



The Voice

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Central Office, Marion County Intergroup

In this issue

Step 6	1
Step 6 continued	2
Tradition 6	3
Announcements.....	4
Man on the Bed.....	5
Birthdays, Contributions.....	6

Monthly Newsletter of Marion County Intergroup

June 2023

Step Six—*Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character*

BY: Bobby M. | Ft. Thomas, KY

Next Stop: Trouble *Bobby M. Ft. Thomas, Ky*

Full of lust and ignoring his sponsor, he headed out. But this time he couldn't shake the queasy feeling in this gut

It was a hot summer day, and I was sitting in my apartment. I had been living alone there for more than six months and I decided it was now time to go out and find a companion. You would think after getting out of a bad relationship I'd be a little gun-shy about looking for a new one to get involved in. But no. I'm a glutton for punishment. In some ways, aren't we all? Some of us seem to always want what's not good for us.

So anyway, I began my search. I got dressed, checked myself in the mirror and out the door I went. I remembered my sponsor Tim telling me that I should steer clear of women, as I was in the early stages of my recovery. But I had no intention of listening to him. I wanted what I wanted.

I walked down to the corner and waited for the bus to take me downtown. You see, all the women I have ever gone after lived downtown. The mean streets of the "hood," as I called it.

While riding the bus, I found myself reliving that conversation I had had with my sponsor, over and over. I tried so hard to not think about what he told me that I almost forgot to ring the bell for my stop. The bus pulled over and I stepped off.

I started walking, and again something inside me wasn't right. I asked God in that moment to take away this feeling, not realizing that what I was actually telling God to do was to stop talking to

me. My relationship with God is one of friendship. I talk to him throughout the day, asking for his guidance to get through whatever situations I may find myself in.

I turned the corner to my old neighborhood and there they were, an assortment of women. These women were like me, sick. We all suffered from the same disease of alcoholism. The only difference was that I had not had a drink in almost a year, and they were all still drinking and drugging.

Up to that point, everything was going according to plan, everything except the queasy feeling in my gut. I wondered if it could be from the leftover pizza I ate before I left home.

I went over to this one woman. I asked if she would be interested in just walking and talking. At that moment, I stopped myself. How dare I lie to this woman, I thought. Now I know it was my conscience telling me— through my body—that what I was planning to do was not good.

I went over to this one woman and started a conversation about being in recovery and how good my life was going. I asked if she would be interested in spending some time with me, just walking and talking. At that moment, I stopped myself. How dare I lie to this woman, I thought. Nothing in my plans called for talk. Talk was not what I was looking for.

continued on p. 2

PLEASE NOTE:
The Living Sober Group will NOT meet @ Our Redeemer on Sunday, 6/11 and Tuesday 6/13 due to Church events. WILL MEET on 6/11 & 6/13 at 6:30pm @ Joy Lutheran 7045 SW 83rd Place Ocala, FL

Intergroup/Steering Monthly meeting
Sunday, June 11th @ NOON

Lost & Found Club
616 S. Pine Ave

District #17 Monthly
June 29th @ 7:00pm
Unity Place
525 NE Sanchez Ave.

Every Thursday Area 14
Service. Workshop, 6:00pm;
Hospitality, 5:45pm—New
Topic every Thursday—
Zoom Meeting ID:
828 5682 4762; pw: service

INTERGROUP OFFICE
HOURS June 2023
8:30am—3:00pm
(M, T, W and Th)
Closed Fri, Sat & Sun
If literature or medallions
are needed after hours,
call 352-867-0660 and
arrangements will be made



Step Six, *continued from page 1*

Quickly, I turned around, leaving her behind. I apologized as I ran away, and I instantly began to quietly cry out, "God forgive me for my behavior. I'm wrong for trying to do something that I know goes against everything AA has taught me." I quickly reached into my pocket to get my phone to call an AA friend so I could tell him what I was doing. He told me to get to an AA meeting fast to share about the situation. I hung up, caught the next bus coming down the street and got myself to a meeting, where I shared where I had been and how guilty and shameful I felt.

After the meeting, I immediately went home and began to write about my day. I realized that God was walking with me throughout this journey, and he made sure I didn't follow through with my self-will's plan.

It's like they say in the Big Book, "God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves." I'm so much better today. I listen to those strange pains that come when I'm doing my will and not God's will. I find it easier as time passes to notice these things. I'm not perfect with it but I am getting better, and I'm so glad I broke the cycle by following God and not Bobby.

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A.A. Historical Events in June

June 10 1935—The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding of date of A.A. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17

June 26 1935—Bill D. (A.A.#3) entered Akron City Hospital for his last detox and first day of sobriety

June 26 1935—Dr. Bob and Bill W. visited Bill Dotson at Akron City Hospital (*The Man on the Bed*) - See p. 5

June 30 2000—More than 47,000 from 87 countries attending the opening meeting of the 65th Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

June 3, 2023

"Those who follow the AA program with the greatest earnestness and zeal not only maintain sobriety but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance."

