

NEW FRONTIERS

January 2010

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL A.A. MEMBERS OF WESTERN NEW YORK AND THE NIAGARA FRONTIER
We request that this newsletter be kept within the Fellowship to insure anonymity.

The Principle of Unity in AA

Readings: Big Book: page 17, 12×12: Tradition 1, 4, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*: page 79, 97-98

In the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the first word of the first step is “we” - this might be a clue...

Also, a full one-third of our 3 legacies of service is “unity” - that is probably also a clue as to the importance of this principle. Is unity simply something we “do”, something we “have” or a “commitment”?

A few years ago, my home group was doing a group inventory and the facilitator, a past delegate for Area 10, stated that, in his opinion, “the fellowship was increasingly acting as if our 1st tradition is at least unimportant, if not irrelevant”.

As I reflected on meetings I'd been attending, I had to agree with him. If you listened to both what people were sharing as well as the difficulty with which common tasks were being filled (e.g. no one available to open up for a meeting, chair a meeting, take a 12th step commitment, etc.), it was clear that many folks in my AA community were of an opinion that their recovery was important and enough. There was little or nothing they had to give to the larger purposes of AA - even at the group level.

In the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, Bill W. writes about how we look to those on the outside of AA “...They see liberty verging on license, yet they recognize at once that A.A. has an irresistible strength of purpose and action. ‘How,’ they ask, ‘can such a crowd of anarchists function at all? How can they possibly place their common welfare first? What in Heaven’s name holds them together?’”

The answer, according to Bill, is that “...The AA member has to conform to the principles of recovery.” We must, simply, because our life depends on it.

Many an AA speaker has drawn on the analogy of a sinking ship and a lifeboat. Perhaps the perspective that presumes AA is only some suggestions for “self help” underscores a reality that this analogy is not apt for some. Perhaps they feel they owe their recovery to a treatment center. ...or perhaps to a church they found in the course of an investigation of the 11th step in their AA path. Clearly, some of us are in meetings with mixed loyalties.

In the readings from *AA Comes of Age*, Bill mentions that the 12 Traditions *as a whole* are the protectors of our 3rd legacy of unity.

As I help other people, I learn about larger perspectives; e.g. *unity*.

Unity means that when the group conscience makes a decision, I authentically embrace that decision as my own. I don't get to participate in further retaliation and argument.

Many of us have had the experience of seeing or participating in huge arguments at business meetings, then setting those differences aside and members going to coffee and genuinely enjoying each others' company.

There are relationships between the principles of unity and anonymity and responsibility. Also, we need to see that the principles in support of our “singleness of purpose” help to support, encourage and define unity. This is perhaps where we can relate our principle of unity to our 1st step of recovery.

It's interesting that, in our early AA history, when the members tried to come up with the minimal qualifications to "belong" to this society, none of those then attending would have been qualified to join. We needed to become more willing to accept potential members where they were to start out on our path.

Unity ≠ Harmony

It has been our experience that there is a common myth that when we have unity, we will all agree and work in harmony and peace. Sometimes, in support of unity, we need to take an unpopular stand or stay in an argument until we reach an accommodation or we're clear that we don't have anything upon which to base an ongoing relationship. i.e. - it may better for the "whole" to separate ourselves. Unity is not the same as complete agreement.

This is related to the 4th tradition - the autonomy granted to each AA group does not afford us the license to do things in a group that harm AA as a whole.

Love and tolerance are guiding principles toward unity.

It is important to observe how unity really works in our fellowship - e.g. something as simple as an AA pot luck is instructive about affording our members an opportunity to participate as well as well as attend and enjoy our functions.

While AA structure is important and can be identified as a result of or reflect our unity, even where AA is not structured and is apparently completely fractious - anarchy as they called it early AA - our principles and common interests can and do still unite us. This is evident in our early history as folks were trying to "figure out" AA - no one person knew what AA would grow into or what it would look like but, together, they noticed that, slowly, a growing number of drunks got and stayed sober. That same sort of creation of this thing called AA is happening today all over the world.

AA gives me purpose. A part of that purpose is in our "belonging" to something. To be responsible to that purpose and commitment, I need to be careful to not promise more than I'm available to do. How we show up for our commitments (or not) is often the first training folks get about the principle of unity in our program.

Unity ≠ Perfection

So, at least in AA, our unity is not some sort of nirvana - a state of contemplative bliss where all is sweetness and light. Instead, it's the gritty, tough it out family of folks who would not mix apart from their common peril and an agreed upon (?) program of recovery.

By *edg* ;January 26, 2009

Tradition One

(long form) Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of use will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

(short form) Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends



- **Primary principle(s): Unity, anonymity, humility**
- **Other principles: Self-sacrifice, responsibility, altruism, consideration, tolerance, group conscience**

Readings: Emotional Sobriety - by Bill W., Dr. Tiebout: Articles on the Alcoholic Ego, GSO/Grapevine: Traditions Checklist, "Flying Blind" - June 1997 - AA Grapevine

So, unity seems to be a good idea - how is it that we can contribute to unity? The 2 main principles that come to mind are anonymity and humility.

