AA District 18
Newsletter

Volume 6 | Issue 11 | November 2026 *Editor: Matt B. Tuesday Night Group, Main St. Community Center, Edwardsville*

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me…

The serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

The courage to change the things I can,

And the wisdom to know the difference!

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Announcements

North Alton Group - Annual Fall Chili Potluck Speaker Meeting The Bridge Church - 504 E 12th Street, Alton, IL 62002 Monday 11/02/26 Jeff T.
Eat at 6:30pm, Speaker at 7:30pm. Bring your favorite dessert if you are so inclined.

Great River Roundup Annual Chili Cookoff
724 East Bethalto Drive, Bethalto, IL
November 14, 2026, 12pm-4pm
Maggie W.
50/50 Raffle, Basket Raffle, Babysitter from 1-3pm, Coffee & Water Provided

Thanksgiving Dinner and Speaker Meeting
First Baptist Church, 608 N. Van Buren St., Litchfield, IL 62056
November 23 Travis W.
6:00 Dinner, 7:30 Speaker

Illinois State Conference 2027 Planning Committee Zoom Every third Wednesday from 8-9p
MEETING ID: 884 7212 3124
PW: area21

Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly
900 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL
12/13/26 9AM-3:30PM
Pre-assembly 12/12

- **Looking for Volunteers to "Bridge the Gap" - helping newcomers coming out of Treatment.** Click to Sign UP
- **Speaker Meeting**
  3722 N. Bluff Rd. Edwardsville, IL
  Sunday Nov. 29, 2026
  Randy C.
  He's new to the area. Come meet the new guy.

***District 18 GSR's *- Southern Illinois Area 21 presents a new Service Information YouTube video.** Click here for GSR Training Video **.**

Looking for Volunteers to "Bridge the Gap" - helping newcomers coming out of Treatment. Click to Sign UP

We need your help! Area 21 and the GSO are wanting to make sure they have the correct information for each group's GSR in District 18. **You can make sure your group's GSR is current by filling out the below form**. All GSRs will receive a digital GSR kit and can sign up for a GSR kit to be mailed. **Link to GSR change form.** You can

Humor Corner

I got so drunk one night I decided to check my bank account to make sure I wasn't spending too much money on booze. I looked at the balance, did some calculations on a napkin, and decided I was doing pretty well financially. The next morning I found the napkin. I'd listed my rent, utilities, groceries, and car payment, then crossed out groceries and written, "Can eat at meetings." Apparently, I wasn't an alcoholic with a drinking problem. I was a financial planner with a very aggressive budget.

I got so drunk one night I decided I needed to start keeping a diary so I could remember what happened when I was drinking. The next morning I found a notebook on the kitchen table with one entry: "Friday, 11:30 p.m. Everything is going great." Underneath that, in much larger handwriting, I'd written, "DO NOT TRUST FRIDAY." I checked the calendar. It was Tuesday. Apparently, my drinking had gotten so bad I was blacking out in advance.

Thoughts on Step 11

In *Came to Believe*, one member writes, **"We don't improve our conscious contact with God, as we understand Him, by projecting into the future."**

That is a good reminder of what Step Eleven is really about. Prayer and meditation are not supposed to give us tomorrow's answers today. They help us stay grounded, quiet our own thinking, and become more willing to understand what God would have us do right now.

Step Eleven also asks for something different from simply asking God to fix our problems. We pray for knowledge of His will and the strength to follow it. Sometimes the answer is not what we hoped for, and sometimes it is simply to wait.

The more regularly we practice Step Eleven, the less we have to run life entirely on our own thinking. We learn to listen, trust, and take the next right step.

—Based on Came to Believe, A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

also go directly to the Area 21 website, hover over home, and click "change form" to access the same form. **Link to Area 21 website.**

If you want to submit an announcement, birthday, etc. for THE NEWSLETTER for a specific month, I MUST HAVE it, before end of month prior. If you want it included in November for instance, I MUST get it in October!!

Spotlight on Step 11

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

Step Eleven is where we learn that recovery is more than staying sober. It is about developing and maintaining a conscious relationship with God. The earlier Steps taught us to surrender, examine ourselves, make amends, and take responsibility. Step Eleven teaches us to seek God's guidance in how we live each day.

Prayer and meditation are the foundation of this Step. Prayer allows us to speak honestly with God, while meditation teaches us to become quiet enough to listen. For many alcoholics, this is difficult. We spent years trying to control everything, demanding answers, and insisting that life unfold according to our plans. Step Eleven asks us to surrender that control.

