

GNOMEGROUP SCAVENGER HUNT

“This place is a chip off the old block. Where am I?”



CMA EVENTS

February 27, 2016 | 6 to 10pm - 80's Ball: Leap back for leap year - the hottest dance floor since the actual 80's!! New wave music, best hair contest, celebrity lookalike contest, pool and poker tournaments. Wear neon and be there to get your awesome on!! \$5 at the door or see any committee member for gift passes in advance. Contact Mikester at 602 492 4201 for more details.

April 9, 2016 - Hope Behind the Scenes: Save the date for this awareness event hosted by the H&I Day Committee. Time and location to be announced soon!! Contact David J at 602 535 6038 or Stevie D at 623 223 4321 to get involved with the CMA H&I Day Committee.

ASK YOUR SPONSOR IF SERVICE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

Service work *IS* step work. It is both the principle and the action behind Step 12 ... To not embrace a lifestyle of maximum service to one's fellows is comparable to not doing a fearless and searching moral inventory or holding reservations about surrendering one's will.

One of the assignments my sponsor gave me for Step 12 was starting a new homegroup. Hope Dealers exists today partly because I took this suggestion. God is an all-powerful employer who provides all I need if I do His work well. Starting a homegroup was an incredible experience I would recommend to everyone.

The Communications Committee is putting together some new meeting kits, including a binder with a set of standard readings, a starter set of chips, and your homegroup flag. It takes at least two and ideally three dedicated trusted servants to successfully establish a group.

We are getting frequent calls to the hotline for meetings in the East Valley, meetings on the lower West Side, and meetings anywhere at different times of day. Are you willing to take that leap of faith?

Contact Mikester at 602 492 4201 or Jeremy at 641 373 6168 and we can walk you through the process.

THE PIPELINE

DECIDING TO TURN IT OVER LETTING GO WITH NO RESERVATIONS

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of a God of our understanding.”

I am not convinced. I am not convinced that the 12 steps and this Crystal Meth Anonymous thing is exactly what I need. I'm simply not convinced that all my efforts to rid myself of this drug, and all the physical, emotional, and spiritual agony it brings, have been unproductive. So, I will continue. I will continue to figure it out. Figure things out, that's what I'll do; as I drift between pain and pleasure, between explaining and listening, between enduring and having things my own way, between serenity and insanity.

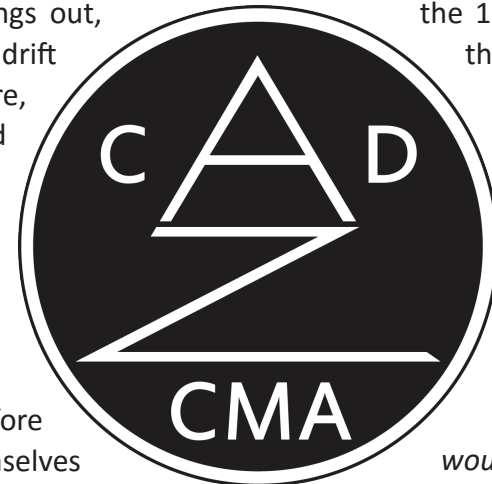
So, I will continue suffer.

And so did many before you, only to find themselves knowing this: “First of all, we had to stop playing God. It didn't work”. The Big Book is clear on this. The problem, the authors

explain, is us and our desire to figure things out. When we are constantly seeking to impose our will upon this otherwise accepting world, our self-serving requests dissolve into collision with things and people. Ouch. The solution, they explain, is simple. It takes into account your best intentions; your tireless efforts, your longing for happiness and the desires of your heart.

I am convinced. I am convinced that the 12 steps, however inexplicable they seem, present a better solution than my prior efforts to stay sober and sane. I'm convinced that without an answer, I'll remain in spiritual suffering. I am convinced, the solution is God. So, I will continue to pray.