As Bill says in his article on Emotional Security, "Those adolescent urges that so many of us have for top approval, perfect security, and perfect romance—urges quite appropriate to age seventeen—prove to be an impossible way of life when we are at age forty-seven or fifty-seven."

From the Grapevine Traditions Checklist for Tradition One pamphlet (comments about principles added by me):

1. *Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?*

- *Principles: Love, tolerance, acceptance, humility, generosity*

2. *Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?*

- *Principles: Peace, tolerance, good nature*

3. *Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?*

- *Principles: Love, tolerance, humility, honesty, self-sacrifice, compassion, generosity*

4. *Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?*

- *Principles: Humility, tolerance, acceptance*

5. *Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?*

- *Principles: Acceptance, humility*

6. *Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?*

- *Principles: Humility, anonymity, acceptance, open mindedness, willingness*

7. *Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?*

- *Principles: Consideration, humility, honesty, selflessness*

8. *Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?*

- *Principles: Responsibility, honesty*

9. *Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?*

- *Principles: Grace, unity, helpfulness, responsibility*

10. *Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?*

- *Principles: Unity, anonymity, humility, grace, willingness*

One of the things we're clear on in this program is that we're not participating in "perfect AA" when examining any one of the parts of our whole. On the other hand, we are so much bigger than our parts through the application of our principle of unity.

Unity is perhaps one of those transcendent spiritual axioms which we've plugged into.

A.A.'s had to hang together or die separately. We had to unify our Fellowship or pass off the scene. (xix)

LET'S ASK BILL W.

What purposes do the Twelve Concepts for World Services serve?

The Concepts to be discussed in the following pages are primarily an interpretation of AA's world service structure. They spell out the traditional practices and the Conference charter principles that relate the component parts of our world structure into a working whole. Our Third Legacy manual is largely a document of procedure. Up to now the Manual tells us how to operate our service structure. But there is considerable lack of detailed information, which would tell us why the structure has developed as it has and why its working parts are related together in the fashion that our Conference and General Service Board charters provide.

These Twelve Concepts therefore represent an attempt to put on paper the why of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the conclusions that we have drawn from it cannot be lost.

These Concepts are no attempt to freeze our operation against needed change. They only describe the present situation, the forces and principles that have molded it. It is to be remembered that in most respects the Conference charter can be readily amended. This interpretation of the past and present can, however, have a high value for the future. Every oncoming generation of service workers will be eager to change and improve our structure and operations. This is good. No doubt change will be needed. Perhaps unforeseen flaws will emerge. These will have to be remedied.

But along with this very constructive outlook, there will be bound to be still another, a destructive one. We shall always be tempted to throw out the baby with the bathwater. We shall suffer the illusion that change, any plausible change, will necessarily represent progress. When so animated, we may carelessly cast aside the hard won lessons of early experience and so fall back into many of the great errors of the past.

Hence, a prime purpose of these Twelve Concepts is to hold the experience and lessons of the early days constantly before us. This should reduce the chance of hasty and unnecessary change. And if alterations are made that happen to work out badly, then it is hoped that these Twelve Concepts will make a point of safe return." (GSC, 1960)

CONCEPT #1

(short) Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

(long) The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.

Readings: Twelve Concepts for World Service - Introduction pp. 3-5

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age - pp. 212-217

Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers - pp. 336-339

12 Concepts Illustrated

ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - pp. 4-5

- **Primary principle(s): Group conscience, unity, trust**

- **Other principles: responsibility, acceptance, constructiveness, courage, discovery, faith, generosity, good nature, helpfulness, honesty, humility, integrity, kindness, modesty, open-mindedness, patience, perseverance, selflessness, self-sacrifice, simplicity, surrender, understanding, willingness**

As we evaluate our history and place ourselves in Bill and Bob's shoes, we can see their concerns:

- Very few (if any!!!) of the membership appreciated what the folks in New York along with the Foundation or Board were trying to accomplish.
- The "services" offered were in great debate (what should they be? should they be done at all? who decides how the money is allocated? etc.) but it as always Bill and/or Bob who were held the final say for the members.
- There were divisions inside the fellowship that wanted to take the fellowship in radically different directions.
- Even Bill had great trouble wrestling with the Trustees in terms of setting priorities and getting necessary work done.

So, the grand concept was to have a conference whereby the over-all fellowship could have real ownership of what AA did and did not do collectively.

This was the idea for the General Service Conference - a "delegate based assembly" where the whole of the membership would have a relationship with the board of trustees (how the General Service Board) and the businesses that they oversee.

FELLOWSHIP: *Synonyms:*

comradeship, camaraderie, friendship, society, intimacy.

STEP 1

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

WNY GSA Delegate's Corner

My name is John C and I am an alcoholic. January 10, 2010, I will begin serving you as your Area 50 Delegate, Panel 60 . In an effort to better serve you I hope to keep a line of communication open through a regular column in this newsletter. You may contact me at delegate@area50wny.org with any comments, concerns, or questions. I will answer all mail either privately or in this column.

