

# NEPAIG MESSENGER

SPRING 2024



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**Office Address:**

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**Office Hours:**

Saturdays 10 AM—2 PM  
2nd Tues./month 5—6:30 PM

**Email:**

nepaintergroup@gmail.com

**Monthly IGR Meeting:**

Meeting held at 7PM the 2nd  
Tuesday of the month at  
Queen of the Apostles School  
bldg.  
715 Hawthorne St, Avoca, PA  
18641

## NEPAIG — our gateway to service

**What's new in NEPAIG?** *Our IGR's are the backbone of NEPAIG and your ideas for ways we can expand our services or use our resources better are always welcome, don't be shy.*

**Our IGR's have decided we are due for an inventory** which is an always welcome process. *It gives us a chance to look at ourselves and ask, "are we doing enough to reach the alcoholic who suffers", or even "are we doing all we can as a whole at NEPAIG"? Support this committee as an inventory with limited participation cheats the whole.*

**What's new at our NEPAIG Office?** *Stop in and see for yourself. When you come down to the store, plan on being there a while. Talk to whoever is working the office, we're always interested in hearing what you have to say. Step back into our Archives room and browse though some of the material on display. See and read about NEPAIG history and past events in our districts. Our racks are full of A.A.© literature for sale!*

**The year is full of events**, *Share a Day, H to H, Soberstock and more. All of these require the support of everyone, not just the IGR's, committee members and board officers. Bring and attract your group members, young and old, we need them as much as they need us!*



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### AREA 59 SHARE A DAY.....

It's a little too late to attend the SEPIA / Area 59 "Share a day" that was held on Feb. 10 in Springfield, PA, **BUT** there is good news! Area 59 has approached NEPAIG to sponsor and host a "Share a Day" right here with us. Plans are in the works and if anyone has any ideas, input or suggestions we need your help. There'll be opportunities for you to participate as an attendee, greeter, committee worker and more. More info to come as we work out the details. Your help and participation is welcome.

## FROM YOUR EDITOR



I had the opportunity to represent our Intergroup a few times in the last quarter. We were able to attend Districts 49 and 62 business meetings. It is a good thing to see AA service alive and well, and it is in these 2 districts. We have also been to district 39, 40 and 53 in 2023. District 52 has no active panel, but District 59 does meet and we will be off to their monthly meeting soon.

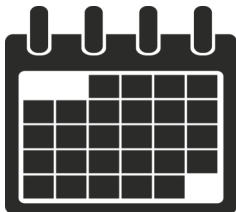
***I am asking each DCM or district liaison to add something to our newsletter this year. I hope we can gather their input for our Summer of Fall issue.***

It's really amazing to go to these different districts to see how each one is different yet similar. They're focused on the spirit of our 12th step, the anonymity of carrying our message to those who need it. If the weather has been holding you back, get out and take an AA "road trip" to an area you haven't been to, better yet attend your district meeting. I got sober going to meetings where there was a half hour or hour meeting on the way there and another one on the way back. 3 meetings in one night, it doesn't get any better than that.

**bob p.**

**Read this newsletter online at:**

**<https://aaintergroupnepa.org/forms-an-information-about-intergroup/newsletter/>**



*Check out our website for upcoming events at:*

***<https://aaintergroupnepa.org/nepaigaaevents>***

*These events change constantly, so check back often*

*Bridging the Gap*



**Bridging the Gap** is a program creating a temporary partnership between a treatment program and A.A. members. Bridging the Gap is designed to help an alcoholic in a treatment program make that transition.

One of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group. A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous



**Request Services:** <https://aaintergroupnepa.org/bridging-the-gap-member-signup>

**Become A Volunteer:** <https://aaintergroupnepa.org/bridging-the-gap-volunteer-sign-up>

**Comments or Questions:** [NepaBTG@gmail.com](mailto:NepaBTG@gmail.com)

H  
TO  
H

# 75th Annual



**APRIL 13th, 2024  
7 PM UNTIL 12 AM**

## *“ A Night Under the Stars ”*

Holiday Inn East Ballroom  
600 Wildflower Drive  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

50 /50

Raffle Baskets

Speaker, Charlie B.

