



Tri-County Central Office News

Faith Without Works Is Dead

A Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Central Office, Inc.
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July, 2020

| STEP SEVEN SET ME FREE | OUT OF THE MADNESS |
|------------------------|--------------------|
|------------------------|--------------------|

Step Seven begins: *“My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad.”* Why should I ask God to take over my good qualities in my Seventh Step Prayer? After all, I had been several months sober and there were many noble and honorable elements to my personality. WRONG! (A friend called this: alco-logical thinking.) I was still using “pool room” language, criticizing others; maintained “justified” resentments; smoking two packs of Lucky Strikes a day, etc. I guess I sort of skipped those defects/shortcomings in Steps Four and Five—I **did not really know Good from bad!** More was to be revealed the following months as I continued the maintenance steps—especially Step Ten. As years passed, and I began living the true spirit of the maintenance steps, as they say: “More will be revealed” I was told to ask God to help me become aware these newly discovered personality defects and to use the *suggested* Step Ten directions to face and be rid of them. In time, my ego deflated to where I could see that my bad language was not normal, and it made me appear rather dull witted. My critical judgement of others began to diminish as I realized I was only seeing what was wrong with me! Also, those repeating thoughts of anger began to give way to joyous prayer. Seven months later my nicotine addiction went south and has never returned. Let us put it this way; the selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear I learned about myself in Step Four, began to diminish when I put Step Seven into action! The Seventh Step *prayer* was only a beginning. What a relief! That promise of a new freedom and happiness began to appear, but most importantly, that dreadful mental obsession finally began to disappear. I now realize that I had been trapped in a bondage of self for many years but putting Step Seven into action has set me free! Step Seven is a powerful tool! Thank you, God!
 Bob S

Are you like so many others in the AA Fellowship, experiencing a hang-up on the “spiritual awakening” bit? And, since the Twelfth Step calls for such an awakening “as a result of these Steps,” do you perhaps feel that you have fallen short, despite your best efforts? If so, take heart from this former agnostic, for whom the word “spiritual” created an instant mental block. Actually, the word “awakening” is defined as “an arousing from sleep.” It implies a dawning, a beginning, or quickening of interest, rather than an accomplishment in depth. Not many people have had the “flash of light” type of spiritual phenomenon. For most of us, spiritual insight comes subtly, gradually, and slowly. Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, AA’s early and great friend from the field of psychiatry, suggests that the spiritual awakening begins in the recovering alcoholic when he simply ceases to rely on his own omnipotence and looks outside himself for help and guidance. *If you have emerged from the cocoon of self sufficiently to feel love and concern for fellow members of your group, your family, and friends, and to feel responsibility to carry the message to the drunk who still suffers, the chances are that you have already had your spiritual awakening.*

Once completely fried, an old-timer recalls how booze took her down and AA saved her

I was like a miner with a pick-axe. I had to burrow down deep into my mind just to find the answer to a question as simple as, “How are you?” The whiskey, wine and drugs of the 60’s had removed all the usual signposts, paths, clues and history I used to define myself. My data banks were fried from the cultural and chemical overload our generation was subjected to. Aware that I should know the answer to the question and that I had once known it, I located many words that seemed right for the answer. But even with words ready, I still felt like I was answering a strange multiple choice test and could not figure out which was the right answer. “How are you?” concerned people would ask me repeatedly. They couldn’t see the incredible amount of strenuous work I was doing to try to answer. Nothing, not a word, came out. My hippie husband would help me get dressed and sit me in a corner on the floor of the place we lived in then. Since our generation had an authority aversion, taking me to a doctor or hospital was out of the question. I was sure I was gone forever. My feeble attempt at slicing my wrists resulted in someone finding a band-aid. I was lost in a living coma, every day seeming to last an eternity. Then one afternoon, another hippie passed me a half-filled bottle of bourbon—100 proof. The fire sloshed down my throat and burned the madness right out of me. My first love, alcohol, saved me the minute we met up again. The next day, I drank a whole bottle and the next and the next until I finally knew the answer to that question: “I’m fine!” I was determined to get away from all these hippies, so I moved to California. There I discovered wine for \$1.49 per gallon. I had changed my address and changed the label on the liquor bottle—but I didn’t change me. The night of my last drunk I was in my kitchen. I had achieved success in the corporate world, had a career, attache case, expense account and a very small world of three people I drank with. I couldn’t get drunk and I couldn’t get sober. Surely, I was living in a kind of purgatory. Alcohol no longer worked for me and I was blessed with that moment of clarity we all get. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that it had me; I did not have it. I said the alcoholic prayer that works every time, “God, help me.” The next day I went where my doctor, back when I was 19, had told me to go. I went to AA. And it has worked for me ever since. AA has done for me everything alcohol promised to do. It’s been many years now. I’m happy beyond my wildest dreams.
 Snow P., Boca Raton, Florida
 Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine July 2020

