



Happy Easter Spring is in the Air

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APRIL 2026

The Voice

Step 4—"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

In this issue	
No Pebble Unturned.....	1
Little by Little.....	1
Announcement.....	2
Our Drinking Story	3
Announcements.....	4

APRIL 2026 | Getting into General Service | STEP FOUR

No Pebble Unturned

BY: SHARRON W. |

Who among us approached the Fourth Step with happy anticipation? No one, I suspect.

My alcoholic drinking days were approached with an overwhelming desire to crush my feelings of pain and disappointment. After all, from that first drink to the last, when numbness and oblivion were my only goals, my pursuit took me on a five-year journey that could be called one unholy binge.

I quickly became jobless, hopeless and helpless. Nothing and no one came before the drink I had when my eyes first opened in the morning, and I didn't stop pouring alcohol into my body until I passed out at night.

I vaguely remember overnight stops in jail. One memory I have is the look the guard had on his face as he let me go in the morning. His expression was one of contempt mixed with little understanding of how a young woman could let herself become such a despicable drunk. In no time I found a bottle of wine, and my daily routine began once again.

I can remember thinking to myself that a double standard was the source of a lot of my problems. After all, men could drink, holler at the moon and bed women of all types, and that was somehow OK. But God forbid women act the same way. Society sucked, and somehow that had become my problem.

Skip ahead to my first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'd entered a strange new world of people who, for their own reasons, decided to get sober. I was told that the Twelve Steps were the pathway to sobriety. I found a room full of strangers who put out their hands and welcomed me. It had been a very long time since I had been welcomed anywhere.

Before long I found a home group and a sponsor named Carol and started working the Steps. I found a God of my understanding who I came to believe would go to any lengths to help me get sober.

The first three Steps came fairly easy for me, but the Fourth Step was something very different. It required not just willingness to believe, but also action on my part.

With the Big Book as my guide, I started to write down those people and circumstances I resented and the reasons I detested them so much. I wrote about how I was affected by them and how my life was all but destroyed. The writing of this inventory was one of the most difficult things I'd ever done. By my own hand, I revealed how a once happy, well-adjusted woman decided to destroy herself with alcohol.

As difficult as this task was, Step Four provided a way for me to share this information with someone else, and that act of sharing gave me some freedom from the burdens of my drunkenness.

Each of the Steps has helped to lead me to a sober life. The Fourth Step was for me one of the most important Steps because it opened a dam that needed to be opened, without which I could not attain contented sobriety.

My advice to anyone who reads about my experience with the Fourth Step is to not leave even a single "pebble" unturned. Do your very best. For me, the Fourth Step, coupled with the Fifth Step, left me feeling clean and light like winter's first fresh-fallen snow. There's no feeling on earth quite as good as that.

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Important Dates

April 12th —Noon
(always 2nd Sunday)
Intergroup/Central Office
Representative meet
Lost & Found
616 S. Pine Ave

April 30th-6:45pm
District 17
monthly meeting
Lost & Found Club
616 S. Pine Ave

Every Thursday Area 14
Service Workshop, 6pm
Hospitality, 5:45pm
New Topic every Thursday
Zoom Meeting ID:
828 5682 4762; pw: service

FAITHFUL FIVERS

**Contribute \$5/month
or \$60/year**

Contributors:

*Joe S, Phil H,
Ralph W, Ginger H
Linda H, Stephanie D,
Casey P*

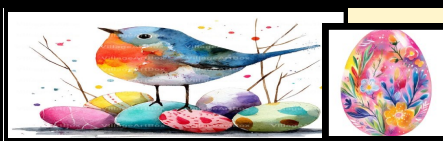
*Your membership directly
supports 12-Step work at
District 17 Central Office*

April 1, 1939

This day in AA History

1939
"Alcoholics Anonymous",
AA's Big Book was published.





Tradition 4—"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

APRIL 2026 | Getting into General Service | TRADITION FOUR

The Big Picture

BY: JENNIFER R. | SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Tradition Four states, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

I have to say that this is one of my favorite Traditions because it carries many lessons with just a few words. And this Tradition is the one that gives us Rule 62, which reminds us: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

Let's look at the principle of consultation and how this Tradition takes the shame away from being wrong.

On a first reading, this Tradition appears to say it's OK for any AA group to decide to run its meeting however it wants. Here is where I use the principle of consultation. Consultation in my life takes the form of me sharing with, and asking questions of, my sponsor, service sponsor, mentors in the program and certain elder statesmen whose opinions I have come to regard.

