

MAIA

TIPPLER

AUGUST 2025

Step 8 Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Tradition 8 Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics.

Concept 8 The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

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"Now we need more action, without which we find that "Faith without works is dead." Let's look at Steps Eight and Nine. We have a list of all persons we have harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory. We subjected ourselves to a drastic self-appraisal."

-Big Book, pg 76

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

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



AUGUST 2025

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

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

August 2 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am
District 24-Hybrid ID#86700041
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016

August 2 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Olympia Steak House
85 Wilkinsville Rd.
Millington, TN 38053

August 4 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment
Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

August 4 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 Committee
Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

August 5 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Area Correctional Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

August 10 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
District 23
Zoom password 847990

August 12 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area
Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

August 13 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

August 15 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

August 18 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
The Way House
1203 Peabody Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

August 31 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Memphis Area Archives Committee
Shady Grove Presbyterian Church
5530 Shady Grove Rd.



MAIA

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Monday/Friday: 8 am - 4 pm Tuesday
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 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.

If you are looking for a new location for meeting space you may contact your Intergroup office for details

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.

Central Gardens

Joe B. 36 yrs
Janet McD. 35 yrs
Jack R. 21 yrs
Lewis S. 10 yrs

Downtown Nooners

Floyd C. 32 yrs

Hollywood

Ann S. 19 yrs

Out of Towners Fellowship

Roy H. 53 yrs
David G. 18 yrs
Neil M. 13 yrs
Clyde M. 12 yrs
Terry M. 7 yrs

Seriously Sober

Tony G. 30 yrs
Fred Be. 25 yrs
Fred Bo. 23 yrs

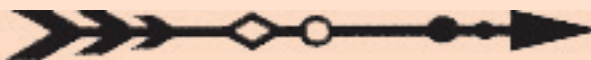
Traditions

Carole M. 28 yrs

SOS

Anthony R. 9 yrs

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 VIII:

Service is a Two-Way Street

“The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight, and they delegate specific authority to individual corporate service boards and staff.”

That’s the official version of Concept Eight, but what does it really mean to us as AA members? Let’s break it down in plain language.

AA is run by volunteers: members like you and me. But there are also people who are paid to work full-time for Alcoholics Anonymous. Think about it. Someone has to answer the phones at the General Service Office in New York. Someone has to print and ship literature. Someone has to maintain the aa.org website. These are people doing real jobs that help AA carry the message around the world.

Concept Eight explains how this all works. The **trustees**, who are elected to serve on the **General Service Board**, are volunteers. They make the big-picture decisions about finances, literature, public information, and overall policy. But they are not doing the day-to-day work. Instead, they **delegate** those responsibilities to two main bodies: the **AA World Services Board** and the **AA Grapevine Board**. These boards help manage the employees and operations that keep AA running behind the scenes.

This concept shows us something important: **trusted servants and paid workers both have a place in AA’s service structure**. We need both to carry the message effectively.

Here’s an example. Let’s say your group decides to put on a workshop. You might come up with ideas and handle the planning. But maybe you rent a space and pay someone to clean up afterward. Your group is still in charge, but you’re trusting someone

else to help carry out the work. That’s delegation. That’s Concept Eight.

Sometimes members are uncomfortable with the idea that AA has paid employees. We are a spiritual fellowship, not a business. But Concept Eight helps us remember that spiritual service and practical work can go hand in hand. **Our paid workers are not running AA. They’re serving AA.** And they’re guided by the trusted servants we elect to oversee them.

At the same time, this Concept reminds the trustees and service boards that they can’t do everything themselves. They have to trust others to do their jobs. That’s what makes AA work on a larger scale. It’s a partnership.

So what can we take away from Concept Eight at the group level?

Service means trusting others. Whether it’s letting the secretary handle the readings or trusting the treasurer to pay rent, we learn to delegate and let go.

Not all service has to be unpaid. Sometimes it’s okay to pay for help, as long as the spiritual mission stays front and center.

Good service is organized service. AA isn’t a free-for-all. We have a structure that keeps things running smoothly so we can stay focused on recovery.

Concept Eight reminds us that **AA works because people show up to serve**, whether they are volunteers answering phones at Central Office or staff members shipping Big Books to newcomers. Behind every pamphlet, website, and hotline, there is someone doing the work. And someone trusting them to do it.

That’s what service looks like in action. We plan together. We delegate. We trust. And together, we help the next alcoholic find the way home.

DELTA KING

By: DON C. | Kosciusko, Miss.

The boy who could get anything he wanted ends up broke, alone and in prison. THE MISSISSIPPI Delta where I grew up is a place known for lavish lifestyles, farming, fun and parties. I was born in 1957 to parents who I never knew; I was adopted by a couple who always gave me anything I wanted or needed. I learned at an early age how to manipulate my way into getting anything I wanted, including fixes to change the way I felt.

