

Welcome to
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



Background Information and Development of our 2018 Area Budget

Area 8 Budget Assembly November 4, 2017

Our Primary Purpose—Our Twelfth Step—From National to Local Levels

▶ A.A.'s General Service Office

- Functions as a storehouse of A.A. information
- Communicates with members and groups around the world
- Publishes A.A.'s literature
- Supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in A.A.

▶ The Area Committee

- Coordinates A.A. activities over a broad geographic area
- Sends a Delegate to the annual General Service Conference
- Holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship, through input from G.S.R.s
- Provides information at all levels of service

▶ The Local District

- Communicates directly with groups
- Provides the district group conscience for the area assemblies
- Serves as a link between the area Delegate and the G.S.R.s.

▶ Individual A.A. Groups

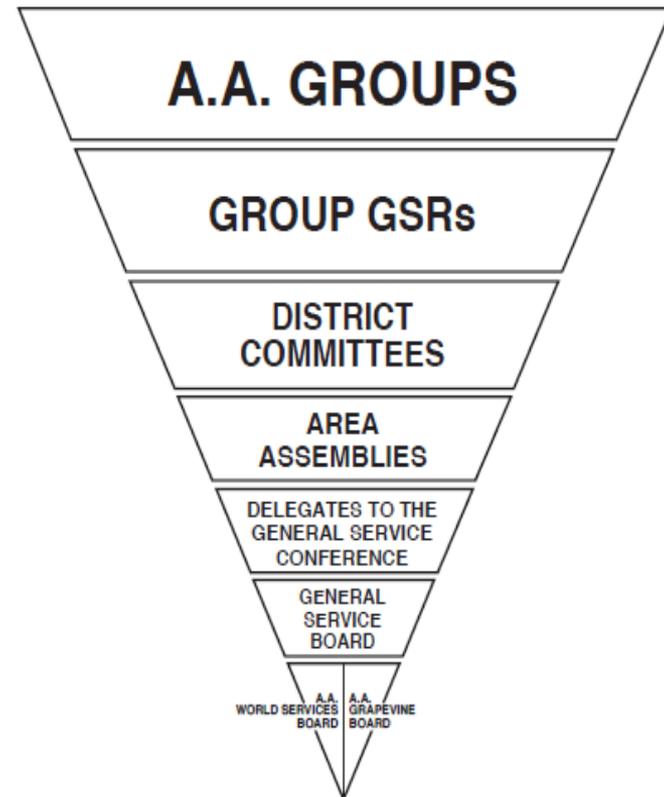
- Ensures newcomers feel welcome
- Promotes both the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions
- Elects and supports a G.S.R.
- Through an informed group conscience, adopts a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation and when possible, supports A.A. service entities



Where Does The Area Get Its Authority?

- ▶ A.A.'s Traditions recognize the need for some kind of organization to carry the message in ways that are impossible for the local groups.
- ▶ Our Area Assembly is a service committee established under Tradition Nine and funded by Tradition Seven contributions.
 - Tradition Nine: *“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”*
 - Tradition Seven: *“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”*

- ▶ Concept 1 states: *“The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services.”* Our structure resembles an upside down triangle.



San Diego-Imperial Area 8—Our Purpose

- ▶ **Carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers through, but not limited to, the work of its standing committees.**
- ▶ **Support the General Service Conference and its members in its role as provider of A.A. world services, and as guardian of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions**
- ▶ **Elect and support a Delegate who will deliver the collective group conscience of the Area at the annual General Service Conference**
- ▶ **Connect all Area meetings through the DCMs and GSRs via area assemblies and regular communication.**
- ▶ **Assist in the development and communication of an informed group conscience in all parts of our service structure**

The Budget Process

Fiscal Management of Our Twelve Step Work



How Is The Budget Developed—Who Is Responsible?

