

MAIA

TIPPLER

MAY 2025

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 pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past. Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe.”

-AA Big Book, Page 75

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

901 454-1414 office
memphisarea@bellsouth.net
memphis-aa.org



MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 9:00 am - 10:30 am District 24 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm District 22	
4	6:45 - 7:45 pm Treatment Committee 8:00 - 9:00 pm District 21 Committee	5 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Correctional Committee	6	7	8	9	10
11 11:00 am - 12:00 pm District 23 Mother's Day	12	13 6:00 - 7:00 pm Memphis Area Grapevine Committee	14 6:00 - 7:00 pm District 25	15	16 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Accessibility Committee	17	
18	19 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm CPC/PI Committee	20	21	22	23	24	
25 3:45 - 5:00 pm Memphis Area Archives Committee	26	27	28	29	30	31	

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 3 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am District
24-Hybrid ID 9186700041
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016

May 3 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Olympia Steak House
85 Wilkinsville Road
Millington, TN 38053

May 5 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment
Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

May 5 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 Committee
Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

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

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

May 13 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area
Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

May 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

May 16 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

May 19 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
Shady Grove Presbyterian
5530 Shady Grove
Memphis, TN 38120

May 25 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Memphis Area Archives Committee
Two Doors Down
1578 Yorkshire

June 7 @ 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
MAIA Founder's Day Celebration
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd
Memphis, TN 38117



MAIA

3540 Summer Avenue
Suite 104
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Monday/Friday: 8 am - 4 pm
Closed 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 18, 2025 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join on Zoom. Please call or email the office for the passcode meeting (ID 835-026-08.)



CENTRAL GARDENS

Gretchen M. 11 yrs
Bernard L. 6 yrs
Bill E. 4 yrs
Christie M. 2 yrs

DOWNTOWN

THURSDAY NIGHT

Travis B. 9 yrs

HICKORY HILL

Paul S. 26 yrs

SERIOUSLY SOBER

Paige M. 35 yrs

TRADITIONS

Henrietta J. 35 yrs
Kim C. 28 yrs
Gayle G. 12 yrs

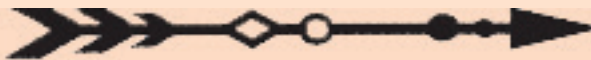
UNITY

Sherry L. 47 yrs
Karen G. 20 yrs
Salina M. 6 yrs
Rebecca S. 4 yrs
Hannah G. 2 yrs
Tammy H. 1 yr
Rachel B. 1 yr
Shannon C. 1 yr

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.



CONCEPT 5:

“The Right of Appeal and the Minority Opinion”

AN EXPERIENCE FROM A TRUSTED SERVANT

When I first heard someone talk about Concept Five at a district meeting, I smiled and nodded like I knew what they meant. The truth is, I didn't have a clue. I barely understood the Concepts at all. I already had enough to keep up with between the Steps and the Traditions. It felt like extra homework I didn't sign up for.

Then someone explained it to me in plain language. They said, “Even if 99 percent of the group votes one way, the other one percent still has the right to be heard. Especially if no one listened to them before the vote.”

That made sense to me. I've been in plenty of meetings, both inside and outside AA, where one person tried to say something important and got shut down. Concept Five exists to protect that person. It reminds us to slow down and make space for all voices, not just the loudest or the majority.

WHAT HAPPENED AT MY DISTRICT MEETING

I really saw this in action when I was serving as GSR for my home group. At one district meeting, we had some extra money and were deciding what to do with it. Most people thought we should send it all to the Area. That seemed like a good idea to me, so I was ready to vote yes and move on.

But right before the vote, one member raised their hand. They said, “Before we decide, I want to ask if we've thought about giving some of this money to help the Corrections facility meetings. I heard they're short on Big Books right now.”

The room went quiet. No one had considered that. People started talking again, and the whole tone of the meeting changed. In the end, we decided to split the money. Part went to Area, and part went to buy books for Corrections.