Editor's Note: If you would like to share some wisdom about the 4th Step or Tradition for next month's issue, please submit your reflections to pipeline@cmaaz.org.



THE SASSY SPONSOR

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO SASSY@CMAAZ.ORG

Dear Sassy Sponsor,

Under what circumstances can I fire a sponsee?

- Annoyed in Anthem

Dear Annoyed,

I don't know, under what circumstances did you hire them?

Big Book, p. 95: "If he is not interested in your solution, if he expects you to act only as a banker for his financial difficulties or a nurse for his sprees, you may have to drop him until he changes his mind. This he may do after he gets hurts some more."

Sassy will work with sponsees as long as they are willing to work (favorite sponsor line: "I'll work as hard as you will"). If they're willing, I'm willing. And so you can imagine that the opposite holds true, too -- if they won't do the work, then there's not much Sassy can help them with, and I let them go.

What you don't get to fire sponsees for: Because you think they're annoying, because you don't like their race/religions/sexuality/politics/hair, because they don't conform to your ideas of how sober people act (within the confines of the law, of course).

Sponsors are in the business of taking people through steps. If they're willing to do that -- hang in there. If they're not -- hopefully you catch 'em on the flip side.

- Sassy S.

3rd STEP EXPERIENCE KEEPING THE DECISION SIMPLE

If you are like me, the "educational variety" mentioned on Page 572 may have been a speed bump towards recovery. As addicts, we often complicate things that are truly simple. In this case, it's really as simple as one decision. How many decisions do we make every day? Hundreds? Thousands? Why, then, do we allow this one to block us from the recovery we so desperately need?

Often, the answer is having the willingness necessary for the successful consummation of the process. Personally, I did not come to CMA to find God. I came to CMA to rid myself of a terrifying drug habit. The Big Book assures you, and I assure you, that as soon as you become willing to believe in a power greater than yourself, you are on your way. Call that power whatever you choose. The nurtured seed of willingness grows into the flower of faith.

**LOOKING FOR A MEETING?
VISIT CMAAZ.ORG/CALENDAR**

**C-LEBRATE
S-RVICE**

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT BALANCING THE THIRD TRADITION WITH PAGE 96

"The only requirement for CMA membership is a desire to stop using."

I had my first experience with a sponsee who strayed into Page 96 territory recently and the experience wasn't pleasant for either of us. But on the other side of that discomfort was growth, and my appreciation for the profound wisdom of the 3rd Tradition was strengthened.

It can be easy to fall prey to the temptation of believing that unruly newcomers bring down the quality of our meetings. This is especially true in residential facilities and other confined settings where there is very little choice for the people attending.

But who among us didn't have a desire to stop using, long before we admitted it even to ourselves? On the surface, I remember a strong desire to continue enjoying the subculture that came with living a fast life. But inside I was dying a little more every day. I wasn't

happy with where I was and a voice inside me knew the unmanageability long before I connected with voices in recovery who explained what that meant through a message with depth and weight.

Page 96 is about helping us manage our time in service. Every minute we spend chasing one who will not work with us, is a minute taken away from one who will. The third tradition, on the other hand, is about who can sit in meetings and identify as a member. I can count twice in almost 3-1/2 years when a disruptive individual was asked to leave a meeting. It does happen. But even then, the person was assured they could return for the next meeting if they could respect the boundaries of the format.

Remember that we deal with crystal meth - cunning, baffling, powerful. We have no right to withhold access to our solution from anyone, no matter how sick they are.

The 12th Step instructs us to put our principles into action by carrying the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. The CMA Service Structure provides opportunities for accomplishing this. Come to a committee meeting and find one that's right for you!!

Hospitals & Institutions, 1st Tues., 7:00pm
Communications, 2nd Tues., 7:00pm
Public Info & Outreach, 4th Tues., 7:00pm
Jerry's Restaurant, 2323 E Thomas Rd
Events & Fundraising, 1st Wed., 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall, 12428 N 28th Dr