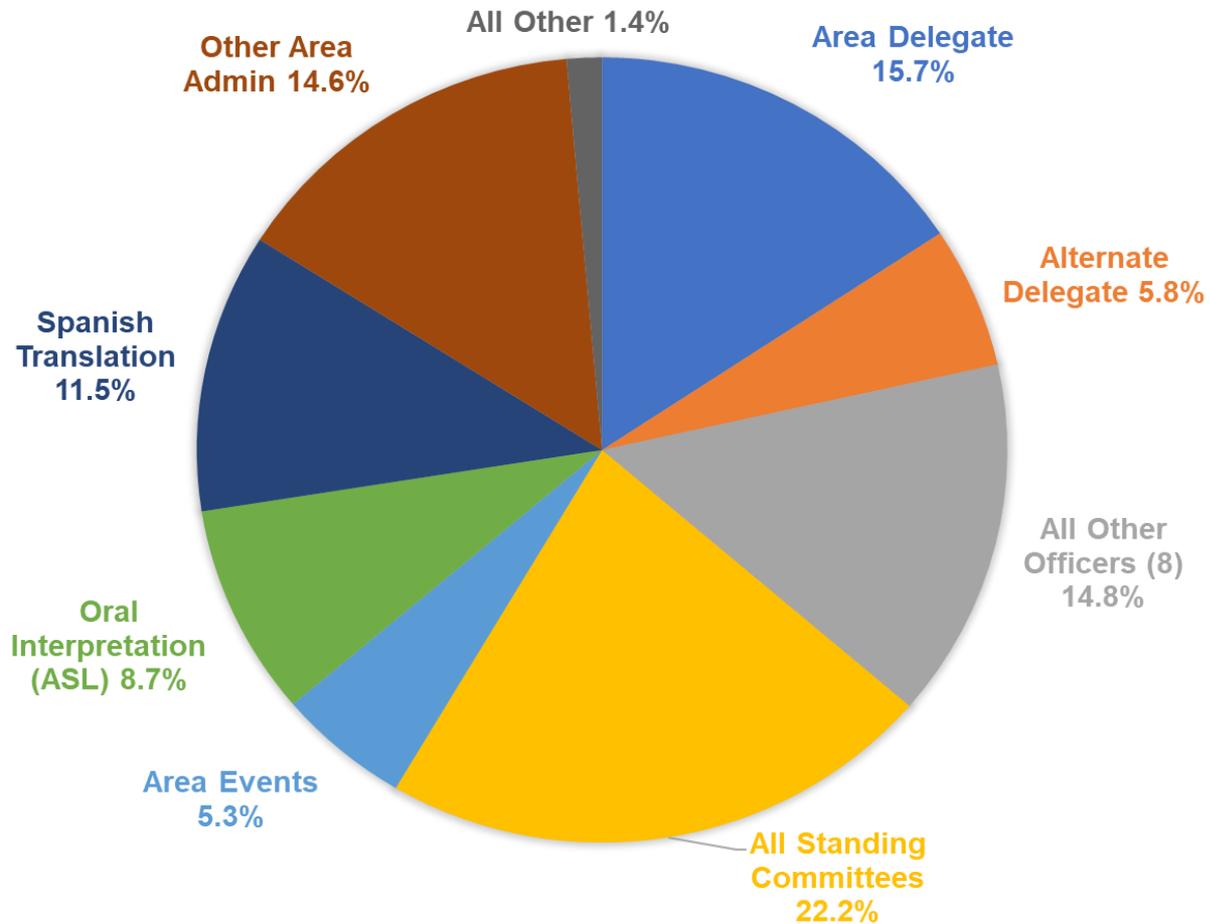
- ▶ **Each Area Officer and Committee Chair completes a Budget Request worksheet.**
- ▶ **The Treasurer and Finance Committee prepare a draft budget.**
 - We follow the Area's Financial guidelines with consideration of expenses and anticipated contributions from groups and Districts.
- ▶ **The Treasurer and Finance Committee members present the draft budget to our groups/District meetings for our DCMs and GSRs.**
- ▶ **The Budget is then reviewed, discussed, amended as necessary, and voted upon at the Budget Area Assembly.**
- ▶ **Area Officers identify projected expenses for each budget line item.**
 - Includes expenses for position-related conferences, events, and workshops; a detailed mileage expense worksheet (for meetings, assemblies, workshops); copies, postage, and expenses for assigned events.
- ▶ **Committee Chairs identify projected expenses, that vary by committee, for:**
 - Committee-sponsored Outreach to District and Group meetings.
 - Area Events (assemblies, ACM, Area workshops, other Area events).
 - Outside Area Events (PRAASA, multi-area sharing sessions, etc.).
 - Committee meeting expenses (rent copies, supplies, etc.).



What Does the 2018 Proposed Budget Include?

