

RitL General Services Call 10-17-2015

Attending Call

Aarkey	Jeff	Mags
Alena (Zee)	Stormy	Sherrie
Bill	Franki	Johanna

1st order of Business: the tabled motion to change the steps/traditions from God to HP. (**See attached versions offered at end of minutes.)

Aarkey brought the motion to amend the alternate version discussed in June.
Alena seconded the motion to amend.

Aarkey opened for discussion about the amendments going forward. Which amendment would go forward?

Bill – Why do we want to change AA, something that has worked for 80 years?

Aarkey – At this point we are only discussing what amendment should go forward.

Call to vote for which amendment would go forward

Aarkey – Aarkey’s Wording	Jeff – Abstain	Sherrie – Higher Power
Alena (Zee) – Aarkey’s Wording	Stormy – Abstain	Johanna Abstain
Bill- Abstain	Franki – Higher Power	
	Mags – Higher Power	

Aarkey opened for discussion about the amending or not amending the steps/traditions.

Bill – You need to keep your religions out of the rooms.

Johanna – Why do we want to change this that has been working for so long? You can’t just change a few things you have to change everywhere that says “God”.

Alena (Zee) - We are not changing AA we are adhering to the original ideals of AA in that we are adhering to the traditions by entertaining and having in depth discussions about this topic.

Sherrie – We are not AA. That being said we say in AA that we want the hand of AA to always be there. I think we need to grow in this big highway to be more inclusive to a broader world population.

Franki – AA was originally written for me by men. When things are written they are written for the scope of the time that they were written. We have to take into account that in 80 years we realize that the scope has changed. Not everyone believes in a higher power believes in a creator that is a bigger source of all is not a male god. And if we are to be inclusive to all fellowships to all genders etc I believe that this falls within that path of this logic. If we are to be inclusive of all humanity then we need to be sensitive to the fact that not everyone worships the same god.

Stormy – Really hurt by wanting to change something that has worked for so long. When this program was started it worked well enough that it has spread through states and into Canada and UK.

Aarkey – I am honored to be a part of this call and this fellowship where we are talking about such sensitive topics that can be so divisive. I appreciate that we can come together and talk about these things. I have studied the traditions, given workshops and the original fellowship was founded on Christianity because that was what they knew. I don't think that this re-wording of these steps and traditions is not what is best for the fellowship. I find that the antiquated term of "Him, He" is very limiting. I say all this as a Christian. I am name Christian and my father is a canon in the Episcopal Church so this is stuff that is very important to us. I think it would really behoove us to look at saying "him" is really more of the issue. I know for certainty that have said that "I don't want to be involved in that. I don't believe in a god on a cross. I just don't want to be involved in that." But Jimmy B is the man that insisted on putting in "God as we understood him." James Barnwell – first AA historian. *We do not have to notify AA World Services if we choose to change the wording of the steps and traditions; per World Services.*

Mags – This motion was not originally brought to the table solely because of gender issues though that was a part of the whole discussion. This is not an issue that is about an individual bringing a motion to the table but about how we want to be as a fellowship. How we want to be as Recovery in the Lifestyle; not AA, NA, Al-anon, OA, etc. How do we want to grow as an individual 12-step fellowship? We are not just a fellowship of people who wander in here from other 12-step programs any more. We have members who we are their primary fellowship. They work our steps and our traditions just as they would from any other fellowship. We want to be welcoming to all people from all fellowships and all denominations, etc. This is an issue about that.

Alena (Zee) – Is it the right thing for our common welfare to table this?

Aarkey – Does someone want to make a motion to table until January?

Mags – I make a motion that we table until January 2016.

Franki/Johanna – 2nd the motion

Call to vote for tabling the discussion on changing steps and traditions.

Aarkey - Yes

Alena (Zee) - Yes

Bill - Yes

Jeff - Yes

Stormy - Yes

Franki - Yes

Mags - Yes

Sherrie - Yes

Johanna – Yes

Unanimous to table until Jan 9th @ noon.

2nd order of business – Creating a group on FL for general services discussions that is very tightly moderated and will be mirrored on the RitL site for content.

Call to vote for creating a general services group on FL.

Aarkey - Yes

Alena (Zee) - Yes

Bill - Yes

Jeff - Yes

Stormy - Yes

Franki - Yes

Mags - Yes

Sherrie - Yes

Johanna – Yes

Unanimous to create the General Services group on FetLife.

3rd order of business – Creating bylaws for RitL which will cover how we perform as a fellowship/general services calls. Whether or not we want to require a super majority for changing wording in the material?

Bill – Based on what we have gone through today I think it is something that we need to look into. It's not something I can see happening on phone calls.

Zee – I agree with that.

Aarkey – I have been a part of groups that have been able to do this very thing. Create steering committee which discusses creating bylaws.

Aarkey called for volunteers to serve on the steering committee.

Volunteering to serve: Mags and Aarkey

Stormy – Making a motion that we go back to our groups to see if there are others who would like to serve on the steering committee that could not be here today.

Aarkey – 2nd the motion and put out for 2nd week of December to come back to talk only about the steering committee.

Call to vote for taking information back to groups for other committee members and to have a call Saturday 12-12 @ noon regarding this.

Aarkey - Yes

Alena (Zee) - Yes

Bill - Yes

Jeff - Yes

Stormy - Yes

Franki - Yes

Mags - Yes

Sherrie - Yes

Johanna – Yes

Send questions and requests to: info@ritl.org

** Steps and Traditions as put forth as example for the change from "God" to "Higher Power" in the wording.

The Twelve Steps (Higher Power Version)

1. We admitted we were powerless in our addiction - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of our Higher Power as we understood It.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have our Higher Power remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked our Higher Power to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power, as we understood It, praying only for knowledge of It's will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to those in recovery, and practice these principles in all our affairs.

The Twelve Traditions(Higher Power Version)

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon Recovery in the Lifestyle unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving Higher Power as It may express Itself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to be in Recovery in the Lifestyle.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or Recovery as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to those who still suffer.

6. Our Recovery group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the Recovery name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every Recovery group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Recovery groups should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. Recovery groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Recovery in the Lifestyle has no opinion on outside issues; hence the Recovery name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The Twelve Steps (Higher Power, some of us choose to call God version)

Amended Motion by Aarkey presented Oct, 2015

Alternate Version 2 of The Twelve Steps of Recovery in the Lifestyle

1. We admitted we were powerless in our addictions - that our lives had become unmanageable.
- * 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- * 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of that Power, which some of us call God.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- * 5. Admitted to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- * 6. Were entirely ready to have our Higher Power remove all these defects of character.
- * 7. Humbly asked that Power to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
- * 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power, which some of us call God, praying only for the knowledge of its will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to those in recovery, and practice these principles in all our affairs.

The Twelve Traditions (Higher Power, some of us choose to call God version)

There was not a copy of changes to the traditions attached. Let me know if you have that and want to add it or I can. ~Mags