This month I would like to introduce you to NERAASA, which is North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. It serves 18 Areas covering 11 States and the District of Columbia.

The Assembly meets the annually last full weekend of February rotating by bid and approval of the Conference. This year we will be the host. We will be at the Niagara Falls Conference center February 26 -28 201 The Program will include panels on conference agenda items, Regional Trustee Report, Assembly Business Meeting, Banquet Speaker and Round table discussions for all service positions..

As you can imagine this os a monumental task and needs many volunteers, so if you can help we welcome you. Help is needed on the Program, Registration and Greeters committees. To volunteer please contact me and I will pass on your information to the Chairs.

Yours in service: **John C ; Delegate Area 50 Panel 60**

IN MEMORIAM

Things We Can Not Change

Gary J.: 3 Legacies

To all our members who have lost family & loved ones our prayers are with you.

Share your Experience, Strength and Hope.

Please submit your announcements by the 12th for next months issue. Articles should be submitted by the 8th of the month for the next month's issue, space permitting.

Buffalo Central Office
681 SENECA STREET
(LOWER)
Buffalo, New York 14210

Or

E-Mail address: buffalooa@hotmail.com for announcements

The Central Office of Western New York publishes the *New Frontiers* monthly. We are supported by your subscriptions and Central Office donations. The *New Frontiers* presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism. The staff reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and length. Articles will not be returned. Opinions expressed here are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply the endorsement by the Central Office of Western New York or Alcoholics Anonymous. (Exceptions: Quotations from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS and other A.A. books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. Articles reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc

What is NERAASA?

N North

E East

R Region

A Alcoholic

A Anonymous

S Service

A Assembly

Is coming to our Area 50 on

February 26th – 28th, 2010

at the Conference Center in

Niagara Falls, NY. Come

and learn about service work

from fellow members in the

Northeast area. Registration

form will be in the next issue

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Alexander

Dave S. 6y
 Brad S. 13y
 Dean S. 23y
 Mark C. 23y
 Mary T. 24y

Amherst/Snyder

Paul S. 2y
 Cindy G. 2y
 David J. 4y
 John K. 5y
 David S. 6y
 Barbara B. 20y
 Gene H. 25y
 Lou B. 27y

Carry the Message

Mary H. 10y
 Dan E. 29y

Cold Springs

Shevis A. 5y
 Brady P. 16y
 Willie D. 16y

Courage

Andy S. 14y
 Pat M. 20y
 JoAnne F. 24y
 Agnes H. 27y

Easy Does It

Lud P. 5y

Feelings

Glenda F. 24y

Fireside

Daryn Q. 3y
 Brett S. 6y
 Mike M. 9y
 Bob S. 13y

Fresh Start

Ralph W. 15y
 Tyrone H. 18y

Golden Slipper

Melissa G. 11y
 Mark B. 11y
 Joan H. 19y
 David S. 22y

How It Works

Max C. 5y
 Steve G. 6y
 Brian McD. 7y
 Jay M. 8y
 JD H. 8y
 Mike M. 9y
 Joe K. 10y
 Dan G. 19y
 Roger R. 21y
 Guy H. 22y
 Frank W. 23y
 Franck C. 25y

Ironhorse

Paul D. 2y
 Kurt S. 2y
 Dan McC. 20y
 Sheilla D. 32y

Kensington

Marilyn L. 29y

Lakeshore

Bill H. 1y
 Scott T. 29y

Lighten-Up

Colleen H. 3y
 Michael M. 3y
 Cindy W. 8y
 Dan McC. 9y
 John I. 19y

Living in the Solution

Tammy S. 2y
 Bobbie R. 5y
 Amy E. 6y

Living Sober

Kim V. 6y
 Dean B. 6y
 David D. 8y
 Kevin N. 10y
 Keith C. 12y
 Walter W. 17y
 Brian McC. 26y
 Bob Y. 30y

Lockport#1

Steve C. 6y
 Jack P. 7y
 Derek H. 12y

Lockveiw

Gary S. 10y
 Dianne P.F. 18y

Lovejoy

Mike L. 2y
 Debra S. 4y

Maple Men's

Brett S. 6y

Main & High

Michelle L. 1y
 Joe S. 3y

North Buffalo

Karen M. 4y
 Lanee B. 4y
 Kevin P. 4y
 Gitti B. 5y
 Debbie P. 5y
 Ava D. 7y
 Walter P.. 14y
 Pam G. 19y
 Frank C. 25y

Orchard

Park Step

Jean Marie 7y
 Mary H. 10y

Remember

When

Gen B. 2y
 Portia J. 22y

Rise & Shine

Amanda S. 3m
 Sue A. 1y
 Greg L. 2y
 Peter Z. 2y
 Raymond S. 2y
 Velvet J. 3y
 Kimberly P. 3y
 Lynn L. 3y
 Theresa H. 4y
 Debbie H. 4y
 Jackie D. 4y
 Melissa B. 5y
 Kenneth T. 6y
 Theresa B. 6y
 Eddie T. 7y
 Joann T. 7y
 Gary C. 8y
 Joe R. 14y