- ▶ The total *proposed* budget totals \$50,490. This represents a small increase from the 2017 approved budget of \$47,003.
- ▶ Administrative expenses, including meeting rent, liability insurance, and supplies represents ~14.6%.
- ▶ ASL interpretation and Spanish translation [necessary to ensure inclusion of all members] is ~20.2% of the budget.
- ▶ Area-sponsored events is ~5.3% of the budget.
- ▶ Expenses for our 10 elected Officers, including our Delegate, represents ~36.5% of the budget.
- ▶ Our 12 Standing Committees represents ~22.2% of the total budget. These include committee expenses, area events, outside area events, and committee sponsored outreach.
 - Accessibilities <2% of total budget
 - Agenda <2% of total budget
 - Archives ~2.2% of total budget
 - C.P.C. ~1.5% of total budget
 - Finance ~2% of total budget
 - Grapevine/La Vina ~4% of total budget
 - Information Technology ~1% of total budget
 - Literature ~2.6% of total budget
 - Newsletter ~2% of total budget
 - Policy ~1% of total budget
 - Spanish translation (written) ~2.4%

2018 Area 8 Proposed Budget Breakdown



How Do Standing Committees Help Us Carry A.A.'s Message of Recovery?

▶ Accessibilities Committee

- Assists the Districts and groups in carrying the message to alcoholics with special needs.
- Provides resources and coordinates the effort of volunteers.
- Updates and confirms lists of meetings accommodating those with special needs.
- Facilitates communication among Central Offices, Districts and volunteers to help all members with special needs

▶ Agenda Committee

- Reviews and makes recommendations regarding proposed Conference presentation, discussion and workshop topics recommended by the General Service Conference and the Area.
- Suggests possible Conference Committee agenda items.
- Assists in preparing agendas for Area Assemblies.



▶ Archives Committee

- Collects, organizes, preserves, and displays records of AA history in Area 8, including documents, audio recordings and photographs.
- Archives service work is more than custodial activity; it is how we share the heritage of our fellowship. .

▶ Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee

- Establishes good cooperation between A.A. and the professional community.
- Provides information about A.A. to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession.

▶ Finance Committee

- Advises the Area Committee and Area Assembly regarding budgeted and unbudgeted financial items.
- Makes recommendations on Area financial guidelines.
- Assists the Area Treasurer who is a voting member of the Finance Committee, in preparing the annual budget.

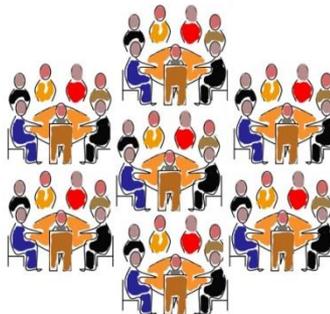
Standing Committees Help Us Carry AA's Message of Recovery—Two

▶ Grapevine/La Vina Committee

- Considers and makes recommendations regarding proposed additions to and changes in Grapevine and La Vina publications.
- Informs Assembly members, through displays and other suitable methods, of all La Vina and Grapevine publications, audio-visual materials, and other items.

▶ Information Technologies Committee

- Oversees maintenance, improvement, and operation of the SDIAA website <http://area8aa.org/> and existing database applications.
- Supports the Area Committee with computer software needs.
- Ensures all Area website content is appropriate.



▶ Literature Committee

- Maintains and displays an inventory of all Conference-approved books, pamphlets, audio and video materials.
- Reviews, considers, and makes recommendations regarding proposed additions and changes in Conference-approved literature.

▶ Newsletter Committee

- Publishes the minutes of Area business in English and Spanish on the area8aa.org website and in print, so that they are available to the fellowship it serves. The Newsletter also contains Area-related articles and reports.

▶ Policy Committee

- Reviews and makes recommendations concerning the Area's Structure & Guidelines and General Service related literature.
- They are responsible for preparing and distributing copies of the S&G, proposed changes and amendments as they are made.

Standing Committee Budgeted Expense Distribution

▶ Committee meeting expenses

- Includes meeting rent, postage, supplies, copies, books/literature, mileage.

