

17th Edition April 2024

## **AAversaries!**

**1 Year** Aaron K. Monday Night Tiffin Group

**17 Years** Joe M Big Book Study Iowa City

**CONGRATULATIONS To All Those With April Sobriety Anniversary Dates!**

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

## **WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT.**

### One Liners

The most dangerous words to hear from an alcoholic, "I've been thinking....".

"I never make the same mistake twice. I make it Like 5 or 6 times, you know, just to be sure."

I was always the black sheep. Then I started going to meetings and found the rest of the herd.

"This too shall pass. It might pass like a kidney stone, but it will pass."

## **AREA 24 AA**

## **DISTRICT 13**

**[iadistrict13.org](http://iadistrict13.org)**

### 2023-2024 District Officers and Chairs

Jim S. DCM

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Teresa R. Public Information Chair

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**Tradition Three** "With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount." *Long Form. An Editorial by Bill W.*

AUTONOMY is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every AA group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when AA as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

When AA's Traditions were first published in 1945, we had become sure that an AA group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So confident of this had we become that the original statement of AA tradition carried this significant sentence: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation."

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each AA group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom we found it necessary to post only two storm signals. A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure AA as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups "wet," others "dry," still others "Republican" or "Communist," and yet others "Catholic" or "Protestant." The AA group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong.

When AA was still young, lots of eager groups were forming. In a town we'll call Middleton, a real crackerjack had started up. The townspeople were hot as firecrackers about it. Star-gazing, the elders dreamed of innovations. They figured the town needed a great big alcoholic center, a kind of pilot plant AA groups could duplicate everywhere. Beginning on the ground floor there would be a club; in the second story they would sober up drunks and hand them currency for their back debts; the third deck would house an educational project. . .quite noncontroversial, of course. In imagination the gleaming center was to go up several stories more, but three would do for a start. This would all take a lot of money. . .other people's money. Believe it or not, wealthy townsfolk bought the idea.

There were, though, a few conservative dissenters among the alcoholics. They wrote the Foundation, AA's headquarters in New York, wanting to know about this sort of streamlining. They understood that the elders, just to nail things down good, were about to apply to the Foundation for a charter. These few were disturbed and skeptical.

Of course there was a promoter in the deal. . .a super-promoter. By his eloquence he allayed all fears, despite advice from the Foundation that it could issue no charter, and that ventures which mixed an AA group up with medication and education had come to sticky ends elsewhere. To make things safer, the promoter organized three corporations and became president of them all. Freshly painted, the new center shone. The warmth of it all spread through the town. Soon things began to hum. To insure foolproof, continuous operation, 61 rules and regulations were adopted.

But alas, this bright scene was not long in darkening. Confusion replaced serenity. It was found that some drunks yearned for education, but doubted if they were alcoholics. The personality defects of others could be cured maybe with a loan. Some were club-minded, but it was just a question of taking care of the lonely heart. Sometimes the swarming applicants would go for all three floors. Some would start at the top and come through to the bottom, becoming club members, others started in the club, pitched a binge, were hospitalized, then graduated to education on the third floor. It was a beehive of activity, all right, but unlike a

beehive, it was confusion compounded. An AA group, as such, simply couldn't handle this sort of a project. All too late that was discovered. Then came the inevitable explosion. . .something like that day the boiler burst in Wombley's Clapboard Factory. A chill choke-damp of fear and frustration fell over the group.

When that lifted, a wonderful thing had happened. The head promoter wrote the Foundation office. He said he wished he'd paid some attention to AA experience. Then he did something else that was to become an AA classic. It all went on a little card about golf-score size. The cover read: "Middleton Group No. One. Rule No. 62." Once the card was unfolded, a single pungent sentence leaped to the eye: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

Thus it was that under Tradition Four an AA group had exercised its right to be wrong. Moreover, it had performed a great service for Alcoholics Anonymous, because it had been humbly willing to apply the lessons it learned. It had picked itself up with a laugh and gone on to better things. Even the chief architect, standing in the ruins of his dream, could laugh at himself. . .and that is the very acme of humility.

