

ILLOWA MESSENGER

September 2023

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1	Dilia	'93
2	Jane S.	'79
3	Bill S.	'82
3	Debbie J.	'06
4	Patti P.	'91
5	Mary K.	'00
7	Al D.	'00
8	Dan C.	'82
10	Barb K.	'83
11	Mike S.	'90
12	Gail R.	'01
12	Gail S.	'03
14	Ben D.	'01
16	Dee A.	'97
18	Norma D.	'85
20	Ken H.	'78
21	Fred K.	'78
21	Leo Y.	'98
22	Brenda C.	'78
23	Deb P.	'80



EVENTS

- 2 – Camden Serenity Group Speaker Meeting/Potluck
- 4 – Labor Day, Intergroup Office Closed
- 8 – 9 – Big Book Workshop - DeWitt
- 9 – Marquette Picnic
- 10 – Bettendorf Picnic
- 10 - Blandine Picnic
- 11 – Intergroup Business Meeting
- 17 – Central Discussion Group Anniversary
- 17 – House Group Picnic
- 23 – Illowa Intergroup Golf Outing
- 23 – Henry County Group Anniversary Potluck



A donation has been made to Intergroup in memory of Terry M. and Billy G., AA members.



*Remember that the newsletter deadline for flyers and birthdays, etc. is always the 15th of the month **preceding** the month of the newsletter.*

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	June	Jan. - June 2023
8n8 AA	87.31	780.92
Aledo	0.00	100.00
Bettendorf	1068.18	4294.41
Big Book Study	0.00	877.68
Camden Serenity	100.00	700.00
Central Discussion	0.00	600.00
Cleveland	0.00	75.00
Clinton	10.00	30.00
Coal Valley	0.00	250.00
Courage to Change	0.00	758.65
DeWitt	0.00	75.00
District 90	0.00	75.00
Geneseo	42.00	126.00
Henry County Group	11.40	1211.40
House Group	0.00	75.00
IAYPAA	0.00	25.00
La Nueva Vida	10.00	70.00
Ladies Night	0.00	322.38
Last Chance	0.00	452.00
Marquette	0.00	700.00
Milan Hillcrest	0.00	100.00
New Boston New Hope	5.00	45.00
North Scott	0.00	500.00
Rainbow Group	50.00	50.00
Sisters in Sobriety	25.00	50.00
West End	0.00	75.00
Winola Group	0.00	100.00
TOTAL	1408.89	12518.44

July 2023 Call Count

12-step	4
Information	58
Visitors	24
Al-Anon	2

Illowa Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes / August 7th, 2023

Virtual Meeting called to order by Intergroup Chair, Cassidy G. at 6:01 pm with Serenity Prayer.

Attendance:

Officers/Chairs/Liaisons present: Chair/Cassidy G.; **Secretary**/Jennifer B.; **Treasurer**/Tim M.; **Office Manager**/Lisa W.; **Telephone**/Desiree K.; **Newsletter**/Julie B. **Events**/Johanna S.; **Webmaster**/Randy C.; **District 9 Liaison**/Barbara A. **District 9 Liaison**/Dave W.

Groups present: Bettendorf, Big Book, Courage to Change, Dewitt, Geneseo, Henry County, Last Chance, Marquette, New Beginnings, Three Legacies

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the July minutes as published.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer's report:

Checking balance forwarded: \$10,628.75.

Total income: \$2578.44

Total expenses: \$4943.43

Income minus expenses: **-\$2364.99**

Checking ending balance: \$ 8263.76

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the treasurer's report.

Office Manager's Report: Hello from Intergroup,

Since our hours are now pretty consistent, I will no longer be updating the Office Hours flyer on the website weekly, but will, of course, update it if there are any changes. August 10 will be the start of my fourteenth year at Intergroup. I am so grateful I have had this opportunity. I will be out-of-town the first part of September and then again in October. I am looking for volunteers to cover my shifts at the office. Please call me at 309-764-1016 if interested. Thanks! Call counts for July were 4 12-step, 58 information, 24 visitors, and 2 Al-anon. Our next business meeting will be August 7th at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. In love and service,
Lisa W.

