

District 12 Dispatch

District 12’s General Service philosophy, as derived from “A.A.’s Legacy of Service” (Bill W., 1951), is to assist its GSRs to help ensure that their groups carry the message. *“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.*

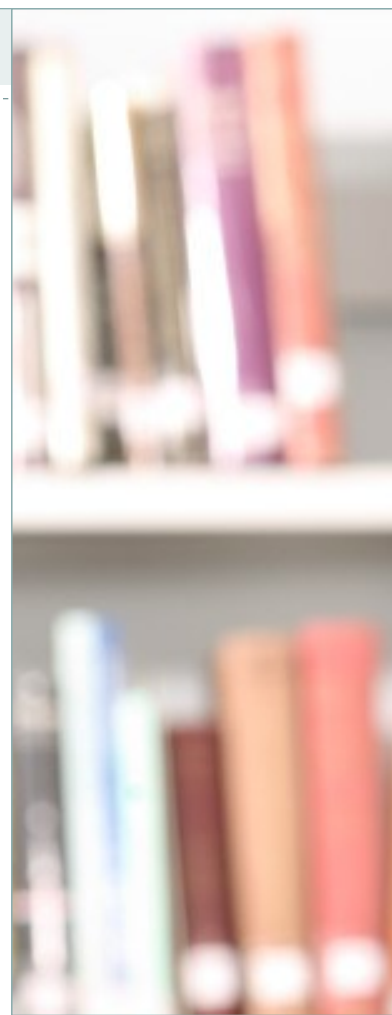
Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer...”



District 12 General Service is supported by the voluntary contributions of the groups it serves and is guided and directed by the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, the guiding principles by which A.A. members recover and by which our Society functions through the principles of A.A.’s **Twelve Steps**, **Twelve Traditions** and **Twelve Concepts**.

District 12’s General Service primary purpose is to stimulate A.A. members interest in general service by relying on good communication as the primary means to show that *“service can add a rich dimension to their sober lives and Twelfth Step work, and that participation is vital to the future of A.A.”* (S23)



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Step 6

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

Principle of this Step:

“Willingness”

The One Thing I Need To Know About Step 6:

Willingness is the Key



What Can I Surrender in this Step?

The desire to hold onto my defects of character no matter how familiar or comfortable they are.

After undergoing a fearless moral inventory, as prompted by Step 4, individuals confront and admit their flaws. This recognition isn't just for us but also extends to others and, most crucially, to a Higher Power. This emphasis on a Higher Power, regardless of its traditional or non-traditional form, signifies the program's foundational belief in the necessity of surrendering to a force greater than oneself. It's this submission that acts as a linchpin for breaking the bonds of alcoholism, bringing semblance and sanity to the chaotic whirlwind that life may have become.

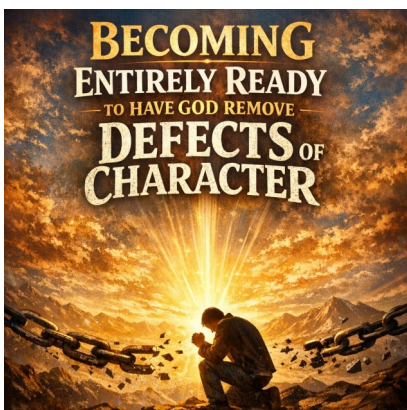
Step 6 doesn't impose or demand; it encourages an internal state of readiness. Instead of asking the Higher Power to eradicate our imperfections, we position ourselves willingly, preparing to cast away self-destructive habits and attitudes. This transformation isn't immediate; it's a steady journey marked by patience, persistence, and the guiding hand of the Higher Power.

Interestingly, our relationship with our flaws is complicated. Often, these flaws masquerade as endearing quirks, deeply embedded in our self-identity. Yet, as we progress, the realization dawns that these very characteristics might be getting in the way of our path to recovery, acting against the wishes of our Higher Power. The challenge lies not just in identifying these barriers but in the genuine willingness to relinquish them. Perfection isn't the goal here; it's about the persistent intent and earnest effort to become better.

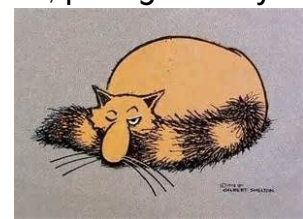
Inner reflection plays a pivotal role. It's essential to approach this step with honesty, admitting when one isn't ready to part with certain flaws, without succumbing to procrastination or self-deception. The overarching theme of Step 6 is to underscore intentionality over perfection. By actively fostering a genuine desire to shed detrimental habits, we can now set the stage for genuine transformation, ensuring that the fruits of recovery are within reach.

How step 6 helps us recover: Step 6 serves as a pivotal point in our healing process. Engaging with this step and its accompanying questions provides us with a mirror, reflecting both our flaws and the ways in which we've unconsciously anchored them into our lives. It pushes us to acknowledge these imperfections, not just on a surface level, but by delving into the depths of how and why we've held onto them for so long.

