

**“Easy Does It”**

• area54.org •  
aaloraincounty.org

710 Broadway Avenue Lorain, Ohio 44052

Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM Phone 440 246-1800  
Lorain Inter-Group Central Office email address: lorainaa@live.com

**“First Things First”**

• aa.org •  
aaloraincounty.org

## *Anonymous at the Level of Press, Radio, Films...and Facebook*

(The Northeast Ohio Recorder, Vol. 21, Issue 5, Jan.-March 2010)

An issue that gets brought up often surrounding the Traditions has to do with something that the Traditions don't even address: anonymity as it relates to the Internet. While I find the Traditions to be of the utmost importance for the survival of AA as a whole, I also recognize that they were written in an era when methods of communication were fairly limited, which consequently left some holes for the AA of today to fill in.

Specific to this discussion is the 11th Tradition, which states that “our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.” I remember when I first started thinking about anonymity and the Internet. Turning to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity,” I looked for answers. The pamphlet states that websites should be considered public media, and therefore we shouldn't use our full name or images on any public site. It goes on to say that “...the level of anonymity in emails, online meetings, and chat rooms would be a personal decision.”

At first glance, this seems pretty clear: no full names or pictures on any publically accessible website, but chat rooms, online meetings, and emails, are acceptable places to break our own anonymity, if we wish to. The pamphlet is trying to set up a distinction between a “private” and “public” Internet. Unfortunately, it falls well short of comprehensively defining this distinction. One could easily say that breaking anonymity on a national news organization's site is forbidden, but a break in an email to a friend is acceptable.

But what about sites such as Facebook and MySpace? These widely-used “social networking” sites have their own security protocols, some of which are fully customizable by the individual users. They have their own levels of public and private, further complicating the issue. For instance, I can set my personal Facebook page to be viewed by my “friends” only, preventing anyone else from seeing the information listed. Can I break my anonymity on this level, where only my friends can see? Wouldn't this be merely the virtual equivalent of gathering all of my friends in a room and telling them I am in AA? Facebook has “groups” where likeminded people can “sign up” and post messages on discussion boards. There are many of these twelve step-related groups on both Facebook and MySpace. There are multiple unmoderated groups titled “Alcoholics Anonymous,” one with over 9,000 members. Any Facebook member can access this group and its member list, most of whom use their full names (as Facebook requires for all of its members). One could argue that this is a public break because it falls under the banner

Alcoholics Anonymous. But what about the “Friends of Bill W.” group that has over 12,000 members? It is public (to members of Facebook), but specifically states that it is not affiliated with any organization. I think that the solution here has more to do with Tradition 6 than with Tradition 11. Calling a Facebook group “Alcoholics Anonymous” implies affiliation, despite disclaimers to the contrary (as offered by one of the groups). If they all were titled something like “Friends of Bill W.” or “Alcoholics in Recovery,” then we would be killing two birds with one stone: ending affiliation with AA and allowing group members to not worry about breaking their anonymity at a public level for merely joining the group. Each individual would be responsible for maintaining their own anonymity in these groups in group discussions, but they would no longer have to worry about their anonymity being broken just for joining the group.

The most recent edition of BOX 459 has an article devoted entirely to this discussion. It ends up saying that shared experience will help bring about resolution. There is no consensus among AA members as to whether or not social networking sites are public or private. The “Guideline” paper on the Internet released by GSO provides some clarification. It says that while social networking sites require a user to sign up, the sites are essentially public beyond the initial registration. Facebook has responded over the years to many users' demands for increased privacy and individual control over that privacy. This serves to benefit AA members, as well. Here are some tips I have compiled for anonymity-protected usage of Facebook:

- Don't join any group with “Alcoholics Anonymous” in its name, regardless of whether or not there is a disclaimer.
- If you choose to join a group for people in recovery, don't disclose that you are an AA member in any of the discussions you participate in. Talk in general terms about meetings, recovery, and steps, without mentioning specific names of organizations.
- If you choose to “out” yourself on your profile page, make sure the page is accessible to only your friends, and not to the general Facebook public.
- When creating an AA-related “event” on Facebook, make sure that it is private so that invitees don't have their anonymity broken when they decide to attend (Facebook posts an update to a member's page if they accept an invitation to an event).
- For extra privacy, make the guest list of an AA-related event hidden, so that guests aren't outed to anyone else viewing the event.