That happened because one person spoke up. If we had rushed ahead without listening, we would have missed an important need in our local fellowship.

WHY THIS CONCEPT MATTERS

Concept Five is about listening. It protects the right to have a voice, even when that voice is in the minority. It reminds us that just because most people agree on something, it does not automatically make it the best decision.

This does not mean the minority always gets what they want. But it does mean we give them a real chance to explain their point of view. In AA's service structure, the minority opinion is actually invited to speak again after a vote. That is built in on purpose.

Sometimes hearing that point of view changes hearts and minds. I've seen it happen more than once.

WHERE IT SHOWS UP

Concept Five is part of the Twelve Concepts for World Service. It is meant to guide how AA service works at the district, area, and conference level. But I think the spirit of it applies everywhere in AA.

You can practice it in group business meetings. You can use it in group inventories. You can even apply it in your own relationships outside of AA. Anywhere people are trying to make a decision, Concept Five reminds us to value each voice.

WHAT I LEARNED

Before I understood this Concept, I thought that speaking up when I disagreed meant I was being a problem. Now I know that sometimes, saying the uncomfortable thing is the most responsible thing you can do.

And on the flip side, when I'm in the majority, I try to remember that someone else might be seeing something I missed. They might have experience I do not have.

Concept Five helped me become a better listener and a better servant. And I think AA is stronger because of it.

“Even though a decision may have already been made, the minority has the right to speak again. Because sometimes, what they say can change everything.”

– paraphrased from Concept 5

TRADITION FIVE: CARRYING THE MESSAGE

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

When you walk into an AA meeting, whether it's in a church basement, a Zoom room, or a picnic shelter at the park, you'll likely hear the same thing: “Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.” That's not just a good idea—it's Tradition Five.

WHAT IT MEANS

Tradition 5 keeps our groups focused. It reminds us that we're not here to fix each other's lives, start side projects, debate politics, or become a therapy circle. We're here to share experience, strength, and hope with people who want to stop drinking. That's it.

Of course, lots of other things happen in meetings; we laugh, we cry, we make friends, we eat cookies. But all of that is in service of our main goal: helping the next alcoholic stay sober, just like someone helped us.

WHY IT MATTERS

In early AA, some groups started drifting into other causes; temperance reform, religion, even politics. It usually ended badly. Meetings lost focus, fights broke out, and newcomers walked away confused. That's why Tradition 5 was written: to make sure we don't forget why we're here. Keeping our purpose simple means our meetings are open

and welcoming. You don't have to believe in anything specific, have your life together, or even be sure you're an alcoholic. You just have to want help. And if that's you, we'll be here.

HOW WE PRACTICE IT

We stay on topic. In meetings, we talk about sobriety and recovery from alcoholism, not outside issues.

We reach out to newcomers. Remember how scary your first meeting was? Someone made you feel welcome. Be that person for someone else.

We keep the doors open. Whether it's through making coffee, setting up chairs, or giving rides, small acts of service help carry the message.

We remember we're not professionals. We don't give advice, we share our experience. That's what makes AA powerful.

REFLECTION

“At first, I thought AA was just a place for me to get better. But after a while, I realized it only works when I'm helping someone else. Even when I feel like I have nothing to give, just showing up, listening, and sharing honestly; that carries the message.”

FINAL THOUGHT

Tradition 5 keeps us grounded. In a world full of distractions and complications, it brings us back to the heart of AA: one alcoholic talking to another. That's how it started. That's how it still works.



THE STEP I STRUGGLED WITH THE MOST

I didn't expect Step 5 to be the one that tripped me. I had already done the dramatic parts of early sobriety; the detox, the crying in meetings, the shaky hands clutching instant coffee. I was showing up. I was reading the book. I was calling my sponsor.

