



Outside the Bottle

District 16 Newsletter

October 2020

Anonymity in the Age Of Social Media

(Traditions 11 and 12) by EA

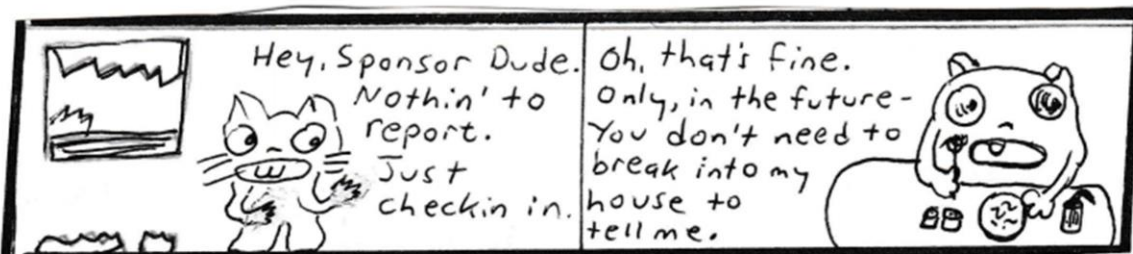
“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” This is how tradition 12 reads, and this tradition was based off of painful experience from the early days of AA. In tradition 11, the wording of “Press Radio, and Films” from the time the traditions were written, does not make mention of social media because, of course, it didn't exist at the time. It is obvious however, that social media reaches a percentage of the population at least as large, if not larger than press, radio and films of the time the traditions were published.

One of the highlights of Tradition 12 is the ability to place restraint on members that “changed from A.A. members to A.A. showoffs,” which often led from a seeming A.A. success story that grabbed public attention, to a disastrous public failure, now tied to A.A. as a whole. One of the largest differences between then and now is the absence of an editor, and the ease with which an A.A. member can immediately create a post. Social media allows us to post on a whim, which calls for even greater restraint by A.A. members.

Tradition 12 states that “anonymity is real humility at work.” This in turn means that violating this tradition for personal gratification is the opposite of humility. A mindset that flies in the face of an A.A. spiritual experience required to live ‘happily and usefully whole’ because we in A.A. practice “progress not perfection.” Maybe we can send a message to our fellow A.A.’s who maybe unknowingly violate this tradition publicly, and try to have a private conversation about the importance of tradition 12 in the era of social media. The boundaries are beautifully spelled out in tradition 11 and 12.

Keep on Trudgin'

By: Phil S.



Taking Suggestions

by EG

When drinking, people would give me suggestions on how I should do things or that maybe my drinking was a little bit out of control. I never took any of those suggestions because I was certain I knew better. Through coming to AA and getting sober, I've finally learned to not only listen to what other people are telling me, but to take most (sometimes my will and ego still get in the way) of the suggestions given to me.

My coming to AA was not by choice. I crashed my car into a tree while drinking and driving. I was totally blackout drunk and woke up in the drunk tank of the local municipality building thinking "not again!" My lawyer suggested that I start going to AA meetings so that the judge would have more leniency with me. I remember getting to my first meeting and being afraid because I had no idea what was in store. When a guy asked me if he could be my sponsor, I thought he was going to pay me to come to meetings! At my first meeting it was suggested that I go to 90 meetings in 90 days. I was open to this because I wanted the judge to go light on my sentence and thought this would help. During those 90 days, though, I found something of extreme value in the fellowship and knew that I was where I needed to be. It was suggested that I get so deep in that I couldn't get out, and I found that this was easier to do than I thought. I took the suggestions my sponsor gave me of calling him and other guys every day, to read the literature and to ask for help daily from a higher power.

Great things have resulted in my life from taking suggestions from other alcoholics. For one, I met the love of my life. I was set up to go on a blind date, but didn't want to go initially because of fear. I talked about this with other alcoholics and they suggested that I go. I met my now wife on that blind date. The place where I am currently employed is also the result of taking a suggestion from fellow alcoholics. I have never worked for a better company. I am convinced that if I were still drinking I would have missed on so many good things in my life that are the result of taking suggestions from fellow alcoholics. My best judgements only ever got me in trouble. AA has given me the ability to listen, take suggestions, and finally take action.

Broad Highway

Hello Readers,

The District continues to do what it can for the 70+ groups within its geographic territory. A new year is approaching. Decisions need to be made. Specifically, chairpersons, secretaries, treasuries and committee chairs were filled quite recently. As those terms begin on January 1 2021, ending December 31 2022, hopefully more information will be provided in upcoming issues of this newsletter. It may be that you are asking, "How does the election of these AA service positions affect me?" Great question, and more will be revealed.

Lastly, a quick house-keeping item. As a new year is beginning soon, so to it is a great opportunity to elect a new GSR for your group... someone new to add to their current sobriety with new experience, new friends. For any questions on these matters, please feel free to email district16news@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
The GSRs of District 16

Happy Anniversary to these groups:

Saturday Night Big Book Study – Clawson
Clawson Group – Clawson
The Grace and Mercy Group - Southfield

We are self-supporting through our own contributions. The District, representing the overall conscience of 76 groups, is greatly appreciative for any funds of any amount. May we all be united together in spreading the message across this geographic area. If groups would like to donate funds to District 16, please mail a check or money order:

*Must be made out to: **District 16 of Area 33 AA***
PO Box 725362
Berkley, MI 48072



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