

# The Paper III

## AA Spoken Here

By 1950, this one big question remained unanswered: Could we communicate overseas? Could AA transcend the barriers of race, language, religion, culture, and wars? What about the Norwegians, the Swedes, the Danes, and the Finns? What about the Dutch, the Germans, the French, the English, the Scots, and the Israelis? How about the Africans, the Boers, the Aussies, the Latins, the Japanese, the Hindus, and the Mohammedans?

So Lois and I wondered a lot as we headed for Europe and Britain to see for ourselves that year. The moment we alighted in Norway, we knew that AA could and would go everywhere. We understood not one word of Norwegian.

Scenes and customs alike were new and strange to us. Yet there was a marvelous

communication from the first moment. There was an incredible sensation of oneness, of being completely at home.

The Norwegians were our people. Norway was our country, too. They felt the same way about us. It shone in their faces.

As we journeyed from land to land, we had the same magnificent adventure in kinship over and over again. In Britain, we met with the most wonderful love and understanding. In Ireland, we were at one with the Irish. Everywhere, everywhere, it was the same. This was something much greater than people cordially meeting people. This was no merely interesting comparison of mutual experiences and aspirations.

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This was far more; this was the communication of heart to heart in wonder, in joy, and in an everlasting gratitude. Lois and I then knew that AA could circle the globe--and it has.  
*Bill W.*

The Paper III is published monthly by Indianapolis Intergroup with help from area AA members. Please send submissions, comments and questions to The Paper III via e-mail at [paper3indy@hotmail.com](mailto:paper3indy@hotmail.com) or via snail mail to Indianapolis Intergroup, 1915 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 6, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Indianapolis Intergroup or AA as a whole, and publication does not imply endorsement by AA at any level. The names Alcoholics Anonymous and AA are registered trademarks of AA. Once printed, all original material becomes the property of Indianapolis Intergroup, Inc., but the author or any other publication may use any material with attribution.

## Gratitude...It's the Only Way to Go for this Alcoholic

I've been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. It's my saving grace, especially when life happens and anger sets in. Right behind anger will likely be resentment, which I cannot indulge. Resentment I know is my biggest offender. My solution? Get into gratitude.

When I think back to my early days in sobriety, I didn't think I had very much to be grateful for. I lost nearly everything, including my life. By a sheer miracle I was given a second chance. I remember feeling so hopeless as I stumbled through step one. My sponsor frequently suggested I keep a gratitude journal. I would ask her "what on earth do I have to be grateful for?" She would gently remind me that I was sober, and that my Higher Power was with me and had granted me another day. It gradually dawned on me that I had quite a bit to write about in my journal.

As years passed, and I learned to apply the twelve steps to my daily life, I too applied gratitude.

I shared today at my noon meeting about how important it is for me to look for the positive in every negative situation. I have been going through some personal turmoil of late, and I have had many opportunities to practice this. And it works. I can so easily get sucked into the victim role of "poor me". Which in turn allows me to fester in the negative energy and then resentment starts to seep in. But if I look for the positive aspects (which I find are always there) I can in turn get into gratitude. In other words I pause, reflect and don't react. I write in my gratitude journal about all of the positive things I have surrounding me at that moment. This allows me to regroup, then approach the tumultuous situation when I am spiritually fit to do so.

When I'm in gratitude, and spiritually fit I have found my serenity.

*Michelle A.*

### ***Wanna pick the theme for The 2014 Indiana State Convention?***

We picked the time and place . . .  
February 28 - March 2, 2014  
French Lick Springs Hotel

**\*~\* - YOU PICK THE THEME!! \*~\***

for the 2014 Indiana State Convention of  
Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Send your best theme ideas to the program committee at:**

Area 23 Convention Themes 2014  
Box 546  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Include your contact information in case you  
win.

Winner gets free registration for the convention.



## 2013 Special Events

.....**March 15 - 16 - 17, 2013 -Friday Saturday and Sun.....**

*60th Indiana State Convention*

Clarion Hotel Conference Center

2480 Jonathan Moore Pike, Columbus, IN 47201

.....**March 17, 2013 - Sunday.....**

We are celebrating 27 years!!

