



# Seeds of Service

**DCMs and GSRs**  
Please share this newsletter with your group! Thanks!

## Brilliant!!!!

Jan H., Past Delegate, Panel 57

The Spirit of Rotation practiced in AA--what an idea!!! It is an idea that would benefit everyone in the "earth" world. It is STRONGLY recommended that Officers at all levels serve only one term (usually two years) in a position. Service positions can be demanding on our time, family, friendships, and "psychic"! Willingness to serve is a searching of one's self. When that willingness turns to a "they can't do anything without me" type of attitude or worse, a demonstration of self pity, the principles learned in our steps are at risk. *As Bill Sees It (p. 138)* talks about "Two Roads for the Old timer". The difference between the "elder statesman" and the "bleeding deacon" can be examples to all of us.

Rotation of half of the Conference Delegates in one year, the other half the next ensures us that a core of experienced

Delegates are in place along with the first-year Delegates. **Help is always there for the asking!** This is an example for the rest of the service structure at the Group, District, and Area levels.



years after him was highly scrutinized and compared to him. How unfair for the fellow or gal that was trying to serve in good faith and present new ideas. It could have been the undoing of the organization, but it did survive! Their By-Laws eventually were changed to suggest limited terms.

As a Past Delegate, I continue to serve where I can and really enjoy watching new servants lead and learn as I had many opportunities to do. I am grateful that Area 60 is one of the Areas that wants their Past Delegates to participate and have a vote.

I volunteer for an "earth" organization that once had the same President for seven years. Things became a little stagnant, and members began not to participate in offices or in elections. When he said he was no longer going to run for the office, the members panicked. "What were they going to do without him?" Each president for

With the primary purpose that we have in AA—carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers—we cannot get stuck in non-productive and non-spiritual practices. Lives depend on our active work! The Spirit of Rotation gives us new officers with new ideas to stimulate interest from other AA members in General Service "to show them that service can add a rich dimension to their sober lives and Twelfth Step work, and that their participation is vital to the future of AA". (Service Manual p. S23)

## The Challenge of Letting Go

*A collection of references on the Principal of Rotation from A.A. literature.*

*Barb G. Area 60 Newsletter Coordinator*

Discussions about the "principal of rotation" have a long history within our fellowship. Bill W. spoke about the importance of letting go when he wrote *Tradition Two*. It is a practice that is fundamental to the A.A. program of recovery, and has been written about numerous times throughout our history.

Following are excerpts from a collection of sources. Hopefully they can serve as the basis for continued discussion. Such conversations can only serve to enhance unity—which is the focus of our first tradition. We can ask ourselves a variety of questions ... such as:

- Do we serve or do we govern?
- Do we practice rotating leadership, stepping out of office whether we believe others are not available, not will-



ing and not qualified, or do we remain frozen in office?

- Do we experience through rotating leadership, a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere?
- Do we assure anonymity in service through rotation; or do we have leadership exhibiting personal endeavors and individual personalities?

**The AA Group – P16 p.23.** "Each AA Group determines the minimum length of sobriety for members to be eligible for any position or office...these jobs may have titles. But titles in AA do not bring authority or honor; they describe services and responsibilities. And it has generally been found that giving members jobs solely to help them stay sober does not work."

**The AA Group – P16 p. 28.** *Tradition Two: For our group purpose, there is but one ul-*

*mate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

The Principle of Rotation. Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity. Among other things, anonymity in the fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for

*(Continued on page 3)*

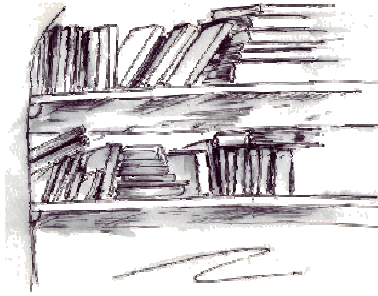
## ON MY BOOKSHELF

Jean M., Past Delegate, Panel 61 Area 60 WPA

The keystone of my bookshelf, as well as my recovery, is “Alcoholics Anonymous”, our basic text, the “Big Book.” Called our basic text because it describes the problem and details the solution for the problem of alcoholism, “Alcoholics Anonymous” along with the “Twelve Steps And Twelve Traditions” are beloved and constant companions of mine. Attending meetings devoted to the study of these books has enhanced my program of recovery. And it is because of those study groups that I have learned that reading those books begins with the covers.

The flap of the dust cover of the “Big Book” tells the “how and why” of it — why and when it was written and what you will find between its covers. If you have a hard cover “Big Book”, you have a dust cover. Following are the title pages, a list of other books published by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, the copyright pages and the Table of Contents. In the “Personal Stories” section of the Table of Contents there is a brief description of each to help locate a particular theme.

The Preface introduces this edition and describes what changes were made in this printing; the Forewords, one for



each edition, tell the “what and why” of each. You may find some familiar statements in one of them.

Finishing up the book are the Appendices, containing our traditions, other information referred to in the text and a list of AA Pamphlets. Also, instructions on how to get in touch with AA. My personal copy of the “Big Book” is well worn, highlighted and tabbed with notes written on just about every page, just like any text book.

“When Bill W. and Dr. Bob realized in 1937 that their budding fellowship of alcoholics had the potential for real growth, they reflected on the need for a book that would crystallize the message. In a talk Bill gave in Fort Worth, Texas, in June 1954, he recalled the impetus: ... “obviously, if this movement was to propagate, it had to have literature so its message would not be garbled, either by the drunk or by the general public.” *Alcoholics Anonymous 70 Years of*

*Growth* © 2005 A.A.W.S. p. 14

Because the Personal Stories have changed with every edition, there is a companion book, “*Experience, Strength and Hope*”; approved by Conference in 2002 and published in 2003, it contains the 56 stories that were replaced in the 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Editions. It makes a nice gift or perhaps a countdown accolade.

