

The DIALOG

A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION (est. 1947)

Dallas Central Office | 6162 E. Mockingbird Ln, Suite 213, Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214.887.6699 | www.aadallas.org | office@aadallas.org

Welcome to the DIALOG – your newsletter for the Dallas Intergroup Association

Why is the 7th Tradition important?

By a Cornerstone Representative

A.A.'s 7th tradition states that "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions". This idea goes along with AA's 12th Step of carrying the message to other alcoholics. How these go hand in hand is up to each individual group's discretion and ultimately each A.A. individual member.

Members assure that group expenses are paid by putting money into the basket passed at each meeting.

This makes it possible for each group to take care of basic expenses like rent, electricity, literature, chips, newcomer lists/packets and items needed at the group site. After meeting these basic group expenses; the group needs to have a "prudent reserve".



The prudent reserve is the money that each group needs in order to be able to fund any unexpected expenses without having to solicit outside donations. Many groups also have 2-3 months basic expenses in their prudent reserve as well.

Once this is safely in the bank then many groups participate by supporting the intergroup office, area and district general service committee plus the General Service Office (G.S.O.).

What are all these associations?

- The local district – communicates directly with the groups, and makes up the district group conscience for the area assemblies. The local district serves as a link between the area delegates and the G.S.R. (General Service Representative).
- The area committee – coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area, sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference, holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship, and provides information to all levels of service.
- The local intergroup or central office – provides phone service for 12th Step calls and other inquiries, coordination of group activities, A.A. literature sales, institution work, public information and cooperation with the professional community activities.
- A.A.'s General Service Office – functions as a store-house of A.A. information, communicates with members and groups in the U.S. and Canada, and sometimes around the world. They also publish A.A. literature and supply information and experience to professionals and others interested in A.A.

Continued Next Page

The DIALOG

A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION (est. 1947)

Dallas Central Office | 6162 E. Mockingbird Ln, Suite 213, Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214.887.6699 | www.aadallas.org | office@aadallas.org

Welcome to the DIALOG – your newsletter for the Dallas Intergroup Association

Many people ask how do money and spirituality mix?

A.A. has always had expenses – just like a non-profit or business does. In the early days of A.A. Bill W. (our founder) and some of the early members felt the only way to survive was to solicit financial support from philanthropic institutions or individuals outside of A.A. These “high rollers” could supply the funds the Fellowship would need to carry out the vital 12th Step work. However, one potential A.A. patron said “I am afraid that money will spoil this thing”. John D. Rockefeller Jr. still endorsed the work of the Fellowship.

But this did mark a turning point in A.A. history as members realized the wisdom of his words and remembered the old cliché,



Step 7 - Our Shortcomings

By Baxter B.

I was asked to contribute a few thoughts on step 7: “Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.” Although this particular step does not get much discussion in our basic text, it is one upon which I have meditated for years. What does it mean and how do we do it?

The description in Chapter 6 is pretty straightforward. In fact, that is precisely how I originally approached this step. I did my 5th step with

“Whoever pays the piper calls the tune” and the seed of the 7th Tradition took root.

Yes, each A.A. group will have expenses but we must all remember that “self-support” begins with me, because I am part of us- the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracle of A.A.” (A.A. Literature pamphlet *Self – Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix*).

*** To each individual who is a member of Alcoholic Anonymous – it is your responsibility to support your group. In addition, you can choose to support the local, the area, and/or the G.S.O. as well. Your contributions need to be between you and your higher power. I like to remember where I would be if it were not for this organization – Alcoholics Anonymous.*

my sponsor. I went home and considered the work I had done for an hour and then asked myself if I was really ready to move on. The experience of the 4th and 5th steps had really moved the needle for me as it pertains to my own selfishness and the troubles in my life being basically the result of my self directed actions. I had started to come to believe that “any life run on self will could hardly be a success.” I could see the damage my character defects had caused and I did want God to remove them. Accordingly, I did just what the book describes. I got on my knees and I prayed the 7th step prayer. I meant every

word. However, what often happens to me when I pray happened that day. The same guy that got down on his knees got back up. For whatever reason, God did not find it expedient to remove all my character defects on that day. As near as I can tell, he didn't remove any of them that day.

That was it for me, for a long time. I had knelt humbly before our heavenly father and asked him to do his thing. The book says *"We have then completed Step Seven."* I thought I had done all that was necessary. I was wrong. Step 6 says we were *entirely* ready to have God remove all our defects of character. Entirely ready is a whole lot of ready. I believe I was entirely ready the day I finished my 5th step. But as the humbling experience of admitting my faults to another person faded into distant memory, my defects lingered. They are, after all, very comfortable for me. They are the tools I used to navigate a painful and scary world. After some weeks and months, it became clear that I was no longer ready to have my defects removed, if I ever had been. They were my go-to impulses. The risk of sacrificing them seemed too great, the vulnerability too high a price.

