

March 2026

# LAI NEWSLETTER

Stay connected with the A.A. groups in our area!

## SPOTLIGHT ON MEETINGS:

### **Meetings that donated to the LAI in the month of January:**

Big Book And 12 & 12 Group Millersport Tuesday 6:30 P.M.  
Brothers in Sobriety Lancaster Saturday 10:30 A.M.  
Early Saturday Morning Men's Group Lancaster Saturday 9:00 A.M.  
The Sunday Group- Lead Mtg Athens  
Thursday Open Lead Lancaster 8:00 P.M.

### **Meetings that donated to the LAI in the month of February:**

Choice Group Lancaster Thursday 12:15 P.M.  
Early Saturday Morning Men's Group Lancaster Saturday 9:00 A.M.  
Foundation Stone Group Lancaster Saturday 8:00 P.M.  
It Works If You Work It Lancaster Friday 8:00 P.M.  
Sisters In Sobriety Lancaster Saturday 10:30 A.M.  
Spiritual Steps To Freedom Lancaster Wednesday 12:15 P.M.

**Thank you for contributing to your intergroup office!!**

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## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

are available online and in the LAI office.

BYLAWS and STANDING RULES are available on the website and at the office.

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## AREA 53 CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST OHIO SERVICE AREA NEWS

March 6-8, 2026- Area 53 Mini Conference Deer Creek Lodge & Conference Center

22300 State Pk Rd 20 Mt Sterling, OH 43143 (740) 869-2020

Make a Difference: Get Involved! Check out the link for more information: [www.area53aa.org](http://www.area53aa.org)

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## STEP OF THE MONTH

Step Three- **“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”**

*“God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life. May I do Thy will always!”*

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## TRADITION OF THE MONTH

Tradition Three- **“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”**

*Long Form: “Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”*

*The relationship between the third tradition and the third step is profound. The third step poses the question: What do I need to do in order to turn my will and my life over to the loving care of God as we understand him? The tradition answers the problem posed in the third step. The only requirement I need to fulfill in order to turn my will and my life over to God’s loving care is a desire to stop drinking. It is unbelievable that all the power of the universe is available to care for me if I only have one desire: to stay sober.*

*(Excerpts from the text above come from the Traditions Study developed by the Unity Insures Recovery Through Service A.A. Group, Los Angeles, CA.)*

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## STORY OF THE MONTH

### **Tradition Three**

*The Third Tradition is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous so long as he says so. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule. Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any halfway mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity.*

*So when he asks, “Are there any conditions?” we joyfully reply, “No, not a one.” When skeptically he comes back saying, “But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe,” we quickly answer, “In Alcoholics Anonymous, there are no musts.” Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, “What is this all going to cost me?” We are able to laugh and say, “Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues.” Thus, in a brief hour, our friend is disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his*

*ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search, it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us.*

*Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here, our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons, we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities. One can think of no AA member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" AA groups, "wet" AA groups, communist AA groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the AA name, even indirectly, to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that AA should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.*

*Let us of AA therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive and never exclusive, offering all we have to all, save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life — and a useful one!*

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**From The Office Manager - James Garner**

When I hear the phrase "in matters affecting A.A. as a whole," I think about anything that impacts our unity and our ability to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. I think about the kind of environment that allows sobriety to grow — one where safety, respect, and fellowship support recovery. Our intergroup office and meeting space exist to serve that purpose. They are here so that groups can connect, alcoholics can find help, and the hand of A.A. is always there when someone reaches out. When situations arise that threaten the safety or well-being of those spaces — whether through disruptive behavior, conflict, or actions that compromise security — it becomes our responsibility, guided by group conscience and A.A.'s Traditions, to respond thoughtfully and appropriately. Our aim is never control, but care. Our purpose is not authority, but service. Each of us who considers ourselves a member of Alcoholics Anonymous shares in the responsibility for preserving the spirit of our Fellowship. Tradition Three reminds us that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. At the same time, our unity (Tradition One) depends on our willingness to place principles before personalities and to consider how our actions affect the whole.

We are temporary trusted servants of a Fellowship that was here before us and, God willing, will be here long after us. We honor those who came before us — and those yet to come — by doing our part to maintain spaces where recovery is possible, hope is visible, and every alcoholic can feel welcome.

Gratitude and Love, James

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**NEW**

## From our Community

Notes and Letters sent in that you want shared with the LAI community. Share your Experience, Strength, and Hope.

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LAI Office

When was the last time you were in the LAI office? I mean really spending some time looking at all the available literature, newsletters, Grapevine, merchandise and the opportunity to fellowship with the amazing volunteers! This is an office that strives to meet all the needs of our intergroup community. Yes, there are coins and books, but there is so much more to the inventory than those few items. Please consider dropping by for a few minutes to support the efforts of your LAI office staff and volunteers. We are better together!!

Amy K - Volunteer

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This year is the **25th Anniversary** of the Lancaster Area Intergroup in its current iteration. Get involved! We need people to help with all aspects of it- a chairperson, volunteers, and supplies. Come to the next Steering Committee Meeting and help out!

March 18th @ 6PM

[www.lancasterareaintergroup.org](http://www.lancasterareaintergroup.org)

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

[www.area53aa.org](http://www.area53aa.org)