Continued on page 2

**Mon. Night****Lorain**

7:30 PM

Zion Lutheran  
Church

5100 Ashland Ave.

1st. Yolanda A.8th. Bonnie L.15th. Oscar L.22nd. Sonny**Tues. Amherst****"Who Me?"**

8:00 PM

Congregational  
Church

379 Main St.

2nd. Sarah H.9th. John S.16th. David N.23rd. Jessica R.**Elyria New Way****of Life Wed.**

8:00 PM

Pilgrim United Church  
of Christ523 E. Broad &  
Winkles3rd. Jesse M.10th Graig A.17th. Kelly Y.24th. Debbr B.

**G.S.R./D.C.M. Meeting:** The Multi-District meeting is held at 11 AM on the 1st. Sunday of the month. This meeting is for the General Service Rep's. (G.S.R.) of each Group and the District Committee Member's (D.C.M.). If you want to learn more about service attend this meeting.

**The Lorain Inter-Group Meeting** is the 1st. Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. It is very Important that all the Secretaries of each Group attend this meeting. We urge your Attendance (Be Informed, Be Active)

**Advisory Board Meeting:** The meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd. Wednesday of the month, at the Inter-Group Office.

**Tuesday Night Amherst "Who Me?"** group is happy to announce that the 8:00 p.m. meeting will be back in its normal meeting place on February 2, 2010. We thank you for your support during the remodeling of our meeting place and look forward to seeing you at 379 Main Street, Amherst, Ohio.

**Vermilion Thursday** closed Discussion time is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. .

*"Humility is not thinking less about yourself, but rather thinking about yourself less."*

**Tues. Avon at the****Barn**

8:30 PM

Methodist Church  
37111 Detroit Rd.2nd. Tony Montanaro9th. Matt Whitfield16th. Carl Fisher23rd. Bill Clemmons**Fri. Night****Faith Group**

11:00 PM

1741 N Ridge Rd.

5th. Discussion.12th. Discussion19th. Thumper26th. Amy B.**Mid- Night****Elyria****Group**

Sat. 12:00 PM

4th &amp; Middle Ave.

6th. Stan T.13th. Bill S.20th Cecil H.27th. Rick B.(free dinner)

*There's no elevator;  
you have to take the Steps.*

**Continued from page 1**

- Never break another member's anonymity without their permission. Don't post a message on someone's "wall" regarding meetings, sobriety, or AA. Just because you might not care if your friends know that you're in AA doesn't give you the right to break your friends' anonymity.
- When publishing pictures to Facebook, don't publish pictures from AA functions with your friends in them, unless you have their permission. Make sure that these pictures are only viewable by your friends only.
- Be cautious using anything recovery-related on MySpace, as MySpace doesn't offer anywhere near the amount of privacy control that Facebook does.

Many of us want AA to stay exactly the same as it was when it was founded, but this discussion brings out the shortcomings of this view. At the time the Traditions were published, this conversation about anonymity would be inconceivable. As our world changes and evolves, AA, too, must change and evolve. AA members must meet new challenges head-on, inside and outside of AA. Just as we tackle our own personal issues through shared experience, open-mindedness, and a willingness to change, we must meet new AA challenges the same way. AA must evolve with the times, or else it won't be prepared to meet the "certain trials and low spots ahead.

Dave S., Editor

\*To submit information for the news letter please contact: Vicki T. 440 225-1314, Jim Parks 440 385-5687, Bobbi Matear 440 537-4280, Opal A. 440 670-6619, Donna L. 440 574-3464, Amy D. 440 714-7444, via: Call, email or leave the information at the Inter-Group Office before the 25th. of each month.

**Concepts 2:** The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

**Step 2:** Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

**Promise 2:** We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.

**Tradition 2:** For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority-a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. Personal recovery depends upon A.A. Unity.

## Anniversary

• 26 years •

**February 3rd**

## Grafton

## Wednesday Night

8:00 p.m.

Grafton Fire Station  
1050 Novak Rd.

Lead: Ken C.  
Pizza & Door Prizes

## Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance

Saturday, Feb. 13

## **Arid Club**

7:00-8:30 Dinner

Prime Rib or Fish

Dance to follow until  
Midnight

Tickets #20.00/couple  
Gifts for your Valentine  
available to purchase on  
Friday, Feb. 12 & Saturday,  
Feb. 13 at the Arid

## • February Anniversary •

2nd. Pat W. 10 yrs.  
6th. Cecil H. 4 yrs.  
8th. Yolanda A. 20 yrs.  
9th. LaPhenie C. 11 yrs.  
10th. Keith S. 7 yrs.  
10th. Earl E. 4 yrs.  
12th. Tom O. 13 yrs.  
14th. Barbra. 2 yr.  
16th. Mike W. 1 yr.  
16th. Terry S. 11 yrs.  
16th. Jessica 10 yrs.  
17th. Kim C. 8 yrs.  
18th. Tom S. 5 yrs.  
18th. Bill Y. 32 yrs.  
21st. Gregg R. 16yrs.  
21st. Reno T. 2yr.  
24th. Bruce W. 28 yrs.  
25th. Eddie L. 5yrs.