Sheridan

Molly 1y
 Larry Z. 24y

Sun. Morning

Breakfast

Ron E. 4y
 Charlie C. 23y
 Norm K. 25y

Springville Tue

Mark S. 20y

Spiritual Progress

Kristen 3y
 Brenda 16y

Surrender & Hope

Marty G. 5y

Thruway

Tom B. 12y
 Pat M. 21y
 Kathy K. 23y
 Robin A. 25y
 Ellen M. 35y

Turning Point

Paul M. 1y
 Angelo D. 7y
 Jeff P. 25y

We Care

Bernedette S. 12y
 Agnes H. 28y
 Jim L. 28y

GROUPS CELEBRATING

Back To Basics: 3y
Central City Café: 3y
 Constant Vigilance: 14y
 Daily Reprieve: 10y
 Early Rising Obliging: 8y
 Father Baker: 29y
 It: 19y
 Life Today: 19y
 Main and High: 12y
 New Awakening: 31y
 New West Side on Serenity: 11y
 Second Chance: 9y
 Solidarity: 4y
 Somerset: 23y
 Starting Over : 16y
 Tuesday Men's Disc.: 22y
 Try Again: 17y
 Williamsville: 57y

*Please remember to
 have the anniversaries
 submitted by
 the **12th**
 of the month
 previous*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Steering Committee, 5 PM., <u>Central Committee</u> Meeting, 7 PM, <u>Corrections Committee</u> Meeting, 6PM, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca	4	5	6 the Gift of DESPERATION	7	1 New Year's Day A.A. calls January the "come back month"	2
10 General Service Assembly, 12 Noon., Hamburg Town Hall, 5999 South Park Ave., Hamburg.	11 Only an alcoholic in the gutter can look down on people	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 GSA, Area 50, District 11 <u>Business Meeting</u> , 5 p.m.	19 P. I. C. meeting, 6 PM Buffalo Central Office	20	21	22 Confusion is a state of grace for drunks	23
24 <i>Bill W. died 1971</i>	25	26	27	28 Chinese symbol for friends 	29	30 Archives Committee, 9 am, Buffalo Central Office
31 Try Again Group celebrating 17 th Anniversary						
						9 I came to AA to save my ass & found it was attached to my soul.

PLEASE READ AT YOUR MEETING...HELP KEEP EVERYONE INFORMED:-)

*BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(716) 853-0388
9:00 AM- 12:30PM, 2:00 PM- 4:30 PM
Schedule on line at: www.ny-aa.org &
www.buffaloaany.org*

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BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14210
Fax: 853-0389
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JANUARY 2010

MEETING CHANGES :

- **Feelings Group**; Wednesday's at 7:30 PM at 1st Presbyterian Church, 149 Broad St, is in **need of new members to keep going**. Please Help ☺
- **Main & High Group will not meet the last 2 weeks of December**. Will resume in January. Thursday's 6 Pm, Lifetime Health Center, 899 Main St., Buffalo West.
- **New Meeting: Happy Faces**; Monday thru Friday, 1:30 PM, Faith Temple C.L.G., 461 Rhode Island St., Buffalo, 14213. Open Discussion.
- **Machias Big Book Study** on Sunday's 7:30 PM, **No Longer Meets**.
- **Acceptance & Welcome** groups are now **offering childcare**. Tuesday & Friday, 10 AM, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd, Tonawanda.
- **Common Bond group** has **changed its starting time to 8 PM**, Tuesday's, Beacon Center, 3131 Sheridan Drive, Suite 106.
- **Caz Manor Group** meets **Sunday's 8 PM**, 486 North Legion Drive, Bflo South. Open Discussion.
- Guiding Light, Positively Living II & Renaissance Groups have all **joined** and will go by the name **Renaissance**. They meet tues.3PM, wed, 12 Noon, & fri. 12 Noon. Northern Erie Clinic, 2282 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore.
- **IF YOUR GROUP IS NOT MEETING, PLEASE INFORM THE CENTRAL OFFICE. THIS ALSO INCLUDES THOSE MEETING DAYS WHEN YOUR SITE IS CLOSED FOR A HOLIDAY.**

COMING EVENTS

- ~Dec.31, **New Years Eve 2009, Tri County Group**, St. Joseph Church, Gowanda, NY. Doors open 7:00 pm, Speaker 8:00 pm. Food, Live music & Fellowship. Everyone welcome, please bring a dish to share.
- ~ Jan 3, **Steering Committee**, SUNDAY 5 PM, Central Office, 681 Seneca Street.
- ~ Jan 3, **Central Committee Meeting**, SUNDAY, 7 pm, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca St. (hosted by WE group).
- ~ Jan 3, **Corrections Committee Meeting**, SUNDAY, 6:00 PM, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street
- ~ Jan 10, **General Service Assembly**, 12 Noon., Hamburg Town Hall, 5999 South Park Ave, Hamburg

~ Jan 18, **GSA, Area 50, District 11 Business Meeting**, Monday, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., location to be determined. contact Maureen M., 716-310-5885 for more info.