CHECK our Events Calendar to see whatever ZOOM and online meetings we have posted. Do you have a ZOOM meeting that is not listed on our web site? Email us the info so we can list you on our site. aainfo@aatampa-area.org

District 2 - Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee covering Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties

CONTACT---(877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672

Special note: TBAIC literature is available for distribution at the TBAIC meeting which is usually held the second Saturday of each month or the 4th Thursday of the month from 5:50 pm to 6:50 pm at the Tri-County Central Office.) Please use the sign-out sheet when obtaining materials.

Allan D. opened the June 13, 2020, TBAIC Zoom meeting with the Serenity Prayer and the Responsibility Statement. Attendees. Allan gave his chair report, proving information that he shared at the District 2 meeting. He has contacted several treatment centers and they are not allowing volunteers into their facilities due to COVID-19. None of the facilities contacted have set a target date as to when they may reopen. Alan did provide ACTS Amethyst with some AA Cds and they may consider Zoom meeting in the future. Scott S. presented the Treasurer's report. He questioned the \$974.70 amount for the Bahama literature as he has no record of an invoice. He will be checking with Tim or Martin at Central Office to make sure there is no outstanding invoice that needs to be paid. The Treasurer's report was approved. Larry B. read the minutes from the March 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved. Tom F. received 3 requests calls for The Man On The Bed, two males and one female. He was able to make phone contact with one male who was only looking for housing. There have not been any volunteers allowed to attend the Zephyrhills Broken Bottle Group which is located inside the Zephyrhills Men's State Corrections facility because of COVID-19. All Hillsborough County jails remain closed to all outside volunteers due to COVID-19. A motion was presented to reimburse Tom F. \$2,000 for the settlement of the Bridge the Gap copyright infringement. The motion was approved. In old business, literature requests from other districts will be considered on an individual basis, keeping in mind that contributions will more than likely decrease substantially due to Covid-19 as meetings are being suspended to follow National, State, and Regional requests for social distancing and social gatherings. Allan will try to coordinate a time to stamp TBAIC literature. New business, the July TBAIC meeting will be held Saturday, July 18th at 9:30 am. A decision prior to the July meeting will be made as to rather the meeting will be held at Tri-County Central Office or Zoom. Meeting adjourned.

Tentative Our Next Committee Meeting
July 11th, 2020 9:30 AM on at the Tri-County Central Office (near Himes & Waters). If you need more specific directions please call Tim @ 813-933-9123. The meeting usually lasts about an hour and it is the best way to get involved with service work, in Detox/Treatment/Jail/Prison facilities. If you would like to join our committee **PLEASE COME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Pink Can Drive

Our committee is 100% self supporting and receives no funds from the traditional pie charts or District 2 in accordance with our group conscious. If your home group has not made a pink can donation recently or if you are able to send an additional donation this year ... We will put it to great use!

TBAIC, PO Box 26242, Tampa FL 33623

Thank you to those groups who have sent in a donation last Month:

TBAIC Contributions (May 10th - June 13th):

Bill Sees It Group (Brandon) - \$99.00, Barracks Brigade Group - \$14.00, Keep It Simple, Pass It On Group - \$71.00, Keystone Discussion Group - \$29.09, Meeting Place (Land O Lakes) Group - \$208.04, Ruskin Fellowship Group - \$40.00, TGIS Group (Women) - \$18.75.