I'd heard people talk about how hard Step 4 was, how intimidating it was to take a "searching and fearless" moral inventory. I actually liked Step 4. Not because I enjoyed dragging my past out into the light, but because it gave me something to do. It was a task. A solo assignment. I knew how to make lists. I could write things down and feel like I was making progress.

But Step 5? Step 5 asked me to read it all aloud. To another person. Including the parts I edited out of my drinking stories. The ones I still told in a way that made people laugh. The ones where I was the loveable screwup instead of the guy who hit someone with his car and never called to apologize.

I thought I had worked through my shame. I hadn't.

The day I was supposed to do my Fifth Step, I almost didn't show up. My sponsor had cleared the afternoon. Said we could sit in his backyard and take our time. I texted him that morning and said I wasn't feeling well. He replied, "Me neither. See you at 3."

I brought my notebook and a stomach ache.

He didn't ask to see the list. He just nodded and told me to start when I was ready.

Some things were easy to say. I had been a liar. I had been manipulative. I had stolen from people who trusted me. I had ghosted friends when they got too close. Those were the warm-up confessions, the ones I had already mentioned in meetings or joked about in group texts.

Then I hit a wall.

I had written something I didn't think I could say out loud. It involved someone who had loved me when I was incapable of returning it. I had used her, gaslit her, made her think she was the crazy one. It wasn't a single event; it was a long, slow erosion.

When I finally said it, I expected something, judgment, disgust, a heavy silence. Instead, he said, "Yep. That sounds familiar."

That broke something open. Not in a Hollywood way. There were no tears or hugs or swelling music. Just a long, quiet moment where I realized I wasn't unique in the worst way.

After I finished, we sat for a while without talking. He told me I might feel raw later. That was the word he used: raw. He said, "You might feel kind of exposed, like you left your skin somewhere."

He was right. That night I wanted to crawl out of my body. I wanted to call everyone I had mentioned and explain or apologize or delete myself from their memories. But I didn't. I followed his direction. I went home, lit a candle, and sat still for thirty minutes, asking whatever version of God I could tolerate to show me what came next.

The next day, nothing magical happened. But something had shifted. The weight I'd been carrying for years; the quiet, tight pressure behind my ribs, had moved. It wasn't gone, but it wasn't rooted in the same way.

I don't think Step 5 was about getting it all off my chest. I think it was about stepping out of the performance. About telling the truth without trying to spin it. About hearing myself say it, and letting someone else hear it too, without flinching.

That was new. That was terrifying. And that was the beginning of me learning how to live sober, not just dry, but honest.

That's when the work really began.

-Lonie D. (Oxford, MS)

AA History

Notable Moments in AA History: May Edition

A look back at pivotal events that helped shape our Fellowship, each one occurring in the month of May.

May 11, 1935 – Bill W. at the Mayflower Hotel
After a failed business deal in Akron, Bill Wilson stood in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel, desperate for a drink. Instead, he made a phone call. That call led him to Dr. Bob—and to the birth of AA.

May 12, 1935 – Bill Meets Dr. Bob
On Mother's Day, Bill and Dr. Bob met for the first time. A 15-minute chat turned into a life-changing discussion that laid the foundation for the program of recovery we know today.

May 1946 – The Twelve Traditions Debut
Bill W. began publishing essays in the AA Grapevine outlining what would become the Twelve Traditions, helping guide our groups toward unity and purpose.

May 1951 – First General Service Conference
This inaugural Conference marked the moment AA formally transferred leadership from its founders to the Fellowship itself—ensuring the program would always belong to its members.

May 1971 – GSO Moves to 475 Riverside Drive
AA's General Service Office moved into its current home in New York City, continuing to support service efforts for groups worldwide.

May 2004 – AA Literature Reaches Outer Space
The Big Book made its debut aboard the International Space Station when astronaut Leroy Chiao brought it along as part of his personal library.

SERVICE STORY

The First Time I Chaired a Meeting...