Understanding our flaws is only half the battle. Recognizing them means confronting the pain, fear, or comfort associated with them. By identifying what we desire to eliminate from our lives, we are taking a crucial step towards self-improvement.



However, acknowledgment alone isn't enough for true recovery. The next, equally important step is actively seeking their removal. This might involve soliciting help from our Higher Power, seeking guidance from trusted individuals, or actively working on personal self-improvement strategies. The essence of Step 6 is about setting intentions for change and taking proactive measures to actualize this transformation, paving the way for a more balanced and fulfilling life.



Tradition 6 — Short Form

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

Principle:

“NON-AFFILIATION”

Overriding Idea of Tradition 6

We Keep It In-House and Remember T5

Why is it important?

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Tradition 6 is considered very important because it protects the fellowship’s main purpose and keeps it from being pulled in too many different directions. The tradition states that an AA group should never “endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise,” because doing so can bring in problems of money, property, and prestige that distract from helping alcoholics recover. This focus on a single purpose—carrying the message to those who still suffer—helps ensure that AA remains simple, clear, and effective. Without this boundary, AA could easily lose sight of what it was created to do.

Another reason Tradition 6 is so important is that it protects AA from conflicts and divisions caused by money and outside interests. The history of AA shows that when groups tried to start businesses, fund projects, or align with organizations, problems quickly arose—arguments, confusion, and loss of unity. Money, property, and authority can create power struggles or disagreements, which can weaken the group’s sense of fellowship. By avoiding these entanglements, AA keeps its decisions centered on recovery rather than financial or organizational concerns.

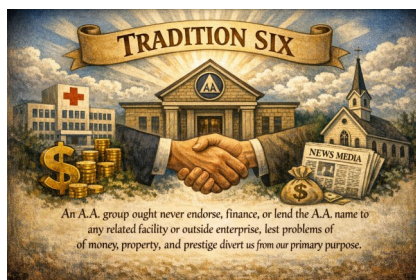
Tradition 6 also preserves AA’s independence and credibility. If AA were to endorse hospitals, treatment centers, or political causes, people might question its motives or feel pressured to accept ideas beyond recovery. Staying unaffiliated allows AA to remain neutral and open to anyone who needs help, regardless of background or beliefs. This independence helps maintain trust, because members know that AA is not influenced by outside agendas, profits, or institutions.

Finally, Tradition 6 ensures that AA remains a spiritual program rather than a business or institution. The core of AA is one alcoholic helping another, not running organizations or managing resources. By separating spiritual work from material concerns, the tradition keeps the program accessible, equal, and focused on personal recovery. In this way, Tradition 6 plays a key role in preserving the identity, unity, and long-term success of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Step-Tradition Parallel

The sixth step poses the question, how can I become entirely ready to have my defects of character removed? The answer is in the sixth tradition. In fact the sixth tradition describes my main character defects: the problems involved from seeking money, property, and prestige. The sixth tradition contains the solution to my problems of money, property and prestige: the more primary in my life carrying the message becomes, the less problems of any kind I have!

Therefore, observing the sixth tradition in my life by placing my primary purpose of carrying the message first, and not problems of my property, prestige or worthy outside interests, keeps me sober.



Concept 6

“The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.”

ONE THING YOU NEED TO KNOW:

PRINCIPLE OF THE CONCEPT **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Conference Allows the Board to Do Its Job

AA’s Concept 6 describes a balanced partnership between the General Service Conference and the General Service Board (trustees). The Conference represents the voice and conscience of the Fellowship and carries the ultimate responsibility for world services, especially in major matters of policy and finance. At the same time, the Concept recognizes that the Conference cannot manage day-to-day operations itself, since it meets only periodically and is not structured for continuous administrative work.

Within that framework, the General Service Board (made up of trustees who are also members of the Conference) is entrusted with “chief initiative and active responsibility” for most world service matters. This means the Board takes the lead in planning, decision-making, and carrying out the ongoing work between Conference meetings. In practice, the Conference sets direction, while the Board ensures that direction is lived out in real operations—like publishing, finances, public information, and global outreach efforts.

The relationship is therefore one of delegated authority with accountability. The Conference delegates substantial authority to the Board so it can act effectively and without constant oversight, but it does not give up its ultimate authority. The Board must act responsibly and remain answerable to the Conference, which retains the right to guide, review, and make final decisions on major issues. This balance ensures that leadership is both efficient (Board-led action) and democratic (Conference oversight).

In spirit, Concept 6 emphasizes trust and teamwork: the Fellowship trusts the Conference, the Conference trusts the Board, and the Board carries out service on behalf of all. When working properly, this creates a system where direction comes from the collective conscience, while execution is handled by experienced, trusted servants with the freedom to act. It’s a structure designed to keep AA’s world services both responsive and responsible, without becoming either disorganized or overly controlled.