Perhaps the most important words are "praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out." We are not asking God to arrange the world according to our wishes. We are asking Him to help us understand what is right and give us the courage to do it.

The Little Red Book describes Step Eleven as a maintenance Step, reminding us that spiritual growth requires continued attention, even when life is going well. Complacency can quietly weaken the very spiritual foundation upon which our sobriety rests.

Step Eleven is not about becoming religious experts or having extraordinary spiritual experiences. It is about developing a daily habit of seeking God's direction, trusting His wisdom, and acting upon what we come to understand.

AA 11th Step Prayer

My God,
I pray to keep my connection with You
Open & clear from the confusion of daily life.
Through my prayers & meditation I ask especially for
Freedom from self-will, rationalization, & wishful thinking.
I pray for the guidance of correct thought & positive action.
Your will, not mine, be done.

https://www.aacle.org/twelve-step-prayers/

Almighty God, keep my heart and mind steadfast in You, that the distractions of daily life may not cloud our communion. Grant me freedom from self-will, deception, and vain desires, that my thoughts may be right and my actions faithful. Lead me always in Your will and not my own; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Grapevine Daily Quote

"I don't foresee outgrowing my need for help."

Harrisonburg, Virginia, May 1991, "Lonely at the Top," Emotional Sobriety

The most dangerous sentence I as an alcoholic can say is, 'I've got this.' When I really think about those words, it's not me saying those, but alcohol. I have to always remember that alcohol is cunning, baffling and powerful. It looks for a weakness in me and exploits that weakness. Connection to another member(s) is but one of many defenses that I need to employ. I cannot grow alone, I require the help of other members.

John G

A.A. Historical Note

Hank P. and the Freedom of A.A. Groups

In the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, Hank P., one of A.A.'s pioneering New York members, wrote to Bill W. advocating greater autonomy for individual groups. His concerns reflected an important question facing the growing Fellowship: Should A.A. groups govern themselves, or should decisions come from a central authority?

As A.A. expanded, new groups developed their own personalities, practices, and ways of carrying the message. Some believed greater oversight was necessary to preserve order and consistency. Others recognized that too much centralized control might threaten the very spirit of the Fellowship.

Experience gradually demonstrated that A.A. worked best when groups were free to manage their own affairs, guided by a collective group conscience and the principles of recovery.

This understanding eventually became the Fourth Tradition: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

Group autonomy was never intended to mean that anything goes. Rather, it established a balance between independence and responsibility. Every group enjoys the freedom to make its own decisions, but that freedom carries an obligation to consider the welfare of neighboring groups and A.A. as a whole.

Hank's early advocacy reminds us that A.A.'s Traditions emerged from practical experience, sometimes difficult disagreements, and the willingness to learn from mistakes. That hard-earned wisdom continues to protect the Fellowship today, allowing individual groups to remain independent while working together to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

Humor in Sobriety

I used to treat grocery store self-checkout machines like they were deliberately trying to embarrass me in public. I'd scan three items successfully, start feeling pretty proud of myself, and then the machine would announce, "Unexpected item in bagging area," loud enough for people over in the produce department to hear. I'd remove the item, put it back, move the bag, and eventually start negotiating with the machine like it was a stubborn mule. Meanwhile, the woman at the next register would scan forty-seven groceries, bag them, pay, and leave while I was still arguing over a can of green beans. These days, I approach self-checkout with a little more patience. I scan slowly, follow the instructions, and try not to take criticism from a grocery store appliance personally. Occasionally, I still need an employee to come over and straighten things out. That's fine. I've discovered that asking for help doesn't make me look nearly as foolish as standing there threatening a machine that doesn't have ears. Although I still suspect that little red light is laughing at me.

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Tech Corner / Cyber Security Tips

Your smartphone may be sharing more information than you realize. Every photograph you take can contain hidden information called *metadata*, including the date, time, and sometimes the precise GPS location where the picture was taken. Imagine posting a photograph of your grandchildren playing in the backyard, not realizing the original image may reveal your home address through its location data. Criminals can sometimes use this information to identify where you live, work, or spend your time. Before sharing photographs online, check your phone's camera location settings and consider disabling location tagging. Many social media platforms remove location metadata, but you should never assume they all do.

Remember, a photograph can reveal more than what you see in the picture.

Matt B.

