

"BETWEEN-US"

VOL. 28 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2020

Financial News: Contributions have slowed dramatically at the Central Office. We are still paying rent and utilities. Phones are manned 24 hours a day, bills are still coming in that we need to pay. Please remember our tradition of "self-support". Keep the Central Office in mind when disbursing your group funds.

If you wish to contribute to the Central Office, you can now use [Venmo](#) from your smartphone.

@MilwaukeeCentralOffice-AA

[https://venmo.com/code?](https://venmo.com/code?user_id=2976454346276864728)

[user_id=2976454346276864728](https://venmo.com/code?user_id=2976454346276864728) ...0785 are the last four digits of the phone number associated with the Venmo account. (You will be asked for these numbers)

Late-blooming Character Defects

By: E. F. | Wilmington, Delaware

What counts is what we learn after we know it all

I NO LONGER believe in coincidences! Last fall, when I had been sober almost twelve years, an AA friend dropped by just at a time when I needed help and didn't know exactly what was going on inside of me. I had received two very disturbing letters from my son and his wife about a situation that I had thought I was handling well. I wasn't.

As I discussed this with my AA friend, other feelings poured out. Summarized, they showed that while I had changed a great deal in sobriety and was accomplishing a lot with my life, I still could not internalize compliments. They bounced off my chest and never entered my gut. With that dumb smile of his, he said over and over again, "Work the Sixth and Seventh Steps." Reading them over and over was not going to help until I worked them, he said. I knew these were the "defects of character" Steps, but what in the world did not accepting compliments have to do with these Steps? I had enough problems with my ego.

He patiently explained that everyone has God-given talents, the values of which get warped through alcoholic drinking and thinking. As one sobers up and begins on that adventure of getting to know oneself, it is the working of the Steps that sets one free and gives one that happy balance everyone looks for. If that was so, then the Fourth and Fifth Steps should show me not only the anger and resentments that I had been storing up over the years, but also the not-so-glaring defects of this inferi-

(Late-blooming Continued on page 10)

STEP SIX TIMING IS IMPORTANT

Having almost ordered a drink at five months sober, I was rightfully terrified during a visit with a new sponsor—we immediately went through the first three Steps. My second visit, the next Saturday, I was still in tremendous fear which provided me with willingness to go to any lengths to find secure sobriety. Consequently, I felt completely willing, in Step Six, to allow God to remove whatever defects of character might make me drink. If this would have happened months later, I may not have felt that way. I will be eternally grateful that my new sponsor followed the timing suggestions of the Big Book.

Steps Five, Six and Seven are often considered the "same day steps." The Big Book "timetable" certainly connects them in a timely series, e.g.: Step Four (*at once*, after Step three); Step Five (*at first opportunity* after Step four completion), Step Six (*Then*, not later; and Seven (*When ready*, when Step six is completed). This may seem a bit fast, but I am always reminded that Dr. Bob took Earl T. through the "six step program as it was at that time" in three or four hours. (p. 263).

I have not had to drink since! Now, when sponsoring, I try to also "Strike while the iron is hot! I got sober in southern California; back then if you had less than thirty days you were asked to raise your hand. When I was new, one of my newcomer friends enthusiastically jerked his hand in the air at first meeting—the next week a little less and then—you guessed it—not at all. He later informed that these AAs are too fanatic; he and his friend simply go to the bar, drink a few beers, and discuss sobriety. Poor guy was facing years in prison. I never saw him again, but his story makes the point.

I spent much of my youth in a pool room atmosphere and other dens of iniquity. Much of such language followed me into AA. Yes, that I was willing to face and be rid of, plus smoking, bragging, and maybe all they things my sponsor had pointed out to me just a few minutes earlier in Step Five. Of course, this was only a beginning, many more defects were to be discovered later.

Step Six is only two short paragraphs in the Big Book, but for me it was a vitally important beginning. I need to be *willing* to face and be rid my character defects soon as they pop up!

Bob S



**Greater Milwaukee Central Office AA
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
October 2019 through April 2020**

	<u>Oct '19 - Apr 20</u>	<u>Oct '18 - Apr 19</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Literature Sales	62,475.99	69,824.40	-7,348.41	-10.52%
4050 · Between us	540.00	2,940.25	-2,400.25	-81.63%
4070 · Contributions	43,242.19	43,378.16	-135.97	-0.31%
4080 · Gratitude boxes	25,725.69	24,326.30	1,399.39	5.75%
4090 · Open Meeting / Dinner	0.00	8,275.00	-8,275.00	-100.0%
4100 · Memorials	370.00	700.00	-330.00	-47.14%
4130 · Personal Contri.	13,902.25	3,190.97	10,711.28	335.68%
4150 · Other Income	769.81	1,720.34	-950.53	-55.25%
4170 · Interest Income	674.49	1,524.02	-849.53	-55.74%
4190 · Discrepancies	-162.80	0.00	-162.80	-100.0%
4200 · Bounced Checks Income	11.00	0.00	11.00	100.0%
4600 · Merchandise Sales	0.00	308.40	-308.40	-100.0%
4830 · Sales Discounts	49.27	69.99	-20.72	-29.6%
48900 · Shipping and Delivery Income	756.36	420.63	335.73	79.82%
Total Income	148,354.25	156,678.46	-8,324.21	-5.31%
Cost of Goods Sold	37,588.58	42,838.83	-5,250.25	-12.26%
Gross Profit	110,765.67	113,839.63	-3,073.96	-2.7%
Expense				
51100 · Freight and Shipping Costs	359.66	424.49	-64.83	-15.27%
59900 · POS Inventory Adjustments	-41.73	597.59	-639.32	-106.98%
6000 · Advertising and Promotion	1,561.63	0.00	1,561.63	100.0%
6040 · Bank Service Charges	11.00	0.00	11.00	100.0%
6045 · Coffee/Soda/Candy Expense	398.34	409.65	-11.31	-2.76%
6050 · Credit card fees	1,125.72	1,547.30	-421.58	-27.25%
61200 · Cash Payouts from Drawer	1.55	0.00	1.55	100.0%
6170 · Computer and Internet Expens	281.00	1,825.00	-1,544.00	-84.6%
6200 · Conferences & conventions	50.00	84.94	-34.94	-41.14%
6262 · Postage	16.60	0.00	16.60	100.0%
6345 · Open Meeting/Dinner	0.00	8,555.70	-8,555.70	-100.0%
6370 · License & permits	0.00	10.00	-10.00	-100.0%
6500 · Office	23,938.96	24,945.90	-1,006.94	-4.04%
6600 · Payroll	59,686.60	61,347.71	-1,661.11	-2.71%
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	-21.05	6.99	-28.04	-401.14%
6700 · Professional Fees	1,290.00	1,000.00	290.00	29.0%
6800 · Printing	6,275.16	0.00	6,275.16	100.0%
Total Expense	94,933.44	100,755.27	-5,821.83	-5.78%
Net Ordinary Income	15,832.23	13,084.36	2,747.87	21.0%
Other Income/Expense	5.01	0.00	5.01	100.0%
Net Income	15,837.24	13,084.36	2,752.88	21.04%

Account Balances
 Checking: 15,705.32
 Savings Account: 56,007.06
 Prudent Reserve: 163,805.25

What is the Prudent Reserve?
 The A.A. guideline document produced by A.A. World Services, Inc., suggests a prudent reserve for a Central Office or Intergroup be fixed somewhere between one and twelve months operating expenses. The prudent reserve is not available for everyday use. It is only meant for startup and twelve months of operating expenses, in an emergency situation.

