

Twelve Traditions Play

Unity Service Recovery

*When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Cast of Characters

Narrator: Opens and closes the play. Can also double as Eager-Beaver if only six people perform the play.

Founder: A die-hard type, positive that he is right and everyone else should do things his way. He started AA in Middletown. After that he only got drunk on weekends. Finally he got real sick, went to Duffy's to get sober and returned to Middletown and founded the Group. It is his Group, he makes all the rules, they do everything his way because he knows what's best. He has been sober about five years.

Moneybags: This is the "chairperson" type who backs up the Founder in everything. They are very friendly. The Founder is in awe of Moneybags's money and finds it very useful. Moneybags is jealous of Founder's prestige and would like to run the Group instead of him. Has been sober about three years.

Eager-Beaver: Is greatly in awe of Founder, who in turn squelches her every time she opens her mouth. However, she went to a meeting in another area while on vacation and now has more than an inkling that all AA Groups are not run like the Middletown Group. Has been sober about two years.

Politician: This is a "know-it-all" cigar-smoking type who disagrees with both Founder and Moneybags. He ridicules them both constantly. He is a "fixer", publicity hound, gambler, and ladies' man. He regularly objects to all suggestions and wants to throw the Founder out and take over himself. Has been sober a little less than one year.

Delegate: Is driving back through Middletown from the General Service Conference and has stopped by to attend the Middletown "Recovery" meeting. (Got the address from the AA World Directory.) She Also happens to have a Traditions pamphlet along which is referred to often as the play goes along.

Newcomer: Has been referred to the Group by a judge, is still pretty shaky and confused.

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Narrator: Opens the play by telling the story of the Middletown, U.S.A. Group. About five years old, the Group at first grew rapidly and once had about 150 members. For the past two years attendance has been steadily falling off and there are only about eight members left. This is a special meeting called to discuss the problems of the Group. E. and Politician are anxious to end the rule of Founder but Moneybags thinks little of this idea unless she can take over and "succeed" Founder Narrator explains the kind of problems that beset both old and new Groups, and the play points out the importance of The Twelve Traditions in solving them.

Narrator: Good afternoon friends. Today we are presenting the local version of the Twelve Traditions Play. Our play tells the story of the Middletown, U.S.A. Group. About five years old, the Group at first had a very rapid growth and at one time had about 150 members. For the past two years attendance has been steadily falling off and now there are only about eight members left. The play opens with a special business meeting called

in an attempt to remedy this situation. Most Groups, new and old, from time to time, have had problems similar to Middletown's. They suffered from promoters, bleeding deacons, Little Red Riding Hoods, triangles, politicians, and so forth. However, since AA began, we have never been divided by a major controversial issue. When the chips are down, the Group Conscience takes over. And now the players will introduce themselves.

Founder: I'm the Founder. I'm a die-hard type, positive that I am right and everyone else should do things my way. I started AA in Middletown, and then I only got drunk on weekends. Finally I got real sick, went to Duffy's to get sober, returned to Middletown and founded the Group. It is my Group, I make all the rules, they do everything my way because I know what's best. I've been sober about five years.

Moneybags: I'm Moneybags. I'm the "chairperson" type who backs-up the Founder in everything. Founder and I are very friendly. Founder is in awe of my money and finds it very useful. I'm jealous of Founder's prestige and I'd like to run the Group instead of him. I've been sober about three years.

Eager-Beaver: I'm Eager-Beaver. I'm greatly in awe of Founder, but I get squelched every time I open my mouth. However, I went to a meeting in another area while on vacation and now have more than an inkling that all AA Groups are not run like the Middletown Group. I've been sober about two years.

Politician: I'm the Politician. I'm the "know-it-all" cigar-smoking type who disagrees with both Founder and Moneybags. I ridicule them both constantly. I'm a "fixer", publicity hound, gambler, and ladies' man. I regularly object to all suggestions. I want to throw the Founder out and take over the Group myself. I've been sober a little less than one year.