Telephone Chair: Hello, I have noticed an increase of people dropping from their evening positions for the phones. I understand that our lives are getting busier, and I want to thank them for being of service. Thankfully I have been able to fill the positions quite quickly. I am asking anyone that would like to be on the list as a backup for a possible open position, please send me your information. The evening phones shift is as follows: You would have 1 evening per month, your shift would start at 5:20pm and end at 9am (unless you need the phone transferred earlier in the morning) if you need it transferred earlier in the morning, I will be the one to call you, and take the phone. Otherwise, a volunteer from Intergroup will call and transfer them at 9. In Love and Service, Desiree K, Intergroup Phone Chair

Newsletter: Hello! Compiling the newsletter is going better, so I must be getting the hang of it! The Illowa Newsletter is a great way to stay on top of AA business in our area.

Consider subscribing so you stay current! If your group does not currently receive a newsletter, please bring it up at your next business meeting! Remember, it's \$16 annually for a paper copy. You can also get the newsletter emailed directly to you. Or you can always just visit the website to find what you need. If you're unaware, the newsletter's layout is as follows:

Page 1: that month's birthdays and a snapshot of the month's events. If there is a holiday in which the office will be closed, that is noted on this page also. Reach out to Lisa at the Intergroup office if you'd like your AA birthday to be mentioned here each year!

Page 2: a summary of group contributions. Find your homegroup on this page to see your group's contribution!

Page 3-11-ish: Business meeting minutes

Intergroup, District 9, District 90 business meeting minutes (each of these usually spans 2 or more pages)

Next pages: Event flyers – never miss the opportunity to support speakers and attend picnics and anniversary celebrations!

Next: NEW PAGE! I added a quick look at the tradition corresponding with the month (August is the 8th month=8th tradition). Just a very high-level overview (short/long form, a quote from 12, Traditions checklist from the AA Grapevine)

Filler page: sometimes is needed to make the newsletter an even number of pages (ex: faithful fivers page or info for the AA International Convention)

Please let me know if you have any questions. Yours in service, Julie B.

Webmaster: Hello everyone, we had 3,383 users total but 1405 actual users that were on the site for more than 30 sec., which is right at our new average. The Meeting Guide is still the most visited page, followed by the Events Page, and the Virtual Page is third. There was a big spike on the 4th, and a pretty big one on the 13th. Keep checking the Events Page for any type of Group Announcements. That's all I have until next month. In Love and Service, Randy C

Group reports:

8 n 8: Greetings from 8n8. Things are going well and the daily attendance is still averaging 15-20 people. There are still a lot of newcomers that are returning, which is great news! The next speaker meeting is August 26th at 8pm and Mark J from the Henry co group will be speaking. Also, a friendly reminder this meeting is everyday at 8am and 8pm so we'd love to see you! In love & service, Erica B

Big Book Study: Things are going very well at Big Book Study. Meeting attendance remains steady. We meet every Tuesday at 6:30pm. We will have our next business meeting on 8/8/2023 following the regularly scheduled meeting. Love and Service~Carlee B

New business: Sarah H. was in attendance as a guest. Sarah attended to share information about the 62nd International Women's Conference coming up in 2026. Sarah asked the Intergroup representatives if they would draft a letter of support of having the conference held in Des Moines, IA. The group officers voted unanimously in favor of doing this.

7th Tradition – Checks can be mailed to the office or donations can be made online via PayPal to illowaintergroup@yahoo.com. All reports need to be e-mailed to the secretary prior to the 15th of the month if they are to be included in the Intergroup minutes. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next business meeting will be held on **Monday, September 11th at 6:00 p.m.** on Zoom.