▶ Area events

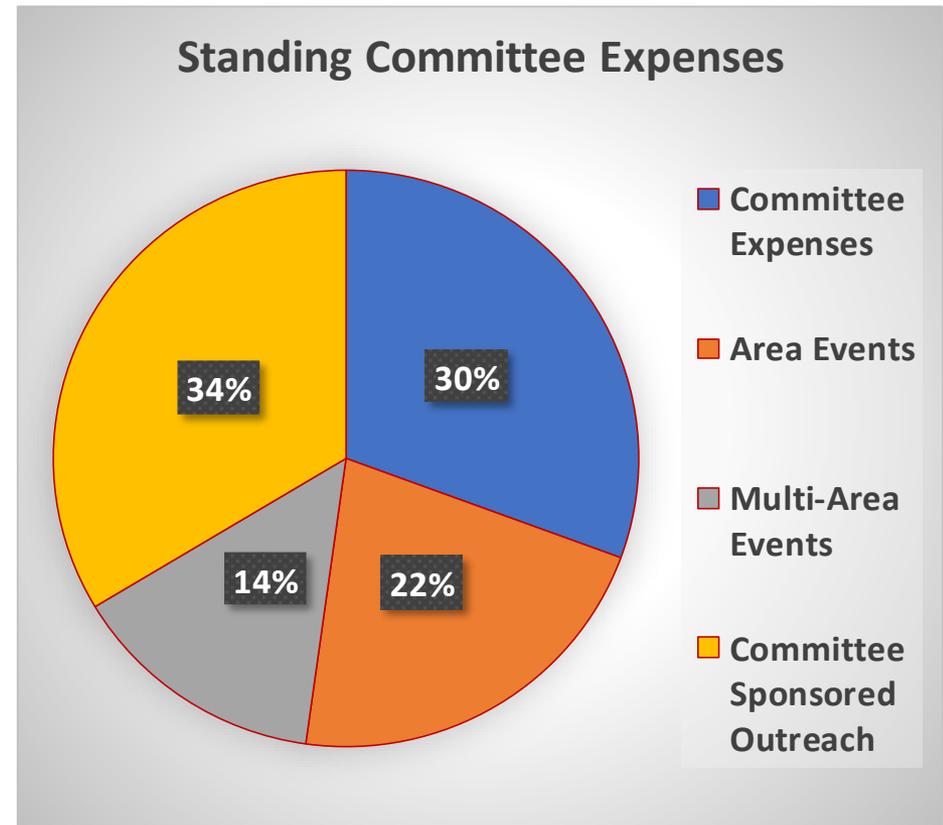
- Includes printing, mileage, refreshments/supplies, other travel or event expenses.

▶ Multi-Area events

- Pacific Region Service Assembly, Sharing sessions, other regional or multi-area events, travel expenses, mileage.

▶ Committee-sponsored Outreach

- Workshops, workshop expenses, outreach to District meetings, outreach to group meetings, supplies, printing, refreshments, mileage.



Note: The amount and distribution of expenses vary by committee. The above represents Area total.

Are The Area's Contributions and Expenses The Same Every Month?

▶ Group Contributions

- Groups may make contributions to the Area monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or whenever they choose to do so.
- The Area's *monthly financial report*, however, takes the total anticipated annual contribution amount and divides it equally by twelve months.
- That's why the Area may appear to have a "deficit", when we are really on-track for that particular time in the year.



▶ Area Expenses

- Our expenses also vary month to month. For example, in order to secure locations for our Area Assemblies, the area pays rent for these facilities early in the year.
- Some of the Area's expenses are paid on an annual basis. For example, our insurance and taxes are paid in this manner.
- That's why the *monthly financial report* may appear to be way over budget for an individual month, when we may be actually on track.

▶ Unbudgeted Expenses

- Occasionally, the Area faces unanticipated expenses, such as new translation equipment.
- In these cases, we will need to ask our groups for additional contributions.

What If Contributions Or Expenses Are Higher Or Lower Than We Thought They Would Be?

- ▶ **Our Area Finance Committee and Area Treasurer take great care in preparing a draft budget that is approved at an Area Assembly.**
- ▶ **If contributions appear to be *falling short*, the Area must take action!**
 - We have no ability to borrow money from anyone.
 - We often inform our groups and ask those that can, to make a special donation, perhaps supported by group members. ***That's why it's important that groups and members have knowledge of how their contributions support AA's 12-Step work.***
 - We may need to postpone reimbursing our Area officers—even though these amounts were approved during the Budget Area Assembly.
 - We may need to prioritize and stop some planned 12-Step work performed by the Area and Area committees.
- ▶ **If contributions are *Higher* than anticipated, we do not have the ability to “save the money for a rainy day”.**
 - The Area approved establishment of a “prudent reserve” fund in 2016. However, this is equivalent to less than 10% of the total budget and is designed for unforeseen, unbudgeted expenses. Use of the prudent reserve requires the approval of the Area Committee or Area Assembly.



Please Keep In Mind

- ▶ The budget does not reflect funds on hand. Rather, it shows the stated purpose for contributions that the Area may receive.
- ▶ The budgeting of any item does not mean that the expense will actually occur.
- ▶ Since the Area does not have a line of credit, it is not possible for the Area to spend money it doesn't have in its bank account. It cannot reimburse trusted servants for their 12-step work or pay any budgeted expenses if the money is not actually in the bank.
- ▶ The Area *reimburses* trusted servants for the 12-step work they pay for out of their own pockets. Therefore, they should always confer with the Area Treasurer or Finance Committee to ensure that funding is actually available.



Group Support of the Area's Budget

“Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility—one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.”

