



CONCEPTS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA LTD
AREA 20 SERVICE LETTER

WINTER 2025 VOL. XLIX NO.4



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Reflections on the 75th General Service Conference from Panel 74 Delegates...

The next few pages are articles written by Panel 74 delegates that were involved with the 75th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

For those who are not wholly familiar:

Panel 74 is a term to identify the group of delegates who served during the 2023-2025 service term. Delegates were elected by their local areas to represent them at conferences during this term.

The 75th General Service Conference is an annual gathering of AA for delegates, trustees a staff from the U.S. and Canada. It's purpose is to discuss and conduct the business of AA, which includes reviewing agenda items, sharing sessions and the conference inventory process. In 2025 it was held April 27 to May 3rd in New York City.

Key decisions and recommendations:

- Literature updates: A proposal was made to update the Living Sober book to reflect modern AA life, including online meetings and social media, and to expand it with more chapters on sobriety since 1975.
- Public service announcements (PSAs): The Conference recommended adapting three Australian Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for use on media platforms in the U.S. and Canada.
- Professional outreach: The development of new video materials was recommended to better inform professionals (healthcare, legal, corrections, HR) about AA's resources.
- Conference operations: The Conference Inventory Implementation Committee was formed to identify and implement actionable items based on the 2025 conference inventory.
- Ongoing discussions: Participants discussed several recurring themes, including balancing group autonomy with unity, the role of service, and the impact of technology.

For more information, please go to

<https://www.aa.org/2025-general-service-conference-final-report>



From Eric L., Panel 74 delegate...

Finding Common Ground

This topic of *Finding Common Ground* came out of the Conference Agenda Committee at the 75th General Service Conference. I find this is a relevant topic for me and I hope it is for you as well.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous, is that despite the fact we might normally not mix, there does indeed “exist among us a friendliness and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful”. Without that, I’m certain I would not have stayed in AA, and I suspect that is probably true for most of you as well.

So, in that sense, all of us as AA members are linked together. That link is based on our shared past suffering as alcoholics, and more importantly, we are linked through our shared participation in our fellowship and our program of action. Our book says we now have “a way out on which we can absolutely agree!”

Now, for any of you that have been to a few group business meetings, area assemblies, or the General Service Conference, it doesn’t always quite feel like that, does it? Well, why is that? For myself, I believe there are a few things that can make that link feel weaker than it should.

The first is my ego. When my ego gets involved, I start thinking primarily about myself – I want to be heard. I want to be recognized. I want to be right, and I want to prove my point.

Underlying that ego pop-up is most always fear. What if I lose what I have? What if I don’t get what I want, or need? How will this change affect me? And sometimes I might just be concerned about what others think of me.

The emotional baggage of fear and ego can distort my perception of others and even myself. When they crop up, it becomes harder to see our similarities, much easier to see our differences. Rather than assume your good intent, I might start to think you have ulterior motives. It becomes very easy to question your judgement, and I might even believe you just simply don’t have the same level of experience or wisdom as I do!

It's also quite true that many of us do indeed have different life experiences. We come from different walks of life, and we may see things from a different point of view. As we know, alcoholism crosses all spectrums of our society. It doesn’t seem to care too much about our individuality. And we certainly want AA to be welcoming to all who need it. That’s why our only requirement must always be to simply have a desire to stop drinking. However, this can be an inherent challenge for us too, as many of us came to AA as extreme individualists. In fact, one of the ironic things we have in common is that most of us felt our case was different. Many of us felt we were indeed unique. For myself, I wasn’t very optimistic when I came to AA that you would be able to understand the complexity of my situation or problems. And I wasn’t all that willing at first to check my ego and ask for help, let alone submit to a set of spiritual principles and take direction. By nature, I’m not really a joiner and I’m not generally inclined to conform. So, my alcoholism can amp up those underlying emotions if I’m not spiritually fit or in an accepting state of mind.

From Erik L., Panel 74 delegate...cont.

