

## 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 10

### “CONTINUED TO TAKE PERSONAL INVENTORY AND WHEN WE WERE WRONG PROMPTLY ADMITTED IT.”



#### WHAT IS THE PRINCIPAL OF STEP 10 ?

#### PERSEVERANCE



#### What Can I Surrender in this Step?

My belief that I don't need to enhance the inventory I did in Step 4 each and every day and identify "defects du jour."

*"A MAN CAN FAIL MANY TIMES, BUT HE ISN'T A FAILURE UNTIL HE BLAMES SOMEONE ELSE." – JOHN BURROUGHS*

Working on the Tenth Step of AA means continuing to do all of the things we have been doing for our recovery so far; continuing to be honest, having trust and faith, and paying attention to our actions and reactions. We have learned to pay attention to how our actions affect others, and when the effects are negative or harmful, promptly stepping forward and taking responsibility for the harm caused and trying to repair it.

*"LIFE IS 10% WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU AND 90% HOW YOU REACT TO IT." – CHARLES R. SWINDOLL*

“CONTINUING TO DO ANYTHING IN OUR DAILY LIVES USUALLY MEANS THAT WE GET BETTER AT IT. AND SO IT GOES WITH STEP TEN OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. NOBODY EVER REALLY ENJOYS ADMITTING TO BEING WRONG, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO BLAME OTHERS. ADMITTING WHEN WE ARE WRONG AND PROMPTLY BEING ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR SIDE OF THE STREET IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ORDER FOR US TO MAINTAIN OUR SPIRITUAL PROGRESS IN RECOVERY. THE BEST PART ABOUT PRACTICING THE TENTH STEP OF AA IN OUR DAILY LIVES IS THAT THE MORE WE ARE EXERCISING SELF-DISCOVERY, HONESTY, HUMILITY AND REFLECTION, THE LESS APOLOGIES AND AMENDS WE HAVE TO MAKE! “

IT'S NOT THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE WILLPOWER AND SOME DON'T.

IT'S THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE READY TO CHANGE AND OTHERS ARE NOT.



## TRADITION TEN

LONG FORM:

**“No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues — particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.”**



**Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy**

### STEP-TRADITION PARALLEL

The relationship of the tenth tradition to the tenth step is this: I can be at peace and avoid outside issues by taking my inventory and not yours. I avoid controversy by taking stands with the attitude of a peacemaker. The tenth concept of service takes the process one step further and specifies what kind of inventory I should be writing about: The responsibilities for which God has given me authority.

The tenth step poses the question, “How can I survive successfully in the world by taking my own inventory and promptly admitting it when I am wrong?” The tenth tradition supplies the answer; “I survive by being a peacemaker with you because I am at peace with myself through my own inventories.”

### OUTSIDE ISSUES CAN TEAR US APART

What is an outside issue? An outside issue is anything outside of my relationship with God through sobriety.

The tenth tradition is rather clear as it applies to A.A. We have prospered by having no opinion on outside matters and not being drawn into controversy. For instance, A.A. has avoided the outside issues that tore apart the Washingtonians. A.A. has never become crusaders or taken stands on important but outside issues, “particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion”. (See the long form of this tradition)

Bill Wilson differentiates the responsibilities of the A.A. member and the A.A. group in this tradition by saying on p. 177 of the “12 & 12” that the tenth tradition does not “mean that the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, now restored as citizens of the world, are going to back away from their individual responsibilities to act as they see the right upon issues of our time. But when it comes to A.A. as a whole, that’s quite a different matter. In this respect, we do not enter into public controversy because we know that our society will perish if it does.”

## CONCEPT 10

### LONG FORM

**EVERY SERVICE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE MATCHED BY AN EQUAL SERVICE AUTHORITY— THE SCOPE OF SUCH AUTHORITY TO BE ALWAYS WELL DEFINED WHETHER BY TRADITION, BY RESOLUTION, BY SPECIFIC JOB DESCRIPTION OR BY APPROPRIATE CHARTERS AND BYLAWS.**

**PRINCIPLE OF THE CONCEPT:**

**CLARITY**

**ONE THING YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

Clarity of Roles, Responsibility and Authority is Vital

**Concept 10 – Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority .**

As I write this I'm thinking about a meeting I attend. I've held just about every service responsibility in that meeting and am the longest regular attendee at the meeting. I guess that qualifies me as the meetings "Bleeding Deacon". I currently don't hold a service position there except for greeting and set-up when needed. We have someone who makes sure the literature and book inventories are full. I don't tell them what to get or how much we need. They have the authority to make those decisions. It goes with the responsibility. I don't tell the coffee maker how to do his job. If someone complains, he has the right and authority to make it different. We don't micro-manage those we put into positions of trust. We trust them to make the right decisions. Someday I may learn to not rearrange the literature table every time I walk in the door as it drives the literature person nuts!!