DJ Pauly World

Questions? Contact Tiffany P. @ 570-406-5510 or Christine S. @ 570-332-3063

Holiday Inn offering discounted rooms @ 570-822-1011

Mention NEPA Intergroup AA

## ***H TO H DINNER DANCE TURNS 75***

I don't know much about the history of this event, other than I was told it stood for the Hazelton to Honesdale and started when members and meetings were sparse. It was a way for AA's in the NEPA area to get together once a year for some fellowship, food and fun. I can only imagine traveling to the event in those days, cars weren't very reliable, and I am sure there were many tales of "those who never got to the dance"

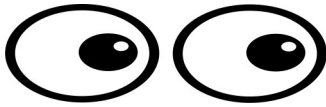
Doing the math if the dance started 75 years ago the first dance would have been held in 1949. I was born in 1954, like a lot of our board members! I used an old AA World Group Directory from Spring 1952 and here's some interesting AA statistics I found. AA in Pennsylvania 1952 showed the count of AA members to be 3,221. Members from a few of the cities who might have attended that early H to H dinner dance in 1952 were:

Clarks Summit—20  
Hazelton—14  
Nanticoke—2  
Stroudsburg—7

Edwardsville—12  
Honesdale—222  
Pittston—9  
Wilkes Barre—15

Hanover—14  
Wayne County—15  
Scranton—75, Central City Group—13

It's pretty amazing when you think of it. One of Scranton's contacts listed the Philadelphia Intergroup. Honesdale listed contact info as Northeast Pennsylvania Association. Considering AA started in 1935, this would only have been 14 years later. So there is history steeped into the H to H dinner dance and lots of tradition. We've grown to today's numbers under the care of a loving God. Everyone who attends joins the list of those before them as a part of our local AA history.



## A look at Traditions 1, 2, 3

**Tradition 1 - Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA Unity.**

1. How do I react with others who disagree with me? Do I fight back or offer them a chance to be heard?
2. Do I participate in AA meetings, group business, NEPAIG activities and keep in touch with what's happening in AA? Am I informed about AA as a whole?
3. Am I a peacemaker or do I plunge into arguments? Do I gossip or break others anonymity?

**Tradition 2 - For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.**

1. Do I criticize or support AA group officers, committees or office workers?
2. When I do AA work do I look for praise or recognition?
3. In group or NEPAIG matter do I sound off even if I don't have the experience or knowledge?

**Tradition 3 - The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

1. Do I sometimes decide if a newcomer is a loser without even getting to know them?
2. Do I judge other AA's as to if they are sincere or phony? Do I support others in AA?
3. Am I impressed or give status to some AA's and neglect others? Do I treat everyone the same?

Reprinted in part from the AA Grapevine "Traditions Checklist" © with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.



### GROUP ANNIVERSARIES:

*upcoming*

**LCC Candle Light Group — 50 Years, March 31, 2024—Last Sunday**

Luzerne Community College, 1333 Prospect Street, Nanticoke

*Previous*

**Heart and Soul Women's Group—25 years, JAN 23, Plains**

*If your group is celebrating an anniversary and you would like it posted, please forward the information to: [nepaigmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:nepaigmessenger@gmail.com)*

*We need the info the quarter prior to the anniversary date.*



# Changes in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, News to me?????

Bob P.



While working at our bookstore a couple months ago an AA came in obviously flustered. I asked what was up and she replied, “I have to buy new 12 & 12’s for our group, the GSO changed them and ours are now outdated!” I asked what she meant. “Well” she said, “I really don’t know but someone came to the group and said the old ones were no longer accurate”. I told her I wasn’t aware of any such changes, and I am sure that isn’t the case. *Was I wrong, well sort of.* Not really thinking there was too much to this, I “let it go” as we say.