That's why I believe it's so important to connect the work we do in general service to the carrying of our message of recovery. Our three legacies are not independent of each other; they must be linked together. When we do **service** work in AA, regardless of what level in our structure, we must also connect that work to the spirit of **recovery** and **unity**.

Sometimes that connection is direct, but often in general service that connection can be an indirect one. And in the General Service Conference process, you may have to stretch at times to make, or even see, that connection.

Once the connection is made however, it becomes a lot easier to work together and as our book says "join in brotherly and harmonious action".

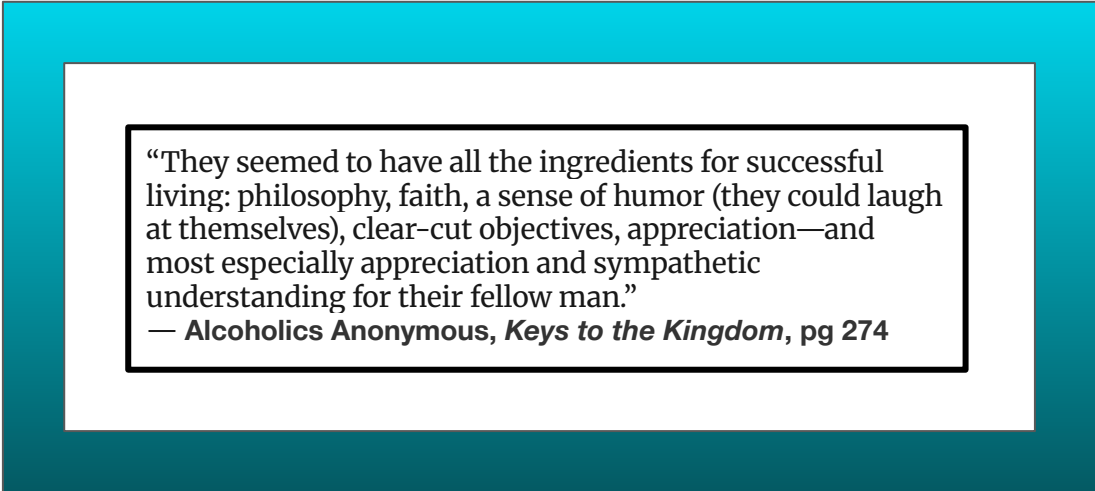
And harmonious action doesn't always mean we are going to agree. Sometimes disagreement is very healthy as it prompts discussion and allows us to make sure, we are fully thinking something through, considering different angles and hearing minority opinions.

What is critical is that in our discussions, and even debate, we treat each other with respect and encourage as much participation as possible so that our voting reflects an informed conscience.

I believe it's also imperative that we trust in our decision-making process, particularly at Area and Conference level where we rely on substantial unanimity to make decisions that affect AA as a whole. Therefore, we must elect the best possible people to serve and represent us. And then, once elected, we ought to trust them.

As I begin to rotate out as a Panel 74 delegate, I have confidence in our fellowship's future. I have great confidence in our newly elected Panel 76 Delegate and Area officers. AA is in good hands. God is here with us. We do have work to do, but as we do it together, let's try to remember to always look for that common ground.

Erik L. – Panel 74 Delegate Area 20, Northern Illinois

The quote is presented within a white rectangular box with a black border. This box is centered within a larger teal-colored rectangular frame that has a double-line border.

"They seemed to have all the ingredients for successful living: philosophy, faith, a sense of humor (they could laugh at themselves), clear-cut objectives, appreciation—and most especially appreciation and sympathetic understanding for their fellow man."

— **Alcoholics Anonymous, *Keys to the Kingdom*, pg 274**

From Lisa S., your Panel 74 Alt. Delegate...

Over two years ago I recall being so excited with the thought of starting my new role as Alternate Delegate. There was so much to learn that at the time it all seemed overwhelming. And it was! I had questions, ideas, opinions, and butterflies in my stomach. But many trusted servants who had gone before me told me that none of us ever starts a new position in service knowing all there is to know about it, and that no two experiences are exactly the same. We are provided with guidelines and support, and we need to ask for help just as we do in other areas of our lives when things are uncertain. I know I asked a lot of questions and there was always someone who was available and willing to work with me to answer them.

