

YES!
You
can
have
this
copy!



THE MESSENGER

April 2026 Edition
www.area32d2.org
An A.A. © Newsletter for District 2
Serving Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee Counties



Tradition 4

Short form

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.


Long form

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Autonomy is a ten-dollar word...manage it's own affairs exactly how it pleases... Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 146

- ### SMF-131 Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine.org
1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
 2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
 3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
 4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
 5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths-his lengths, not mine-to stay sober?
 6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?



SAVE THE DATE!

Area 32, which includes us, in District 2, is hosting the MI Statewide Convention this year. Aug 7-9.

It will be in Mt. Pleasant at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center

"Beyond My Reach"
Lansing, Michigan,
May 2009

When it seems like love just isn't enough, I remind myself that it is all I have to give beyond my experience, strength and hope.

Grapevine Daily Quote Book

Continued from last month: THIRD TRADITION article written by Bill W. in the 1948 Grapevine, reprinted in March 1992

For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us.

Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities. One can think of no AA member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" AA groups, "wet" AA groups, Republican AA groups, communist AA groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the AA name, even indirectly, to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that AA should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.

Let us of AA therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive and never exclusive, offering all we have to all, save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life--and a useful one!