The [Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee](#) needs to rotate its members. We are searching for two AA members to act as Co-Chairs, a treasure, and a liaison person to work with Members of AA Deaf community. They can email SWDAC at: milwaredaefaccess@gmail.com

[Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee \(SWDAC\)](#)
 March 2020
 Balance: \$8,202.79
 Contributions: \$0,178.93
 Interpreter: \$ 240.00
 Awareness Event N/A
 Expenses: \$22.00
 Donations: N/A
 Annual Cost of interpreters for 3 meetings a week @\$160 per meeting is \$24,960
 Leslie P. with questions: brylerandme@gmail.com

Meeting Space Available
 • [Christ United Methodist Church](#), 5200 S 48th St. Greenfield WI 53221. Wheelchair accessible space available. Contact: Jo, 414-421-0202 or email: christumc1@sbcglobal.net

2 Bucks In The Basket... Make it a Reality, not just a dream!



"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." Tradition Seven, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Reprinted with permission AA World Services, Inc. [Seventh Tradition Checklist](#)

Use [VENMO](#) on your smartphone to donate.

Or Donate using [PayPal](#) or your [Credit Card](#) from our website.



DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT INFO ON THE WEB:

<https://www.area75.org/page/districtmeetings>

1. JACKSON, LaCROSSE, MONROE, VERNON, & TREMPPEALEAU;
2 & 18 GREEN LAKE & MARQUETTE CNTY'S & PART OF WAUSHARA;

8 & 30 ROCK ; 9. CRAWFORD, GRANT, IOWA and LAFAYETTE; 19 & 37. RICHLAND & SAUK;

20, 21 & 26 DANE; 31. COLUMBIA CNTY; 35. GREEN; 37. JUNEAU CNTY'S

(Check the web address above for meeting info.)

3. MANITOWOC & SHEBOYGAN CNTY'S 3rd Wed. of month, 6:30 p., Even numbered months at 1907 Club, 2908 N. 21st St., Sheboygan. Odd numbered months: Alano Club, 404 S 29 St Manitowoc

6. WALWORTH CNTY 2nd Tue. 7:30 p. Feb. Apr. June. Aug. Oct. and Dec. only, Walworth Alano Club, 611 E. Walworth St., Delavan

7. KENOSHA CNTY 3rd Sun. of month, 4:00 p., Kenosha Alano Club, 630 56th St.

10. Spanish District. Contact: Salvador G. at 414-446-0158. Meets every 2nd & 4th Sunday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 1663 S. 6th Street, Milw.

11. JEFFERSON CNTY Meets last Wed. at 5:30 p.m. Moravian Church, 301 College St., Lake Mills,

12. WASHINGTON CNTY 1st Wed. of month, 6:00 p., the Jackson Community Center N165W20330 Hickory Ln., Jackson, WI. 53037

13. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 3) 1st Sun. of month, 1:00 p, St. Matthias Church, 111 E. Main, Waukesha

14. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 4th Wed. of month, 7:00 p, Milwaukee Central Office 7429 W Greenfield Ave., P.O. Box 13011, Wauwatosa WI 53226

16. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 1st Wed. of month, 6:00 p, Milw. Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave.

17. RACINE CNTY (1 of 2) 3rd Sun. of month, 1:00 p, Grove Club, 1037 Grove Ave., Racine

23. DODGE CNTY 1st Wed of month at 7:00 p, Dodge Cnty Alano Club, 115 N. Lincoln, Beaver Dam, call to confirm 920-583-3142

24. OZAUKEE CNTY 3rd Tue. of month, 6:30 p., Peltz Center for Jewish Life, 2233 W Mequon Rd. Mequon

25. FOND du LAC CNTY 2nd Tue. of month, 6:30 p., Gratitude Club, 295 Ruggles St., Fond du Lac

27. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 3rd Wednesday of month, 7:00 p.m. Covenant Lutheran Church, 8121 W Hope Ave, Milwaukee WI 53222

28. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 1st Mon. of month, 7:00 p, Bay View United Methodist 2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave. Bay View, WI 53207

29. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 1st Mon. of month, 7:00 p, Luther Memorial Church, 2840 S 84th St., West Allis, WI 53227

32. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 3) 4th Tuesday of month, 6:30 p, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 470 Oak Crest Dr., Wales WI.

34. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 3) 1st Tue. of month, 6:30 p, Northwest Alano Club, N88W17658 Christman Rd., Menomonee Falls

36. RACINE/KENOSHA (1 of 2) 2nd Tues. month 6:00 p.m., 12 & 12 Club, 724 N Pine St., Burlington

38. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) Last Sunday of month 4:30 p.m. All Saint Cathedral, 818 E Juneau Ave.

SEND ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO:

7429 W. Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214,

dan@aamilwaukee.com

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

TAYCHEDAH CORRECTIONAL, Meetings are held 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesday and on the 3rd Thursday at 5:45 -7:30 p.m., Gloria K. (920) 921-2395

FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, P.O. Box 1085 Oxford, No Meeting!

FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL Satellite Camp, New Path Group, P. O. Box 1085 Oxford, WI. Meetings Wed. at 1:30 p.m.

OAK HILL AA GROUP, OAK HILL WCI 5212 Hwy M, P.O. Box 140 Oregon, WI 53575 Meetings Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Rick B. (608) 235-5154

THOMPSON FARM, RT. 2 DEERFIELD, WI., Closed meeting Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Contact: Tom Dickert, (608)764-5755

ROBERT ELLSWORTH CORRECTIONAL, 21425A Spring St., Union Grove, 53182 Call for AA Meeting times: Contact Jennifer H. 262) 237-1294 or Cheryl P. (262) 914-3970.

KETTLE MORAIN CORR., Box 31, W9071 Forrest Dr., Plymouth, AA Thr. at 6:00 p.m. Contact Mike L (920) 898-4782.

WAUPUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AA Meeting Sat., 8:00a.m.-9:30 a.m. Dale C. 920-387-4229 after 5 p. clearance.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION, 8885 S. 68th St. Franklin WI.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY JAIL 9th & State Milwaukee WI.

