



Hot Tips

Explore Our NEW Website!

We are very happy to say that we have recently updated our website. The address is the same, aapeoria.org We have received wonderful feedback from the community. We hope that these changes will better inform our members of upcoming events, help people find meetings more easily (with a map of the meeting locations), and share important contact information for those who are still suffering and looking for help.

Ever try a Big Book Study?

There are several groups in our community that offer a Big Book Study. It is a great way to learn and understand the Big Book. Try searching our meeting list!

2020 PAIA Fundraising Event!

Our annual fundraiser was held in February. Our Committee worked very hard to prepare an evening of fun, food and fellowship. Our online auction was new this year and went very well. The presentation was done by members of our local AA community. Our focus this year was "Leap to the Future", so our presentations were about the upcoming and ongoing work that is being done at the Intergroup, in District 6 and at the World Service Office. Thank you for your participation. We are truly grateful.

Fun recovery-related stuff

Did you know that the Intergroup office sold 1,392 coins in the last three months. Of those, 1,067 were newcomer and monthly coins, and 325 were yearly anniversary or specialty coins. The "oldest" coin sold was a 44 year coin.

Amazon Smile

The Intergroup office has recently signed up with Amazon Smile as a way to allow Amazon users to make a small contribution to the PAIA. We are a non-profit organization and are eligible to receive your donations in this capacity. If you shop on Amazon, please consider signing in through Amazon Smile and selecting Peoria Area Intergroup as your choice for donations. Thank you.

Peoria Area Intergroup

320 East Lake St., #4
Peoria, IL 61614
aapeoria.org
peoriaintergroup@sbcglobal.net

24-Hour Hotline

(even when office is closed)
(309) 687-1329

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri, 9am to 5pm
Sat 9am to 12 noon
Closed Sun. & Holidays

Holiday Closings:

May 25th, Memorial Day



Contents

From the desk of.....	2
Preamble / Board.....	3
Service Opportunities	4
Phone Coverage.....	5
Budget.....	6-8
Sober Anniversaries ..	10-11
Speaker/Potlucks.....	12
Upcoming Events.....	13
Experience, Strength, Hope	14
Spotlight on Literature...	15
Hot Tips.....	16



"3 Sides & Me"

As I enter my fourth year of recovery, I look back and think, *Wow! What an amazing journey.* No words can express the depth of gratitude I have in my heart. My life is full as a result of Alcoholics Anonymous.

My sponsor and I walked through the Twelve Steps and I began to understand the process. I remember feeling inner peace for the first time as I knelt down in Dr. Bob's Surrender Room and recited the Third Step prayer. The Big Book came alive for me that day, and ever since, our literature has spoken to me many times. How often I have been in a meeting, unwilling to engage, when all of a sudden, the chairperson reads a sentence I've read a hundred times. Suddenly, I'm not only hearing it, I'm feeling it on my skin like a warm breeze on a sunny day.

I remember walking into my first District meeting, barely three months sober. I had no clue what was going on, and I can only imagine the look I had on my face.

(Continued on p. 9)



We have literature to aid in your recovery—and merchandise to help you celebrate your recovery!

District '6' Archives are at the Intergroup office. Come and take a look!

If you have birthdays, events, or meeting changes, please email them to us at peoriaintergroup@sbc.net.

Also, send us flyers and announcements so we can update our community and post them to our website at aa.peoria.org.

Next edition of Intergroup Concerns will be June 1, 2020.

From the desk of Peoria Area Intergroup:

In March it will be a year since I began working at the Intergroup office. When Ron T. (our past office manager) told me he had to resign for personal reasons and asked me if I was interested in the job – I hesitated. After all, I had quite a lot on my responsibilities list and I wasn't sure if I could commit to this position too. As it turned out, I decided to apply and was given this great opportunity. I want to say a huge "thank you" to Ron for being my mentor and advisor. He has been a great friend and great support, even when I was just a volunteer in the office. He has done a great job for the Intergroup and our community.

