3/22 being mindful of our steps and traditions. Any suggestions or comments are always appreciated and can also be sent to info@aa-district18.org . Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter!

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 6TH**

**FROM 9 AM
TO NOON**

SHARING OUR MIRACLE WITH OUR MEMBERS INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES



**ARCHWAY
TO
FREEDOM
WORKSHOP**

SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 18 (ILLINOIS) & DISTRICT 2 (MISSOURI)

HYBRID, ON ZOOM – 892 9882 0291 / aainside

AND IN-PERSON:

SOUTHERN IL AA CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

409 BROADWAY UNIT C1

SOUTH ROXANA, ILLINOIS

- SHARING FROM PEOPLE WHO FOUND AA ON THE INSIDE/
SHARING FROM THOSE WHO CARRY THE MESSAGE INTO FACILITIES TODAY
- CORRECTIONS CORRESPONDENCE AND PRE-RELEASE CONTACT PROGRAM
- SIGNING UP TO GIVE BACK WHAT WE'VE SO FREELY RECEIVED

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: JEFF D. 618-444-9848 (DIST 18) OR
BOB L. 314-256-9574 (DIST 2) / EMAIL DCM@DISTRICT2.EAMO.ORG**

“REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED AFTERWARDS (NOTHING GOURMET)”

**Please direct all
communications to:**

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

Update on printing delays and backorders due to supply chain disruptions

Dear A.A. Friends,

As we have been updating everyone throughout these unprecedented times, supply chain disruptions throughout the worldwide paper, printing and trucking industries continue to unfavorably impact the manufacture and distribution of A.A.W.S. literature and other items.

Since 2020 we have implemented many measures in efforts to reduce potential backorders — for example, ordering paper and scheduling reprints with our printers of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and other items more than six months in advance of projected need.

The good news: Demand for the Big Book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other items of literature has rebounded from the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic — as folks are returning to in-person meetings.

The not-good news: We are currently out of stock of the English hardcover Big Book (Item B-1) and unable to reprint expeditiously. This is due to a serious supply-chain matter beyond our control regarding a disruption in the necessary paper delivery during the holidays at our printing plant.

continued on next page

Taking action

We are in communication daily with our printers, and I personally have reached out to their leadership to emphasize how important this book is in carrying A.A.'s message to our Fellowship and beyond.

Mixed-Title pilot test discounts will be honored

Note: Our current "Mixed Title" discount will be honored for all orders of backordered items placed by September 30, 2022. Items will be shipped when available.

Update

The expected in-stock date for copies of the Big Book, unabridged hardcover (B-1), to be available for order from our warehouses is currently third week of June.

Other formats of the Big Book are available on the A.A.W.S. webstore

As you know, the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, English edition may be accessed in many formats. The following English-language formats are currently in stock and available for ordering:

- **Big Book unabridged (with stories) softcover (B-30)**
- **Big Book CD set, abridged (M-81a)**

Note: A few other formats of the Big Book, as well as other A.A.W.S. book titles, are currently on backorder and in the reprint process at printers and manufacturers.

continued on next page

Estimated in stock dates, *subject to change beyond our control*,
for these books are as follows:

- Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* unabridged hardcover (B-1) in stock third week in June
- Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* abridged, large print softcover (B-24) in stock first week in June
- Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* unabridged, large print softcover (B-16) in stock week of June 20
- Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* abridged pocket-sized softcover (B-35) in stock third week in June
- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* large print (B-14) in stock early September
- *As Bill Sees It* hardcover (B-5) in stock week of July 4
- *Daily Reflections* large print (B-19) in stock third week in June
- *Daily Reflections* softcover (B-12) in stock August
- *A.A. in Prison: A Message of Hope* (revised title) softcover (B-13) in stock mid-June
- *Living Sober* large print (B-25) in stock first week in August
- *Alcohólicos Anónimos* large print (SB-16) in stock end of June
- *Alcohólicos Anónimos* portable softcover (SB-30) in stock first week in June
- *Doce Pasos y Doce Tradiciones* large print (SB-14) in stock August
- *Como Lo Ve Bill* (SB-18) in stock second week in June
- *Les Alcooliques Anonymes* hardcover (FB-1) in stock first week in June
- *Les Alcooliques Anonymes* abridged, large print softcover (FB-24) in stock first week in June
- *Les Douze Étapes et les Douze Traditions* large print softcover (FB-14) in stock first week in June
- *Vivre ... sans alcool!* (FB-7) in stock first week in July
- *Nous en sommes venus à croire* (FB-6) in stock second week in June

continued on next page

What we are doing to actively address current and potential intermittent backorders

Our teams across many departments in the office have been working to address these challenges, placing orders for paper and binding supplies nine months in advance, and scheduling press time well in advance for reprints to help reduce backorders caused by these disruptions.

Projected continued out-of-stock periods

It is likely, however, that we will be experiencing intermittent disruptions for the foreseeable future, as all publishers will, based on industry-wide reporting. We will keep everyone informed.

