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COIN Schedule of Topics

Topics in this Issue

Step Three

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

Tradition Three

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Faith

Allegiance to duty, person, spirit, or God.

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Please email all submissions to coin@aasanjose.org

Newsletter Issue Month	Submission Deadline	Step & Tradition	Virtue
January	12-20	1	Honesty
February	01-20	2	Hope
March	02-20	3	Faith
April	03-20	4	Courage
May	04-20	5	Integrity
June	05-20	6	Willingness
July	06-20	7	Humility
August	07-20	8	Love
September	08-20	9	Justice
October	09-20	10	Perseverance
November	10-20	11	Spiritual Awareness
December	11-20	12	Service

Resources

COIN – Central Office Intergroup Newsletter

<https://aasanjose.org/coin>

Financials/Minutes

<https://aasanjose.org/central-office-financials-and-intergroup-minutes>

Calendar of Events

<https://aasanjose.org/events>

Celebrating Sobriety Birthdays

<https://aasanjose.org/celebrating-birthdays>

Meeting Guide

<https://aasanjose.org/meetings>

Contributions

<https://aasanjose.org/contributions>

Intergroup Information & Orientation

<https://aasanjose.org/intergroup-orientation>

Service Opportunities

<https://aasanjose.org/service>

Central Office Information

<https://aasanjose.org/central-office>

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,



Best wishes, Geena Louise, Your COIN Editor

About the COIN

COIN is the Central Office Intergroup Newsletter. It is what the *A.A. Fact File* calls “*A.A. Literature Prepared by Local Groups.*” The opinions are those of the individual authors and may or may not be representative of A.A. as a whole.

COIN Editor: Geena Louise

Sunlight of the Spirit Cover Art: Elizabeth M.

Director of Operations: Toni F., **Website:** Phil W.

The COIN is published on behalf of the Santa Clara County Intergroup Service Group of Alcoholics Anonymous (Intergroup). Opinions expressed are the writers’, and publication of any article, event, or other information does not imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous, Intergroup, or Central Office. Quotations from A.A. books and pamphlets, and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Tradition Three

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Long Form

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Practice These Principles – Tradition Three

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new A.A. members as less than?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my A.A. group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, sex, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at A.A. needing information or help (even if the person can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what s/he does for a living? Where the person lives? What that person's domestic arrangements are? Whether s/he had been to A.A. before? What his/her other problems are?

These questions above were originally published in the A.A. Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions from November 1969 through September 1971.

Articles

Step Three Work From Alcoholic and Newcomer

By Jean A.

Who is my God?

My God is my constant companion that is all knowing, wise and loving. He is my moral compass if I am willing to listen. He is my comforting security blanket if I can open my heart to him. He is my guiding force if I am willing to ask him for help. He is the solution to my problems if I am willing to listen to him.



My God calms my fears and helps me overcome my temptations. He knows when I am not honest with myself or others but does not punish me for it. He listens without judgment when I make amends and admit my

wrongs. He is always patient with me and hears my prayers. He loves me unconditionally even when I am unwilling to acknowledge him or I am angry at him.

Step Three Decision

By Bob S.

I think of the first three A.A steps as: *“I can’t.”* (Step One). *“God can!”* (Step Two). *“I have decided to ask Him to help me.”* (Step Three).

I no longer consider the praying the Third Step Prayer as my decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God. It is obvious that my decision had to come before doing so. According to the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) my decision to ask for God’s help was made on the bottom paragraph of page 62: *“Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life God was to be my director, etc. . . .”* (p.62). The actual asking



took place when I prayed the Third Step Prayer on page 63. My decision was well thought out before asking God for help via the page-63 prayer.

I believe this distinction is important because we are told: *“We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.”* Time to think well before the decision and the prayer is important. It would be tempting to haphazardly repeat this watershed Prayer verbatim, defusing the process of its needed substance and weight. Personally, having several months sobriety before this sequence, I had already made a sincere decision before praying this prayer with a sponsor.

We are told: *“The wording was, of course, quite optional so long as we expressed the idea, voicing it without reservation.”* (p. 63) My sponsor had me read each sentence (separately) of the prayer and use my own words to explain what it meant to me. When finished, we both prayed the Third Step Prayer verbatim. I was immediately launched into the following steps and have not had to drink since.

Conceded to My Innermost Self

By Linda I.

