

# DECEMBER 2019



## HEARTLAND INTERGROUP HOLIDAY HOURS

DECEMBER 24, 2019 9AM-1PM

DECEMBER 25, 2019-CLOSED

DECEMBER 31, 2019 9AM-1PM

JANUARY 1, 2020-CLOSED

## HEARTLAND INTERGROUPE

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am – 12:00pm



ALCOHOL.ORG

## The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

### Step

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12

“

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs

”

Alcoholics Anonymous AA.Org

## The 6 Warranties in Concept Twelve

### The Conference:

1. Shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power;
2. That sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle;
3. That it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others;
4. That it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
5. That its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy;
6. That it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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### Concept 12

## PREPARING FOR THE TWELFTH CONCEPT OF SERVICE

(Read pp. 64-76 of the "Twelve Concepts for World Service")

### THE TWELFTH CONCEPT OF SERVICE

**We are guaranteed the freedom of selfless service by observing the six warranties:**

1. **We do not pursue authority, wealth, and power.**
2. **We live by a prudent financial principle: sufficient operating funds plus an ample reserve (one year of operating expenses).**
3. **We are not dictators and are not placed in a position of unqualified authority over anyone.**
4. **We seek substantial unanimity whenever possible.**
5. **We are not personally punitive, nor do we incite public controversy.**
6. **We are democratic in thought and action.**

Let us examine any of our attitudes that interfere with our ability to give service:

1. Do I seek authority, wealth or power as a goal in my life?
2. Have I been living a financially reckless or miserly life?
3. Am I a dictator to my spouse, child, at work, to those I sponsor, or anyone at all? Do others describe me as a dictator? Let us ask someone who knows us if they think we are dictatorial.
4. Do I seek consensus at home and work, or do I issue orders? Do share my authority?
5. Is there someone I feel personally punitive about? Do I enjoy gossiping or criticizing others and thus promote public controversy?
6. Do I think and act democratically, or do I even ask what others think? Can I love someone who disagrees with me? Did the last disagreement I had lead to estrangement or closeness? Did we part friends?

## WARRANTIES Concept XII

This quote started my journey in researching the warranties.

"Our Traditions are set down on paper. But they were written first in our hearts. For each of us knows, instinctively I think, that AA is not ours to do with as we please. We are but caretakers to preserve the spiritual quality of our Fellowship; keep it whole for those who will come after us and have need of what has so generously been given to us." This writing is from Bill W. Nov. 1950 "AA is not big business" in the Language of the heart. This was the Quote of the day from the Grapevine June 27<sup>th</sup>.

General Warranties of the Conference: Article 12 of the Conference Charter

The General Warranties, The Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions can only be changed by written consent of three quarters of all AA groups in the world!

The Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the conference should always possess, the Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other AA entities.

Warranty One: The Conf. shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power. Perilous means risky or dangerous. Tradition 7 protects us against collecting too much money/wealth and Tradition 2 brings a loving God/higher power into the power aspect of the statement as well as rotation which protects against too much power. In this Warranty we are reminded that there is a human component and we should come from a place of humility, unselfishness and dedication.

Warranty Two: Sufficient operation funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle. In about half of the last twenty years AA group contributions have failed to meet our world services. The reserve is constantly renewed by book sales which has met the deficits and save money. As a fellowship here in Area 6 we are looking into our finances with the feasibility report our delegate brought to our attention. Costs going up and contributions flat we are not in great danger now but these things need looking into. For me talking more about adjusting book sales, online literature, faith or lack of where money is concerned and what services we would cut is and would be a good thing. That way the fellowship as a whole would be more comfortable talking about finances.

Warranty Three: "None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others". In the early days AA headquarters was run on authoritarian and institutional lines. The result was often troubled and misunderstandings, because of that the principle of "Participation" was put into place. Because there are no superiors, no inferiors and no advisers, no group, trustee,



director, individual or staff have authority over one another. This was so important they made it warranty three to protect our conference structure. I'm reminded the ultimate authority is a loving god.