August 6, 2023 District 9 Minutes

Attendance:

Chairs: DCM, Alt. DCM, Treasurer, Archives, Corrections, CPC, Grapevine, Intergroup Liaison, Literature, PI, Treatment,

Groups: Bettendorf, Big Book Study, Blandine, Central Discussion, Clinton, Courage to Change, DeWitt, Marquette, Three Legacies, West End

Chair Reports:

Treasurer: Beginning balance \$7,055.91; Total Income \$0; Total Expenses - \$792.38; Ending balance \$6,263.53; Seed money \$300; Prudent Reserve \$300. A **motion** was made and approved to reimburse Rachael \$36.48 for an unexpected expense for the mini-event.

Secretary: Read new and old business.

Motions accepted to approve.

DCM: I attended the District 9 mini-event July 29, 2023. Rachel and her committee did a killer job. Thank you to everyone that attended and participated. It was a great success. Julie, Area 24 Delegate, will be speaking at our September meeting, Sunday, September 10th. I will be bringing treats for the meeting. If anyone would like to bring something, please let me know so that we don't end up with too many duplicates. Bill from Clinton has already contacted me. Thank you, Bill. We will not be giving reports that day however please make sure to get your reports to Pat so that she is still able to put them in the minutes. I will be attending the August Area Business Meeting in Marshalltown on the 13th of August. The DCM and Alt DCM are the only members asked to attend. If you are interested in attending, you are most welcome to do so. I will also be attending the Area 24 2023 Fall Conference in Dubuque October 13th-15th. There are registration forms available. Please make sure you get signed up at your earliest convenience. In love and service, Park

Alt DCM: Greetings district. My report this last month is short and sweet! I attended the mini event and it was a GREAT time! I feel it was a success with good attendance. I was the food chair for the event and really enjoyed the opportunity to be of service and the games were a HOOT! There was not much else for this last month. I am signed up and will be attending the area business meeting on 8/13. Here is the webmasters' report. "Hello Everyone, we had 3,383 users total but 1,405 actual users that were on the site for more than 30 sec., which is right at our new average. The Meeting Guide is still the most visited page, followed by the Events Page, and the Virtual Meetings Page is third. There was a big spike on the 4th, and a pretty big one on the 13th. Keep checking the Events Page for any type of Group Announcements. " Remember I am always here and available for any questions, concerns or help! Please feel free to reach out. In love and service Jaclyn M

Archives: Good morning everyone, I am not able to be with you in person as I am visiting a friend out of town. With the DropBox up and running it's time to focus on how to best digitize our materials. I look forward to incorporating committee members into this process by setting attainable goals for each month. I will be setting a date soon for a committee meeting to set this up. Archives Anecdote: 1995: With approval of the General Service Board, G.S.O New York launches a site on the World Wide Web on December 22, 1995. With a click, users can now instantaneously access information about the Fellowship in English, Spanish, and French. G.S.O.'s A.A. Website is constantly evolving. In spring 1998, G.S.O. New York shares the experience of computer-savvy A.A.s when it issues a list of Frequently Asked Questions for A.A. entities looking to set up their own website. In 2000, 2006 and 2014 "aa.org" will undergo major expansions. G.S.O. shares an online Archives Exhibit on the AA.org website from the "About A.A." dropdown located in the blue ribbon at the top of the page. www.aa.org/aa-archives-

exhibits Reminder for GSRs: PLEASE share your Home Group's meeting minutes with me so that I may add them to your Home Group's History. In love and Service, Rachael B.

Corrections: I'm happy to report that corrections has been getting back on the beam this past month. Meetings at Scott County are going well. There is always room for more volunteers, so please include that in your reports for your groups. It is a great way to carry the message to people that NEED it. Whether they want it or not is up to them. The commitment for jail meetings is one Monday or Wednesday per month. Men and women meet separately from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Sobriety requirement is one year or recommendation from a sponsor. There is a background check and orientation. New volunteers are scheduled with more experienced members. There are two AA's scheduled for every meeting. I have applications if you want to take them back to your groups. We are on track to start taking meetings into 605 Main in September. This past month I've been able to get to 3 business meetings. (Blandine, Marquette and Bettendorf). I will continue to make the rounds as my schedule allows. I attended the district mini-event. It was definitely a chance to see AA in action, spreading the love to newcomers and families. We were allowed an opportunity to say a few words about our positions. Five people immediately approached me afterwards and we got 5 more volunteers. As it stands right now, we have 10 women and 3 men. A few others are checking to see if they can commit. I have flyers for this to take back to your groups if you want to. Meetings will be held on Wednesday nights. Men's meetings will be from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Women's will be from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm. Sobriety requirement is that the person be sponsored and have at least 6 months. Volunteers will be scheduled two per meeting. There is no background check or application. They just need to let me know they want to do it and can commit to one Wednesday per month. I would like to post these service opportunities on the Intergroup website. I'm not sure of the process at the district level. Is it something we have to approve? Yours in love and service, Toni