I went to my first AA meeting after answering the 20 questions at central office in Santa Barbara. I was directed to a meeting at a women’s recovery home. When

we went around the room to introduce ourselves, I could not say that I was an alcoholic. I knew I had a problem with drinking: I drank too much, there were consequences that I didn't like, and I had passed the 20-question quiz with flying colors. Still, I could not say *“Linda, alcoholic.”*

In time I was able to admit that I was an alcoholic. I got a sponsor, went to five meetings a week, and worked the steps as directed by my first three sponsors.

This did not include sitting down and reading the book from the title page through the first 164 pages.

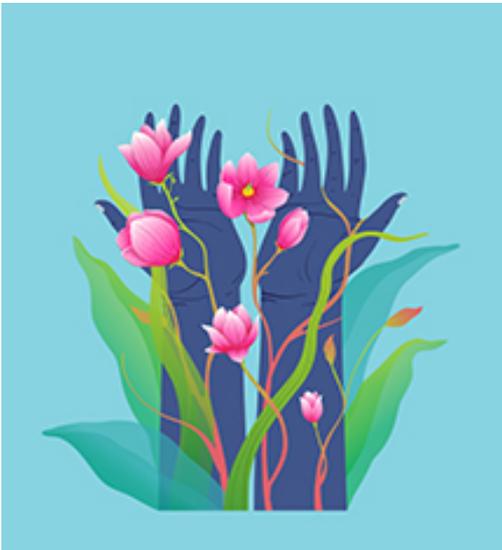


At 2-1/2 years of sobriety while standing in line to thank the speaker at the Thursday Night Workshop in Brentwood, I met Dan (now my husband of 32 years). He asked me if I worked the steps, and to prove I did, I started going with him to a meeting where the focus was on the steps as outlined in the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous). There, I got a sponsor who was willing to sit down and read the book with me. This process changed my sobriety in the best possible way.

Before we started the process in the book, Joe asked me to say a prayer. It went something like this: *“God, please set aside everything I think I know about myself, this disease, these steps, and especially about you, so that I may have an open mind and a new experience with all these things.”*

After saying this prayer, I would sit quietly and review my drinking history and my attempts to moderate or stop drinking. I realized that at times two or three drinks would get me to my happy place, but other times, it took 10 or 15 drinks to get me there. I thought I was making the choice of whether I drank more, or less.

I also stopped drinking a few times. Once as a New Year's resolution, which lasted two of the four weeks I had intended. After taking the 20 questions, I stopped drinking until my natal birthday, when I was told by my drinking buddy that I had become boring not drinking.



That comment was all it took! I drank from Christmas to Lent, during which time my drinking had gotten out of hand again. I'm not entirely sure how long Lent is, but I white-knuckled that period of time, counting down the days until Easter brunch and champagne! I had tried every which way to control and manage my drinking, to stop and stay stopped. I could not.

It wasn't until reading the *Doctor's Opinion* and *More About Alcoholism* with Joe that I finally understood what alcoholism is. It is not simply having a problem with drinking. It is much deeper than that! I have an allergy to alcohol, which wouldn't be a problem if I didn't drink! But my obsessive mind

always told me it would be better this time, and being spiritually unfit, and needing relief from my life, alcohol had been my solution!

I finally understood that no human power could keep me sober. That the steps alone would not keep me sober. Neither would meetings or the fellowship, or any other thing for that matter. Yes, I need all of these things, but my reliance has to be on a Power greater than myself.

On page 30 in Chapter 3 in the Big Book, *More About Alcoholism*, it says, “*We learned we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholic.*” This is the first step in recovery.

For me, there is a distinction between admitting that I'm an alcoholic and fully conceding to my innermost self that I am an alcoholic.

All these years later, I believe this admission, this core belief, has been vital to my long-term recovery. With a thorough understanding of alcoholism, an honest look at my efforts to control and manage my drinking, and the results of my attempts, I know that I cannot drink normally, and never will be able to. The debate is over. A higher power, a design for living that keeps returning me to this power is now my solution, not alcohol.

To The Newcomer

By Lorraine A.

Dear God, Please let me live; I still have so much inside me left to give. The alcohol I so desperately need and crave is really just a slow suicide, digging me an early grave. God, please, I want to see my daughter grow up. When will it be enough?

I've attempted to stop drinking many times to no avail. I cannot do it; I've tried, I always fail. The pain inside me cuts to the core. I just want to numb out more and more. Yet what started as an effort to dull my reality has since left me alone and full of depravity.



