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Jimmy W 6-11-86
29 years

Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code

And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone - even alcohol. Page 84 Alcoholics Anonymous.

In a speech to Yale published in **Alcohol, Science and Society**, 1945 Bill states: "During those first 4 years most of us had another bad form of intolerance. As we commenced to have a little success, I am afraid our pride got the better of us and it was our tendency to forget about our friends. We were very likely to say, "Well, those doctors didn't do anything for us, and as for these sky pilots, well, they just don't know the score." And we became snobbish and patronizing.

Then we read a book by Dr. (Alexis) Carrel (**Man, The Unknown 1935**). From that book came an

argument that is now a part of our system."

"So our process of trial and error began and, at the end of 4 years, the material was cast in the form of a book known as Alcoholics Anonymous."

"We began to say, "Our only motive as an organization is to help the alcoholic. And to help him we've got to reach him. Therefore, we can't collide with his prejudices. So we aren't going to get mixed up with controversial questions, no matter what we, as individuals, think of them. We can't get concerned with prohibition, or whether to drink or not to drink. We can't get concerned with doctrine and dogma in a religious sense. We can't get into politics, because that will

arouse prejudice which might keep away alcoholics who will go off and die when they might have recovered."

The long form of our Tenth Tradition reinforces this "No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever."

"Honesty with ourselves and others gets us sober, but it is tolerance that keeps us that way."-Bill W. Yale 1945

Bill's words on Addicts and AA, Yale Speech 1945

We have quite a number of drug addicts who were once alcoholics. So far, I don't know of any case of pure drug addiction that we have been able to approach. In other words, we can no more approach a simon-pure addict than the outsider can usually approach us. We are in exactly the same position with them that the doctor and the clergyman have been in respect to the alcoholic. We just don't talk that fellow's language. He

always looks at us and says, "Well, those alcoholics are the scum of the earth and besides, what do they know about addiction?" Now, however, since we have a good number of addicts who were once alcoholics, those addicts in their turn are making an effort, here and there, to transfer the thing over to the straight addict. In that way we hope the bridge is going to be crossed. There may be

a case here and there that has been helped. But in all, I suppose, there may be around 50 cases of real morphine addiction in former alcoholics who have been helped by A.A. Of course we have a great many barbital users, But where you have morphine, or some of those derivatives, then it gets very tough. Then you have to have a "dope" talk to a "dope," and I hope that we can find, some day, a bridge to the addict.

There is a significant debate as to what medical society meeting Dr. Bob could have attended on June 3, 1935.

One week before his declared sobriety date of June 10th

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) has listened numerous medical conventions starting on June 10, 1935 in Atlantic City which includes the American Medical Association and the American Proctologic Society (now American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons) annual conferences. Historically no one has been able to locate any record of a medical conventions in Atlantic City on June 3, 1935.

This really doesn't matter. Dr. Bob sobered up on a Monday in June 1935 and went on to change the course of the lives of millions of alcoholics who would have otherwise died drunk.

Big Book Trivia

June Answers: Lois (Bill's wife) worked at both Macy's and then Loeser's Department stores.

Extra Credit: No exact date is known, but the American Medical Association shows numerous Conventions opened on June 10, 1935, nothing opening on the 3rd.

July Question: On what page does Bill mention holding frequent meetings?

Extra Credit: How many times is the word Fellowship used in the first 164 pages of the Big Book

Did you know?

That in 1940 AA/Bill W was given a farm named High Watch

which became the first Treatment Facility to integrate the 12 Steps in early treatment. Long before the Traditions were introduced the farm was set up as a not for profit organization. Outside of AA. The farm is still in operation today [high-watchrecovery.com/history](http://highwatchrecovery.com/history)

From the July 1944 Grapevine

EDITORIAL: On Cultivating Tolerance

During nine years in A.A. I have observed that those who follow the Alcoholics Anonymous program with the greatest earnestness and zeal, not only maintain sobriety, but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance. Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of ways: in kindness and consideration toward the man or woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path; in the understanding of those who perhaps have been less fortunate in educational advantages, and in sympathy toward those whose religious ideas may seem to be at great variance with our own. I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior—which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite painful or obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another—and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to preconceived ideas and stubbornly adhered-to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important—in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.