Delegate: I'm the Delegate. I was driving back through Middletown from the General Service Conference and stopped by to attend the Middletown "recovery" meeting. I got the address from the AA World Directory. I also "just happen to have" a Traditions pamphlet which is referred to often as the play goes along.

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Newcomer: I've been referred to the Group by a judge, and I'm still pretty shaky and confused.

Narrator: The play begins with Moneybags sitting in a large chair at the center of the table. The chair "belongs" to Founder who has not yet arrived. On her left is an empty chair and in the next left chair is Eager-Beaver. They are discussing the problems of the Group, scheming to end the "Rule" of Founder and electing leaders on a rotating basis.

Moneybags: You know Eager-Beaver, I was surprised when Founder agreed to this meeting today. I didn't think he would go for it at all.

Eager-Beaver: Well, he didn't guess that we planned to get here early. You know, Politician is supposed to meet us here so we can try to get something worked out before Founder arrives.

Moneybags: I hope he gets here before Founder, so maybe we can cook up something to knock him off his throne... or at least rock it a little.

Eager-Beaver: Well... you know what the trouble is. Founder is just a dictator and he does not want anyone else to do anything. Now, when I was on vacation, I went to that meeting in Ukiah. I heard them talking about elections and rotating leaders and the Group paying its own way. A lot of stuff like that. But all Founder does is hold on like grim death. He just will not let anyone else do anything.

Moneybags: Well, maybe it's all right. After all, he is the Founder and he does know all about AA. I never heard of any of this stuff you bumped into at this other Group, but I sure know that our Group has gone to pot.

Eager-Beaver: I certainly hope that when he gets here, we can think of something.

Moneybags: we have to do something. If he should die, I would have to take over, and I need to establish my authority ahead of time. I'm next in seniority, you know.

Eager-Beaver: Well, I don't care about that so much. I just don't like the way Founder does things. It just doesn't seem right. Here's Politician now. Hi, Politician!

(Politician enters and sits in the chair to the right of Moneybags)

Moneybags: Hi Politician. We were just sitting here talking the situation over. Listen to lil' Eager-Beaver.

Eager-Beaver: We've just been talking Founder and the way he holds onto everything with an iron hand. I was telling Moneybags about when I was on vacation and went to that meeting in Ukiah. They don't do things the way we do here at all.

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Moneybags: Well, all I know is what you told me. But you had started to say something about elections. What was that all about?

Eager-Beaver: The group elects different leaders. They have Group secretaries and a steering committee. They invite others to join them in meetings and do all kinds of things. Stuff we never heard of around here.

Moneybags: Well... look, Politician, I'm only the financial brains around here. You're the Politician! What do you think about elections and how could we hold one? How would we do it?

Politician: Hah! You and your money ought to be able to figure that one out. The question is, what do we do with Founder?

Moneybags: Don't worry about that. I'll handle him. You tell me how to hold an election and we'll get something done.

Eager-Beaver: Yes, we should start by having an election, but who is going to tell Founder? I would be scared to death to. He might throw me out of AA!!

Moneybags: Well, I'm not afraid of him. I'll tell him.

Eager-Beaver: You have your opportunity. Here comes the old dictator now.

Founder: What on earth is going on here? I'm sure I'm not late, so you-all must have got here early. You weren't talking about me, I hope. Hey! (to Moneybags) What's the big idea? Who gave you permission to sit in my chair?

Moneybags: I paid for it. I don't see why I can't sit in it once in a while when you aren't here. (Moves to another chair during line)

Founder: It's **MY** chair! After all, I am the Founder, and I get to have the biggest chair! Well, let's get going. We have to do something to get people back to meetings again, real quick!

Politician: Why don't you and Moneybags pay 'em to come. A dollar a head and we could probably fill the room.

Founder: Stop interrupting! I have lots of plans. Actually, I already have everything all lined up. First of all, we're going to have a TV program with Ed: Choo-Choo Ed, that is, and I'm going to be interviewed about all the good I've done. I'll tell 'em how we're going to get Ed's backing and I'll mention some of the bigshots who have come to our meetings: like Banker Tom and Musician Verna. Secondly, I'm making a deal with the

judge to sit on the bench with him. We can comb over the likely looking ones, and if they
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look like the kind I want for my Group, I'll screen them and accept their application to AA. Then the judge can sentence them to AA.