TBAIC 2019-2020 Committee Members
 Contact: (877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672
www.tbaic.org

| Position | Name |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Chair | Allan D. |
| Chair (Alt.) | Ruth N. |
| Treasurer | Scott S. |
| Treasurer (Alt.) | OPEN |
| Secretary | Larry B. |
| Secretary (Alt.) | Nancy B. |
| Hills Jails | OPEN |
| Hillsborough County Jail | Buddy H. |
| Hills Women's Jails | OPEN |
| Detox & Treatment | Ed D. |
| E. Pasco Jail-Women's | Ruth N. |
| E. Pasco Prison | Chris D. |
| Women's Bridge the Gap | Amanda L. |
| Men's Bridge the Gap | Tom F. |
| Pre-release | OPEN |
| Juvenile | OPEN |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| YTD Contributions to TBAIC | \$ 8,963.67 |
| Pink Can Balance 12/31/17 | \$ 9,391.54 |
| YTD Money Spent on Literature | \$ 10,210.54 |
| YTD Expenses | \$1,266.18 |
| Pink Can Balance 01/11/2020 | \$ 6,878.49 |

THE MAN IN THE HOLE

THAT INWARD FEAR

A sick alcoholic lay in the bottom of a deep hole where he had fallen during a drunken stupor. He cried for help. A doctor passing by heard the cries and leaning over the top of the hole said, “ ‘Give me your hand, my friend, and I’ll help you.” Desperately the drunk tried to reach the doctor’s outstretched hand. After several futile attempts the doctor said, “It’s no use. I’ll have to get a ladder,” and departed. Then a minister hearing the cries for help peered over the top of the hole and he too said, “Give me your hand, my poor man, and I’ll help you out.” Again attempts to reach the outstretched hands of help were futile. “Try harder,” said the minister but the effort so exhausted the sick man that he collapsed onto the bottom of the hole. “Perhaps I can find a rope,” said the minister as he went away. Presently a Third Man appeared at the top of the hole and called in a cheery voice: “Hi, pal, you really want to get out of that mess?” “Yes! Yes! I do,” wailed the sick man. ‘Help me, please, please help me!” Before the sick man realized what was happening the man with the cheery voice had dropped into the hole and was standing alongside him. “You fool,” exclaimed the sick man. “Why’d you do that? You can’t help me from down here!” “Let me try, anyway,” replied the Third Man. “I can see you’ve been having trouble with booze. I did too, once. I’m an alcoholic and I’ve been in the same kind of mess you’re in...c’mon, climb on my back and I’ll try to push you up.” After considerable struggling the sick man was pushed over the top, out into the sunshine again. The sober Third Man easily climbed out and joined the other. “Now that you’re out of that mess, do you think you want to keep on drinking? Or would you really like to get sober and stay that way? It’s your decision to make. I helped you get out of the hole but the choice—to be sober or drunk—is up to you...If you’re interested I can tell you about a plan for living I practice that keeps me sober on a day to day basis.” He smiled and placed an arm on the other man’s shoulder. “How ‘bout it?” The sick man’s thoughts were wavering, like his body, but he answered, “I’m willing.” Although he didn’t realize it at the time, the word “willing” was the magic one—the key to his future. Because as admitted alcoholics, it is through willingness to work the program of Alcoholics Anonymous that we learn to surrender our will and our lives over to the care of a Power greater than ourselves. In turn we gain hope and faith, yes even rebirth. The Third Man knew that only through his willingness to help another alcoholic, through understanding and love, could he insure his own daily sobriety...he also knew that it was most important to help the sick man believe that the remorse of yesterday and the fear of tomorrow could be dissolved into one twenty-four hour period called faith in today...He hoped he could help the sick man realize that he need never be alone any more—that gratitude was a vital word in his new vocabulary.