MILWAUKEE SECURE DETENTION CENTER, 1015 N. 10th St. Milwaukee

Milwaukee Women's Correctional Ctr. 615 W Keefe Ave. Milwaukee

FOX LAKE CORRECTIONAL, Box #147, Fox Lake, WI 53933 Closed meetings Tue. & Fri. from 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL 411 S. Center St., Jefferson, WI, Mtng. held on Mon. at 7:00 p.m., Contact: Scott N. 920-397-0170

RACINE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION for MEN Mtngs: Sun. 8:30 AM, Dane Rx Unit; Wed. 7:00 p. and two meetings on Thursday at 7:00 p. English and Spanish. Call Paul H. (262) 537-2884

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday on odd numbered months at Greater Milwaukee Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis WI 53214. Donation should be sent to: MCCC, PO Box 270544, Milwaukee WI 53227-0544. Contact coordinator: Kota at email: mcccCOORDINATOR@gmail.com with questions.

Corrections volunteers must go through the committee to get AA literature to take into the various facilities. Milwaukee Central Office no longer handles the funds.

Area 75, Southern WI., Calendar of Events 2020
Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison,
Held at Senior Center except where otherwise noted.

- Jun. 28, 2020, Assembly
- Sep. 13, 2020, Assembly
- Nov. 6-8, 2020, Conference Area 75 Holiday Inn, Manitowoc WI

ADDRESSES FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Milwaukee Central Office: 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214 gmco@aamilwaukee.com

• **Area 75 Treasurer:** PMB #167, 5464 N Port Washington Rd., Glendale WI 53217

• **General Service Office:** G.S.O, P O Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163

• **Area 75 Corrections, or Bridging the Gap or Treatment write to:** PMB # 170, 5464 N Port Washington Rd., Glendale WI 53217

• **Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee :** Email: milwareda deafaccess@gmail.com; Mailto: Deaf Access Committee, P.O. Box 1982, Waukesha WI 53186

JOIN the BIRTHDAY CLUB!

We celebrate birthdays, and we'd like to help you celebrate yours! Send us a donation of \$1 for each year of Sobriety- or more if you choose- and we'll print your birthday in the Between-Us Newsletter. Include your Home Group, and we'll print that also!

Requests should be in by the 24th of the month prior to your sobriety date. Late arrivals will appear the following month.

Just fill in the form below and mail, with your donation, to:

Payable to: "Greater Milwaukee Central Office"
Memo: Birthday Club
7429 W Greenfield Ave
West Allis WI 53214



\$ _____ enclosed.

I will have _____ years on ____ / ____ / ____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

Email: _____

Home Group: _____

Payment/Donation: using [VENMO](#) or from our website, using [Credit Card](#) or [PayPal](#).



Years	Name	Home Group
22 (May 23)	Kent L.	Group 23 Wednesday
47 (June 4)	Bill G.	Wednesday Night Wisdom
28 (June 22)	Brad G.	Brown Deer Monday Night



MILW. CENTRAL OFFICE

- **E-mail us at:**
dan@aamilwaukee.com
- **Temporary Hours** until further notice: **M - F 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
- **Secretary Meeting Bi-monthly** beginning the 2nd Tuesday of March at 6:30 p. and each odd numbered month thereafter. Jan, Mar, (~~May~~, ~~July~~, cancelled) Sept. and Nov.
- **Board of Directors Meeting**, Wednesday following Secretaries Meeting, (odd months) 6:30 p.
- **A. A. Meetings**, Mon - Fri at 12:15 p., Wed. & Thur at 4 p., Sat. 9:15 a., & 10:30 a.
- **Service Manual Study:** 2nd Thurs. of month at 6 p.m.
- **Dist. 14**, 4th Wed. at 7 p.m.
- **Dist. 16**, 1st Wed. at 6 p.m.
- **Milw Cnty Corrections Committee**, 3rd Thurs. at 5:30 on odd numbered months.

Spanish Speaking Meetings: Meeting at English Speaking Clubs

- GRUPO 5 CONCEPTOS, Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Av, Milw, on Saturday at 8: p.
- GRUPO NUEVO AMANECER, Tri-County Unity Club, 104 N. First St, Watertown, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:00 PM and on Sunday at 11:00 AM
- GRUPO FE Y ESPRONZA, Gratitude Club, 295 Ruggles St. Fond du Lac WI on Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Sundays at 4:00 PM

SERVICE MANUAL STUDY, 6 p.m.
2020 Schedule: April 9, May 21, June 11, July 9, Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 8, and Nov 12, Dec no meeting.

Milwaukee Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis WI 53214

Find out more about the AA Service Manual. Study group is open to any AA member whether currently active in AA service work, or not.

Contact: [Nancy H at 414-801-5184 with questions.](#)



During the hardships we are all currently facing. It is becoming more difficult to attend AA meetings . Many people are forming [Online Zoom](#) meetings and telephone meetings. I'm listing them as they become know to me, at our website: aamilwaukee.com. Click on the "[Meeting Directory](#)" tab, look for "online meetings available" at the "Codes" drop down menu. If you are starting or attending an online "[Zoom](#)" meeting keep some things in mind.

During Meeting Suggestions

Secretary should mute all participants when the meeting starts, letting them mute themselves is not as effective. Unmuted ppl sort toward the top of the participant list (the host can mute them)

Praying or reciting together is hard, better to have one person do it and others follow along

Fellowship before and after seems to work well

For a participant to Indicate they want to share:

Having ppl indicate by typing "I would like to go next" in Chat seems to work well.

Some ppl figure out they can "raise hand", watch for that. They sort toward the top of the participant list

Having ppl simply unmute and talk seems to work well too

If a Troll joins, Lock the meeting and evict them. Locking will prevent new participants from joining, which the troll will become once you remove them:

"Manage Participants"

"More"

"Lock"

Remove the participant

Recommended Zoom Settings

Disable screen sharing, file sharing and recording. Anonymize phone numbers.

Log into account, choose "Settings" then look to the right and will see three tabs for "Meeting", "Recording", and "Telephone"

"Meeting"

"In Meeting (Basic)"

"Chat -> Prevent participants from saving chat" - They can screenshot if they want, but we will do what we can

"File transfer" - Disable, do not see why this would be needed for a meeting, could be used maliciously

"Screen Sharing" - Disable Screen Sharing to prevent participants from interrupting with inappropriate videos/content

"Recording"

"Local recording" - Disabled

"Cloud recording" - Disabled

"Telephone"

"Mask phone number in participant list" – Enable

'Zoombombing': [When Video Conferences Go Wrong](#)

ZOOM Meetings Protecting Anonymity & Default Settings

For Zoom users: With the rush to shift to online meetings, many of us did not take time to investigate what this meant to the spiritual foundation of our recovery – namely, anonymity. Now that online meetings are accessible, we want to pass on best practices for protecting anonymity. These have been curated from the membership and online resources.

The default Zoom settings run counter to AA's spiritual foundation of anonymity. The meetings are publicly accessible and full names and faces are often displayed. Additionally, by default all Zoom meetings are recorded to the cloud. Turning that feature off is simple, fortunately.

There are other settings in the Meeting subtab that can also be adjusted, such as disallowing remote control of devices, file transfer, data sharing with Zoom, and screen sharing.

Here are some suggested settings for your meeting to use. Please note that most, if not all, of the settings below are not the Zoom default:

Go to: Settings > Recording and click off the Local and Cloud recording features.

