

God Grant me
the **Serenity**
to accept the things
I cannot change
...the **Courage**
to change the
things I can,
and the **Wisdom**
to know
the difference

Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly **DECEMBER 2002**

Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an enticement to public controversy; 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.

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter "can be readily amended," these General Warranties—like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions—can be changed only by "written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups" in the world!

Warranty One: "The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power." The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual member's donations, "we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense." And if we live by Tradition Two—that "our ultimate authority is a loving God" and that "our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern"—then we are safe from perilous power.

Warranty Two: "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, should be its prudent financial principle." Although many of us as active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting "A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant." Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year's operating expenses of the G.S.O. and the *Grapevine*. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services.

Warranty Three: "None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others." This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but "it is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty"—a strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure."

*Reprinted with permission from GSO pamphlet
"The Twelve Concepts for World Service"*

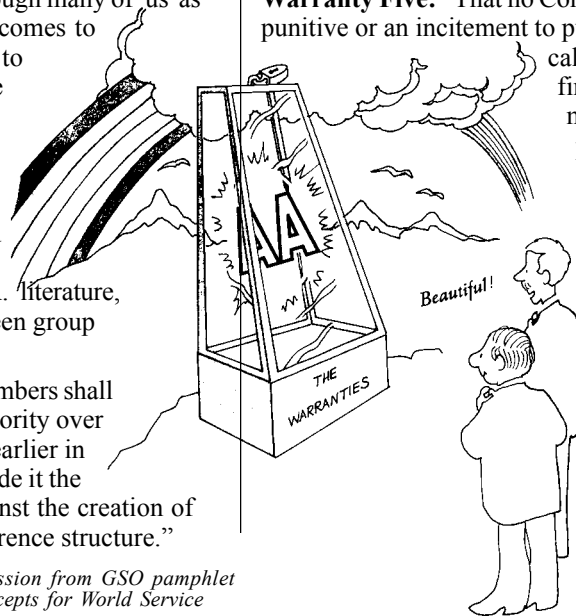
Why?

Because "these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess.... These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves."

The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one by one:

Warranty Four: "That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity." This Warranty is, on the one hand, "a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision."

Warranty Five: "That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy." Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or laws, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary. When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishment. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger.



Continued on P.3, Concept XII

Pipeline

A Publication of the
NH Area 43 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous

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Distribution

Pipeline

Statement of Purpose

The New Hampshire Area Pipeline will be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to New Hampshire A. A. Area 43 as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Pipeline will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Like the A.A. movement it mirrors, the primary purpose of the New Hampshire Pipeline will be to try to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics and practice the A.A. principles in all its affairs.

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Group Information

New Groups

District 11

• Franklin

As Bill Sees It K of C Hall 20 Church Street
Wednesday 10:30 to 11:30am

• Tilton

Sobriety Group Methodist Church 400 West Main St.
Tuesday 8 to 9pm

District 16

• Wolfeboro Falls

Thursday Night Discussion Group 1st Baptist Church
Center St - Rte 28 Thursday 7:30 to 8:45pm

Meeting Changes

District 8

• **Concord** - Young People's Meeting Merrimack
County Diversion 163 North Main St. Tuesday 6
to 7pm Met on Wednesdays, changed to Tuesdays.

• **Concord** - Noon BB Mtg St. Paul's Church
21 Center St Wednesday 12 to 1pm Handicap added

District 9

• **Derry** - Just Steps Friendship Center
45 E. Broadway Wednesday 8 to 9:30pm End time
changed to 9:30pm. Closed and Non-smoking added

District 12

• **Manchester** - Basic Sobriety Group St. John the
Baptist Music Rm 305 Kelly St, Rm 105 Tuesday
7 to 8:30pm Mistakenly listed as closed, it's OPEN.

District 13

• **Milford** - Milford Original Group St. Joseph's
Medical Ctr. Nashua St. Saturday 8 to 9pm End
time changed to 9pm

• **Nashua** - Nashua Original Group 1st Church of
Nashua Corner of Lowell & Concord Sts Wednesday
7:30 to 9pm Changed from Keystone Hall, Pine St. Ext.