An Introduction To the 12 Steps Workshop. Monday's ,7:30- 8:30 PM. Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca St., Buffalo

~ Jan 19, **Public Information Committee meeting**, Tuesday, Anyone interested in helping the community understand who we are, what we do, and what we are not do, PLEASE come out and get involved. Help keep A.A. around for your children. Buffalo Central Office, 6 PM.

~ Jan 30, **Archives Committee Meeting**, SATURDAY, 9 am, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street (lower).

~ Jan 31, **Try Again Group is celebrating it's 17th Anniversary @ St. John Luthern Church**, 5312 Clinton St.(corner Union) West Seneca. 7:30 PM. Regular Open meeting with cake. Come celebrate ☺

~ Feb. 13, **Easy Does It** group is having a **Game Night** at its regular meeting place, Parkside Lutheran Church, corner of Wallace and Depew. Speaker at 6:00 p.m., food and games to follow. Come join us for fellowship and fun.

~ Feb 13, **Any Age presents the 29th Blizzard Ball**, St. Andrew's RC Church (corner of Sheridan & Elmwood, parking lot off Elmwood at Lowell Rd.) 1525 Sheridan Dr., Kenmore. Doors open at 6 pm, Speaker @ 7 PM. Music and dancing from 8 pm- 1 am. Tickets \$9.00 in advance/ \$11.00 at the door. Pizza-Coffee-Tea- Pop- 50/50. No Children under 12.Smoke ONLY in your vehicles & please keep butts in the car.

~ Feb. 19-21, **Retreat For Men in A.A.**, "Road to Recovery", St. Columban Center, 6892 Old Lakeshore Rd., Derby. Cost \$135, meals included. To register call Dan B.; 8638775. All Men welcome. Scholarships available.

1st STEP: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."

1st TRADITION: " Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity."

1st CONCEPT: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM...

Yours in the Fellowship of the Spirit...Terry B..... Executive Secretary

**Buffalo Central Committee Minutes
December 6, 2009**

Cindy Orchard Park Group Committee C-chair opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. Chris The Journey Group read the Preamble, John Sunday AM Breakfast Group the Purpose of Central Committee and Rick Lockview Group read the Twelve Traditions. It was moved by MaryKate Three Legacies and seconded by John Sunday AM Breakfast Group to accept the November minutes as written by Cathy S. LoveJoy Group.

New Groups were greeted and 29 groups were represented. Dist #1 Bodhisattva, Journey, Sober Train; Dist #2 Any Age, Grand II Joy of Living, North Buffalo, Three Legacies, Turning Point, Step Action; Dist #3 Abbott Men's Disc, Courage, Alden New Life, OLV Women's, South Buffalo, Sunday Morning Breakfast, Thruway, Try Again, Valley; Dist #5 Big Book Lockport, Lockport #1; Dist #6 As Bill Sees It, Derby, Go To Any Lengths, Sobriety Men's Disc, WE Group; Dist #7 Lovejoy; Dist #8 Amherst Snyder, Eyeopener, Williamsville.

Committee Reports

• **Envelope System:** no report

• **Steering Committee:** Pete reported that the Co-Chair, Exec. Secretary and Group Reps from Dist 2, 4, 5 and 6 were present. Chair, Financial Chair and Dist 3, 7 and 8 were absent with no alternate present. There was no quorum. Convention Chair briefed Steering Committee. Discussion on answering systems to be brought up at new business. Dist 1 still in need of a representative.

• **Financial Report:** no report

• **Treatment:** George W. reported: Next TFC meeting Monday 12/21/09. He requested that all group members send a representative to this meeting, it should last less than 1 hour. TFC will be discussing how we can provide a separate speaker meeting concurrent with existing meetings at ECMC.

1. All meetings were covered this month.
2. TFC Chair George W. has submitted his resignation due to "spirit of rotation", as a qualified candidate will be nominated at Central Committee.
3. We Group held their first TFC format meeting at Casa Divita. They will be doing the 2nd Tuesday and the meeting is NOT open to the public.
4. TFC Chair will finalize coordination of TFC Format meeting at IVY House this week, with Easy Does It Group handling one per month.
5. TFC is still looking for groups to volunteer men and women separately at these two facilities.
6. Since Stutzman Frontier Group is being handled well as an existing group in a facility by dedicated AA volunteers, it was decided by the committee to not change this group to TFC format. As all is well at Frontier and we will be busy with two new meetings, Casa Divita, Ivy House and the additional request from ECMC Detox.

• **Corrections:** Secretary read Milt's report. Meetings for the Alden Corrections facility for the months of Jan & Feb are not covered. Corrections needs groups to take meetings in. Corrections also needs volunteers for the committee. They are also looking for old Grapevines to take into the prisons. The Corrections table was covered at the Fall Convention. Corrections would like to thank all the volunteers who stepped up to help out.

