

THE STAND

Official Newsletter of SWTA 68, District 12

11 June 2023

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“Whenever anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that, I am responsible”

Greetings District 12 Family!

Our DCM Courtney asked me to write the opening for this issue. As I was doing my research, it came to me that June is our Founders Day month. That’s when I decided to share the A.A. Historical Events for the month of June.

For this Alcoholic, understanding the founding of this program has become a key component of my program. When I first came in, I could barely understand the Steps. Now, 6 and a half years later, awareness of our past history has become another important part. It helps me better understand our Steps and Traditions, and the trial and tribulations that created them.

I hope you find this info helpful.

Mark S
Your Newsletter Chair

A.A. Historical Events in June

June 1

1949 – Anne S., Dr. Bob’s wife, died.

June 4

2002- Caroline K., author of “Drinking: A Love Story” died sober of lung cancer.

June 5

1940 – Ebby T. took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6

1940 – The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

1979 – AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois W., Bill’s wife, in New York.

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June 7

1939 – Bill and Lois W. had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

1941 – The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

June 8

1941 – Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

June 10

1935 – The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 11

1945 – Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

1969 – Dr. Bob's granddaughter, Bonna, daughter of Sue S. and Ernie G. (The Seven Month Slip in the First Edition) killed herself after first killing her six-year-old child.

1971 – Ernie G. died.

June 13

1945 – Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 15

1940 – First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16

1938 – Jim B., "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 17

1942 – New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 18

1940 – One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

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June 19

1942 – Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. “There are fewer suicides in my files,” he commented.

June 21

1944 – The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24

1938 – Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book “Not to bear any author’s name but to be by ‘Alcoholics Anonymous.’”

June 25

1939 – The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is “more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon.”

June 26

1935 – Bill D. (AA #3) entered Akron’s City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28

1935 – Dr. Bob and Bill W. visited Bill Dotson at Akron’s City Hospital.

June 30

1941 – Ruth Hock showed Bill W. the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

2000 – More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.

Other significant events in June for which we have no specific date:

1948 – A subscription to the AA Grapevine was donated to the Beloit, Wisconsin, Public Library by a local AA member.

1981 – AA in Switzerland held its 25th Anniversary Convention with Lois W. and Nell Wing in attendance.

Thanks to Billy C. and Nancy O. for this list, used by permission.

Tradition Six

A.A. Grapevine, May 1948 Editorial by Bill W.

The sixth of our 12 Points of A.A. Tradition is deemed so important that it states at length the relation of the A.A. movement to money and property. Too detailed to print here, this Tradition declares in substance that the accumulation of money, property and the unwanted personal authority so often generated by material wealth comprise a cluster of serious hazards against which an A.A. group must ever be on guard.

Tradition 6 also enjoins the group never to go into business nor ever to lend the A.A. name or money credit to any "outside" enterprise, no matter how good. Strongly expressed is the opinion that even clubs should not bear the A.A. name; that they ought to be separately incorporated and managed by those individual A.A.s who need or want clubs enough to financially support them.

We would thus divide the spiritual from the material, confine the A.A. movement to its sole aim and insure (however wealthy as individuals we may become) that A.A. itself shall always remain poor. We dare not risk the distractions of corporate wealth. Years of experience have proven these principles beyond doubt. They have become certainties, absolute verities for us.

Thank God, we A.A.s have never yet been caught in the kind of religious or political disputes which embroil the world of today. But we ought to face the fact that we have often quarreled violently about money, property and the administration thereof. Money, in quantity, has always been a baleful influence in group life. Let a well-meaning donor present an A.A. group with a sizable sum and we break loose. Nor does trouble abate until that group, as such, somehow disposes of its bank roll. This experience is practically universal. "But," say our friends, "isn't this a confession of weakness? Other organizations do a lot of good with money. Why not A.A.?"

Of course, we of A.A. would be the first to say that many a fine enterprise does a lot of good with a lot of money. To these efforts, money is usually primary; it is their life blood. But money is not the life blood of A.A. With us, it is very secondary. Even in small quantities, it is scarcely more than a necessary nuisance, something we wish we could do without entirely. Why is that so?