My “12 & 12” is similarly underlined, highlighted and written in. It’s foreword also explains the “what & why” of the book. If your copy, like my own, predates 2003, it is missing an important change. As a response to members who found some language in the “12 & 12” unsuitable for today’s politically correctness, an introduction was added by the 2003 Conference reflecting the 2002 Conference Advisory Action: “It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, Twelve Steps And Twelve Traditions”, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published.” As I have heard said, The Big Book was written to change us, not for us to change it.

These books are available in several formats, including hard and soft cover, large print and pocket editions, and audiocassette and CD. No matter what your need is, AAWS can probably fill it.



Grapevine Cartoon Contest Winner  
October 2011—by Anonymous

*"Thank you all for attending this month's group conscience meeting, here are a few items we need to go over."*

## New from the AA Grapevine

### ***No Matter What: Dealing With Adversity in Sobriety – GV31.***

All recovering alcoholics have had to deal with adversity throughout sobriety...a serious illness, an ugly divorce, the death of a child, the loss of a house to fire or to the bank. Despite the fear, pain or self-pity we are in when these tragedies strike, drinking is not an option. The stories in this book show how AA members use the tools of the program and embrace the Fellowship to deal with tough issues. \$10.99

### ***The Language of the Heart, 25th Anniversary Edition – GV11.***

Special 25th anniversary edition cover available while supplies last. Bill W. was the Grapevine's most prolific contributor, writing more than 150 articles, from his first in June 1944 to his last in December 1970. Here in one volume are all of Bill's Grapevine articles, including his first thoughts about the Traditions, his battles with chronic depression and spiritual pride, memories of an all-night drinking spree with Ebby, and a vivid description of how he came to organize the Steps.

## The Challenge of Letting Go

Barb G., Area 60 Newsletter Coordinator (*Continued from page 1*)

any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities." Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

**The AA Group—P16 p. 48.** Twelve Concepts for World Service. Concept 11. While the Trustees hold final responsibility for ACA's World Service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate trustees, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, **the systems of their rotation**, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

**AA Grapevine, Sept. 1992.** "But then I began to see rotation in action, and I learned the difference between ruling and serving. Rotation is one of the ways we use to make sure we serve and don't rule...AA's tradition of rotation (even if it permits some inexperience and even ignorance) was a bit shocking. Could such a structure stay intact? Wouldn't it finally fall apart? The answer, I discovered, was this: AA is unified and strong, because we are not organized...we've insisted that all those serving AA derive their authority from a loving god expressing himself within the informed group conscience."

**Bill Wilson, AA Grapevine, Oct. 1947.** "AA may be able to function upon the power of its own fundamental principles rather than upon the prestige or inspiration of a highly personalized leadership. Thus the whole can become of transcending importance over any part; continued unity

and success can then mostly depend upon god as we understand him working vitally in thousands of hearts rather than a few. Deep down, I think we in AA have begun to sense this magnificent possibility. The widening conviction that active leadership ought to be transitory and rotating; that each AA group with respect to its own affairs need be accountable only to its own conscience; that our committees and boards are really servants, not officials; that we, as a movement, ought to remain poor, so avoiding the risks of disrupting wealth...such concepts certainly leave little room for a prestige-clothed leadership."

**Bill Wilson, AA Grapevine, Jan. 1948.**

"We humbly hope and believe that our growing AA tradition will prove to be the will of god for us... and we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere... therefore we of AA are certain that there is but one ultimate authority, "a loving god as he may express himself in our group conscience."

**AA Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 134/5.** "...the group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants. Theirs is the sometimes

thankless privilege of doing the group's chores...the committee gives no spiritual advice, judges no one's conduct, issues no orders...and so they make the belated discovery that they are really servants, not senators. These are universal experiences. Thus throughout AA does the group conscience decree the terms upon which its leaders shall serve...the bleeding deacon is one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him, who constantly connives for reelection to office..."

**AA Grapevine, Sept. 1992.** "In setting up services and make sure they worked well, it was tempting to forget the principle of rotation...how much more difficult it was to hold on to the principle of rotation and make sure humility (rather than power building) was at the center of our efforts.

## Letting Others Learn

Wayne W. SCI Fayette County

I'm truly all for the spirit of rotation. It's a very important and big part of the fellowship of AA. The spirit of rotation is like teaching a person how to drive a car. You can tell the person what the gas and brake pedals are for, but unless you put that person in the driver's seat, they will not learn very much about how to operate the car, or to get a feel of the car.

It's the same with the spirit of rotation. We must let the person trying to learn how to drive get behind the wheel and learn as we have learned. In the fellowship of AA we must move out of the driver's seat and let the new driver learn how to navigate the car. We must step down so the other person can step up. In our addiction of alcohol, we thought that we were always in charge of our lives and we were not. We cannot get hung up on any power trips in recovery. It's very important for the new comer and others in the fellowship to have a chance to serve... because they are the most important person just coming in the rooms of AA. Without the spirit of rotation, the fellowship would be a big mess.

## Where Would We Be Without Rotation?

Antyne R. SCI Greene County

What is AA without the spirit of rotation? AA would be like a fish taken out of the sea. Each and every servant has a duty to serve each other – by sharing their story, experience, feelings, growth and handling of service tasks.

When rotation ceases to exist, the fellowship of AA dies spiritually. Therefore, we must let the "torch of duty" flow through its members, so that we may continue to achieve the fellowship's mission, vision and goal; and to safeguard it from its misdirection, misrepresentation and failures. Spiritual rotation is vital to the life of AA simply because we look to the support of all its members, and not to just one of its members for approval.

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## Watching Others Grow in Service

Rick O. Area 60 Literature Coordinator

When I first read the topic for this issue was rotation I must admit I wasn't moved until I learned about its traceable history and the use of rotation at every level of AA. In a Grapevine article from January 1947 Bill W. shared his own words and experience about what he called "Bleeding deacons".