Warranty Four: That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity. This warranty is to safeguard against rash decision making and to consider the minority opinion no matter how small. Sometimes there is an urgency that something needs to be done and in those cases we cannot allow a minority however well intended to block action for the best interests of AA. At this time we have a motion in our Area that this warranty address and my take on this warranty is in the statement "wherever possible substantial unanimity" for major changes.

Warranty Five: That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy. AA does not find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of laws, principles or beliefs. When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. As we can't afford resentments and conflicts which could come from the temptation to punish in anger. This also applies to public controversy. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which AA enjoys than public contention. Though the warranty does state that sometimes we can speak up in private. Our own members may use the AA name for their private purposes and even in this area, this warranty suggests we can inform Tradition violators that they are out of order, Privately. Seems to me at GSO and conf. level doing nothing is the way they have suggested we handle violations and public controversy. I think this is where our collective spirituality steps in and where the Traditions are used. The warranty also states GSO is not a police operation. They only offer AA's experiences as a matter of information.

Warranty Six: That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholic Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of AA which it serves, the conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action. AA membership always to be the choice of the individual; each AA group to conduct its and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that as a group, they have no other purpose or internal affairs as it wishes-it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure AA as a whole the affiliation.

We of AA believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live.

Not only did this information come from the service manual but also from the Illustrated Twelve Concepts for World Service pamphlet. I have learned a lot and I'm grateful to be of service.

## PREPARING FOR THE TWELFTH TRADITION

(Read pp. 184-187 of the "12 & 12.")

### THE TWELFTH TRADITION:

**"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."**

1. Let us recall the last time we sacrificed a personal desire for the common good in our relationship with God, A.A., a spouse or friend, and at work.
2. Let us recall an example where we were swayed by the personality of others or our own desires rather than acting on principle. How could we have acted differently?
3. The next time I hear a speaker in A.A. whose personality is exciting from the platform; can I hear the principles behind his words? To which step, tradition, or concept can I relate his pitch? Also, if I am bored with a speaker, can I tune in to which step, tradition, or concept he or she is coming from?
4. There is an element of sacrifice in practicing the twelve traditions. How could I place principles before my personal wishes in practicing the first tradition: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity."

How would you apply principles before personalities in practicing the rest of the traditions? Think about this the next time you hear the traditions read at a meeting. Just pick one tradition.

## *Twelve Traditions— How They Apply In Our Lives*

### **TRADITION Twelve**

**"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."**

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 them as a basis for wider discussion.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust or agree with AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, do I imply that membership requirements go beyond the desire to stay sober?
4. Have I a personal responsibility to help an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
5. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially?
6. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me) is my brand of AA attractive so that other drunks might want it?
7. What does anonymity mean to me?
8. In light of increased awareness of alcoholism and AA's program of recovery among the general public, why is the principle of anonymity still important?
9. Am I mindful to respect the anonymity of other AA members who may work in my place of employment or my industry? How about AA members who live in my area or neighborhood?
10. What does "principles before personalities" mean to me?

(Traditions Checklist AA Grapevine)

**P**rin  
**B**efore  
**P**ersonalities



## The Twelve Steps

1. I can't
2. God can
3. Let God
4. Search for truth
5. Admit it
6. Ready to let go
7. Ask for healing
8. Willing to change
9. Make amends
10. Daily inventory
11. Pray and meditate
12. Share it

### Dec 1

1940 – Chicago Daily Tribune begins a series of articles on AA by Nall Hamilton.

### Dec 5

1985 – Dave B, founder of Montreal Group, dies weeks before 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. His story was added to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Big Book.

### Dec 6

1939 – Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000.

### Dec 6

1979 – Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling.

### Dec 7

1949 – Sister Ignatia received Poverello Medal on behalf of A.A.

### Dec 10

1975 – Birds of a Feather AA group for pilots is formed.

### Dec 11

1934 – Bill admitted to Towns Hospital for the fourth and last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

### Dec 11

1941 – Dallas Morning News reports first AA group formed in Dallas.

### Dec 12

1934 – Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital.

### Dec 12

1937 – Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money.

### Dec 13

1937 – Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to meeting in New Jersey.

### Dec 13 or 14

1934 – Ebby visits Bill at Towns hospital, brings William James' book, Varieties of Religious Experience.