## Survivors List:

Groups in need of  
Support to stay afloat .  
Please  
Attend, Contribute,  
Be Active, Help Chair,  
Be a Secretary,  
Be Responsible

## Lorain Consolidated

Sunday 2:30 PM  
710 Broadway Ave. Lorain

## Serenity Hall "The Gould"

Sat. 8:30pm  
710 Broadway Ave. Lorain

## St Agnes Thurs. Gp.

Thurs. 8:00 PM  
St. John's Luthern Church  
W. River Road

## St. Anthony's

Fri. Nite  
1305 E. Erie Ave.  
Lorain

## Friday Night Faith

Fri. 11:00 PM  
Monday Night Big Book

Mon. 7:00 p.m.  
Sat. Young Person's

## Group

Sat. 2:00 PM

## Sun. Night Serenity

Sun. 8:00 PM  
Arid Club, 1741 N. Ridge Rd.,  
Sheffield Township

**We Need Your Help!!**

Don't let them Close  
**HELP SUPPORT**  
THE GROUPS.

**Trust God.**

**Clean house.**

**Help others.**

## Saturday, February 27

Put your dancing shoes on for  
**Oldies Night c/o the Arid  
Club**

8 pm - Midnight

\$8/couple

\$5/person

Come Twist & Shout

Sloppy Joes & all the fixings  
will be available

## New Meeting Friday Night Free For All

starts Feb 5 at 7:30 p.m.

## **ARID Fellowship Club**

1741 N. Ridge Rd.  
Sheffield Township  
Open Lead Mtg.

## Joy of Living

Women in Recovery starting a  
new woman's meeting

## Mondays, 7:00 pm

Amherst Church of the  
Nazarene

210 Cooper Foster Rd.

(meets in the basement, please  
use side doors)

Every week covers something  
new. Bring your womanly  
issues for some womanly  
advice.

Happy

Joyous &

Free



## Phone Line Report:

Month of January 2010

12 Step Calls.....	8
Sponsorship.....	0
Al-A-Non.....	3
Meeting Info.....	99
General Info.....	40
Phone Service.....	79

Total:..... 229

We would like to "Thank" all the "Angels" who helped with phone lines and donations and clean up for Christmas and New Years of 2009. Because of you, we succeeded again. God bless you all and may you all have a great 2010 New Year. United we stand. Thank You.

For information on Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Al-Anon meetings, please contact the Intergroup office at 440-246-1800.

## Anniversary • Celebrating 30 years • Tuesday, March 2nd Amherst "Who Me?"

Dinner : 7:00 pm

Lead: 8:00 pm

Lead: Loretta Williams

Congregational Church

379 Main St., Amherst

Lots of Food

Lots of Door Prizes

**ATTENTION: Lorain County A.A. Community - help needed on various Committees! If interested, please contact one of the Advisory Board Members and VOLUNTEER!!!! Help Make A Difference!!**

**Committee Chairs**

**Unity LiveWire Committee**

Vicki Tomlinson..... 440 225-1314  
 \*e mail vickitom@oh.rr.com  
 Jim Parks.....440 385-5687  
 \*e mail jbparks2542@yahoo.com

**Internet Committee (aaloraincounty.org)**

Mike.....440 670-9910  
 e mail webmaster@aaloraincounty.org

**Cooperation with the Professionals Committee**

Alan Revercomb .....440 541-2473

**Correctional Committee**

Alan Revercomb .....440 541-2473

**Archives Committee**

Linda S. ....440 240-1189

**Young Peoples Committee**

John Flores.....440 308-5421

**Picnic Committee**

Sue Prosser.....440 309-0491

**Finance Committee**

Mark Potter.....440 452-5946

**Pig Roast Committee**

Troy Smith.....440 365-9018

**Special Needs Committee**

Yolanda A. ....440 541-4843

**Memorial Day Breakfast Committee**

Terry Poznako.....440 225-6897

**Grapevine Committee**

Linda S. ....440 240-1189  
 Coretta Farley .....440 308-1714

**District Committee**

**District 19A (Sheffield Lake, Avon Lake, Sheffield, Avon, N. Ridgeville, Eaton, Columbia, Grafton DCM. James Barker.....440 233-4992**

**District 19B (Lorain City Meetings and some in Vermilion )  
 DCM. Yolanda A. ....440 541-4843**

**District 20A (All of Elyria City Meetings a Carlisle)  
 DCM. Judy Sexton. ....440 322-2619  
 Alt. DCM Patty McMullen.....440 365-3778**

**District 20B (All Meetings at ARID Club)  
 DCM. Debbie McConnell.....440 277-0162**

**District 20C(LaGrange, Penfield, Brownhelm Tnsp., Amherst, Henrietta Tnsp., S. Amherst, Kipton, Oberlin, Camden Twsp., Pittsfield Twsp., Brighton Twsp., Wellington Meetings)  
 DCM. Patti R. ....440-284-6677**

**Alt DCM Donna L.....440 574-3464**

**Financial Report**

Listed below are the Profit & Loss spread sheet, the group donations and the rents for the Month of December, 2009.