I would like to invite everyone to stop by the office. Visit our staff, have a cup of coffee, shop for books or recovery related items, or just hang out for a while. We welcome your presence.

I have recently been in touch with other Intergroup Managers and have a list of things that I will be working on in the future, including improving the website, "Faithful Fivers" club, safety in the Intergroup office, newsletter input, connection with WSO, giving input on the AA Service Manual, working with District 6, communicating with our community, and much more. I would appreciate any help you can offer. If you would like to volunteer, give me a call!

With gratitude, Jane P.



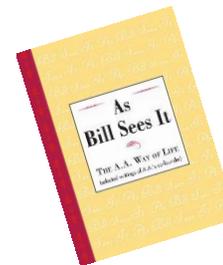
Spotlight on Books

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers:

This book attempts to give a portrait of Dr. Bob as full-scale and balanced as possible – for the most part, in the words of those who knew him personally. The youngster who grew up in Vermont of the late 19th century became a hard-drinking college boy, then a medical student fighting the onset of his own alcoholism, a respected physician, a loving but increasingly unreliable family man, and at last a desperately ill drunk, without hope until he met a stockbroker from New York – Bill W., who urgently needed a fellow alcoholic to help him maintain his own sobriety



As Bill Sees It: This volume includes several hundred excerpts from our literature, touching nearly every aspect of A.A.'s way of life. It is felt that this material may become an aid to individual meditation and a stimulant to group discussion and may well lead to a still wider reading of all our literature. – Bill W., April 1967



Spotlight on Other Literature Available at PAIA

The Little Red Book: This book evolved from a series of notes originally prepared as Twelve Step suggestions for AA beginners. It aids in the study of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and contains many helpful topics for discussion meetings. Its distribution is prompted by a desire to "carry the message to alcoholics" in gratitude of our daily reprieve from insanity or alcoholic death.

Twelve Step Sponsorship: This book delivers both the theory and practice-how to do it and why-in a clear, step-by-step presentation. It includes informative sections that deal with finding a sponsor, being a sponsor, guiding the sponsee, through each of the Twelve Steps. This book offers a welcome reinforcement to the tradition of "passing it on" from one generation of sponsors to the next.

Can You Help?

Do you have any experience with creating or editing newsletters? We would love to have your assistance.

Would you be willing to help with content, stories, etc.?

If so, please contact the Intergroup office at (309)687-1329.

Volunteers for the 24-hour hotline NEEDED!!

Our community supports our 24-hour hotline phone service with 100% volunteers after office hours. **YOU** are the volunteers! Please sign up to answer the phones. We have updated 12 Step Volunteer lists in the office. When you answer phones, you should have the meeting list and the 12-step volunteer list handy!

What does Intergroup do?

The Peoria Area Intergroup office is a non-profit organization that serves the Alcoholics Anonymous community in the Peoria Area. We support and are supported by the groups and members in District 6.

We create and maintain the local meeting list. We include groups that are outside of our District, however close in distance. We update the meeting list as needed, which is usually about once a week. Groups notify us of the changes, we make the change to the printable list, then we make the change to the online list. In turn our meetings are updated every 12 hours on the Meeting Guide app that we connected with through AA WSO.

We create and distribute the 24-hour volunteer phone list for each group. This list is then filled out by members and returned to the office. If members do not sign up, we find substitutes or fill in ourselves.

We create and maintain the 12-step volunteer list. This list is for anyone who answers the 24-hour phones and needs to connect a caller with a member of AA who can help. This list has been updated regularly. Just this month we added foreign speaking members to the list.

We maintain our website, which was just updated in September. We share information about local events with groups and members regularly through email and on the website.

We offer service opportunities to individuals and groups through our Steering committee and office volunteer work. As well as special committees for events, etc.

We offer coins, literature and other recovery related items in our office/store for the AA community. If we don't have the recovery book you are looking for, we are willing to try to order it for you.

We work with District 6 to better understand the needs of the community. We work with "Public Information" and "Cooperation with the Professional Community" coordinators to share information about AA to the public at outside events.

