

MAIA

# TIPPLER

JULY 2025

- **Step 7** Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

**Tradition 7** Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

**Concept 7** The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

## CONTENTS

**Page 2.** Calendar

**Page 3.** Birthdays

**Page 4.** The 5 Dollar Burrito

**Page 5.** Tradition 7 Checklist

**Page 6.** Concept 7

**Page 7.** AA History/ Service Story

**Page 8.** Group Contributions

*“As we approach the actual taking of Step Seven, it might be well if we A.A.’s inquire once more just what our deeper objectives are. Each of us would like to live at peace with himself and with his fellows. We would like to be assured that the grace of God can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We have seen that character defects based upon shortsighted or unworthy desires are the obstacles that block our path toward these objectives. We now clearly see that we have been making unreasonable demands upon ourselves, upon others, and upon God.”*

-12x12, Page 76

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

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



# JULY 2025

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

## DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 1 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Memphis Area Correctional Committee  
Came to Believe  
2865 Walnut Grove  
Memphis, TN 38111

July 5 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am District  
24-Hybrid ID#186700041  
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church  
2855 Morning Sun Road  
Lakeland, 38016

July 5 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
District 22  
Olympia Steak House  
83 Wilkinsville Rd  
Millington, TN 38053

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

July 7 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
District 21 Committee  
Meeting  
Crosstown Concourse  
1350 Concourse Ave #1072  
Memphis, TN 38104

July 8 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Memphis Area  
Grapevine Committee  
White Station Church  
1106 Colonial Road

July 9 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
District 25  
Germantown United Methodist Church  
2324 Germantown Road  
Germantown, TN 38138

July 13 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
District 23  
Zoom password 847990

July 18 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Accessibility Committee  
Came to Believe  
2865 Walnut Grove Rd  
Memphis, TN 38111  
July 21 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
CPC/PI Committee  
Shady Grove Presbyterian  
5530 Shady Grove Rd  
Memphis, TN 38120

July 27 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
Memphis Area Archives Committee  
Shady Grove Presbyterian  
5530 Shady Grove Rd  
Memphis, TN 38120



# MAIA

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### Central Gardens

Ken N. 30 yrs  
Bill A. 25 yrs  
Gene P. 33 yrs

### Early Birds

Nanette B. 22 yrs  
Jen R. 4 yrs  
John F. 8 yrs  
Jordan G. 13 yrs  
Gena M. 3 yrs  
Patrick 18 yrs  
Harvey S. 8 yrs  
Rob H 3 yrs  
Amy S 6 yrs  
Lorrie W 6 yrs

### Seriously Sober

Don A. 34 yrs  
Ken N. 30 yrs

### SASTO

Mike S. 54 yrs

### Unity

Sherry D 33 yrs  
Ruthie M 17 yrs  
Justin C. 15 yrs  
Diana M 7 yrs  
Brittany B. 2 yrs  
Jennifer B 1 yr  
Jessica J 1 yr

### Traditions

Wayne W. 31 yrs

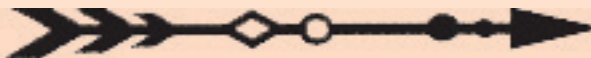
Monday/Friday: 8 am - 4 pm  
Closed daily from 1 pm - 2 pm

The MAIA Intergroup Representatives business meeting is held on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on July 13, 2024 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join on Zoom. 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 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.



# THE FIVE DOLLAR BURRITO

## A small act of honesty opened the door to a deeper kind of change

I was six months sober when I stole a burrito.

It was a gas station situation. I was hungry. I was broke. I had just left a meeting where someone shared about humility, and I nodded like I understood what that meant. Then I walked out, drove across town, and slipped a foil-wrapped breakfast burrito into my hoodie pocket like it was nothing.

I told myself it was fine. I told myself I deserved it. I told myself I'd pay the next time I got paid. And then I sat in my car and ate it like it had been handed to me by God himself. That greasy, lukewarm thing didn't taste like guilt right away. That came later.