"Surely I can make these assertions about the importance of rotation with the greatest of confidence, for in my own turn I, too, have tried a hand at governing A.A. Each time I have strenuously tried it I have been shouted down; --so loudly, in fact, that on several occasions it looked as though I was due for certain swift and due excommunication!"

In 1955 the New York office received a letter from a member in Cleveland that described the use of rotating leadership roles and soon afterward was used by Bill in the Twelve Concepts. Even in today's



G.S.O. in New York rotation is a regular part of the job. At every level of A.A.'s upside down business model we not only allow but encourage new members to step into service. I was surprised to be reminded that even the Board of Trustees rotates their terms. It is very impressive that a relatively small number of people at the G.S.O. not only keep A.A. connected to the world but rotate their jobs every two years, even as a paid employee that takes commitment to excellence. Simply

another thing every A.A. member can be grateful for.

Recently I was given the opportunity to co-chair a large local meeting event. In the "spirit of rotation" I get to Chair next year and show a new co-chair what's necessary. Every step of the way to this event there were people working in service from the Steering committee to the host groups. In my own Home Group we've been through changes whether through rotation or other needs and yet the group stands solid. Miracles happen here and nothing shows like some of my own home group experience.

In recent years I've had the benefit of listening to and learning from some new young guys. Over the past few years I watched them grow from sad and beaten to happy and

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Spirit of Rotation: An Exercise in Humility

Teresa K., Area 60 Registrar

The Spirit of Rotation is a vital part of AA. I've held a couple of positions, one in my home group as GSR, and one in my district as Treasurer. I first learned about rotation while serving as a GSR. I also learned that GSRs should support their districts in all of their affairs. Most guidelines actually encourage GSR's to hold officer or coordinator positions in their district so they can have more complete participation.

**Why do we rotate?** I asked an "old-timer" that question once and the answer was very simple, "so you and someone else can grow and belong in the fellowship of AA." As a GSR, my primary responsibility was to know the traditions and be a resource for my home group—so that we did not violate our traditions. I was also supposed show up at all District and Area business meetings. Boy did I learn a lot! By fulfilling my "job" requirements, my



home group was kept well informed of what was going on in AA in my area. I enjoyed it immensely. I was able to meet other AA's in my area and visit their meetings, and ask as many questions as I needed to learn my job. And when I rotated out by election, I was able to give the new GSR my binder and literature. I also walked with them for the first three months to answer questions because I felt a responsibility to my home group and to the new person. After that time was up I was able to back away and let them find their own path into service.

**Where did the spirit of rotation come from?** The 12<sup>th</sup> Tradition emphasizes the change that needs to happen for good leadership in AA. To let "trusted servants" be just that trusted servants. It helps to keep the ego out and lets God in for direction. I've asked why we have elections every two years, and came to the question "who wants to be a forever GSR?" I have seen GSR's hold their positions for long periods of time, some as long as 10 years. They've explained that "no one else will stand for the position." However, in our Service Manual, it says that it's better to leave the position unfilled than to hang on to it, or rush to fill it. That is why we have alternates, so they may step in when we are done with our terms.

It is our jobs as sponsors and members of AA to teach the ones coming in after us. We need to explain to them the importance of service and why we all

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## AREA 60 CLASSIFIEDS

Area Committee members and DCMs are welcome to submit items to highlight service opportunities throughout Area 60. If interested in any of these positions contact John K. at [chairperson@wpaarea60.org](mailto:chairperson@wpaarea60.org)

<p>■ <b>Secretary.</b> Works closely with the Recording Secretary. Should have four or more years of sobriety, experience as a GSR and time to attend area meetings/events. Responsible for maintaining current mailing list of voting members; taking minutes at all quarterly meetings and assemblies.</p>	<p>■ <b>Recording Secretary.</b> Works closely with the Secretary. Responsible for name tags, registration, taking roll call, and ensuring that minutes and agendas are either mailed or emailed to members for all Area meetings and Assemblies. They also help keep the DCM list updated, and may stand in to take minutes at Area meetings.</p>
<p>■ <b>Corrections Coordinator &amp; Alternate.</b> Recruits AA contacts to bridge the gap between inside and outside meetings by introducing newly-released alcoholics to local meetings; encourages AA members to participate in AA's Correctional Correspondence Program; and offers assistance in the work of those members who carry the message through AA meetings in correctional facilities.</p>	<p>■ <b>CPC/PI Coordinator &amp; Alternate.</b> Staffs AA exhibits at professional conferences, when asked. Assists district committees, groups and inter-groups with , informing the professional community such about AA and what it does, and does not do. Responds to requests from GSO, and sets up display at Area-60 sponsored events, Days of Sharing, and group activities when asked.</p>
<p>■ <b>Alternate Registrar.</b> The Alternate Registrar must have good computer and database experience, and a willingness to learn the software provided by GSO. They fill in for the Registrar at Days of Sharing. The experience as alternate prepares them to rotate into the position when the Registrar's term is completed. A minimum of two years sobriety is suggested.</p>	<p>■ <b>Treatment Coordinator &amp; Alternate.</b> The Treatment Coordinator assists District Committees, groups and inter-groups in the formation of new meetings in treatment facilities. They also coordinate a "Bridging the Gap" program making information about AA available. They may work closely with the Corrections Committee to provide a temporary contact upon release.</p>

■ **Support your District!** A district that sends no one to represent it at Area Assemblies is said to have gone "dark." This occurs with the breakdown of the process by which GSRs meet to elect a DCM to attend area meetings. When the district goes dark, its members no longer have a voice in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

**There are many opportunities to be of service with your District Committee.** Does your district meet regularly? Do you have a GSR who attends these meetings? Currently, Districts 4, 5, 10, 19, 20, 26, 34, 36, 62 are either dark or near dark. If your group is in one of these districts, you can help to relight it! Contact either **John K.** at [chairperson@wpaarea60.org](mailto:chairperson@wpaarea60.org) or **Yvette N.** at [delegate@wpaarea60.org](mailto:delegate@wpaarea60.org) for more information on how to get started!