Anonymous

When we are asked to talk to a group for the first time, that inward fear is hard to understand, when the natural thing is to be happy about it. This fear does not come to everyone, of course. Those who feel it have no way of expressing the terrifying emotion we actually encourage to develop within us. It happens to us before we have gained enough faith and love to understand the fear and expel it. My experience has been gratifying—for so many years I had a fear of having anything specific to say or do in the groups and clubs I had been associated with during my drinking life. My way of coping with it was the Jug—to the extent that I not only forgot my fear but also half of what I was building up the courage to say or do. After three years around Alcoholics Anonymous with continuous sobriety, I was asked to lead a meeting at our group on my anniversary. The mere thought immediately brought a lump in my throat. I went to work thinking of some way to bow out of my obligation to the group of people who had accepted me and loved me for what I could not do alone. Unable to come up with a plausible excuse and hearing my inner voice tell me that I must someday rid myself of this feeling, I agreed that I would do the best I could do. I put my fear on a twenty-four hour basis, thinking that when the time came it would leave. It just didn’t happen that way. About four hours before I was to be sacrificed to my friends, I got a little desperate and decided some action on my part might help. So I started going through the Grapevine, as I had a few times before when looking for an answer to a problem. I had been told that there is an answer for us if we look for it and recognize it when we see it. It wasn’t long...there in an article I found something! It didn’t fit too well at first, but I tried it on for size and half way through this piece were the words, “**Fear is the expectancy of evil.**” The words stood out in bold print and I latched on to them. These words speak for themselves and with them and a “Please God, help me to be just me” I got by with my first speaking before this group—not without a certain amount of nervousness, of course, and to my surprise my friends didn’t attack or injure me in any way, but congratulated me on what a wonderful meeting it was. Today I have only God and these wonderful AAs that take time to share their experiences with us through the Grapevine. I only hope this experience will help someone as it has helped me. It took only a phrase that someone put in the right place, and a little action on my part, to eliminate a great mental block in my life. Today I can enjoy talking AA without fear to any and all sorts of groups.

**Bill G. /Kansas City/
Reprint Permission/AA Grapevine/ 07/59**

Central Office provides a number of services acting as a clearing house for the convenience of members and groups, provides phone service for twelfth step calls and other inquires, helps with the coordination of group activities and keeps track of meeting times and changes and the printing of the schedules. We also edit and print our monthly newsletter. In addition we sell all Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Approved Literature and some other materials requested by our AA members. Thanks to everyone for your continued support!! Become a part of Central Office....volunteer to be a Central Office Representative for your Home Group.

April 14th, 2020 the Central Office Representatives met:
COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| BRISEIDA S. | OLD SCHOOL GROUP |
| MARGARET S. | CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP |
| DF | TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIOUS CONTACT |
| | SIMPLY SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP |
| | STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY GROUP |
| BR | ONLY NEWCOMERS GROUP |
| KATHIE | SOBRIETY GROUP |
| CARLOS M. | |
| BRIAN G. | |
| A.J. C. | KEY |
| KARA H. | TOWN & C. NIGHT |
| JEFF P. | TAMPA YPG |
| KATE R. | NEW HOPE BIG BOOK |
| STEVE S. | EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & LOVE GROUP |
| SUE Z. | CLEAN AIR GROUP |
| MICHEAL B. | VILLAGE 12 STEP GROUP |
| JEFF H. | IT'S IN THE BOOK GROUP |
| MICHEAL J. | KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP |
| RYAN C. | NEW TAMPA MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S |
| MARK S. | MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS GROUP |
| ROD R. | MIDDAY MATINEE GROUP |
| CHARLES C. | TTF KEEP IT SIMPLE GROUP |
| DAN | TTF KEEP IT SIMPLE GROUP |

**Meeting Cancelled-due to COVID-19
OUTBREAK until further notice**

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OUTBREAK until further notice**

| NOTES | | INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| April 14 | BO' | Board of Directors for Central Office | REPRESENTING GROUP |
| ROD Q. | | | SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP |
| JOHN T. | | | WINGSOBER/PASS IT ON GROUP |
| EXCUSED | BO. | | WINE & SOBER GROUP |
| UNEXCUSED | BOARD | | GROUP |
| SCOTT G. | BOARD MEM. | | GROUP |
| RITA Y. | BOARD MEMBER | | |
| OPEN | BOARD MEMBER | | |

