

# May

“Easy Does It”

• area54.org •  
aaloraincounty.org

# Unity LiveWire

710 Broadway Avenue Lorain, Ohio 44052

Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM Phone 440 246-1800  
Lorain Inter-Group Central Office email address: lorainaa@live.com

# 2010

“First Things First”

• aa.org •  
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**Fifth Tradition Checklist: Each group has but one primary purpose. . . to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.** (AA Grapevine, June 1970, Vol. 27 No. 1)

ON MY FOURTH sober AA day, I was sitting alone in one of our musty old meeting rooms, very sad and very broke. All the AAs had seemed very kind in their desire to help, but none of them had mentioned money. And, like thousands of other new members, I believed my biggest problems were financial. Yet not one person had offered a loan.

Then, suddenly, one of those big, handsome, gray-templed, well-dressed old-timers strode in with a friendly smile widening his face. He stuck out his hand and squeezed mine. "If I can help you any way at all, just say so, and I'll do it!" he declared heartily. Trying to sound as if I were merely asking for a match, I said, "I hope so. You see, I need to borrow two thousand dollars."

His silence was total. But finally he spoke. "You're in the wrong place," he said firmly. "We don't lend money here, my friend. That's not what this place is for."

I froze, but he went on and on. "We won't help you with a money problem. We won't help you with a family problem or a job or clothes or a medical problem or food or a place to spend the night. All we will do in AA is help you stay sober," he explained. "Then you can take care of these other problems yourself. You can take care of yourself, can't you, if you're sober?"

I hated that word "sober." But what could I say? "Certainly," I snapped, humiliated that, in my ignorance of AA "folkways, I had been caught in a faux pas, as if someone had found me eating peas with my fingers.

What the man had said made perfectly good sense. I had been sober a few days and could take care of things. So I put my gradually clearing mind to it, remembered a cousin I had not tapped for months, sent a wire, and got some dough.

To my astonishment and sorrow, I almost instantly found myself drunk. What I needed most was not money, obviously. After getting it, I still had the drinking problem that had made me think of approaching AA in the first place.

This happened in January 1945, and the first hint of the Twelve Traditions was not to appear anywhere in AA until the July 1945 issue of the Grapevine, when Bill W. wrote, "I would like to discuss in coming issues such topics as anonymity, leadership, public relations, the use of money in AA, and the like." Therefore, what I encountered in AA during my first few months, before the Traditions were formalized, were customs of AA behavior followed by members who had learned that some AA ways would work, and others would not.

That is the authority of the Traditions in my personal life. I cherish them because they work. They enable me and my fellow AAs to stay sober, together, and to carry our message to other alcoholics.

But I did not like the Traditions at first, especially when they conflicted with what I wanted. I was a suspicious character, often turning phony operator to get what I wanted. During those first weeks, I kept wondering what "those AAs" were really up to or after, and what I could get out of them. The real miracle is that most of them acted with extraordinary kindness. No matter what I tried to maneuver out of them, they tried just to give me the message.

In subsequent years, I tried to misuse AA in two ways; that is, I tried to get more out of it than the sobriety message. Once, I wangled a part-time job from a fellow member, then took advantage of him. Coming in late, I would excuse myself by thinking, "After all, we're both alcoholics; he ought to excuse my little weaknesses." He exploited me, too, expecting long hours of unpaid work simply because I was a fellow AA.

We began to concentrate on what we were owed, not on what we as AAs owed each other. Neither of us got drunk, but our friendship did not survive. Another time, I tried to use AA for romance, and really did find balm for a lonely heart with an AA partner. We found romance, all right, but we lost our sobriety.

Years have gone by since I had AA infancy as an excuse for my gimme tendencies. Today, I try to look at the Fifth Tradition as a giver, not as a taker. But the picture is not pretty enough to brag about. It isn't always easy, even now, to keep my personal wants out of the way when I try to carry the message. I want applause as an AA speaker, compliments as a Grapevine writer. I want to be a "success" as a sponsor--that is, I want to be the one who sobered somebody up! I have found I prefer to carry the message to pleasant, attractive, grateful alcoholics who do what I say and give me full credit for their sobriety. Sometimes I wish I did not even have to carry the message at all; I wish I could just wait where I am for people to come and pick it up.