District 14

• **Portsmouth** -
Wing Ding Grp Community Campus 100 Campus Dr.
Friday 7:30 to 8:30pm Location change from
Portsmouth Pavilion Borthwick Ave

District 15

• **Durham** -
Action Group (Sept - May) Student Health Center
Library, 2nd Floor Monday - Friday 12:10 to 1pm
Moved from Room 200 to the Health Center Library.

District 16

• **Alton** - Gateway to Sobriety Baptist Meeting House
Main St Thursday 8 to 9pm Address changed from
Alton Community Church, Church Street

District 18

• **Newport** - Living Sober Group Episcopal Church
Park Street Thursday 7:45 to 8:30am Beginning time
changed to 7:45

• **Newport** - Rock Bottom Episcopal Church Park St.
Monday 7:45 to 8:30am Beginning time change now 7:45

District 19

• **Walpole** - As Bill Sees It Congregational Church
Washington Sq. Monday 7 to 9pm Beginning time
changed to 7pm

• **Munsonville** - Keep It Simple Mens Group Chapel
by the Lake Rte 9A Granite Lake Sunday 7:30pm
Closed Added

• **Keene** - Cheshire Group Community Kitchen
37 Mechanic St. Tuesday 8 to 9:15pm End time
change to 9:15pm

Disbanded Meetings

District 11

• **Tilton** - Tilton/Franklin Group Tilton/Northfield
Methodist Church 400 West Main St Tuesday 8 to 9pm
Meeting disbanded on Tuesday. Friday meeting continues.

District 18

• **Newport** - Women in Sobriety Millie's Place-Newport
Shopping Pl. John Stark Hgwy Tuesday 6 to 7pm

• **Newport** - Came to Believe Millie's Place-Newport
Shopping Pl. John Stark Highway Tuesday 8 to 9am

Greetings From Your Service Office

Do you take your ability to go to a meeting for granted? What of the alcoholic who it isn't so simple for? How can we carry the message to them?

For some, their health makes it difficult for them to leave home, even for a meeting. Others live in remote areas, where they have to travel far to get to a meeting. For those, Homers and Loners, as well as Internationalists (sea-going AA members), there is a source of help: the LIM. This is a meeting in print, for those who can't attend meetings on a regular basis. Most LIM members also write letters to one another, further enhancing their own programs through regular contact with AA members. Do you know someone who the LIM might help? For information on the LIM, write to Loners Assignment, c/o General Service Office, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York NY 10163; or e-mail lim@aa.org.

For others, they may be able to attend a meeting, but not understand our message. Here at the Service Office, we maintain a language databank. This is a list of AA members who know other languages, who are willing to help other alcoholics. There is a special need for those who know Spanish and sign language. For those of you that sign, we now have service material available, to help you sign some of our fellowship materials. These "translations" of the steps, traditions, Serenity Prayer, How It Works, and other material, have been specifically developed by some of our deaf members for signing purposes. We'd love to share this material with any of you that work with deaf alcoholics!

Don't forget to include a stop at the Service Office while doing your holiday shopping! A new Large-Print Daily Reflections, a 2003 Grapevine calendar, a 2002 Convention coffee mug, a Pipeline subscription, or any of our other materials make great gifts for your recovering friends. We look forward to your visit!

Warmest holiday wishes, Karen, Mary Anne and Ingrid

Tools Of Recovery

Having been recently appointed as the Area Grapevine/Literature chairman, I would like very much to make contact with any and all committees, groups, and districts, as well as individual AA members to solicit suggestions or requests (such as a Grapevine/Literature display) in order to carry our message of recovery. I am available (with reasonable notice) to attend any meeting to provide information, answer questions, brainstorm for ideas, and bring a display of available AA literature, tapes, and other materials.

Please make use of my services by calling (603) 934-5222, or informing the service office in Hooksett.

Thanks, Al S. Area Grapevine/Literature Chair

OCTOBER Donations THANK YOU!

