



# Problems other than alcohol

AAWS Pamphlet P-35

By Bill W.

This is derived from a Grapevine article **written by A.A. co-founder Bill W.** in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.

Perhaps there is no suffering more horrible than drug addiction, especially that kind which is produced by morphine, heroin, and other narcotics. Such drugs twist the mind, and the awful process of withdrawal racks the sufferer's body. Compared with the addict and his woes, we alcoholics are pikers. Barbiturates, carried to extremes, can be almost as bad. In A.A. we have members who have made great recoveries from both the bottle and the needle. We also have a great many others who were — or still are — victimized by “goofballs” and even by the new tranquilizers.

Consequently, this problem of drug addiction in its several forms lies close to us all. It stirs our deepest interest and sympathy. In the world around us, we see legions of men and women who are trying to cure or escape their problems by this means. Many A.A.'s, especially those who have suffered these particular addictions, are now asking, “What can we do about drugs — within our Fellowship, and without?”

Because several projects to help pill and drug takers are already afloat — projects which use A.A.'s Twelve Steps and in which A.A. members are active — there has arisen a whole series of questions as to how these efforts, already meeting with not a little success, can be rightly related to the A.A. groups and to A.A. as a whole.

Specifically, here is a list of questions: (1) Can a *nonalcoholic* pill or drug addict become an A.A. member? (2) Can such a person be brought, as a visitor, to an open A.A. meeting for help and inspiration? (3) Can a pill or drug taker, who also has a genuine alcoholic history, become a member of A.A.? (4) Can A.A.s who have suffered both alcoholism and addiction form themselves into special-purpose groups to help other A.A.s who are having drug trouble? (5) Could such a special-purpose group call itself an A.A. group? (6) Could such a group also include *nonalcoholic* drug users? (7) If so, should these *nonalcoholic* pill or drug users be led to believe that they have become A.A. members? (8) Is there any objection if A.A.s who have had the dual problem join outside groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous?

While some of these questions almost answer themselves, others do not. But all of them, I think, can readily be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone if we have a good look at the A.A. Traditions which apply, and another look at our long experience with the special-purpose groups in which A.A.'s are active today — both within and without our Society.

Now there are certain things that A.A. cannot do for anybody, regardless of what our several desires or sympathies may be.

Our first duty, as a society, is to insure our own survival. Therefore, we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activity. An A.A. group, as such, cannot take on *all* the personal problems of its members, let alone the problems of the whole world.

Sobriety — freedom from alcohol — through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an A.A. group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities, and they have always

failed. It has also been learned that *there is no possible way to make non-alcoholics into A.A. members*. We have to confine our membership to alcoholics, and we have to confine our A.A. groups to a single purpose. If we don't stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone.

To illustrate, let's review some typical experiences. Years ago, we hoped to give A.A. membership to our families and to certain nonalcoholic friends who had been greatly helpful. They had their problems, too, and we wanted them in our fold. Regretfully, we found that this was impossible. They couldn't make straight A.A. talks; nor,

save a few exceptions, could they identify with new A.A. members. Hence, they couldn't do continuous Twelfth Step work.

Close to us as these good folks were, we had to deny them membership. We could only welcome them at our open meetings.

Therefore, I see no way of making nonalcoholic addicts into A.A. members. Experience says loudly that we can admit no exceptions, even though drug users and alcoholics happen to be first cousins of a sort. If we persist in trying this, I'm afraid it will be hard on the drug user himself, as well as on A.A. We must accept the fact that no nonalcoholic, whatever his affliction, can be converted into an alcoholic A.A. member.

Suppose, though, that we are approached by a drug addict who nevertheless has had a genuine alcoholic history. There was a time when such a person would have been rejected. Many early A.A.'s had the almost comical notion that they were pure alcoholics — guzzlers only, no other serious problems at all. When alcoholic ex-cons and drug users first turned up, there was much pious indignation. "What will people think?" chanted the pure alcoholics. Happily, this foolishness has long since evaporated.