AA Co-Founder, Dr. Bob, July 1944,
"On Cultivating Tolerance", Best of the Grapevine,
Volume 1

June 2, 2023

"A coffeepot simmers on the kitchen stove, a hospital sobers the stricken sufferer, general headquarters broadcasts the AA message ... All these symbolize AA in action. For action is the magic word of Alcoholics Anonymous."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1951,
"Services Make AA Tick", Best of the
Grapevine, Volume 1



Tradition Six—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.

BY: Linda W. | Libertyville, ILL.

The Question of Clubs

What’s the connection between clubs and AA? When is it affiliation?



I had “the gift of desperation” when I got to my first AA meeting at a club not far from my home. I was ready to do whatever it took to be free from drinking. So after hearing the pitch for joining the club at the beginning of an AA meeting, I filled out the application and turned it in. That’s when the oldtimer I gave it to told me I had to have 90 days of sobriety before I filled out the application and turned it in. That’s when the oldtimer I gave it to told me I had to have 90 days of sobriety before I could join. My heart sank. There was no way I would be able to stay sober for 90 days. I felt like crying.

The oldtimer assured me there was nothing to cry about, however. Alcoholics Anonymous was free, and if I wanted to be a member, I was. That’s all there was to it. I didn’t need to fill out an application form, pay any money, or even promise sobriety.

I like to go wherever other alcoholics gather together to help one another. Most of the meetings I go to are not in a club setting, but some are. Recently, an AA member actually said she was “grateful to the club for her sobriety.” Of course, I can understand how easy it is to be confused about this. But a line from “A.A. Guidelines: The Relationship Between A.A. Groups and Clubs” published by AA World Services [found at aa.org], helps me to grasp the difference between AA and a club: “Even though the group meets in a club that may be composed exclusively of AA members, and many members of the group may be club members, too, the relationship of the AA group itself to the club should be the same as it would be to a church, hospital, school, or other facility in which it might rent space for its meetings.”

My home group meets in a church. The people at the church office are supportive and kind. We are happy to pay them rent, but we wouldn’t dream of letting them tell us what to say in a meeting. When our group first started, we discussed what to name it at the business meeting. One of the names included the name of the church where we meet. Someone pointed out that we wouldn’t want to do that because it implies affiliation. We meet at the church. In no other way are we affiliated with it.

Sometimes I get a helpful perspective on a Tradition by going through the Grapevine’s Traditions Checklist. The questions were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions. While they were originally intended for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Here is what the checklist says about Tradition Six: “Are all the officers and members of our local club-house familiar with the guidelines on clubs, which is available free from GSO?”

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TRADITIONS CHECKLIST The checklist first appeared in Grapevine more than 25 years ago and remains a great way to learn more about the principles of our Twelve Traditions. Great for AA meetings and sponsees. To download one, visit: www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources



AA Back to Basics

for Beginners, Refresher for Current Members and anyone interested in AA **Wednesdays @ 7:30pm,**

DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

9636 SE 58th Avenue

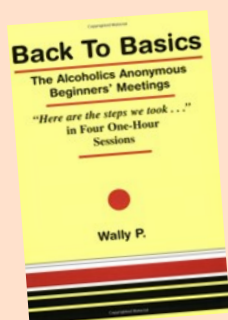
Complete the A.A. 12-Steps in

4—1 hour sessions using the 1940 format

developed by A.A. Pioneers

NEW SESSION begins **June 7, 2023** and

every 1st Wednesday of the month



District 14 Archives presents

Women in AA

Lighting

The Way

June 10th ≈ 4:00-8:30pm

Foundation's Day Celebration

Main Speaker: Carson F \$5 in advance \$10 at the door

Trinity United Methodist 4000 NW 53rd Ave, Gainesville, FL



Came to Believe

Robert M. 1955

Bill Dotson – AA Member #3 "The Man On The Bed"

Bill Dotson, the "Man on the Bed," was AA number 3. At his death, he had not had a drink in more than nineteen years. His date of sobriety was the date he entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox, June 26, 1935. Two days later occurred that fateful day when two sober alcoholics visited him: Dr. Bob Smith of Akron, Ohio, and Bill Wilson, a guest of Dr. Bob's from New York.

A few days before, Dr. Bob had said to Bill: "If you and I are going to stay sober, we had better get busy." Dr. Bob called Akron's City Hospital and told the nurse, a "Mrs. Hall," that he and a man from New York had a cure for alcoholism. Did she have an alcoholic customer on whom they could try it out? She replied, "Well, Doctor, I suppose you have already tried it yourself?"