### ■ Is Your Group Linked to GSO?

Most groups in the U.S. and Canada choose to be linked to A.A. by registering their information with the General Service Office (GSO) in New York.

It is important that the **AREA 60 REGISTRAR** ([registrar@wpaarea60.org](mailto:registrar@wpaarea60.org)) have current information so that GSO knows your group is active. If you do not have a GSR, you can simply give a contact name. This is imperative not only because it gives you and your group a voice in A.A. as a whole; but being listed in the directory helps you to "keep the doors open" for the new person and those who are traveling.

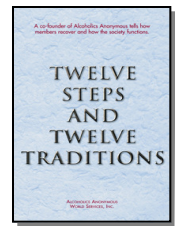
Other benefits are receiving educational materials for your service position from GSO, being included in GSO's annual survey, and receiving minutes, agendas and the newsletter directly from Area 60. Currently our Registrar only has emails for 20% of the GSRs in the area. Help the Area save money by emailing your group name and contact information to [registrar@wpaarea60.org](mailto:registrar@wpaarea60.org).

### From the Archives ...

The "spirit of rotation has a long history in A.A. In 1947, Bill W. talked specifically about the need for rotation in Tradition Nine in the pamphlet AA Tradition: How It Developed. "A.A. as such, ought never be organized but may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

*"Each AA 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."*

Learning about the history behind the "spirit of rotation" helps us to understand it's importance to the survival of the fellowship. Most services positions are held for two year terms, providing the new person an opportunity to learn and be of service.



AA groups, and districts offer many opportunities to be of service, including the positions of General Service Representative (GSR), Steering Committee Representative (SCR), Treasurer, Secretary and District Committee member (DCM). Area service also provides a variety of service positions.

Yours in Service,  
Dennis M., Archives Coordinator

**Editor's Note:** Take a moment to read through the Classified Section to learn more about service opportunities now available; and discover what it's like to learn, serve and participate!

## An Exercise in Humility Teresa K. (Continued from page 4)

have the responsibility to pay it forward. If members are not responsible, then what happens to AA? Just as Bill W. said in the 12 & 12, positions would not be filled, doors to meetings would be closed and AA would fall apart from within. Then what happens to the next drunk needing help?

**What does the spirit of rotation apply to?** Everything, everybody and every home group. My first experience at a NERASSA was just this past year; they had a panel on this very topic. It was very informative, on the how's and why's of rotation. Most of the panelists spoke about their personal experience of humility and growth when rotating from one position to another. During the question and answer session afterwards, someone posed this question -- rotation of the individual within the home group and other levels of the service structure is very important; but what about the home group within the District and the Area? Their answer was an emphatic yes -- a home group should not stand for the same position in consecutive terms -- it promotes "dominance over the district and disharmony within the district. I

have witnessed this for myself. It took away the other groups "Right of Participation;" and made them second class -- discouraging involvement, and breaking the unity of AA. To be able to participate in AA as a whole give you a sense of "belonging" as our concepts talk about.

To rotate is a very good exercise in humility. I don't think any of us wants to be a "Bleeding Deacon." Tradition Two talks at length about this. It also talks about how a home group can wither and die from a lack of participation from its members, as can AA as a whole. It is so important to do the job that is asked of you and do it to the best of your ability. If you need help with understanding your position, than ask questions. We all asked for help when we first walked in the rooms. AA - as a whole - needs each and every one of us, to keep our doors open, to attend business meetings, to give our home groups a voice and a vote. I am sure glad someone stepped up and stood at the door for me and answered that phone call when I needed it most. Thank you AA for my life today.

Yours in Service, Teresa K.

## Watching Others Grow in Service

Rick O. Literature Coordinator, (Continued from page 4)

free. One has gone through group service positions and is now Secretary. Others have served on Steering Committees and General Service Committees.

There are references to "Rotation" in our literature as well as the Twelve and Twelve and other books. I'd tell you where, but my belief is that you'll have enjoyed the journey when you find it. My own service position as Literature Coordinator has shown me the rewards of service. I've been given what's tantamount to a gift I didn't know I wanted. I look forward to sharing my own desire to make sure those that have a need for literature can get it.

In our own General Service structure we offer a chance to not only do service work but to grow in A.A. and possibly your own spirituality. In the end I would like to express my most important point. Service work is very important to A.A., Seeing others follow your lead should be the reward.



## The Challenge of Letting Go

(Continued from page 3)

We learned that even though it was more difficult to rotate and have to constantly move through a period of learning, this was good for the individuals involved and for AA...no one person or small group of people, needed to stay in particular serving positions...many people got a chance to serve rather than just a few."

### Bill Wilson, AA Grapevine, 1947.

"Nowhere in AA is there to be seen any constituted human authority that can compel an AA group to do anything...each leader soon discovers that while he can always guide by example or persuasion he can never boss...the majority of AA groups do not even choose leaders. They prefer rotating committees to handle their simple affairs. These committees are invariably regarded as servants. They have only the authorization to serve, never to command. Each committee carries out what it believes to be the wishes of its group. That is all...heavy handed assertion of my personal authority always created confusion and resistance."