Webstore and Member Services

Our Member Services and A.A.W.S. webstore teams have implemented measures to insure the following:

- 1) Those seeking to purchase items will receive all discounts earned on items that they select – including those items on backorder.
- 2) Individuals ordering can “add to cart” and place orders for these items as they normally would. The items will ship when they are back in stock.
- 3) Purchasers will receive emails informing them of any backorders.
- 4) The product detail pages of the webstore will state when an item is “out of stock,” provide an estimated “back in stock” date, and display related items available for purchase now (the same content in different formats, for example).
- 5) A notice on the detail pages for out-of-stock items will reiterate that purchasers seeking to order our literature may check with their local Intergroups and Central Offices, which may have the items in stock.

As always, we encourage ordering the Big Book and all of our items of literature from local groups, Intergroups and Central Offices, as they play a vital role in funding local Twelfth Step activities.

continued on next page

Working together, we are committed to A.A.'s time-honored tradition of collaboration and resilience within the Fellowship as we carry the message via our literature.

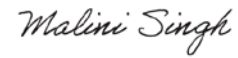
With all best A.A. wishes,



David R.,

Publishing Director

A.A. World Services, Inc.



Malini Singh

Director of Operations

A.A. World Services, Inc.

A.A.® Guidelines

Relationship Between A.A. and Clubs

from G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an *informed* group conscience.

These Guidelines are for A.A. members responsible for clubs and similar facilities that provide meeting space for one or more A.A. groups.

It's important that club members and A.A. groups respect A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, including the long form of Tradition Three that defines an A.A. group: "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend on money or conformity. 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."

The relationship between a club and an A.A. group is mutually beneficial when all involved respect the autonomy of the group. Members of a group may also be "club members," and pay dues to enjoy the privileges of the club. However, there are no dues or fees for membership in an A.A. group, and each group is self-supporting with regard to rental payments for meeting space, coffee arrangements and literature.

SINCE THE EARLY DAYS...

There have always been A.A.s who have sought a place to go for coffee and conversation; a spot where members could gather for lunch; a place where they could gather socially on weekends and holidays.

In 1947, Bill W. wrote a Grapevine article on clubs that became part of our pamphlet "A.A. Tradition—How It Developed." The title carried the question, "Clubs in A.A.—Are They With Us to Stay?" Today, the answer to that question can be "yes." The success and the endurance of the club idea can be ascribed to the wisdom and guidance expressed in Bill's article and to the willingness of club-minded A.A.s to help make them work. These A.A.s make it possible for a club to function effectively without detracting from A.A.'s source of recovery—the A.A. group. Experience demonstrates that a club can live in harmony with the A.A. community and serve a very useful purpose for those who find a club helpful.

GETTING STARTED

- Even though a club is not "A.A.," many will think of the club as A.A.—particularly the non-A.A.s in your community. While it is suggested that the name of the club not involve A.A., the club members stick carefully to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and accept funds only from club members. Naturally, this includes any kind of fund-raising that would involve the public. Dues and contributions

from club members keep the club going, in addition to rent money from A.A. groups that hold their meetings in the club.

Frequently, there is a temptation for a club to accept building materials, furniture, and kitchen equipment and supplies from well-meaning, civic-minded non-A.A.s. Everyone in the club will want to respect Tradition Seven and the principle of self-support that has brought A.A. along to this point completely independent and financially sound.

- Define the purpose of the club and look for space that will meet the club's needs. Determine the amount of money needed for such an operation, and work out a budget that will cover getting started, rent, utilities, custodial care, and any other known expenses.

- Call a meeting of all interested A.A.s—*separate from an A.A. group meeting*. Discuss the plans and financial needs, and determine how many dues-paying members can be counted on from the beginning. Also, ask the local A.A. group or groups whether they would be interested in renting space from the club for meetings and, if so, how much rent they would consider reasonable.

Sometimes, charter members of the club are willing to pay a little more in the beginning to help get the club off the ground. It seems better to ask all to participate in this financing than for one or two people to assume this responsibility. Let every A.A. participate who wants to, so that the club has the support of many members.

- At this meeting, you might also determine qualifications for club membership. Most clubs require 30 days of A.A. sobriety, while a few require 90 days. But new A.A.s may use the club facilities as guests until they qualify for club membership. All dues-paying members are normally eligible to hold office and to vote at the club business meetings.

WHAT KIND OF DIRECTORS?

- During the initial meeting, ask interested members to consider two more questions: Who will serve as club directors?; and What should their qualifications be? Directors' handle the business affairs of the club, are responsible for the lease and pay all bills for maintenance of the property. Many clubs require approximately three years' A.A. sobriety for directors. Most agree that A.A. members serving as club directors should not hold offices in the A.A. groups meeting in the club. This practice avoids confusion and conflicts.