Eager-Beaver: Founder, isn't anyone supposed to be in AA if they want to?

Founder: Now, now, little girl, you listen to me. You're way too new to know about these things. You know, I've been sober five years and I know what's best. The rest of you just have to be loyal to me. After all, I started AA. (Delegate enters, Founder looks at her) Who are you and what do you want?

Delegate: I'm _____ and I'm an alcoholic and a member of AA from _____. I happen to be the present delegate to General Service and I'm returning from the New York Conference. I looked in the World Directory and found your Group listed, so I thought I would visit your meeting.

Eager-Beaver: (To Moneybags) She sounds just like those people did in Ukiah.

Remember what I told you? (to Delegate) What's a conference?

Politician: What's General Service?

Moneybags: What World Directory?

Founder: Aw, don't pay any attention to that stuff, it's just a lot of rules and regulations they made up back in New York. Wouldn't ever work here in Middletown, and we don't need 'em anyhow. (To Delegate) I started it and Moneybags here, (Points to Moneybags) is my right-hand man. I've been sober five years and I straightened him up about three years ago. Little Eager-Beaver Has been around for a couple of years but she is still pretty wet behind the ears; always getting ideas about doing things different. My pal Politician is a newer addition, but, boy, he sure knows how to get things done around City Hall. By the way, what's-your-name, how long did you say you've been in this outfit?

Delegate: Well, I've been sober nearly fifteen years now.

Founder: Fifteen years?

ALL: Fifteen years?

Delegate: One day at a time.

Politician: Hah! (To Founder) Maybe you better move over and give her your chair.

Founder: (To Moneybags) Move over, you. I'm going to give my chair to this longtimer.

Moneybags: (To Politician) Mover over, can't you?

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Politician: Why can't you?

Moneybags: I have more time than you do. And besides, I want to sit next to the Delegate.

Founder: Here you are, what's-your-name. You sit right down here in my chair, right here in the middle. Well... let's get the show on the road. You've heard some of my plans about getting people back to our meetings.

Eager-Beaver: That's all he ever does, talks about what he is going to do, but he doesn't do it and he won't let anyone else either. He just holds on like grim death! He calls the Group his garden. I guess we are all his little weeds.

Politician: We need to weed him out. He thinks just because he is the Founder and has more sobriety, that none of our ideas are any good. I've got some good ideas on how

to run this Group, but he's going to make us wait until he dies before I can put my ideas into effect. Anyhow, if we had an election, I bet I'd win. Hell, I've been fixing those things around here for years.

Moneybags: Now listen you, show more respect for him in front of this longtimer.

Founder: That's right! What a way to talk, and in front of a stranger, too! After all I've done: pulling people off barstools, giving all my time, and all those trips to Duffy's to find out how to operate.

Moneybags: Huh! He talks about making all these trips to find out how AA works, but that wasn't it at all. He was going there all right, but he was just playing around with the program; and what's more, he couldn't stay sober. So he came back here. And when he talks about pulling people off barstools, he's talking about me. But, if it hadn't been for me and my money, he wouldn't have a thing. I got him a job, started him in business and financed this Group. When he says he started this Group, he didn't have a choice. He couldn't stay sober here on his own!

Eager-Beaver: (To Delegate) These two just squabble all the time. Squabble, squabble, squabble. They won't tell you what's really wrong, but I will. All our members are staying away, and some of them are even getting drunk, because Founder won't let anyone but himself have a word about anything.

Founder: Now, now, little girl. I've got everything under control and things are going to be different.

Delegate: Just how do you run your meetings?

Politician: Just for laughs, tell her!

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Founder: Well, I sort of open the meeting by telling how I went to Duffy's, and about what a tough time I had getting them to come at first. Then I tell 'em how I run my Group and how I screen the new ones. Then Moneybags talks about how much he has done helping me run my Group. Then, sometimes, some of the others talk and I always wind up with a real strong AA pitch.