We create, print and distribute a quarterly newsletter *Intergroup Concerns* in order to better share information about what is important to our members.

We have on paid part time office manager. We need volunteers to help us achieve all this and more.

Please consider being a volunteer for the intergroup.

AA Intergroup Association Preamble

In solemn affirmation of the letter and spirit of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and placing all our activities under the guidance of a Higher Power, the various groups of Alcoholics Anonymous hereby establish an Intergroup Association.

The purposes of the Association are:

1. To perform those functions which are common to the aims of all groups of Alcoholics Anonymous.
2. To assist in the education of the general public concerning the disease alcoholism and the role of A.A. in combating the disease.
3. To assist alcoholics and their families.
4. To maintain a conveniently located office in which paid workers and volunteers are available to carry the A.A. message.
5. To act as a clearing house for the circulation and exchange of information among all the A.A. groups of the Association.
6. To receive inquiries from those seeking help and refer them to the appropriate group where sponsorship can be arranged, or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.
7. To publish and distribute, at regular intervals, up-to-date list of meetings and other information about local A.A. services.

I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that:

I Am Responsible

Elected Board Members

Chairman of the Board: Jerry F.

Vice Chairman: Pat Mc.

Treasurer: Dick S.

Secretary: Aly M.

Director at Large: Dawne Mc.

Director at Large: John S.

Director at Large: Susan M.

Director at Large: Darren D.

Director at Large: Matt B.

Office Manager: Jane P.

Office Volunteers:

Chris S., Mark R., Aaron F., Christy E., Judy L., Frank H., Nancy L., Fred L., Vince B., Anne Louise, and Shari D.

Thank you to all those listed above. We also wish to thank all the intergroup representatives for your service to Peoria Area Intergroup and tending to the needs of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Service Opportunities in District 6

Archives: Have an interest in AA history and the idea of preserving our history? George P. has plenty of opportunities for volunteers! (309) 643-0092.

Corrections: Dick V. is the chairperson. Do you have a desire to help with corrections? Contact Dick at (309) 645-0512.

Grapevine: Darren D. is the chairperson. AA's International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous is our connection to the world of AA. Call (309) 360-8186 to find out more.

Hospitals & Institutions Committee: is looking for volunteers! We need your help! Volunteers chair meetings at treatment centers, assist with Bridging the Gap, and help with other institutions.

Intergroup is looking for volunteers! Call Jane P. at (309) 687-1329.

Public Outreach: Steve B. is the chairperson. Call intergroup for more information.

Cooperation with the Professional Community: Curt P. is the chairperson. The committee is looking for more help. Call intergroup to find out more.

Unity & Fellowship needs your help. They are looking for volunteers to put together events in District 6 that would involve members of all AA clubs and meetings.

Workshops Committee: Will H. is the chairperson and is looking for volunteers to help put on informative, fun workshops for the community.

Schedule of Service Meetings 2020

Peoria Area Intergroup at 329 E. Lake Street, #4, Peoria

Board Meeting: March 19, 2020 at 6pm

Steering Committee Meeting: April 16, 2020 at 6pm

Board Meeting: May 21, 2020 at 6pm

Unity & Fellowship: Meeting held the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm at 329 E. Lake Street, #4, Peoria.

District '6' Meetings: Third Sunday of each month except March, June, September, and December. Locations and times to be announced.

Southern Illinois Area 21: March, June, September, and December.

Upcoming Events

Local:

Back to Basics: Next Session:

AA Beginner's Meeting Workshop

3117 North Avalon Place

Monday @ 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Session 1: March 2nd – Step 1

Session 2: March 9th – Steps 2,3 (4,5)

Session 3: March 16th – Steps 6,7,8, (9)

Session 4: March 23rd – Steps 10, 11, 12

Unity & Fellowship: Trivia Night & Potluck

Saturday, March 28th

Headstart Family Center

233 Leadley Avenue, East Peoria IL 61611

Doors open at 4:00 pm,

Meat will be provided, bring a dish to share

Peoria Area Intergroup Association 2020

Founder's Day Celebration:

Saturday, June 13th, 2020

Stadium Park Pavilion

329 E. Lake Street, IL 61614

(across the street from the Intergroup office)

Fellowship & Fun Celebrating our Founders

Time: TBD (lunch time)

Workshop "12 Traditions: Guidelines for Practicing these Principles in All Our Affairs":

Saturday, April 25th, 2020

Hilltop, 115 S. Western Ave., Peoria

Snacks and beverages will be provided

Other:

Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly:

Hosted by District 18

Edwardsville Moose

7371 Marine Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Pre-Assembly Dessert Potluck & Open Big Book

Meeting: Saturday March 7th @ 7:30 pm

Registration: March 9th @ 8:00 am

Assembly starts: 9:00 am



Meetings Around Town!

Alano Valley has a *Little Red Book study group every Tuesday at 7:00 pm*

Fresh Start Group is looking for speakers for the Sunday 1:00 pm weekly meeting. Contact Steve B. (309)208-0523 if you can share your experience, strength and hope.

New Beginnings hosts a breakfast meeting every Saturday @ 8:00 am

Share Clean Air hosts an LGBT meeting every Friday @ 8:00 pm

Hilltop has an open speaker meeting every Saturday @ 8:00 pm

Chillicothe Riverside hosts 20 meetings a week!

Speaker / Potluck Meetings:

Alano Valley: 1424 North Bourland, Peoria
First Friday of each month
Potluck at 6pm, speaker at 7pm

Canton Downtowners: Second & Locust,
St. Peters Church
Last Monday of each month
Potluck at 6pm, speaker at 7pm

Chillicothe Riverside: 100 Park Boulevard,
Chillicothe
First Monday of each month
Dessert Potluck, speaker at 8pm

Hilltop: 115 S. Western Avenue, Peoria
Speaker each Saturday night at 8pm
Quarterly potluck

McComb Midday: Mc Donough District
Hospital, Health services building, lower level,
auditorium C
First Wednesday of each month at 8pm,
speaker only.

Marshall-Putnam: St. Joseph Hall,
1008 School St., Henry
Third Friday of each odd-numbered month
Potluck at 7pm, speaker at 8pm

New Beginnings: 2815 N.E. Adams St., Peoria
Second Sunday of each month
Potluck at 4pm, speaker at 5pm

Pekin Celestial: 1208 Maple Street, Pekin
Third Friday of each month
Potluck at 6pm, speaker at 7pm

Pekin Serenity: 612 Third Street, Pekin
Second Saturday of each month
Potluck at 5pm, speaker at 6pm.

Did you know we have
259 meetings a week?

Each week:

- 36 meetings, with 1 LGBT, and 1 Spanish-speaking at Share Clean Air.
- 8 Big Book study meetings and one step study meetings.
- 5 women's meetings and 2 men's meetings.
- 7 open treatment meetings.
- 4 corrections meetings.
- 2 candlelight meetings.

Each Month:

- 6 potluck-speaker meetings, including Alano Valley, Canton Downtowners, New Beginnings, Marshall-Putnam Group, Pekin Celestial, and Pekin Serenity.
- 1 monthly dessert-speaker meeting at Chillicothe Riverside.
- 3 breakfast meetings, including Alano Valley, New Beginnings, and Riverside.

Peoria Area Intergroup After Hours Coverage

The following groups have volunteered to take care of the 24-hour AA hotline when the intergroup office is closed:

Sunnyland Phoenix..... Feb 27 – March 4
Chillicothe Riverside Mar 5 – Mar 11
Lakers Mar 12 – Mar 18
Share Clean Air Mar 19 – Mar 25
Alano Valley Mar 26 – Apr 1
Hilltop Apr 2 – Apr 8
Pioneer..... Apr 9 – Apr 15
Pekin Celestial Apr 16 – Apr 22
New Beginnings..... Apr 23 – Apr 29
Sunnyland Phoenix..... Apr 30 – May 6
Chillicothe Riverside May 7 – May 13
Lakers..... May 14 – May 20
Share Clean Air May 21 – May 27

After signing up, be sure you have the most recent copy of the 12-step volunteer list and a current AA meeting list. On the day you've signed up for service, watch out for a phone call or text from the intergroup volunteer or office manager. Then calls will be switched over to you.