• **Screeners:** no report

• **Central Office:** NYS Sales Tax is a reality. Anyone ordering books from us or World Service in NY will be charged it. The 2010 schedule has been sent to the printers. FYI the only website we have control over updates is www.buffaloaany.org. Please before you call the office about, "my group info is incorrect", please make sure you are at the correct website. There are schedules out there that we didn't put up and have no control over. The state website, we send corrections biannually. It's not an instant change and have no control over it. The new computer has been purchased and is in the process of being set up and files transferred. Groups we are in need of contacts from are, IT Group Dist #8 and Go To Any Lengths Dist #6. Just a reminder for groups to return the Gratitude Envelopes.

• **New Frontiers:** Chip R. editor would like to thank group reps and committees for allowing him to serve as editor. He believes he has received more than he gave and details will be given in an article he hopes will be run in an upcoming New Frontiers.

• **PIC** Jeff reported that the committee is prepared to begin contacting area high schools. They have drafted a letter and are going to be sending sample pamphlets to offer them for use with the students. DVD's are

being dropped off at local television stations to begin doing public service announcements. The new North Buffalo Branch library is now open and they have been stocked with pamphlets as well as a new Big Book compliments of the Lockport #1 group. PIC has a presentation scheduled for mid-March at ECMC for the resident doctors in the psychiatric department. The Buffalo Alternative High School wellness fair was a success and they requested our services for several more upcoming events at city high schools. As always PIC is in need of volunteers for a wide range of things. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Central Office.

- **Past Convention:** Frank Carry the Message Group reported that 482 attended the banquet. Convention broke even. He will have final report at January's Central Committee meeting. Frank also thanked everyone for being able to serve as Convention Chair. VCR presented to Archives Committee.

- **GSA Liason:** Jack Lockport #1 Group reported that the next GSA meeting is 1/10/09 at Hamburg Town Hall.

- **CPC:** no report

- **Archives:** Marty reported he has been in touch with both of the past archivists for advice. Ben helped him fix broken frames and helped with the display at Dist #2 Day of Sharing. Tom attended the last Archives Committee meeting and helped Marty to understand how the digital data base is set up. He now has the tools to do a much needed physical inventory and make sure we have everything that is supposed to be in repository. Archives also ordered the supplies that are needed to preserve the original documents, many are deteriorating from being handled. Archives had two displays this month, both went well. At the Dist #2 Day of Sharing, they passed out evaluation forms and they Archives display was "very informative" by almost everyone that responded. The event overall received a very good rating and was well attended. The other display was at McKinley Winners 30th anniversary and was also well attended. The next scheduled display is at the 2nd Cataract City Convention in March. We will be participating in N.E.R.A.A.S.A. but traditionally the host area has not had a display in the past. The traveling display is available for any A.A. function on at least 30 days notice. There will be no Archives Committee meeting in December. The next meeting is January 30, 2009. At that time we will decide when to reschedule the Feb and March meetings because of conflicts with N.E.R.A.A.S.A. and Niagara Falls. Marty would like to thank City Court, Thruway, S.M.D and the person that threw in a \$20 in the coffee can at McKinley Winners. Thank you.

- **Old Business:** reviewed qualifications for each position. Jake Three Legacies Co-Chair voted in by acclamation, Rick W. Lockview Financial Chair, MaryKate Three Legacies Recording Secretary. Dist #2 Chip Grand II Joy of Living, Dist #7 Vernon Solidarity and Dist #8 Tina Amherst Snyder. George rescinded nomination. Milt Corrections Chair and Jennifer Envelope Systems Chair.

- **New Business:** discussion to be taken to the groups on new phone systems brought up by Terry B. Two new meetings voted in VA meeting on Thursdays and Eagle Street Group Fredonia. Christopher Journey group was voted in by Dist #1 for Steering Committee Rep by Dist #1. Brian Sober Train Group voted in for Treatment Chair. Terry B. Lakeshore Group voted in for New Frontiers Editor. Frank Carry The Message Group voted in for GSA Liason. Discussion on adding to the Prudent Reserve \$5000.00. Motion made by Terry B. Executive Secretary, seconded by Pat Thruway Group. 14 yes and 1 nay gavel passes.

- **Announcements:** John Courage Group reminded us to come support the 19th annual N.E.R.A.A.S.A. in Niagara Falls 2/26 to 2/28/09.

Joli B. Lakeshore Group Committee Chair thanked the Grand II Joy of Living Group for this month's refreshments and January's to be provided by The WE Group.

It was moved by Kim Lovejoy Group and seconded by Gilbert Try Again Group that we adjourned; adopted. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by MaryKate B. Recording Secretary Three Legacies Group.