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## A DECLARATION OF UNITY

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

### Dr Bob's Views on Anonymity

"As far as anonymity was concerned we knew who we were. It wasn't only AA, but our social life. All of our lives seemed to be spent together. We took people home with us to dry out. The Cleveland group had the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the members," said Warren. "In fact, I remember Dr. Bob saying,

....  
"If I got up and gave my name as Dr. Bob S., people who needed help would have a hard time getting in touch with me."

Warren recalled, "He [Dr. Bob] said there were two ways to break the Anonymity Tradition: (1) by giving your name at the public level of press or radio; (2) by being so anonymous that you can't be reached by other drunks."

In an article in the February 1969 Grapevine: "Dr. Bob on Tradition Eleven," Volume 25, Issue 9, D. S. Of San Mateo, California, wrote that Dr. Bob commented on the Eleventh Tradition, "We need always maintain personal anonymity At the level of press, radio and films," as follows:

"Since our Tradition of Anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English Language that to maintain Anonymity at any other level is definitely a Violation of this Tradition."

"The AA who hides his identity from his fellow AAs by using only a given name Violates The Tradition just as much as the AA who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matter pertaining to AA."

"The former is maintaining his anonymity ABOVE the level of press, radio and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity BELOW the level of press, radio and films—whereas the tradition states that we should maintain our anonymity 'AT' the level of press, radio and films."

Ernie G. of Toledo, commenting on what he saw to be an increase of anonymity within AA today as compared with the old days, said, "I made a lead [trip to bring message] over to Jackson [Michigan] one night, and everybody's coming up to me and saying, 'I'm Joe; 'I'm Pete.' Then one of the guys said, 'Safe journey home. If you get into any trouble, give me a buzz.'

Later, I said to the fellow who was with me, 'You now, suppose we did get into trouble on the way home. How would we tell anyone in AA? We don't know anyone's last name.' They get so doggone carried away with this anonymity that it gets to be a joke." I had a book [evidently one of the small address books compiled by early members or their wives] with the first hundred names—first and last—telephone numbers, and where they lived.

Dr. Bob's views on anonymity remained clear in the recollections of Akron's Joe P. [The Dartmouth grad]. Though it was not the custom in the mid-1940's to give AA talks to anyone except drunks, Joe noted, a few members formed an unofficial public information committee that started to speak to Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs throughout the state.

*Excerpt from Dr. Bob and The Good Oldtimers, p 264-265.*

## 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, April 28th**, 2:30 PM at **Grace United Methodist Church in Tiffin**. Grace United Methodist Church is located at 300 W. Marengo Rd In Tiffin This District Meeting will take place after our spring event. See flyer to follow. We normally meet on the 4th Sunday of the month alternating between Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City and 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. **All are welcome.**

**Midwest Group** 310 N Johnson St., Iowa City will be celebrating their groups anniversary on April 21<sup>st</sup>. 7 PM Wayde L. of Muscatine will be speaking. A flyer is attached and is available on the district website [iadistrict13aa.org](http://iadistrict13aa.org). Check it out!

Our Delegate, Julie S., will be at the **General Service Conference** in New York, from April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be at the NY Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St. Brooklyn, NY 11201. Feel free to send her words of encouragement by mail at address above, or email at [area24.delegate@aa-iowa.org](mailto:area24.delegate@aa-iowa.org).

**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](http://aa-iowa.org)) for a copy of the flyer. <https://www.aa-iowa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Area-24-Spring-2024-Conference-Flyer.pdf> .

**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](mailto:Area24.Newsletter@aa-iowa.org). It is available to all AA members, and you are an AA member if you say you are.

"I would rather go through life sober, believing I am an alcoholic, than go through life drunk, trying to convince myself that I am not an alcoholic." Anonymous

**District 13 Presenting**  
**A Three Legacies Workshop**

Hear from Panelists

**Doug B. The Steps**

**Faraji H. The Traditions**

**Tracy T. The Concepts**

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Grace United Methodist Church

Time 11:30 to 3:30 at 300 W Marengo Rd Tiffin, IA

Potluck Bring a dish to share.

