

District 12 Newsletter

June 2013

Step Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Step Six is A.A.'s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job.. 12x12 Page 65



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My Life and Times With Step Six

Soon after completing my first Fifth Step with my sponsor, I sat down to analyze and brood about my ability to chop off all the resentments and selfish flaws just uncovered, and especially about the "entire" degree of my readiness. Was I fully ready, 50 percent ready, 61.73 percent ready, or what? Finally, I determined that I was really quite ready for this whole lump of defects to go; in order to encourage action, I avoided considering any of the specific flaws included in the lump. I promptly trudged over to Trinity Church nearby, carrying a little plastic card containing the Seventh Step Prayer, knelt down, read the prayer, and forcefully requested the immediate absence of all defects, whatever they were. Although I trudged in, I expected to leave at some as yet undisclosed, but very different, pace, perhaps skipping. But nothing happened in church. My load of grubby faults didn't even shift, they just sat on my shoulders as usual. I eventually arose and slunk out, extremely angry at the usual villain: me.

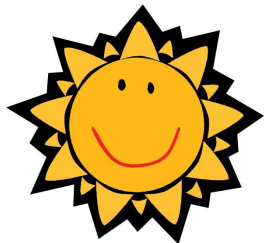
That was a good and useful event: a sincere, if silly, attempt to do God's Sixth Step work. However, since the day of that trudge, the Step's simple statement has increasingly seemed full of bafflement.

How ready is "entirely ready," and how do you recognize it when you see it? After much experience and rumination, I have concluded: whenever I suspend for some time a previously habitual and damaging course of conduct, I can be sure that I have been entirely ready to suspend that course of conduct for some time. This appraisal, though accurate, is not particularly useful, but it's the best I can do.

And what is a "character defect?" Drinking certainly must be a total defect. For me it certainly is, but for my father (who enjoyed relaxing before dinner over his daily two martinis), it was an asset. Certainly fear, which has kept me tongue-tied and paralyzed most of my life, and which turns out to be the unsuspected source of so many other flaws, like procrastination, is pure defect. *Continued on Page 2*

Tradition Six (Long Form)

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.-and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.



It Works if you Work it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

Get a Sponsor don't go it alone....

Step Six—Continued

But maybe not. Fear of drink is one of the motives that keeps me at meetings and provides the adrenaline that enables me to cope with certain physical dangers. Actually, I suppose a "defect" is an "asset" that shows up at the wrong time and place and with too much intensity. Perhaps my former cigarette smoking, and my tendency to excess in all things, are pure defects, but in general I'll have to adapt the statement of the judge who said that while he couldn't define pornography, he knew it when he saw it.

As I have worked with and thought about this Step over the years, it has become more and more elusive. How can I get ready to hand my flaws over to God, if I can't figure out what my flaws are or what ready is? For now, my conclusion is that this is another "powerless" Step. My defects are subtler and stronger than I am. Fortunately, the next Step, the Seventh, reminds me that there is a Higher Power, and a friendly one, who stands ready and able, on request, to transform me into the condition that I should occupy: flawlessness.

Daniel A. D.

New York, NY

A.A. Grapevine, June 2003 - Vol. 60 No. 1



LETTING GO OF OUR OLD SELVES

Carefully reading the first five proposals we ask if we have omitted anything, for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last. . . . Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, pp. 75, 76

The Sixth Step is the last "preparation" Step. Although I have already used prayer extensively, I have made no formal request of my Higher Power in the first Six Steps. I have identified my problem, come to believe that there is a solution, made a decision to seek this solution, and have "cleaned house." I now ask: Am I willing to live a life of sobriety, of change, to let go of my old self? I must determine if I am truly ready to change. I review what I have done and become willing for God to remove all my defects of character; for in the next Step, I will tell my Creator I am willing and will ask for help. If I have been thorough in the preparation of my foundation and feel that I am willing to change, I am then ready to continue with the next Step. "If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing." (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 76)

A.A.'s Responsibility Statement

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Area 20

2013 Summer Assembly

All GSR's, DCM's, Delegate, Officers and Committee Members from North Illinois

When: Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 8:00 AM

Where: Church of the Holy Spirit

400 E. Westminster

Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Join us for a report from our delegate about his experience at the 63rd General Service Conference in New York

District 12 Summer Bash

Sunday, June 9th, 2013

Greenbelt Forest Preserve

Greenbay Rd. North Chicago, IL

Shelter A—1:00 to 4:00

Burgers & Pop Provided

Please Bring a Dish to Pass

Speaker at 2:30—Nicole (Angelique) Wkgn.