I beg of you God on my knees. When will I find some relief? *“You need help”*, my family told me. *“You have a disease that is relentless and cruel with no reprieve.”* So off I went to rehab and meetings in my disheveled state: bewildered and heartbroken that this had become my fate.

Upon entering my first meeting, I was certain that I was in the wrong room. Everyone was smiling and laughing. *“Don't they know they can't drink? Where's the gloom?”* I thought to myself these people don't look or act like drunks. Surely I must debunk! As I turned to leave, *“Welcome.”* said a smiling face, *“Please take a seat, you're in the right place.”*



As I sat and listened throughout the meeting, I thought, *“Could it be? I can relate to these people's stories; they think just like me!”* My life has changed exponentially since that fateful day. When I free-felled into the loving arms of A.A., I found a sponsor and worked the steps.

Remember, there's a happy and healthy future for you to pursue. So make yourself a promise to overcome and never give up, even when life shows up and times get tough. You're worth it. Take deep breaths and have faith. And you will, in time, believe me, find your grace. Trust God, be vulnerable and reveal your soul. You'll find yourself not half but whole. Fear not, exhale, relax; you're home. God's got you. You never again have to feel alone.

A Spiritual Choice

Kindness of Strangers

By Jean M., Santa Clara, CA

When I walked into A.A. over 6 years ago I had no concept of a higher power. I was 49 years old. I had tried for many years, going to different churches, to find “god” but felt uncomfortable with what I perceived was a community that I did not fit into. When I was about 27 years old, I pushed “God” away, asking him to leave

me and help another person in my life. I would be alright knowing they would be helped.

I was broken and desperate to find a new way of life and a higher power had to be part of it, according to the big book of A.A (Alcoholics Anonymous). I kept searching and found women willing to read various spiritual books with me – both A.A. approved literature and “non-approved” literature. I had a collection of bits and pieces that was my own understanding of a higher power. However, I did not know how to put these bits and pieces together.

About 4 years into my sobriety, I had what would called a spiritual breakthrough. My 96 year old dad, who lived in another state went to the ER and had no way of getting back home. He told me he planned to hitch hike back home to a location that was in the sticks, far from the hospital. I panicked and felt the need to control the situation. I called 5 different Limousine companies to find him a safe ride back home. Each one told me there were no cars available, it was not going to happen. I took a deep breath and said to my boyfriend “*I guess the Universe is telling me to let it go!*” He agreed it was time to let go.



At that moment I thought about how my dad always seems to have a good energy surrounding and protecting him and that energy must be working for him now. So, I let it go, trusting that his spiritual guide would protect him. Turns out a nurse from the hospital took him home and he was safe. He told me all about his ride home with this stranger – someone with a good heart and kind.

I chose to believe the spiritual energy that surrounds him is also part of me. I find this idea very comforting in times that are difficult or are out of my control. The program of A.A. taught me to be open minded and willing. I discovered the purpose of a Higher Power is a way I can let go of control or worry and I will still be alright. I have hope the outcome will turn out as it is supposed to be even if it is not how I want things to be.

I feel comfortable trusting my version of a higher power and I have a new perception based on seeing it work in my life. I realize now fear does not need to be overriding feelings inside of me anymore when faced with difficult, emotional or decisions other people make for themselves. For that I am grateful.

Step Three: Came to Believe

By Larry C.

My father was a young couples' pastor at a local church in San Jose while I was running the streets, drinking and drugging as much as I possibly could. To me, my father's reliance on, and gratitude to God was all wrong. He consistently thanked God for everything good in his life. Having no concept of spirituality, I thought he should take more credit for his hard work.

Later in life I attempted recovery but it never stuck. I did get some time, usually a few months, and one time 4 years. In 2012 my life fell apart. I lost almost everything and ended up turning to my father to take me in. He lived alone after my mom died years before and told me he was happy to have the company. It occurred to me that, while I didn't share his beliefs, his reliance on God resulted in him having a good life.

I eventually made my way back to A.A. When I arrived at step 3, my sponsor said all I had to do was believe that he believed. I could do that! What was difficult

was getting on my knees in the Pruneyard parking lot and reciting the 3rd step prayer. That was difficult!