(continued next page)

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Tradition Six

We explain this easily enough; we don't need money. The core of our A.A. procedure is "one alcoholic talking to another," whether that be sitting on a curbstone, in a home, or at a meeting. It's the message, not the place; it's the talk, not the alms. That does our work. Just places to meet and talk, that's about all A.A. needs. Beyond these, a few small offices, a few secretaries at their desks, a few dollars apiece a year, easily met by voluntary contributions. Trivial indeed, our expenses!

Nowadays, the A.A. group answers its well-wishers saying, "Our expenses are trifling. As good earners, we can easily pay them. As we neither need nor want money, why risk its hazards? We'd rather stay poor. Thanks just the same!"

Bill W. The A.A. Grapevine, May, 1948

The Sixth Tradition

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.



We found that there are all kinds of goals, motives and ambitions...

...and the good name of A.A. could be smeared!



AA members employed by outside agencies "wear two hats"—but Tradition Six cautions any such members against wearing both at once! On the job, they may be alcoholism counselors; they are *not* "A.A. counselors." At meetings they're just A.A.'s, not alcoholism experts.

There are two major danger areas. But our course has been charted and the hazards clearly marked. If we steer clear of them, we should have smooth sailing...

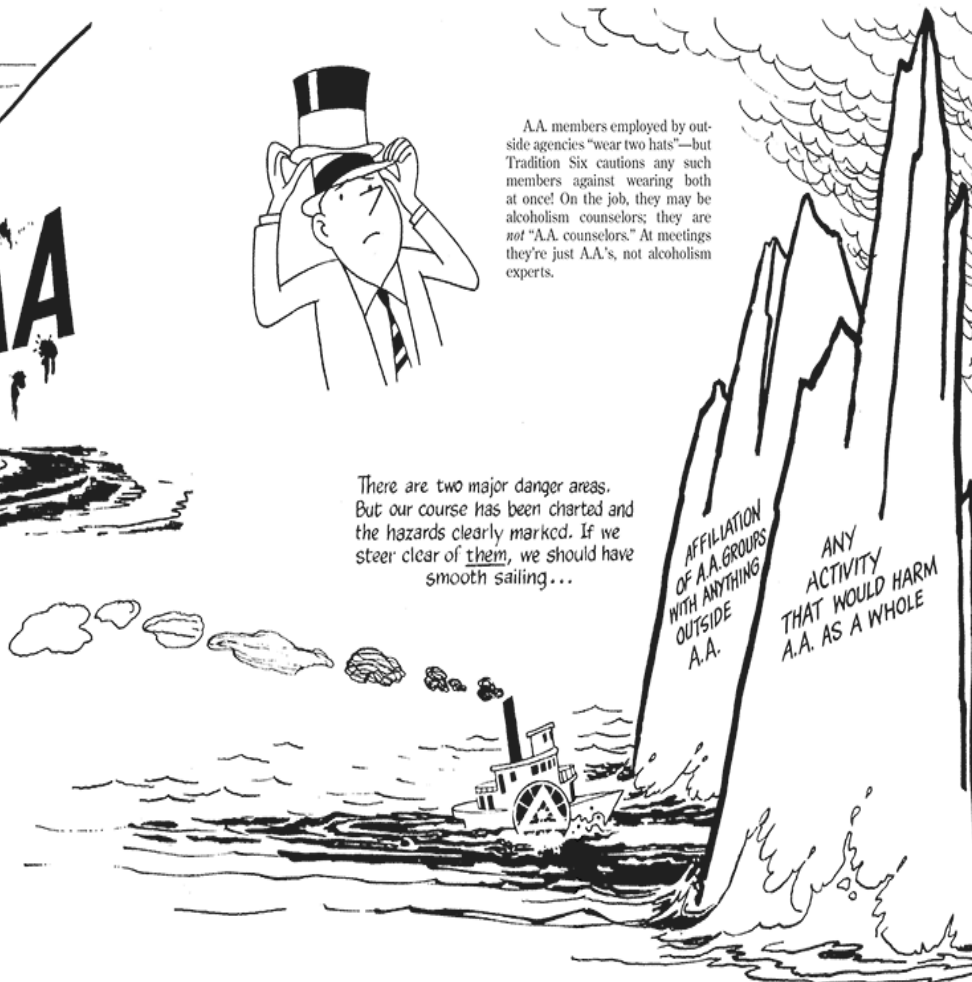
AFFILIATION OF A.A. GROUPS WITH ANYTHING OUTSIDE A.A.

