

MAIA

TIPPLER

JUNE 2025

Step 6 Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition 6 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 6 On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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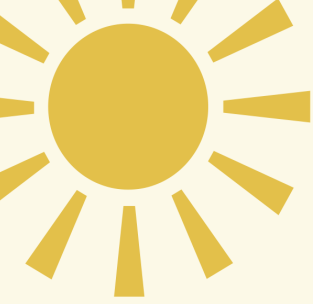
Page 8. Group
Contributions

“No words can tell of the loneliness and despair I found in that bitter morass of self-pity. Quicksand stretched around me in all directions. I had met my match. I had been overwhelmed. Alcohol was my master.”

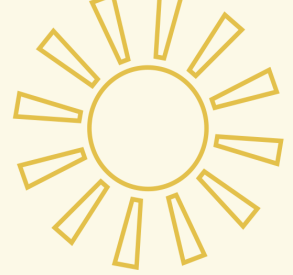
~Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, Bill’s Story, pg. 8

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

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



June 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 2 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment
Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

June 2 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 Committee
Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

June 3 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Area Correctional Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

June 7 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am District
24-Hybrid ID#9186700041
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016

June 7 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Olympia Steak House
85 Wilkinsville Road
Millington, TN 38053

June 7 @ 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
MAIA Annual Founder's Day
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

June 8 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
District 23
Zoom password 847990

June 10 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area
Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

June 11 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

June 16 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
The Way House
1203 Peabody Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

June 20 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

June 29 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Memphis Area Archives Committee
Shady Grove Presbyterian
5530 Shady Grove Road



MAIA

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

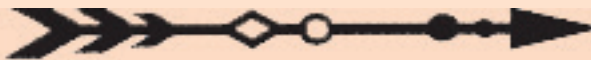
The MAIA Intergroup Representatives business meeting is held on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on June 8, 2025 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join on Zoom. Please call or email the office for the meeting passcode. (ID#835 026-08.)

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 acknowledgment 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

Brenda W. 40 yrs
Jana P. 31 yrs
Gary R. 16 yrs
Frances N. 4 yrs
Mark H. 3 yrs

EARLY BIRDS

Judy W. 43 yrs
Lee V. 24 yrs
Chuck B. 20 yrs
Bob L. 8 yrs
Bill T. 8 yrs
Lori S. 7 yrs
Rob R. 5 yrs
Battie 4 yrs
Necie N. 3 yrs
Anthony G. 3 yrs
Zach F. 3 yrs

SERIOUSLY SOBER

David C. 34 yrs
Rod A. 18 yrs

TRADITIONS

Sandra W. 7 yrs

WINCHESTER

Melanie 11 yrs
Brenda B. 33 yrs

Letting Go (Even When I Don't Want To)

When I first got sober, I wasn't interested in changing who I was. I just wanted to stop getting arrested, stop waking up sick, stop disappointing everyone. If you had told me that one day I'd be taking a good hard look at my *character*, I would've laughed in your face. I figured I had a drinking problem, not a *living* problem. But as the months passed and the obsession to drink started to lift, a different kind of discomfort settled in.

I started noticing patterns. I wasn't drinking, but I still managed to ruin relationships. I could be sharp with people, cold even. I was jealous. Controlling. Insecure but still acted like I knew everything. I had a hard time letting people be themselves. I judged people constantly. I wasn't drinking, but I was still hurting people, and myself. I didn't understand why I wasn't feeling better. I was working the program, or at least I thought I was.

Then I hit Step Six.

It's a short step, just one line: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." I had read it before, but I had skimmed right past it. It sounded optional. Philosophical. A kind of spiritual intermission between the heavier steps. But that was the problem. I treated it like a suggestion, not a turning point. The truth is, Step Six was asking me a question I didn't want to answer: *Was I actually willing to let go of the things that made me feel safe, even if they were hurting me?*

My sponsor sat me down and told me the truth. Step Six wasn't about saying the right thing in a meeting or checking off a box. It was about willingness. Real, gut-level willingness. Not to *fix* myself, but to be changed. There's a difference.

I had just done Step Five. I had shared my inventory out loud for the first time in my life, and the shame that had been sitting like a stone in my chest began to break apart. I felt lighter. But now I had to face the part of the process where I had to *change*. And I'll be honest, I didn't want to.

Some of my defects didn't even feel like defects. My sarcasm made people laugh. My pride protected me from feeling small. My control made me feel safe. My resentment made me feel powerful. Why would I give those things up?

But the more time I spent in the rooms, the more I saw what my defects were actually doing. They were building a wall between me and the people I loved. They were keeping me sick. They were keeping me lonely. And they were keeping me spiritually blocked.