I prayed the 3rd and 7th step prayers every day for quite some time. While I was unsure about who or what I was praying to, I found that prayer helped me. At about 7 months I had a slip. I quickly realized if there wasn't some power out there, I would not survive this disease. I prayed a prayer of desperation

to a power I didn't understand. My prayer went like this. God, you better be out there, because if you're not I'm going to die from alcoholism! Something changed for me that day.

The next morning, I called my sponsor and told him about the slip. He said to go to a meeting and introduce myself as a newcomer. I felt humiliated but found that people in A.A welcomed me back and surrounded me with love.

After the slip I rededicated myself to the program. I still didn't understand this power greater than myself thing but I kept up with the 3rd and 7th step prayer and

finished my steps. I realized I didn't know how to meditate and talked to friend at an A.A. retreat. He mentioned a Buddhist center he was familiar with where they had drop-in meditation.

I found my Higher Power there. I took Buddhism classes for several years and took vows. To me A.A. principals and Buddhist principals aligned perfectly and allowed me to have a Higher Power that is uniquely my own and worked for me.

These days I don't have such an aversion to God or anyone's concept of a Higher Power. If someone is fortunate enough to find a power that allows them to have a fulfilling life, I am excited for them, not judgmental.

My father passed away a few years ago. I was fortunate to be by his side in the last months of his life. I will always be grateful for a God that helped him be a man to whom I will always look up.

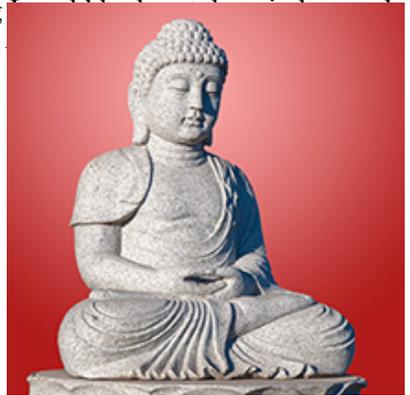
Step Three: God as He May Express Himself God of Our Own Understanding

By Rick R.

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) came into existence in 1935 when much of our society was centered around the churches in the communities where we lived.

As a child in my hometown, on Sunday morning see a vast majority of my neighbors walking church. That was the way it was in the early 1940's.

The book, [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) (The Big Book), was published in 1939, and it was highly influenced by many early members of the program at that time. A.A. could have, very easily become a religious program, but fortunately, the elders of that time realized, by the mistakes of the Oxford Group, and the Washingtonians, that they had to make it clear that, *a desire to stop drinking was the only requirement for membership*. The individual members could choose their own concept of a power greater than themselves, i.e., God as we understand him.



In Tradition Two, it says, *“As He may express Himself in our group conscience”* When the word “God” is used in the remainder of the book, it is not The COIN — Central Office Intergroup Newsletter

always followed by the “*as we understand him*” qualifier. I believe that many members get the idea that somehow, A.A. is trying to push religion on them. That is understandable. When I was faced with that possibility, I personally found it easy enough to read the black part of the pages in the book and to not let myself become distracted by what I now recognized as a cultural norm at the time.

I had no problem setting aside my religious bias and recognizing the parts of the Big Book and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (12&12) that clearly state all the options available when it comes to finding a “Power Greater Than Myself.” I can name 3 right off top. 1) Alcohol itself was my higher power for a long time and still would be if had not gotten into the program. 2) My EGO ran my life for quite a while until I got serious about Real life Issues. 3) The A.A. program itself.

I found myself spiritually lost when I entered the program and when faced with the need to come to terms with the Higher Power issue, I now realize why it took so long to settle this subject. After years of drinking and an underdeveloped thinking process, it was hard to get up to speed right away.

As I got more familiar with the Big Book, and the 12&12, I started to uncover all the evidence that debunked the idea that I had to conform to any religious doctrine. In the 12&12, I read on page 26, “*alcoholics anonymous does not demand that you to believe anything.*” On belief, “*to acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could.*” (Pg.27) Also on page 26 where it states, “*Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think... A one-time vice-president of the American Atheist Society ... got through with room to spare.*” Then on page 33 of the 12&12 it says “*Therefore, Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this step.*”

Today I am comfortable with my own concept of a Higher Power, and I use the word God only to put a name on a concept that has no physical form. I might say that it expresses itself in *the collective conscience of the world we live in*. I can assure you that if you read these qualifiers and practice the rest of the principals of the program, as enthusiastically as you can, you will come to terms with a personal concept of a higher power as well as any of us.