Through this process I learned a time-saving tool that keeps me from complaining to others about the small stuff that we see in Grapevine's Tradition Checklist. My favorite question on the Checklist is, "Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?"

I'm a transplant from California to Seattle. I moved to Seattle 10 years ago. Most meetings in Seattle celebrate birthdays at the end of the month. This way of doing things really bothered me. In California they celebrate birthdays every week. Moving to Seattle reminded me that my way is not the only way in AA. If I constantly question the group and insist on my own way, this is not beneficial to the group, and I'm not acting in the spirit of unity or acceptance.

From the responses I got when I expressed to others how "Seattle does it wrong" I learned that I need to let my opinion go and try to accept the way they do things here in Seattle. And wouldn't you know it? I have managed to stay sober for 10 years despite having to wait until the end of the month to celebrate.

Another manifestation of the principle of consultation can be seen by the behavior of our area delegates past and present. They hold pre-conferences so they can hear our thoughts on certain issues before the Conference. In my experience, the goal of each delegate is to consult with the Fellowship to make the best possible decision for AA as a whole, not just what's best for Western Washington Area 72. The decisions they make with the other delegates, trustees and staff can be very impactful to all of AA.

The thing I love about the Tradition Four essay in our "Twelve and Twelve" is that it tells the story of a grandiose recovery institution of a town called Middleton. The person who witnessed this incident saw the whole thing fail, and in the end was able to laugh at himself for taking himself too damn seriously. The whole time he failed to heed the warnings of others and to take advice from our Central Office in New York (now called GSO). The reason that institution failed was because it had too many objectives, instead of just one.

It has been discovered—through the shared experience of our Fellowship—that in order to stay unified with the least amount of organization, we should have the one objective, which is to stay sober and help others achieve sobriety.

My favorite part of the story is that he laughs at himself. Laughing at myself is one of the best things I get to experience in AA. It removes the shame from my making mistakes. It's OK to find humor in the absurdity of my humanity and the "isms" of my alcoholism.

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Early 1940's



*First Florida A.A.
meetings were held in
Jacksonville & Miami*



Spring is in the Air

The voice

PAGE 3

Who met and what happened, so they could meet



A. A. History

North Florida Area 14 Assembly

April 10th @ 10am - E & F Room
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
1501 International Parkway



Join us for our
10 Year
Group Anniversary



Sisters in Sobriety

April 25, 2026
Meeting at 10am

Guest Speaker: Bonnie C, Scarborough, Maine

Church of the Nazarene
5884 SW 60th Ave, Ocala

All are welcome!

Help *Mano Abierta* Group celebrate 24 years!!!

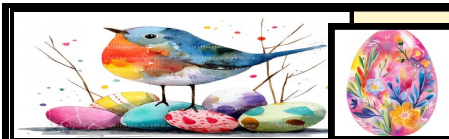
Saturday, April 25, 2026—7:00pm

St. John's Methodist Church

12390 W Hwy 328 ~ Ocala, FL 34482

Bring your favorite dish!





Birthdays APRIL

Belleview Group	ODAT
Doug S.—6	Alma—1
Breakfast Club	Melissa—1
Tom W.—35	Ashley—2
Nick S.—39	Destiny—4
Chuck C.—47	Gus G—15
Headstart	Bill T—18
Rich S.—1	Bryan—31
Wild Bill—2	Tim R—34
Robert H.—2	Liz R—36
Ryan K.—2	Skip H—36
Steve T.—4	We Give Up
Becky—6	Kim Mc—16
Coach—34	Billy B—22
Living Sober	Sherry R—34
Rog—39	
RC W—44	

Contributions MARCH

Alive and Well	\$ 40.00
Anonymity	\$ 45.00
Easy Does It	\$ 116.00
Headstart	\$ 447.31
Last Call	\$ 100.00
Mano Abierta	\$ 20.00
No Name Group	\$ 25.00
One Day At A Time	\$ 422.00
Shores of Sobriety	\$ 150.00
Sisters in Sobriety	\$ 15.00
Sunday After Lunch	\$ 125.00

*“There is freedom
waiting for you,
On the breezes of the
sky, And you ask
“What if I fall?”
Oh but my darling,
“What if you fly?”*

— Erin Hanson

From the GSO Pamphlet

*Self-support;
Where Money and Spiritually Mix (F-3)*

10% to District 17
P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

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**10% to Area 14 \*\*\*\*\***

NFAC Treasurer  
P.O. Box 840066

St. Augustine, FL 32080

\*\*\*\*\**(Address changes every two years. Visit  
[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for correct address)*

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30% to General Service Office
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163

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**50% to Central Office/Intergroup 17**  
616 S Pine Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471