CPC:

Grapevine:

Intergroup Liaison

Literature:

PI: Good Morning Everyone, We've had a good month of making connections with different institutions in our area while distributing the Meeting Guide flyers. Modern Woodman Park, some local small businesses, schools, doctor's offices, and libraries are a few examples of the connections we've recently made in our area. As always, if you know anyone that would be interested in posting our flyer or literature in their office or on their community board, please let me know and I'd be happy to get in touch. I've recently reached out to someone in the media about running a PSA on TV and radio, so that will be the next project we're working on. I am looking forward to attending the next Marshalltown meeting and learning more about this position and potential projects as we go. Thank you In Love and Service, Ayla B D9 Public Information Chair

Treatment: We continue to provide speakers for Rosecrance. I am still looking for a speaker for 8/11 at 9:30am. If interested, please let me know. I have left a couple messages for staff about volunteers chairing 8pm meetings and once I know more about what slots are available, I will be looking for volunteers out there. There is a online link for volunteers to apply. Then you will need to get a badge to get in. Here is the link for those interested: <https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1082488839>. Bridging the gap continues to connect individuals with AA members. Thank you to everyone who has been helping carry the message. If anyone is interested in contacting individuals coming out of treatment and getting connected with AA, please contact me. I continue to communicate with the Abbey. They have decided against taking clients to meetings in the community, but have members of the community come in to chair meetings. The women's 10 am Saturday meeting has increased

attendance. Several members of a local sober house attend that meeting and are always looking for rides. Love and Service, MJ

Group Reports:

Bettendorf: I attended the District Mini Event. My family had a great time! Even the teenager! Bettendorf had its Business meeting. Quarterly disbursements were discussed and voted on. I made a service booklet for the group to keep them updated on everything going on with GSO. It is available to view on the literature rack. I will ensure we announce that the Delegate will be attending the September District Business meeting. I am already signed up for the Area Conference Oct 13-15th. In service, Vicki F.

Big Book Study: Greetings from big book! Things are going well at BBS, with a continued average of 30 to 35 ppl per meeting. Disbursements were discussed and voted on. I will be attending the upcoming area business meeting and the fall conference. I attended the mini event and had a wonderful time. Kudos to Rachel! In love and service, Ronna

Central: Greetings from Central Discussion. We had our quarterly business meeting on July 16th. First order of business was the treasurer report. We are doing well with our finances. Sunday 9a.m. meeting continues to be our most popular. The next order of business was to remove Tyler as our GSR. Mike S, as alternate, was asked to finish his term until April 2024. At that time, Mike will start his two-year term. Aiden C has agreed to finish Mike's term until April. However, he will be unable to take on the position in April. Having an Intergroup representative is where we are lacking. We haven't had a representative since October 2022. Jill D has agreed to the position. Since she sometimes has a conflict with work, we decided to create an alternate position which has yet to be filled. Toni from District 9 corrections was scheduled to make a presentation. However, due to automobile trouble, she was unable to attend. September 17th has been designated for our anniversary. Final decisions on that were made. Mike C had taken charge. Saturday September 17th: Fellowship at 11a.m. Lunch at Noon. Meat and drinks provided. Please bring a dish to share, Speakers at 1. Pat B, Central. Barry P, Central. Our usual business meeting is on the third Sunday. However, since Mike will be at the conference, the next business meeting has been moved to the 4th Sunday, October 22. 10:15a.m. Yours in service, Mike S.

