

This presentation of  
***The 3 Legacies***  
was presented at Soberfest - McHenry  
on Nov. 22, 2020  
and created "for free and for fun"  
by Debbie D. of Concord, CA  
contact her at [scarlettwanabe@gmail.com](mailto:scarlettwanabe@gmail.com)  
for any further information.

*Enjoy the Journey!*

# *Our 3 Legacies*



**MCHENRY SOBERFEST, NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

presentation created by Debbie D.,  
Concord, CA 11/2020

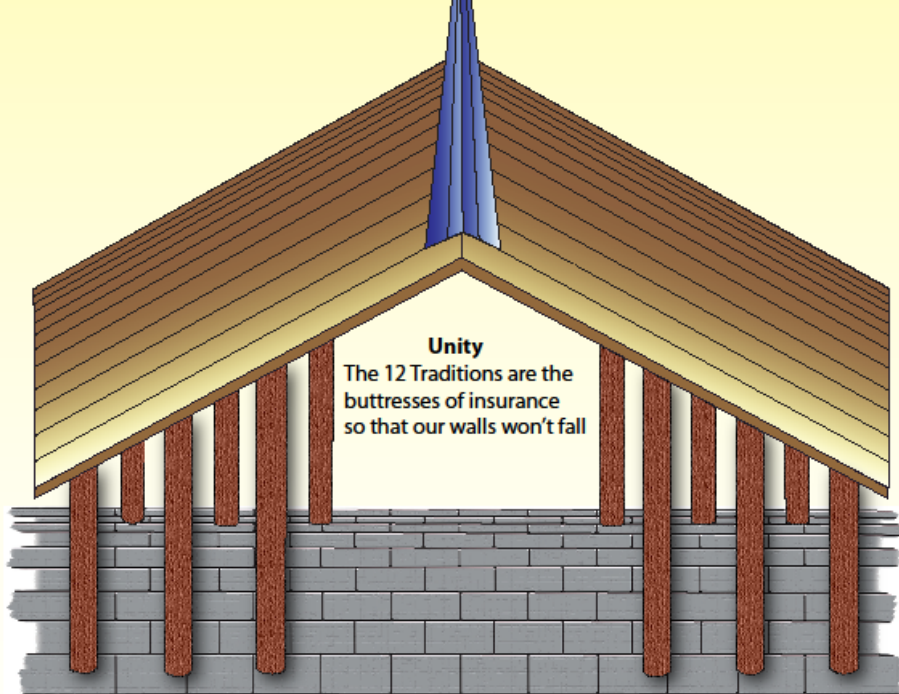
# Cathedral of Spirit

## Service

The 12 Concepts are the spire of shine throughout the world, for symbolic finger continue to point



service, creating a beacon to all to see, and that may it's straight upward - toward God



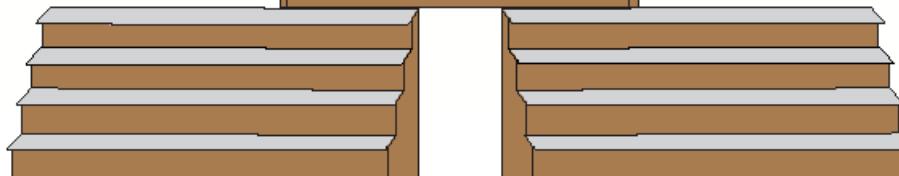
## Unity

The 12 Traditions are the buttresses of insurance so that our walls won't fall

## Recovery

The 12 Steps are with a floor that is include all who

what we stand on - ever expanding to come here



# How Did We Get Where We Are?

- 1934, Dec. 11 \* Bill Wilson gets sober.
- 1935, June 10 \* Dr. Bob Smith gets sober and A.A. is co-founded.
- 1938
  - \* About 40+ people are sober.
  - \* 8-11-38 Created “The Alcoholic Foundation” as a trusteeship.
- 1939, April
  - \* The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is published, containing our 12 Steps (**1st Legacy - Recovery**).
  - \* Membership about 100 (some say 79).
- 1946, April
  - \* Bill proposes in *The AA Grapevine* our (Traditions) “An Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition of Relations - Twelve Points to Assure Our Future”.
- 1947, April
  - \* Memo from Bill to the Trustees with a proposal to create a yearly Conference.