A few days passed. Then a week. I couldn't get it out of my head. Not the burrito. The lie. The sneaky way I told myself I had changed just because I wasn't drinking. The old version of me had always believed he was different. Rules were for other people. The world owed me something. If you had lived through what I had lived through, you'd steal a few burritos too.

I brought it up to my sponsor. I expected him to say something about how it wasn't a big deal. But he just looked at me and asked, "Have you prayed about it?"

I hadn't.

He reminded me of Step Seven. "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings." I hated how that step was worded. Humbly? Who gets to decide what's humble? And what if I didn't believe in a God that removed things like burrito theft and ego and the old itch for chaos?

He told me to try it anyway.

So I prayed. Awkwardly. I said, "If You're real, and if You care, take this thing out of me that thinks it's okay to act like I'm the exception. I don't want to be that guy anymore."

Nothing magical happened. But the next day I went back to the gas station. I told the cashier what I did. He looked at me like I had two heads. I handed him a five-dollar bill and walked out before he could say much.

That wasn't the end of my character defects. I didn't suddenly become a monk. But something cracked open. I started to see how being sober didn't mean I was free from the mess inside me. It just meant I could start cleaning it up.

Now when I catch myself doing that old dance, twisting the truth, slipping into selfishness, thinking I'm owed something, I try to pause. I try to ask for help. I try to remember that humility isn't about groveling. It's about being honest about what's still broken.

Step Seven is still one of the weirdest steps for me. It feels too simple. Ask. Let go. Trust. But it works. Not all at once. Sometimes in little, almost invisible ways. Like paying for a burrito you already ate. Or telling the truth when lying would be easier. Or looking in the mirror and not flinching.

I haven't stolen anything since. Not even a grape at the grocery store. That's not a brag. That's grace. And I didn't earn it. But I keep asking for it. And I try not to forget where I came from, or what I used to believe I deserved.

-Paul S.



# Tradition Seven Checklist

*“Every AA Group Ought to Be Fully Self-Supporting, Declining Outside Contributions”*

We hear it read in almost every meeting: “Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” Most of us nod along, toss a dollar or two in the basket, and move on. But Tradition Seven is more than just about money. It's about ownership, responsibility, and freedom.

When AA pays its own way, it stays independent. We don't rely on outside funding, and we don't answer to outside influences. We're free to carry the message of recovery in a way that's honest and true to our experience. That freedom comes with a cost: we support it ourselves.

Here's a checklist to help your group—or yourself—reflect on how Tradition Seven is being lived out. Use it as a gentle inventory, not a scorecard.

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## Tradition Seven Group Checklist

### 1. Does our group pay rent and expenses without outside help?

If the coffee is free because someone's mom buys it, or the church waives rent out of kindness, it might be time to re-evaluate. AA survives when we take ownership of our own needs.

### 2. Do we contribute regularly to AA service entities (Central Office, Area, District, and GSO)?

After covering group expenses, does the group send money to support AA beyond the walls of the meeting? A few dollars can go a long way in helping carry the message to hospitals, jails, and isolated alcoholics.

### 3. Do we know where our group money goes?

Is there a treasurer's report at your business meeting? Are contributions being used with care and transparency? Supporting ourselves includes staying informed.

### 4. Do we avoid fundraising events that ask non-AA members for money?

Bake sales, raffles, or other fundraisers involving the

general public can get tricky. Tradition Seven asks us to be cautious about accepting help from anyone outside the Fellowship.

### 5. Does our group literature table offer free materials only to newcomers and those in need?

Charging for literature is okay, but Tradition Seven reminds us not to turn AA into a business. We provide help freely while keeping the lights on responsibly.

### 6. Are we mindful of not accepting excessive donations from individual members?

AA has limits on how much any one person can contribute in a year (currently \$5,000 to GSO). That's because we believe no single member should have outsized influence just because they have more money.

### 7. Do we support our Central Office and know what services it provides?

A lot of groups forget the importance of the local intergroup or Central Office. These offices handle phones, meeting directories, events, and more. Supporting them helps AA thrive in our community.