Marquette: Marquette currently meets at Adventure Church on Northwest Blvd in Davenport. The entrance is located off of the back deck. The monthly Speaker Meeting is held on the last Saturday of every month, and will be held this month on Saturday, August 26th, at 7PM. There will be a speaker, Robert D., Muff, from Wisconsin, along with fellowship, a 50/50 raffle, as well as raffle item(s). Marquette had their monthly business meeting on the last Monday of the month, on July 31st. At the meeting we discussed topics such as; Marquette's Fall picnic, the new budget proposal and Zoom option for Area, as well as regular housekeeping. The member was also in attendance, discussing possible service work, by taking meeting to the jails and treatment centers. Marquette Group did vote in favor of supporting the online Zoom option, when the time comes. We look forward to more information on this. Marquette's Fall picnic is to be held at Garfield Park, 29th and Bridge Avenue, on Saturday, September 9th. Fellowship is at 10, followed by an 11:00 meeting and then potluck lunch to follow at noon. The group will provide the meat, please bring a dish to share. The next Business Meeting will be held on the last Monday of the month, and will be held this month, on Monday, August 28th at 5:30 PM. Respectfully, Samantha P.

Three Legacies: Good morning District 9! Three Legacies continues to be well attended on Thursday nights. We are now only meeting on Thursday nights as our Saturday morning virtual meeting has officially been discontinued. Our next business meeting is August 17th directly following the regular meeting. I am grateful to have attended the District 9 mini event. It was wonderful to be a part of so much fun and fellowship. I will be sure to inform home group members of the opportunity next month to hear our Delegate Julie share her report, as I am looking forward to it very much myself. In love and Service, Christina G.

West End: Hello everyone, my name is Keaton and I am an Alcoholic. At the last business meeting of the west end we held elections for the position of GSR. I was elected and I am happy to be here to learn and serve. I do not have much to report at this time other than our upcoming

event. The West End Annual Picnic is on August 12th at 11AM. This is being held at West Lake Park. Gate Entrance 1. At the Lakeview Shelter. Come join us for food and fellowship. Glad to meet all of you. In loving service, Keaton G.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Mini Event Recap – A great time was had by all that attended. (Expense report attached)
- Create SOPs for the Mini-Event – Park and Jaclyn will develop this
- Dropbox questions – tabled
- Bid for 2024 Fall Conference – A motion was made by Jaclyn for District 9 to submit a bid in Marshalltown on August 13th. Seconded by Bill. This would be a voting conference. Discussion. Vote was 9-9. Park felt we shouldn't rush to get this bid in without further investigation into costs, etc. since there wasn't substantial unanimity on the vote. Perhaps we can consider this for 2024 or later.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Area 24 Fall Conference – October 13th-15th in Dubuque. Workshops are late. District will pay for mileage, one day of meals and one overnight.
- Julie, our Area 24 Delegate, will be attending our next District meeting, **Sunday, September 10th**. She will be presenting her report from the GSC in April. In the past we have had treats for the Delegate's visit. I will be bringing some and if anyone else would like to please feel free to do so. Let's coordinate though so we don't have too much. **THAT IS THE SECOND SUNDAY DUE TO LABOR DAY!**

District 90 Business Meeting August 8, 2023

Welcome- Serenity Prayer- Attendance: DCM- Randy, Grapevine/Alt. Secretary- Maddie, Corrections- Craig, 8n8 AA- Beth, Archives- Aaron, Last Chance- Krista, Treasurer- Gene, Geneseo- Ken, Geneseo Guest- Chris.

