



**MAIA**

# TIPPLER

**MAY 2024**

**Step 5** Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

**Tradition 5** Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Concept 5** Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

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*“We must be entirely honest with somebody if we expect to live long or happily in this world. Rightly and naturally, we think well before we choose the person or persons with whom to take this intimate and confidential step. Those of us belonging to a religious denomination which requires confession must, and of course, will want to go to the properly appointed authority whose duty it is to receive it. Though we have no religious connection, we may still do well to talk with someone ordained by an established religion. We often find such a person quick to see and understand our problem. Of course, we sometimes encounter people who do not understand alcoholics.”*

-AA Big Book, Page 74

**Memphis Area Intergroup Association**  
3540 Summer Ave., Suite 104  
Memphis, TN 38122

**901 454-1414 office**  
[memphisarea@bellsouth.net](mailto:memphisarea@bellsouth.net)  
[memphis-aa.org](http://memphis-aa.org)



# MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 9:00 am - 10:30 am District 24 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm District 22
5	6 6:45 - 7:45 pm Treatment Committee 8:00 - 9:00 pm District 21 Committee	7 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Correctional Committee	8 6:00 - 7:00 pm District 25	9	10	11
11:00 am - 12:00 pm District 23	12	13	14 6:00 - 7:00 pm Memphis Area Grapevine Committee	15	16	17 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Accessibility Committee
19	20 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm CPC/PI Committee	21	22	23	24	25
3:45 - 5:00 pm Memphis Area Archives Committee	26	27	28	29	30	31
						1

## DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 4 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
District 24  
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church  
2855 Morning Sun Road  
Lakeland, 38016

May 4 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
District 22  
Area 51  
3563 Thomas St  
Memphis, TN 38127

May 6 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Memphis Treatment  
Committee  
Came to Believe  
2865 Walnut Grove  
Memphis, TN 38111

May 6 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
District 21 Committee  
Meeting  
Crosstown Concourse  
1350 Concourse Ave #1072  
Memphis, TN 38104

May 7 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Memphis Area Correctional Committee  
Came to Believe  
2865 Walnut Grove  
Memphis, TN 38111

May 8 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
District 25  
Germantown United Methodist Church  
2324 Germantown Road  
Germantown, TN 38138

May 12 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
District 23  
Zoom password 847990

May 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Memphis Area  
Grapevine Committee  
White Station Church of Christ  
1106 Colonial Rd

May 17 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Accessibility Committee  
2865 Walnut Grove  
Memphis, TN 38111

May 20 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
CPC/PI Committee  
The Way House  
1203 Peabody Ave  
Memphis, TN 38104

May 26 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
Memphis Area Archives Committee  
Two Doors Down  
1578 Yorkshire

June 8 @ 11:30 am - 3:30 pm  
MAIA Annual Founder's Day  
White Station Church of Christ  
1106 Colonial Rd



# MAIA

3540 Summer Avenue  
Suite 104  
Memphis, TN 38122  
901-454-1414

memphisarea@bellsouth.net

Monday - Friday: 8 am - 4 pm Closed  
for lunch daily from 1 pm - 2 pm

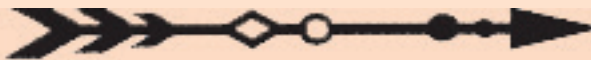
The MAIA Intergroup Representatives business meeting is held on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on May 19th 2024 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join online. Please call or email the office for the meeting ID & passcode.

## BECOME A HIGH FIVER

Memphis Area Intergroup has been the link between the A.A. recovery community and the newcomer and, even as importantly, with one another since 1960. Many of us are grateful to the office for its helping hand, but have either not known that Intergroup needs our support, or our contributions have been put off due to our new busy and happy lives. "High Fivers" is a way we have found to allow members to show their gratitude by making sure the services provided by the office continues. High Fivers is a program of commitment; we commit to a \$5.00 contribution per month, either monthly, quarterly, or annually. Contact our office with details on the ways with which you can submit your monetary contributions. Intergroup, in return, will send an acknowledgement for your contributions at the end of each calendar year. These contributions are tax deductible. As an expression of gratitude, you will receive a hard copy of this newsletter in the mail each month.

### SCAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAIA

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A. members.



### Central Gardens

Gretchen M. 10 yrs  
Christie M. 1 yr  
Bill E. 1 yr  
Bernard L. 5 yrs

### Hickory Hill

Paul S. 25 yrs

### Seriously Sober

Paige M. 34 yrs

### Traditions

Henrietta J. 34 yrs  
Kim C. 27 yrs  
Gayle G. 11 yrs

### Lakeland

Gordon C. 13 yrs

### Downtown Thursday Night

Travis B. 8 yrs



# Finding Self-forgiveness

BY: D. S. | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

"When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one." Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

MY LAST THREE years of drinking were a vicious cycle of falling flat on my face, picking myself up, picking up the nearest drink, and then falling right back down. A piece of me was lost in every drunken escapade, and it was not long before every semblance of human resilience, spirit, and dignity had been drained from my life.

Even though I was only twenty-one at the time, my alcoholism had done its job quite thoroughly, and when AA was offered as a possible solution, I grabbed at it blindly, praying that it might have an answer for me. It did.

But then, as the months swept by, I came to the painful realization that my confused and misdirected personality was not going to let me forgive myself for some of the things I had been involved in during my drinking days. These things would not

be relegated to the caverns of the past; they could not be laid to rest. So, in order to keep this shame and guilt from spilling out into AA and the group, I built another wall around myself. Oh, it didn't look all that bad from the outside. Meetings were actively attended; newcomers were helped; my responsibilities to the group and AA were attended to; and thanks only to the grace of God, three years of dryness were accumulated.

By this time, however, I had learned that AA is not a program based solely upon external affairs, and it was clearly obvious that I was going to have to crack this wall wide open if I was going to hold on to my sobriety much longer. The hurt, fear, and anxiety had grown to such proportions once again that I became "willing to go to any length" once again--even so far as to take the Fourth and Fifth Steps in the manner that, I had been taught, they are supposed to be taken. This time, nothing could be held back. This time, I would be "fearless and thorough." For the sake of my sobriety and everything else I had come to hold dear and precious, it had to be!

The crack in the wall came during and after the taking of my Fifth Step with a local priest. This experience gave me the release and clearheadedness to see that if the wall was to come down all the way, I was going to have to go further and share the entirety of my past experience and my grosser handicaps with a close friend in AA.

Before actually going through with this plan, I half expected to come out of the experience with an even greater sense of apprehension, guilt, and regret. But if I was to be satisfied that I had done what I had to do, and if my mind was to be calmed, I knew I had to put this extra measure of trust in a fellow AA. From past experience, I knew that God would give me the strength to handle the results.

The actual experience of turning myself inside out for the first time in the presence of an AA member left me drained and numb; but when feeling started to come back, I found that I had changed. For the first time in my AA experience, I could feel the sunshine of God's love on my wounds, and true peace of mind.

The day ended as quietly as it had begun. I laid my head down on the pillow that night confident that I had just surmounted a major hurdle in my continuing recovery. I was now one step closer to understanding the majesty of God and the miracle of Alcoholics Anonymous.

# REFLECTING ON OUR PAST

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## May in our History

*"Never could we recapture the great moments of the past."* (Alcoholics Anonymous, page 151). But here we list some.

### May 2

1941 — Jacksonville, FL newspaper reported the start of an AA group in Jacksonville

### May 3

1941 — First AA group formed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

1941 - Democrat Chronicle in Rochester, NY, reported first annual AA dinner at Seneca hotel with 60 attending.

### May 4

1940 — Sunday Star reported founding of first AA group in Washington, DC.

### May 6

1939 - Clarence S. of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an "AA" meeting in Cleveland.

### May 7

1956 — The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

### May 8

1943 — Akron AA Group celebrates 8th anniversary with 500 present and sober.

1971 — Bill W. was buried in private ceremony, in East Dorset, Vermont.

### May 10

1939 — Clarence S. announced to the Akron Oxford Group members that the Cleveland members were starting a meeting in Cleveland and calling it Alcoholics Anonymous.

### May 11

1935 — Bill W. called Walter Tunks from the Mayflower Hotel, and was referred to Henrietta Seiberling who set up a meeting with Dr. Bob.