I have been involved in General Service in a variety of different capacities for over 18 years. Each position I've ever been elected to – whether it was a General Service Representative (GSR) or District Committee Member (DCM) or Service Committee Chair, Alternate Delegate or even the Area 20 Panel 76 Delegate – has always been filled with both a sense of amazement and appreciation. Amazement that I've been blessed with yet another opportunity to be a small part of this great fellowship and appreciation for the opportunity to serve outside of my comfort zone.

During the two years I've been Alternate Delegate, I've been provided with guidance and direction throughout the whole journey, from both our current Delegate Erik L. as well as other Area trusted servants. This has allowed me to thoroughly enjoy my role and responsibility in this position. I've enjoyed every group and district visit, every Area function, every service orientation workshop, every Pre-General Service Conference breakout session, DCM breakout sessions at each Area Assembly, and each GSR School that Area Alternate Chair Aaron V. let me join. I've appreciated every call, text, question, and challenge. Each has helped strengthen me and prepare me for what's ahead.

A word about service. When I arrived in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, it was with the intent of stopping drinking long enough to get everyone off my back. Maybe find a job, a place to live, work on getting my driving privileges reinstated and get a car – all things I needed and didn't have. I thought my future as a sober person would be this bleak, miserable, dreary existence where each day would be a repeat of the day before. It never, ever occurred to me that along with the gift of sobriety would be the God-given blessing and ability to serve others. Serving in A.A. has completely transformed my sobriety into something amazing and extraordinary. I have never regretted any time spent in service to the Fellowship and the rewards for doing so are countless.

These past two years I've been provided with a solid foundation in which to begin my next role serving the Area as a Panel 76 Delegate to the General Service Conference in April. I am beyond grateful for this new opportunity and look forward to continue serving the Area with enthusiasm and dedication.

Lisa S.
Alternate Delegate
Area 20 Panel 74
630 336-7430



From Dawn B., your NIA Chair...

As Panel 74 ends, I'm reflecting on the last two years, which have gone by in a flash.

When I begin every new position I have had in AA, I have often felt that I've been thrown in the deep end of the pool without floaties. "What do I do now?" is usually my first thought. This was my sixth rotation as an officer or alternate officer, and each time, it feels as if this challenge might be more than I can handle. Thankfully, this has never turned out to be the case. I have always been surrounded by people who have done the job before and are willing to give the feedback and help I need. For the job of Chair, they are too many to list, but they know who they are, and I thank you.

I would classify the job of Area Chair as another experience you must not miss, and I'm eternally grateful that I did not. There was a great learning curve in the beginning, even though I have been attending Assemblies since 2004, and paying attention to the Area Chair. Everything I thought I knew went out the window, to be replaced by actual experience, and what an experience that was! I have greatly appreciated the role and had the privilege of collaborating with a dedicated team of officers. They got the job done, helped me greatly along the way, and Rule 62 was definitely in place. Thank you to them, I will miss the sense of cooperation, the responsibility each took in our primary purpose, and the fun we had. Love and gratitude to you all.

Area 20 has, during these two years, stepped up to the jobs we have asked them to do. The Area Service Committee Chairs have taken their jobs very seriously, and many have communicated with, encouraged, and included their district counterparts, thereby ensuring that those Area jobs will be done in the future. Well done, thank you.

The Panel 74 DCMs have stepped up to everything we have asked. I appreciated that we never had to wonder who was going to host an Assembly or an Area Committee meeting, they were filled and taken on before the next year started. That was a huge burden off the shoulders of Aaron and I, thank you so much.

GSRs and District Service Chairs, thank you for showing up and getting involved with service. We need you, and I truly appreciate the effort you have shown by being a part of NIA.

Thank you also to everyone that did the special information breakouts at each Assembly. My aim, in doing an Area Inventory in 2024, was to find out "what you don't know", so that everyone would be aware of their job in the service structure, how it fits into that, and have enough information to get their jobs done. My hope is that people took that knowledge and acted upon it. More than that, as far as service participation goes, we cannot do.