Politician: That *is* a laugh! Let me tell you how he really does it. He gets up and spouts off about how he founded the Group and has a right to run it his own way. He keeps this up for about 20 minutes and then his partner, Mr. Bucks, gets up and tells us what a great guy he is and how much he puts out. Then he lets his pal take over again and he explains what he's been talking about. Then ole Father Time tells us not to take a drink before the next meeting, tells us again what a good Joe he is and then closes the meeting. Ask the others, they'll tell you the same thing. (To Founder) Hey, Founder, what about all that money you've been getting for the Group? Those rich friends of yours in town, the charity drives and all? Tell the woman about that!

Founder: Don't worry about that! I've got it all right here in my head.

Politician: You got the figures in your head, but where's the loot? You got that up there too?

Founder: No... I mean yes... Oh, shut up! Listen to this delegate gal.

Politician: You listen! That sure would be a switch.

Delegate: I just happen to have this pamphlet about the Twelve Traditions. (*Hand pamphlets to Founder who glances at it and throws it toward Eager-Beaver*).

Founder: Twelve "What"??

Delegate: It's something we arrived at from the past experience of all the Groups.

You really should have a copy here. The General Service Conference, from which I am returning, is the Guardian of our Traditions and is based on Unity, Service, and Recovery. Tradition One says our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends on AA unity. Our only authority is a loving God, as we understand Him, and our leaders are but trusted servants. They do not govern.

Founder: (*Standing in disbelief*) No bosses!?

Delegate: Tradition Nine states that AA, as such, ought never be organized. It's better to create committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Eager-Beaver: See!?! What did I tell you? That's what they were saying in Ukiah.

Politician: It's just what I've been saying all along. If you guys'd let me talk, I could say stuff like that.

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Delegate: By the way, Founder, how many Groups do you have in Middletown?

Moneybags: I can answer that one! Another bunch around here tried to start a Group a while back, but the way it was shaping up, I figured I'd have to put a stop to that kind of nonsense. We couldn't have two Groups. They were getting as big as us. So what I did was: I had the police raid the joint where they were meeting, but someone must have paid someone off, because nothing happened and they kept on meeting. Some guy had come from Lakeport and thought he was pretty smart and didn't want to do things our way. So when they didn't get closed up, I took matters into my own hands. I just bought the building, turned off the gas and electricity, and put them out of business. After all, it was either we wipe them out or they'd wipe us out.

Eager-Beaver: I know you thought you were pretty smart, but I would really like to see another Group here in Middletown. We could visit back and forth. We could exchange ideas and help each other. You and Big Boss here don't want any competition, that's all.

Delegate: Our past experience proves that every Group has a right to be self-governing, provided they do not hurt some other Group or AA as a whole, which is in Tradition Four. And no Group should have a right to interfere with another, as long as it is operating in accordance with the principles of AA. Inside the cover of our World Directory it clearly states that any two or more people, gathered together for sobriety, can call themselves an AA Group, provided they are self-supporting and have no other affiliations.

Founder: Well, I dunno. It *sounds* OK, and it *might* work in other places, but it would *never* work here. These people depend on me, because they know that I know the score.

Politician: (*To Eager-Beaver*) You know, I almost didn't come tonight. Moneybags was getting pretty nasty about that poker debt, and I've been trying to borrow the money. After all, it *is* an AA poker debt.

Delegate: May I ask what AA poker is?

Founder: Oh, it's just a little idea I dreamed up. We were getting blamed tired of just sitting around here listening to each other night after night, and some of the spouses were getting kind of jumpy, too. So I decided that one night a month we'd have a potluck, and then go into the back room and have a poker game instead of a meeting. Just a friendly little no-limit game.

Politician: Friendly?!? No limit, cut-throat, and you have to play.

Eager-Beaver: And Founder even chases people away who happen to show up if it's

poker night!

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Founder: We just tell them to come back next week. What's wrong with that?

Eager-Beaver: Plenty!

Delegate: Tradition Five says that each Group has but one primary purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Without new members we would surely die.

