

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.”

Principle of this Step:
PERSEVERANCE



The One Thing I Need To Know About Step 10:

“This is what sober days look like”

The 10th Step in Alcoholics Anonymous involves self-reflection and a commitment to promptly admitting when one is wrong. Step 10 of AA encourages individuals to take a daily inventory of their behavior, admit any promptly wrongdoing, and continue personal and spiritual growth. This step aims to maintain emotional sobriety and prevent the accumulation of resentments and unresolved issues.

Up to this point in your recovery, Steps one through nine have taught you to see the truth about your behavior and how the rest of the world responds to your actions. With this awareness you can now clearly see what is going on during every moment of your day. The purpose of AA's tenth Step is to demonstrate to yourself that you can control your actions. You are no longer functioning like a robot under the weight of old habits or while not thinking about what you are doing.

Step 10 isn't always easy to define or understand. Of course, you are aware of your actions, but are you taking inventory and admitting when you're wrong or when you've done wrong? This personal responsibility is critical to successful recovery from alcoholism. An example of working step 10 might be getting angry when someone cuts you off at a traffic light. Just as you begin to form the profanities to hurl from your open window, you recognize that the other driver will not be improved by your anger and would benefit more from your demonstration of the right way to react to anger or stress. Instead of hurling abuse, you smile as you pass the driver, even if it's not a real smile. By responding to a conflict or anger with grace, you have used step 10.

Another example might be that you didn't get a recent promotion. When your boss tells you it is due to poor work performance, you disagree, and because you're angry, you tell him off. Working the 10th Step of AA doesn't mean that you don't get angry ever again, or that you don't make mistakes. It means that if you do, you admit when you're wrong. So immediately after your outburst, you calm down and apologize to your boss for your inappropriate reaction. Step 10 doesn't require you to go into a long explanation about why you're wrong or to make excuses for it. It requires only that you admit you're wrong.



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."



Step 10 Checklist

1. Am I willing to pause throughout my day and do a spot-check inventory on my feelings and emotions recognizing disturbances in all areas of my life?
2. Am I willing to make this part of my daily routine?
3. When taking my daily inventory, if I find that I have caused some harm, acted in a way that God would not want me to, or harbored ill-feelings toward another – am I willing to make the immediate amends necessary to keep myself in fit spiritual condition?
4. Because it is easy to fall back into a life of pride and self-justification, am I willing to look at my daily successes (as I did my defects) and ensure that credit is given where it is due?
5. Am I willing to, day in and day out, be tested to see if I can remain emotionally stable, sober and live humbly (with a desire to seek and do God's will)?
6. Am I willing to silence all volatile emotions, build my character and promote a positive way of life for myself and others today?

“Old Behavior Isn't Old Behavior If We're Still Doing It”

Tradition 10

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

Overriding Idea of T9:
Outside Issues Can Tear Us Apart

Principle:
OUTSIDE ISSUES



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."

By not expressing opinions on "outside issues," A.A. groups hope to avoid controversy, both publicly and within the fellowship itself. This policy also helps members keep the focus on their common purpose.



TRADITION'S INVENTORY

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins?
 2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?
 3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
 4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
 5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
 6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
- How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

CONCEPT 10

SHORT FORM:

“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.”

PRINCIPLE OF THE CONCEPT:

Clarity

simplify.

CLARITY OF ROLES, RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY IS VITAL

I bet the company you work for believes this as well. No effective and successful business can run without it. A.A. has gone to great lengths to ensure there is final/ultimate authority and to define where it lies should any “course correction” ever be needed.

This Concept suggests that providing trusted servants with clearly defined jobs and the authority to do those jobs is equally important.

This is where the idea of the “group conscience” as ultimate authority and the “trusted servant” as delegated authority clearly cross paths and need each other to function.

ONE THING YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Clarity of Roles, Responsibility and Authority is Vital

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”.

“It is perfectly clear,” says Bill, “that when delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with.” Otherwise, he warns, “those charged with operating responsibly will be demoralized.” For example, the General Service Board owns the two operating corporations and its authority over them is absolute. “Nevertheless, so long as things go well, it is highly important that the trustees do not unnecessarily interfere with or usurp the operating authority of these entities.”

CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

1. Do we understand “authority” and “responsibility” as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
2. Why is delegation of “authority” so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.?
3. Do we use this concept to define the scope of “authority”?

