

Michigan Intergroup Group Inventory

Step Ten: *Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*

It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us... In all situations we need self-restraint, honest analysis of what is involved, a willingness to admit when the fault is ours, and an equal willingness to forgive when the fault is elsewhere. We need not be discouraged when we fall into the error of our old ways, for these disciplines are not easy. We shall look for progress, not perfection. ... we begin to see that all people, including ourselves, are to some extent emotionally ill as well as frequently wrong, and then we approach true tolerance and see what real love for our fellows really means. ... When in doubt, we can always pause, saying, "Not my will, but Thine, be done." And we can often ask ourselves, "Am I doing to others as I would have them do to me—today?"... An honest regret for harms done, a genuine gratitude for blessings received, and a willingness to try for better things tomorrow will be the permanent assets we shall seek... Having so considered our day, not omitting to take due note of things well done, and having searched our hearts with neither fear nor favor, we can truly thank God for the blessings we have received and sleep in good conscience.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.90ff, © 2011, A.A. World Services, Inc. Used with permission.

Many groups periodically hold a "group inventory meeting" to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help debtors recover through D.A.'s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. Some groups take inventory by examining our Twelve Traditions, one at a time, to determine how well they are living up to these principles.

Past inventories have shown us not to use this time to make motions and vote on new issues, when we did, this process took weeks rather than a few hours. This process is useful for arriving at an informed group conscience. We can individually as well as assign someone from the group to take notes of what comes up and bring those issues of importance to our regular business meetings. So no motions for changes to our meeting will be presented during this inventory process. The point will be continually stressed that this is not about business, it's about discussion. Questions will be allowed to anyone, from anyone throughout the inventory.

The following questions, compiled from D.A. shared experience, strength, hope and recovery may be useful in arriving at an informed group conscience:

1. What is the basic purpose of our intergroup?

My share around this question must begin with the first paragraph from our **DEBTORS ANONYMOUS MANUAL FOR SERVICE**, *"Together we can accomplish what none of us could accomplish separately. This is the simple principle underlying the need for Intergroups. The primary purpose of any group is to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering debtor. In many instances, a group operating by itself cannot do this effectively. Thus, a group of 10 or 12 members would find it both expensive and difficult to undertake creation of a "hot line," or even a telephone line and answering machine, for inquiries by potential members. One group might not be able to take advantage of quantity discounts in buying literature from the GSO. The activities, so important in carrying the message, can be facilitated through creation of an Intergroup."* Chapter 3, page 53, paragraph 1.

I fully agree and support this clearly presented purpose developed for us within this piece of newly available Service Literature.

Traditionally

MI Intergroup currently maintains a telephone line where potential newcomers can obtain basic information and receive a listing of meeting and contacts.

MI Intergroup currently maintains a website, registered with the DA-GSO. Both potential newcomers, business owners, helping professionals and current fellow members around the world have online access to the body of information on compulsive debting and the solution presented by The Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous as a whole.

2. What more can our intergroup do to carry the message?
3. Is our intergroup attracting debtors from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs?
4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as an intergroup do to retain members?
5. Do we emphasize the importance of service sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?

6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our intergroup members and other D.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?
7. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other intergroup activities?
8. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our intergroup officers with care?
9. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place and time? Note: We currently meet monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 5:30 – 6::30 p.m. by conference call.
10. Does our intergroup do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of D.A. - as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?
11. What has our intergroup done lately to bring the D.A. message to the attention of professionals in the community—the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, and others who are often the first to see debtors in need of help?
12. How is our intergroup fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

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