For me, I had to do my best to live by self-propulsion without alcohol. It was too easy to blame my prior failures on drinking and its accompanying circumstances. Now that I am not drinking, things will be better, or so I told myself. Over the next two years I did my best to wrest happiness and satisfaction from the world through good management. I achieved good management. I achieved material success. However, I found neither happiness nor satisfaction. Ultimately, in sober despair, I had to admit to myself that I was a real alcoholic. I had to come to understand, at a gut level, that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success. I had to go back to God, with true humility, and ask him to remove the parts of me that I had already identified as defects. But humility requires a price. God can make the plants grow, but I have to till the soil. The tilled soil of character building is a willingness to do what I

know to be right even when it is not what I want to do. They say *"fake it until you make it"*. For me this means that when I am asked a difficult question and my impulse is to tell a plausible lie, that I must make a choice. My character defect tells me to lie, but I still must make the choice. I am at the crossroads. Will I tell the lie or tell the truth? Even if I tell the truth, I am dishonest, because my impulse is to lie. Dishonesty is my character defect. But I can still choose to tell the truth and when I do, I till the soil. When someone asks me to do something they need me to do, that I don't want to do, I am being selfish. But I still have a choice. If I do what I don't want to do, in service to you, I am still selfish, that is my defect. However, when I do it, I till the soil.

I can only approach God with a humble spirit and a contrite heart if I am willing to do the legwork of character development. If I am willing to till the soil, I can kneel before my creator and ask him to do the miraculous, to remove the impulse to lie, to remove the need to serve myself, to develop a love of serving my fellows. Then, when you ask me a hard question and I think not about my response but just answer your question, I will be honest. We you ask me to help and my only thought is when and where do I need to be, I am a servant. I can't transform myself in this way, only God can do that. When I come to God with a spirit of humility ready to do whatever it takes to become the man God wants me to be, then I have tilled the soil and can expect miracles when I ask God for his transforming power.



Get in the Middle...

...of AA. Don't just check out the following service opportunities

Get into Action!

HELP set up the **Intergroup Anniversary or the Chili Cook-off** -- Email Todd M at events@aadallas.org or call the Intergroup Office at 214-887-6699. *All sobriety levels and skills welcome!*

JOIN the **Nightwatch** Committee or join Nightwatch to take after-hours calls from Intergroup -- email Tom M. at nightwatch@aadallas.org or call 214-887-6699. *Requires 1 year sobriety / must have worked 12 steps.*

MAN a table at a **Health or Education Fair** -- email cpcpi@aadallas.org.


SPEAK at **area groups** -- call the Intergroup office. *Requires 1 year sobriety / must have worked 12 steps.*


TAKE a meeting to **Low Sterrett Jail or Texas prisons** – email Tad B. at corrections@aadallas.org. *Requires 1 year sobriety.*


TAKE a Meeting to a **Treatment Center** - email Kim M at treatment@aadallas.org.


WORK in the **Intergroup Office** - Call the Intergroup Office from 10a – 5p (M-F).


Upcoming Events

 **Dallas Intergroup Rep Meeting**
Every 2nd Thurs @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Currently on ZOOM
McIver Chapel at Wilshire Baptist Church
4316 Abrams Rd
Dallas, TX 75214

 **Carrying The Message in the Time of COVID: Group Considerations & Concerns**
September 27 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Online Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94127724691>
Meeting ID: 94127724691 Passcode: 602837 By phone:
346-248-7799

 **Cooperation with the Professional Community for Members of the Clergy**
September 29 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Online Zoom
Meeting ID: 587 819 2272
Password: 54District

 **Clean Air Group's 35th Anniversary- Virtual**
October 3 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Online Zoom
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4229943881>
Zoom Password: Text Margaret M (214-794-9355) or Mike L. (214-235-4448) or Jack L. (214-477-8837).

 **Carrollton Group 39th Anniversary Celebration -Virtual Event**
October 11 @ 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Online Zoom
Meeting ID: 846 5140 0541 Password: Carr1234

CALLING ALL WRITERS...

- Send us your EXPERIENCES of Unity, Recovery, and Service
- Send us your HOME GROUP HISTORY
- Tell us about EVENTS coming up at your HOME GROUP
- Email DIALog@aadallas.org

Current Intergroup Board of Trustees (listed by service committee)

Board Chair – Matt J	chair@aadallas.org
Vice Chair – Tom M	vicechair@aadallas.org
Treasurer – Jim C	treasurer@aadallas.org
Secretary – Kim B	secretary@aadallas.org
Jails/Judicials – Tad B	corrections@aadallas.org
CPC/PI – Wayne J	cpcpi@aadallas.org
NightWatch – Tom M	nightwatch@aadallas.org
Special Events – Todd M	events@aadallas.org
Treatment – Kim M	treatment@aadallas.org
Newsletter – Sherry Y	dialog@aadallas.org

If you have a **GROUP ANNIVERSARY** coming up **PLEASE** contact the **DALLAS Intergroup** at DIALog@aadallas.org so we can feature it on aadallas.org AND feature your group history in an upcoming newsletter.