I'm very much looking forward to the work I will do in Panel 76. I will be communicating and meeting regularly with the DCMs and doing as many Service Orientation workshops as I can. Sharing information and facilitating the opportunity to carry the message in AA is one of my passions.

From Dawn B., your NIA Chair...cont.

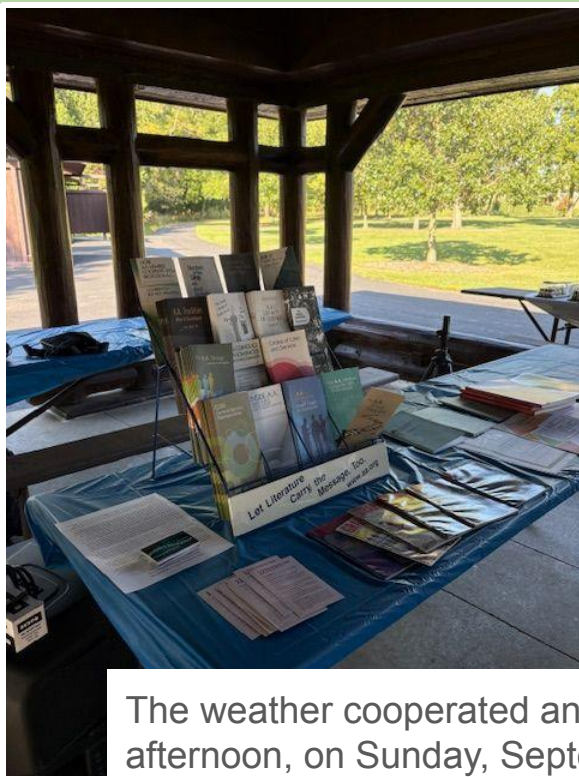
I am thrilled to turn the NIA Chair over to Aaron, he is more than capable of the job.

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve you, I thank you for the opportunity.

With much love, and in your service,

Dawn B.

Images from the 3rd Annual District 41 Picnic!



The weather cooperated and we had a wonderful turnout late afternoon, on Sunday, September 14, 2025, for the 3rd Annual District 41 Picnic. Aside from the delicious BBQ and side dishes, we discussed service in the district and our Area 20. Not only did we discuss service, there was a slide presentation and three speakers with long-term sobriety that spoke how service was an essential component of their program. Mention was also made of open committee positions in the district and the need for ongoing participation.

A special shout out to the Picnic Planning committee and those who volunteered on-site to make the picnic an event to look forward to!

Please direct all
communications to:

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

To: GSRs, DCMs, Trustees, Non-trustee Directors, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts, GSO and Grapevine Employees

November 26, 2025

Dear A.A. Friends:

Warm greetings from the General Service Office (GSO). As we continue to observe this season of gratitude, we A.A.s reflect on the many gifts and blessings sobriety has given us. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous encompasses many facets: our home groups, sponsorship, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, fellowship, service on many levels, and much more.

Last month, I shared with you an overview of many of the services that GSO provides. As the General Manager, I'm grateful to see firsthand how these services support the many facets of the A.A. program, especially our primary purpose – carrying the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers. I hope you can take a moment to review the following service materials that I shared with you last month, which highlight the vital work your contributions help to support: SERVICES PROVIDED BY GSO/AAWS and Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet.

In my November 2023 message to the Fellowship, I shared in great detail the challenges related to the financial health of Alcoholics Anonymous and the challenges ahead. Many of you responded with heartfelt messages of gratitude along with very generous contributions that lifted GSO out of those financial difficulties. I emphasized in that message the ongoing need for more frequent and incremental contributions to sustain the operations of the office. You heard that message, and in 2024, contributions were the highest on record, enabling us to continue providing the numerous services that sustain our beloved program.

Unfortunately, we are once again faced with a substantial decline in contributions this year, putting the vital services our Fellowship depends on at risk. To help clarify our current position, I offer the following key financial results through September 30, 2025.