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## Tradition Seven Personal Checklist

### 1. Do I contribute to my home group when I can?

Even a dollar makes a difference. If you're short on cash, no shame. But when you can give, consider it part of your sobriety in action.

### 2. Do I see AA as something I receive from—or something I'm part of?

Self-support is more than money. It's about showing up, sharing, doing service, and remembering that we are all AA.

### 3. Do I live by the principle of self-support outside the rooms?

Tradition Seven can be a guide for life. Am I relying on others to clean up my messes? Or am I learning to stand on my own feet, with grace and gratitude?

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## Final Thoughts

Tradition Seven is a quiet tradition. It doesn't get as much attention as some of the flashier ones. But it's the engine under the hood. It helps us stay free—free to be of service, free to carry the message, free from outside pressure. And like so much in AA, it starts small.

One group, putting a few dollars in the basket. One member, showing up and doing the next right thing. It all adds up. Let's keep AA strong. Let's keep it ours.

# Concept 7

## Self-Support Means Self-Respect

### Concept Seven of Alcoholics Anonymous says:

*“The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the AA purse for final effectiveness.”*

That might sound complicated, but here’s the heart of it: AA runs on trust and support, not control and money from outside sources.

AA has two key pieces that keep it going on a larger level. One is the General Service Board, which is a legal nonprofit that manages AA’s world services—things like publishing literature, translating the Big Book, maintaining the aa.org website, and supporting groups in remote or underserved areas. The other piece is the General Service Conference, which is a gathering of AA members who represent the fellowship and help guide decisions.

Concept Seven says that the legal power sits with the trustees (the board), but the moral and spiritual authority comes from the fellowship. The Conference gives direction, and the Board carries out that direction. But here’s the key: none of this works without our support—especially our financial support.

This is why AA doesn’t take outside donations. No money from the government. No grants. No corporate sponsors. We pay our own way. That includes contributions from groups, members, districts, and areas.

Why? Because when we support ourselves, we protect our independence. We don’t have to answer to anyone who doesn’t understand our mission. We don’t have to adjust our message to please outsiders. We are free to stick to our primary purpose: to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

It’s the same idea that keeps the basket going around at your homegroup. The money we give supports rent, coffee, literature, and chips. We don’t force anyone to pay, but we encourage those who can to contribute. Giving back is a way of showing gratitude. It also helps us take responsibility for the thing that saved our lives.

Concept Seven reminds us that this same principle applies at all levels of AA. When the groups support the district, the area, and the General Service Office, the message can be carried farther—to prisons, to remote communities, to alcoholics in other languages and countries.

In the end, this Concept is about trust. We trust each other to give freely. We trust our trusted servants to spend wisely. We trust that we don’t need to chase power or outside money to do something meaningful.

When we put a dollar in the basket or send a check to GSO, we’re not just paying for lights or pamphlets. We’re taking part in something bigger than ourselves. We’re helping AA remain free, focused, and self-supporting for the next person who walks through the door.

Self-support means we believe in what we’re doing. And that kind of belief is powerful. It keeps the doors open. It keeps the message strong. And it keeps us all connected, one day and one dollar at a time.



**July 2, 1960 - Bill W. speaks at the Yale Summer School of Alcohol Studies**

This was one of Bill’s most notable talks outside the Fellowship. He emphasized AA’s spiritual principles and the importance of staying clear of outside controversies.

**July 3, 1971 - Bill Wilson dies at age 75**

AA’s co-founder passed away after decades of sobriety. His legacy continues to guide the program. Many groups held special memorial meetings throughout July in his honor.

**July 4, 1935 (unofficial) - Dr. Bob takes his last drink**

Though the exact date is debated, it’s widely accepted that around July 4th, Dr. Bob had his final drink—a beer to steady his hands before surgery. This is considered the practical founding of his sobriety and thus AA’s co-birth.