I had to start praying for the willingness to be willing. That was my sponsor's phrase, and at first I rolled my eyes. But it worked. Slowly, painfully, I started to let go. Not all at once. Sometimes just in moments. I'd catch myself trying to control a situation and stop. I'd feel jealousy rise in my chest and say nothing instead of lashing out. I'd sit in discomfort instead of numbing it with rage or sarcasm. Every one of those moments felt like a small death. But something new always came after.

Peace. Relief. Even gratitude.

What I've learned about Step Six is that it's not about beating myself up for having defects. It's about being honest about which ones I still hold onto. It's about seeing how they operate in my life and being willing to loosen my grip. God doesn't yank these things out of me. That's not how it works. I have to set them down.

And I don't do it alone. I talk to my sponsor. I share at meetings. I stay close to the people who remind me of who I'm becoming, not who I used to be.

Some defects take longer to release. Some show up in new ways I don't expect. But I no longer see that as a failure. It just means I'm human. It means I have more growing to do. And that's okay. Step Six isn't about arriving. It's about preparing the soil so something better can grow.

Today, I pray for the willingness to be changed. I ask for help in letting go. And I try to meet myself with the same patience and grace that others have shown me in this program. I didn't come here to be perfect. I came here to be free.

And little by little, I am.

AA History

June 10, 1935 – *Founding date of*

Alcoholics Anonymous

Dr. Bob took his last drink and completed his final detox with Bill Wilson at his side. This date is considered AA's official founding.

June 26, 1935 – *The first AA group is born*

in Akron, Ohio

Following Dr. Bob's sobriety, a small group of alcoholics began meeting regularly in Akron—what would become known as the first AA group.

June 1944 – *First AA Prison Group formed*

The first AA group behind bars was formed at San Quentin State Prison in California. It marked the beginning of AA's long-standing outreach to incarcerated alcoholics.

June 1945 – *AA's 10th Anniversary Convention*

held in Cleveland, Ohio

This was the first-ever international AA convention. More than 2,500 people attended. Dr. Bob gave what would be his last public talk.

June 1953 – *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

published as a book

The book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" (also known as the "12 & 12") was officially released. It remains one of AA's core texts.

June 1971 – *Bill Wilson's memorial service held*

Though Bill W. passed away in January of that year, a large public memorial was held in June at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

SERVICE STORY

Cleaning up after the meeting...

I didn't really mean to volunteer. Someone just asked if I could help stack chairs one night after the meeting, and I said sure. It wasn't a big deal. I didn't have anywhere to be.

But then I just... kept doing it. I'd hang around a little while, toss out empty coffee cups, wipe down the table, check if the trash needed to go out. Nobody told me to. It just felt like something I could do. I didn't feel comfortable sharing much yet, but I could take out the trash. That felt safe.

Sometimes a couple people would stay and help. Other times it was just me and the same older guy who always makes the coffee. We didn't talk much, just little comments about the weather or the squeaky door in the back of the room. Still, it was nice. I didn't feel invisible like I used to at parties.

One time, someone I didn't know thanked me for staying to help. That kind of surprised me. It's not like I did anything huge. I just put the folding chairs back where they go. But it made me feel like I belonged.

I didn't really get what people meant by "doing service" until later. I thought it meant being in charge of something, or having a title. But for me, it started with pushing a broom. I liked that it didn't require me to be good at talking or praying or anything complicated. Just show up and clean up.

Now I do it even when no one notices. And that's fine. It helps me stay connected. It keeps me from drifting back into that old mindset where I think I don't matter. I matter when I'm part of something.

And in AA, even taking out the trash counts.

-Pete S.

WE JUST MAKE COFFEE AND TALK ABOUT GOD

There was a time I thought AA should be doing more. I'd sit in the meeting room at a local church and think, "We could start a recovery center. Or maybe raise money for people who can't afford treatment. Or partner with a halfway house." I had big ideas. I figured if AA helped me get sober, we should be doing all kinds of things to help the world.

I brought it up at a business meeting once. I had this idea that we could host a fundraiser concert to support a local detox center. I even had a name for the event and had talked to a band I knew. It sounded fun and useful. But when I brought it up, a couple of the older members just shook their heads.

One guy, who usually doesn't say much, looked right at me and said, "That's a great idea, but it's not our job."

At first, I was kind of annoyed. I didn't get it. We had the space. We had the people. Why not use it to do something good? Isn't that what we're supposed to do?

Later that week, I talked to my sponsor about it. He asked me to read a little section from the book about why AA doesn't get involved with outside causes. He said, "We stay focused on our one thing, or we risk losing what makes us work."

That stuck with me. Our one thing. I came here because I couldn't stop drinking. I didn't come here for therapy or housing or financial advice. I came because I needed help from other alcoholics who understood what it was like to live inside my brain.