- 1950, July \* 1st Intl Convention in Cleveland.  
\* Traditions were unanimously adopted there (**2nd Legacy-Unity**).  
\* Proposed to the fellowship a yearly Conference of Delegates.
- Nov. 16 \* Dr. Bob dies.
- 1951, April \* The Panel One Delegates came to New York = One Delegate from each of the 37 States/Provinces of the largest AA population. Bill stated: “As I watched all this grow, I became entirely sure Alcoholics Anonymous was at last safe – even from me.”
- 1955 \* 2nd International Convention in St. Louis.  
\* The 5th Annual General Svc Conf was held in St. Louis, and there, the responsibility of our future affairs was turned over to the Fellowship and A Resolution was adopted that the General Service Conference would replace the Co-Founders.

As Bill would say = “A.A. had Come Of Age.” .....

- 1962 \* Concepts are adopted and published (**3rd Legacy – Service**).
- 1971, Jan. 24 \* Bill Wilson dies (36+ years sober).
- 1974 \* Short Form of Concepts are devised.
- 2001 \* Included in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition *Big Book* as Appendix VII.

# Service - Our Twelve Concepts - 1962

"... are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. They reveal the evolution by which it has arrived in its present form, and they detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today. These Concepts therefore aim to record the "why" of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost."

*The*  
**A.A. SERVICE MANUAL**

*Combined With*

**TWELVE CONCEPTS  
for WORLD SERVICE**

*by Bill W.*

*2018-2020 Edition*  
**REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE  
2018 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

"The Twelve  
Concepts for  
World Service"



The  
what?



**The  
Twelve  
Concepts  
for  
World  
Service  
illustrated**



Oh!





***At the General***

***Service Level:***

***At the Home***

***Group Level:***

# **Concept 1**

---

**Has the responsibility & authority**

**Fellowship as a  
whole (1,449,311)**

**All people at  
the meeting (100)**

***At the General  
Service Level:***

***At the Home  
Group Level:***



# **Concept 2**

**The GSC became actual voice for our  
society**

**Delegates @ Genl  
Svc Conference  
(93 Del/135 Ttl)**

**Attendees of  
Business Meeting  
(30)**

***At the General  
Service Level:***

***At the Home  
Group Level:***



# **Concept 6**

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**Chief initiative and active responsibility  
regarding finance and policy**

**GS Board of  
Trustees  
(21 members)**

**Group Secretary  
or Steering Comm.  
(1 or More)**

***At the General  
Service Level:***

***At the Home  
Group Level:***



# **Concept 8**

**The GSB has oversight over the 2 separately incorporated and constantly active services**

**AAWS & Grapevine  
Corporate Boards  
(usually 9 per board)**

**Group Service  
Commitments  
(50+ jobs)**

***At the General  
Service Level:***

***At the Home  
Group Level:***

**and all are guided by the 'paperwork' of**

# **Concept 7**

**Guidelines: Bylaws,  
Charters, Traditions  
& Concepts**

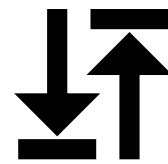
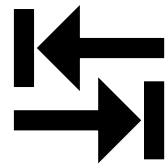
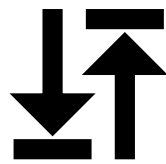
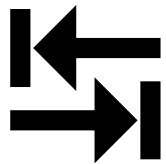
**Group Minutes,  
Motions, Trad's  
& Concepts**

# ***Spiritual Tools:***

## **Concept 3**

### **“Right of Decision”**

**Each service element decides what they will handle on own, seek consultation on, or go back to the groups for guidance on.**



# Concept 4

## “Right of Participation”

**Each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.**



# Concept 5

## “Right of Appeal”

**Assuring minority opinion. That all voices are to be heard, regardless of their length of sobriety, age, or any other factors.**





# *Administrative Guidelines:*

## Concept 10

**Match responsibility with the authority to carry it out.**

**Define it = by tradition, resolution, or specific job description, etc.**

# Concept 11

Get the Best People for the job.

## Reviews:

- \* **Composition**
- \* **Personal Qualifications**
- \* **Induction into service**
- \* **Rotation**
- \* **How related to each other**
- \* **Financial compensation**

# Concept 12

**General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall ...**

**(1) observe the spirit of A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power;**

**AM I STILL PUTTING A BUCK IN THE BASKET?**

For the year ending 2019:

Group ONLY Contributions	\$6,924,130.00	
Cost of Services	\$11.6 million	(about 59% covered)
Number of groups listed	69,466	
Number of groups contributed	28,180	
% of groups contributing	40.6%	(where are the other 59.4%?)