1939 — First meeting of the Cleveland Group.

### May 12

1935 — Mother's Day, Bill and Dr. Bob met for the first time, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

### May 17

1942 — *Dayton Journal Herald* published pictures of AA members wearing masks to protect their anonymity.

### May 18

1939 — The first group to call itself A. A. is meets in Cleveland, OH.

1950 — Dr. Bob told Bill W. "I reckon we ought to be buried like other folks." He wanted no memorial.

### May 19

2000 — Dr. Paul O. died at the age of 83. He was author of *"Acceptance Was the Answer"* in the 4th edition of the Big Book. This story was titled *"Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict"* in the 3rd edition.

### May 29

1980 — *"Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers"* was published.

### May 31

1938 — Bill W. and other A.A.s began writing the Big Book.



# **Tradition Five: “Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”**

*By Peeps*

Fear was the main reason I became an alcoholic. I lived in self-inflicted turmoil and misery because I was trying to control people, places and things via the use of ego, alcohol and drugs.

And despite working the Steps to the best of my abilities, the generous help of my sponsor, the example and support of other members of Alcoholics Anonymous and a practice of daily prayer, my fears and character defects are blazing brightly today as I contemplate Tradition Five.

I know the solution will be found in our program’s suggestions. I have to surrender.

To Zoom or not to Zoom at meetings remains a question for many groups and members of AA. It’s obvious to me that the membership has a wide array of passionate opinions about the best way of fulfilling our “primary purpose.”

It’s a sign on my unwillingness to completely turn my will and life over to a Higher Power that I worry about this.

It’s like I’ve forgotten how my life has changed since I’ve begun to practice our program’s principles in all my affairs, especially it that relates to the daily operation of our society. It’s obvious that my first thoughts on this topic, and other issues, like the anticipated delivery of a fifth edition of the Big Book, are likely incorrect and unhealthily self-centered (pronounced fear).

I’m choosing to overlook how relying on all 12 Steps and all of the 12 Traditions has saved my life and the lives of millions of others because I think I know the BEST way (pronounced Only) to deliver our message of recovery.

I am the guy whose best thinking took me to a place where I needed the intervention of a Higher Power to cope with life on life’s terms. Clearly, I am overvaluing my own opinions and experiences. I’m an alcoholic, so it does not immediately come to my mind that I could be wrong — again.

I’m forcing myself to study this situation, and my reaction to it, as objectively as I can. I need to look at things honestly and with an open mind. I need to be aware of my expectations. I need the input of others.

Lately I am getting comfort today from a saying of a deceased member of our club used to say in moments of fear-fueled doubt: “If you’re worried pray; if you pray, don’t worry.”

For me, that’s easier to write than practice, but I must practice it to be happy, joyous and useful to others members of our program, which is about We, not Me.

After my home group’s group inventory, I was worried that the debate over how we go forward with fulfilling our primary purpose (with or without Zoom) would tear of us apart, but I have to deliberately ignore AA’s and our group’s histories and philosophies to indulge those thoughts.

Like the surviving passengers of the Big Book’s ocean liner, we share a powerful bond that is enhanced by our reliance on a Higher Power and our gratitude to be sober.

Things may get loud and bumpy as this issue is resolved, but I have faith our Higher Power and AA unity will see us through.

# Principles of the Month | May

**Step 5:** Admitted to god, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

**Tradition 5 [short form]:** Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Tradition 5 [long form]:** Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Tradition 5 Checklist [from SMF-131, Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine]:**