Thank you for being the "face" of AA when our office is not open. It's extremely important to have a "real" person answering rather than leaving callers to a professional answering service or answering machine. And because you're an experienced recovering alcoholic, you're the **perfect** person to help callers find a meeting or get help.

It just doesn't get any better than that!

Got 1+ years of sobriety? Sign up on your group's sign-up sheet.

Last Quarter Intergroup Activity:

December	
Visitors	139
Phone Calls	62
E-Mails	96
12-Step Calls	2
January	
Visitors	150
Phone Calls	79
E-Mails	108
12-Step Calls	6
February	
Visitors	121
Phone Calls	74
E-Mails	144
12-Step Calls	8
TOTAL	
Visitors	410
Phone Calls	215
E-Mails	249
12-Step Calls	16



Peoria Area Intergroup 2020 Budget

Even though intergroup has their own fundraiser once a year, they still rely heavily on group donations to balance the budget and serve AA members in the community. Without group contributions, the intergroup office would experience a shortfall of \$18,000 each year.

	<u>Annual</u>
INCOME	
**Group Donations	\$14,400
Rent.....	\$600
Spring Fundraiser Revenue	\$12,000
Gross Literature Income Group.....	\$10,000
Gross Literature Income Walk-In.....	\$14,000
	Total Income \$51,000
EXPENSES	
Literature Expenses & Sales Tax.....	\$20,260
Spring Fundraiser Expenses	\$6,000
Fixed Costs	\$21,340
Variable Costs.....	\$2,400
	Total Expenses \$50,000
Income needed to balance budget (through fundraising).....	(\$19,400)

**Average group contributions of \$14,400 per year are not guaranteed.

“Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us—the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A.”

Twelfth Step work is the lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous - carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic. Without it, the Fellowship would wither and die. Yet, even at its simplest level this vital contact between one alcoholic and another involves an investment of time and money. (From the pamphlet: “Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Work”)



Sober Anniversaries



January: (cont'd)

Stephanie M 1 yrs
 Dennis C..... 16 yrs
 Katy V 25 yrs
 Mike G 28 yrs
 Jack C..... 19 yrs
 Stephanie I..... 8 yrs
 Marty A..... 36 yrs
 Dennis C..... 16 yrs
 Stephanie M 1 yrs
 Lonnie U 10 yrs
 Katy V 25 yrs
 Mike B 4 yrs
 Mike S..... 2 yrs
 Julie 28 yrs
 Connie 1 yrs
 Ben R..... 8 yrs
 Nancy S..... 14 yrs
 Floyd..... 2 yrs
 Jack A..... 30 yrs
 Don H 23 yrs
 Scott C..... 19 yrs
 Danny S..... 49 yrs
 Bill A 3 yrs
 Tim B 2 yrs
 Kermit..... 45 yrs
 Alicia 1 yrs
 Jerry F..... 12 yrs
 Sam J 1 yrs
 Jack H 29 yrs
 Jim T..... 6 yrs
 Sarah K 20 yrs

January: (cont'd)

Tom D 8 yrs
 Alan 2 yrs
 Floyd B..... 2 yrs
 Dan G..... 27 yrs
 Mike McC..... 32 yrs
 Jeff H 28 yrs
 Ashley 13 yrs
 Teresa 1 yrs
 Winston W... 14 yrs
 Joe U..... 17 yrs
 Melinda F.... 19 yrs
 Paul C..... 7 yrs
 Will R 3 yrs

February:

Ron T 23 yrs
 Dave C 39 yrs
 Darren D 8 yrs
 Larry R 33 yrs
 Tyler 2 yrs
 John S 18 yrs
 Rob W..... 21 yrs
 Don Kumpf... 36 yrs

February: (cont'd)