### September 7 2013

*"The individual must sometimes place the welfare of his fellows ahead of his own uncontrolled desires. Were the individual to yield nothing to the common welfare there could be no society at all - only self-will run riot; anarchy in the worst sense of the word."*

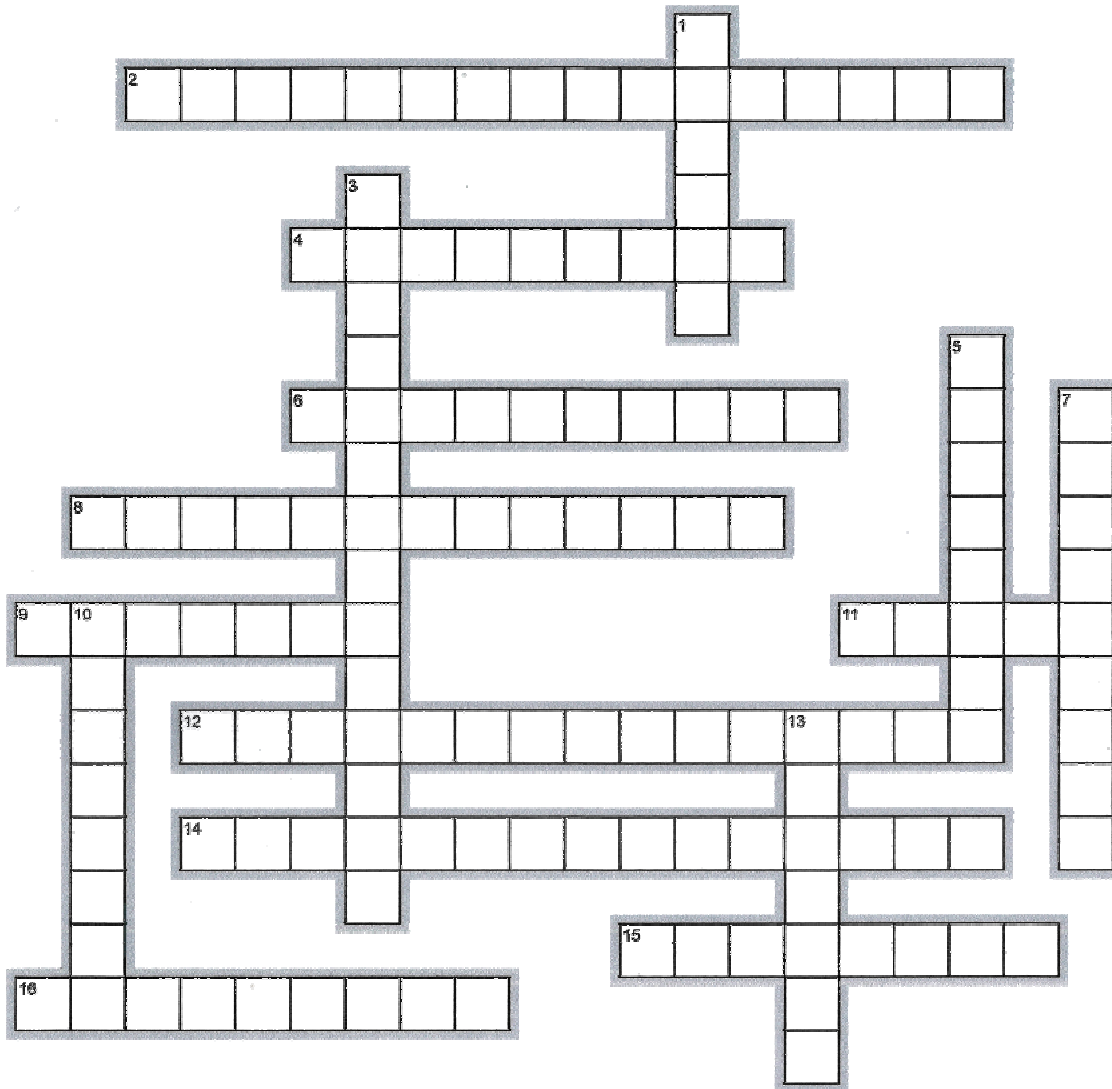
AA Co-Founder, Bill W., July 1946

*"The Individual in Relation to AA as a Group"*

**The Language of the Heart**

# "Letting Go" Crossword Puzzle

Feel free to send suggested words for the next word puzzle  
to [newsletter@wpaarea60.org](mailto:newsletter@wpaarea60.org)!



## Across

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2. They do not govern
4. Group of people appointed for a specific function
6. Release, as from one's grip, not controlling
8. There is but one ultimate authority
9. Shaking hands, setting up, speaking, sponsoring, giving rides, etc.
11. Recovery, service ...
12. One who sees the wisdom of the group's decision
14. One who is convinced that the group cannot get along without him.
15. Something you have when you're "right sized"
16. What we don't break in public

## Down

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1. Being stuck in a role or service position
3. The trustees should always have the best possible committees
5. What bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame
7. Stand length or term of a service position
10. Democratic process
13. Having a portion of (something) with another or others

*Answer Key on Page 9*

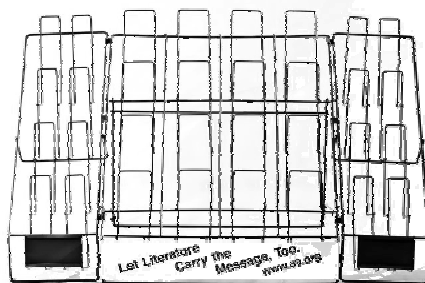
# CARRYING THE MESSAGE WITH LITERATURE

Rick O. Area 60 Literature Coordinator

I must begin by admitting my own lack of knowledge prior to accepting the position of Literature Coordinator. Recently I was involved in a discussion with a young lady at work where she described her family's problems with alcohol. I offered my assistance in any way possible and yet I didn't mention that literature is an excellent way to inform people of the existence of AA and how it works.

Literature is the front line for us, I forgot how many instances I've seen AA literature in Doctors' offices and hospitals as well as other types of establishments and schools. The reading of literature provides a lot of information for the new member as well as members that have been around a long time.