Office Managers COVID-19 Report for June Meeting 2020
Greetings Everyone,
I've put together a brief synopsis of where we are currently standing here at the Central Office.
Hopefully you have received my emails but in case not, here is a current rundown of our finances. As you can see from the Budget reports provided, we were \$2,808.11 in the black for the month of May. This is due to the COVID-19 virus and the cancellation of many groups not being able to meet at their regular meeting places. We received \$9,565.38 in mail-in or brought in contributions. Our literature sales was \$6,767.55 for the month of May. Total income for the month of May was \$16,350.76. Our Cost of Goods was \$4,907.28 and subtracting COG from Total Income left us with \$11,443.48 profit for May. Our expenses for May were \$8,635.37. Subtracting our expenses from our Total Income, left us with \$2,808.11 in the black. A huge Thank You goes out to the Cardinal Group for their generous contribution, along with everyone else who has helped us pull through these lean months. Staff salary was quite low, since I only came into the Office as needed for paying bills, the newsletter, updating website—etc. Contract Labor was higher because Martin was here manning the phones and helping with the few customers that may come in. However, payroll was lower compared to if I had been here full time, so this did not hurt us. In spite of this we are now \$6,228.54 to the good for this year. We are in pretty good shape with most of our literature supplies for the time being. I will be ordering more, shortly, waiting to see how things go financially for the month of June and July. We currently have \$21,103.41 in our Money Market Account, \$24,531.93 in our Prudent Reserve and plenty of operating cash in our Checking Account, so I think we are okay for now. Once the groups get back to their regular routine, things should pick up. Although we had scheduled a Board meeting in May, we could not have a meeting due to not enough members showing up. This was kind of expected due to COVID. It was not mandatory to be there. We will try again for a Board meeting in June (not mandatory) and there will be no Council meeting this month (due to COVID). If you need literature-etc., you will still get the 20% discount.
There will be no events put on by Central Office this year.
All in all, we are still in good stable condition.
Timothy S.
Central Office

For all those who attend the Board and Council meetings we will continue to keep you informed by email on any updates concerning the Central Office. Until it's decided differently, we may possibly cancel our June meeting. Whatever happens, we will try to inform you, well ahead of time, so sit tight and relax. Make your AA meetings often, either at the ones that are still meeting face-to-face or those online. Keep in touch with your sponsor and your AA friends. Remember, our Higher Power is in charge. This too shall pass.... ☺🙌

Why collect 7th Tradition for an online meeting?
Our regular meeting locations still have operating expenses...
Central Office and the General Service Office still have operating expenses such as... Websites – which we may now rely on more than ever! Phone lines, rent and insurance on office space, Utility and other ongoing expenses, Paid Special Workers who deserve our continued support. Their compensation is crucial to their ability to serve us. We realize that even though the immediate need for virtual connections is relatively inexpensive, the real expenses of our fellowship continues. aasfmarin.org

ANNIVERSARY TIME

It WorkHELEN As-It Really Does—Ask them how they did it!!!

| GROUP | Honors To | Date | Years |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|--------|
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | HELEN A. | 07/19/09 | 11 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | CARLOS M. | 07/05/00 | 20 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | SAM F. | 07/19/86 | 34 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | JOHN M. | 07/21/79 | 41 YRS |
| RUSH HOUR SERENITY | JANIE M. | 07/27/81 | 39 YRS |
| THURSDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK | AL B. | 07/15/88 | 32 YRS |
| PALMA CEIA BIG BOOK | WARD H. | 07/16/92 | 28 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | MATT M. | 07/19/05 | 15 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | MORGAN | 07/24/05 | 15 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | MARK V. | 07/09/91 | 29 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | CARLTON P. | 07/01/83 | 37 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | LARRY P. | 07/08/80 | 40 YRS |
| KEYSTONE GROUP | AL D. | 07/19/14 | 6 YRS |
| KEYSTONE GROUP | KEN S. | 07/01/14 | 6 YRS |
| CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP | CHARLES D. | 07/02/03 | 17 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED | SILVIA H. | 07/21/08 | 12 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED | MICHELLE G. | 07/04/08 | 12 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED | JACKIE W. | 07/03/87 | 33 YRS |
| MIDDAY MATINEE | LOUEITA H. | 07/18/91 | 29 YRS |
| HIGH-NOONERS PLANT CITY | TRAVIS J. | 07/15/18 | 2 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP | DIANE B. | 07/24/14 | 6 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP | SUE D. | 07/16/12 | 8 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP | DOLORES E. | 07/04/07 | 13 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP | PATTI H. | 07/21/06 | 14 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP | ANNETTE J. | 07/20/02 | 18 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP | LEANNE M. | 07/22/00 | 20 YRS |
| CENTRAL OFFICE | TIMOTHY S. | 07/04/88 | 32 YRS |
| Home Group | Honors To | Date | Years |
| STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY | SHARON K. | 05/25/12 | 8 YRS |
| ? | KEVIN K. | ? | 27 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | CHRISTA G. | 05/24/87 | 33 YRS |
| EARLY RISERS GROUP | BILL J. | 05/19/07 | 13 YRS |
| ? | KAREN DOS | 06/19/89 | 31 YRS |