- Total contributions are about \$1,018,000 less than the same period last year and \$843,000 less than budget.
- Net income from literature sales is about \$104,000 more than the same period last year and \$226,000 more than budget.
- Combined income from contributions and literature sales was about \$914,000 less than the same period last year and \$617,000 less than budget.
- Operating expenses before depreciation were \$233,500 more than last year and \$394,000 less than budget.
- Operating surplus before depreciation was \$124,971 compared to \$1,176,000 in the same period last year and \$440,000 less than budget.
- The Reserve Fund currently covers 6.2 months of GSO and Grapevine expenses.

As you can see, GSO, along with the AAWS and General Service Boards (GSB), have continued to work hard to manage our expenses through sound budget planning. This includes a reforecast following the annual General Service Conference to account for new services requested by the Conference to ensure we keep within our budgeted expenses. In fact, when applying adjustments for inflation to our operating expenses over the last 10 years, our projected expenses this year are lower than 8 of the last 10 years (the other 2 years were during the pandemic). A continued challenge is that our net income from the sale of literature is down considerably. Average literature income during 2015-2019 was a little more than \$9M per year compared to \$6.7M in 2023, \$7.6M in 2024 and \$8.3M projected for 2025. That's an average drop of \$1.5M annually. This is a result of both a reduction in gross sales as well as an increase in the cost of production and distribution.

As members, we often say that when A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. This is again one of those times. Your generosity has sustained us through very difficult times in the past. If your group is able, in the spirit of this season of gratitude, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board.

You can make a contribution through the Contributions page on aa.org or by mail.

When contributing by check, please make your check payable to the General Service Board and use the applicable mailing address.

Thank you so much for everything each of you do for Alcoholics Anonymous. It is my hope this message will be met with understanding, and that the honesty and sincerity in my heart are apparent throughout.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.,

Bob W.
General Manager, GSO

THERE IS NO
COFFEE



Upcoming Events, Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Saturday, December 13, 2025

NIA 20 Winter Assembly

Doors open 8 am, Meeting starts 9 am
LUNCH WILL BE KEBABS
\$10 PER PERSON

Lord of Life Church
40W605 IL-38, Elburn, IL 60119

Saturday, January 24, 2026
Hinckley Big Book Study Group
29th Anniversary

Pork Chop Dinner

And Speaker Meeting

AA Speaker

Amanda B., Montgomery, AL

Fellowship - 4pm / Serving - 4:30pm / Kickoff - 6:00pm

For information, contact:

Jo 630 414 0097 or

Scott 630 917 3757

February 6 - 8, 2026

**ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE OF
YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS - ISCYPAA XLIII**

Hosted by Prairypaa (Chicago Suburbs)
Chicago Marriott Naperville, 1801 N Naper Blvd.,
Naperville, IL

March 13-15, 2026

Northern IL Area 20
NIA SPRING CONFERENCE

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg
1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173

For Questions/Volunteering contact:

Jeremy A - 331-284-1194

Paula P - 224-388-3396

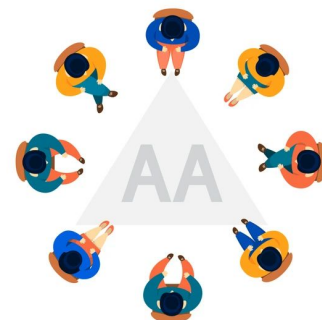
FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

52nd Annual Eastern Conference Region
Conference of Delegates
Past & Present

Hosted by W. Michigan Area 34

Hilton Garden Inn
1300 Cinema Way
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Questions?? Call Jim H. 616-366-5143
or Leslie L. 269-930-1172
or email us: 52cdpp@gmail.com



Upcoming Events, Fellowship and Service, Cont.

Area wide:

Legacy of Service: AA Service Manual & Concepts Study:

2nd Thursday, 7:30-8:30 pm

Hosted by District 11

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 819 5925 862, Passcode: 639187

District 40: Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Warrenville

GSR Meeting: 4th Friday, 7 p.m.

6:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 715 North Carlton Street,
Wheaton, IL

District 41: Addison, Bensenville, Elmhurst, Lombard, Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park

GSR & Committee Meeting: 3rd Thursday, 7 pm

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, Calvin Hall, 367 Spring Rd, Elmhurst,

District 42: Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Oakbrook, Westmont, Willowbrook

District 42 Monthly Meeting: 3rd Monday, 7 pm

WSAC, 17 Quincy St., Westmont, IL

District 43: Bolingbrook, Lisle, Naperville

District 43 Business Meeting: 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 965 6659 0236, Passcode: 932879

For a listing of all Area 20 District Meetings: <https://aa-nia.org/meetings/>

GROWING UP

The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails.

AS BILL SEES IT, p. 115

Sometimes when I've become willing to do what I should have been doing all along, I want praise and recognition. I don't realize that the more I'm willing to act differently, the more exciting my life is. The more I am willing to help others, the more rewards I receive. That's what practicing the principles means to me. Fun and benefits for me are in the willingness to do the actions, not to get immediate results. Being a little kinder, a little slower to anger, a little more loving makes my life better day by day.



District 70 Archives Workshop



Including two Panels:

A.A. Archives – The importance of preserving our history so we can continue to carry the message.

(Presented by NIA 20 Archives chair and Archivist)

&

District 70 Archives – An introduction to our new Archives committee. How the groups can take advantage of this District service. This is our “Kick-off” for the Archives committee and how it will function.

(Presented by Dist 70 Archives committee)

SATURDAY, JAN 3RD, 2026

9 am – Noon

**Rockford Alano Club
1210 11th Street,
Rockford, IL 61104**

FREE - No registration! Refreshments provided!

Please contact Steve C. with any questions. 815-222-8871

**Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, 4:00
– 8:00 PM**

District 12 Holiday Party

Adults Only - \$10 Entry

St. Mark's Church

3350 N. Delaney Rd #1343

Waukegan, IL

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM

**Dinner Served: 1:30 – 2:00
PM**

District 40 Holiday Party

First Presbyterian Church

715 Carlton Ave, Wheaton, IL

District 22

Saturday Dec. 6, 2025,

Christmas Party, Time: 5 to 10 pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

357 Division St Unit #3, Elgin, IL

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025

Soberbash & Serenity Mix 2026,

Time TBA

First Christian Church,

1125 Summit Street, Elgin, IL



Anona Center East

Villa Park, IL

- Friday, Dec. 5th 7pm ***Holiday Decorating Party***
- Saturday, Dec 20th 1-3 pm ***Kids' Holiday Party***
(Please sign up your kids by Dec 13th!)
- Wednesday Dec 24-25 ***Christmas Eve Alcathon*** 9pm - 5am
- Thursday, Dec 25 (Time TBA) ***Christmas Dinner***
- Wednesday Dec 31-Jan 1 ***New Years Alcathon*** 9pm - 5am

Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter “can be readily amended,” these General Warranties — like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions — be changed only by “written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups who respond” in the world!

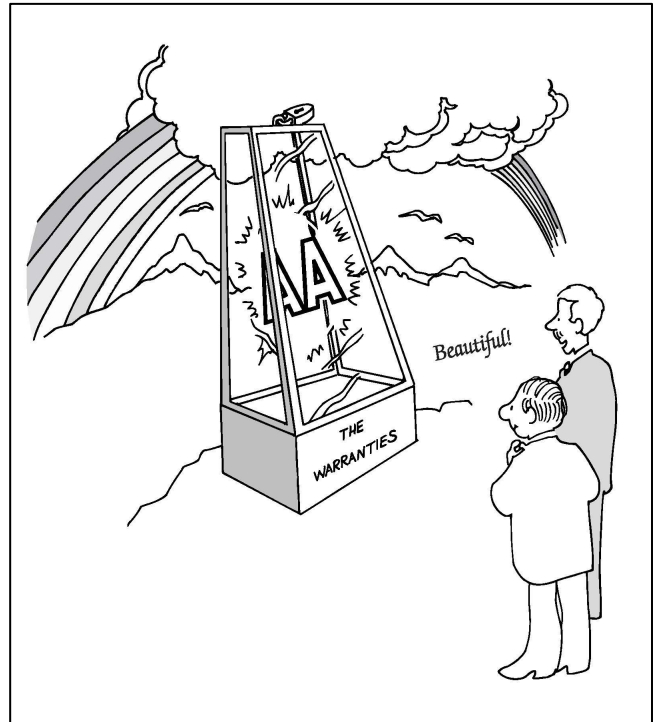
Why?