**July 1950 - First International AA Convention, Cleveland, OH**

Held in early July, this convention brought thousands together. It was here that the Twelve Traditions were formally adopted by the Fellowship, solidifying AA’s guiding principles.

**July 1941 - The “St. Louis Group” officially forms**

One of the first Midwest AA groups, its formation marked the growth of AA into new regions. Local expansion like this helped AA evolve from a small movement into a national Fellowship.

# SERVICE STORY

## Chairing for the first time...

I got asked to chair a meeting on a Thursday night. I didn’t really want to do it. I said yes because I didn’t know how to say no without sounding rude.

I thought I’d have to give a speech or say something deep. I got nervous about it for days. I even googled “how to chair an AA meeting” like it was a school assignment.

When I showed up, I was sweating. I had written out a whole intro in my notebook and practiced saying it in my car before I went in. It felt dumb, but I didn’t want to mess up.

Turns out, it wasn’t that big of a deal. I just read the script off the table. Said what group we were. Asked if there were any announcements. Then I picked a topic and opened the floor.

Afterward, a couple people said “good job.” Someone else told me I did fine. One guy thanked me for bringing up a topic he needed to hear about. I didn’t even remember what I said.

I’ve chaired a few times since then. It still makes me a little nervous, but I kind of like it now. It helps me feel like I’m part of the group instead of just sitting on the edge watching.

I’m starting to get it. Service stuff isn’t about being perfect or in charge. It’s just helping keep the lights on so other people can sit down and maybe hear something that helps them.

That’s what someone did for me. Now I get to do it too.

**JUNE 2025  
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS**

	TOTAL		
	JUN 2025	JUN 2024 (PY)	JAN - JUN, 2025 (YTD)
Any Length Group	20.00	75.00	170.00
Bluff City Group	28.05	0.96	228.05
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	300.00
Central Gardens Group	100.00	0.00	300.00
Collierville Group	0.00	0.00	1,014.81
Covington	0.00	25.00	0.00
Downtown Nooners N/S	0.00	0.00	100.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	100.00	603.11
Earlybird	900.00	1,200.00	1,380.00
Friends of Bill W	0.00	0.00	200.00
Germantown Happy	1,475.00	0.00	2,975.00
Germantown Noon	0.00	289.00	780.05
Grace in the Grove	0.00	248.56	194.47
Horn Lake	0.00	0.00	5.00
ICU-	450.00	0.00	450.00
Love and Tolerance	0.00	50.00	0.00
Men of Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.54
New Start	0.00	0.00	75.00
Oakland Always Open	135.00	0.00	135.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	0.00	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
Queer Bees and Wanna Bes	216.00	0.00	216.00
Rule-62	0.00	0.00	100.00
Second Chance	50.00	50.00	300.00
Serenity	0.00	0.00	350.00
Seriously Sober	0.00	11.77	242.11
Shady Ladies	300.00	600.00	1,100.00
Sober Journey	0.00	0.00	363.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
South Memphis	20.00	0.00	131.35
Stone Carolyn	0.00	35.00	0.00
The Nooner	0.00	227.00	1,209.34
The Wynne Group	0.00	0.00	5.74
Traditions	50.00	50.00	250.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	300.00	3,800.00
Unity Group	78.83	0.00	565.54
WAAGL	50.00	100.00	300.00
West Memphis Group	30.62	0.00	150.62
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	0.00	50.00
Winchester	0.00	0.00	194.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,203.50</b>	<b>\$3,412.29</b>	<b>\$20,041.50</b>

## OVERHEARD IN A MEETING...

- "I came to AA to stop drinking. I stayed to start living."
- "If nothing changes, nothing changes."
- "My mind is like a bad neighborhood—I try not to go there alone."
- "You don't have to believe in God, but it helps to believe in 'something' bigger than your ego."
- "I used to drink at people. Now I pray for them."
- "AA works just fine without my opinions on it."
- "We don't graduate from this program. We just keep showing up."
- "The steps are suggestions the same way a parachute is a suggestion when you jump out of a plane."
- "I never had just one drink. I had one 'right after another.'"

"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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