SELF-SUPPORT-JUNE, 2020

© Today in June of 2020 we have 223 Groups with 536 meetings a week. Contributions in June totaled \$ 5,693.95. This accounts for what 38 Groups or individuals in our area have contributed in June. Included we also received \$ 230.00 from 6 members for the Birthday Club. Our total income for June was \$ 8,147.08. Our Total Cost of Goods Sold was \$ 1,609.71. Subtracting the Total Cost of Goods Sold from our June income left us with a Gross Profit of \$ 6,537.37. Our Total Expenses for June were \$ 6,735.53. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of minus-\$ 198.16 for the month of June. In spite of the COVID-19 virus, our groups are still continuing to support us very generously. We thank you for your continuing support. As they say in the rooms of AA "this too shall past." No matter *how good or bad* it may appear that we are doing from one month to another, it takes your consistent contributions and support to keep us operating on a steady level. As our AA membership continues to grow in the Tampa Bay area, the demand for more and more material and services continue to expand and we continue to try and strive to keep up with the demand. That is only possible with your continued support . Thank you for all of your support !!!

AAs who carry the message often carry the Grapevine



The Birthday Club: Contributions to the Central Office help support the local services to members and groups throughout Hillsborough and East Pasco Counties and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around our area. Members customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety—others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. Ask your Treasurer if they have any Birthday envelopes available. We usually send one out when a group sends in their contribution to Central Office or call or email your Central Office. **933-9123** or aainfo@aatampa-area.org

STAY SAFE STAY SOBER
Wear Your Face Cover

That's 681Years of Sobriety!
Congratulations for your Sobriety
One Day at a Time!

Alcoholics Anonymous, COVID-19 and Our Seventh Tradition

June 19, 2020

Dear A.A. friends,

We in A.A. – here at G.S.O., along with the rest of the world – continue to experience an unprecedented situation. Without question, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Fellowship, including our organized service structure, is facing enormous challenges, locally and globally. For many of us, the most prominent example is that, for the first time in the 85-year history of our Fellowship, we are navigating the lack of face-to-face meetings. While we have found creative ways to allow for the vital interaction between one alcoholic and another, and welcoming newcomers daily, it is clear that the health crisis has other far-reaching consequences. As we all adapt to the present reality of digital meetings, the question now is, “How do we responsibly practice self-support, our Seventh Tradition?” As we can no longer pass a physical basket, we are working to find ways to support the Fellowship at all levels, from our groups to Intergroups and Central Offices, from our Districts and Areas to the General Service Office itself.

The reality is that even though meetings, Twelfth Step services and operations have shifted to a virtual environment, expenses continue to accumulate during this crisis, which underscores the importance of practicing the Seventh Tradition. Through this crisis, however, we have witnessed the many ways in which the entire A.A. Fellowship has come together to provide ongoing support. Among them:

- Many home groups are still paying rent even though their meetings cannot convene. They are also providing online meetings on platforms that may have associated costs.
- Intergroup/Central Offices are still stocking needed literature and fielding Twelfth Step calls, redirecting A.A. members and those looking for recovery to online meetings.
- Area-level committees are working to keep channels open between the Fellowship and the delegates and board members that make up our General Service Conference, as well as to do public information, corrections and other service.
- G.S.O. in New York is continuing to support all levels of service. Literature still needs to be published and distributed, calls need to be answered, online platforms still need to be updated, and support operations sustained.

In an effort to keep the membership informed during this challenging time we would like to share a brief three-minute video update from Leslie Backus, the Class A (nonalcoholic) treasurer of our General Service Board.

[\[https://vimeo.com/430834698\]](https://vimeo.com/430834698)

Please feel free to pass this information along to members and groups in your Area to watch on their own time or to play before their online meetings.

We are so grateful for your time and attention, your dedicated service and – always – your generous support.

Yours sincerely, in fellowship,

G. Gregory Tobin General Manager

**HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED FOR THE 12TH STEP LIST? WHY NOT!
YOU CAN'T KEEP IT UNLESS YOU GIVE IT
AWAY...**