And that's exactly what I got.

I started noticing that what helped me most wasn't big gestures or organized events. It was people showing up. It was someone handing me a phone number when I was too afraid to ask. It was hearing someone share about

wanting to drink at their cousin's wedding and how they didn't. It was laughing in the parking lot after a rough meeting.

The simplicity of it is what makes it work. We make coffee. We put out chairs. We share. We keep the focus on staying sober and helping the next person do the same. Anything more starts to make things complicated. And when things get complicated, people slip through the cracks.

Now when someone suggests a side project or a big plan, I listen, and then I ask, "Is this going to take away from our main purpose?" Not because I'm against doing good things. But because I don't want to forget what got me here in the first place. I don't want the next person who walks through the door to feel like they have to believe something, join something, or buy something just to stay sober.

We're not a charity. We're not a clinic. We're not a business. We're a bunch of people sitting in a circle trying not to drink today. That's enough.

It took me a while to understand that doing less doesn't mean caring less. It means trusting that the simple way works. It means letting AA be AA, and letting other places do what they do best.

We just make coffee and talk about God. Or not-God. Or whatever keeps us sober. And that's what saved my life.

-Annie H.



Concept 6: “Trusted Servants, Not Rulers”

Concept Six of Alcoholics Anonymous says:

“On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

THAT’S A MOUTHFUL. LET’S BREAK IT DOWN.

At its heart, Concept Six is about trust. In AA, we trust people to do service. And we trust them because they’ve earned it, not because they have power over anyone.

Just like in our homegroups, where we trust our secretary to open the meeting or the treasurer to handle the basket money, AA at the national level has trusted servants too. These are the members of the General Service Board, which is made up mostly of Trustees. The Trustees aren’t just figureheads—they’re the ones actually making sure the lights stay on at the General Service Office, the Big Books get printed, and the Traditions stay intact.

SO WHY HAVE BOTH THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AND THE TRUSTEES?

Think of the Conference like a town hall, where all the delegates from different areas gather once a year to talk things through, share concerns, and make recommendations about what’s best for AA as a whole. It’s a group conscience on a grand scale.

But when the Conference ends, the work isn’t done. The Trustees—most of whom have been in AA for a long time and have deep service experience—stay behind and do the work. They manage the finances, oversee AA World Services and the Grapevine, and keep things running smoothly between Conferences. The Conference gives guidance, and the Trustees carry it out with care and humility.

What’s important is that none of these people are in charge in the way the outside world thinks of authority. In AA, we don’t have bosses. We have trusted servants. That phrase—trusted servants, not rulers—is key. We choose people we trust, and we ask them to serve—not to control, not to dominate, not to make AA into something it isn’t.

Concept Six reminds us that when service is rooted in love and humility, not ego and control, it works. We don’t need rulers. We just need people willing to serve for the good of the Fellowship.

And that starts with us. Whether it’s making coffee, chairing a meeting, serving as GSR, or showing up for a sponsee—we’re all practicing Concept Six when we serve with integrity and a spirit of responsibility. That’s how AA keeps going, one trusted servant at a time.



MAY 2025
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	TOTAL		
	MAY 2025	MAY 2024 (PY)	JAN - MAY, 2025 (YTD)
Any Length Group	40.00	0.00	150.00
Ave Fenix	0.00	6.83	0.00
Bluff City Group	0.00	0.00	200.00
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	300.00
Central Gardens Group	100.00	100.00	200.00
Collierville Group	615.42	0.00	1,014.81
Downtown Nooners N/S	0.00	0.00	100.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	0.00	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	455.00	177.00	780.05
Grace in the Grove	0.00	0.00	194.47
Horn Lake	0.00	5.00	5.00
Lakeland	0.00	267.34	0.00
Men of Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.54
New Start	0.00	0.00	75.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	45.00	135.00
Pleasant Hill	0.00	0.00	569.71
Pride and Principles	0.00	0.00	258.00
Primary Purpose	0.00	50.00	0.00
Rule-62	0.00	0.00	100.00
Second Chance	50.00	0.00	250.00
Serenity	0.00	300.00	350.00
Seriously Sober	0.00	137.00	242.11
Shady Ladies	0.00	0.00	800.00
Sober Journey	100.00	0.00	363.00
Solutions Group	0.00	420.00	840.00
Sommerville Triangle	0.00	150.00	0.00
South Memphis	20.00	0.00	111.35
The Nooner	219.25	335.75	1,209.34
The Wynne Group	0.00	0.00	5.74
Traditions	50.00	100.00	200.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	0.00	3,500.00
Unity Group	154.40	129.69	486.71
WAAGL	50.00	100.00	250.00
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	\$2,154.07	\$2,423.61	\$15,838.00



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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