In the Zoom Settings section, under the Meeting subtab:

- Require Encryption for Third Party Endpoints
- Disable Auto saving chats
- Disable File transfer
- Disable Feedback to Zoom
- Disable Screen sharing
- Disable desktop/screen share for users
- Disable Remote control
- Allow Virtual background (this is the Zoom default and allows the user to use a virtual background instead of the inside of their apartment, for example)

In the Zoom Settings section, under the Recording subtab:

- Disable Local recording
- Disable Cloud recording
- Disable Automatic recording

Some websites listing many non-local online Zoom meetings.

[www.thetokenshop.com/online AA Meetings](http://www.thetokenshop.com/online-AA-Meetings), or google.com/view/aameetings

Also some updates from the GSO: [Covid-19 Updates](#)

General Service Office: [Options for Meetings Online.](#)

AAGrapevine: [We Are Here to Help.](#)

Additional helpful websites: [Setting Up Online Meetings: Help!](#)

MEETING ROOMS

NEW DAY CLUB
11936 N. Port Washington
Mequon, (262) 241-4673
<http://www.newdayclub.net>
A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Topic
11:00 a. Topic
5:00 p. Young People
7:30 p. Topic

Mon. 12:30 p. Tenth Step Gp
5:30 p. More about Alcoholism
7:00 p.

8:15 p. Men's Gp

Tue. 10:00 a. Topic
5:30 p. Big Book
7:00 p. Beginners Gp
8:00 p. Big Book Gp

Wed. 10:00 a. Topic
2:00 p. Promises Meeting
5:30 p. Step Meeting
7:00 p. Women's Lifeline

Thur. 0:00 a. Topic Meeting
1:00 p. Women's AA Gp
5:30 p. Topic Meeting

Fri. 10:00 a. Topic Meeting
5:30 p. Step/Tradition
8:00 p.

Sat. 10:00 a. Step Meeting
5:00 p. Fellowship of Spirit
7:00 p. Feelings
10:00 p. Young People
8:00 p. Open Meeting (held on 3rd Saturday of month only)

AL-ANON MEETINGS
Monday 6:30 p. Al-Anon
Tuesday 1:00 p. Al-Anon/ACOA
Thursday 7:00 p. Al-Anon

Contact club for info on other fellowships.

PASS IT ON CLUB
6229 W. Forest Home Ave
Milwaukee WI (414) 541-6923
A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Sun. Wake Up
8:00 a. 3 Legados (spanish)
9:30 a. Reliance Meeting
11:00 a. Today' choice
3:00 p. Gratitude Plus
7:00 p. Big Book Readers
7:30 a. Jump Start

Mon. 7:30 a. First Step
4:00 p. Happy Hour Step Gp.
7:00 p. Open Introductory AA
7:30 a. Comin' Back Gp

Tue. 10:30 a. Keep It Simple
4:00 p. Drop the Rock
7:30 p. Three Legacies
7:30 p. Double Trouble DD/O

Wed. 7:30 a. Big Book Study
10:30 a. Pass It On
4:00 p. Happy Hr Promises
5:30 p. Courage to Change
7:00 p. We, Us & Ours

Thur. 7:30 a. Welcome Back Gp
10:30 a. Made Decision
5:15 p. As Bill Sees It
7:00 p. Gateway Topic Gp

Fri. 7:30 a. Honestly Gp.
10:30 a. Came To Believe
6:00 p. Women's Fri. Kickoff
6:30 p. Thoughts 4 Today
8:00 p. Broken Arrow

Sat. 8:30 a. Early Bird
10:30 a. Happy Joyous Free
3:00 p. Twelve Promises
8:00 p. Spanish Speaking
8:00 p. Back to Basics 12x12

AL-ANON MEETINGS
Sun. 11:00 a. Fri. 7:30 p.
Wed. 7:00 p. Sat. 10:30 a.
Thur. 7:00 p.
(Alateen)

LAKE AREA CLUB
N60 W 35878 Lake Dr
Oconomowoc, WI
(262) 567-9912
www.lakeareaclub.com
A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Early Bird
11:00 a. Friendship Gp
6:00 p. Big Book
8:00 p. Gopher Sunday

Mon. 9:00 a. Positive Attitude
6:30 p. Otter Gp
8:00 p. Step/Tradition Stdy

Tue. 1:00 p.
4:00 p.
7:00 p. Life House

Wed. 8:00 a.
10:00 a. Back To Basics
1:00 p. Women's Meeting
6:00 p.
8:00 p.

Thur. 10:00 a.
4:00 p.
6:00 p. Women's Group
8:00 p. Grapevine Mtng

Fri. 12:30 p.
4:00 p.
6:00 p. Non-smoking
8:00 p. Old School House

Sat. 8:30 a. 11th Step
10:00 a. Big Book
5:30 p. Perfect Time B/B

AL-ANON MEETINGS
Mon. 7:00 p. Al-Anon
Tue. 9:00 a. Al-Anon
Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon

OPEN SPEAKER MEETING
Sat. 7:00 p. 2nd & 4th Saturdays
(AA and/or Al-Anon Speakers)

WAUKESHA ALANO CLUB
318 W. Broadway
Waukesha, WI
(262) 549-6541
A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 9:30 a. Sun Morn Sunlite
11:00 a. Sun Go-To-Mtng
(Open speaker 2nd Sunday & Breakfast)
7:00 p. (Open Step Gp)

Mon. 12:00 Noon
6:00 p. Beginners AA
7:00 p. (12 & 12)

Tue. 12:00 Noon
Wed. 12:00 Noon
5:30 p. Topic Gp

Thur. 12:00 Noon
Fri. 12:00 Noon T.G.I.F. Gp
7:00 Topic Discussion

Sat. 10:00 a. Gp 124 7:00 p. Closed Meeting

OPEN MEETINGS, DANCES & EVENTS
Call for information.

GALANO CLUB
- LGBT & All in Recovery -
7210 W Greenfield Ave
Suite 1, Lower Level
Milwaukee, WI 53214
(414) 276-6936
<http://www.galanoclub.org/>
galanoclub@gmail.com
MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 10:30 a. Step Topic
6:00 p. AA Multimedia

Mon. 7:30 p. Came To Believe

Tue. 6:00 p. 40 + Topic

Wed. 7:00 p. 12 x 12

Thurs. 7:30 p. Living Sober - ODAT

Fri. 7:00 p. Step/Topic

Sat. 7:30 p. Big Book & More

AL-ANON MEETINGS
Sun. 10:30 a. Al-anon

Meeting Space Available
See website for Club Events.
www.galanoclub.org

NORTHWEST ALANO CLUB*
N88 W17658 Christman Rd
Menomonee Falls WI
53051 (No Phone)

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 7:00 p.