BUSINESS DECISIONS

- If enough A.A.s are interested to make financing possible, it is time to consult a lawyer and have the club incorporated as a non-

profit business organization, under the rules of the state or province in which it will function. Needless to say, a club so incorporated should not have "A.A." in its name. This should not be a very complicated or expensive project. Incorporation is in accordance with Tradition Six, which implies that property to be used by A.A.s should be separately incorporated and managed, "lest problems of money, property, and prestige" divert A.A. from its primary purpose. If bank loans are necessary, they are held by directors of the corporation, and payments are made from club funds. It is better to start small and enlarge as growth and finances warrant.

- After the club is incorporated, a meeting of the directors may be held to determine details of club operation. This might be followed by a meeting of dues-paying members to obtain approval of overall plans and club rules.
- Gambling: Many difficulties have been caused in already-existing clubs over the years because of gambling; and in some cases, publicity and notoriety have resulted. Because so many club members are also A.A. members, this kind of thing can be damaging to A.A.
- Card games, billiards, table tennis, and TV-watching are activities that many club members enjoy, if they are played for the fun of it, not for money (gambling, placing bets, etc.).
- Experience proves that intergroup or central offices, answering services, and central service committees need to be separate from clubs—*physically separate and separate as far as administration is concerned*. In some cases, a newly formed intergroup or central office is invited to use club facilities. At that point, A.A.s should take a good look at Tradition Nine and remember that a service office is responsible to all A.A. groups and members, while a club is responsible chiefly to its dues-paying members and the groups that rent space from the club.

A.A. GROUPS MEETING IN CLUBS

The A.A. group: The importance of each group's maintaining its autonomy and identity separate from the club in which it meets cannot be emphasized too strongly. The group's responsibility is to the suffering alcoholic and to the Fellowship as a whole, rather than to the club. In order to fulfill this primary purpose:

- The group uses a name different from that of the club.

- The group is self-supporting through its own contributions. This includes paying a fair rent for use of the facilities, maintaining a separate treasury, and making its own contributions directly to the local central/intergroup office, the district, the area general service committee, and to G.S.O.

- Remember, an A.A. group is available to any alcoholic, as the only requirement for group membership is a desire to stop drinking.

- Even though the group meets in a club that may be composed exclusively of A.A. members, and many members of the group may be club members, too, the relationship of the A.A. group itself to the club should be the same as it would be to a church, hospital, school, or other facility in which it might rent space for its meetings.

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

A discussion on clubs during the 1967 General Service Conference noted that, although there is no such thing as an "A.A. club," many clubs have been identified with A.A. because they are often organized and directed by A.A. members and membership may be limited to A.A.s. Clubs where meetings are held and which are maintained for Twelfth Step as well as social purposes can avoid difficulties by abiding by A.A. Traditions. Conference members agreed that clubs should not use the A.A. name, should be organized apart from A.A., and should not accept money from outside sources, being supported by membership dues and individual contributions from A.A. members. The question of a paid membership in A.A. does not arise, since A.A. meetings held in clubs are open to all.

Further guidance was given by the 1972 General Service Conference, which advised that G.S.O. no longer accept contributions from clubs. This decision was based on returns from a questionnaire sent to all clubs. The answers indicated that the difference in club operating procedures was too great to enable G.S.O. to decide whether or not money received from a particular club was contributed by A.A. members only. (Of course, G.S.O. does accept contributions from A.A. groups that meet on club premises.)

In 1989, the General Service Conference recommended to discontinue listing clubs in A.A. Directories. However, groups that meet in clubs will continue to be listed in the Directories.

mostateconvention.org

UNIFIED IN RECOVERY AND FELLOWSHIP JULY 29TH—31ST 2022

With AFG Participation

Friday

Erin G.— Peculiar, MO - AFG
Ashley O.— Des Moines, IA

Saturday

Doug R. - Tujunga, CA
Michael C.— Pineville, MO - AFG
Carla R. - Tujunga, CA

Sunday

Doug O.— Des Moines, IA



LOWER PRICES !!
MOVIES
PRISON GHOST TOUR
A TIME IN AA HISTORY
AND MORE !!!

CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL
415 W MCCARTY ST
JEFFERSON CITY, MO

800-338-8088
USE CODE

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION
ROOM RATE-\$97 + TAX PER NIGHT



register online at MOSTATECONVENTION.ORG or complete this form and mail to

MOSC Registration ~ PO Box 407 ~ Columbia MO 65201

Complete one form per registration. Make checks/money orders payable to MOSC

Email _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ AA AFG
Name on badge if other than first name last initial _____

I am staying at the hotel for _____ nights

I would like to volunteer to help at the convention

Early Registration \$20

Before June 30th

Registration \$25

July 1st and after

Saturday Night Banquet \$31

or Vegetarian Option

Friday Night Ice Cream \$5

Saturday Night Ice Cream \$5

Additional Contribution \$_____

Hotel Restaurant

Discounted price
if included with registration

Friday Evening Buffet \$16.50

Saturday Breakfast \$10.50

Saturday Lunch \$11.50

Sunday Breakfast \$10.50

Total included \$_____