Income Statement		Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	YTD
Beg Bal Cash on hand		15,851.51	16,732.30	16,947.58	20,891.37	
Contributions						
	Groups	4,684.78	4,417.60	7,446.35	4,561.73	58,075.13
	Joint Meeting	67.50	68.27	53.00	72.00	678.57
	Envelope System	1,197.00	157.00	650.00	417.00	5,457.00
	New Frontiers Subs	10.00	50.00	37.00	24.00	459.00
	Literature/Medallions/Pins	2,669.20	3,885.55	3,181.45	4,259.84	42,543.34
	NYS Sales Tax				82.01	
	Literature Postage	44.80	93.96	55.10	60.00	680.69
	Archives Room Rent	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	550.00
	Meetings at CO	89.00	55.00	13.00	29.25	408.60
	Mail/Misc.					75.00
	US Treasury					-
	Reconcile					
	"Gratitude Month" (NOV)		25.00		50.00	75.00
	Conventions/Day of Sharing				283.00	283.00
Monthly Income		8,812.28	8,802.38	11,485.90	9,888.83	109,367.34
Expenses						
	Office Rent	873.22	873.22	873.22	873.22	9,602.14
	Electric	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	990.00
	Payroll					
	Salaries - gross	2,520.40	2,520.40	3,150.50	2,520.40	30,244.80
	Federal Withholdings	(418.68)	(418.68)	(523.35)	(418.68)	(5,024.16)
	NYS Withholdings	(104.00)	(104.00)	(130.00)	(104.00)	(1,248.00)
	Disability Insurance	(2.40)	(2.40)	(3.00)	(2.40)	(28.80)
	Payroll Tax Deposits					
	Federal	611.48	611.42	764.30	611.44	7,565.57
	State			444.18		1,760.94
	Insurance					
	State Ins Fund					278.76
	Health	354.00	354.00	354.00	354.00	3,894.00
	Liability					1,187.08
	Postage	47.37	351.77	243.16	46.88	3,129.09
	Phone	165.49	143.68	165.08	168.41	1,794.85
	Accounting					1,970.00
	Advt					
	Talking Phone Book					
	Verizon; Idearc Media website	154.60	150.85	150.85	150.85	1,636.85
	white directory			110.00		639.20
	Yellow Pages					-
	Literature Expenses					
	Grapevine		420.00			1,953.20
	World Services Inc	463.92	2,740.00	283.50	869.35	20,184.05
	Hazeldon				447.99	2,014.45
	Printers	1,776.00	85.00			4,000.00
	Medallions	205.80				390.38
	PINS					-
	Office Supplies	330.38		453.91	1,584.82	3,839.95
	Answering service	185.91	181.09	163.34	173.67	1,999.50
	Minolta leasing (copier)	223.00	223.00	223.00	223.00	2,453.00
	Minolta Copies/ service contract	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	1,430.00
	PIC		37.75	12.00	21.90	582.80
	Incorporation	325.00				325.00
	Seed \$\$		200.00			200.00
	Seminar			587.42		612.42
	Depreciation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,100.00
Monthly Expenses		8,031.49	8,687.10	7,642.11	7,840.85	99,477.07
Monthly Income (Loss)		780.79	115.28	3,843.79	2,047.98	\$9,890.27
	Depreciation add back (non-cash)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,100.00
End Bal Cash on hand		16,732.30	16,947.58	20,891.37	23,039.35	
CD	PRUDENT	9125.83	9,133.58	9,135.83	9,138.16	+
CD#2	RESERVE	6569.12	6,574.70	6,580.10	6,585.69	+
Assets: Literature & Medallions		21,388.60	20,291.25	17,899.50	17,534.00	
Literature Receivable: (outstanding)		966.50	1,562.68	2,091.84	852.22	
Corrections Facilities		2,285.47	2,535.62	2,733.85	2,953.85	
	Contributions	274.15	258.23	220.00	409.72	3,541.18
	Expenses	24.00	60.00		905.15	3,112.14
Balance		2,535.62	2,733.85	2,953.85	2,458.42	429.04
Treatment Facilities		623.73	767.88	992.88	1,182.88	
	Contributions	244.15	225.00	190.00	295.00	2,983.14
	Expenses					82.76
	AT & T Bridging The Gap					-
	AAA Abott Answering Service					-
	Literature	100.00				3,140.50
Balance		767.88	992.88	1,182.88	1,477.88	3,223.26
						(240.12)