**2019 Goal is \$8.06/member .... avg. was \$4.79**

Highest Average per Member: 12/Delaware	\$11.24
Lowest Average per Member:	\$ .20

Highest % of Groups Contributing: 17/Hawaii	58.58%
Lowest % of Groups Contributing:	1.12%

**2020 is \$8.16**

**(2) that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principal;**

**Y/E 2019 Current Prudent Reserve is:**

**\$16,202,404, or 9.2 mo. operating expenses  
[\$4.5million drawdown to date 2020]**

**(3) that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any others;**

**(4) that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;**

**(5) that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy;**

**(6) that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.**

# Concept 9

But let's just review the highlight points. Good leadership ...

- 1) Puts principles, plans, and policies into action and we want to back them up.
- 2) Originates plans, policies, and ideas – but is open to a good idea from anywhere, and gives proper credit.
- 3) Never passes the buck.
- 4) Determines when, and is willing, to stand for what is right for the whole, and when necessary.
- 5) Does not oppose – just for the sake of opposition.
- 6) Know that very prideful or angry people can also be right.
- 7) Knows you got to give and take ... and compromise cheerfully – and yet when you must stand firm on your beliefs.
- 8) Criticism ... he calls it “the acid test”. There's the constructive critics (often our friends) ... and the destructive critics.
- 9) Bill said then there's the all important attribute of VISION ... the ability to estimate the good for the immediate and distant future.

# On Sponsorship:

**“Every sponsor is a leader. The stakes are about as big as they could be. A human life and usually the happiness of a whole family hang in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example – these qualities of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death.”**

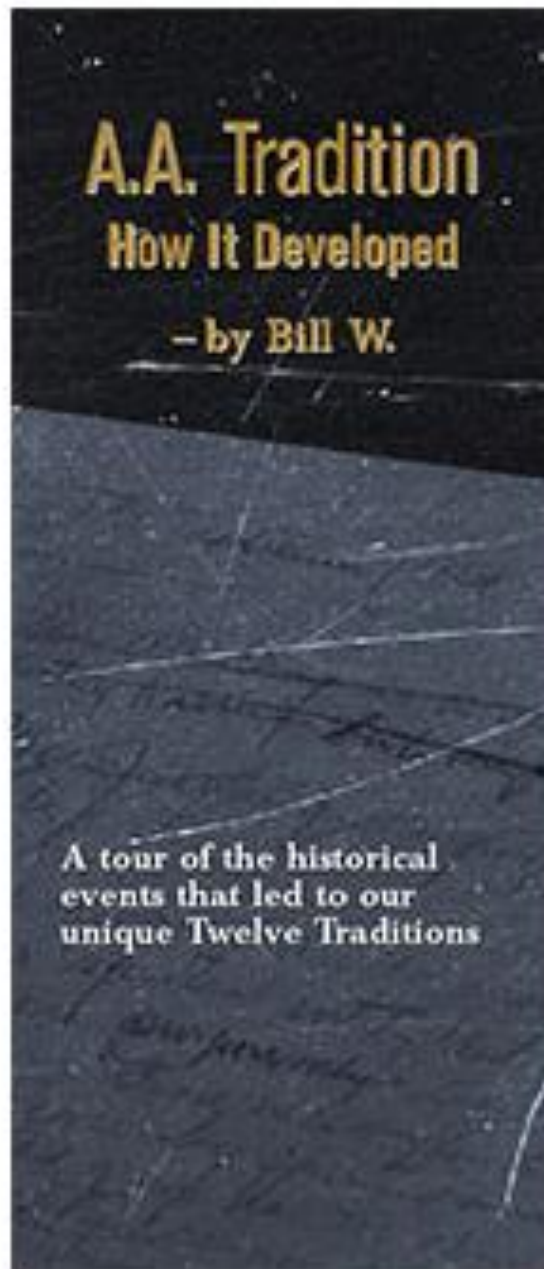
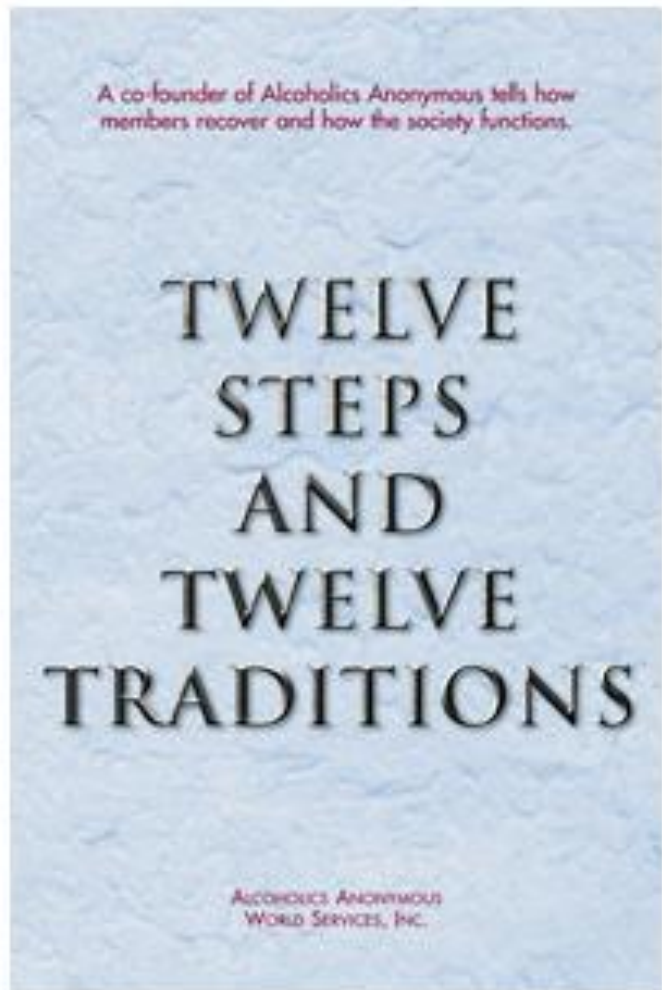
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# Unity - Our Twelve Traditions - 1950

"... apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows."

*Reprinted from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" pg. 15, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*



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**Tradition 1: Common Welfare**

**Tradition 2: Group Conscience  
... Trusted Servants**

**Tradition 3: Membership**

**Tradition 4: *Autonomy***

**Tradition 5: *Primary Purpose***

**Tradition 6: *No Affiliation or  
Endorsement***

**Tradition 7: Self-Supporting**

**Tradition 8: Non-Professional**

**Tradition 9: Committees,  
Service Boards, Rotation**

**Tradition 10: Outside Issues**

**Tradition 11: Anonymity -  
Attraction rather than Promotion**

**Tradition 12: Principles Before  
Personalities**

# Recovery - Our Twelve Steps - 1939

"... are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole."

*Reprinted from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" pg. 15, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

**Step One** showed us an amazing paradox: We found that we were totally unable to be rid of the alcohol obsession until we first admitted that we were powerless over it.

In **Step Two** we saw that since we could not restore ourselves to sanity, some Higher Power must necessarily do so if we were to survive.

Consequently, in **Step Three** we turned our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. For the time being, we who were atheist or agnostic discovered that our own group, or A.A. as a whole, would suffice as a higher power.

*Reprinted from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" pgs. 107-109, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*



Beginning with **Step Four**, we commenced to search out the things in ourselves which had brought us to physical, moral, and spiritual bankruptcy. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory.

Looking at **Step Five**, we decided that an inventory, taken alone, wouldn't be enough. We knew we would have to quit the deadly business of living alone with our conflicts, and in honesty confide these to God and another human being.

At **Step Six**, many of us balked—for the practical reason that we did not wish to have all our defects of character removed, because we still loved some of them too much. ... while we still had some flaws of character that we could not yet relinquish, we ought nevertheless to quit our stubborn, rebellious hanging on to them.

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Then, in **Step Seven**, we humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings such as He could or would under the conditions of the day we asked.

In **Step Eight**, we continued our house-cleaning, for we saw that we were not only in conflict with ourselves, but also with people and situations in the world in which we lived. We had to begin to make our peace, and so we listed the people we had harmed and became willing to set things right.

We followed this up in **Step Nine** by making direct amends to those concerned, except when it would injure them or other people.

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By this time, at **Step Ten**, we had begun to get a basis for daily living, and we keenly realized that we would need to continue taking personal inventory, and that when we were in the wrong we ought to admit it promptly.

In **Step Eleven** we saw that if a Higher Power had restored us to sanity and had enabled us to live with some peace of mind in a sorely troubled world, then such a Higher Power was worth knowing better, by as direct contact as possible. The persistent use of meditation and prayer, we found, did open the channel so that where there had been a trickle, there now was a river which led to sure power and safe guidance from God as we were increasingly better able to understand Him.