One of the best A.A.s I know is a man who had been seven years on the needle before he joined up with us. But prior to that, he had been a terrific alcoholic, and his history proved it. Therefore, he could qualify for A.A., and this he certainly did. Since then, he has helped many A.A.'s and some non-A.A.'s with their pill and drug troubles. Of course, that is strictly his affair and in no way the business of the A.A. group to which he belongs. In his group, he is a member because, in actual fact, he is an alcoholic.

Such is the sum of what A.A. *cannot* do — for narcotics addicts or for anybody else.

Now, then, what *can* be done? Very effective answers to problems other than freedom from alcohol have always been found through special-purpose groups, some of them operating within A.A. and some on the outside.

Our first special-purpose group was created way back in 1938. A.A. needed a world service office and some literature. It had a service problem that could not be met by an A.A. group, as such. Therefore, we formed a board of trustees (the Alcoholic Foundation) to look after these matters. Some of the trustees were alcoholics, and some were non-alcoholics. Obviously, this was not an A.A. group. Instead, it was a group of A.A.'s and non-A.A.'s who devoted themselves to a special task.

Another example: In 1940, the New York A.A.s got lonesome and installed themselves in a club. The club had directors and dues-paying A.A. members. For a long time, the club members and directors thought that *they* were an A.A. group. But after a while, it was found that lots of A.A.s who attended meetings at Old 24th didn't care one hoot for the club, as such. Hence, the management of the club (for its social purpose) had to be completely separated from the management of the A.A. group that came there to hold its meetings. It took years of hassling to prove that you couldn't put an A.A. group into the club business and make it stick. Everywhere today, club managements and their dues-paying members are seen as special-purpose groups, not as A.A. groups.



The same thing has happened with drying-out places and Twelfth Step houses managed by A.A.s. We never think of these activities as A.A. groups. They are clearly seen as the functions of interested individuals who are doing helpful and often very valuable jobs.

Some years ago, a number of us A.A.'s wanted to enter the field of alcohol education. I was one of them. We associated ourselves with some non-alcoholics, likewise interested. The non-alcoholics wanted A.A.s because they needed our experience, philosophy, and general slant. Things were fine until some of us A.A.s publicly disclosed our membership in the educational group. Right away, the public got the idea that this particular brand of alcohol education and Alcoholics Anonymous were one and the same thing. It took years to change this impression. But now that this correction has been made, plenty of A.A. members work in this field, and we are glad that they do.

It was thus proven that, as individuals, we can carry the A.A. experience and ideas into *any outside field whatever*, provided that we guard anonymity and refuse to use the A.A. name for money-raising or publicity purposes.

I'm very sure that these experiences of yesterday can be the basis of resolving today's confusion about the narcotics problem. This problem is new, but the A.A. experience and Traditions which can solve it are already old and time-tested. I think we might sum it up like this:

We cannot give A.A. membership to nonalcoholic narcotics addicts. But, like anyone else, they should be able to attend certain open A.A. meetings, provided, of course, that the groups themselves are willing.

A.A. members who are so inclined should be encouraged to band together in groups to deal with sedative and drug problems. But they ought to refrain from calling themselves A.A. groups.

There seems to be no reason why several A.A.s cannot join, if they wish, with a group of straight addicts to solve the alcohol and the drug problem together. But obviously, such a dual-purpose group should not insist that it be called an A.A. group, nor should it use the A.A. name in its title. Neither should its straight-addict contingent be led to believe that they have become A.A. members by reason of such an association.

Certainly, there is every good reason for interested A.A.'s to join with outside groups working on the narcotics problem, provided the Traditions of anonymity and of no endorsements are respected.

In conclusion, I want to say that throughout A.A.'s history, most of our special-purpose groups have accomplished very wonderful things. There is great reason to hope that those A.A.'s who are now working in the grim regions of narcotics addiction will achieve equal success.

In A.A., the group has strict limitations, but the individual has scarcely any. Remembering to observe the Traditions of anonymity and non-endorsement, he can carry A.A.'s message into every troubled area of this very troubled world.

"Tolerance is the art of seeing yourself as others see you -- and not getting mad about it."