I started getting headaches after getting kicked in the head by my dad's big red Tennessee Walking Horse when I was 6. Having a headache was a reason to get a shot of a narcotic painkiller, which led me to the euphoria that I craved. Soon I began drinking with a cousin, who is now dead from this disease. The tractor drivers who worked on the farm would buy me beer, wine or whiskey. I hid it in various places around the shop and on the farm and was high on alcohol almost every day. Eventually, I was able to get out of the house with some older cousins or their friends and party on the weekends.

I thought I had fooled my parents into thinking I was their good little boy who could do no wrong. I used any excuse, and I found many, to get my way, to use and drink. I would put a guilt trip on anyone, especially my parents, to obtain what I wanted, be it alcohol, money or other things. My troubles escalated fast as I began to experiment with drugs, but alcohol always got me the feeling I liked best. It was cheaper, too.

I guess I thought I might have a problem as personal relationships fell apart and legal problems began, with DUI and bad check charges, wrecks and divorces. My simple, fun life was not fun anymore and I began to suffer consequences that I believed I shouldn't have to go through because I was from an elite Mississippi Delta farming

family who would not allow this kind of exposure. They had begun to get some help through family programs and Al-Anon. By now I had been to numerous treatments for addiction to alcohol and drugs but I was only running from the law, keeping the family on my good side or saving a marriage. None of it ever worked.

I went continuously downhill, stealing, lying and cheating, until they asked me to leave the family business. I had ruined their name in the community, the church and the Delta. They were at a point where they had to save themselves from me and let me suffer the consequences. I began several businesses based on my family's good name and credit, and I was very successful for a while, but I was never willing to surrender to my disease. The businesses failed and I fell further off the ladder of doom into the woes of addiction.

After my first prison term of five years, I promised myself and my family I had learned my lesson. That worked for about nine months, then I began drinking again and before long I was headed back to prison. This time I faced charges of murder, aggravated assault and various other crimes. I didn't kill the man, but I was with the guy who did, witnessed him doing it, and then left the scene. The charges were reduced and I did two years. I found AA and God in prison this time. I knew I had had enough. I got out, got a fresh start, was very successful for six-and-a-half years, remarried, had a new baby boy, built an empire, but I never darkened the doors of AA upon my release. You can guess what happened. The little empire I had built fell. It came tumbling down and took me with it. I lost it all again--my new wife, business, money, home, new baby--everything. I had left God and AA out and I took all the glory.

That was the beginning of a new chance. I got in touch with AA, started going to meetings, got involved and honestly began to work the Steps. Life began to take a turn for the better for me. I am two years sober today, longer than I have ever been sober. I have a smile on my face, I pray every day, I live very simply and I work hard. I don't have a new empire and I'm not a millionaire, but I have my family back and I have a relationship with both my sons. I actually get along with people. Other AAs trust me to get speakers to come to our regular meetings. I work the Steps of AA in all areas of my life. Things are better than I ever expected they would be, after all I have been through.

-Don C.

Tradition Eight

Serving, Not Selling – What Keeps Us Free

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

— Tradition Eight (Short Form)

In the early days of AA, when the need for help far outweighed the number of sober alcoholics able to give it, a concern arose: How do we respond to growing demand without losing our spiritual footing?

Tradition Eight is AA’s answer.

At its heart, this Tradition protects one of our most radical ideas: that one alcoholic helping another, freely, without charge or agenda, is the foundation of our recovery. We don’t get paid to be sponsors. No one charges admission to an AA meeting. And a desire to stop drinking is still the only requirement for membership.

But Tradition Eight also acknowledges a practical truth. There are legitimate needs that arise as our Fellowship grows. We need people to answer phones at intergroup/central offices, print meeting schedules, manage literature distribution, maintain websites, and keep the lights on. These services, while necessary, are not the Twelfth Step. They’re not the same as carrying the message one-on-one. So AA makes a distinction: the spiritual work remains strictly nonprofessional.

But we can hire people to take care of the clerical work, the janitorial work, and the administrative tasks that support our primary purpose.

That distinction matters. It keeps us from turning recovery into a business. Imagine if sponsorship came with a price tag. Imagine if leading a meeting earned you a paycheck. Suddenly the motives shift. Instead of service, it becomes self-promotion. Instead of sharing honestly, we might say what’s profitable. That’s not AA.

At the same time, Tradition Eight keeps us from over-romanticizing volunteerism. Just because someone answers the phone at Intergroup doesn’t mean they’re pretending to be a sponsor. They’re performing a necessary job, often for modest pay, so the rest of us can do our work freely.

A member once joked that AA runs on “volunteers and coffee.” That may be true, but it also runs on humility. And humility is what Tradition Eight reminds us of: we are not professionals in the business of fixing others. We’re alcoholics who help each other because we must.

SIDEBAR: Service vs. Employment — What’s the Difference?

- **Twelfth Step Work:** Sponsorship, speaking at meetings, reaching out to newcomers—this is service, and we do it freely.
- **Special Workers:** Office staff, bookkeepers, web admins—these are paid roles that support AA but are not Twelfth Step work.
- **Why It Matters:** The line keeps our message pure. It keeps us from becoming something we’re not.