I personally have learned quite a bit from reviewing all the literature and am very grateful. In this type of format AA can address the needs of particular individuals and groups. Twelfth step work takes many forms



and making literature available to those in need is certainly one of those.

As the new Literature Coordinator I would like to inform all members of Area 60 that I am here to answer questions as well as supply literature at Area 60 functions. I can assure you that if I don't know the answer to your question I will find you the right answers.

There are so many stories around of people that learned of AA through literature left in homes and offices. Do you want know how you may help a particular individual that is African-American, homosexual, blind, deaf or other life situation? The answers are

in our literature which should be available at your Home Group. If it isn't then let your group know of the value of providing literature to newcomers or to members that would like to reach out to someone in need.

In my home group we are vigilant about keeping our literature racks full and up to date. We reach out wherever and whenever possible, and will provide Big Books if necessary, as well as grapevine books and magazines.

"Our Twelfth Step-carrying the message-is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die." Bill W.

Grateful Member, Rick O.  
Berkeley Hills Friday Night

## Warranties 3 and 4

Vaughn H., Past Delegate, Panel 51 Area 60 WPA

**WARRANTY THREE** states that "None of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others." This principle was discussed in Concept IV. "It is so important, that it has been made the subject of Warranty Three." It upholds the principle that we must have a strong stand against the creation of an unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure.

### From our Concepts

This was put into Article 12 to protect our "Rights of Participation, Appeal and Petition. It makes it harder to amend or overturn these rights (*it takes written consent/vote of 3/4 of all directory-listed groups to change Article 12*). This is a protection against the creation of absolute authority.

Concept IV guarantees voting representation in proportion to responsibility. There are no second-class AA's, no inferiors or superiors.

Therefore, Conference members have the Rights of Participation, Appeal and Petition. Is the average AA member aware that he/she has these rights as well?

### Points to Ponder?

- Do we insure the Spiritual Liberties of all AA members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Does my group think of the Conference as some sort of "front office" and the trustees as "top brass?"
- Do I? Do members of my group refer to the chair as "the boss?" Do I?

- Do we as group members and district members let others buffalo us into thinking that they are so qualified that they should stand for another two years as our representatives/ or that no one else wants the position and can do as good a job?

**WARRANTY FOUR** states: "That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity." This warranty is concerned with making decisions – by discussion, vote and substantial unanimity – whenever possible.

### From our Concepts

This can be our safeguard (protection) against the hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority (close vote); it also takes notice of the rights

(Continued on Page 10)



## With Rotation Our Hearts Get Bigger

LaMar F. – SCI Greene County

When I think of the spirit of rotation, I think of our Sunday Home Group. I always pray prior to attending the group. I pray during the group, and I pray after the group. I think of our higher power, and what's to come out of not just my life, but also the other members of our group.



each of us. As the rotation rolls, it's like a snowball rolling down a hill. Our hearts get bigger and bigger, and our faith soon becomes stronger than a "monkey's tail."

As I've read in scripture, "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world," he

being the spirit of our higher power. And so as we share weekly, and in rotation what is in our hearts and minds, we learn the importance of the spirit of rotation. As I walk into our Sunday Home Group, I see the smile on our Secretary's and volunteer's faces, and the spirit takes over.

The anonymity of our group is of a spiritual essence, as what is shared at our groups is between the members who attend and our higher power. In doing so, I feel we are greatly rewarded, this is the power of the spirit and as it rotates, each of us have made a contribution in our individual and group capacity which in turn and in rotation of the spirit builds our faith in our higher power.

The meetings are always like water for a fish ... extremely refreshing ... so much so that attending has become a deep desire. I know I'll get the medicine I need every time. The spirit is very powerful and there is surely a reason for the same. As for me, it all started with my spiritual awakening, and continues with our spirit of rotation. Without all of this, I'd surely be like a fish on dry land.

When our AA volunteer asks at the end of each month who would like to chair next months meetings, and I raise my hand, she always says lets have someone who hasn't chaired yet. I now understand why -- it's the spirit of rotation which builds much character in

## 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*

A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The book is priced at \$12.

The official publication date of the first printing of our Big Book is April 10, 1939. There were 4,730 books printed, with red cloth binding, wide columns, thick paper (why it was called the Big Book), and a red, yellow, black and white dust jacket, which came to be known as the "circus cover."

To commemorate this historic printing—the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of a faithful replica of the original, to be published in April 2014. Starting November 15, 2013, you may preorder copies (Item B-0). (Preorder period ends on February 28, 2014.)

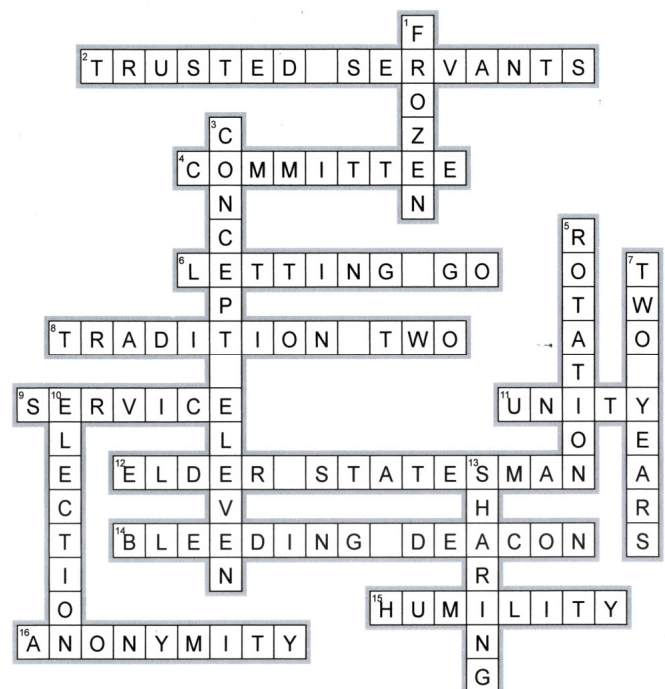
# HEARD AT MEETINGS



HUMOR	SLIPS
Drinking gave me the illusion that I might be alive.	The quality of your recovery is proportional to the quality of your surrender."
INSIGHTS	THOUGHTS
An expectation is a premeditated resentment.	The most important word in the Steps is the first one... "WE"

## Crossword Puzzle Answer Key

from Page 7



## The Meaning of We

Larry R. L. Jr., SCI Fayette

The spirit of rotation is our “we.” As it says in our second tradition ... “Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.”