AA History in November

November 1:
1947 – 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska
1963 – Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies

November 3:
2001 – J.P. Miller, wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died

November 9:
1966 – President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

November 10:
1940 – 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis
2001 – 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

November 11:
1934 – Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month

November 12:
1940 – 1st AA meeting is held in Boston

November 13:
1939 – Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement November 13, 1939

November 14:
1940 – Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin

November 15:
1949 – Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

November 16:
1950 – Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio

November 18
1946 – 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21:
1939 – AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel –

Step 11 Thoughts

Step Eleven reminds me that sobriety is not the same thing as spiritual growth. I can stay sober, go to meetings, help others, and still become spiritually stuck if I neglect prayer, meditation, and seeking God's direction.

Bill W. wrote, "The other Steps can keep most of us sober and somehow functioning. But Step Eleven can keep us growing." — Bill W., "Take Step Eleven," *The Language of the Heart*, pp. 240–241.

That is a powerful distinction. Step Eleven is not simply about asking God for help when I am in trouble. It is about developing a continuing relationship with Him, learning to listen instead of always talking, and becoming more willing to follow His will instead of insisting on my own.

Spiritual growth does not happen automatically with time sober. It requires attention and practice. Step Eleven keeps me from settling for simply not drinking and invites me into a deeper, steadier, more useful way of living.

An Ode to Sobriety

I used to drink for courage,
For happiness and cheer.
For heartbreak, stress, and boredom,
Or simply finding beer.
I never had a drinking problem—
Except when booze wasn't near!

My friends all said I'd changed a lot,
My family said, "Thank God!"
My dog no longer hides from me,
The neighbors think it's odd.
I used to be the talk of town—
Now I'm just another slob!

I traded bars for meetings,
And whiskey for caffeine.
I used to wake up wondering
Where the hell last night had been.
Now I wake up remembering—
And some days that's obscene!

November 21:
1952 – Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies

November 26:
1895 – William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT
1939 – Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups
1939 – Dilworth Lupton gave sermon "Mr. X and Alcoholics Anonymous". Became one of first pamphlets on AA.

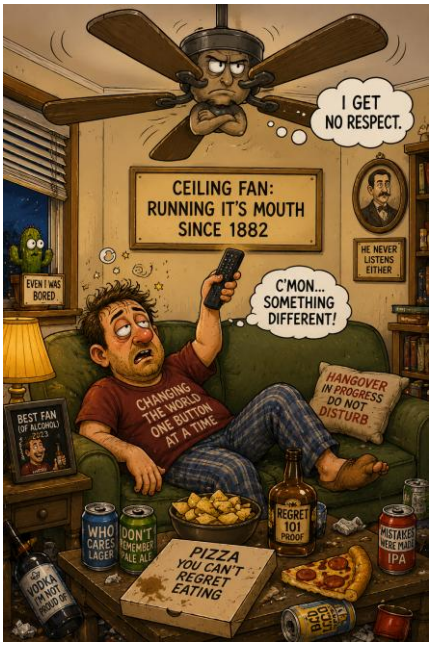
November 28

1934 – Ebby T. carries message to Bill.
1936 – Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become 'AA #3 in NY', with Bill W and Hank P.
1937 – Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement … a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.
1939 – Akron group withdrawals from association with Oxford
Group. Meetings moved from T Henry & Clarence Williams to Dr Bob and other members homes.
1939 – Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.
1943 – Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)

Other significant events in November for which we have no specific Dates:

1936 – Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become AA #3 in NY with Bill W and Hank P.
1941 – "First Mass AA Meeting" in Oklahoma City, 8 present, 1 was drunk
1945 – Bill's article called 'Those Goof Balls' published in Grapevine.
1986 – The Big Book is published in paperback

So here's to sober living,
To laughter, friends, and grace.
To finding all my car keys
In their proper resting place.
I haven't lost my marbles yet—
They're just scattered all over the place!



Haiku on Alcoholism

The whiskey runs dry,
But sorrow still fills the glass—
Dawn brings no escape.

Haiku on Recovery

One step at a time,
Old wounds heal beneath God's grace—
Hope rises anew.

Highlighting the 11th Promise of AA:

"Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us."

Fear drove much of our lives when we were drinking. We worried about what people thought of us, whether they liked us, whether they respected us, and what might happen if they discovered who we really were. Money brought its own fears.

Would there be enough? Would we lose the job, the house, or everything we had worked for? Sometimes we drank to quiet those fears, only to create even more reasons to be afraid.

