



District 48

Monthly Newsletter

January 2020

Greater Williamsport Area Alcoholics Anonymous

OUR THREE LEGACIES

Step 1– “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Tradition 1 – “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.”

Concept 1 – “Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

Welcome to the 2020 District 48 Newsletter!

Where can you find the newsletter?

- district48aa.org - Newsletter
- Ask your home group General Service Representative (GSR)
- Many homegroups keep a copy of the newsletter – just ask!

How can you contribute? Celebrating your anniversary? Is your homegroup having an event? Is there an upcoming AA workshop or event you want to share? Have a story, photo or something inspirational? Simply email newsletter@district48aa.org



ANNIVERSARIES:

Stacey – 12/4/2019
(4 years)

WE ALL HAVE TODAY

Would you like your anniversary listed in the newsletter?

Email:

newsletter@district48aa.org

MEETINGS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Rewards of Sobriety

Saturday, 7PM – Penn College
Especially Need Old-Timers
Bush Campus Center, Rm. 164
1 College Ave, Williamsport

11th Step Meditation Group

Monday, 6:30PM – Liberty Church,
102 E. 3rd St.

Veterans & Friends in Recovery

Tuesday – 7PM
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1101 Washington Blvd.

Promises of Sobriety

Monday – 7PM
Trinity Episcopal Church
844 West 4th Street

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS:

Men’s 35th Annual Retreat
January 24th-26th, 2020
Mountain Dale Farm
330 Hassinger Way, McClure, PA
“Big Book Study”
\$100 per person, due 1/14/20

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District48aa.org



This month's Special Section features stories by AA members about their experiences with spirituality, belief, and prayer.

History of the Big Book

In May 1938, when Bill W. began work on the first draft of what is now the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in New York City and Newark, New Jersey, he had been sober about three and a half years. Dr. Bob was sober a few months less than three years, and the other 100 early members who contributed in one way or another to the writing of the book had been sober for periods ranging from a couple of years to a couple of months.

The early members realized the book would need a "story" section. "We would have to produce evidence in the form of living proof, written testimonials of our membership itself. It was felt also that the story section could identify us with the distant reader in a way that the text itself might not." (The quotations in this booklet are drawn from Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age) Dr. Bob and the members in Akron, Ohio, led this effort. One member of the Akron Group was a former newspaperman with two years of sobriety, named Jim. He and Dr. Bob "went after all the Akronites who had substantial sobriety records for testimonial material. In most cases Jim interviewed the prospects and wrote their stories for them. Dr. Bob wrote his own." By January, the Akron Group had come up with 18 stories.

In New York, where there was no one with writing expertise, they decided that each member with substantial sobriety would write his own story. When Bill and a fellow member turned to edit these "amateur attempts," there were objections. "Who were we, said the writers, to edit their stories? That was a good question, but still we did edit them. The cries of the anguished edited tale-tellers finally subsided and the story section of the book was complete in the latter part of January 1939. So, at last, was the text."

The book still lacked a title. "The Akron and New York groups had been voting for months on possible titles. This had become an after-the-meeting form of amusement and interest. The title 'Alcoholics Anonymous' had appeared very early in the discussion.... We do not know who first used these words. After we New Yorkers had left the Oxford Groups in 1937 we often described ourselves as a 'nameless bunch of alcoholics.' From this phrase it was only a step to the idea of 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

More than 100 titles were considered, but in the end, it came down to Alcoholics Anonymous or The Way Out, and when the two groups voted, The Way Out received a slight majority. At this point, one of the A.A.s visited the Library of Congress to research the number of books titled The Way Out versus those called Alcoholics Anonymous. There were 12 with the former title, none with the latter, and since nobody wanted to make the book the 13th Way Out, the problem was solved. "That is how we got the title for our book, and that is how our society got its name."

So, this somewhat shaky, often fearful group of men and women somehow brought to publication, on April 10, 1939, the book Alcoholics Anonymous. This book became a blueprint for recovery from alcoholism that has been followed successfully for nearly 80 years — and something of a publishing phenomenon. The Big Book has been translated into 69 languages and is read by millions of people in approximately 180 countries around the world. Approximately 35 million copies of the first four editions of the Big Book (in English) have been distributed. It sells about one million copies per year, worldwide.

A Brief History of the Big Book, 2017

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

- Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
- Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious precludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
- Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
- Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
- Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
- Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
- Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
- Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
- Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
- Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?