It has been my experience over the years that being a trusted servant is a great way to give back. All service positions have term limits. My first home group, in the Mt. Washington area of Pittsburgh, rotates it’s chairperson every two weeks. It was a group conscience decision to let everyone in the home group have a chance to serve in this position—even the newcomer, provided they have a sponsor and at least six months of sobriety.

I’ve been to many different groups over the years. Everyone of them rotate their positions through nominations, and then a vote — as we let God guide our hearts in our group conscience to pick a good candidate for whatever position needs filled. I’ve held positions such as greeter,

chairman, secretary and even treasurer. I’ve also learned that holding onto a service commitment for too long can warp your thoughts back into self-centeredness, and the seeking of power and prestige. This damages our humility, as ego takes over leading us down the same path that got us a seat in the fellowship. Self centeredness is the core of our disease!

In the beginning of most of our 12 steps, the word “we” appears — not “I.” “We,” as alcoholics or addicted people, have to realize that this word implies we are part of a fellowship. It’s a fellowship where everyone gets a chance to be of service, even if it’s just setting up a meeting, bringing a covered dish, cleaning up after, or filling an “elected positions. We remain in service to our fellow human beings until we must yield the position to someone else, showing them the meaning of the word “we.”

*This is the spirit of rotation.*



## Spirit of Rotation

Maresa S., Waterworks Group, District 12

This is a great topic to address! It seems as if it is an ongoing issue with many home groups. When I found my first home group, I met the secretary, treasurer and a fine list of other service providers within that group. Each year, they had elections. Low and behold the same people just switched positions. Eventually, it was time for me to step up. But there was no way I was getting my foot in the door in a service position. I stayed with the group that year, and the same thing happened.

I left for a new home group—and they only had a few members. The Secretary was “finally” able to get me into service by “appointing” me. I loved that position, but it looked as if I was to have it for life! I attend many meetings and rotation doesn’t seem to be an issue. No, the same people held the same position each time. *Newcomers want to get involved!* Take a look at your home groups to see if they are rotating on a yearly/ bi-yearly basis. This may be the first step for the newcomer to feel “trusted” again. What a wonderful feeling that is!

## Warranties 3 and 4 Vaughn H. Past Delegate, Panel 51 Area 60 WPA (Continued from page 8)

and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all-important matters should be extensively debated – time permitting – and minority voices – however few – should be heard. Such debate should continue until a heavy majority can support every critical decision. **Simple majority lacks authority and confidence.**

Limitations and or exceptions to substantial unanimity: We cannot allow a minority to block a vitally needed service. Majority can vote to terminate debate (*Call the Question*).

(From ’85 Conference Report): “Warranty Four creates an opportunity for God to work through the majority vote and also be heard through “frequent wisdom of the minorities.” Even decisions made according to this concept can go wrong. And in this case it has been

noted and witnessed that some decisions that are made at the end of a meeting when many have already left early; are tired and not inclined to discuss or debate the issues before them. (*This happens at all levels*). What constitutes “substantial

**This Warranty (Four) is our guarantee (our saving grace) that all voices will be heard, and even the minority opinion will be given audience.**

unanimity?” Majority is defined as “more than half of the total.” Can a wise decision be made based on a vote of 51 – for and 49 – against? Or 55 – for and 45 – against? What can be done in these cases?

**What is the difference between a simple majority and a major majority? What is a vote by plurality?** (*From Terry W., Area 50 Delegate, 1993 Conference*

*Presentation on the General Warranties)*

“...No wonder it takes so long and requires such lengthy deliberations to effect any changes in our Fellowship. All the alcoholics that I know have lots of ideas and opinions and all want their point of view expressed. Just try to get a group of alcoholics to agree on a matter of importance in a very limited time, and you’ll find rebellion in the ranks.

This Warranty is our guarantee (*our saving grace*) that all voices will be heard, and even the minority opinion will be given audience. Even further, this principle assures that all who wish to participate are given the opportunity to do so, and decisions are made by an informed group conscience. As a guard against the hasty or impulsive feeling of an aroused majority, substantial unanimity further strengthens our unity, de-emphasizing the “I” and emphasizing the “We.”

## The “We” of the Program

Margie S., Irwin Back to Basics, District 23

“What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition.” Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 85

Throughout my years as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), this sentence has been repeated to me, and read both aloud, and silently, to me and by me, more times than I can count. Nevertheless, what does it really mean, not just to me, but also to “we”?



Often at meetings you hear AA’s reference the “we of the program.” When the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions are read, the readings begin, “We admitted...” and “Our common welfare...” respectively. Both those words, “we” and “our” are in the statement, “What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition,” and it can be deduced from that frequency of use, that “we” and “our” hold some importance in the text and spiritual program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

So why don’t “I” have a daily reprieve contingent upon the maintenance of “my” spiritual condition? Most likely because “I” am a selfish person, and left to my own devices, I’ve not always been very good at maintaining anything with the exception of a good long drunk. However, since coming to the rooms of AA, and being involved with other people in AA, I have been able to do quite a lot of things, and maintain a full and fruitful life. That would not have been possible without the help of the other people in Alcoholics Anonymous—without the help of the “we” of the program.