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Donations/Rents</u>
1.Rent	\$ 650.00	1..... \$692.75
2.Columbia Gas	\$ 204.00	2..... \$1,495.02
3.All Service Telephone Answering	\$ 145.37	3..... \$770.10
4.Ohio Edison 710 Broadway	\$ 157.66	4..... \$329.46
5. Time Warner	\$ 90.90	5..... \$478.70
6. House Managers	\$1846.38	
7. Pay Cor Fees	\$ 64.57	
8. Live Wire Printing	\$ 69.00	
9. Berry Yellow Pages	\$ 19.46	
10. Ohio Workers Compensation	\$ 131.04	
11. Holiday Open House	\$ 100.00	
12. Restroom Floor Repair	\$ 399.00	
13. Computer for Office	\$ 656.48	
14. Donation to Lorain Multi District of AA	\$ 250.00	
	<u>\$4,783.86</u>	<b>3,766.03</b>

**Month of December, 2009**

Donations/Rents	\$3,766.03
Total Income	\$3,766.03
Expenses	<u>\$4,783.86</u>

Total Loss December, 2009 **-\$1,017.83**

**Rents:**

**Month of December, 2009**

1. Friday Morning Survivor
2. Monday Happy Hour
3. Sharing Our Sobriety
4. Spanish American
5. Tuesday Night Central
6. Unity Hall Discussion

When making Donations to the Lorain Inter-Group, Area 54, Multi-District, or the General Service Office in New York. PLEASE put your Groups General Service number on the Donation. You can find your Groups General Service number in the meeting schedule or on the internet at [aaloraincounty.org](http://aaloraincounty.org) under A.A. Meetings. Please put your Area & District numbers on the donation, it also helps to identify your Group. If you don't have a General Service number under your Groups information in the meeting schedule you can contact your District Committee person listed in the LiveWire to help you get registered.

**Donations**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Amherst Saturday Night            | 18.. Monday Night Lorain                      |
| 2. Anonymous                         | 19. New Life Women's Discussion N. Ridgeville |
| 3. Attitude of Gratitude             | 20. North Ridgeville Men's                    |
| 4. Back to Basics Discussion         | 21. Oberlin Breakfast Group                   |
| 5. Carlisle Lunch Bunch              | 22. Oberlin Group                             |
| 6. Early Morning Discussion          | 23. Oberlin Women's Closed Group              |
| 7. Elyria Monday Closed Discussion   | 24. S.I.O.G.A.                                |
| 8. Elyria New Way of Life Group      | 25. Saturday Night Security                   |
| 9. Elyria Women's Discussion         | 26. Saturday Twelve Step Discussion           |
| 10. Friday AM Discussion             | 27. Serenity Hall                             |
| 11. Friday Night Sobriety            | 28. Sheffield Lake Civic Center Group         |
| 12. Grafton Wednesday Night          | 29. Stepping Into Sobriety                    |
| 13. Industrial Group                 | 30. Sunday Night Sobriety                     |
| 14. Laporte Tuesday Group            | 31. Sunday Open Men's Discussion              |
| 15. Living Life                      | 32. Tuesday Morning Discussion                |
| 16.. Lorain Inter-Group 50/50 Raffle | 33. Vermilion 12 x 12 Discussion              |
| 17. Mid Week Morning Discussion      | 34. Who Me                                    |

**Board Of Directors**

Chairperson	Troy Smith.....365-9018
Vice-Chairperson	Ken Cain..... 322-2496
Treasurer	Bill Post.....933-4153
Secretary	Mark Potter.....452-5946
Office Managers	Sam Hensley.....288-4942
	Tom Niemiec.....258-7286
	Keith Shagic.....258-1159

**Advisory Board Members**

Tom Ortiz.....315-8600
Tom Banks.....309-3226
Bill Jackson.....935-3251
Terri Poznako.....225-6897
Nikki Lustek.....666-8783
Donna Lawson .....574-3464
Alan Revercomb.....541-2473