

Second Chances

Since we're born with an abundance of natural desires, that often far exceeds their intended purpose. They drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfaction, or pleasures that are possible due us. That is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us".

Pg.65 Step Six, Twelve

Steps and Twelve Traditions

Thinking back to my younger self, I reflect on how I could've handled situations or problems differently if I had came into A.A. sooner. Being the blackout drinker I was, cocktails at noon, wouldn't have been a reason to start drinking because of the pressures at work. Or while having a loud discussion (argument) with my ex-husband I shouldn't have blamed my actions and attitude on drinking a whole bottle of wine. And the money that was meant to pay the bills always find it's way into the liquor store's checking account. With that being said it took what it took to get into recovery and remove the alcohol from my body, but it's a constant process to control and change these vicious character defects. This is when I must surrender to win, have acceptance for the circumstances and allow the grace of God to enter me and grant me serenity. It begins by strengthening my spiritual nature through prayers and studying and practicing the twelve steps. Then through service work I get outside of my own thoughts and problems and begin to have empathy for my fellow man. And lastly it calms "the beast within", patience and tolerance are everyday goals that enter my head and heart. With that I can now say A.A. has given me a second chance at a new life.

Anne W.
Hartford, CT.

Let's Talk Finances

Greetings Area 11, my name is Jeff B and I am honored to serve as your Area 11 Chairperson. It is a big job and was a little nerve-wracking at first but thankfully I don't do this alone. Isn't this what we learn in AA? We are not alone...and thankfully I have a lot of help.

Serving as the Area Chair means I get an opportunity to connect with our Area's trusted servants on a regular basis. It truly gives me the feeling of being in the middle of the pack! One of the cool jobs I get to do is to serve on our Area 11 Finance Committee along with our Area Treasurer Ryan R, Alternate Treasurer Alfredo P and Delegate Mary E.K. My job on the committee...I'm the recording secretary and primary signer on all Area 11 contracts.

So, what's going on in Area 11 finances?

Tax season just wrapped up recently. You may be surprised to learn that Area 11 is in fact incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Because we are a nonprofit, we don't pay taxes; however, we are required to file Form 990 which includes our contributions and income for the year. Our Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer work with our organization's accountants to get this completed.

Another significant effort put in this year by the Finance Committee has been our work with CSCYPAA and the Area 11 Convention to negotiate hotel contracts for their events. The world has changed the last few years quite a bit and it's reflected in prices when putting on large events. Luckily, we have a lot of experience to draw on and do our best to make sure we are agreeing on financially responsible contracts to help our event committees 7th tradition. While they may be event committees, they are working hard (just like your home group does) to be fully self-supporting.

Part of our Finance Committee's mission is to see how we can help our Area 11 committees carry AAs message through 7th

Tradition contributions. How can we use our Area budget most effectively to carry the message? There are alcoholics who need our help; what are we doing to help show them how to find us?

Thank you Area 11 for the opportunity to serve. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about Area 11 at areachair@ct-aa.org. You can also email any treasury questions to Ryan at areatreasurer@ct-aa.org. I wish you all the best and hope to see you soon.

Jeff B, Area 11 Chair

Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Eight & Nine

Step Eight: “Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”

Tradition Eight: “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

Concept Eight: “The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”

Step Nine “Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others”

Tradition Nine: “A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Concept Nine: “Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

Mirror, Mirror

Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who’s the drunkest of them all. Before A.A., I would drink until I passed out ... which was most always. The morning after when I managed to straggle into the bathroom, I would always turn my head so I wouldn’t see myself in the large bathroom mirror. The “me” in the mirror most certainly had words for me. Words I knew I should hear – words I wouldn’t listen to. The same words my friends and family wanted to say to me - I didn’t want to listen. The words hung in the air: “Help me, I am killing myself, one drink at a time”.

I didn’t need the poison apple as in the story of “Snow White” and seven height-challenged men. I was handed the poison bottle. This bottle I gladly embraced. Oh, how I loved that bottle. One hundred proof whiskey. Today I shudder at what I was doing to myself - at death’s door - banging on it with my bottle.

It was a singularly troubling journey to the rooms of A.A. Two years of not knowing what existed outside of the bottle and still going to meetings. I was caught a few times ... they knew a drunk’s excuses when they heard them. I often asked myself: “Was there life after the bottle?” How was I to cope? I was alone in a crowded room of alcoholics. I felt as if I was in one of those movie scenes where the person is standing in Time’s Square and people are swirling around them. I was clueless.

“God did for me what I could not do for myself.”

When I truly came into the rooms of A.A., I claimed the seat for which I had paid thousands of dollars. All that in addition to the suffering and misery I caused myself and others. I don’t need to tell you that - we have each traveled that path at different times.

As a practitioner of A.A.’s program, I can look in the mirror and now see a sober “me”. Though I am still an old fart, I do look years younger. I can see the whites of my eyes and not the red veins of a drunk. The haggard face is gone. Unfortunately, my hair didn’t grow back like I had hoped. I guess there is a limit to what I can expect when putting the drink aside.

Snow White had those seven height-challenged guys to help her around the cottage. At the very moment of her need, they were off in the woods doing who knows what. We in A.A. have more than seven people in our story. We have rooms full of people, big, tall, small, chubby, thin, bald and hairy. They have a central role in my story of recovery. Snow White had to wait for a kiss from some stupid prince. I get hugs and glad hands all the time at meetings. The A.A. fellowship is my favorite story. I am grateful for the opportunity to live a sober life – “One Day at a Time”.

