



14th Edition January 2024

AAversaries!

Rob R. 1 Year Tiffin Monday Night Group

Justin 1 Year North Liberty Tuesday Night Group

Monica F. 8 Years Melrose Group Iowa City

Carrie K. 23 Years Happy Hour Coralville

Mimi 32 Years North Liberty Tuesday Night Group

CONGRATULATIONS To All Those With January
Sobriety Anniversary Dates!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION If you want your sobriety birthday featured in our future newsletter, there are simple rules: Years only, 1st name, last initial, home group. To iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com by 15th of the month. If you want to receive this newsletter, send an email to iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com.

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT.

You might be an Alcoholic if:

- 1)The vodka you are drinking reminds you of a fine mouthwash.
- 2)You're lying on your waterbed all warm and comfy and then remember, you don't have a waterbed.

You know you're a Recovering Alcoholic if:

- 1)Emails from your friends say HALT in the subject line.
- 2)Your idea of a smooth opening line is. "I like what you shared".
- 3)You don't know the last names of most of your friends.

AREA 24 AA

DISTRICT 13

iadistrict13.org

2023-2024 District Officers and Chairs

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Tradition One "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." *Long Form. An Editorial by Bill W.*

Our whole A.A. program is securely founded on the principle of humility--that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are--"a small part of a great whole." Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why A.A. Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in A.A. the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few A.A. groups impose penalties on anyone for non-conformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or non-compliance with any principle of A.A. is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "Judge not," we observe most literally.

"But," some will argue, "if A.A. has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we A.A.s cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no A.A., and that without A.A. there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm A.A. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."

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A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to AA's future:
To place our common welfare first;
To keep our fellowship united.
For on AA unity depend our lives,
And the lives of those to come.

HOW SHOULD WE TREAT A.A. FOUNDERS' WRITINGS
SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that A.A. Founders would object to or embrace revisions to their writings? If yes, why? If not, why?
2. Do you think the Founders' writings are effective in reaching new members? If not, what measures do you think can be taken to resolve this issue?
3. What reasons would you consider for changing our Founders' writings?
4. How do you feel about changing A.A. Founders' writings to replace outdated references?
5. What suggestions do you have for preserving the Founders' writings, along with keeping pace with our current A.A. Society and its future?
6. Should there be a special Conference process for approval of changes to our Founders' writings? (e.g., super, or qualified majority – 75%, and/or 2-year consideration process.)
7. What additional ideas, thoughts or suggestions can you share about changing or not changing the Founders' writings?

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Iowa City Intergroup meets online on the first Saturday of the month at 10 am. Zoom ID 810 0506 4290 Passcode WILSON.

District 13 Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 28th, 2024**, 2:30 PM at 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month alternating between Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City and 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. **All are welcome.**

Area 24 March Service Weekend March 9, 2024 @ 9 am – March 10, 2024 @ 5:00 pm: Midnight Garden 1501 South 17th Ave #2, Marshalltown. Agenda items for the General Service Conference will be discussed. A continued discussion of Founder's writings will continue.

Area 24 2024 Spring Conference June 14 registration begins at 3:00 pm - June 16 @ 12:00 pm. At Dordt University 498 4th Ave NE Sioux Center. See Area 24 Spring Conference (aa-iowa.org) for a copy of the flyer.

FYI: Area 24 (the State of Iowa) has a newsletter that comes out 5 times a year. If you would like to receive access to it, contact Area24.Newsletter@aa-iowa.org. It is available to all AA members, and you are an AA member if you say you are.



Am I on the right path?