A couple months later a friend approached me about something our Delegate shared about changes to the 12 X 12. I told her I had heard something similar about it and she explained about 2 changes made to some wording in the 12 X 12, specifically to steps 6 and 12. So following up I looked through our GSO website on **aa.org** and found nothing, (mainly because I looked everywhere but in the book itself) then started searching through some areas in other states. That led me to the changes that took place, here they are:

## Step 6

“No one wants to be angry enough to ~~murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health~~ commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony.”

*\* This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotions.*

## Step 12

“Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a ~~mate of the opposite sex~~ partner with whom to form the fullest union can be made.

- *This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship.*

The more I looked into this the more I found. Our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions in 2021 had the First ever revision, which reads:

*“ In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms and historical references in the book to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists a strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and it was unanimously recommended that: :The text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowships’ feelings that Bills’ writing be retained as originally published. However with a focus on inclusivity, the 2021 General Service Conference updated and footnoted some of the original language for clarity.”*

The woman who told me about this made one thing perfectly clear. That is the *importance of being informed and connected to my A.A. home group and my own personal responsibility to be informed about our Fellowship.* These changes and perhaps others to come need the input of every A.A. member, not just a few. I think the changes we’ve seen are an “outside issue” going against our 10th Tradition, but it seems those who have brought forth these changes and got them passed don’t. That’s where I have to remember, even if I am in the minority, the importance of an informed A.A. Group conscience, a functioning District and a DCM that takes our *informed group conscience* to our Delegate. It all begins with me, the A.A. member.

## 12 Concepts for World Service.....the what!



The A.A.© Service Manual contains our “Twelve Concepts for World Service”. Few of us have ever read through them, maybe even heard of them. Have you heard of them? As our fellowship grew the Alcoholic Foundation began on August 11, 1938 and in 1954 was changed to the General Service Board. The 1st General Service Conference was in 1951 and after a 5 year trial AA finally “Came of Age” on 4 o’clock on a Sunday afternoon , July 3, 1955. Bill W. was introduced and made a few remarks then presented his resolution which was:

“Be IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous should become, as of this date, July 3, 1955, the guardian of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, the perpetuator of the World Service of our Society, the voice of the group conscience of our entire Fellowship, and the sole successors to it’s co-founders, Dr. Bob and Bill.”

Bill wrote our “Twelve Concepts for World Service” and at the closing of the 10th General Service Conference in 1960 he proposed the subject of the Twelve Concepts, although at the time the 12th one had not yet been written! In 1962 on April 26 these Concepts were adopted by the 12th annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. So they stand today, as printed in our 3rd Legacy manual, which most know as the “A.A. Service Manual.” The A.A. Service Manual / Twelve Concepts for World Service is available as BM-31, The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated in pamphlet form is P-8 Below are the Short Version of our 12 Concepts for World Service:

### The 12 Concepts

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

**Statements and the short form of the 12 Concepts for World Service reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. ©**

## *“ Only in Service “*



*Ron S. “Peace & Serenity Group”*

When I think back on my early days in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, it’s hard to put into words my true state of mind. The only thing I knew for sure was that my state of mind was not good. I knew there were many factors that brought me here, but I wasn’t convinced that I was indeed an alcoholic. One of the biggest obstacles I had to overcome was my insecure feelings of not fitting in. Being a bit of an introvert it was difficult to come out of my shell. Old timers said, “sit down, shut up and listen.” I did just that. Fear was a motivator, but it put me in freeze-frame. At that point I wanted out.

I found a friend in the rooms who became my first sponsor (Jack B.). I went to his home group and started to open up to him, before and after the meetings. He told me to share at meetings. He said someone might need to hear what I have to say. I was conflicted. I told him everyone says “sit down, shut up and listen.” He laughed and said, “those old timers can be a little rough around the edges. They mean well, and to some degree, new comers need just what they’re dishing out.”