SIMPLIFY:

THE CONFERENCE ALLOWS THE BOARD TO DO ITS JOB

As we learned in Concept 2, the Conference knows its duty, but in the end, knows it only meets once a year while the General Service Board (GSB) meets more frequently to carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference.

Giving the Board a liberal authority to get its job done is crucial. Why?

The Conference does not micro-manage the Board throughout the year and experience has shown that a “wide latitude of administrative freedom” allows the Board to effectively manage the world affairs of A.A.

“Old Behavior isn’t Old Behavior If We’re Still Doing It”



Contribute to the Newsletter

- Your personnel story
- Anniversary or pot luck at your Home Group—Flyers are needed
- Events for the web site
- ahlgrenscott@yahoo.com

All these events can be found on
 “twinportsaa.org” with flyers and directions

- 5-22-2026: Gopher State Roundup—
Bloomington MN
- 6-12-2026: Akron Intergroup Founders Day—
Akron OH
- 6-26-2026: Eau Claire Roundup & Area 74 Con-
ference—Eau Claire WI
- 7-3-2026: MNYPAW State Conference—
Minneapolis MN
- 7-18-2026: Lake Vermillion Speaker Meeting—Tower
MN



TWIN PORTS INTERGROUP

- Reading library stocked with all AA books and literature
- Flyers and announcements for events
- Volunteer opportunities galore
- Meeting directories

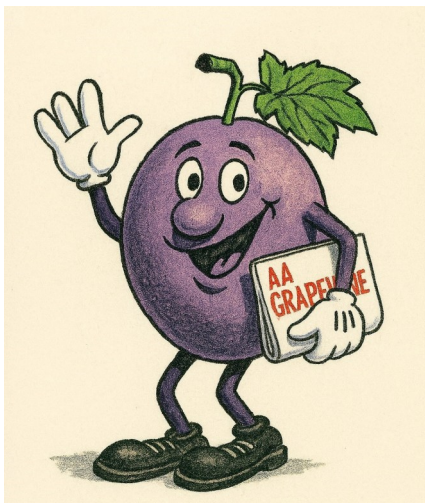


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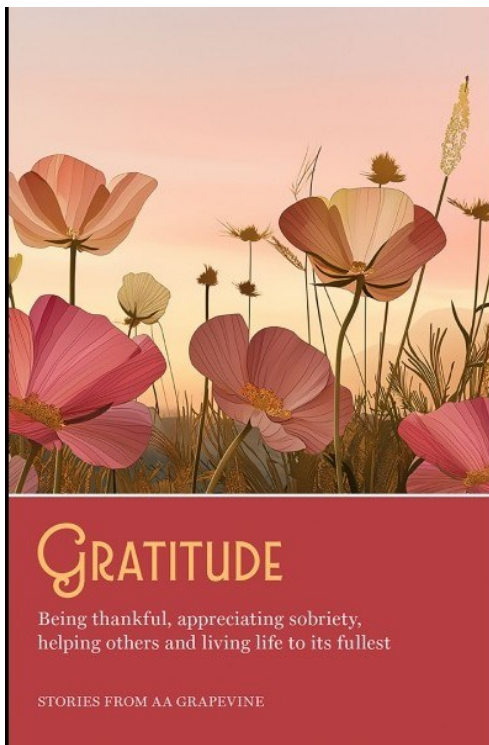


Twin Ports Area Intergroup is here to help anyone who has a drinking problem.

Our sole purpose is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and to be of service to A.A. Groups in Northern Minnesota & Wisconsin.



New Book



In every copy:

- Letter from the editor



AA Grapevine YouTube

The Grapevine has a YouTube channel where visitors can listen to submitted stories from A.A. members.

Daily Reflections for June

Your Daily Reflection each day can be found at "Twinportsaa.org"

- Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.
- Carefully reading the first five proposals we ask if we have omitted anything, for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last. . . .Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable?
- "This is the Step that separates the men from the boys." . . . the difference between "the boys and the men" is the difference between striving for a self-determined objective and for the perfect objective which is of God. . . . It is suggested that we ought to become entirely willing to aim toward perfection. . . . The moment we say, "No, never!" our minds close against the grace of God. . . . This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives, and move toward God's will for us.
- . . . a spiritual life which does not include. . . family obligations may not be so perfect after all.
- If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation.
- Such is the paradox of A.A. regeneration: strength arising out of complete defeat and weakness, the loss of one's old life as a condition for finding a new one.

Month of May in A.A. History

- 1935 - June 10th The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA
- 1941 - June 7th The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.
- 1944 - June 21st The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.
- 1935 - June 26th Bill D. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