Mon. 7:00 p. Just Do It Gp
8:00 p. Action Gp

Tue. 10:00 a. Step
8:00 p. Topic

Wed. 7:30 p. Step/Topic

Thur. 10:00 a. Step
6:00 p. Women's

Fri. 8:00 p. Step/Topic

Sat. 10:00 a. Step
7:00 p. Simply Sober Gp

AL-ANON MEETINGS
Wed. 7:30 p. Al-Anon

*This Club is a Smoke-Free environment. We have ample meeting space available for 12 Step groups. Contact the Northwest Alano Club by mail.

WALWORTH COUNTY ALANO CLUB
611 Walworth St.
(Hwy. 50 & 11)
Delavan, WI 53115,
(262) 740-1888

Sunday AA
10:00 a. Primitive Group
12:00 Noon Open Speakers
6:30 p. Delavan Discussion

Monday AA
7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon Delavan Step Meeting
6:30 p. Former Miss Americas (Women's Step Group)
6:30 p. Delavan Men's Meeting

Tuesday AA
7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan 12 Step Topic

Wednesday AA
7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon As Bill Sees It Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan IT Meeting

Thursday AA
7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.
5:30 p. Step Sisters Women
6:30 p. Delavan Big Book Gp.

Friday AA
7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon Big Book Study
6:30 p. Delavan Discussion

Saturday AA
7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan Beginners Gp.

ALANO CLUB 1521 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, WI, 53202 (414) 278-9102
<http://www.mkealanoclub.org/>
A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 7:00 a. AA Meeting
10:00 a. Gp 17 Step
1:00 p. Refuge Recovery
4:30 p. Life Savers

Mon. 7:00 a. Early Morning
10:30 a. Gp 72 Topic
12:15 p. Big Book Meeting
6:30 p. Gp 40 Big Book

Tue. 7:00 a. As Bill Sees It,
10:30 a. Gp 70 Step
12:15 p. Gp 76
7:00 p. Beginners, 1st Step

Wed. 7:00 a. AA Women's meeting
10:30 a. Gp 9, Step
12:15 p. Oasis Topic Gp
6:00 p. Chicks at Six Gp
7:30 p. Yoga AA

Thur. 6:00 a. AA
7:00 a. Big Book Meeting
10:30 a. Gp 97, Step
12:15 p. Here & Now Gp
7:00 p. Sober and Out

Fri. 7:00 a. Daily Reflections
10:30 a. Gp 21, Step
12:15 p. Gp 65
6:30 p. Here & Now
11:59 p. Second Shifters (Sat.)

Sat. 7:00 a. AA Meeting
11:00 a. Gp 87 Step
3:00 p. Spiritual Growth
7:30 p. Open Speaker
9:00 p. Here and Now

AL-ANON MEETING
Sunday 10:00 a. Al-Anon

H.O.W. TO CLUB
8930 W. National Ave,
West Allis, (414) 543-2448
<http://howtoclub.info/>
M, W, F, Sat. 9 a. -11 p,
Tue Thur 9a. - 9p., Sun 8a to 9p.

Sun. 8:00 a. Eye Opener AA Gp.
10:00 a. Grass Roots (Steps)
4:30 p. Drop the Rock 6/7 Step
6:00 p. Restore Us To Sanity
8:00 p. Sun. Sober & Serene

Mon. 11:00 a. Winner's Circle
5:45 p. Gp 132, Women's Gp
7:00 p. Big Book Gp.
8:00 p. New Hope Gp.

Tue. 11:15 p. What's The Point
11:00 a. Willingness Group
6:00 p. Topic Gp
7:00 p. Sign for Sobriety AA
8:00 p. 12 & 12 AA Meeting

Wed. 10:00 a. Foundations Meeting
6:00 p. AA Beginners Gp
7:00 p. Women's Freedom
8:00 p. Promises Group
11:15 p. After Hours Gp

Thur. 10:00 a. But For Grace Of God
6:00 p. Here and Now
8:00 p. How To Get It Going

Fri. 11:00 a. Priority Group
6:00 p. Big Book Group
8:00 p. R.U.S. For Us
11:15 p. Candlelight Promises

Sat. 9:15 a. Men's Topic
11:00 a. Pioneers Group
6:00 p. 1st & 12 Topic
*8:00 p. HOW To Saturday
*(Open meeting on 3rd Saturday)

24 HOUR CLUB
153 Green Bay Rd.
Thiensville, WI
<http://www.24hourclub.org>
[Web and Facebook Info](https://www.facebook.com/24hourclub)

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Topic
10:00 a. Step/Topic
5:00 p. Step

Mon. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Topic
8:00 p. Men's

Tue. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Step/Topic
5:30 p. Big Book

Wed. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Big Book
5:15 p. Women's

Thur. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Topic
5:30 p. Step/Topic/Trad
8:00 p. Men's 12 & 12

Fri. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Step/12 & 12
5:30 p. Principles
8:00 p. Step

Sat. 6:30 a. Topic
8:30 a. Big Book/Steps
10:00 a. Big Book
8:00 p. Open Speaker Mtng.
(1st Saturday Only)

The Coronavirus has affected us all in some way. During this time when most if not all meeting places have been closed, many have started "online" or "telephone" meetings to fill the need. I have listed those I know of on our office website: aamilwaukee.com use the drop down menu at "Meeting Name or Location" and type the word "Online" or "Telephone" to find virtual meetings online or on the phone. Or, go to the "Codes" field and click on "online meetings available". Follow the links and use the passwords if any. Good luck.

MEETING ROOMS

UNITY CLUB
1715 Creek Rd
West Bend, (262) 338-3500
unityclub1715@att.net
www.facebook.com

AA MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 10:30 a. ** Gratitude Gp.
8:00 p. Candlelight Gp.
Mon. 10:00 a. Monday A.M.
7:00 p. Men's
7:00 p. Women's
Tue. 10:00 a. Tuesday A.M.
7:30 p. Beginner's
8:00 p. Step Gp
Wed. 10:00 a. Promises
1:00 p. Steps/Promises
8:15 p. Step Gp
Thr. 10:00 a. Big Book
7:00 p. EZ Dozen 12x12
Fri. 10:00 a. Step/Topic Gp
8:00 p. * Step Gp.
Sat. 10:00 a. Here & Now
7:00 p. Big Book
AL-ANON & ALATEEN MTNGS
Saturday 9:00 a. Al-Anon
Thursday 7:15 p. Al-Anon
* Open Mtng. Last Friday of month
** Open Mtng. 3rd Sunday of month (10:30 a.m.)

FRIENDSHIP CLUB
2245 W. Fond du Lac Ave
Milwaukee, WI
(414) 931-7033

Email:
friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday
10:00 a. Friendship
11:00 a. Third Sunday
Open Meeting
Monday
10:30 a. Step Gp
Tuesday
7:00 p. Gp 43 Big
Book
Saturday
10:30 a. Gp 112 Step

Call for information
on other types
of meetings.

Email:
friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net

12 STEP CLUB
4102 W Townsend St.
Milwaukee, WI 53216
(414) 871-0610

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday:
11:00 a. Gp. 27
Friday:
11:00 a. Gp. 61(12x12)
Saturday:
10:00 a. Beginner's
7:00 p. Gp 6

Call the club for information on Open Speaker AA meetings, meetings for other fellowships and for special events.