*Reprinted from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" pgs. 107-109, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc*

**Step Twelve** - Having had a spiritual awakening (in the 1st Edition 1st Printing it said 'experience') as the result of these steps [have I had one???, what's the definition of a 'spiritual awakening'???],

*“Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others. And these things which they have in common are not too hard to understand. When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. He has been set on a path which tells him he is really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered. In a very real sense he has been transformed, because he has laid hold of a source of strength which, in one way or another, he had hitherto denied himself. He finds himself in possession of a degree of honesty, tolerance, unselfishness, peace of mind, and love of which he had thought himself quite incapable. What he has received is a free gift, and yet usually, at least in some small part, he has made himself ready to receive it.”*

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we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, [all kinds of service work - at all levels, and sponsorship]

and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**What are the principles? Here is ‘one’ list – and it’s been a good guide for me:**

**Honesty – Hope – Action**

**Courage – Integrity – Willingness**

**Humility – Brotherly Love – Self-discipline**

**Perseverance – Spiritual Awareness – Service**

*In Chicago of February 1951, here are some excerpts of a talk Bill W. gave:*

"We who are the older members bequeath to you who are younger these Three Legacies – The Twelve Steps of Recovery, The Twelve Traditions, and now the General Services of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Since 1938 we and our friends have been holding this in trust for you.

Acting on behalf of all, Dr. Bob and I ask that you – the members of Alcoholics Anonymous - assume guidance of these services and guard them well. The future growth, indeed the very survival of Alcoholics Anonymous may one day depend how prudently you guard these arms of Service in the years to come.

So, my dear friends, I again see our Cathedral of the Spirit. On it's great floor where 120,000 of us now stand (*membership in 1951*) in freedom are inscribed our Twelve Steps of Recovery.

You and I have seen the great walls go up, buttressed by the Twelve Traditions and are becoming confident that they will maintain us always in unity.

And now I am sure that you perceive with me that the spire is being affixed to our Cathedral of the Spirit and the name of that spire shall be called "Service".

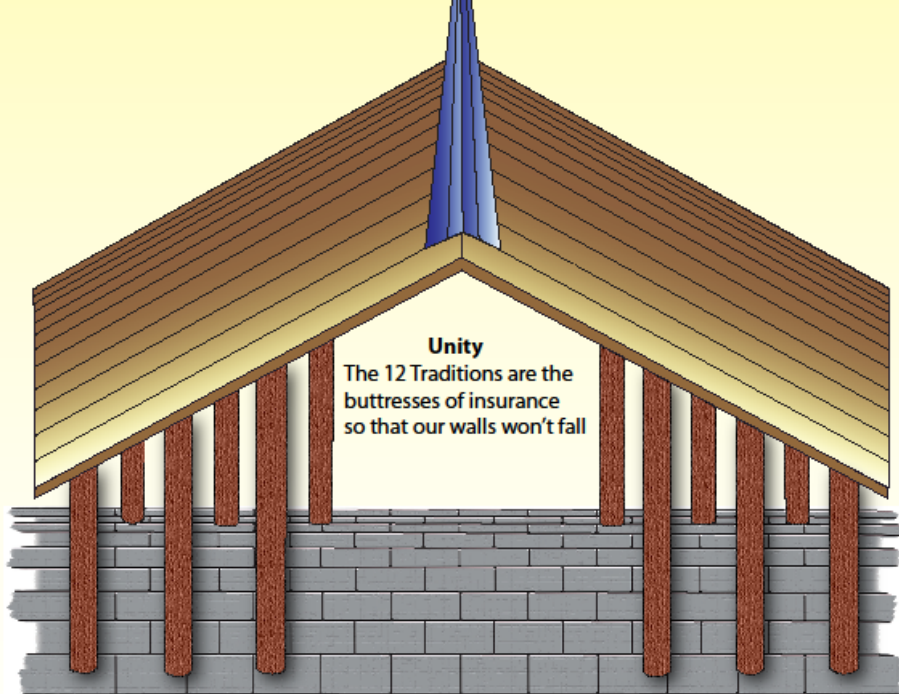
# Cathedral of Spirit

## Service

The 12 Concepts are the spire of shine throughout the world, for symbolic finger continue to point



service, creating a beacon to all to see, and that may it's straight upward - toward God

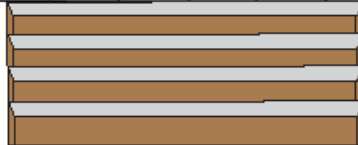


## Unity

The 12 Traditions are the buttresses of insurance so that our walls won't fall

## Recovery

The 12 Steps are with a floor that is include all who



what we stand on - ever expanding to come here





A **BEACON** for all to see – a beacon to the millions who don't know. And may that spire, may it's symbolic finger always point straight upward - towards God.”



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