Special Events

Open Intergroup Positions

If you are interested, please email jayezdaisy@yahoo.com with a short bio, sobriety date and why you would like the position. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Activities Chair

2 Years Sobriety

2 Year Commitment

- Coordinate and oversee activities sponsored by Intergroup. Act as responsible party for budget and communication of events to Santa Clara County.
- Sit on ad-hoc committees for additional special activities as directed by Intergroup Chair.
- Attend monthly Intergroup meeting to report on upcoming activities, ask for help with communication and build up excitement.
- Suggested events: Chili Cookoff, Sponsor Brunch, Old Timers Meeting, Annual December Intergroup Potluck at Intergroup meeting.

Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community PI/CPC Liaison Report – February 2022

Your Support is needed!

- PI/CPC made presentations to *Abode Services*, an organization that provides permanent housing for the unhoused. Abode requested that A.A. bring 2 open meetings to their Pedro Street (Willow Glen) facility.
 - <https://www.abodeservices.org/santa-clara-county>
 - Two PI/CPC committee members volunteered to serve as secretaries (bringing their own laptops) for these meetings - they will be launched soon & *open to all* as hybrid meetings. Start date remains TBD.

- Meeting launch date is tentatively for the end of February (5-6pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, exact dates TBD). This Pedro Street facility (which houses the homeless for 3-6 months prior to placing them into permanent housing) has high rates of alcoholism (more than 60%) so please consider attending and offering yourself as a sponsor.
 - An NA meeting has been held there for several months and has been well attended.
 - Tuesday night's meeting will be English only, but Wednesday night will be offered in both English & Spanish with simultaneous translation provided online via Zoom (the Spanish Intergroup is hosting these meetings and providing translation support).
 - These meetings will be literature meetings (Big Book and Step Study) on alternating weeks.
 - I will provide meeting details as soon as they are available by completing the [online form](https://aasanjose.org/meetings) – please watch the for final meeting details! <https://aasanjose.org/meetings>

- **Grapevine subscriptions needed!**

- Abode Services has 8 facilities in dire need of 3 subscriptions each (24 total) to the Grapevine.
 - <https://www.aagrapevine.org>
- Cost: \$28.97/subscription, total needed: \$695.28! Please contribute via Venmo at: <https://aasanjose.org/picpc>
- **ATTN IGRs: please share this URL and the urgent need for Grapevine subscriptions with your meeting groups!**
 - For a PDF flyer that can be shared with your meeting group, please visit:
 - <https://bit.ly/grapevine-info>

The Spanish Intergroup generously provided \$405 for multiple La Vina subscriptions that were directly requested by Abode – let’s do what we can to ensure adequate contributions from our local *English-speaking* meetings so that the still suffering alcoholics at Abode Services may be introduced to A.A.’s Twelve Step program of recovery!

- La Vina (<https://www.aalavina.org/>)

Thank you!

In Gratitude & Service,

Francine B.

PI/CPC Chair, Intergroup Liaison
AA Santa Clara County Fellowship
<https://bit.ly/sjpicpc-members>
picpc.santaclara@gmail.com

WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for:

• Sponsees • Newcomers • Prisons • Detoxes • Doctor's Offices • Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in. Carry the Message, it's easy!

Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started
and see our new Carry the Message video at
www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine

Join in. It's easy!



2022
CARRY
THE
MESSAGE
PROJECT



**Northern California Council of
Alcoholics Anonymous**

Oldest AA Conference Since 1947!

San Jose, CA

Holiday Inn San Jose-Silicon Valley

1350 North 1st St San Jose, CA 95112

March 11, 12, 13, 2022

<u>Friday March 11, 2022</u>	<u>Saturday March 12, 2022</u>	<u>Sunday March 13, 2022</u>
2:00 PM Registration Opens 5:00 PM Long Timer's Panel 8:00 PM Open Speaker Meeting	11:00 AM – NCCAA Delegates Meeting – Officer Elections 8:00 PM Open Speaker Meeting	8:00 AM Morning Meditation 10:00 AM Open Speaker Meeting
Dave B. Torrance, CA	David D. Los Gatos, CA	Nicole C. Morgan Hill, CA
Additional program information on back of flyer		

Al-Anon and Spanish Speakers & Participation

Area 06 & 07 Updates – Marathon Meeting

Saturday Night Dance – Free Drawing

Sunday Morning Meditation Meeting

Officer Elections will be held at this Conference

Visit NCCAA website for more information on how to be of Service to NCCAA.