On the other hand, I rejoice that I can now participate in so many good ways of fulfilling our primary purpose. I can help put on public meetings and other public-information activities to carry the message to the alcoholics who are still out there drinking, sick, scared, completely unaware that we want them, and completely wrong in their notion of what our sober life is like. I can be on our hospital- and jail-visiting committees. I can serve on my group's hospitality committee, to welcome the ill-at-ease new man. I can attend or lead beginners meetings. I can help support our local Intergroup office and the AA General Service Office, which reach drunks in places I cannot get to. I can have coffee with the new man after the meeting, instead of running off to chin and gossip with my old friends.

I have recently discovered something else quite wonderful about the Fifth: It does not say that AAs should help only newcomers.

I do not agree that the newcomer is the most important member at any meeting. In my opinion, equally important are those old-timers who showed me the way, and any middle-timer who may today be suffering. If newcomers are indeed the lifeblood of AA, old- and middle-timers are its skin and backbone. What a bewildered mess we would be in without them!

So in your next meeting, when that Tradition about carrying the message "to the alcoholic who still suffers" is mentioned, please give a thought, not only to newcomers, but also to the alcoholics older in AA who are sitting there. One of them might be me. I still suffer, sometimes. I still need to hear the message, always.

#### Fifth Tradition Checklist

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who he is or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose? Does my group carry the message, or do we expect people to come get it?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

B. L.  
Manhattan, New York

**Friday Night Sobriety Group**

8:00 PM  
First Merit Bank  
106 Center St.,  
Lagrange  
7th Rick M.  
14th Robert H.  
21st Sober Alcoholic  
28th Gary M.

**Friday Night Amherst**

7:30 PM  
Church of the Nazarene  
210 Cooper Foster Park  
7th. Charlie P.  
14th. John M.  
21st. Chris B.

**Tues. Night Laporte**

8:00 PM  
Christian Church  
301 Washington Ave.,  
4th. Tim T.  
11th. Mark W.  
18th. Johnny C.  
25th. Mark

**Fri. Night Faith Group**

11:00 PM  
1741 N Ridge Rd.  
7th. Discussion  
14th. Discussion  
21st. Pat M.  
28th. Discussion

**Midnight Elyria Group**

12:00 AM  
St. Mary's Church  
4th & Middle Ave.  
1st. Renee S.  
8th. Laurie S.  
15th. Jesse W.  
22nd. Susan B.  
29th. April C.  
(free dinner)

**Mon. Night Lagrange**

8:30 PM  
United Methodist Church  
105 W. Main St. - Rt. 303,  
3rd. Spudd  
10th. Greg R.  
17th. Kelly K.  
24th. John S.  
31st. Troy S.

**St. Agnes Thursday Night**

8:00 PM  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
1140 W. River Road,  
Elyria  
6th Kelly K.  
13th Tom W.  
20th Carolyn B.  
27th Toad  
(1st lead)

**Notice to All Group GSRs/DCMs**  
*The Lorain Intergroup GSR/DCM Meeting is held the first Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the Intergroup Office. We urge your attendance in order to be the voice for the home group you represent. There are many topics discussed at the meeting that require input from as many GSRs as possible, and less than 20% from Lorain County have been in attendance each month. Please Attend and be Informed!*

For information on Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Al-Anon meetings, please contact the Intergroup office at 440-246-1800.



**Lorain Industrial Group Meeting** is moving to the Lorain Senior Center. 3361 Garfield Blvd. Starting on Wednesday, May 5 at 8:00 p.m.