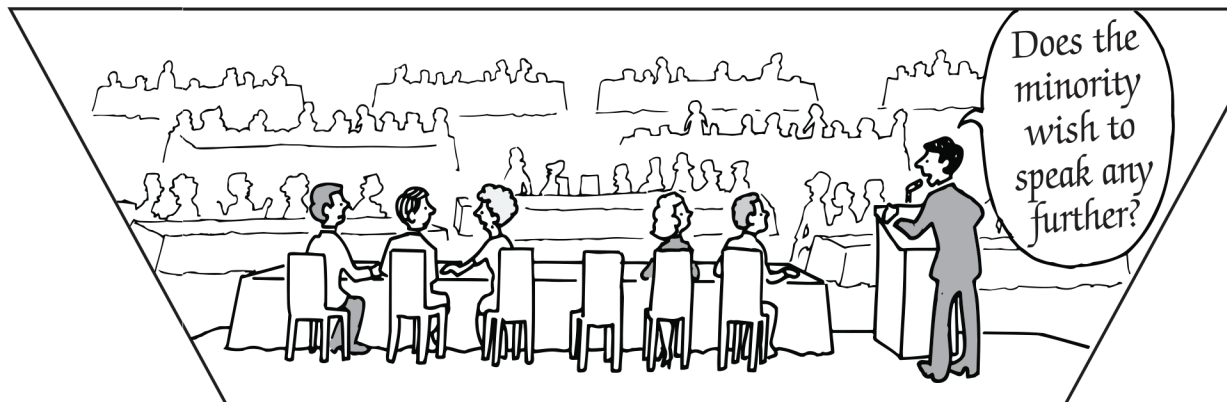
1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

**Concept 5 [short form]:** Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

**Concept 5 [long form]:** Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

**Concept 5 Checklist [from SMF-91, Concepts Checklist]:**

1. Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal," to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
2. What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
3. Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
4. Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?



APR 2024 GROUP CONTRIBUTION

	Apr 24	Apr 23	Jan - Apr 24
Any Length Group	40.00	25.00	75.00
Bluff City Fellowship	1.96	0.00	1.96
Bluff City Group	0.00	1.80	60.00
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	150.00
Central Gardens Group	50.00	0.00	200.00
Collierville Group	489.23	551.05	948.23
Committee - Archives	0.00	0.00	50.00
Covington	0.00	0.00	50.00
Creagh David	0.00	5.00	0.00
Crosstown Group	0.61	0.00	0.61
Downtown Nooners N/S	8.00	0.00	108.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	96.90	0.00	734.17
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Eudora	0.00	0.00	50.00
Friends of Bill W	0.00	350.00	200.00
Germantown Noon	108.75	271.97	738.29
Grace in the Grove	0.00	154.75	0.00
Hollywood	0.62	0.00	0.62
Horn Lake	5.00	5.00	10.00
Lakeland	0.00	0.00	112.50
Morning Glories	0.00	0.00	43.00
Neshoba Awakening	0.00	10.00	10.00
New Start	0.00	0.00	25.00
Overton Park	0.00	90.00	0.00
Pleasant Hill	324.01	0.00	626.16
Pride and Principles	0.00	0.00	125.00
Primary Purpose	50.05	0.00	200.05
Real Deal	0.00	0.00	5.00
Rule-62	0.00	157.00	162.50
Ruthven Alice	0.00	40.00	0.00
Second Chance	50.00	0.00	200.00
SERCYPAA	0.00	0.00	2,995.41
Seriously Sober	1.22	0.00	12.44
Shady Ladies	300.00	200.00	900.00
Sober Journey	0.00	210.00	300.00
South Memphis	0.00	0.00	20.00
Straight Outta Bondage	221.00	0.00	221.00
The Nooner	380.00	184.65	631.89
Three Legged Stool	0.00	0.00	50.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	4,300.00	1,200.00
Unity Group	175.47	0.00	492.57
WAAGL	100.00	100.00	400.00
West Memphis Group-Brian	0.00	0.00	100.00
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	25.00	50.00
Winchester	0.00	178.00	167.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,702.82</b>	<b>6,859.22</b>	<b>13,626.90</b>

# FOUNDERS DAY

2024

*presented by:*

MEMPHIS AREA  
INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8  
11:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
WHITE STATION  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1106 COLONIAL ROAD  
MEMPHIS, TN 38117**



## MAIA

3540 SUMMER AVENUE, SUITE 104  
MEMPHIS, TN 38122  
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"The Tippler" is a free monthly publication, and will be emailed to anyone interested. However, if you'd like to receive a copy via USPS, a contribution of \$5 monthly, or \$60 annually, helps defray the costs involved. Fill out the form below and , along with your contribution, mail to the above address. We thank you!

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