AA Birthdays: None

- **DCM:** Randy C.- Hello Everyone, I will have to leave the Meeting early and the only report I have is that I will be emailing you all the reports from last month's NIA20 Committee Meeting.
- **Alt. DCM:** OPEN
- **Treasurer:** Gene V.- Beginning Balance: \$1075.00, Deposits: \$142.00, Debits: \$16.00, Set Aside Monies (debit) \$249.59, New Balance/Available Funds: \$951.41, Savings/Prudent Reserve: \$449.48.
- **Secretary:** Kelsey C. - Absent

Committee Reports:

- **Corrections-** Craig K.- Prison and jail meetings are well attended. Life Skills Re-Entry will have a speaker meeting on August 26th. One additional volunteer has been approved for the men's meetings at the Rock Island County Jail.
- **Treatment:** Brandon S.- Absent
- **BTG:** Erica B.- Absent
- **P.I.:** Open
- **Accessibilities:** Open
- **C.P.C:** Open
- **Literature:** Dave W.- Absent
- **Grapevine:** Maddie P.- There is an annual Grapevine photo contest. There is an opening for a non-trustee director of Grapevine board in 2024. Grapevine events: Aug 12th is Manhattan Share A Day in New York, NY.
- **Archives:** Aaron M.- No Report
- **Intergroup Liaison:** Dave W.- Absent

GSR Reports:

- **Geneseo:** Chris W.- Working on a group inventory. Chris H. from the Knox Group will be speaking Aug. 25th. Speaker at 7, fellowship afterwards at Culvers. Have introduced local police to their new location.
- **Last Chance:** Christa- Their 35th anniversary was Aug. 5th, celebration at Riverside. Carmen will be speaking at their speaker meeting on Aug. 18th. Meetings have been well attended.

- **Henry County:** Aaron M.- Rachel B. from Three Legacies will be their speaker for their Aug. 19th speaker meeting. Potluck will begin at 6 and speaker at 7. Their Anniversary Event will be on Sept. 23rd at Francis Park.
- **8n8AA:** Beth P.- Mark J. will be speaking on Aug. 26th at their speaker meeting at 8pm. Beginner meeting Sundays at 8pm have been well attended.

Old Business:

- BTG Workshop has been pushed back to possibly October.

New Business:

- Grapevine renewal for Ricca and Top of the World Ranch are due. We would like to renew these subscriptions for Ricca and Top of the World Ranch and purchase an additional subscription for the Abbey.
- Aaron motions
- Ken seconds

Gene motions to adjourn, Aaron seconds. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2023 at 8pm via Zoom.

Camden Serenity Group Speaker Meeting

**Chuck S. from the
Bettendorf Group**

Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2023

- ✧ **Fellowship at 5:30**
- ✧ **Pot Luck at 6:00, Please bring a dish to pass**
- ✧ **Raffles at 6:45**
- ✧ **Meeting Starts at 7:00**

**Camden Serenity Group
306 West 3rd Street
Milan, IL**

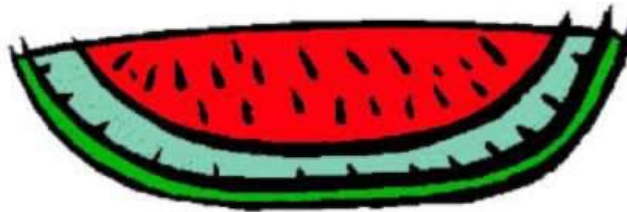
BETTENDORF GROUP



Sunday, September 10th
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
23rd Street Band Shelter
1645 23rd Street, Bettendorf



11:30 Fellowship
12:00 Lunch
Meat, Pop & Coffee Provided
Please bring a dish to share!





Blandine Picnic

September 10, 2023

**11 am speaker Angel
from Bettendorf Group
Musical Entertainment
by Heidi**

10:30am Fellowship
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken Breasts, and Brats provided
Please bring a dish to share.
Water \$0.50 donation
Lots of fun for the whole family.
Ball Park, Tennis & Volleyball Courts
and Playgrounds
Hope to see you there!

Garfield Park, 1224 E. 29th Street, Davenport



HENRY COUNTY GROUP



OF

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



49th ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK

Saturday September 23, 2023



10am to 10pm



Francis Park

29862 N. 900 Ave, Kewanee, IL 61443

2pm to 5pm: GAMES!

5pm: POTLUCK (Bring a Dish to Pass. Water and Sodas Provided)!

7pm: OPEN CAMPFIRE MEETING!

Come And Join Us For Food, Fellowship And Fun!!!