**Turning Point:** Thursdays at Elyria Baptist Church, 276 Washington Ave., Elyria. Meeting at 6:00 pm.

**LCCC After Lunch Bunch Discussion Meeting** will continue to meet during the summer hours at the University Center Building, Room 209.

**G.S.R./D.C.M. Meeting:** The Multi-District meeting is held at 11 AM on the 1st. Sunday of the month. This meeting is for the General Service Rep's. (G.S.R.) of each Group and the District Committee Member's (D.C.M.). If you want to learn more about service attend this meeting.

**The Lorain Inter-Group Meeting** is the 1st. Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. It is very Important that all the Secretaries of each Group attend this meeting. We urge your Attendance (Be Informed, Be Active)

**Advisory Board Meeting:** The meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd. Wednesday of the month, at the Inter-Group Office.

**Lorain Inter-Group 50/50 Raffle**

Lorain Inter-Group 50/50 Raffle Winner: Bill S. , \$64.50 was Sold by Smiley Joe. Just another way that you can Help support the Lorain Inter-Group. Buy a TICKET . Be A Winner.

**Service is gratitude in action.**

*Welcome to the newest members of the Lorain County Intergroup Advisory Board.. Vicki Tomlinson, Greg Hayes and Rich Yowler*

*"It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe. We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition."*

~Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, Into Action, pg. 85~

*Bobbi Matear would like to express her appreciation for all cards, prayers and condolences when her mom, passed away. Thank you to all!*

**CHANGED =**

*Choosing Humility Allows New Growth Each Day.*

\*To submit information for the news letter please contact: Vicki T. 440 225-1314, Jim Parks 440 385-5687, Bobbi Matear 440 537-4280, Opal A. 440 670-6619, Donna L. 440 574-3464, Amy D. 440 714-7444, via: Call, email or leave the information at the Inter-Group Office before the 25th. of each month.

**Step 5:** Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrong.

**Promise 5:** No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

**Tradition 5:** Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Concepts 5:** Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

## Memorial Day

### Breakfast

Monday, May 31, 2010

Breakfast at 9:00AM Lead at 10:00AM

Speaker

**Jaci Cline**

German's Villa

3330 Liberty Ave. (Rt. 6) Vermilion, Ohio

Between Rt. 60 & Baumhart Road

Donation \$9.00

No Children Please

For Tickets Contact:

Any Advisory Board Member

Or call Intergroup Office at 246-1800

## *Friends of Bill W.*

### *Picnic*

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Noon - 5 pm

Birmingham Methodist

Youth Center

South Street, Birmingham

Food, burgers and dogs and drinks on us

Bring a dish to share.

Games for the kids, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

We had a great time last year, come join us for our annual gathering of fellowship and fun!

Anyone willing to help or donate please call the numbers below.

For info or tickets call:

Sue 440-309-0491

Art 440-773-9474

## Easy Does It

### Survivors List:

Groups in need of  
Support to stay afloat .

Please

Attend, Contribute,

Be Active, Help Chair,

Be a Secretary,

Be Responsible

We Need Your  
Help!!

Don't let them Close

**HELP SUPPORT**

THE GROUPS.

## TRUST GOD

## Elyria Sunday Night Group

St. Jude's

Breakfast in the Park

Join us at

High Meadows Park, Ford Road in

Elyria

(behind Elyria Wal-Mart near Midway

Mall)

Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.

Lead: 10:00 a.m.

Dates:

May 16

June 20

July 18

Aug. 15

Breakfast includes:

Scrambled eggs, Cheesy hash brown potatoes,  
bacon, sausage, toast, juice, and coffee.

Breakfast Cost: \$3.00

We would like to thank those who helped with the Birmingham Steak Fry in March. By selling or buying tickets for the Dinner or the 50/50 Tickets. Special thanks to the committee.

See you at the Free Picnic in June!