Newcomer: Is this A..A...A....A.....A.....??

Founder: This is AA, all right, but right now we're very busy in a meeting. You come back the day-after-tomorrow. That's our regular meeting night.

Newcomer: The judge told me that you people could help me.

Eager-Beaver: We want to if we can.

Politician: Didn't you hear the man? We're too busy right now.

Moneybags: Hey, wait a minute. Let's show this longtimer how we screen new people with your system, Founder.

Founder: *(to Delegate)* Watch this now. You'll see how careful we are. At first we had a lot of trouble with all kinds of people trying to get in, so I set up a screening committee, *myself, that is*, and made some rules. When the others didn't agree with me, I screened them out. We just keep the pure "Alkies".

Politician: Pure.... Wow!

Founder: And I, personally, pass on all the applicants.

Newcomer: Are you sure I'm in the right place?

Founder: I just happen to have one of our application forms with me.

Founder: *(To Newcomer)* What's your name?

Newcomer: J...J...J...J...John.

Founder: How old are you?

Newcomer: It beats the hell out of me! *(or 39)*

Founder: What kind of work do you do?

Newcomer: I'm not working now. I just got fired. They said I was drinking on the job.

Founder: What's your religion?

Newcomer: Catholic.

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Founder: Well I don't know. We don't ever have too much luck with these Catholics.

Newcomer: Us Catholics don't have much luck with you folks, either.

Founder: What's your political affiliation?

Newcomer: Huh?

Founder: What's your political affili.....Oh, never mind. Who did you vote for in the last election?

Newcomer: I voted for Harry Brown.

Founder: What's your formal education?

Newcomer: I left school in the eight grade. But later I became a trustee.

Founder: Trustee? What school was that?

Newcomer: It wasn't a school, it was at PSG.

Founder: Tch, tch. Were you ever in jail?

Newcomer: What the heck do you think? That's why the judge sent me over here!

Founder: Were you ever in for a morals offense?

Newcomer: Only for drinking, and they framed me. I only had two beers.

Founder: Been drinking today?

Newcomer: Only two beers, so help me.

Founder: What on earth is the matter with you? Can't you even stay sober long enough to come down here?

Newcomer: If I could stay sober, I wouldn't need to come down here.

Founder: Here. Finish filling out this application. Go over there and sit down and fill it out. And *keep quiet*. We're very busy.

Newcomer: Can I ask a question?

Founder: No! Just go over there and sit down and keep quiet. You're here to be seen and not heard.

Founder: *(To Delegate)* Well, what do you think about that? It'll give you some idea of how careful we are in our screening. Why, one could bring their mother or sister or maiden aunt and they would never find any riff-raff in here.

Politician: Har, har, har, har. Only those "Pure Alkies" he was talking about.

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Founder: Right! I've weeded out all the riff-raff, the undesirables, the panhandlers, con-men, trouble-makers and phony-balonies....

Politician: Hey Founder, tell her about the fallen women!

Founder: Whadaya mean? I don't know what you're talking about. You're nuts!

Politician: Oh, yes you do, too. Remember last winter when those gals.....

Founder: Oh, that. That was nothing...ha, ha...

Politician: Well, go on, tell her!

Founder: Oh, it wasn't anything. One night last winter, a couple of hookers tried to come in here. But, I'm pretty hep, and I recognized the type right off. I knew that something had to be done right away. So I just told them plainly that they could not come in here and contaminate my Group. And I escorted them to the door.

Politician: Ha, ha, ha. To the door, and through the door and out the door! We didn't see him again for three weeks!

Founder: Now wait....it wasn't like that! It was only two.....Oh, shut up! Why don't you mind your own business?!?

Politician: Well, it sure proves that you know your 13th. step!

Newcomer: *(Mutters and raises his hand)*

Moneybags: Shut up, you!!!

Delegate: *(Jumps, thinking that Moneybags is yelling at her)* Just how many do you think you have eliminated from this Group through your screening method?

Founder: Oh, I'd say that we managed to get rid of a couple of hundred or more in the past year.

Delegate: I wonder where they are now?