The Journey Continues

64th Annual Area 11 Convention with Al-Anon Participation
Friday October 13 – Sunday October 15, 2023

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Area 11 Convention was a weekend-long event hosted by the Area to provide a variety of workshops and meetings, and to create a setting for fellowship and carrying the message.

This fall we are excited and grateful for the return of this tradition as The Journey Continues!

The last scheduled three-day convention was to take place in the fall of 2020 before it was canceled by group conscience due to uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. In 2021, a small and dedicated group planned and executed Area 11's very first virtual convention. The success of the 2021 virtual convention inspired the 2022 Committee to present a virtual convention during the daytime program and feature the evening keynote speakers in a hybrid setting.

The energy, enthusiasm, and A.A. message was carried by speakers and participants alike. Now, building upon the legacy created by conventions past, we return with a new era of joining together in sharing and carrying our message of hope and recovery for a full 3-day event.

Your convention committee has been working tirelessly to create a weekend of inspiring and inclusive topics and speakers, and of course, attendees will be able to take a trip through all Twelve Steps. We are looking forward to celebrating with an exciting sobriety countdown, the Home Group Celebration, A.A. and Al-Anon speakers, and plenty of opportunities for fellowship and fun.

WWW.CT-AA.ORG

We look forward to welcoming you to The Journey Continues beginning the afternoon of Friday, October 13 at the Sheraton Bradley, located at the airport in Windsor Locks, CT. Round the clock events and activities, including the return of marathon meetings, will take place concluding with a spiritual keynote address the morning of Sunday, October 15.

Please visit the events section of www.ct-aa.org for event registration, program information, hotel accommodations, and a “what to know” guide in planning for your participation. Registration is limited, so register early and let's join together as The Journey Continues.

Opportunities for service are available all weekend long. To be part of the team or should you have questions, please email area11convention@ct-aa.org

– Your 64th Annual Area 11 Convention Committee

Area 11 A.A. Service Manual Meeting

Meets every second Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

March 13, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Login Information (on Zoom):

Meeting ID: 853 6254 9241

Password: 162425

Reviewing the material in advance is strongly encouraged! Content to be covered: Chapter 1 (“The Group and its G.S.R.”), pages 7-12 in the 2021-2023 A.A. *Service Manual*—**access to the A.A. Service Manual as a PDF [here!](#)**

All A.A. members are welcome!

Create & Print Meeting Schedules and more! on the Area 11 Website

Our Area 11 Website continues to evolve and be a central source of information and communication. This resource is even more critical during these times of limitations with in-person interaction. Some, but not all, of recent enhancements/additions include:

- ****Create & Print meeting schedules****
- Landing page links to crucial information & events
- Meeting finder tool
- Contact information for the Area 11 Officers

WWW.AA.ORG

- District maps and information
- From the events calendar, links to events outside of Area 11

Visit www.ct-aa.org

“What’s New” on www.aa.org

Did you know that www.aa.org has a “What’s New” section linked directly off the home page? (Scroll to the bottom of the landing page and click on “What’s New”)

You can find up to date announcements, activities, and more, along with notices from the past few months. Access info on a F.A.Q. for the 2025 International Convention, Special Forums, Press Releases, Requests to the Fellowship, PSA Announcements, Quarterly Reports, and more!

[Click here and check it out!](#)

News and Notes

Box 4-5-9 Fall 2022

Newsletter from the General Service Office: [Box 459 | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#). Scan the QR code below!



Delegate’s Reports

Monthly Delegate’s Reports are available on www.ct-aa.org in English and Spanish. [Click here for quick access.](#)



AAGV – Podcasts

Visit www.aagrapevine.org/podcast for a new podcast each week! Tune in for the Ask-it Basket, trivia, recovery-related jokes, & more!

Subscriptions and Literature

Visit store.aa.grapevine.org for magazines, books, & more!

Carry the Message Project

Want to help another alcoholic? Grapevine and La Viña are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

How to reach A.A.: 866-STEPS12

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for: Sponsees * Newcomers * Prisons * Detoxes * Doctor’s Offices * Group Celebrations * District and Area Events * Giveaways.

Go to <https://www.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message> to get started. Carry the Message, it’s easy!

We Want To Hear From You!

The Alki-Line is a bi-monthly publication by the Area 11 Alki-Line Committee, a dedicated team of trusted servants, whose primary purpose is to offer current events, articles, and information that foster experience, strength, and hope in recovery, in the spirit of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and in particular “to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

Share your stories, essays, articles, poetry, etc. with others through the Alki-Line. We are accepting submissions of one page or less:

Email: alkiline@ct-aa.org

Mail: Alki-Line, P.O. Box 7060, Meriden, CT 06450

Hand: your material to your GSR

The Alki-Line has many service positions and would benefit significantly from more district representation.

This newsletter is by and for alcoholics; however, we review submissions by all interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Material may be edited for clarity and length. This newsletter and earlier issues can be downloaded at www.ct-aa.org.

This is an honest fellowship; we presume all submissions are original or in the public domain. Following publication all, copyright reverts to the owner.

The Gratitude List.

Visit the Alki-Line page at: <https://ct-aa.org/alki-line/> to tell us something you are grateful for.

I am grateful for fellowship of the program that has allowed me to be vulnerable and share my life in sobriety with others
Caitlin D

Para ponerse en contacto con A.A., llame: 855-ESPANCT