June 1964, "Short Takes," AA Grapevine

## \*Inter Group Representative Meeting Attendance

- The June IGR meeting was canceled
- The June Central Office business report follows on page 5.
- The next *scheduled IGR/COR Meeting* is *planned* for Tuesday, July 15, 2025 @ 6pm.  
Steering Committee members meet at 5:30pm immediately preceding.

\* aka Central Office Representative



**Deadline for ANY  
newsletter submission is  
the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**



## Ogden Intergroup Central Office

(ICOOA)

**CLOSED July 4 & July 5**

### ➤ Regular Office hours

Tuesday thru Friday  
**1:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

Saturday **11:00am - 3:00pm**

**CLOSED:**

**Sunday & Monday**

Central Office Rep (IGR) meeting is held *monthly*  
at Central Office on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @6:00pm**  
(*unless otherwise posted*)

AA CENTRAL OFFICE – OGDEN - 3480 WASHINGTON BLVD. SUITE 108

Office Hours: **Tuesday thru Friday 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm / Saturday 11:00 am-3:00 pm** //// **"CLOSED" Sunday & Monday**

Phone: (801)393-4728    igrcentraloffice@gmail.com



**TO: Central Office Committee**  
**From:** Randy C., (Central Office employee)  
**Date:** July 2, 2025  
**Subject:** Ogden Intergroup **Central Office Report** for **JUNE 2025**

**Sales Summary:** (Income = \$210)

- Books: 78 (\$ 131\*)
- Chips: 218 (\$ 79 )

[\*= all printed material]

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Aluminum  | 188 (\$ 14) |
| ○ Brass     | 28 (\$ 58 ) |
| ○ Tri-Plate | 2 (\$ 7)    |

**Office Activity:**      Hours: 75

- Emails: 122
- Calls/Msgs: 32
  - Calls to our Answering Service: 1
- Walk-Ins: 47 (average weekly walk-ins = 12)

**Website Activity:**                      June                      Visitors: 963                      Views: 2,747

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**Contributions:**                      **\$ 1,525**

- Groups                      (9) groups                      \$ 1,475
- District 11                      \$ 50

**(Prudent Reserve) :** (Goal \$8,400 / 4 mos. Operating Expenses \$2,200 per mo.)

(ending) June 2025: \$ 6,000.96 (- 9.7 %)

**(Operating Funds):** (ending) June 2025: \$ 2,085.81

Thank you for the job as Central Office employee.

-Randy

If the "Promises" came true all at once...  
 there'd be nobody left to make coffee!

-Bob M. 12/21/2012

Intergroup Central Office-Ogden	JUNE	TOTAL
(Year-to-Date) 2025 Group Contributions	6/30/2025	YTD 2025
11:59 Group	50.00	100.00
Babes of Anonymity		174.40
BYOB Group		150.00
Clearfield Group		200.00
Courage to Change Group		200.00
Davis Group		200.00
District 11	50.00	200.00
District One		360.00
Fellowship Manor		130.00
Friday Night Action		195.00
Grupo Primer Paso de Ogden	15.00	90.00
Huntsville Group	40.00	290.00
In the Solution Group		200.00
Ladies of the Mountain (WRH)		550.00
Meat & Potatoes		247.91
Our Primary Purpose Group	90.00	299.80
Recovery Together Group	700.00	1,150.00
Sat Men's Brotherhood		200.00
Sat Night Alumni - ORMC		195.00
Serenity Happy Hour (Sunday)		292.79
Serenity Sisters		264.56
Sisters in Sobriety		150.00
Stone of Sisyphus		150.00
Sunday Morning Serenity	100.00	100.00
Sunday Night Unity		150.00
The Way Out		161.00
Thursday Night Harrison		50.00
Tremonton Group	150.00	150.00
Tuesday Morgan Group		150.00
Tyler Ave Group	50.00	250.00
<b>*UNASSIGNED**</b>		158.40
Upon Awakening		345.00
Wed Night Fever Happy Hour		120.00
Wed Night Stag		80.50
Wed. Night Alumni - ORMC	280.00	760.00
Women's Circle of Hope		224.43
<b>Groups Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,525.00</b>	<b>8,688.79</b>
Individual Donation(s)	0.00	1,005.00
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,525.00</b>	<b>\$9,693.79</b>