Promise Ten does not say that financial problems disappear or that everyone suddenly approves of us. It promises something deeper: the fear begins to leave. The Big Book places this promise directly within the spiritual change that follows the work of making amends.

Recovery teaches us that we can face life as it comes. We clean up our side of the street, become more responsible, and stop trying to control what other people think. We learn to do the next right thing and trust God with what remains beyond our control.

Economic insecurity changes in much the same way. We still have bills, unexpected expenses, job worries, and uncertain futures. But we no longer have to live tomorrow's problems today. We become responsible for what we can do and increasingly willing to leave the rest in God's hands.

The Big Book reminds us immediately afterward to continue watching for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear and, when they arise, to turn to God and then toward someone we can help.

Promise Ten is not a promise that life becomes secure. It is the promise that we can become secure enough in God to face an insecure life.

A Devotion for the Christian in Recovery

Verse
Psalm 56:3 "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you." (WEB)

Meditation
Fear has a way of returning long after the drinking has stopped. For many in recovery, it appears in unpaid bills, damaged relationships, uncertain futures, or the sudden thought that everything could fall apart again. Psalm 56:3 does not deny fear or demand that it disappear. The psalmist acknowledges fear and places trust in God. That distinction matters. Trust is not the absence of trembling; it is dependence upon the Lord while trembling continues. The old life sought relief through escape, control, and false promises of security. None could deliver lasting peace. Christ offers something altogether different. Through His death and resurrection, He has secured what fear cannot take away: forgiveness, reconciliation with the Father, and the promise of eternal life. When anxious thoughts return, the believer need not manufacture courage. God's faithfulness remains unchanged. The same Lord who has sustained each sober day remains present in the uncertainty of tomorrow.

Collect
Almighty and merciful Father, strengthen fearful hearts with the assurance of Your abiding presence. When uncertainty awakens old anxieties and earthly securities fail, turn trembling souls toward the promises of Christ. Grant steadfast faith, quiet confidence, and patient endurance, that Your children may rest in Your unfailing care, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn Verse
Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

(LSB 752 – "Be Still, My Soul," verse 1)

Spotlight on Tradition 11:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Tradition Eleven reminds us that Alcoholics Anonymous is not something we sell, advertise, or promote through personalities and publicity. Its greatest strength has always been the quiet example of one alcoholic helping another. We carry the message by sharing our experience, strength, and hope, allowing others to see what recovery has done in our lives.

There is an important difference between attraction and promotion. Attraction invites someone to discover recovery through our actions and example. Promotion attempts to persuade, impress, or convince. A.A. has never needed celebrities, elaborate advertising campaigns, or public recognition of individual members to demonstrate that its program works.

This Tradition does not mean A.A. should remain hidden. Public information, cooperation with professionals, and making meetings accessible are important ways of reaching suffering alcoholics. But our message should always be more important than the person delivering it.

Personal anonymity at the public level also protects the Fellowship. When an individual publicly identifies as an A.A. member, their personal conduct, opinions, or failures may become associated with A.A. itself. Anonymity reminds us that no single member represents the entire Fellowship.

For me, Tradition Eleven is another lesson in humility. My recovery is not something I need to advertise or use to gain recognition. If I am living the principles of this program, people should notice the difference without my having to announce it.

Ultimately, attraction is about how we live, not how loudly we speak. When we practice honesty, humility, kindness, and service, we become living examples of what recovery can accomplish. That example may carry more hope to a suffering alcoholic than any amount of publicity ever could.

Grapevine Daily Quote

"My greatest challenges are before me. But my experience with the Third Step, even in the smallest matters, gives me the courage to meet whatever lies ahead, twenty-four hours at a time."

Manhattan, New York, March 2001, "Wait for the Pitch," Emotional Sobriety

Back in the day when my car engine wasn't running smoothly or had a miss, I tuned it up to keep it running efficiently. Or if one tire was low, I filled it up. If it was low the next day, it might have a slow leak that needs attention. When I start my day connecting with my HP and doing my readings, I am tuning up my spiritual connection to my HP and the universe. Early in my sobriety, I was the tire that had the slow leak. In filling up my spirit each morning, I was able to get through each day. Today the the tire doesn't leak so much, but it will if I don't practice the principles of our program.