These, then, are a few of the reasons why an attempt to acquire tolerance should be made by each one of us.

Dr. Bob of Akron

More from Bill's 1945 Yale Speech

After A.A. had been going for 3 or 4 years, an alcoholic was brought into our house over in Brooklyn where we were holding a meeting. He is the type that some of us now call the blockbuster variety. He often tells the story himself. His name is Jimmy. Well, Jimmy came in and he was a man who had some very, very fixed points of view. As a class, we alcoholics are the worst possible people in this respect. I had many, many fixed points of view myself, but Jimmy eclipsed us all. Jimmy came into our little group - I guess there were then 30 or 40 of us meeting - and said, "I think you've got a pretty good idea here. This idea of straightening things out with other people is fine. Going over your own defects is all right. Working with other drunks, that's swell. But I don't like this God business." He got very emphatic about it and we thought that he would quiet down or else he would get drunk. He did neither. Time went on and Jimmy did not quiet down; he began to tell the other people in the group, "You don't need this God business. Look, I'm staying sober." Finally, he got up in the meeting at our house, the first time he was invited to speak - he had then been around for a couple of months - and he went through his usual song and dance of the desirability of being honest, straightening things out with other people, etc. Then he said, "Damn this God business." At that, people began to wince. I was deeply shocked, and we had a hurried meeting of the "elders" over in the corner. We said, "This fellow has got to be suppressed. We can't have anyone ridiculing the very idea by which we live."

We got hold of Jimmy and said, "Listen, you've got to stop this anti-God talk if you're going to be around this section." Jimmy was cocky and he said, "Is that so? Isn't it a fact that you folks have been trying to write a book called Alcoholics Anonymous, and haven't you got a typewritten introduction in that book, lying over there on that shelf, and didn't we read it here about a month ago and agree to it?" And Jimmy went over and took down the introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous and read out of it: "The only requirement for membership in Alcoholics Anonymous is an honest desire to get over drinking." Jimmy said, "Do you mean it or don't you?" He rather had us there. He said, "I've been honest. Didn't I get my wife back? Aren't I paying my bills? And I'm helping other drunks every day." There was nothing we could say. Then we began secretly to hope. Our intolerance caused us to hope that he would get drunk. Well, he confounded us; he did not get drunk, and louder and louder did he get with his anti-God talk. Then we used to console ourselves and say, "Well, after all, this is a very good practice in tolerance for us, trying to accommodate ourselves to Jimmy." But we never did really get accommodated.

One day Jimmy got a job that took him out on the road, out from under the old A.A. tent, you might say. And somewhere out on the road his purely psychological system of staying dry broke wide open, and sure enough he got drunk. In those days, when an alcoholic got drunk, all the brethren would come running, because we were still very afraid for ourselves and no one knew who might be next. So there was great concern about the brother who got drunk. But in Jimmy's case there was no concern at all. He lay in a little hotel over in Providence and he began to call up long distance. He wanted money, he wanted this, and he wanted that. After a while, Jimmy hitchhiked back to New York. He put up at the house of a friend of mine, where I was staying, and I came in late that night. The next morning, Jimmy came walking downstairs where my friend and I were consuming our morning gallon of coffee. Jimmy looked at us and said, "Oh, have you people had any meditation or prayer this morning?" We thought he was being very sarcastic. But no, he meant it. We could not get very much out of Jimmy about his experience, but it appeared that over in that little second-rate hotel he had nearly died from the worst seizure he had ever had, and something in him had given way. I think it is just what gave way in me. It was his prideful obstinacy. He had thought to himself, "Maybe these fellows have got something with their God-business." His hand reached out, in the darkness, and touched something on his bureau. It was a Gideon Bible. Jimmy picked it up and he read from it. I do not know just what he read, and I have always had a queer reluctance to ask him. But Jimmy has not had a drink to this day, and that was about 5 years ago.

