

The November 1949 Grapevine issue contained the first printing of the short form of the Twelve Traditions:

1. The issue asked that Thanksgiving week be set aside as “Traditions Week..”
2. The initial wording of the short form of the Traditions was a bit different than what we know today.

The entire issue was devoted to the Traditions in preparation for the First International Convention in Cleveland, OH - July 28-30, 1950 (see AA Comes of Age pg 213).

Below is a transcription of pages 15-16 of the issue:

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

OUR GROUP EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT:

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.
2. For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express himself in our Group Conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants - they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each Group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other Groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each Group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA Group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim.
7. Every AA Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

Subsequent Refinements:

- a. The word “Group” is not capitalized.
- b. “AA” changed to “A.A.” (abbreviation periods added).
- c. Tradition 6: “primary spiritual aim” changed to “primary purpose.”
- d. Tradition 12: “principles above personalities” changed to “principles before personalities.”

Acknowledgments:

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