I never thought I'd be the one up front. I was just happy to be sitting in a chair, drinking coffee, and hoping no one called on me to share. For a long time, I would leave right after the meeting. I didn't want to talk to anyone. I didn't want anyone to ask me to do anything.

But my sponsor kept bugging me. "You should chair a meeting," he said. "It's good for you." I kept saying no, but then one night the chairperson asked if anyone wanted to lead next week, and before I could stop myself, I said yes. I honestly don't know why I did.

All week I was nervous. I didn't know what to say. I didn't think I had anything smart or deep to share. I almost called to back out, but I didn't.

When the day came, I showed up early. My hands were shaking. I forgot to ask someone to read How It Works. I messed up the announcements. I think I said the 7th Tradition thing wrong too. But I got through it.

People thanked me after the meeting. I was surprised by that. One guy said it helped him feel more comfortable seeing someone nervous up there, because he was nervous too.

That's when it clicked for me. It's not about doing it perfectly. It's about being willing. I didn't say anything amazing, but I showed up and did what I said I'd do. That's something I didn't do when I was drinking.

Now I say yes more often, even when I don't want to. Service keeps me involved. It gets me out of my own head. And it reminds me I'm a part of something bigger than just my own little problems.

-P.F.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS APRIL 2025

	TOTAL		
	APR 2025	APR 2024 (PY)	JAN - APR, 2025 (YTD)
Any Length Group	0.00	40.00	110.00
Bluff City Fellowship	0.00	1.96	0.00
Bluff City Group	200.00	0.00	200.00
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	300.00
Central Gardens Group	0.00	50.00	100.00
Collierville Group	0.00	489.23	399.39
Crosstown Group	0.00	0.61	0.00
Downtown Nooners N/S	100.00	8.00	100.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	83.11	96.90	603.11
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	480.00
Friends of Bill W	0.00	0.00	200.00
Germantown Happy	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Germantown Noon	0.00	108.75	325.05
Grace in the Grove	0.00	0.00	194.47
Hollywood	0.00	0.62	0.00
Horn Lake	0.00	5.00	5.00
Men of Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.54
New Start	0.00	0.00	75.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	0.00	135.00
Pleasant Hill	0.00	324.01	293.02
Pride and Principles	258.00	0.00	258.00
Primary Purpose	0.00	50.05	0.00
Rule-62	0.00	0.00	100.00
Second Chance	50.00	50.00	200.00
Serenity	350.00	0.00	350.00
Seriously Sober	0.00	1.22	242.11
Shady Ladies	200.00	300.00	800.00
Sober Journey	163.00	0.00	263.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
South Memphis	0.00	0.00	91.35
Straight Outta Bondage	0.00	221.00	0.00
The Nooner	289.75	380.00	990.09
The Wynne Group	0.00	0.00	5.74
Traditions	50.00	0.00	150.00
Two Doors Down	600.00	300.00	1,200.00
Unity Group	186.47	175.47	332.31
WAAGL	50.00	100.00	200.00
West Memphis Group	0.00	100.00	120.00
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	0.00	50.00
Winchester	0.00	0.00	194.06
TOTAL	\$2,580.33	\$2,802.82	\$11,407.24



MAIA
PRESENTS



*AA 90th
Anniversary!*

FOUNDERS DAY

SATURDAY,
JUNE 7TH

2025

11:30AM -
3:30PM

SPEAKER

JAY D. FROM LEBANON, TN,
PAST DELEGATE - AREA 64

PERFORMANCE BY RECOVERY REPERTORY THEATER
LIVE MUSIC | DELICIOUS FOOD |
LIVE CAKE AUCTION | SILENT ART & BASKET AUCTION

TICKETS \$10
SUGGESTED DONATION

White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Road,
Memphis, TN 38117

*Fun, Food, &
Fellowship!*

FOR MORE INFO,
CONTACT: STACY W.
(901-488-9528)



“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!

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____



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