Tricia B 12 yrs
 Lori K..... 1 yrs
 Lee B 35 yrs
 TC..... 17 yrs
 Paula K 18 yrs
 Bill B 19 yrs
 Dan B 29 yrs
 Lisa B..... 5 yrs
 Ava 31 yrs
 Julie Mc..... 33 yrs
 Diane H 9 yrs
 Sally 7 yrs
 Sherna..... 3 yrs
 Keri C..... 5 yrs
 Jerry H..... 26 yrs
 Terri P 34 yrs
 Dee V 4 yrs
 Ryan 5 yrs
 Carolyn C..... 26 yrs
 Hope S..... 8 yrs
 Garcia..... 8 yrs
 Gary 16 yrs
 Clara..... 2 yrs
 Lauren Y 6 yrs

Celebrating Years of Sobriety	
December	810
January	709
February	539
TOTAL	2,058

Congratulations!





Sober Anniversaries



December:

Doug K.....	21 yrs
Adam R.....	7 yrs
Bill.....	7 yrs
Jim M.....	30 yrs
Ed C.....	37 yrs
Sydney R.....	3 yrs
Al.....	34 yrs
Jim T.....	9 yrs
Ben Y.....	9 yr
Megan.....	1 yr
Ben R.....	1 yr
Harley Jim H.....	18 yrs
Dan C.....	16 yrs
Ross K.....	1 yrs
Missy M.....	4 yrs
Jim 4sure.....	4 yrs
Jane P.....	20 yr
Ben C.....	1 yrs
Elton.....	16 yrs
Andy B.....	1 yr
Stan B.....	1 yrs
Tony W.....	1 yrs
Pat R.....	42 yrs
Justin R.....	1 yrs
Rich B.....	18 yrs
Theresa AM.....	29 yrs
Kim.....	3 yrs
Matt D.....	9 yrs
Kaleb F.....	1 yrs
Cherly M.....	33 yrs
Jeff A.....	6 yrs
Smitty.....	37 yrs
Sam J.....	1 yrs
Todd.....	4 yrs



December: (continued)

Frank F.....	3 yrs
Nick M.....	3 yrs
Kat S.....	2 yrs
Will Z.....	7 yrs
Ray E.....	38 yrs
Bobbie S.....	37 yrs
John M.....	32 yrs
Rich B.....	19 yrs
Stan B.....	1 yrs
Tony W.....	1 yrs
Brian H.....	7 yrs
Tom W.....	37 yrs
Jen Z.....	6 yrs
Megan S.....	1 yrs
Trina.....	8 yrs
Mike Mc.....	36 yrs
Barb H.....	24 yrs
Kaylin H.....	1 yrs
Bruce.....	1 yrs
Truck'n Randy C.....	5 yrs
Kathy B.....	18 yrs
Jeff N.....	15 yrs
Steve P.....	19 yrs
Crystal.....	5 yrs
Hayden.....	2 yrs
Russ.....	31 yrs
Mike C.....	25 yrs

January:

Johnie U.....	10 yrs
David S.....	12 yrs
Blair.....	2 yrs
Paul F.....	1 yrs
Rob S.....	27 yrs

Peoria Area Intergroup Association

ASSETS (as of 29 Feb 2020)

Checking.....	10,303
Prudent Reserve.....	8,741
Accounts Receivable.....	136
Inventory.....	6,731
Total Assets	\$25,911

LIABILITIES (as of 30 April 2019)

Credit Card.....	127
Vendors.....	274
Total Liabilities	\$401

2019 Total Year to Date (as of 29 Feb 2020)

INCOME

Group Contributions.....	1,908
Anonymous Contributions.....	1,095
District 6 Rent.....	100
Dividend Income.....	3
Spring Dinner Event Revenue.....	**8,313
Literature / Merchandise Income.....	4,264
Total Income	\$15,683

EXPENSES

Advertising.....	(49)
Bank Charges.....	(11)
Credit Card Fees.....	(88)
Spring Dinner Event Expense.....	** (4,517)
Illinois Sales Tax.....	(1,863)
Insurance.....	(-)
Literature Expense.....	(2,466)
Office Supplies / Newsletter.....	(339)
Contract Labor.....	(2,475)
Postage.....	(40)
Rent.....	(760)
Phone / Comcast.....	(419)
Website.....	(-)
Total Expenses	(\$13,027)
Net Income (Loss)	\$2,656

** The "Leap to the Future" event had a total revenue of \$13,258 and total expenses of \$6,111 which resulted in net proceeds of \$7,147. The income and expenses shown on this page are for the year 2020. The event causes the % of Budget numbers to be distorted at this time.