But there were other fruits of what little tolerance and understanding we did have. Not long ago I was in Philadelphia where we have a large and strong group. I was asked to speak, and the man who asked me was Jimmy, who was chairman of the meeting. About 400 people were there. I told this story about him and added: "Supposing that we had cast Jimmy out in the dark, supposing that our intolerance of his point of view had turned him away. Not only would Jimmy be dead, but how many of us would be together here tonight so happily secure?" So we in A.A. find that we have to carry tolerance of other people's viewpoints to very great lengths. As someone well put it, "Honesty gets us sober but tolerance keeps us sober."

The Word Tolerance as used in the Big Book

There Is A Solution, p.19: Most of us sense that real tolerance of other people's shortcomings and viewpoints and a respect for their opinions are attitudes which make us more useful to others.

How It Works, p.67: We asked God to help us show them the same tolerance, pity, and patience that we would cheerfully grant a sick friend.

How It Works, p.70: We have begun to learn tolerance, patience and good will toward all men, even our enemies, for we look on them as sick people.

Into Action, p.83 : So we clean house with the family, asking each morning in meditation that our Creator show us the way of patience, tolerance, kindness and love.

Into Action, p.84 : Love and tolerance of others is our code.

To Wives, p.118 : Patience, tolerance, understanding and love are the watchwords.

The Family Afterward, p.122 : All members of the family should meet upon the common ground of tolerance, understanding and love.

The Family Afterward, p.125: We do talk about each other a great deal, but we almost invariably temper such talk by a spirit of love and tolerance.

The Family Afterward, p.127: If they sense these things, they will not take so seriously his periods of crankiness, depression, or apathy, which will disappear when there is tolerance, love, and spiritual understanding.

Dr. Bob's Farewell Talk

My good friends in A.A. and of A.A.,

... I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing I did a number of years ago played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service." We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us.

Thank You Very Much..... Dr. Bob

Prairie Center Meeting Needs Support



Calling all Prairie Center alumni!!!! Meetings are in need of support.
The Prairie Center Meetings

need a jolt of new energy from the community and few if any our the communities more experienced members attend.

These meetings are the first glimpse for many as to what AA is all about and how it can make a positive change in one's life.

It would be great to get a solid core of regular members that could have a group

business meeting and elect officers that would provide long term foundation.

If every alumni from Prairie Center gave just one hour a month to reenergize the group and get officers elected and regular business meetings set up just think about the impact that would have on peoples lives.

To learn about service opportunities contact any District Chair or use the web sites contact page <http://aa-eci.org/contact/>

July Speakers

July 10 Friday Night Fellowship: Gerald

July 18 Bottoms Up: Rosemary T.

July 27 H.O.W.: Tom K.

Announcements

Please email your announcements to newsletter@aa-eci.org

In August the AA State Conference will be held at the Mariott in Normal. What better place to hold an AA Conference than in a town named Normal!

The Fall Area 21 meeting will be in September in Marion.

In the Early 1940's AA in Cleveland held boxing matches and Minstrel shows to help fund their 12th Step Work and Central Office. From the February 1943 Cleveland Central Bulletin

BOXING SHOW

The Lorain Ave. A. A.s will stage their second annual boxing show at Swiss Hall, 2710 Walton Ave., on Washington's Birthday, February 22nd, at 8:30 P. M. An elaborate program has been planned which includes vaudeville and door prizes besides the six all-star bouts. Admission is \$1.10, tax included.

At the District Meeting June 14 ...

D.C.M. Mona Lee H. announced that there will be a GSR Training Workshop on Saturday, August 8 in Mattoon at the 1st Christian Church at 16th and Wabash.