Thanks,

Sue Koons & Art C., Co-Chairs

*My worst day  
sober was better  
than my best  
day drunk.*

There is  
always  
Space  
Available in  
The LiveWire  
for your  
Group's  
Messages,  
News,  
Activities &  
Anniversaries  
Contact:  
Vicki T.  
440 225-1314



## 28th ANNUAL NEW LONDON CAMPOUT

Thursday June 24th  
through

Sunday June 27th , 2010

New London Recreation

Park,

New London, Ohio

Grove Street

(off State Rt. 60)

For more information call:

Bas and Judy Elliott

419-929-0054

Mary Ott 419-668-4122

Pat Morgan 440-225-0125

Larry Nagy 440-965-4165

### • May Anniversary •

2nd. Bill R. 2 yrs.

2nd. Mark S. (Spudd) 13 yrs.

8th Calvin C. 2 yrs.

11th. Bill F. 45 yrs.

13th. Mike D. 3 yrs.

23rd. Martin R. 22 yrs.

24th Dave H. 1 yr.

28th. Troy S. 8 yrs.

29th. Brenda S. 8 yrs.

31st. Tom N. 31 yrs.

## Greetings, From NE Ohio General Service!

Please come join us in a day of  
sharing at the 3rd Annual

Northeast Ohio

### General Service

### Unity Day!

Date: May 16, 2010

Time: 2:00PM

Location: 12-Step Recovery

Club 1480 Pearl Road,

Brunswick, Ohio 44212

(Brunswick Plaza; ¼ mile

south of State Rt. 303

(216) 273-7216

### Phone Line Report:

#### Month of April 2010

12 Step Calls.....	3
Sponsorship.....	5
Al-A-Non.....	7
Meeting Info.....	72
General Info.....	50
Phone Service.....	94

Total:.....231

**ATTENTION: Lorain County A.A. Community - help needed on various Committees! If interested, please contact one of the Advisory Board Members and VOLUNTEER!!!! Help Make A Difference!!**

**Committee Chairs**

**Unity LiveWire Committee**

Vicki Tomlinson..... 440 225-1314

\*e mail vickitom@oh.rr.com

Jim Parks.....440 385-5687

\*e mail jbparks2542@yahoo.com

**Internet Committee (aaloraincounty.org)**

Mike.....440 670-9910

e mail webmaster@aaloraincounty.org

**Cooperation with the Professionals Committee**

Alan Revercomb .....440 541-2473

**Correctional Committee**

Alan Revercomb .....440 541-2473

**Archives Committee**

Linda S. ....440 240-1189

**Young Peoples Committee**

John Flores.....440 308-5421

**Picnic Committee**

Art C.....440 773-9474

Sue Koons.....440 309-0491

**Treatment Facilities Committee**

Chairperson needed NEED VOLUNTEERS

**Pig Roast Committee**

Troy Smith.....440 365-9018

**Special Needs Committee**

Yolanda A. ....440 541-4843

**Memorial Day Breakfast Committee**

Terry Poznako.....440 225-6897

**Grapevine Committee**

Linda S. ....440 240-1189

Coretta Farley .....440 308-1714

**District Committee**

District 19A (Sheffield Lake, Avon Lake, Sheffield, Avon, N. Ridgeville, Eaton, Columbia, Grafton DCM Ellen Winson. ....440 327-8812

District 19B (Lorain City Meetings and some in Vermilion )

DCM. Yolanda A. ....440 541-4843

District 20A (All of Elyria City Meetings a Carlisle)

DCM. Judy Sexton. ....440 322-2619

Alt. DCM Patty McMullen.....440 365-3778

District 20B (All Meetings at ARID Club)

DCM. Debbie McConnell.....440 277-0162

District 20C(LaGrange, Penfield, Brownhelm

Tnsp., Amherst, Henrietta Tnsp., S. Amherst, Kipton, Oberlin, Camden Tnsp., Pittsfield Tnsp., Brighton Tnsp., Wellington Meetings)

DCM. Patti Rodgers .....440-284-6677

Alt DCM Donna Lawson.....440 574-3464

**Financial Report**

Listed below are the Profit & Loss spread sheet, the group donations and the rents for the Month of March, 2010.