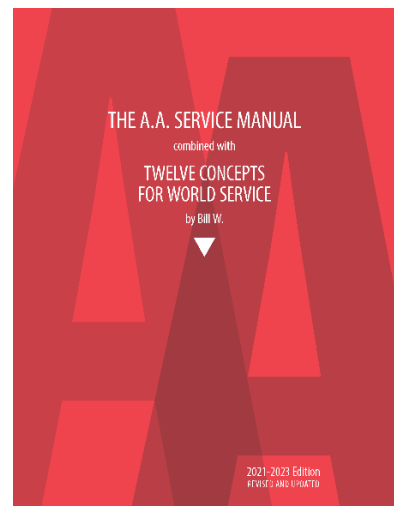
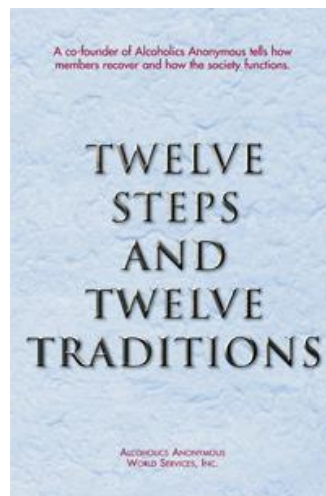
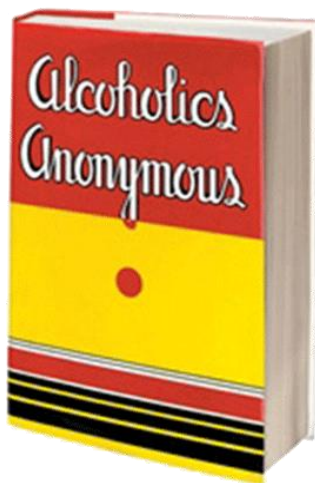
Coffee, Water, Ham Provided by District 13

District Meeting at 2:30

**\*\*\* At Grace United Methodist Church \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Use South Parking Lot \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Enter at East Basement Door \*\*\***



# Midwest

## A.A. Group is turning 27!

### LET'S CELEBRATE

Sunday April 21st 7PM

Zion Lutheran Church

310 N Johnson Avenue

Iowa City

Guest Speaker

Wade L.

GSR Recover Group

Muscatine, IA

District 13 Alternate DCM

Archives Chair

-Sobriety Countdown

-Book Give Away

-Table Prize

-Refreshments

-Birthday Cake

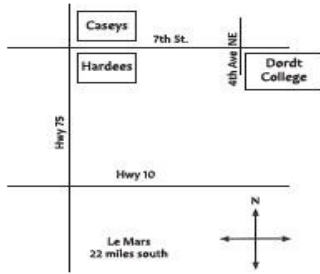
*The AA Group*

*...Where it all begins*





**Motels & Campgrounds**



- Econo Lodge**  
86 9th St. Circle NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
712-722-4000
  - Fairfield Inn**  
290 St. Andrews Way  
Sioux Center, IA 51250
  - Holiday Inn Express**  
100 St. Andrews Way  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
712-722-9500
  - Sandy Hollow & Children's Park Campgrounds**  
Contact: Zach Weyer  
712-551-7925
- For questions please contact:  
Conference Chair: Roger R. 712-540-6573  
Co-Chair: Jane C. 712-578-9555

# ANNUAL SPRING Conference



Dordt University, Sioux Center, Iowa

**JUNE | 14-16TH | 2024**

**Spring Conference Pre-Registration**

Due by May 30, 2024

Send checks payable to:  
Area 24 Spring Conference  
PO Box 361  
Sioux Center, IA 51250

**Three ways to Pre-Register:**

- Call Paul W. at 712-470-3307 (Calls only please 8am - 8pm)

• Visit <https://ares-24-spring-conference.cheddarup.com>

• Scan the QR code



**Dordt Housing Pre-Registration**

Due by June 1, 2024

Send housing registration form & checks payable to:  
Dordt College  
498 4th Ave. NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
Attn: Sharla Gradert