ILLOWA INTERGROUP



GOLF

OUTING FUNDRAISER

\$58 PER PLAYER
GROUPS OF 4 PREFERRED
SINGLES WILL BE PAIRED

SUNRISE GOLF
3947 MOENCKS RD
BETTENDORF, IA

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

-  MINI SHOTGUN START 9AM
-  FOLLOWED BY PORK TENDERLOIN LUNCH
-  50/50 RAFFLE

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER
OR
CONTACT INTERGROUP
309-764-1016



**NEW
OPEN
MEETING!
T & T**

12 STEPS & 12 TRADITIONS



*Grace United Methodist Church 2651
Telegraph Road Davenport, Iowa*



Quick look at the 9th Tradition

When we practice the 12 steps of A.A. as a way of life, we recover from a hopeless state of mind & body; when we incorporate the principles of the 12 traditions, we ensure the health and unity of our A.A. groups.

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

Tradition NINE long form: Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principle newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, commonly called the “12 & 12”, says: “It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart”.¹ In the business world as we know it, there is an organized hierarchy of authority: you have a supervisor or manager, and they have a manager, etc, and each manager has the authority to direct those they manage, and even hand out consequences if someone is non-compliant or disobedient. In AA, though, no one person or even groups of people have authority over anyone else.

“Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group’s chores, if the area’s telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then A.A. as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken.”² Whether we answer the phones or clean up the meeting room, we are all equals in this fellowship, and we are all responsible for making sure the hand of AA is there when anyone reaches out for help.

AA isn’t like other organizations which give authority to certain individuals! For example, the Group’s Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer each have a title that may, in big companies or other organizations, allow them certain privileges within the company and having authority over people. But in AA those folks, although holding a leadership-type position, are simply “trusted servants”; they *serve* the group, and God is the ultimate authority. We rotate our leadership in the spirit of service, so one person does not hold a position for too long (giving the feeling of ownership or implying they are the boss of

¹ Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Tradition Nine, page 176: <https://www.aa.org/twelve-steps-twelve-traditions>

² Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Tradition Nine, page 177: <https://www.aa.org/twelve-steps-twelve-traditions>

that position). And no one person has the authority to make decisions that affect the group; decisions are made by the group as a whole, where the minority voice is heard and no one person is the expert and final decider.

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST FROM THE AA GRAPEVINE³

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?
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?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

For anyone wanting to understand the traditions better, I encourage you to grab a few A.A. friends and together read the **Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions**! Get a copy of the **Twelve Traditions Illustrated** pamphlet and the **Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine** too (these are available at our local Illowa Intergroup Office; for convenience they are linked here to aa.org). Using these 3 together can help broaden our understanding of why they are so important still today, and zone in on how we can be better at practicing the principles in our groups, and even our jobs and homes.

³ Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine, Tradition Nine, page 4: <https://www.aa.org/traditions-checklist-aa-grapevine>

5

"Faithful Fivers"

5

Illowa Intergroup Contributions

Faithful Fivers – "When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

-----Bill W.

Every single AA service is designed to make 12th Step work possible. As a Faithful Fiver, your personal contributions can and will make our vital services possible. You can start with a minimum monthly contribution of \$5.00 or more, which I'm sure is more than we would have spent per month on a drink!

Contribution Information:

Date_____

Amount \$_____ Monthly____ Quarterly____ Semi-annual____ Annual____

(Note: No AA member can contribute more than \$5,000.00 per year)

Detach at line and keep top half for your records

Yes! I want to participate in the Faithful Fivers Club!

I am.....a new participant____a current member____a returning member____

Payment Plan:

Amount \$_____ Monthly____ Quarterly____ Semi-annual____ Annual____

Please make checks payable to:

Illowa Intergroup
1706 Brady St., Suite 201
Davenport, IA 52803

Your contribution is tax deductible

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

Telephone_____ Date_____ Sobriety Date (for inclusion in newsletter)_____

**1706 Brady St, STE 201
Davenport, IA 52803**

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****EXTRA! EXTRA! www.aaquadcities.org is live!!**

**** Be sure to check out our new website! ****