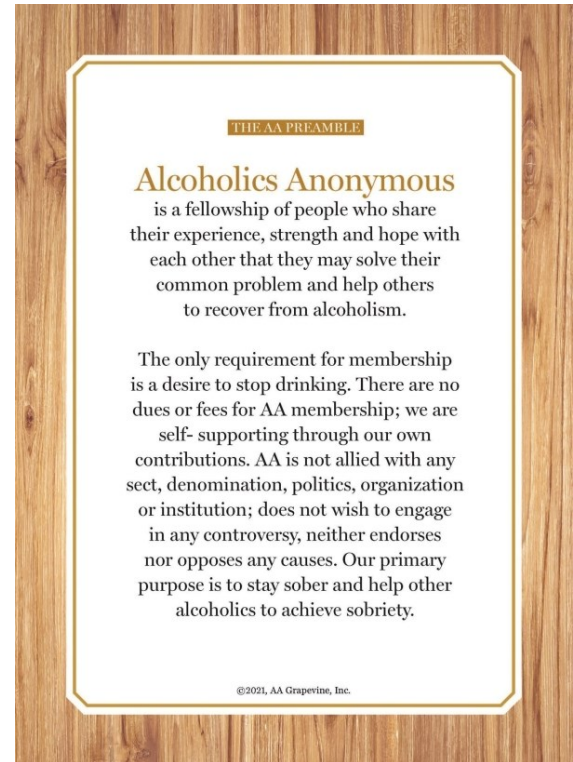


Contribute to the Newsletter

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

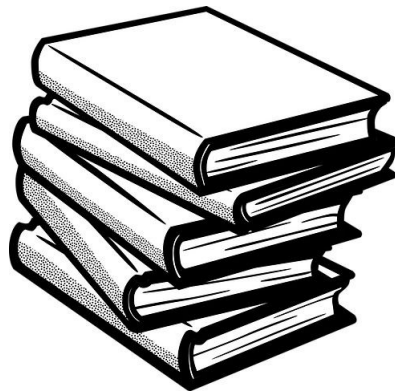
**All these events can be found on
“twinportsaa.org” with flyers and directions**

- 9-18-2025: District 12 meeting—Duluth
- 9-19-2025: West Central Regional Forum—Omaha NE
- 10-3-2025: Recovery on the River—Eau Claire WI
- 10-4-2025: Area 35 Assembly—Ely MN
- 10-18-2025: 14th Annual Spiritual Retreat—Gooseberry State Park
- 10-25-2025: Joint Area 35/35 Corrections Workshop—Duluth MN



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



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.

Grapevine Greeting Cards

Daily Reflections October



- It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe.
- Someone who knew what he was talking about once remarked that pain was the touchstone of all spiritual progress. How heartily we A.A.'s can agree with him. . . .
- . . . we know that the pains of drinking had to come before sobriety, and emotional turmoil before serenity.
- It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us.
- When we speak or act hastily or rashly, the ability to be fair-minded and tolerant evaporates on the spot.
- Since recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, it is imperative that we preserve in full strength our means of survival.
- For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.
- Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; . . .
- This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime.

Month of October in A.A. History

Oct 1936	Bill C. a Canadian alkie staying at Bill's house, committed
Oct 1945	AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA.
Oct 1954	The "Alcoholic Foundation" renamed the "General Service
Oct 1969	1st World Service meeting held in New York with dele-

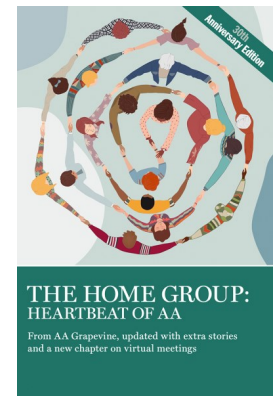
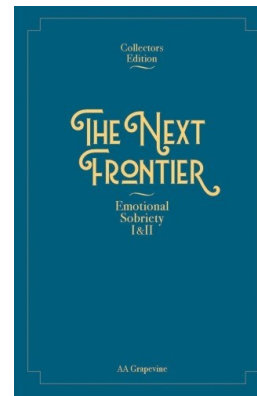
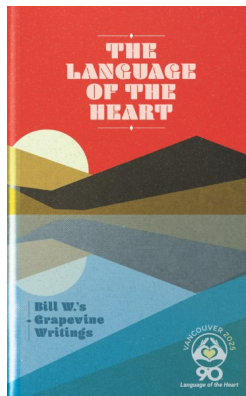
In every copy:

- Letter from the editor
- Dear Grapevine
- Discussion topic
- Alcoholism at large
- At Wits End



September 2025

Grapevine: Current Issue Spotlight: This month's featured section is "Stories of Gratitude." AA members share powerful, personal stories about being thankful, appreciating the moment, helping others and living life to its fullest.



I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.