

20/20 Vision



Metrolina Intergroup Association: Recovery, Unity, Service
February-March 2024

Hello everyone!

I remember a summer when my whole family was at the beach, and my older brother told me he was an alcoholic. I had no idea at that point that I was an alcoholic, and all of us loved to party whenever we were together. The first words out of my mouth were, “No you're not!” I was not ready for the “A” word to be used in our family and had no idea that I qualified! I am grateful to now know that no one could ever tell him, or you, or me that we do not qualify to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous if we choose to be one.

In the early days of AA, the groups were so afraid that everyone was going to get drunk and the groups would fold, that they created a lot of membership rules. If you recall, the Middleton Group had Rule 62! They thought the ‘rules’ protected them, but they did not.

We have benefited from their mistakes because they admitted they made bad choices, and they changed their approach. When the Traditions were introduced in 1946 in a Grapevine article, some members were not on board with adopting them, but they were accepted at the first International Convention in 1950 in Cleveland. The Third Tradition removed our need to make membership rules and thank God it did!

As a result of those Traditions, our groups do not have to look or operate like their neighboring groups. The diversity that allows is critical to the balance Alcoholics Anonymous offers us. Hopefully, there is a group that fits the needs of every alcoholic in our city, our state, our nation and, indeed, our world.

Enjoy the spring that is fast upon us, my friends. I will look for you, and we can trudge together!

Yours in service,

Beth R.
2024 Steering Committee Chair