Games for All Who Want to Play

Adults: \$5.00—Kids: \$3.00

Contact: Karen F. 847-609-7354

This is also a fundraiser for our District 12 Holiday Party

Big Book Meeting

Monday 6:00 pm

Meadow Ridge Church

Rt 173 and Green Bay Rd.

Zion

Please Bring Your Big Book

Looking for a Sponsor/Sponsee?

Join us at the

ATP Sponsorship Panel

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 12:45pm

Female sponsors needed!

Addictions Treatment Program

3002 Grand Avenue

Waukegan, IL 60085

District 12 Meeting

Third Sunday of every month at 4:00PM at Vista Medical Center West, 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, Illinois 60085. All alcoholics are welcome and group GSRs are strongly encouraged to attend.

VOLUNTEERS WE NEED A COMMITMENT!!!

Lake County Work Release

Tuesday and/or Thursday

Once or twice a month

7:15 pm

Both men and women needed

For more info contact: Pete 224-381-9992

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 12 STEP WORK

St. Therese Psych Unit Meeting

Sunday 10 am Tues 7 pm

Sponsor Panel

1st and 3rd Saturdays 12:45 til 2 pm

Drug Court

1:30 pm Fridays Court 202

9:00 am Fridays Court 307

Veterans Court

3rd Friday at 9 am Court 220

SAP

SAP Bldg. 1 pm Thursdays

Detox

ATP 730 pm Wednesday

Contact: Frank M. 847-336-2775

Step Study

Wednesdays @ 7 pm

St. Mark's Church

Yorkhouse & Delany Rd., Wkgn.

New Time & Place!

The District 12 Open Speaker Breakfast
Victory Hospital
(also known as Vista Medical Center East)
Cost: \$7.00

Start time is 8:30 AM
1st Sunday of every month

The District 12 Newsletter needs your help!

All alcoholics are welcome to contribute. We are happy to publish your recovery-related stories, poems, artwork, etc.
Send submissions with subject line "Newsletter" to felicia2657@gmail.com

<p><i>Join Us</i></p> <p><u>New AA Meeting</u></p> <p><i>Starting Sunday, June 3, 2013</i></p> <p><i>3:00pm</i></p> <p><i>Foss Park Community Center</i> <i>1730 Lewis Avenue</i> <i>North Chicago</i></p> <p><i>Please Come Out—We Need</i></p>	<p><i>BUNCH O NUTS</i></p> <p><i>ST MARKS LUTHERN CHURCH</i></p> <p><i>YORKHOUSE AND DELANY</i></p> <p><i>7 PM TUESDAYS</i></p> <p><i>SEE YOU THERE!</i></p>	<p><i>Meeting Needs Support</i></p> <p><u>Here's How Group</u></p> <p><i>Tuesday Night—7:00 P.M.</i></p> <p><i>Gurnee Community Church</i> <i>4555 Route 132</i> <i>(Old Grand Avenue)</i> <i>Gurnee, Illinois 60031</i></p> <p><i>Enter thru East Door on South Side of Church Under Bell Tower</i></p>
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A.A. Contacts

General Service Office: <http://www.aa.org>
 Northern Illinois Area 20: <http://www.aa-nia.org>
 District 12 Website: <http://www.aadistrict12.com>
 District 12 Answering Service: 847-623-9660

District 12 Officers (Confidential – this information is for A.A. Use only)

If you are interested in one of the positions listed as OPEN, please contact an officer.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Mike H.	847-533-7731	Mike.henneberry@gmail.com	OPEN		
Secretary	Terry V.		enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN		
Treasurer	Ron K.	847-623-0953	crkytasaari@att.net	Sue D,	847-502-1007	susie12956@aol.com
Answering Service	Berto G.	224-280-5235		Bonnie P.	224-440-3620	bonniepetterec@gmail.com
CPC / Treatment	Frank M.	847-336-2775		Francis K.	847-744-0793	
Corrections	Pete O.	847-662-8737	Peter.choa73@yahoo.com	Lavonne G.	224-538-0228	lavonnegreen60@gmail.com
Grapevine	James T.	224-730-2681	JamesT1956@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Public Information	OPEN			OPEN		
Literature	John M.			OPEN		
Newsletter	Felicia H.	224-717-2424	felicia2657@gmail.com	Nick P.	847-872-6727	nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net
Directory	Martin C.	773-870-4010	clausenmartin@aol.com	OPEN		
Archive	Marlene	224-545-1495	grubbsmarlene@gmail.com	OPEN		
Special Events	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net	OPEN		
District Breakfast	Jimmy F.	847-609-7354		Jimmy P.	224-538-1689	jimipinkstaff@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Beth B.	224.522-1676	pollockburke@gmail.com	Brian M.	847-736-0403	brianm959@yahoo.com