



February 2020

The Serenity Times

The monthly newsletter of the Darwin District



Warranty One

The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power - Warranty One of Article Twelve of the Conference Charter (Concept Twelve)

...we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose... - Tradition Seven (long form)

Warranty One is AA's principal protection against the accumulation of wealth beyond AA's sufficient operating costs and an ample reserve and it has tremendous spiritual significance in AA.

AA guards against the perils which excess wealth poses to AA through its refusal of outside contributions, by the cap (currently \$25,000) which it places on bequests from AA members and by refraining from accumulating funds for no stated AA purpose.

AA has long understood that its true riches are its spiritual wealth and power which it derives from a practice of humility (through the observance of AA's spiritual principles: the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts) and from the labour of countless dedicated AA members who serve AA humbly and selflessly.

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AA Groups interested to fill a time slot on the District's DDO or phone line rosters can contact the DDO



Next meeting

Did you miss the District's quarterly meeting in December? Dry your eyes because there's another quarterly meeting at **7:00pm on Wednesday 4 March 2020** at the Darwin District Office.

Did you know that it's the Groups who run AA? That the District is the humble servant of the Groups? That the Groups tell the District what to do, not the other way around? That it is up to the Groups whether they join the District, attend meetings of the District or make financial contributions to the District? That the District reports to the Groups, not the other way around?

AA Groups are invited to send a General Service Representative to the next District meeting to receive the District's report to the Groups and to tell the District how it can best serve your Group.

All AA members are welcome to attend. Why not bring a newcomer to show them how AA works?



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Warranty Four

That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity - Warranty Four of Article Twelve of the Conference Charter (Concept Twelve)

Warranty Four has great practical and spiritual significance in AA. It suggests that unless there is an extreme urgency, important decisions ought be reached by substantial unanimity.

Warranty Four protects AA's unity and guards against the hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority. Because decisions reached by discussion, vote and substantial unanimity will tend to involve careful consideration and extensive debate, Warranty Four all but guarantees that AA members opposed to a decision will feel that they have received a full and fair hearing. Decisions reached by substantial unanimity also have an authority that decisions made by a simple majority do not, consequently it is unlikely that recriminations will follow if a decision turns out to be a poor one.

What is substantial unanimity? That is a matter to be decided on a simple majority vote. It could be two-thirds, three-quarters or four-fifths of those present and entitled to vote. Does your Home Group observe Warranty Four in any of its Group Conscience decisions or is a simple majority always sufficient?



Conscious contact

Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious contact with God - Step Eleven, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p 96

The authors of the Big Book make it clear that nothing human can keep an alcoholic sober. Because God is the only thing that stands between me and a drink, the most important thing for me to do each day is to be in conscious contact with God.

I follow a practice of prayer and meditation (Step Eleven) exactly as suggested on pages 85 to 88 of the Big Book and I receive information from God as a sudden knowing, in audible form or as images.

Last week, I felt that I needed to examine my motives in a particular matter, so I meditated. During meditation, I received the image of a wolf dressed as Red Riding Hood. The answer was clear: my true motives were not pure of heart, and I altered my course of action accordingly.

Recently I came upon a YouTube video in which a woman told how she chose the symbol of the fox for God to communicate with her. I decided to try it and I chose the pheasant. Afterwards, I silently berated myself for choosing such an obscure and notoriously timid creature. The next morning, I looked out of my front window and I saw a bush pheasant standing at my front door.

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