### ***Suggested Contributions***

(from pg. 13 of AAWS Pamphlet F-3)

#### **- District One**

P.O. Box 953  
Brigham City, Ut 84302

**-OR-**

#### **- District 11**

PO Box 461  
Bountiful, Ut 84011

**10%**

#### **- Area 69 of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**10%**

PO Box 18134  
Kearns, Utah 84118

#### **- (General Service Office) GSO**

**30%**

PO Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

#### **- Intergroup Central Office**

**50%**

3480 Washington Blvd #108  
Ogden, Utah 84401

**“Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible.”**



## DISTRICT 11 GSR Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025

John D. opened the meeting at 6:31 pm

1. Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

- A.A. Preamble read by **Marla H.**
- GSR Preamble read by **Josh C.**
- 12 Traditions ready by **Cory E.**
- Welcomed GSRs and New GSRs – **Renette** from KISS Group and **Marla H.** from Serenity Sisters
- Welcome Interested AAs and Visitors
- Roll Call – **Kim M.** passed around roll call with a request for updated information.
- Tradition Presentation – **Josette K.** – Tradition 4
- Treasurer's report – **Kameron K.** gave report. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by **Marla H.** second by **Kevin M.**, approved.

3. New Business:
- \***Amy S.** Area 69 Treatment Chair does a presentation
  - \*GSO Preamble changed to current form (no objections);
  - \*District Traditions Workshop will be July 19<sup>th</sup> at South Davis Recovery Club 3-5pm; Planning Committee volunteers noted;
  - \*District 11 Guidelines Committee volunteers noted;
  - \*Area 69 Alternate Delegate **Kristen D.** speaks about 2026 National Corrections Conference; it will be at Little America in Salt Lake City; the conference has never been further West than Missouri; the conference will need guides and transportation.
  - \*Open position for DCM South; **Phillip W.** unanimously voted in;
  - \*Standing Chair Absences discussed; guidelines state position is to be opened after 3 unexcused absences or 2 excused absences. Motion to open PI Chair position by **Cory E.**, second by **John D.**, **Ricardo B.** is voted out as PI Chair;
4. Old Business: **Sophi** presented her research on approximate costs for equipment for making the monthly district meeting a hybrid meeting. The cost is around \$250. **John D.** might have a computer to donate. Motion to accept cost by **John D.** second by **Cory E.**, approved

5. GSR Reports: Reports given in written form.

**Cory E.:** The Original Way, South Davis Recovery Club, Monday's at 5:30 pm, avg. attendance 12-15. A DCM or District Chair is welcome to attend their business meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month 6:30-7; **Marla H.:** Serenity Sisters, South Davis Recovery Club, Wednesday's at 7 pm, avg. attendance 40. **Bobby L.:** Happy Group, South Davis Recovery Club, Sunday's at 10 am, avg. attendance 88. **Nikki D.:** Serenity Happy Hour in Washington Terrace, Sunday's at 10 am, avg. attendance 70. Attendance a little down since weather got nice. **Kevin M.:** Our Primary Purpose, Church of Nazarene in Layton, Monday's at 7 pm, avg. attendance 20. **Aaron M.:** Davis Group, Baptist Church Layton, Friday's at 7 pm, avg. attendance 20+. **Lora M.:** Bountiful KISS, Bountiful Community Church, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., avg. attendance 10-20. Meeting continues to maintain support but would like additional support. **Mary T.:** Women's Circle of Hope, Mountain Road Church in Fruit Heights, Saturdays at 10 a.m., avg. attendance 40. **Cary J.:** Flying High Group, South Davis Recovery Club, Monday's and Friday's at 7 pm, avg attendance on Monday's is 15 and on Friday's is 25. Lots of newcomers from treatment centers at the Friday meetings. **Scott D.:** It's In The Book, Light of the Valley Church, Thursday's at 7 p.m., avg. attendance 20. **Nathan N.:** Not a Glum Lot, South Davis Recovery Club, Tuesday's at 7 p.m., avg. attendance 16-20

Standing Chair Reports:

DCM North – **Trudi F.** – Clearfield Group. They do not have a GSR and aren't interested in getting one.  
DCM South – **Phillip W.** – Just voted in.

