



July 2009 Newsletter

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**Barrie & Area
Intergroup Meeting**
2nd Friday of the
month, at 7:00 pm
**Central United
Church**
54 Ross Street,
Barrie

**Georgian Bay South
District 8
District Committee
Meeting**
2nd Sunday of the
month
**St. Georges Anglican
Church**
corner of Burton Ave
and Granville St, from
1:30 to 3:00 pm.

The THIRD STEP Prayer

God, I offer myself to You —
to build with me
and to do with me as You will.

Relieve me of the bondage of self,
that I may better do Your will.

Take away my difficulties,
that victory over them
may bear witness to those I would help
of Your Power,
Your Love,
and Your Way of life.

May I do Your will always.

Amen

The Seventh Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing
that you should have all of me,
good and bad.

I pray that you now remove from me
every single defect of character
which stands in the way of
my usefulness to you and my fellows

Grant me strength,
as I go out from here,
to do your bidding.

Amen.

Intergroup News
Barrie and Area
Intergroup welcomes
Barb B.
as our secretary.
Thank You! and
Welcome!

Please visit our website at:
www.barrieaa.com

for
Special Events,
Updated Meeting List
&
A.A. Members Birthdays



**Barrie A.A. Central Office
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Literature hours

Monday & Friday 4pm-7pm
Tuesday & Thursday 1200- 4pm

A.A.'s Greatest Danger - Rigidity

1986 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE CLOSING TALK

by Bob Pearson

At the closing brunch on Saturday morning, Bob Pearson (G.S.O. senior adviser), who was retiring, gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk (excerpted below) to the 36th Conference.

This is my 18th General Service Conference - the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the 1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, "I thank you for your lives." For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my **thoughts about A.A.'s future**. I have no worry with those **bleeding deacons** who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual - by far - than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of:

- treatment centers or
- professionals in the field, or
- non-Conference-approved literature, or
 - young people, or
 - the dually-addicted, or even
- the "druggies" trying to come to our closed meetings.

If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these and any other problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get

along well enough with each other. **It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.**

If you were to ask me what is the **greatest danger** facing A.A. today, I would have to answer:

- the **growing rigidity**;
- the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions;
 - pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions;
 - screening alcoholics at closed meetings;
- prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., "banning books";
 - laying more and more rules on groups and members.

And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Mark Your Calendar !

Unity Day 2009 is September 26.

We held the first Unity Day two years ago in Barrie Ontario . Leonard Blumenthal, then board chairman of AA World Services, came as our guest, and the day was both well attended and enjoyed by all.

The goal of goal of Unity Day 2007 was to get Areas 83 and 86 working closer in Service. This makes sense, since the two areas share a common border, running through Oakville , Malton, Bradford and other towns.

Unity Day 2009 has the same purpose. It's another chance to bring the two Areas together on a joint project. Our special guest this year is Phyllis H, the new general manager of the General Service Office in New York .

Your Unity Day chair was lucky enough to meet Phyllis in Moose Factory this February. She is a remarkable woman. She also brings a strong service background to her new job, having been a past delegate and regional trustee for the western region of the United States .

The day will be similar to a standard workshop. Our respective Delegates will each give a talk on General Service and the General Service Conference. They may also share a bit of their personal recovery and/or their personal journey through service.

The schedule is still being finalized. But you can expect to hear District Committee Members (DCMs) and Committee Members from Areas 83 and 86 present on:

- Grapevine
- Public Information (PI)
- Correctional Facilities (CF)
- Treatment Facilities (TF)
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- Archives
- Self-Support and Remote Communities

Unity Day admission is free. A lunch will be served at a cost of \$6.00. The closing banquet will cost \$25, and feature Phyllis H as the after-dinner speaker. Tickets for the banquet are limited to 200. They can be purchased through various DCMs or committee members and online at www.ficomputers.com.

This is a great chance to meet our new General Manager and the trusted servants who perform the business of AA at the area level. It's also a chance to learn what General Service is about and to share the spirit of Unity, Service and Recovery. We hope to see you there.

Unity Day 2009

When: September 26, 2009

Where: King City Community Centre (Arena)

25 Doctor's Lane

King City , Ontario

Chair: Rodney S.

**13TH ANNUAL
CREEMORE-STAYNER-
WASAGA BEACH
A/A ROUNDUP**

"ACCEPTANCE IS THE KEY"

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2009

STAYNER COMMUNITY

CENTRE,

STAYNER, ONTARIO

NORTH STREET-WEST OF

HWY.26

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM SPEAKER TAPES &
LITERATURE

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM FOR REGISTRATION

LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE

AIA DINNER SPEAKER

**Your Group's upcoming
Anniversary could be
announced here**



**And have other groups
celebrate with you!!**

To the:

" BEST GROUP IN TOWN!!"

We will post it on the web as well.
JUST SEND THE INFORMATION TO
newslettereditor@barrieaa.com

"The traditions at work in our lives"

Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority. **Reprinted with the permission of the AA Grapevine inc.**