This Concept applies to all levels of service. If we trust someone with a job, teach them how and don't interfere unless we have to.

"Let us always be sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to recognize; but let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and to discharge their clear responsibilities.

All of this is fully implied in A.A.'s Tradition Two. Here we see the "Group Conscience" as the ultimate authority and the "Trusted Servant" as the delegated authority. One cannot function without the other. We well know that only by means of careful definitions and mutual respect can we constantly maintain a right and harmonious working balance".

## CONCEPT WORKSHOP

October 5th, 2024 Alexandria MN



**Area 35 Assembly**

**1:30 pm—2:30 pm**

**Concepts 1—6**

**7:30 pm—8:30 pm**

**Concepts 7—12**



- 9-22 Sponsorship Workshop (zoom workshop)
- 9-26 27th Annual Archives Workshop—Des Moines
- 9-28 Spooky Valley paa Event at Valley Fair
- 10-5 Area Assembly / Concept workshop—Alexandria
- St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference 10-9-24 to 10-11-24 (volunteers needed)

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October 1969 1st World Service meeting held in New York with delegates from 14 countries.

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October 1957 Book "A.A. Comes of Age" published.

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## TWIN PORTS INTERGROUP

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



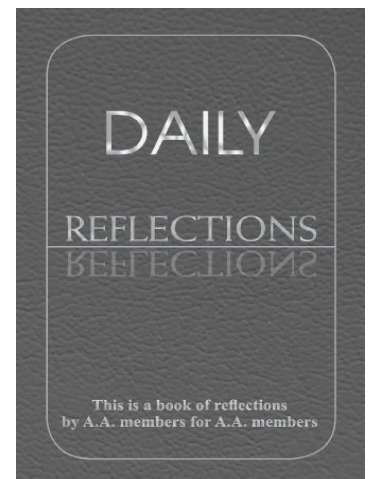
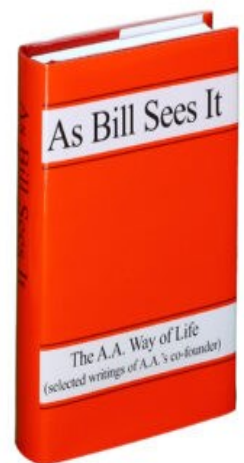
2024 W 3rd St  
Duluth, MN 55806

218-727-8117

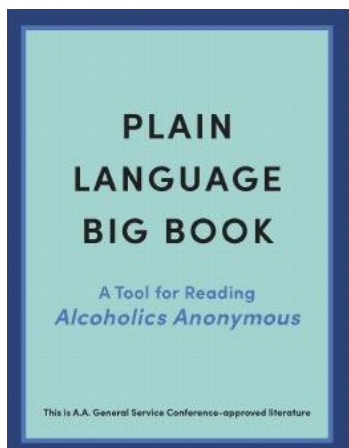
### Contribute to the Newsletter

- Your personnel story
- Anniversary or pot luck at your Home Group
- Events for the web site
- [ahlgrenscott@yahoo.com](mailto:ahlgrenscott@yahoo.com)

Twinportsaa.org



*Available November 1st*



**Q:** What happens when you play a country music record backwards?

**A:** Your wife comes back, your dog comes back, you get your job back, and you get sober

**Q:** Why did the accountant do so well in AA?

**A:** He was already a friend of bills.

**Math Teacher:** "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"

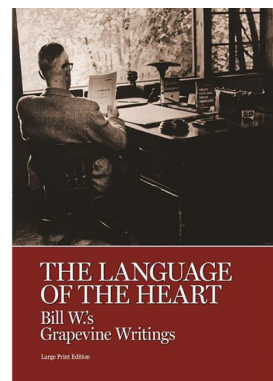
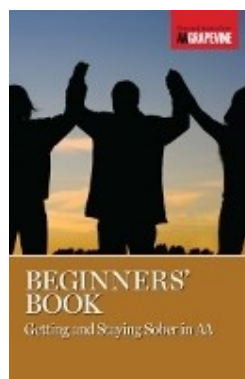
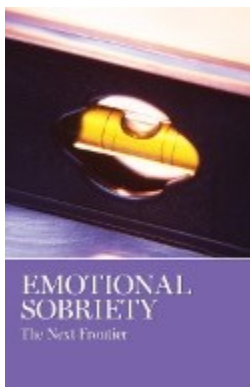
**Student:** "A drinking problem."



### A.A. Grapevine September 2024

This month's featured section is "Young and Sober." Members share about the joys and challenges of getting sober and active in AA in their teens, 20s, and 30s.

## Grapevine Books



*I am Responsible  
when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help.  
I want the hand of AA to always be there.  
For that, I am responsible.*