Eager-Beaver: Well, Delegate, I know two of them that died. *(Founder acts astonished)* They were both girls that went to school with me. *(As Delegate responds, Eager-Beaver Slips Newcomer some AA literature, and continues to do this intermittently as the play progresses)*

Delegate: You know, in the early days of AA, this screening problem came up. The members had to agree that even if a new prospect had problems in addition to alcohol, or

would not accept God right away, or was controversial, it was best for AA, if they were
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alcoholics, to accept them. Many of them remained to become good AA members. That is why Tradition Three states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Founder: Maybe you're right. (*To others*) We could try it, and if it didn't work out we could always go back to screening them.

Delegate: Another thing. Is your Group self-supporting?

Moneybags: Self-supporting? What a joke! This gang wouldn't support anything. I support them. Nobody else will. I own this building, so I let them have free rent. I own part of the café down the street, so I provide free refreshments, and I own the furniture store, so I gave them all this furniture. I get the money for Founder from a lot of my friends. And I always put a twenty in the basket!

Politician: It isn't the twenties I mind. It's the way he waves them in the air before he finally puts them in the basket. I still think we should move to the back room of Allen's furniture store and pay him \$20 a night for it. Then we could all kick in the way Delegate wants us to.

Delegate: You have a wonderful idea there. It's better for every Group to be self-supporting,

declining outside contributions, according to Tradition Seven.

Moneybags: Declining money?!? And, what else? Oh, brother!

Politician: Hey, don't let such crazy ideas louse up the deal I made with O'Brien to get him re-elected Sheriff, and the deal Founder made to be on TV with him. (*Moneybags becomes furious as the significance of this statement dawns on him*) We need O'Brien.

He's a big help to us. He gets the judge to put 'em in for us, or take 'em out for us.

Moneybags: (*To Founder*) Of all the dirty double-crosses I ever heard! You told me the Group would go along with my man, Jackson, and I promised him we would. Jackson's an influential man. He's going to be Governor some day and I promised to finance his campaign.

Politician: Baloney!!! O'Brien's the best man. And I promised *him* that the Group would support him.

Founder: (*Stands*) Yeah, I know. O'Brien's a good guy, but if Moneybags thinks he can put over Jackson, maybe we'd better reconsider.

Politician: What a lousy trick! I've already promised O'Brien. And don't forget, he also promised to set up the deal with ol' Doc to change the name of the hospital to the "AA Hospital", and to put AA's in charge.

Moneybags: Jackson can do that just as well as O'Brien!

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Founder: Well, we sure do need the hospital in AA's name. I'm running around screening new people. If we had our own hospital, we could charge plenty, make some dough and at the same time, Doc can get 'em sobered up for us. He can give 'em lots of tranquilizers to calm 'em down and then I can screen them. (*Sits*)

Eager-Beaver: What if they don't have enough money for the hospital?

Founder: Tough.

Moneybags: I guess they will just have to do without it, but this hospital idea is a good one. It would all be tax-exempt if we put in a free case once-in-a-while. You know, ol'

Doc's a drunk himself, so he knows how to handle them.

Politician: (*Angrily*) O'Brien's the one who can put it over.

Moneybags: You rat!!

Founder: Now, now, you two. Calm down. We have company, you know.....(*Muses*) But, if we do back Jackson, and he gets to be Governor, he can do a lot of things for us.

Eager-Beaver: (*To Delegate*) Isn't this terrible? (*To others*) That's what's the matter with this Group. All this politics and stuff. That's why the other groups started. You wanted them to vote for your man, and they didn't want to get involved in politics. But they had to, because of all of you, so they started their own group.

Newcomer: (*Mutters and raises his hand again*)

Founder: Shut up!

Moneybags: Yeah, shut up!

