



# Intergroup Bulletin

The monthly online bulletin of the Sioux Falls Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

August 5th, 2007

Please print and distribute for your AA Group!

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## Tradition 5

We are pleased to have Joan G., our DCM, as our guest blogger for August.....

I was asked to share a few words about Tradition 5, which reads, *"Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."*

Now that seems pretty clear and simple, right? Well, first I had to think about it (yikes!) and then I had to think some more and then I had to research and absorb what I read and....well you know how this story goes....after I stopped laughing at myself, it dawned on me that I was making this as hard as some people and some groups have probably made this tradition.

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to know for certain that I had a purpose in life. That there was some THING that I was supposed to do that would make a difference in the world. I am not alone. I hear people in meetings share that same desire all the time. Tradition 5 tells me that we have that THING! Our purpose is to carry the message of AA to anyone anywhere who wants it. And for that we are responsible!

Sometimes that is as simple as seeing that a newcomer is at the meeting and turning that meeting into a step one meeting. Sometimes it is making a group commitment to speak at a treatment center or prison meeting on a regular basis.

We learn some of our first lessons about responsibility in our groups by making coffee before meetings and cleaning up after. A lot of us meet our sponsors at AA meetings and together we learn how to work the steps and then we learn to live them. We go on twelfth step calls together and we drink boat loads of coffee helping each other stay sober.

I discovered after I stopped drinking that there were many life problems to deal with and when I am honest with myself, I have to admit, it would have been easier to let someone else deal with them. I am sure I went to a lot of meetings trying to make my problems the group's problems! (Thank you to all who loved me through that time!!!) But I learned that by being sober, developing a relationship with a Higher Power, and applying the program of recovery, there is no situation too great to bear and no problem that was too big to face. It was the groups and the people in AA that carried the message of AA to me that helped me discover the tools I needed to get a job, keep a job, pay my rent, mend my relationships and hundreds of other things I had not been able or willing to do when I was drinking.

When we keep our primary purpose primary, we all share in one common life changing purpose. Think about that one!!!

Thank you for letting me share.

- Joan G

We're always looking for more authors to write an article? Please contact your Intergroup Web Committee via email or attend our monthly meeting. We can suggest topics, clean up sentence structure and grammar, and be provide direction. We are also seeking to hear from members that have obtained help from our 24-hour Helpline.

## Upcoming Events

**August 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Cornhusker Roundup**  
Holiday Inn – 3321 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> St Omaha Nebraska  
[www.AA-Cornhusker.org](http://www.AA-Cornhusker.org)

**August 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 Summer Area Workshop**  
9 a.m. Capital Visitor Center  
500 E. Capital Ave. Pierre, SD

**August 19<sup>th</sup> Web Committee Meeting**  
6:00 PM, Caribou Coffee 1924 S. Minnesota Ave  
Contact Brad S. 605-310-6459

**September 7-9<sup>th</sup> West-Central Regional Forum**  
Doubletree Hotel-Downtown Omaha, Nebraska  
A.A. General Service Board Forum for all members to attend. More info at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**Sioux Falls Area Intergroup meets 5:00pm on Sunday, September 9th, 2007**

**At Westside Alano, 1509 W. 1<sup>st</sup>, Street, Sioux Falls, SD. Come and Serve.**