Corrections – **Mark S.** – no report

PI – Open

CPC – **Brian W.** – May 14-16 hosted an information booth at Ogden Surgical Medical Society Conference to raise awareness about AA to medical professionals; event was very successful with multiple follow-up opportunities available.

Grapevine – Open

BTG – **Paul H.** – no report.

Treatment – **Bob A.** – Reached out to a number of treatment centers but not getting much traction; planning on sending out an email to treatment centers offering whatever support we can provide.

Literature – **Josh C.** – SJS Talent In the Park at Ogden Amphitheater on July 12; \$12 registration; looking for old books or literature to be donated.

Archivist – no report.

Intergroup Report – Ogden- no report

Intergroup Report – SLC- still looking for someone to be on Board of Trustees for Central Office for District 11.

DCMC – **John D.** – items covered during meeting.

6. Approve Last Month's Meeting Minutes. Motion to accept by **Kevin M.** second by **Nikki D.**

7. Area/District Events: Area 69 Post-Conference, District 12 Spanish Fork, Utah, May 16-18, 2025. Information available at [aaofutah.org](http://aaofutah.org)

8. Coming Soon: District 11 GSR Meeting, June 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm, South Davis Recovery Club, 25 North 200 West, Bountiful, Utah 84010.

Motion to close by **Kevin M.** second by **Phil W.** Closed at 7:35 pm with the responsibility statement.

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**“I am responsible...When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible.”**

DCMC – John D. 801-643-0193

DCM North – Trudi F. 801-631-7625

DCM South – Phillip W. 385-314-9624

District 11 Funds, P.O. Box 461, Bountiful, Utah 84011

### **>District GSR Meetings Information<**

➤ **District One – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM**

Boys & Girls Club  
650 E 700 S  
Brigham City

➤ **District 11 – 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 PM**

South Davis Recovery Club  
25 N. 200 W.  
Bountiful

### **District One - GSR Meeting Minutes**

**unavailable at time of publication**

AA CENTRAL OFFICE – OGDEN - 3480 WASHINGTON BLVD. SUITE 108

Office Hours: **Tuesday thru Friday 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm / Saturday 11:00 am-3:00 pm** //// **“CLOSED” Sunday & Monday**

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## Traditions Checklist

The following questions \* were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally **intended as suggestions for individual use**, many AA groups have since adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.

We will publish these checklist questions for one of the Twelve Traditions each month in 2025. (Hard copies are available at Ogden Central Office)

(\*revised November 2018)

### **Tradition SIX:**

**An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.**

1. Why is it important that we not get involved in outside enterprises?
2. Is it ever wise for a group to lease a small building or endorse an outside event?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local clubhouse familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs," which is available free from GSO?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Our group's landlord is raising money to pay for a new roof on the building. Should the group make a contribution? What if the landlord specifically asks the group to make a contribution?

**?? HUMOR ??**

I told my home group I had been talking with God lately. I said that He admonished me, saying that as an elder senior member, I was too egotistically self-absorbed and far too hypercritical of others. He added that I should become a humbler steward, work harder with others and take a deep inventory of my actions and attitudes.

When I was finished sharing, my home group members offered this unanimous response: "Thank God, our prayers have been answered!"

-Jose N. / Portland, Ore.

Information listed **below** is presented **solely** as a service to our readers, **NOT as an endorsement** by Intergroup Service of Northern Utah **or** AAWS. For any additional information, please contact the event sponsor.



*Tremonton Group of  
Alcoholics Anonymous*

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION**

*Is hosting a Picnic & day of fellowship on  
Saturday **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 2025 at:*

**Abel Park**

*937 S. Tremont Street  
Tremonton, Utah 84337*

*AA meeting begins at 12pm followed by  
food & fun.*

*Bring a guest and your children!!  
Bring a dish to share if you want to.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**