Delegate: You know, everything you are talking about is covered in our Twelve Traditions. For instance, Tradition Seven says we should be self-supporting, and Tradition Ten warns us to stay out of politics and public controversy. Over a hundred years ago, a society named the Washingtonians almost had an answer to alcoholism. Abraham Lincoln praised them and talked at their meetings. But then they got involved in politics and in fighting against slavery and for making alcohol illegal and so forth. They fought for so many causes they became divided among themselves and died. It's fine to be a good citizen, but politics has no place in AA, if we are to survive ourselves. And about this hospital; the early AA's tried that, too, and many other things. They were even going to scoop up all the derelicts from skid rows and start AA farms run by AA's and financed by the sale of AA books. We did not sell enough books, fortunately, so the idea fell through. Later we learned that we shouldn't try to act like professionals because we are not professionals; and we should never be paid for our Twelfth Step work. Also, it is Twelve Traditions Play Page 14

not advisable to lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise. We should stick to our own business, which is carrying the message, not the alcoholic. Also, any Group funds, collected from the members, should only be used for AA purposes and should never be diverted to outside agencies, no matter how worthwhile the cause may be. Many of these agencies do help the alcoholic, and while we cooperate with them, AA should never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied.

Newcomer: (*Mutters and raises his hand again*)

Founder, Politician, & Moneybags: (*Wearily*) Oh, shut up.

Moneybags: At least we can go through with our TV show. (*To Delegate*) I own half the TV station and I promised Jackson to put the Group on with him. That way we can put in a plug for Jackson and get recruits for the Group at the same time.

Politician: I demand equal time for O'Brien!

Eager-Beaver: Is that being anonymous? Suppose someone who needed help and did want to join saw the show. They could get scared off because they thought they'd have to go on a TV show if they joined AA.

Founder: You'll understand these things better when you've been around as long as I have.

Eager-Beaver: I hope not!

Moneybags: I can't see that it would do any harm this one time. I can't let Jackson

down.

Politician: I can't let O'Brien down.

Delegate: (*Opening pamphlet*) Why don't we see what it says here in this pamphlet?

Tradition Eleven says that our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion. You really don't need a political TV show to attract new members. In fact, the Traditions say we need always maintain anonymity at the public level. You see, AA is a spiritual program and Tradition Twelve tells us that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. Look here, I have a thought. Why don't I, or better still, Founder, read our Traditions straight through and see if applying them might make a big change in the problems of your Group. (*Hands pamphlet to Founder*)

Eager-Beaver: Delegate, are the Twelve Traditions in our Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous?

Delegate: Yes, they are on page 564 of our Big Book.

Eager-Beaver: Founder, you never told us that!

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Founder: I never knew that. (*Founder reads the Traditions. All comment from time to time extemporaneously*)

Founder: Well, it sure does look like we've been making every mistake in the book. (*To others*) Shall we go along with Delegate here? (*Others nod approval*)

Moneybags: I'm all for that. I'll just write a check right now.

ALL: No! No! No! We pay our own way, remember?

Politician: I'm all for it. It's just what I've been talking about right along.

Founder: I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll order some of these pamphlets right away. I'll eliminate the screening committee, *myself, that is*, and.....(*Grudgingly*) we'll have an election.

Eager-Beaver: That's great! And I nominate Founder for our first elected leader. I certainly think Delegate was guided here by a Higher Power today. I think we knew all along we were on the wrong track, but we didn't know just where we were wrong.

Delegate: Actually, every one of our Traditions is based on mistakes the early members of AA made.

Newcomer: (*Mutters and raises his hand again*)

Founder: And just to show my good faith, here's this new guy, a brand new man, sitting here all day with a question. I'll even start him off without an application. (*To Newcomer*) Stand up fellow, and ask your question.

Newcomer: (*Voice quavering*) I've only got one question.

Founder: Quiet, everyone. (*Everyone falls silent and bends intently to hear the Newcomer's question*) Where's the bathroom? (*Everyone points offstage and Newcomer shakily exits*)

Narrator: Thank you ladies and gentlemen. You have seen how the Middletown Group found the solution to its problems. We hope that our play has pointed the way should your Group need guidance. The Traditions show the way, and your General Service Office is always available should your Group need advice. If you would like to have the Twelve Traditions Play for a special AA function, please see one of the Traditions Players or our Group's GSR-General Service Representative.

The End