Covered Bridge	Ashland
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
Derby Discussion	Berlin
Colebrook Disc.	Colebrook
BYOC Tuesday AM	Concord
Happy Hour	Concord
New Women's Step	Concord
Original	Concord
Derry Men's Beginner	Derry
Derry Original	Derry
Dover Orig.	Dover
Durham Original	Durham
Fresh Beginners	Durham
Women's Sun. Serenity	Exeter
Groveton	Groveton
Sat Night Original	Hampstead
Sat. Night Original	Hampstead
Pass It On	Hampton
The Way Out	Hampton
Pink Triangle Grp	Keene
T.O.A.D.	Keene
Laconia Thur. Nite Orig	Laconia
Sat. Night Alive	Laconia
North End	Manchest
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
Keep It Simple	Manchester
New Life	Manchester
Queen City	Manchester
Steppin Back To Basics	Manchester
There Is A Solution	Manchester
Milford No Name	Milford
Milford Women's Grp	Milford
Souhegan Sunrise	Milford
Mon. Night Big Book	N.Conway
Remember When	Nashua
Sat Am Women In Recovery	Nashua
TSDD Men's Peace Of Mind	Nashua
Tues Nite Trad	Nashua
Tues Night of AA	New Boston
Sat. Big Book	Northwood
Nottingham Original	Nottingham
Mountaintop Meeting	Peterborough
Last House On Left	Plymouth
12 & 12 BYOB	Portsmouth
Early Birds	Portsmouth
Faith	Portsmouth
Happy Hour	Portsmouth
Tues Nite Young Peoples	Portsmouth
3-7-11 Step	Rye
Safe Harbor Womens Beginner's	Salem
Bow Lake	Strafford
12&12 Discussion	Wolfeboro
Coffee & Donuts	Wolfeboro
Friday Niters Disc.	Wolfeboro

District 13 Complaint: Pipeline Calendar & Rebuttal on Answering Service

I am the District 13 Alkathon Representative, the District 13 Answering Service Representative and also a GSR. I have been called and written with numerous notices of complaints on your November Pipeline. First, and most importantly, the December calendar is all messed up. I hope you have some kind of plan or schedule change to be reprinted.

Concerning the Answering Service, we have had our own phone number and answering service from the beginning. It just happens we have the same answering service company (as used by the Consolidated Service). Every time we have been approached by the Consolidated Answering Service, they have had no definite answers for us.

We have an average of approximately 200 calls per month and our average monthly fee is approximately \$150.00. The yearly cost for District 13's Answering service is approximately \$1900.00.

We are aware of how many calls, what we pay, and how many call backs on a monthly basis. The Consolidated Answering Service could not at anytime give us a price and explanation!

We are not trying to be disrespectful. Please do not make our District appear uncooperative. We have declined (to join) many times and we have a firm vote. Due to billing (questions), District 13 will not be a part of the Consolidated Service. This plan has worked for many years for this District, Thank You for your consideration. We are keeping to our decision of not joining.

Annie Y., District 13 (submitted by e-mail)
Answering Service Representative

Editor's Note: We apologize for the mix up on the December Calendar included in the November Pipeline. All efforts are made to keep information accurate, but we all blew this one—it has been corrected in this issue. As for the answering service article in the November issue, as with all articles submitted, the opinions are those of the writer(s).

Concept XII, continued from p. 1

For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to situations would be no defense whatever—namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this *privately* to the critics—with our thanks.”

Public violations of A.A. Traditions.

Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purposes. ‘Aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately, we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use such other resources of persuasion as we have. In the long run, though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion.’”

“Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention.” As G.S.O. ‘is not a police operation,’ we can only offer A.A.’s experience as a matter of information situations would be no defense whatever—namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this *privately* to the critics—with our thanks.”

Warranty Six: “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 Anonymas which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A.s probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death.

“Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any way curtail A.A.’s freedom under God. We expect our Conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love—one member to another.

“Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.”

Note from the Pipeline Committee: We hope you have enjoyed this series on AA's concepts. Next year, we will focus on the tradition of the month - January, Tradition 1, etc. please send in your views (drop at the Service Office, by regular mail, or by e-mail) of each tradition so we may share with our fellowship. Editor

Subject: ANYONYMOUS

(is the spelling suppose to be incorrect?)



I feel a need to address the so called joke (by many I suppose) that is on the back page of the October Pipeline called ANONYMOUS. I happen to be a practicing devout Catholic. By the way, I am quite aware of "Rule 62" and believe that not taking yourself so serious may apply here; however, I feel that this joke is in bad taste.