John G

My Daily Renewal

"When you are offended at any man's fault, turn to yourself and study your own failings. Then you will forget your anger."
— Epictetus, attributed

Recovery has taught me that it is much easier to recognize someone else's shortcomings than to acknowledge my own. I can become so occupied with what another person says or does that I overlook the very defects of character I am supposed to be working on. Resentment has a way of convincing me that someone else is the problem, while self-examination reminds me that I still have plenty of growing to do. This does not mean excusing another person's behavior. It means accepting responsibility for my own. When I practice humility instead of judgment, I make room for understanding, forgiveness, and the serenity that comes from minding my own spiritual condition.

O God, turn my attention from the faults of others to the shortcomings within myself. Grant me humility, patience, and the willingness to correct what is wrong in my own heart. Amen.

Spotlight on Concept 11 of Service

Concept Eleven reminds us that effective service requires capable people, sound judgment, and careful attention to how responsibilities are assigned. It states that the trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. It also emphasizes the importance of qualifications, selection procedures, and clearly defined rights and duties.

Bill W. understood that good intentions alone are not enough to carry out the many responsibilities of A.A.'s world services. The Fellowship needs people who are not only willing to serve but also qualified to perform the work entrusted to them. Competence, experience, integrity, and sound judgment are important qualities in those who help manage A.A.'s affairs.

Concept Eleven also reminds us that service is not about personal recognition, popularity, or holding a position. It is about doing the work that needs to be done. Sometimes that means recognizing that someone else has greater experience or ability and allowing that person to take the lead. Humility teaches us that we do not have to be in charge to be useful.

There is an important lesson here for our home groups as well. When selecting trusted servants, willingness matters, but so do dependability, responsibility, and the ability to work with others. We serve A.A. best when we place the needs of the Fellowship ahead of personal friendships, preferences, or ambitions.

Concept Eleven also encourages us to support those who accept service responsibilities. We should provide guidance, encouragement, and the freedom necessary to do their jobs, while maintaining appropriate accountability.

At its heart, Concept Eleven teaches that good service is a combination of willingness, ability, humility, and responsibility. The purpose is never to build an impressive organization or elevate individuals. It is to ensure that A.A. remains strong, dependable, and capable of carrying its lifesaving message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

If you ever thought the liquor aisle should have a rewards program with your name on it, you just might be an alcoholic.

Grapevine Daily Quote

"My daily life is conducted in a manner that is far different from my drinking days. The places I go, the things I do, and the people I am with are a reflection of my spiritual progress. My life is conducted with the knowledge that God is always at my side and guides me through the day. For that, at the end of each day, I say, 'Thank You.'"

Fairfield, Connecticut, September 1978, "Spiritual Progress," AA Grapevine

When I associated with people who drank, I drank. When I associated with myself, I drank. When I associated myself with people who wanted a better life without alcohol, I didn't drink. The path I had before had no spirituality. AA has given me a new path, a spiritual path, where I have come to depend on my HP to help me stay sober today. My spiritual path is strengthened when I walk down that path with another like minded member, who is on their own spiritual path. I am grateful to be walking that path with you.

John G

Some suggestions for Meeting Topics

1. Step Eleven: Improving Our Conscious Contact With God
How prayer and meditation help us develop a closer relationship with our Higher Power rather than simply asking God to solve our problems.

2. Seeking God's Will Instead of Our Own
Learning the difference between praying for what we want and seeking the wisdom to recognize what God would have us do.

3. Prayer Is Talking; Meditation Is Listening
Why spiritual growth requires us to spend time in quiet reflection rather than doing all the talking.

4. The Power to Carry That Out
Step Eleven reminds us that knowing the right thing to do is only part of recovery. We must also seek the strength and willingness to do it.

5. When God Seems Silent
How do we maintain faith, patience, and spiritual discipline when our prayers seem unanswered?

6. Making Prayer and Meditation a Daily Habit
How morning reflection, prayer throughout the day, and evening review can strengthen our spiritual condition and help protect our sobriety.

7. Tradition Eleven: Attraction Rather Than Promotion
Why A.A.'s public relations policy relies upon attraction rather than promotion, and how our personal conduct can carry a stronger message than advertising.

8. Personal Anonymity at the Public Level
Understanding why Tradition Eleven calls for maintaining personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films, and how its principles apply to modern social media.

9. Letting Our Recovery Speak for Itself
Why living the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous may attract more people to recovery than arguments, persuasion, or personal publicity.