*A fabulous breakfast feast!!*

Got Home Group? @ Carvel Club

4627 Carvel Ave., Indianapolis, IN

.....**March 17, 2013 - Sunday.....**

*67<sup>th</sup> Annual AA Breakfast*

Fellowship @ 8am; eat @ 9am; Lead @ 10am

\$18.00 per person

6000 National Rd. East Richmond, IN 47374

Contact Ben A. 765-966-4304 or Mike Mc. 765-462-6908

.....**March 21, 2013 - Thursday.....**

*Southport newcomers group*

*58th anniversary*

Dinner and Fellowship - 6 PM, Speaker - 7 PM

Southport United Methodist Church

1947 East Southport Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227

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For more information on these and other events, see the Intergroup Web site at  
[www.indyaa.org/events/march.htm](http://www.indyaa.org/events/march.htm)

## Become a Faithful Fiver

Remember wasting more than \$5 drinking? Why not contribute \$5 to carry the message?

*Faithful Fivers* are A. A. members who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Indianapolis Intergroup.

Become a Faithful Fiver. Your contribution will help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Indianapolis Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form**    Date \_\_\_\_\_

**YES**, I want to help continue to carry our life-saving message of hope.

I will contribute: \_\_ Annually (\$60) \_\_ Quarterly (\$15) \_\_ Monthly (\$5)

Please send email reminder to this email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Months

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to: Indianapolis Intergroup**  
 1915 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 6  
 Indianapolis, IN 46202

*When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.*

Language of the Heart----Bill W.

- 4 year - Meghan B, 7 year - Charles P, 7 year - Tom R
- 8 year - Bob B, 9 year - Wayne C, 9 year - Vin P
- 10 year - Larry L, 10 year - Michael S, 11 year - Jim H
- 15 year - Mike D, 17 year - Irena B
- 18 year - Mary C, 18 year - Connie J, 21 year - Scott R
- 23 year - Tom McA, 26 year - Shauna B,
- 28 year - Bill F, 28 year - Kenny H, 28 year - Kenny H, 28 year - Bob W
- 29 year - Denise D, 31 year - Huey C, 34 year - Mike B, 34 year - Jim W
- 36 year - Dorothy W, 37 year - Carol A, 38 year - Jane C



## Unwritten Codes of AA

Most AA members instinctively know not to crosstalk at meetings, play with their smart-phones, mill around the room during speaker meetings, over-speak at discussion meetings, give unwarranted advice and most of us remove our hats during the Lord's Prayer. These are not AA laws or rules, but unspoken customs generally explained by one's sponsor early on. But these are simply customs, not traditions. I believe our Twelve Traditions rise to a higher level and should hold us to a higher standard. Members standing in violation, there of, often wax repentant when kindly explained of their importance. Traditions, like customs, are not subject to rules or laws.

There generally exists a working respect for our Twelve Steps as well. However, I have recently noticed a growing irreverence for our *program-of-action* by certain groups who mock the wording during the reading of Chapter Five. This practice - I think of it as a virus - tends to diminish the authenticity of our basic text, at least in the minds of newcomers. Indeed, we are not a glum lot, yet it is a disservice to all of us to laughingly dissolve the glue that binds us together and helps us recover from our deadly malady. It is sort of like a minister at the pulpit making fun of, or mocking, the deeply held beliefs of his respective religion. This said disrespect may not be actually breaching the Traditions, per se, but yet it flies in the face of their cohesive spirit.

Another unwritten code is that against mooching at meetings, and one can easily see why. One newcomer told me that she was asked for a cigarette three times during her first meeting - she continued to come back, but not to *that* meeting!

One happy custom, practiced at most meetings and recovery clubs, is the special attention that I so often receive when making a first time appearance. If not noticed, I often start a conversation and am inevitably rejoined by a welcome friendliness. Someone said that AA is a place where complete strangers can immediately discuss old times. I remember, as a newcomer, I landed in Oklahoma City, one morning, and found a friendly club. I was thereby entertained for throughout the day and invited to supper, then taken to a meeting, then to a coffee shop with a small group of happy chattering AAs. Then, this one member took me to his home, introduced me to his wife and proudly showed me his new baby. Then he drove me to the bus station and sent me on my way. What a fellowship!

Long ago, an important decision was to be made and Dr. Bob simply asked, "What would the Master do?" Well, I think He already has! He has given us Twelve Traditions and an array of inherited codes and customs to help solve our ongoing AA fellowship problems.

*Bob S., Richmond, IN*



"Though none of these principles had the force of rules or laws . . ." (p. xix)

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