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Donations/Rents</u>	
		<u>By Week</u>	
1.Rent	\$650.00	1.....	\$371.50
2.Columbia Gas	\$161.00	2.....	\$2,039.77
3.All Service Telephone Answering	\$145.79	3.....	\$502.00
4.Ohio Edison 710 Broadway	\$258.19	4.....	\$4,410.38
5. Time Warner	\$89.76	5.....	\$221.00
6. House Managers	\$1,647.90		
7.Pay Cor Fees	\$64.57		
8.Live Wire Printing	\$69.00		
9. Berry Yellow Pages	\$19.46		
11. Copier cartridge	\$90.50		
	<u>\$3,196.17</u>		<u>\$7,544.65</u>

**Month of March 2010**

Donations/Rents	\$7,544.65
State Sales Tax Refund	\$ 21.23
Total Income	\$7,565.88
Expenses	\$3,196.17

Total Gain March, 2010 \$4,369.71

**Rents:**

**Month of March, 2010**

1. Blue Monday
2. Friday Morning Survivor
3. Lorain Consolidated Group
4. Mid Week Morning discussion
5. Serenity Hall
6. Spanish American
7. Strength In Sobriety
8. Unity Hall Discussion
9. We Care Tuesday

When making Donations to the Lorain Inter-Group, Area 54, Multi-District, or the General Service Office in New York. PLEASE put your Groups General Service number on the Donation. You can find your Groups General Service number in the meeting schedule or on the internet at [aaloraincounty.org](http://aaloraincounty.org) under A.A. Meetings. Please put your Area & District numbers on the donation, it also helps to identify your Group. If you don't have a General Service number under your Groups information in the meeting schedule you can contact your District Committee person listed in the LiveWire to help you get registered.

**Donations**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Akron Inter-Group Founders Day   | 17. Grafton Wednesday Night                  |
| 2. Amherst Saturday Night           | 18. LaPorte Tuesday Group                    |
| 3. Amherst Who Me                   | 19. Lorain Inter-Group 50/50 Raffle          |
| 4. Attitude of Gratitude            | 20. Mid Week Morning discussion              |
| 5. Back To Basics Discussion        | 21. Monday Night Lorain                      |
| 6. Blue Monday                      | 22. North Ridgeville Friday Night Discussion |
| 7. CBS Big Book Step Study          | 23. Oberlin Breakfast Group                  |
| 8. Early Morning Discussion         | 24. Oberlin Group                            |
| 9. Elyria Men's Stag                | 25. Saturday Night Security                  |
| 10. Elyria Monday Closed Discussion | 26. Sheffield Lake Civic Center Group        |
| 11. Elyria New Way of Life          | 27. Stepping Into Sobriety                   |
| 12. Elyria Sunday Night Group       | 28. Strength in Sobriety                     |
| 13. Friday AM Discussion            | 29. Sunday Brunch Bunch Bay Village          |
| 14. Friday Night Amherst            | 30. Sunday Night Sobriety                    |
| 15. Friday Night Avon Lake          | 31. Sunday Open Men's Discussion             |
| 16. Friday Night Sobriety           | 32. Wellington Group                         |

**Board Of Directors**

Chairperson	Troy Smith.....365-9018
Vice-Chairperson	Ken Cain..... 322-2496
Treasurer	Bill Post.....933-4153
Secretary	Mark Potter.....452-5946
Office Managers	Sam Hensley.....288-4942
	Tom Niemiec.....258-7286
	Keith Shagie.....258-1159

**Advisory Board Members**

Tom Ortiz.....	315-8600
Tom Banks.....	309-3226
Bill Jackson.....	935-3251
Terri Poznako.....	225-6897
Nikki Lustek.....	409-2136
Donna Lawson .....	574-3464
Alan Revercomb.....	541-2473
Vicki Tomlinson.....	225-1314
Greg Hayes.....	371-3835
Rich Yowler.....	477-1019