### Dec 19

1939 – Los Angeles hold their first AA meeting there.

### Dec 20

1945 – Rowland H. dies (he carried the Oxford Group message to Ebby).

### Dec 27

1893 – Rev. Samuel Shoemaker is born.

#### Other December happenings with no specific date:

Dec 1934 – Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

Dec 1934 to May 1935 – Bill works with alcoholics, but fails to sober any of them. Lois reminds him HE is sober.

Dec 1938 – Twelve Steps written.

Nov/Dec 1939 – Akron group withdraws from association with Oxford Group. Meetings moved from T. Henry & Clarence Williams' home to Dr Bob and other members' homes.

Dec 1939 – First AA group in mental institution, Rockland State Hospital, NY.

Dec 1939 – First home meeting in Los Angeles at Kaye M.'s house.

Dec 1939 – Matt Talbot Club has 88 members, uses wagons to collect old furniture to recondition & sell, not A.A., used A.A. program, material, marked first effort reach alcoholics outside married, middle-class category.

Dec 1940 – First AA group formed in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dec 1940 – Group started Ashtabula, Ohio due to Plain Dealer articles. A.A. Cleveland has about 30 groups.

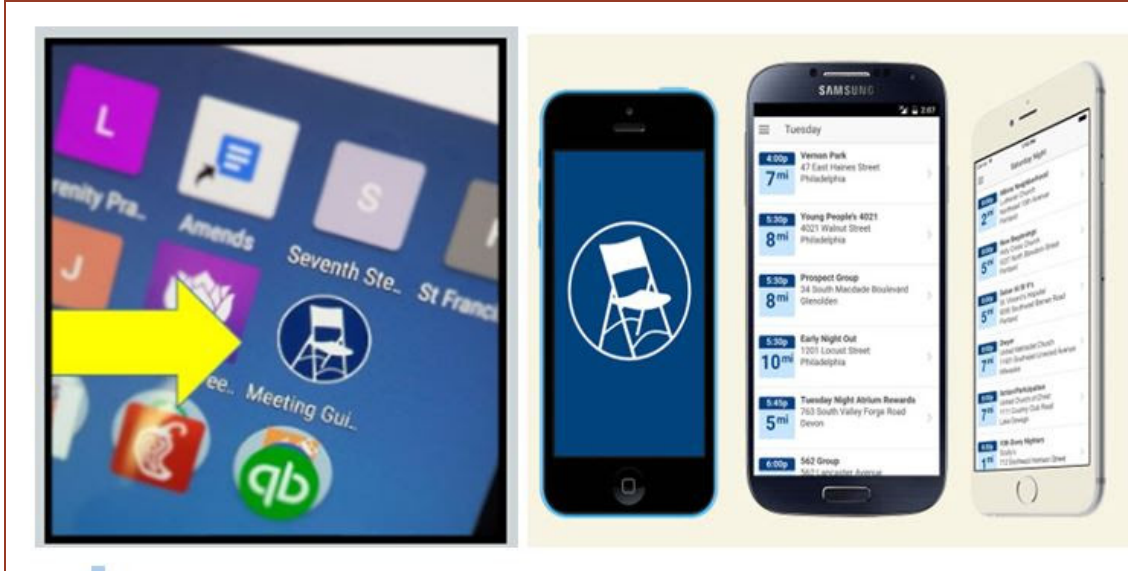
Dec 1948 – Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.

Dec 1950 – Grapevine article signed by both Bill and Dr Bob recommend establishing AA General Service Conference.

Dec 1955 – Man on the Bed painting by Robert M. first appeared in Grapevine. Painting originally called Came to Believe

Dec 1982 – Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service.





## LOCATE MEETINGS WITH A CLICK!

"Meeting Guide by Josh R." is an app which can be downloaded to your cell phone to show you daily meetings in the Heartland Intergroup areas of Polk, Hardee and Highlands Counties. Available in your Play Store for Apple and Android phones.

Check it out!

Contributions from the previous month will be included in the following month's mid-month issue.

**(If you notice that your contribution is not reflected, please remember that we publish the contributions from the prior month, so yours may not show up until next month).**

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**Any questions can be emailed to the office manager at:**

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