I sit at meetings and here some clown state that they are a "Recovering Catholic" and how this religion 'screwed them all up' and on and on. The tough part is to hear all the laughter implying that a Recovering Alcoholic may be foolish in believing in Catholicism. Well I'm here to tell all of you that I am personally hurt because Jesus Christ is my Savior. For those of you who think I'm nuts, well it was Alcoholic Anonymous that brought me back to my faith (so how's that for irony?)!

Plus it states in our Big Book that 'many of us return to the faith our youth'. I've been sober for over 9 years now and never have mentioned Jesus in a meeting because I believe that ones idea of a Higher Power is sacred and I would never want to try to impose my religion on anyone in any way. That also includes the 'back door' method of implying that one way to faith is better than another way. After all, we are not allied with anything and we are suppose to try and avoid controversy. Politics and Religion tend to be 'thin ice' places to be.

So the next time you hear some good OLE Catholic bashing at a meeting, please look around and if I'm at the meeting, could you think about Step Nine. There, now I feel better!

Tony G. (Submitted by e-mail)

Editor's Note: *The spelling is as submitted. Please accept our apologies! There was no insult intended, actually, we thought the joke was on us.*

The Pipeline Needs Your Help!!!

Area 43's beloved newsletter is running in the red. We need more people to buy group subscriptions! It's all in there – area and district news, information about AA dances and workshops, meeting changes, articles by fellow members – why not pass the word around a little further?

Just \$6 will buy you and your group (or friends) **10 copies** of each issue for a whole year! **Just \$3.50** will buy you or someone you know **2 copies** (1 to keep & one to pass along) of each issue for a whole year! **Thank you for your support!**

To subscribe or renew your Pipeline subscription, or if you would like to send a gift subscription to a sponsee, your sponsor, or any friend of Bill W.'s...just complete the form below and send with a payment to:

NH Area Assembly Service Office, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, NH 03106

Pipeline Subscription Form Please check correct box: Individual Group

If this is a group subscription, we need the following information for the group

Name (GSR if for Group) _____

Group# _____ Group Name _____ Group Town _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Renewal Gift From: _____

Attitude

"The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do... It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string, we have, and this is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."

Submitted By: Free At Last Group, Manchester

District 13 17th Annual Alkathon

Spartans Hall, 73 East Hollis St. Nashua, NH

Starts: 12 pm Dec. 24th

Ends: 9:00 pm Dec. 25th

Dinner 6 - 8 pm - Dec. 24th

Breakfast 7:30-9:30 am - Dec. 25th

Drop food donations at 10 am on Dec. 24th

For any questions or food donations call:

Ann Y. 882-4360 or Lorraine G. 889-4713

District 7 Alcathons Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve 6pm 'til 1am

Monadnock Community Hospital
Conference rooms 1 & 2.

Book donations & food are welcome!
Area groups are also requested to sponsor
an hour during the evenings in order to
keep the flow of meetings going.

District 8 - Concord Christmas Alcathon

8am - 8pm - Christmas day

Ward House, West Street, Concord NH

Questions? Call Bert 228-2231

**&
New Year's Eve Dinner Dance**

Bow Fire Station - \$5

7pm to Midnight

District 9 Alcathon

**6pm Christmas Eve to
6pm Christmas Night**

Friendship Center - Derry, NH
Donations of food gladly accepted

District 10 - Alcathon

New Year's Eve

**6pm New Year's Eve to
Noon on New Year's Day**

Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church,
Salem NH

District 11 Christmas Alkathon

Congregational Church
Parish Hall, Veterans' Square,
Laconia NH

7:00 pm Tues. Dec. 24th -

9:15 pm Wed. Dec 25th

runs continuously

District 12 Alcathon

**6pm Christmas Eve to
6pm Christmas Night**

NH Towers Cafeteria (Same as last Year)
1750 Elm Street, Manchester NH

District 19

Christmas Alcathon

Keene State Dining commons
Wyman Way (off Main Street) Keene

7:00pm to 12:15am Christmas Eve

7am-7:15pm Christmas Day