3 Sides & Me



(Continued from page 1)

I probably looked like a young kid stepping on a merry-go-round for the first time. A face full of fear and excitement. I was scared to ask what the group was talking about because I didn't want to admit I was clueless. Looking back, I realized it was our current Delegate presenting her Conference Report. I was

excited and overwhelmed. I knew I wanted what they had, but I couldn't figure out what *it* was. Today, I believe it was the spirit of unity and love moving across the room. I immediately launched into service. I was not going to be the guy that hung around the shallow end of the pool or sat on the edge. I ran full speed off the end of the diving board and into the deep side of service. Wide open, with no direction or guidance. I'm sure some would tell you it looked a lot like a car flying up a one-way street.

A few months later, my group decided I should be their GSR, another group decided I should be their Intergroup representative, and yet another group needed a GSR. I readily agreed to all three, but things quickly came to a halt when a past Delegate lovingly informed me that I should only hold one service position at a time—*in front of everybody!*

I was hurt, embarrassed, and so frustrated. All I wanted was to feel a part of, and serve in any way I could. I stormed outside to smoke a cigarette, but instead of leaving service, I called a man I'd met at a Traditions workshop and asked him to be my service sponsor.

As we worked together, he helped me understand how the Traditions could apply to my life. I remember calling him after a business meeting, so upset because the group hadn't passed my motion. He laughed, then gently explained Tradition Two. He spoke from his experience on how it was his duty to respect the group's decisions. That's when I found the other bright spot of my life. I love watching individuals grow, but I also love to watch my group grow.

I remember when I first looked at the Twelve Concepts and thought, *Those don't apply to me. I'm just a small-town drunk.* Only when I started traveling with my service family did I realize that they are for every member of AA. I began going to all the service functions I could

3 Sides & Me



(Continued from page 8)

find. I attended Conferences of Delegates Past and Present, Forums, Concept and Tradition workshops, and many other gatherings.

I remember making a motion at my home group to purchase a Twelve Concepts banner, and a long-timer spoke up and said, "What in the world are the Concepts?"

"If they were hanging on the wall, you *might* have an idea!" I quickly fired back. I didn't realize it at that time, but this experience encouraged me to dig deeper to understand them. The banner prompted questions I couldn't answer, and I earned some humility by telling them I didn't know. Today, I don't have all the answers, but I'm constantly learning more. I'm currently studying the Concepts; I'm half-way through, and I'm amazed. The greatest thing I've learned is that I have a voice in AA.

Being of service to God and to AA has given me purpose in life. One of my spiritual moments I can still touch was the day my recovery merged with my career. It felt like I had just inserted the last piece of the puzzle. A sense of comfort and ease fell over me and I recognized it as a direct result of what God did for me.

I have come to believe that my peace and serenity are safe when I stay in all three sides of the triangle— Recovery, Unity, and Service. I thank God for all who have been part of my journey, especially my service family, who took me under their wing at my first Area Assembly, and who have continued to trudge "the road of happy destiny" by my side. I'm forever grateful for my sobriety, and I owe God a huge debt of gratitude for the grace He's given me. I'm truly honored to be able to repay my debt by being of service to AA and to others. I pray that I may continue to have the willingness to grow and carry the message. Thank you for my life.

By Anonymous

Founders Day Celebration

We hope you can join us in celebrating Founder's Day at Stadium Park Pavilion on June 13th. This day commemorates the day that Dr. Bob went out and made his amends and Alcoholics Anonymous was born. We are forever grateful for the efforts of those who came before us.