10. Promise Eleven: "We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us."
How spiritual growth, experience, and practicing the Steps

Personal Opinions, AA Meetings, and the Traditions

I continually struggled with interpreting or using Tradition Ten, in either its Short or Long Form, to speak to "expressing personal opinions" in an AA meeting. As I read the Tradition, it seems to speak to AA as a Fellowship not having an opinion on outside issues, not the individual. And the more I studied it, the more I wondered whether I had been looking in the wrong place for the answer.

The Short Form tells us that Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues. The Long Form goes further, cautioning groups and members against expressing opinions on controversial matters *"in such a way as to implicate A.A."* Those few words seem particularly important to me. They suggest that the concern is not whether I have a personal opinion, or even whether I express it, but whether I somehow associate AA with that opinion.

After all, joining Alcoholics Anonymous didn't require me to surrender my political views, religious convictions, or opinions about the world. I still have them, and occasionally they're probably worth about as much as anyone else's. Sometimes less, depending on how much coffee I've had.

But there's another side to this.

Just because I have an opinion, and the freedom to express it, doesn't necessarily mean an AA meeting is the best place to do so. I've come to believe that's where Traditions Five and Twelve provide some much-needed guidance.

Tradition Five reminds me that our primary purpose is carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. That makes me consider whether what I'm sharing has anything to do with recovery. Am I offering experience, strength, and hope, or am I simply taking advantage of a captive audience to tell everyone what I think?

There's a difference between sharing how a political disagreement stirred up resentments that threatened my serenity and spending five minutes explaining why my political views are correct. One concerns my recovery. The other concerns my ego.

Tradition Twelve takes this a little deeper, reminding me to place principles before personalities. To me, that means practicing humility, tolerance, and consideration for the people sitting around me.

I never know what brought someone into that meeting. Perhaps it's a newcomer, frightened and desperate, wondering whether AA has anything to offer. The last thing I want is for my personal opinions on some controversial subject to make that person feel unwelcome or alienated.

gradually improve our judgment and ability to face life's difficulties.

11. Concept Eleven: The Importance of Qualified and Dedicated Servants
Why A.A.'s trustees need capable committees, directors, executives, staff, and consultants to carry out the Fellowship's world services. Concept Eleven emphasizes competence, clearly defined duties, and thoughtful selection of those entrusted with service.

12. Service Is a Shared Responsibility
How Concept Eleven reminds us that no single leader can do everything. Effective service requires cooperation, mutual respect, appropriate delegation, and the willingness to recognize and use the talents of others.

That doesn't mean we must avoid every difficult subject or pretend we don't have disagreements. Recovery happens in the real world, and sometimes those disagreements are part of our experience. But I can discuss how something affects my sobriety without trying to convince everyone else to adopt my position.

I'm beginning to see that the question isn't whether I *can* express an opinion. It's whether I *should*, given the purpose of the meeting and my responsibility to others.

So, for the sake of peace and good order, I believe exercising caution with personal opinions in an AA meeting is more directly supported by Traditions Five and Twelve than by Tradition Ten. Not because we're prohibited from having opinions, but because sometimes carrying the message and placing principles before personalities means knowing when to keep them to ourselves.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not represent the opinions, policies, or positions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"I can't allow myself to just be a passenger in my own battles. There was a time when I sat back and waited for someone else to fix what was wrong in my life. I blamed circumstances, made excuses, and hoped things would somehow improve without much effort on my part. Sobriety has shown me that while I cannot control every struggle I face, I am responsible for how I meet it. I cannot expect God to do for me what He has given me the ability and responsibility to do myself. Prayer matters, but so does taking action. I have to participate in my own recovery, face difficult truths, and make the changes that are mine to make. I may not win every battle, but I refuse to surrender simply because the fight is difficult.

O God, give me courage to face my struggles rather than avoid them. Strengthen my willingness to act, guide my decisions with wisdom, and help me trust Your grace while faithfully doing my part. Amen.

Morning Prayer for Sobriety

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, for bringing me to the dawn of a new day. I pray that You would give me strength this day to remain sober and free from the temptation to drink. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Your will be done, and not my own. Amen.

Evening Prayer for Sobriety

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, for bringing me to the close of this day. I thank You for another day of sobriety, kept by Your grace and mercy. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Your will be done, and not my own. Amen.

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN December, or are you interested in contributing an article to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to info@aa-district18.org, by November 22, being mindful of our Steps and Traditions. Any suggestions or comments are always welcome and appreciated, and may be sent to info@aa-district18.org !!!

THANK YOU for subscribing to our newsletter!!!

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.