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	GROUP	CENTRAL	CORRECTIONS	TREATMENT
5	"Not Yet Named"	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	One Day At A Time	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	On The Cliffs	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	OLV Women's	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Open Arms	290.00	0.00	0.00
1	Open Mind	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Opportunity	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Orchard Park Step	1189.00	50.00	50.00
7	Pass It On	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Patchin	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Pathway to Peace	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Pendleton Chapter Five	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Point of No Return	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Positively Living/Ren./Guiding Light	1600.00	0.00	0.00
7	Powerless	100.00	0.00	0.00
1	Pride	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Primary Purpose	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Principles Bef. Personalities	112.00	0.00	0.00
4	Progress	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Purpose/Tonawanda	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Questions & Answers	151.00	0.00	0.00
4	Ray of Hope	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Reco., Women in the BB.	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Recovery Near the Gardens	21.25	61.75	0.00
2	Redeemers	30.00	0.00	0.00
1	Reflections	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Reflections on Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Remember When	25.00	0.00	0.00
8	Renewal	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Ride Sober	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Ridge	128.00	0.00	0.00
	Rigorous Honesty	1.75	0.00	0.00
1	Rise and Shine	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	Rochester	200.00	0.00	0.00
3	Roland	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Rural is Plural	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Sally	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Saratoga	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Sat. Night in Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Sat. Nite Sober	25.00	0.00	0.00
2	Searching For Serenity	300.00	150.00	150.00
7	Second Chance	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Serenity	700.00	0.00	0.00
1	Serenity Circle	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Serenity on the Lake	0.00	100.00	0.00
2	Serenity Shack Nooners	10.00	0.00	0.00
5	Serenity Trails	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Setaside	500.00	0.00	0.00
2	Shendan	120.00	0.00	0.00
6	Silvercreek Friendship	25.00	0.00	0.00
1	Sober and Proud	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Sober Saturday	400.00	0.00	0.00
6	Sober Trails	60.00	0.00	0.00
2	Sober Train	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Sober Winners	120.00	0.00	0.00
5	Sobriety Comes First	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Sobriety for Women	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Sobriety Men's Disc.	61.00	404.00	0.00
5	Sobriety On The Canal	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Sobriety on a Sat. Night	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Sobriety on the Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Solidarity	66.21	588.41	0.00
5	Somerset	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	South Buffalo	975.00	40.00	40.00
3	South Town	515.00	0.00	0.00
4	Southtown Earlybird	20.00	0.00	0.00
3	Southgate	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Southwestern	140.00	0.00	0.00
7	Spirit of Hope	50.00	25.00	0.00
2	Spiritual Progress	180.00	0.00	0.00
4	Springville Sat. Afternoon	60.00	0.00	0.00
4	Springville Tues. Night	300.00	0.00	0.00
4	Springville Wed. Noon	20.00	190.00	0.00
4	Springville New Life	30.00	0.00	0.00
8	St. Barnabas	250.00	50.00	50.00
4	St. Mark's	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Starting Over	50.00	800.00	0.00
2	Staying Alive	10.00	0.00	0.00
2	Step Action Group	629.05	0.00	0.00
6	Stepping Stones/Gov.	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Stepping Stones/Wil.	100.00	0.00	0.00
	Steps 1, 2 & 3	50.00	175.00	0.00
1	Sunday Afternoon Ascension	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Sunday in Cattarugas	60.00	0.00	0.00
3	Sunday Morning Breakfast	750.00	0.00	0.00
6	Sunday @ 8:00	25.00	0.00	0.00
1	Sunday Niters	25.00	0.00	0.00
	Sunday Third Group	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Sunrise Court	400.00	10.00	10.00
8	SUNY Amherst Campus	44.00	0.00	0.00
2	Surrender and Hope	350.00	75.00	75.00
2	TFC-12 Step Call	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	TGIF	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Thankful	70.00	0.00	0.00
2	Three Legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Those Too	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Thruway	300.00	901.12	20.00
7	Thurs. Nite Steppers	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Thrusday Big Book	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Thrusday PM Discussion	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	T'nT	120.00	480.00	0.00
5	Today	0.00	0.00	0.00

	GROUP	CENTRAL	CORRECTIONS	TREATMENT
8	Today's Woman	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Tri County	240.00	0.00	0.00
6	Tri-Step Beginners	25.00	0.00	0.00
3	Try Again	490.00	20.00	20.00
4	Tuesday Men's AM	101.35	401.35	0.00
3	Tuesday Women's	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Turning Point	100.00	100.00	0.00
5	Twin Cities	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	Unity	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	University Men's Disc.	426.50	50.75	25.00
3	Valley	450.00	0.00	0.00
3	Victory	250.00	0.00	0.00
3	Victory Women's	50.00	70.00	0.00
1	Wake Up Call	60.00	135.00	0.00
6	WE(Women's Experience)	30.21	189.63	0.00
7	We Are Not Saints	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	We Care	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	We Don't Know	114.70	638.35	0.00
8	Wehrle	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Westfield	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Westminster	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Why	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Williamsville	50.00	0.00	0.00
6	Willing To Grow	439.50	0.00	0.00
5	Wilson Group	9.73	112.00	9.73
6	Wilson Smith Alumni	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	Women In Sobriety	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Women Making the Effort	170.00	20.00	20.00
1	Women's West Side	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	Working	200.00	0.00	0.00
6	Young at Heart	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Youngstown	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Terry B.	200.00	0.00	0.00
	Fireman Phil	50.00	0.00	0.00
	Marge P.	52.00	0.00	0.00
	John F.	50.00	0.00	0.00
	Elliott L.	25.00	0.00	0.00
	Kristin K.	25.00	0.00	0.00
	Aurora House	200.00	0.00	0.00
	Marie G.	80.00	0.00	0.00
	Art	2.00	0.00	0.00
	Camille I.	250.00	0.00	0.00
	Thomas F.	25.00	0.00	0.00
	Richard J.	5.00	0.00	0.00
	Hoot	15.00	23.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTALS	4561.73	58185.13	409.73
			3516.19	295.00
				2932.39

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