The three-sided triangle on the Sobriety Coin, handed out to members at meetings, signify Unity, Service and Recovery. The word unity is rather self-explanatory in any context. A person can’t do “unity” alone, nor be unified by him or herself. This unity is also voiced in our First Tradition, where it reads “Our common welfare comes first...”

Service, at least in AA is also something that a person really can’t do by himself or herself. (Although, I have seen people try

to sponsor themselves—usually not very successfully.) Service generally entails helping another individual work the steps (sponsorship), holding a position of responsibility in the home group, or assisting at District and Area meetings and functions. None of these activities can be done in a vacuum. They require interaction with other people who have had a common experience and are working together for a common purpose.

Recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous is about not taking another drink, which does not happen for members of AA without eventually working through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous; with the first and most important of those steps beginning with the word “We.” As progression is made in reading through the steps, there are references to other people, to admissions of wrong-doing, to the making of amends and to a personal relationship with God.

The action of the 12 principals outlined, and known, as the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are not meant to be done in a vacuum, nor is it suggested that the 12 Steps be done alone. Oral history and tradition of the fellowship, relayed to most members by a home group and then a sponsor, tell members that the steps need to be worked with a sponsor who brings us back again to “we.” Our triangle is a not-so-subtle reminder that as AA’s we must stay connected with other people in the fellowship.

Over the years, I have watched people come and go in Alcoholics Anonymous, and generally, if they come back, the story is always the same. . . . “I stopped going to meetings,” not “we stopped going to meetings.” In thinking through all of this, I realize, that for me, my “Daily Reprieve” is dependent on how much time I spend involved with other people in the fellowship—How many meetings I make, how much time I spend with my sponsees, and how much time I spend being of service to my fellow man.

One thing that I have learned through all of this is that “I get drunk...but WE stay sober,” and my Daily Reprieve depends on all of you.

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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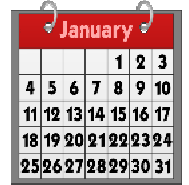
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**Upload an Event to the Grapevine Calendar.** Want to share the details of your event with the greater AA community? Post to the Grapevine calendar the date, place, time and other information about your conference, roundup, convention, campout or other AA function.



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Archives – Dennis M. archives@wpaarea60.org  
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**Newsletter Themes & Due Dates**

Next year's newsletters will follow the 2014 General Service Conference theme (GSC), "**Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World.**"  
 Presentation topics follow the sub-theme "Living in the Heart of A.A."

- **Jan 3.** Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility
- **Apr 25.** Passing It on Through Sponsorship
- **Jul 25.** Participating in Our Common Welfare through Contributions
- **Nov 14.** Inventory – A Guiding Tool to Our Future

**Area 60 Website**

The Seeds of Service, flyers for Days of Sharing, the Area 60 calendar and much more information (including pamphlets, flyers and service documentation) are available on the Area 60 website at **WWW.WPAAREA60.ORG**. You can direct questions or suggestions for the website to the Website Coordinator at website@wpaarea60.org



**Donations to Area 60**

are always welcome and appreciated!  
 Make check payable to Area 60 Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 152 Conway, PA 15027

**2013-2014 Calendar of Events**

Area 60 meetings are held at the Comfort Inn, 699 Rodi Rd. Penn Hills, PA

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday, Nov. 24	8:30 AM - Registration 9:00 AM - Workshop 10:15 AM - Area Assembly	4TH QUARTERLY MEETING Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
Sunday, Dec. 15	9:00 AM	Officer and Coordinator Meeting Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
Sunday, Jan. 12	9:00 AM	GAW Planning Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 26	8:30 AM - Registration 9:00 AM - Workshop 10:15 AM - Meeting	1ST QUARTERLY MEETING Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
Sunday, Feb. 9	9:00 AM	Officer/Coordinator and GAW Meeting—Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
February, 21- 23		Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) Area 61, Warwick, RI
March, 7- 9		Northeast Regional Delegates Reunion (NERD) Area 28, Freeport, ME
Fri/Sat, April 4-5	Registration 3:00-8:30 PM Friday 8:00-1:00 PM Saturday	22nd Annual Area 60 GET AWAY WEEKEND Comfort Inn, Rodi Road
Sunday, April 6	9:00 AM Registration 10:15 AM Meeting	Pre-Conference Assembly Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
Sunday, April 13	9:00 AM	Officer and Coordinator Meeting Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
Sunday-Saturday April 27 - May 3		General Service Conference (GSO) Rye, NY
Sunday, May 18th	8:30 AM - Registration 9:00 AM - Workshop 10:15 AM - Meeting	2ND QUARTERLY MEETING/ Post-Conference Assembly Comfort Inn, Penn Hills
Friday-Sunday June 6-8	9:00 AM	Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) Baltimore, MD
Sunday, June 22	9:00 AM	Officer and Coordinator Meeting Comfort Inn, Penn Hills

**Seeds of Service.** The WPA Area 60 newsletter is published quarterly by the Area Committee. It is for A. A. members only. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily that of the Area Committee or AA as a whole. The newsletter is a useful reference for GSRs reports.

**Newsletter Distribution.** Paper copies are distributed to DCM's at each quarterly meeting for redistribution to A.A. groups through their GSRs. A digital copy (PDF) of the newsletter is available at www.wpaarea60.org; and will also be sent to DCMs and GSRs, if the Registrar has a correct email address.

**Newsletter Submission Guidelines.** Suggested length is 500 words or less. Material should be generally relevant to the theme, and may be edited for clarity and length. All material submitted on time is reviewed, selected by topic and appears on a space available basis. The newsletter does not publish song lyrics, tributes to individuals, prayers, plays, or anything unrelated to AA or that violates the principles of AA. Please include first name/last initial, home group and district. Submissions may be emailed to newsletter@wpaarea60.org.