ANY ACTIVITY THAT WOULD HARM A.A. AS A WHOLE

The "related facility" may be an outside group combating alcoholism—or an enterprise that A.A.'s want to start. It was the latter that most often confronted the young Fellowship. Outside agencies were pretty scarce in those days, and some members thought A.A. should cover the whole alcoholism field. Led by a "super-promoter" (as the "Twelve and Twelve" describes him), one group built an all-purpose center, including a section for drying-out treatment. Picture any group tackling such a project! Arguments over cost, architecture, staff, fees, medication, and rules might even make the local paper. (And pity the poor newcomer straying into the group—"We'll get around to you in a minute.")

Though that ambitious center failed, some individual members have since founded successful clubhouses, rest farms, halfway houses, etc. The enterprises are run by these A.A.'s and patronized by other members or prospective members. But money and property *are* involved. Therefore, it has proved wise to keep the operation of the facility completely separate from that of any A.A. group, and to keep "A.A." or terms like "Twelfth Step" out of the name.

Toward outside agencies dealing with alcoholism, the A.A. policy is "cooperation but not affiliation." A group cooperates, for example, by welcoming referrals from clinics or by sponsoring A.A. groups in institutions. But in one area, money for a rehab was solicited *at an A.A. meeting*—implying affiliation. In another, A.A. was listed among beneficiaries of a United Fund drive....



The Traditions

From the Foreword of the 12 & 12: “A.A.’s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows.”

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.”

Tradition 6 Long Form:

“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”

Traditions Checklist

These questions * were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.

Tradition Six Checklist

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Should my home group align itself with a treatment center for alcoholics?
6. Should my home group support any other type of treatment plan other than the one found in our basic text?

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Southwest Texas Area 68

Events

District 2 Treatment Workshop

June 24 @ 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

1142 Eikel St. New Braunfels, TX 78130

2023 Summer Workshop

July 21 - July 23

Adams Street Community Center

511 E Adams Street Brownwood, TX 76801

Flyer Coming Soon!

2023 PI/CPC Conference

August 4 - August 5

New BRAUNFELS

Stay tuned for more details!

Southwest Texas Area 68 Events

2023 SW Regional Forum

September 29, 2023 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel El Paso, TX

Stay tuned for more details!

2023 Fall Conference & Voting Assembly

October 20 - October 22

Hosted by District 5

Hilton Garden Inn Temple Medical Center

Southwest Texas Area 68

Events

2025 International Convention in Vancouver

July 3, 2025 - July 6, 2025

The 90th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrated at the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada, July 3 – 6, 2025.

The theme of the 2025 International Convention is “90 Years – Language of the Heart.”

General registration and housing information will be available on the International Convention webpage in early 2024. Actual registration site links, forms, and hotel booking links will be communicated to the Fellowship in August/September 2024.

<https://www.aa.org/international-convention>

Please see our page for news releases: <https://www.aa-swta.org/2025intconvention>

Group Events.

The 2211 Group has:

- Speaker Meetings the second Sat. of the month at 6:00 PM
- Beginners Meetings Tuesdays at 8:00 pm
- Men's Meetings Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- Woman's Meetings Thursdays at 5:30 pm
- Group Conscience the last Saturday of the month at 11:15 AM
- Birthday Night the last Saturday of the month with a pot luck dinner at 7:00 and birthday meeting at 8:00pm
- Big Book Studies Sundays at 8:00 pm

Bandera Group has:

- Speaker Meeting, second Sat. of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Open discussion meetings at Noon, Monday—Saturday
- 12 and 12 Meeting Monday 8:00 pm
- Grapevine Meeting Tuesday 8:00 pm
- Big Book Meeting Wednesday 8:00 pm
- NA Meeting 6 Thursday 6:30 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Thursday 8:00 pm
- Open All Woman's Meeting Friday 6:30 pm
- Popsicle Stick Meeting Friday 8:00 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Saturday 8:00 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Sunday at 8:00 pm