MILWAUKEE GROUP
933 E Center St. (River West)
Milwaukee WI 53212

A.A. MEETINGS

Sun. 10:00 a. Open (Disc.)
8:30 p. Big Book
Mon. 5:30 p. Big Book
7:00 p. Open (1st Step)
8:30 p. Topic
Tue. 7:00 p. Open (Topic)
8:30 p. Open (Big Book)
Wed. 7:00 p. Open (Big Book)
8:30 p. Topic
Thur. 6:30 p. Open (Topic)
8:30 p. Step
Fri. 7:00 p. Beginner's
8:30 p. Open (Big Book)
Sat. 8:30 p. Topic

Milwaukee Central Office
7429 W Greenfield
West Allis WI 414-771-9119

A.A. MEETINGS

Mon. 12:15 p
Tue. 12:15 p
Wed. 12:15 p, 4:00 p
Thur. 12:15 p, 4:00 p
Fri. 12:15 p
Sat. 9:15 a, 1st Step
10:30 a

We do not meet on major holidays.

LIGHTHOUSE ON DEWEY
1220 Dewey Ave.
Wauwatosa WI
AA MEETINGS

Sunday
6:00 p. Jim's First Step
7:30 p. Gp 78
Tuesday
6:00 p. 11th Step Meditation
7:30 p. Professionals
Wednesday
7:30 p. Big Book
8:00 p. "RES-IPSA"
Thursday
7:30 p. Alumni No 12
Friday
7:15 p. Gp 74
Saturday
10:00 a. Gp 59
7:00 p. Big Book Topic

All Saint's Cathedral

818 E Juneau Av Milw 53202
Monday:
7:30 p.m. Sane & Sober
Tuesday:
10:30 a.m. Men's meeting
Wednesday:
7:30 p.m. Men's meeting
Thursday:
7:00 p.m. Men's meeting
Friday:
7:30 p.m. Big Book
Saturday:
10:30 a.m. Men's meeting

Directory Changes

NEW MEETINGS

Sundays 6:00 p.m. Galano Club, 7210 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis. "Multimedia Sunday Night AA Meeting"
Mondays 7:30 p.m. First Unitarian Society, 1342 N Astor St. Milwaukee, "We Agnostics".
Mondays 6:30 p.m. Uhles Cigar Shop (LL) 114 W Wisconsin Ave, Milw 53203. Cigar smoking allowed. No wheelchair access.
Thursday at 6 p.m., St Matthew CME, 2944 N 9th St, Milwaukee 53206
Thursday at 7 p.m. Men's Gp, All Saint's Cathedral 818 E Juneau Ave, Milw. 53202
Fridays at 7p.m., Primary Purpose, St James Catholic Church, W220N6588 Town Line Rd, Menomonee Falls WI 53051
Saturday 8:30 a.m. Step Meeting Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2750 W Mequon Rd, Mequon WI 53092
Saturday 7:30 p.m. 7210 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis 53214

DISBANDED GROUPS

Tuesday 8:00 p.m. Treat Yourself Tue. Christ Church, 5655 N Lake Dr. Whitefish Bay WI
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Home At Last, met at St Luke's Lutheran, 6705 Northway, Greendale

Wednesday 1:30 p.m. Bridges of Milw. Rehab and Care Center, 6800 N 76th St. Milwaukee.

Wednesday 8 p.m. Menomonee Falls, Gloria Dei Church, W180N7863 Town Hall Rd.

OTHER CHANGES

WELL Beginners and WELL Big Book, Tuesdays in Wales, **NOW** meets at: New Vision Bretheren-Christ Church, N14W27995 Silvermail Rd, Pewaukee WI 53072

OPEN SPEAKER

Weekly & monthly speaker meetings listed in December 2018 When & Where

aamilwaukee.com/directory.html

Sundays at 10 a. Milwaukee Gp. 933 E Center St, Milwaukee WI, 53212
2nd Sunday at 11:00 a. Alano Club 318 W. Broadway, Waukesha,
3rd Sunday Open 11 a., Friendship Club, 2245 W Fond du Lac Ave, Milw
Sundays at 7:00 p. VA Hospital 5000 W National Ave 3rd Floor Unit 3A
1st Tuesdays in Jan, Apr, July and October at 7:30 p. Acceptance Gp. First Congregational Church, 1111 N Chicago Ave So. Milwaukee.
Last Wednesday 7:30 p. Gp 23 First Lutheran Church, 7400 W Lapham St, West Allis
Wednesdays at 7:00 p. Salem United Meth-

odist Church, 541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha
3rd Thursday, 7:30 p. St John Vianney, 1755 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield WI
Every Friday 7:00 p. Christ the King, 1600 N Genesee Rd Delafield
4th Friday 8:00 p. Imago Dei Church, 2327 N. 52nd St., Milwaukee 53210
1st Saturday 8:00 p. 24 Hour Club Open Meeting, 153 Green Bay Rd, Thiensville.
1st Saturday at 7:00 p. Dist. 12, Living Word Lutheran Church, 2240 Living Word Ln., Jackson WI 53037
2nd Saturday at 7:00 p. Dist. 34, St. Francis Episcopal Church, N84 W16525 Menomonee Ave, Menomonee Falls, WI
3rd Saturday 7:30 p. HOW To Club 8930 W. National Ave, West Allis
3rd Saturday 8:00 p. New Day Club 11936 N. Port Washington Rd, Mequon,
5th Saturday 3:00 p. How To Club, 8930 W National Ave, West Allis
Every Saturdays 7:30 p. Alano Club 1521 N. Prospect, Milwaukee.

Contact the Central Office via email:
gmco@aamilwaukee.com, with changes

**Group Contributions to Central Office
April 2020, Thank you all for your support.**

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Group #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Group #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#018 Sat 8 p.m.	114294	120.00	Keep It Simple Men's	610707	93.40
#033 Christ Church	114304	60.00	Lake Area Sat Morning Big Book	140606	100.00
#063 Gp	119704	100.00	Lake Geneva Monday Night	114253	106.45
#093 Men's Group	130257	761.00	Mon Night Procrastinators	OZK-M	50.00
24 Hr Club Mon-Sat 6:30 a.m.	711522	78.00	On Awakening	630666	170.85
A New Day	660862	75.00	Rule 62 Men's Gp	173372	115.20
Airport Group	159599	100.00	Sat Night Feelings Gp 7:00 p.m.	164467	10.00
Any Length Gp	677457	50.00	Suggestive Only	647950	105.00
As Bill Sees It Waukesha	177080	146.93	Thank God It's Monday (TGIM)	720790	100.00
Big Book Study, Promise View	720616	30.00	Thanksgiving Gp Hubertus	703452	50.00
Broken Arrow	MIL-F8	100.00	There Is A Solution/Waukesha	173128	65.00
Daily Reflections Gp (Wales)	665087	80.00	Thinking Outside the Bottle	719338	60.00
Early Bird Rogers Memorial	624742	254.00	Thr AM Gp 10:00 a.m.	144607	100.00
Elm Grove Living Sober	665770	25.00	Tue Morning Gp 10:00 a.m.	138530	100.00
Fri Night North Shore	137882	132.00	Tue Night Mukwonago	126398	202.50
Fri Noon 12 & 12	MIL-FB	23.00	Turning Point Sun Night	636637	80.00
Hand Of AA Online		60.00	Wed Afternoon Happy Hour	643772	100.00
Hartford Women's Big Book	667036	50.00	Women's AA Gp	650509	25.00
Holiday Alkathon Fund		745.00	Women's Big Book	697839	120.00
Impaired Professionals In AA	126056	100.00	Women's Wed 5:30 p.m.	704135	21.00
It Works If You Work It	723327	42.00	TOTAL		4,906.33

April 2020 Personal Contributions, Thank you for all your support.