As AA grows in Memphis and beyond, we may see more workers in service positions. That’s okay. It’s even necessary. But let’s not forget what truly holds us together: the unpaid, heartfelt connection between one drunk and another. That’s the one thing we must never professionalize. That’s what makes AA different.



AUGUST 3, 1954

AA Grapevine publishes “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” - This special edition made the Traditions more accessible with easy-to-understand illustrations and became a staple in group literature.

AUGUST 8, 1879

Dr. Bob Smith is born (in St. Johnsbury, Vermont)
Dr. Bob, co-founder of AA, would go on to meet Bill Wilson in 1935 and help lay the foundation for the program that changed millions of lives.

AUGUST 16, 1939

Clarence S. starts Cleveland's first AA meeting
Clarence S. took the message of AA from Akron to Cleveland, where the first “group” separate from Akron began meeting. Cleveland quickly became a hub for AA’s early growth.

AUGUST 1941

Jack Alexander’s Saturday Evening Post article leads to widespread growth - Though the article was published in March, many of the hundreds of letters and inquiries reached AA offices in August, prompting urgent discussions about infrastructure and follow-up.

AUGUST 1946

The “Twelve Traditions” begin circulating for group feedback - Though not formally adopted until 1950, early drafts of the Traditions were sent to groups around this time, and August saw some of the earliest group responses.

AUGUST 1950

The First International AA Convention ends in Cleveland - The convention (July 28–30) culminated in early August with the adoption of the Twelve Traditions and the symbolic “passing of the torch” from the founding members to the Fellowship.

SERVICE STORY

“Just a Coffee Maker”

When I was new, I thought service meant speaking at a podium. I thought it meant doing big things: leading, fixing, impressing people. But my sponsor told me to show up early and make coffee.

That felt like a letdown.

I didn’t know how to make coffee for 30 people. I didn’t even drink coffee. The first week, I forgot to plug in the pot. The next week, I made decaf instead of regular. People were kind about it, but I felt like a failure.

Still, I kept showing up. Week after week. I started learning people’s names. I noticed who came early and who stayed late. I watched how old-timers carried themselves. I started to feel like part of something.

Then one night, a guy showed up, shaky, eyes down. He poured himself a cup of coffee, sat in the back, and listened. After the meeting, he came up to me and said, “Thanks for the coffee. I almost didn’t come.”

It hit me right then. Service isn’t about the job. It’s about showing up. It’s about giving back what was freely given to me. Today, I still make coffee. I also chair meetings and sponsor guys. But no matter what I do, I try to remember: I’m just a coffee maker. And that’s more than enough.

**GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS
JULY 2025**

	TOTAL		
	JUL 2025	JUL 2024 (PY)	JAN - JUL, 2025 (YTD)
Any Length Group	20.00	0.93	190.00
Bluff City Group	0.00	200.00	228.05
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	300.00
Central Gardens Group	0.00	50.00	300.00
Collierville Group	891.61	758.92	1,906.42
Covington	0.00	25.00	0.00
Downtown Nooners N/S	0.00	0.00	100.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	0.80	603.11
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	1,380.00
Friends of Bill W	0.00	0.00	200.00
Germantown Happy	0.00	0.00	2,975.00
Germantown Noon	0.00	242.25	780.05
Grace in the Grove	0.00	0.00	194.47
Horn Lake	0.00	10.00	5.00
ICU-	0.00	0.00	450.00
Men of Recovery	0.00	0.07	0.54
New Start	100.00	0.00	175.00
Oakland Always Open	50.00	0.00	185.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	0.00	135.00
Pleasant Hill	309.33	315.07	879.04
Pride and Principles	0.00	0.00	258.00
Queer Bees and Wanna Bes	0.00	0.00	216.00
Rule-62	0.00	0.00	100.00
S.O.S.	100.00	0.00	100.00
Second Chance	0.00	50.00	300.00
Serenity	0.00	0.00	350.00
Seriously Sober	1,051.00	0.00	1,293.11
Shady Ladies	300.00	0.00	1,400.00
Sober Journey	0.00	202.00	363.00
Solutions Group	0.00	420.00	840.00
South Memphis	20.00	0.00	151.35
The Nooner	476.25	160.00	1,685.59
The Wynne Group	0.00	0.00	5.74
Three Legged Stool	0.00	250.00	0.00
Traditions	50.00	50.00	300.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	300.00	4,100.00
Unity Group	0.00	370.38	565.54
WAAGL	75.00	100.00	375.00
West Memphis Group	0.00	200.00	150.62
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	0.00	50.00
Winchester	0.00	0.00	194.06
TOTAL	\$3,743.19	\$3,705.42	\$23,784.69

OVERHEARD IN A MEETING...

“Before AA, I was running on self-will. Turns out, I’m a terrible driver.”

“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 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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*If you are looking for a new location for meeting space
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