

BALTIMORE INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

December 2020 Issue

Next Mailing: December 28, 2020

“In this fellowship we begin to learn right relations with people who understand us; we don’t have to be alone anymore.” Twelve and Twelve, p. 117. Reprinted with permission from A.A.W.S.

Step 12

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

Tradition 12

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

Concept 12

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to everyone who contributed to Intergroup for Gratitude Month. We appreciate your support.
- Please remember to contact the Intergroup office with your holiday meeting listings and changes so we can keep the website up-to-date. We appreciate you sharing these announcements with you’re A.A. contacts. It is as important as ever that we stay connected!
- The next intergroup meeting we be held on Monday, December 14th via Zoom. Doors open at 7:30pm. The Intergroup meeting starts at 8pm. The meeting ID is: 823 0552 8441 / Password: 414036
- The Intergroup office will close early at 2pm on December 24th and December 31st and will be closed on December 25th and January 1st in observance of the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. However, the phones will be answered by Answering Service volunteers.
- All monthly council, district, and committee meeting links and passwords can be found on our website: <https://baltimoreaa.org/other-meetings-events/>
- The Intergroup office is staffed on a rotating basis with one special worker in the office each day while the others work from home. We continue to provide literature and chip orders for hallway pick-up, curb-side pick-up, or shipment. It’s best to call before coming so we can have your order ready for you: 410-663-1922 or order online via our website: <http://store.baltimoreaa.org/>
- The Answering Service is seeking volunteers for the waiting list. Please contact the Intergroup office if you want to be a part of this vital service.

INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- The next Institution meetings will be held on Zoom on Friday, December 18th at 7pm. Waiting room opens at 6:45pm. We welcome anyone who is interested in doing service work to come to the meeting. Meeting ID: 886 6629 3910/ Password: 229395
- Speakers are needed! The Institution committee is looking for members to speak at either Zoom or In-person Institution commitments. If you are interested, please [follow this link](#) to let us know your availability.
- If you are a sponsor or co-sponsor and would like to be included in upcoming mailings, call Intergroup with your email address.

INTERGROUP BOOKSTORE

- As a reminder, the Intergroup Bookstore is fully stocked and ready for your orders. Order by phone or online and pick-up books at the office or
- We're offering a Book-of-the-Month Sale! For the month of **December**, the Grapevine book, *In Our Own Words: Stories of Young People in AA* is being offered at a 15% discount (normally \$11.50, with discount \$9.77 + tax, while supplies last). Place your order via the [Literature Store](#) on our website or the call the office (410)663-1922.

GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

- If your group is celebrating an anniversary of any length on Zoom or In Person, please let us know by calling 410-663-1922 or send us an email at intergroup@baltimoreaa.org.

NEW MEETINGS/ OTHER GROUP INFO

- For all **virtual meetings** or meeting changes, please use this form: <https://baltimoreaa.org/new-virtual-meeting-details/> .
- For all **in-person meetings** or meeting changes, please use this form: <https://baltimoreaa.org/submit-in-person-meeting-update/> .

PHONE BUDDIES

- **Want to do service work and are willing to talk on the phone?** Consider becoming a phone buddy with another member of AA who's having difficulty connecting at meetings. Call the office to volunteer: 410-663-1922
- **Having trouble connecting with other alcoholics at virtual meetings?** You are not alone! Call the office and we'll connect you with a Phone Buddy: 410-663-1922. We're all in this together!

HOLIDAY / SPECIAL EVENTS

- Please call us at 410-663-1922 or email us at intergroup@baltimoreaa.org to let us know about your alcahons and holiday parties! To learn about various celebrations, go to <https://baltimoreaa.org/upcoming-events/>.

IN MEMORIAM

- Our heartfelt sympathy to Barbara B, for the passing of her husband on November 6th. She is a member of Saint Anthony's Mid-Day.
- We extend our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Joe B., a member of the Winner's Circle, who died in November.
- To the many friends and family of Helen W., we express our sympathy. Helen recently passed away with 40 years of sobriety and was an active member of Working With Others.
- We send our condolences and prayers to Lynn (spouse), and the family and friends of Buck L. who passed with 13 years of sobriety, November 22nd. Buck was a member of Brooklyn Saturday Morning.
- To the friends and family of Bill MacD., we send our condolences. Bill passed recently with 30 years of sobriety and was an active member of Working With Others.

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

BALTIMORE INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

November MINUTES

November 9, 2020

Next Meeting: December 14, 2020

Recorded Groups in Attendance

ABC Group
Agape
Agnostics
Better Way of Life
But For the Grace of God
Canton Wednesday Night
Captain's Table
Catonsville Beginners
Columbia Dawn Patrol
Common Solution
Cowenton
Eastside Early Risers
Fort Smallwood Friday Night Step
Free to Be Me Women's
Friends of Bill W Luncheon
Genesis Women's
Glen Burnie HOW
Glen Gardens
Hatchery
How It Works Catonsville
Irvington
New Attitude
Old Otterbein Group
One Big Tent
Out of the Woods
Overlea Monday Night
People Of Color
Pikesville Big Book
Pikesville North Group
Roland Park Steps and Traditions
Sixth Day
SODAT
St. Anthony's Midday
Strangely Insane
Turning Point Women's
Welcome Group

Baltimore Intergroup Council Meeting Minutes November 9, 2020

Marc M. (Chairperson) called the meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer. This meeting took place on Zoom due to COVID-19 concerns.

New Group Representatives: There were five new group representatives for the Council to welcome

Minutes: Mike W. (Recording Secretary) presented the minutes from the October 12, 2020 meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jack F. (Treasurer) reported that ordinary income in October was \$9,727.41, which included \$4,746.12 from AA groups and \$4,879.98 from individual members. Ordinary expenses were \$13,346.60, yielding a net ordinary loss of \$3,619.19. Literature revenue was \$2,142.48, with literature expenses of \$1,109.90, yielding net literature income of \$1,032.58. Therefore, net income for October was -\$2,586.61.

