

# GIVE IT AWAY



## THE GREAT PARADOX

*These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, on to the other. This our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.*

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 151

The great paradox of A.A. is that I know I cannot keep the precious gift of sobriety unless I give it away.

My primary purpose is to stay sober. In A.A. I have no other goal, and the importance of this is a matter of life or death for me. If I veer from this purpose I lose. But A.A. is not only for me; it is for the alcoholic who still suffers. The legions of recovering alcoholics stay sober by sharing with fellow alcoholics. The way to my recovery is to show others in A.A. that when I share with them, we both grow in the grace of the Higher Power, and both of us are on the road to a happy destiny.

DAILY REFLECTIONS, p. 129

Tradition 3: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

MARCH TO APRIL, 2017

# THE UPDATE



"Nobody gets a newbie into that zombie state quicker than Phil does when he reads to them from The Big Book"

GOD GRANT ME THE  
**SERENITY**  
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS  
I CANNOT CHANGE  
**COURAGE**  
TO CHANGE THE  
THE THINGS I CAN AND  
**WISDOM**  
TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

# THE PROFESSOR AND THE PARADOX

BIG BOOK 2ND ED.

2. **WE GIVE AWAY TO KEEP.** That seems absurd and untrue. How can you keep anything if you give it away? But in order to keep whatever it is we get in A.A., we must go about giving it away to others, for no fees or rewards of any kind. When we cannot afford to give away what we have received so freely in A.A., we had better get ready for our next "drunk." It will happen every time. We've got to continue to give it away in order to keep it.

Copyright © Alcoholics Anonymous, Big Book 2nd Ed. p. 341

## TRADITION FIVE

Says the old proverb, "Shoemaker, stick to thy last." Trite, yes. But very true for us of A.A. How well we need to heed the principle that it is better to do one thing supremely well than many things badly.

Because it has now become plain enough that only a recovered alcoholic can do much for a sick alcoholic, a tremendous responsibility has descended upon us all, an obligation so great that it amounts to a sacred trust. For to our kind, those who suffer alcoholism, recovery is a matter of life or death. So the society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not ever be diverted from its primary purpose.

Temptation to do otherwise will come aplenty. Seeing fine works afoot in the field of alcohol, we shall be sorely tempted to loan out the name and credit of Alcoholics Anonymous to them; as a movement we shall be beset to finance and endorse other causes. Should our present success continue, people will commence to assert that A.A. is a brand new way of life, maybe a new religion, capable of saving the world. We shall be told it is our bounden duty to show modern society how it ought to live.

Oh, how very attractive these projects and ideas can be! How flattering to imagine that we might be chosen to demonstrate that olden mystic promise: "The first shall be last and the last shall be first." Fantastic, you say. Yet some of our well-wishers have begun to say such things.

Fortunately most of us are convinced that these are perilous speculations, alluring ingredients of that new heady wine we are now being offered, each bottle marked "Success"!

Of this subtle vintage may we never drink too deeply. May we never forget that we live by the Grace of God -- on borrowed time; that anonymity is better than acclaim; that for us as a movement poverty is better than wealth.

And may we reflect with ever deepening conviction, that we shall never be at our best except when we hew only to the primary spiritual aim of A.A. -- *"That of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers alcoholism."*

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AWAY**

## Sobriety Calendar

Leo, T.	Beginner's Reflections	3. Mar. 2008
Jeff V.	High Noon	3. Mar. 2015
Chipper R.	Forest Lakeside	3. Mar. 1994
Sharon W.	Sunshine Group	3. Mar. 1997
Dan V.	Hill Street Blues	5. Mar. 1993
Vivian C.	Forest Lakeside	5. Mar. 1982
Lenora D.	Bridgeview	7. Mar. 1968
Laurie P.	St. Peter's	7. Mar. 1988
Randy R.	Hill Street Blues	13. Mar. 2014
Stan S.	Freedom Group	20. Mar. 2011
Ron C.	Lambton Central	22. Mar. 1989
Leo C.	Lambton Central	22. Mar. 1975
Tim S	Men's Group	26. Mar. 1986

Robin E.	Bridgeview	1. May. 2009
Chantal P.	Hill Street Blues	2. May. 2015
Nathan L.	Forest Lakeside	2. May. 2014
Dave O	Sunday Morning	4. May. 1998
Stu S	Centennial Group	5. May. 1980
Wayne J.	Lambton Central	6. May. 1987
Leon J.	Murphy Road	6. May. 2014
Paul C	Monday Morning	8. May. 1982
Ron B	Thedford	13. May. 1987
Brandon R.	Lambton Central	17. May. 1993
Jane J.	St. Peter's	17. May. 2013
Louise A.	Lake Huron	23. May. 2005

Butch M.	Hub Group	1. Apr. 1978
Bob D	Sunday Morning	1. Apr. 1984
Jack S.	Forest Lakeside	1. Apr. 1966
Gary M.	Lake Huron	3. Apr. 1991
Ian S.	Hub Group	3. Apr. 1991
Janine M	Monday Morning	4. Apr. 2011
MaryJo C	Monday Morning	5. Apr. 1994
Mary C.	Bridgeview	5. Apr. 1993
Scott M.	Hub Group	7. Apr. 2015
Bo O.	High Noon	15. Apr. 1978
Kim McM	Thedford	24. Apr. 2014
Brian W	Men's Group	24. Apr. 2010
Christine D.	Watford Group	25. Apr. 2015
John B.	Forest Lakeside	25. Apr. 2013
Lynne W	Serenity by The Lake	29. Apr. 2004



It is the responsibility of each group to communicate birthday updates to the Newsletter Chairperson.

District 14, Area 86  
Sarnia Lambton  
Alcoholics Anonymous

Phone: 1-519-337-5211



**A**lcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with an sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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## District 14, Sarnia Lambton Announcements



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*This is a member to member publication. The viewpoints expressed here do not represent AA as a whole.*

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Submissions to the newsletter are always welcome. Send ideas to: [newsletter@asarnialambton.com](mailto:newsletter@asarnialambton.com)