My inability to identify my own feelings and emotions must’ve been frustrating for Jack. I told him I thought, All of my friends would benefit from AA. I was certain they were all alcoholics, too. I wanted to be a trend setter and I was going to convince them to come to meetings with me. Jack gently informed me the program doesn’t work that way. He said, “Wouldn’t it be nice if we started an AA vigilante squad just round up everyone we thought were alcoholics and ushered them into the rooms? We could call all the major breweries and distilleries to now lay off half of their workforce.” I realized, not everyone drank the way I did, and all those I drank with weren’t an alcoholic.

I really wasn’t sure I wanted to fit in. Changing people, places and things, put me out of my comfort zone. I announced to Jack, “I think this AA is a clique.” His response was swift and brutally honest, “It’s a clique, because you’re not in it.” Those words pissed me off! I knew they were true. I wasn’t in it, I was just skirting the edge, looking for a way out. He knew it, and didn’t hesitate to hit me with that gut punch.

Jack helped me through a lot of rough times early on. I wanted things to get better fast, and my patience was kind of scarce. Because I was a good provider, my denial was strong. I felt entitled to have a few, or a few too many. I only remembered the good times, and longed for those days to return. I got to a point where meetings were becoming a drudge. I told Jack, I was bored. That’s when he said, “Boredom comes from thinking too much about yourself.” Once again, he hit the nail right on the head! I was consumed with my own feelings, and cared little else about the wellbeing of my fellows.

I continued to struggle. Things did take a dramatic turn at a beginner’s meeting in West Pittston. At six months sober I was in a small room, A light bulb hung over the table. In the corner was a casket, a reminder of our fate. It came my turn to share, “I don’t think I can do this for the rest of my life.” A young lady chairing the meeting looked right at me and said, “You don’t have to”. That young lady saved my life. I realized what “One Day at a Time” really meant! I stopped hanging around old friends. “You can’t hold out forever” they would say. The last time someone said that to me, my reply was, “You’re absolutely right; I’m just not drinking today.” It’s a lot easier that way!

# DRY DOCK—Slogans & Humor

In the spirit of  
"Ham on Wry" ©



A neighbor asked her friend, "why is your husband on the roof again?" She says, "someone called and told him that the drinks are on the house tonight!"



2 guys were driving home with a buzz on, suddenly the flashing lights of a cop car were in the rear view mirror, As they pulled over the passenger peeled the label off his beer bottle and pasted it on the drivers head. "What the hell is that for" the driver asked. "Don't worry just let me do the talking." The officer pulled them over, walked up to the car and asked if they had been drinking. The passenger said, "no sir, we were just returning from an AA meeting, my friend here is new and he's on the patch!"



BEING MARRIED IS LIKE BEING IN AA.....

Hi, MY NAME IS TOM AND I'M A MARRIED MAN., IT'S BEEN 12 MONTHS SINCE MY LAST DECISION

HOW'S YOUR MARRIAGE GOING TOM? WELL IT'S ONE DAY AT A TIME, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING!

I FELT THE URGE TO HAVE AN OPINION THE OTHER DAY.....THANK GOD MY SPONSOR CAME AROUND,.....



A guy and his wife are at a wedding and the husband keeps going to the bar for drink after drink. She says, "don't you think you better take it easy, they'll think you have a drinking problem". He Says, "no problem, I keep telling the bartender the drinks are for you!"



## *Tips from ole Victor E below.....*

Alcoholism is an equal opportunity destroyer.

Relax, it's just a bad day, not a bad life.

If the path you're following is free of obstacles, then it just might lead to nowhere.

Scars are reminders that we have beaten things that hurt us.

If plan A isn't working there are always 25 more letters



Victor E. & "Ham on Wry"© reprinted with permission of the AA Grapevine