Year to date net income is \$16,053.01, largely because of strong contributions from AA Groups (\$68,881.74) and individual members (\$87,548.73). Jack thanked the home groups and members for their strong support during these difficult times.

Administrator's Report: Jen G. reported that during the past 20 working days, 12 new virtual and phone meetings were added and 1 meeting was cancelled. There are now 554 virtual and phone meetings (377 with virtual component and 203 with in person component). There were 626 calls for help during office hours, 3,591 emails, texts, and correspondence, and 28 literature pickups.

Since the last Intergroup meeting, Jen has attended two Activities Committee meetings, the Advisory/Personnel Committee meeting, three meetings of the Intergroup/Central Office/AAWS/AA Grapevine (ICOAA) committee, for which she is the co-chair. The quarterly call with GSO/AAWS & AAGV is tomorrow. Jen also attended the weekly ICOAA office managers meeting and the monthly MGS Intergroup Liaison Conference call, for which she was the guest speaker.

The office is in the process of updating the Meeting Guide app. For now, the most accurate meeting information is on the intergroup website, not the app. The office has started a "Phone Buddies" service for anyone who needs a little extra support, no matter how long they've been sober. They can speak to another AA member and have extended conversations about sobriety. Please call the office if you're interested in being a phone buddy or talking

with a phone buddy.

The office is having a Book of the Month sale. This month the Grapevine publication entitled "In Our Own Words: Stories of Young People in AA" is being offered at 15% discount, while supplies last. Literature is available for pick-up or shipping. Please call the office to place your order. Members are encouraged to call in individual and group anniversaries, in memoriam announcements and other announcements for the bulletin each month. The office will be closed for Thanksgiving but phones will be answered.

Activities Committee Report: Rick W (Chairperson) reported that Baltimore's 80th AA Anniversary Extravaganza will take place online on Saturday, November 21st from 9:00am to 12:30pm. The event will include Baltimore AA history, group histories, musical performances, and meeting speakers. Please see the flyer on the events page of the Intergroup website for more information.

Answering Service Committee Report: Carol C, reported for Melody B (Chairperson), that there were 592 regular calls and 17 12th step calls. All shifts currently are filled, but the committee needs volunteers for the waiting list to fill future openings.

Public Information, Cooperation with Professional Community, and Speakers Committees: Mike Mc (Chairperson) reported that the committees are working on PSA placements on local radio and TV stations. Waiting to hear from GSO.

Literature Committee Report: Danny F (Chairperson) noted that there will be nothing to report until the Intergroup Council resumes in person meetings.

Internet/Website Committee Report: No report.

Institution Committee Report: Jamie H (Chairperson) reported that there are a few in person and virtual meetings, as well as a "common" virtual meeting that any institution can log into. The committee is compiling a list of volunteers who are willing to speak at in person or virtual meeting. Please go to the Intergroup website to fill out a form if you wish to volunteer. The committee also has distributed AA literature to some institutions. The committee has regular monthly meetings (via Zoom) on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Outreach Committee Report: Melissa B. (Chairperson) reported that she attended the 65th anniversary of the Serenity Big Book group.

Chairperson Report: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business: Kathi K (Chairperson of the MGS Intergroup Liaison Committee) reported that the committee meets on the 1st Monday of each month. On December 7th, Frank (chairperson of the MGS Treatment Committee) will be speak about the "Bridging the Gap" program.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Mike W., Recording Secretary

Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1 Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4 Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6 If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



7 Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8 Worship in your own way.



9 Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10 Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



11 Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



12 "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.



2021

**NEW YEAR'S EVE ALCATHON
VIRTUAL EDITION**

AA MEETINGS ON THE HOUR

DECEMBER 31, 4PM TO JANUARY 1, 1AM

JOIN US FOR RECOVERY & FELLOWSHIP!

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

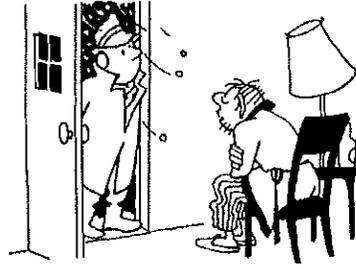
HOSTED BY DISTRICT 19

THE TWELFTH TRADITION

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

The long form: And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all. *(Reprinted from "Alcoholics Anonymous" Appendices 1. The A.A. Tradition)*

Twelfth Tradition
Anonymity is the spiritual foundation
of all our traditions ever reminding us
to place principles before personalities.



Anonymity, as we observe it in AA; is at root a simple expression of humility. When we use the Twelve Steps to recover from alcoholism, we are each trying to achieve real humility, to put our self-respect on a solid base of truth, rather than on fantasies about ourselves. When we use the Twelve Traditions to work together in A.A.; we are all trying to achieve humility: by recognizing as individual members, by recognizing AA's true place in the world. *(reprinted from the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated")*

In my belief, the entire future of our fellowship hangs upon this vital principle. If we continue to be filled with the spirit and practice of anonymity, no shoal or reef can wreck us. If we forget this principle, the lid to Pandora's box will be off and the spirits of Money, Power, and Prestige will be loosed among us. Obsessed by evil genii, we might well founder and break up. I devoutly believe this will never happen. No AA principle merits more study and application than this one. I am positive that AA's anonymity is the key to long-time survival.

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because AA's Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit, well symbolized by anonymity, is the foundation of all these traditions. It is AA's proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people high confidence in our future. *(Reprinted from pp 131-132 of Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age)*

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AA's, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?

(Reprinted from "Traditions Checklist from the Grapevine")