Then she told him of a man who had just come in with DT's, had blackened the eyes of two nurses, and was now strapped down tight. "He's a grand chap when he's sober," she added.

The nurse told Dr. Bob and Bill that Bill Dotson had been a well-known attorney in Akron and a city councilman. But he had been hospitalized eight times in the last six months. (Bill Wilson sometimes said "six times.") Following each release, he got drunk even before he got home.

Bill's wife, Henrietta Dotson, had talked to Dr. Bob and Bill earlier. When she told her husband she had been "talking to a couple of fellows about drinking" he was furious at her "disloyalty." When she told him that they were "a couple of drunks" Bill didn't mind so much.

Henrietta apparently had quite a conversation with the two men, and she told her husband that their plan for staying sober themselves was to tell their plan to another drunk. Years later, Bill Dotson reflected on the jumbled thoughts in his mind as his wife left and he began to lapse back into withdrawal stupor: "All the other people that talked to me wanted to help ME, and my pride prevented me from listening to them, and caused only resentment on my part, but I felt as if I would be a real stinker if I did not listen to a couple of fellows for a short time, if that would cure THEM."

So Dr. Bob and Bill talked to what may have been their first "man on the bed." They told him of the serious nature of his disease - how it was an allergy of the body combined with an obsession of the mind – but also offered hope for recovery. "We told him what we had done," wrote Bill, "how we got honest with ourselves as never before, how we had talked our problems out with each other in confidence, how we tried to make amends for harm done to others, how we had then been miraculously released from the desire to drink as soon as we had humbly asked God for guidance and protection."

But Bill Dotson was not impressed. He said, "Well, this is wonderful for you fellows, but can't be for me. My case is so terrible that I'm scared to go out of this hospital at all. You don't have to sell me religion, either. I was at one time a deacon in the church and I still believe in God. But I guess he doesn't believe much in me."

Like so many of us on first coming to AA, Bill Dotson thought he was "different." But he did agree to see Dr. Bob and Bill again. They came again the next day, and for several days thereafter. When they arrived on July 4, they found Bill's wife, Henrietta, with him.

Eagerly pointing at them, he said to his wife: "These are the fellows I told you about – they are the ones who understand."

Before they could say anything, he told them about his night, how he hadn't slept but had been thinking about them all night long. And he had decided that if they could do it, maybe he could do it. Maybe they could do together what they couldn't do separately.

It was on that day that he admitted he could not control his drinking and had to leave it up to God. Then they had him get down on his knees at the side of the bed and pray that he would turn his life over to God. Before the visit was over, he suddenly turned to his wife and said, "Go fetch my clothes, dear. We're going to get up and get out of here."

He walked out of that hospital on July 4, 1935, a free man, never to drink again. AA's first group was started on that day.

Robert M, a volunteer illustrator for the Grapevine, created the oil painting 'Came to Believe' in 1955, and gave it to Bill Wilson in 1956. It first appeared in the Grapevine in the December 1955 issue, but when the book 'Came to Believe' was published in 1973, the Grapevine editors renamed the reproductions 'The Man on the Bed' to avoid confusion



Birthdays

JUNE

Breakfast Club

Crystal L—1
Mike Z—1
Steve M—17
Paul C—40
Joe M—41

Headstart

Mary L—1
Michael S—2
Roger P—4

Living Sober

Jennifer S—13
Brent H—14

ODAT

Alberto V—3
Steve S—3
Helmut S—10
Margie R—36
Bill W—37

We Give Up

Mike K—2



Congrats!!!

REMINDER - To have Group Member's Birthdays acknowledged in The Voice information needs to be forwarded to Intergroup/Central Office aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com for respective month, i.e. end of May for June Birthdays.

Contributions May

All You Need	\$ 40.00
Anonymity	\$ 66.00
Belleview Group	\$ 50.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	\$ 78.38
Heavy Hitters Men's	\$ 10.00
Headstart	\$ 48.30
Living Sober	\$ 100.00
One Day At A Time	\$ 500.00
Primary Purpose	\$ 121.00
Shores of Sobriety	\$ 125.00
Sisters in Sobriety	\$ 65.00
Sober Yankees	\$ 215.00
Step Right Up	\$ 50.00
Stop Whining and Sober Up	\$ 225.00
Sundae Social Group	\$ 100.00

From the GSO Pamphlet

***Self-support;
Where Money and Spiritually Mix (F-3)***

**10% to District 17
P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478**

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**10% to Area 14  
Area 14, Panel 73 Treasurer  
P.O. Box 6301  
Jacksonville, FL 32205-9998  
(Address changes every two years. Visit  
[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for correct address)**

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**30% to General Service Office
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163**

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**50% to Central Office/Intergroup 17  
616 S Pine Avenue  
Ocala, FL 3447**