[NCCAA Website](http://www.norcalaa.org)

norcalaa.org

PRE-REGISTRATION CUT OFF DATE IS MARCH 1st, 2022

CONFERENCE RATE FOR HOTEL CUT OFF DATE IS FEBRUARY 22nd, 2022

PRE-REGISTRATION - \$20.00 (per person) - AT THE CONFERENCE - \$25.00

If you already registered for the canceled 2020 San Jose Conference your Registration will be honored.
Please check NCCAA website to check if your name is on the list.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT --<http://www.norcalaa.org>



TURLOCK UNITY DAY

**SATURDAY
APRIL 23, 2022**



**STAN COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS- E1
TURLOCK**

FUN BEGINS AT 11!



**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF UNITY
AND FELLOWSHIP!**

**FEATURING: LOCAL AND OUT OF
TOWN SPEAKERS, YOUNG PERSONS
SPEAKER AND PANEL ALSO AN
AL-ANON SPEAKER**

**CATERED MEXICAN FOOD DINNER,
DJ AND DANCING, RAFFLES WITH
PRIZES!**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT BRUCE:
BRUCE.DOWSR@YAHOO.COM**

Writing for the COIN

Q: Who writes the COIN articles?

A: You do.

This is a publication forum for your personal stories celebrating sobriety and recovery. We welcome your stories, opinion pieces, learnings, questions, thoughts and ideas.

Q: What about sketches, photos, art and flyers?

A: Yes, please!

These are all welcomed and appreciated. We want to give A.A. members a chance to publish their original artwork and photos. We are not a glum lot and love humor, so please send in jokes and cartoons as well. We want the COIN to have a comprehensive listing of all upcoming events and flyers; email your event info as early as possible.

Q: What do I write about?

A: There are monthly newsletter topics that can be found in the COIN.

Each month's topic is Step X, the Principle behind Step X, and Tradition X, where X is the number of the month. January=1 and December=12. For example, January's topics are Step One, Honesty, and Tradition One. Stories about a month's holidays or historic events are also accepted. For example, articles pertaining to a new year/new start in January, relationships and romance in February, stories about the founding of A.A. in June, independence in July, gratitude and giving thanks in November, etc. can all be fitting subject matter.

Write your stories in the first person (using "I" statements). Share your sobriety experience, strength, and hope: the wisdom you've gleaned, the mistakes you've made, the fun, the troubles, and humor you've found in recovery.

If you hear something at a meeting that makes you see things in a different light, write about it. If you have stayed sober through a difficult experience, write about it. Help us teach and learn from each other. Most importantly, help carry the message of A.A.

Q: What are the submission deadlines?

A: Deadlines are published in each month's COIN.

If you miss the deadline, you may still send materials, but they may be saved for inclusion in a future COIN publication. Stories and art are published at the discretion of the COIN editor and the Central Office executive director.

Q: What are the style guidelines?

A: We strive for consistency.

We accept writings from a variety of authors, then edit them for style, length less than 900 words, correct spelling, fonts, and more. It is challenging to publish each issue in a timely manner. As editors, we do not change the message.

If you can follow some style guidelines, that would help us out a lot. Below is a non-exhaustive list of basic style guidelines.

1. Break all articles into several paragraphs, instead of one big paragraph.
2. Avoid long run-on sentences.
3. Use “A.A.” and not “AA”

Q: What about Quality?

A: Don’t worry about that.

There is nothing more powerful than one alcoholic speaking with and supporting another alcoholic. Indeed, most of us never trusted a professional about our drinking. How could they possibly know about our drinking? But I believe other alcoholics. We are amateurs by design. So never worry about whether what you write is good enough. Just speak from the heart with honesty.

Q: Anything else?

A: Yes.

Please keep the Twelve Traditions of A.A. in mind as you write. Take special care to respect other members’ anonymity. Have fun!

Send your submissions to: coin@aasanjose.org

**Santa Clara County Central Office of A.A.
274 E. Hamilton Ave, Suite D
Campbell, CA 95008**

**Open 6 days a week for in-person
book and literature sales, and more.**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday: Closed



Details, Map, Calendar, Holiday Closings, and More:

<https://aasanjose.org/central-office>

408 889-1001 • info@aasanjose.org