Anonymous	1,334.84	H, Bill	10.00	O, Mike	50.00
B, John	300.00	H, Charles	50.00	P, Richard	50.00
B, Susan	50.00	H, Kerry	50.00	P, Brian	25.00
B, Tom	50.00	H, Michael	5.00	P, Donna	45.00
B, Tracey	5.00	H, Rich	50.00	R, Larry	75.00
B, Ed	16.00	H, Robert	20.00	R, Richard	20.00
B, Michele	25.00	H, Tamara	10.00	R, Edward	50.00
B, Robb	10.00	H, Tom	100.00	R, Joe	25.00
C, April	20.00	H, Scott	25.00	S, Nanci	50.00
C, Annette	35.00	J, Bob	60.00	S, Colleen	50.00
C, Ellen	50.00	J, Kiana	20.00	S, Gail	35.00
C, Larry W	100.00	K, Clair	100.00	S, J & F	500.00
C, Thomas J	100.00	K, Raymond	50.00	S, Linda	50.00
D, Bob	100.00	K, Claire	60.00	S, Michael	100.00
D, Brad	16.50	K, Ed	25.00	T, Patrick	25.00
D, James	50.00	K, Matt	100.00	U, Todd	10.00
D, Mary	788.91	K, Phillip	30.00	V, Kurt	50.00
E, Caitlyn	25.00	M, Chris	25.00	W, Carl	20.00
E, James	100.62	M, JAMES	200.00	W, Cheryl	50.00
F, Daniel	11.00	M, Lynn	50.00	W, Daniel	50.00
F, Dennis	25.00	M, Marcia	26.25	W, Mike	100.00
G, Bruce	50.00	McG, Carol	20.00	W-C, Ellen	50.00
G, Chase	30.00	N, Elizabeth	250.00	W-P, Rhonda	100.00
G, Jordann	100.00	O, Eric	100.00	Z, Mark	20.00
G, Raymond	1,000.00	O, Megan	10.00	Z, Joan	15.00
				TOTAL	7,454.12

Need to make a group or personal contribution?

Use our [DONATE](#) button on our website: amilwaukee.com or use our your [VENMO app](#) from your smartphone.

All the groups listed in your [When and Where](#) directory, should be contributing regularly to the support of your Central Office. We want to be here when anyone reaches out for help. A big thank you to everyone, for all you do.

ASL Interpreter

**Available: Meeting for
Deaf and Hard**

of Hearing,

Tuesdays 7:00 P.M.,

**H.O.W To Club, 8930 W
National Ave. West Allis
WI 53227**

[Redemptorist Retreat Center,](#)

1800 N Timber Trail Lane, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, (262) 567-6900

Email: rrc@redemptoristretreat.org

Please call for information and schedule of retreats for recovering people. AA and AI-Anon, \$250 three nights. We discuss the 12 steps and related topics.

[2020 Weekend Retreats](#)

[Jesuit Retreat House,](#)

4800 Fahrwald Rd. Oshkosh,
WI 54901, call 800-962-7330

jesuitretreathouse.org

Men and Women in AA, AI-Anon

Total cost: 4 days \$390.00. Send a \$75.00 deposit with requests for specific dates to retreat house or call for info.

Men: , Dec. 3-6 2020.

Women: Aug. 20-23 2020, Nov. 12-15 2020, Nov. 19-22 2020.

(Late-blooming Continued from page 1)

ority complex that I seemed to have masked--even to this day.

I hurt badly enough that I did what he said. I read the Sixth and Seventh Steps daily for thirty days. I prayed that God let me feel good inside. It didn't seem to work. I read the Steps for another thirty days, and this time, I included in my prayer: "If I can't make it, please let me fake it." After the sixty days had passed, I stopped reading the Steps. The prayers continued and still continue to this day.

It is now five months later, and the answers to my prayers have been--as usual--very subtle. I know I walk straighter. I listen to myself talk, and I seem more self-assured. I know the things I am not good at, but now seem to get good feelings more and more. I know one thing for sure: Length of sobriety--even with hard, constant working on myself--does not guarantee contented sobriety. As a member of the human race, I know there will be times when I hurt. The key to getting "unhurt" is to remain teachable and be willing to change. Once again, I learned that what counts is what I learn *after* I know it all.

Reprinted with permission AA Grapevine, Inc
October 1984

June 1993

Buttons, Oranges, and 16 Cents

By: L. D. | Cutler, Ontario

Step Six: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

I was the kind of drunk who arrived at the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous with the conviction I had no defects at all. I claimed. "I never stole, cheated, or swindled."

Once my ego was deflated somewhat I was able to admit that yes, perhaps I did have these same defects--but not at the extremes that others talked about.

But, as Step Six says, "We who have escaped these extremes are apt to congratulate ourselves. . . . But when we face up to the less violent aspects of these very same defects, *then* where do we stand?"

In my drinking days I would go grocery shopping and put thirteen oranges in a bag, claiming it was a dozen. I had this idea that people owed me something, that these stores had a lot of money, that the prices were too high anyway. I recall, too, trying on clothes in a department store, finding something I liked and switching price tags so I could get away with a lower price. "That wasn't stealing," I reasoned in my state of self-delusion. And why should I report all of my income on my unemployment insurance cards? "I paid into it, didn't I? How am I supposed to live on this?"

It was last year that I told my sponsor I was having a lot of trouble understanding Step Six. She asked, "Are you entire-

ly ready?" I said, "I don't know. I'll have to think about it." I thought, "Entirely ready for what?" Four days later, after reading up on Step Six again, I realized how simple it all was. It was just as she had said: "Was I entirely ready to walk on the road that headed to perfection?" I believed at that time I was.

Sometime in my ninth year of sobriety I bought myself a new shirt. I wore it a few times and lost one of the colored buttons. I thought to myself as I did in the past, "That shirt is brand-new. I paid a lot for it." I planned how I would return to the store and steal a button from the same kind of shirt. Yes, there I was trying to twist a button off a shirt hanging on the rack. My young son was tugging on my arm, saying he wanted to go look for a toy in another store. He wasn't paying attention to what I was doing. Then he added, "I won't steal it, Mom." We had talked about stealing earlier that week, at home in a family discussion. His words hit me. I thought, "What on earth am I doing?" I didn't steal the button.