For housing questions, contact:  
Sharla Gradert - 712-722-6303

**Area 24 2024 Spring Conference**  
June 14-16, 2024

**Roots of Sobriety**

**Sioux Center, Iowa**  
Dordt College Campus • 498 4th Ave. NE • Sioux Center

**SPEAKERS:**

- Saturday Luncheon: Alateen Speaker - TBA
- Saturday Luncheon: Al-Anon Speaker - Christine W., Lansing, IL
- Saturday Night Banquet: A.A. - Kelvin D., W. Fargo, ND
- Sunday Morning: A.A. Spiritual Speaker - Paul W., Hull, IA
- Sunday Morning: Al-Anon Spiritual Speaker: Barb U., Sioux City, IA

**Al-Anon Agenda ~Hybrid**

**Friday, June 14**

- 7pm GR Registration and Group Contributions
- GRs attending in person must be registered by 9am on Saturday
- GRs attending virtually must be registered by Wednesday, June 12th

at 9pm

- 8pm \*Opening Meeting - Host District 1/15
- 9:15pm \*AWSC meeting

**Saturday, June 15**

- 8-9am GR Registration and Group Contributions
- 9am \*Workshop - Conflict Resolution - Christine W.
- 10:15-11:15 - \* Delegate Report - Becky V.
- 11:30am Luncheon followed by Speakers
- Alateen - TBD
- AFG - Christine W.,
- Panel S8 Past Delegate, Panel 61 Area Chair, Lansing, IL
- Immediately following Luncheon - \*Delegate's Report (Interactive) - Becky V.

- 3p.m. \*Assembly Business Meeting
- 6:30pm Banquet followed by AA Speaker
- 9:00pm Alateen Candlelight Meeting

**Sunday, June 16th**

- 9:00am \*Workshop: Literature - A Little Time for Myself - Luarnne T.
- 10:15am \*Spiritual Speaker: Barb U., Sioux City, IA

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY OR WWW.IOWA-AL-ANON.ORG

*Join us!*

**Housing Pre-Registration**

Due by June 1, 2024

1. Apartments - 19 Units  
2 bedrooms (3 beds per bedroom), kitchen, living room, bath
2. West Hall - 36 Units  
4 beds per room, private bath
3. Covenant Hall - 110 Units  
2 beds per room, community bath

All units are air conditioned. Linen/towels provided.  
\$17.50/per person per night for all 3 options.

For reservations contact:  
Sharla Gradert - 712-722-6303  
April - June 1, 2024 • Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm

**Conference Registration**

A.A./Al-Anon/Other \$22 Pre-registration  
\$25 At the door

Alateen \$3.00  
Phone orders must present national permission form and medical form at the registration table for admission to the conference.

Registration includes all speakers, meetings, workshops and dance.

**Meal prices**  
Saturday & Sunday Breakfast \$8.00  
Luncheon \$11.00  
Banquet \$20.00

Contact Person:  
Paul W. • 712-470-3307  
Call to pre-register  
(Calls only please 8am - 8pm)



**Dordt Housing Pre-Registration**

Due by June 1, 2024 • Cost: \$17.50/person  
Note: List all names per unit

Full Name (Contact): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Southview Apartment (up to 6 people)  
 West Hall (up to 4 people)  
 Covenant Hall (up to 2 people)

Staying  Friday  Saturday

Rooming with: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Pre-Registration**

\$22.00 due by May 30, 2024 or \$25.00 at the door

Full Name (Contact): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_ A.A. # \_\_\_ Al-Anon # \_\_\_ Other x

Alateen: \$3/each x \_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sat. Breakfast: \$8/each x \_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Luncheon: \$11/each x \_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sun. Breakfast: \$8/each x \_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Banquet: \$20/each x \_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Interpreting Requests due by May 1, 2024  
 Please check here for ASL  Please check here for Spanish



"I drank to drown my sorrows, but the damned things learned to swim." Frida Kahlo

**Live  
and Yet  
Live..**