Treasurer Cheri P. reported that no group donations were received this month, and expenses were the regular for the newsletter and answering service, resulting in working cash balance of \$834.

Committee Reports

Mark G., Treatment Centers Committee Chair, reported that Sherri G. volunteered to serve as co-chair and will work on getting volunteers for all the Bridge the Gap panels at the Pavilion and liaison with their staff. He met with Prairie Center staff and is working on building up coverage for the Tuesday night Bridge the Gap panels there.

Answering Service co-chair Antonia D. reported that Ruben L. has resigned as co-chair; Jake T. volunteered to replace him. She reported also that the service still needs volunteers to give rides, particularly in towns outside of Champaign-Urbana. If interested contact either Jake or Antonia in person or email answering-service@aa-eci.org.

PICIPC Chair Russ S. reported that the committee now has enough members to distribute literature and meeting lists in all counties in the district and he received backordered A.A. pamphlets and PSA DVDs and CDs; the latter were delivered to local radio and TV stations for broadcast. He also reported he received a literature rack as a donation and placed it at the Prairie Center Outpatient clinic in Urbana.

Meeting List co-chair Liza W. reported there will be a new printing of the list within the next 30 days. New meetings in existence for a least 6 months, will be added. If anyone knows of meetings that are no longer in existence or meetings that have changed location, time or format should contact her or Mona M. with changes to the list.

GSR Reports

Roland W. is the new GSR for S.W.A.T. He reported that the meeting will split and newcomers will meet downstairs.

H.O.W. GSR Gary R. reported that their Monday and Thursday meetings were moving Monday, July 27 to Presence Covenant Medical Center in Urbana.

New Business

An increase of \$150 in the Newsletter budget was approved to continue printing a 6-page newsletter. An increase of \$50 in the Treatment Centers Committee Budget was approved for A.A. pamphlets to be available at the centers, and a \$40 increase in the PICPC budget was approved for additional A.A. literature to be distributed within the District.

Area 21 Delegate Report

Paula E., Area 21 Delegate, reported on the General Service Conference held in April in New York. Among the actions taken were:

The Trustees will review the current criteria for linking alcoholics inside and outside correctional institutions, particularly the distance requirement.

The Literature Committee assigned the Trustees the duty for developing new pamphlets for alcoholics with mental illnesses. There will be revisions to the pamphlets "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic", "A.A. and the Woman," and "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services." It was decided not to combine the *12 Steps and 12 Traditions* with the *12 Concepts* into a new publication.

The Public Information Committee approved the making of a new video PSA "Doors", and the discontinuation of the two video PSAs "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials."

District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

DCM	Mona Lee H. (dcm@aa-eci.org)
Alt. DCM	Michael G. (alt-dcm@aa-eci.org)
Secretary	Katrina R. (secretary@aa-eci.org)
Treasurer	Cheri P. (treasurer@aa-eci.org)
Corrections	Mike K. (corrections@aa-eci.org)
Treatment Facilities	Mark G. (treatment-centers@aa-eci.org)
Meeting List	Liza W. & Mona M. (meeting-list@aa-eci.org)
Answering Service	Antonia D. and Reuben L. (answering-service@aa-eci.org)
Newsletter	Martin B (newsletter@aa-eci.org)

Grapevine	Terry S. (grapevine@aa-eci.org)
PI-CPC	Russ S. (picpc@aa-eci.org)
Website	Rosemary T. (webmaster@aa-eci.org)
Archives	Mike W. (archives@aa-eci.org)

District 12 holds its meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm in the New Fellowship Corner at 1714 Springfield Ave, Champaign.

If you would like to submit something for publication, or just send comments or questions to the Committee, please email newsletter@aa-eci.org. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

Volunteer opportunities available for ANSWERING SERVICE , GRAPEVINE Chair, Treatment Center Co-Chair and gathering