Over the past few months I have had a number of tests to see how "entirely ready" I am. It was again with the "less violent aspects of these defects."

I sat with a receipt in my hand from my babysitter, changing the amount so I could cheat social assistance out of some money. The old thinking was back but I said to myself, "No, you've got to be honest."

Not long after this, I had to make some long-distance personal calls and I figured why not make them during work and record them as work-related calls. The old thinking was: "You can get away with it. A lot of people do it." But I couldn't. I thought, "You're on a different road now."

Then there was the magazine I had seen at a local clubhouse. I noticed an article in it that I wanted to read. Instead of asking to borrow it, I shoved it in my purse. I used to do that in my drinking days.

I suppose the icing on the cake was when I was grocery shopping and saw two cans of soup, one for 99 cents and the other for \$1.15. They were the same brand but the flavor I wanted had the higher price on it. You guessed it, there I was trying to switch price tags. But I decided against it and took the higher priced can to the checkout. The cashier recognized the brand and immediately charged me only 99 cents without my even opening my mouth.

I left the store feeling smug and drove to pick up a receipt from a junkyard where I had bought a part for my car. The receptionist said she had just run out of receipts and could get me one the next day. I didn't trust her so I asked for something written on blank paper. She laughed as she wrote it out, adding, "I'd never gyp anyone for seventy dollars. I wouldn't sink that low! If I was going to cheat anyone it would be for a million dollars." There I stood, receipt in hand, thinking of myself and the lousy 16 cents I had just cheated the store out of. Step Six says, ". . . most human beings don't suffer these defects at these rock-bottom levels," but standing in the junkyard, right then and there I felt like rock bottom.

Step Six further states, "It will seldom matter how haltingly we walk. The only question will be 'Are we ready?'" I believe I am now ready to walk.

Reprinted with permission, AA Grapevine, Inc.

June 1995

Inside Out

By: Fred H. | St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character

If Alcoholics Anonymous were a self-help program, Step Six might read something like this: "Became determined in our minds to overcome all our character defects."

Mercifully, this is not what we are asked to do in AA. In fact, no action at all is called for in Step Six. I cannot imagine more passive language than "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." We are not admonished to reform our character, to make deep and sincere resolutions to change our objectionable behavior, to give up anything at all, nor to take on new responsibilities or even new attitudes. The words of the Step sound more like a progress marker on the road to recovery than a call to more action.

Being entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character was almost a rest stop on my trudging the road to happy destiny; a pause that I desperately needed. For too long I had really tried to be a better person. Attempts to control my drinking ended in total defeat and a sense of hopelessness and aimlessness. Then I came to AA. At the very first meeting I got a tiny glimmer of hope--a softness that I didn't understand or particularly seek. I was so tired of trying that the relief in simply giving up was as near to joy as anything I had ever experienced.

But in the AA meetings I attended people talked about a lot of things other than alcohol. They talked about honesty. I couldn't be totally honest because (I thought) if people really knew what I had done, and was still doing, I might lose my job or at least be totally disgraced. People talked about asking for help, but I pretended to be self-sufficient. They talked about fear and I acted brave and strong. Whole meetings were devoted to discussions of gratitude. I felt more self-pity than gratitude, but I said I was grateful and continued going to meetings.

Nearly every topic, except the First Step, filled me with guilt, shame, and fear, but I hid it well and resolved to try even harder. I approached AA exactly as I had lived for so many years before and during my drinking. "I will do this thing," I thought, but I was never quite able to pull it off. I got so very tired of trying!

All these things that troubled me so much came out in my Fifth Step: my selfishness, dishonesty, repeated failure of self-reliance, and my fears. Once again, I hit a kind of bottom. I not only was defective but I couldn't do anything about it. Nothing!

I didn't feel lost anymore, or hopeless. Neither was I filled with the kind of faith in a Higher Power many in AA expressed. The idea of God doing for me what I could not do for myself was agreeable to me, but I didn't know what to "do"! Step Six said that I was now entirely ready to have that happen. I believed that, and it was true. The relief I felt at this time brought real joy, a change from the inside out. Then I thought about how God might do these things for me. Thinking about it didn't help at all; in fact, pondering the matter only produced new doubts and questions.

I worried about wanting something with an urgency akin to alcoholic craving and that God's way of removing that defect would be to deny me the fulfillment I sought, or that I would be compelled to do things I really didn't want to do. I feared that a certain grim asceticism would be imposed upon me. Self-denial never held any lasting appeal to me!

These doubts and fears were not things I could share with anyone--not even my sponsor who had heard my entire Fifth Step. I feared he would think I was unwilling--the very worst offense in AA! I felt pressured to get on with the real action Steps, Eight and Nine. So I did the very same thing I did with every other Step up to that point. I took a chance! The chance I took was that this thing just might work out for the best. Maybe, just maybe, what God had in store for me would be good and maybe I would even like it. At last, after years of trying to figure out what was right and then trying even harder to do it, I was entirely ready to have God remove all my defects.

That chance was certainly worth taking. After all, if life became too grim I could always reclaim control and try again on my own. For one week, morning and night, I said the Seventh Step prayer. The words "My creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. . ." reminded me of words from a hymn that we sang in church when I was growing up: "Just as I am. . . I come to Thee." I didn't have to do anything! I was me, still living in a lot of the mess that I had made. That was okay for the moment. But I knew that change would have to occur and that I would need to participate in the process.

Change did occur. I was surprised, as I continued with the next six Steps, that what really changed about me was my "wants." The urgency of self-gratification left me. Personal ambition (a quality I always valued) became focused on being useful to God and others. I found myself telling the truth most of the time and found that others valued that more than my super-human efforts of the past. I have stopped fighting, I hate no one, and I now know the meaning of the word serenity. God is doing for me what I could not do for myself.

Sometimes people try to make the Sixth Step into an action Step. I hear statements at Step meetings like "It does no good to ask God to remove your defects unless you are willing to take the action necessary." Another oft-quoted adage in meetings is "God helps those who help themselves." However, I have no reason to believe that at all. The more I tried to help myself the more self-reliant I became and the farther I was from any real dependence upon God. When this self-reliance failed (as it inevitably did), fear possessed me and I drank. What I find to be true now is that God helps those who *trust* him.

Of course action is necessary. We do not try to escape from life's demands. My problem, though, was trying too hard to figure out what to do, then trying too hard to do it on my own, depending totally on my own resources and imagined strengths. The point of Step Six is that we stop this self-centered imagining and planning. We don't ask to see anything in the future, make no commitments to specific goals, and surrender ourselves to a future yet to be revealed. Without this break from busy action I could not have continued with the AA program. With it, I am changing--from the inside out.

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District 29 Round Robin AA Open Meeting Hosted by Tuesday Hales Corners Step and Topic

Sunday Jun 14, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)—open at 6:45pm for fellowship

Speakers: Renee R. and David S.

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