Because “these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.”

The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one by one:

Warranty One: “The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.” The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit contributions from individual members, “we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.” And if we live by Tradition Two — that “our ultimate authority is a loving God” and that “our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern” — then we are safe from perilous power.

Warranty Two: “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.” Although many of us as



active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting “A.A. service overhead,

We are apt to turn a bit reluctant.” Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year’s operating expenses of the GSO and Grapevine. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services.

Warranty Three: “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.” This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but “it

Concept XII cont.

is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty” — a “strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure.”

Warranty Four: “That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity.” This Warranty is, on the one hand, “a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision.”

Warranty Five: “That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.” Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or laws, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary.

When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishment. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger.

For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

Some situations which may require Conference consideration are:

A.A. may come under “sharp public attack or heavy ridicule” — perhaps “With little or no justification in fact. Our best defense in these situations would be no defense whatever — namely, complete silence at the public level.

If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this privately to the critics — with our thanks.”

Public violations of A.A. Traditions.

Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purposes. “Aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately, we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use such other resources of persuasion as we have. In the long run, though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion.”

“Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention.” As GSO “is not a police operation,” we can only offer A.A.’s experience as a matter of information.

Warranty Six: “That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A.s probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death.

“Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any way curtail A.A.’s freedom under God. We expect our Conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member to another.

“Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.”

AA Word Search

H M R Z Q Z S E I Y D E P E N D E N C E A A C C
 D N E X Y E L A S W K P N L P B Z K S B E M R I
 Z L Y P A C Z X U U B J V J B K M A D S Z I X S
 C K A Y P N Z H T X R R O A Q D P K M U F T S A
 O E R N G E A T C L H E R Y C C K E B H R Z T M
 H V P O N N F I R I I J N E Z F Z R O S N O P S
 X O Y H I I B A N H M M B L O O D S T R E A M Y
 S Z T V L T K F N U X E M E H Q P B B G D A J S
 I Z I X E S R O D Y H V L T V G Q P N R Q P Q H
 D U N E S B E I G R O X A D D I C T I O N M F D
 V I E Y N A H D H E R L D Y P T S I M R A H P V
 B N R F U O A I C V E C I W E E S N O P S W B I
 O T E A O A B S U O E R N M N A J U L H Z H J N
 B E S G C N K I B C V B V E L Y X O D Q T R C T
 X R G E M I T N A E L C P E Y W Z L Y C Y X S O
 N V Y I U I K H E R Y K F T B E U T G G F F S X
 E E G E W J Z I Z X E V O I Q T A S V Z E O T I
 X N U L O G F B S R F G Z N Q F P E A Y N Q I C
 W T L K O W X I D L O J D G C Z V H D V Y R R A
 A I L A R H J T F U L E J S Z Q B G G C B X I T
 S O B E R E L I R E W O P R E H G I H K H E P I
 Y N U Y F F B O I E N Z L F R K A X N A W A S O
 L C O N F R O N T H U Y B G S R Z H J Q J B G N
 S Q E T R E A T M E N T F V F O D N P M Y K N Y

serenity prayer
 disinhibition
 higher power
 intoxication
 intervention
 bloodstream
 clean time
 dependence
 counseling
 abstinence
 addiction
 treatment
 recovery
 meetings
 pharmacist
 confront
 sponsor
 sponsee
 spirits
 faith
 sober
 rehab
 na
 aa