-The Language of the Heart, p. 221



Did You Know.....

- There is **NO** “official” A.A. Pie Chart; each group develops its own, via group conscience.
- *Each group decides how many pieces or slices are in their pie and how large each piece is.*
- Our 7th Tradition states we ought to be fully self-supporting; this is true for all levels—GSO, Area, District, Central offices, and Groups.
- *After group expenses are met, excess funds are used to ensure the hand of A.A. will be here for the alcoholic who still suffers.*

Your Group's Pie Chart *may* include....

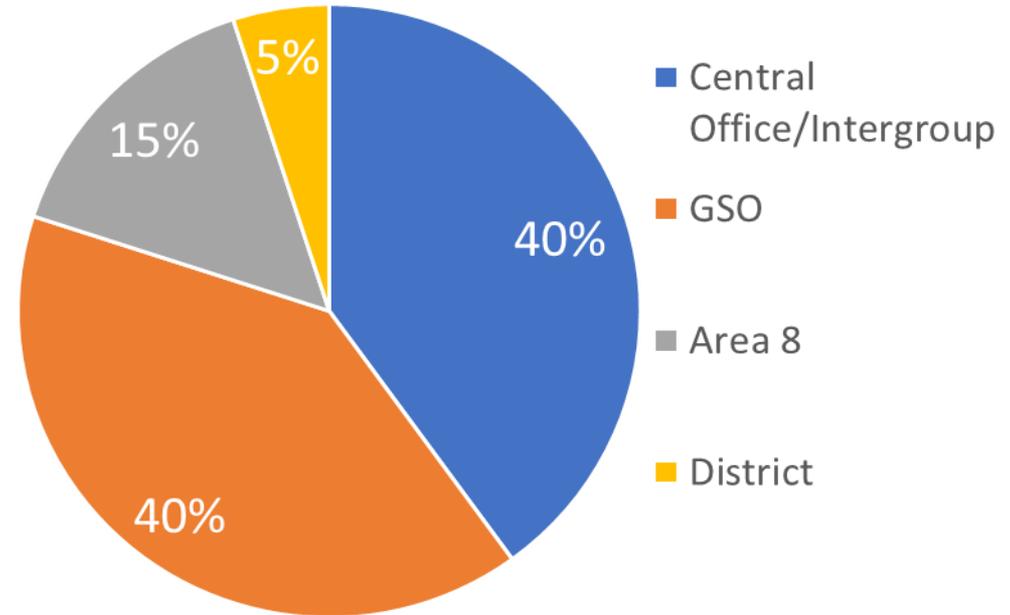
- General Service Office in New York
- **Area 8 (San Diego and Imperial Counties)**
- Central Office in San Diego, North County, or East County
- Your local District
- Hospitals & Institutions



How to Create A Pie Chart and Make Contributions

1. Your group decides to whom you will contribute (e.g., a local Central Office/Intergroup; General Service Office; Area Assembly; District; H&I, or other).
2. Determine the % of contributions that will go to each of these.
3. Write your GSO group number on the check so your group will be credited for the donation.
4. Mail your contributions, or use on-line app, if available.
5. Inform your Group members of group contributions, why it's important, and thank them for their ongoing support of our 7th Tradition.

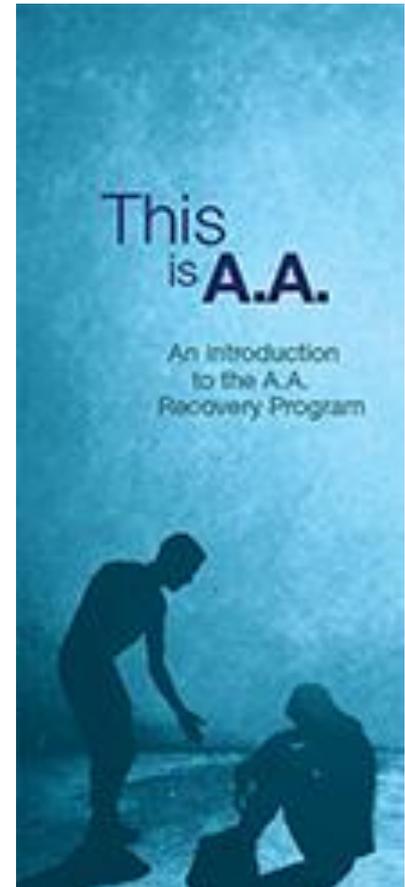
EXAMPLE- Pie Chart Contribution Distribution



San Diego Central Office/Intergroup: 7075 Mission Gorge Rd, Suite B, San Diego, CA. 92120
No. County Central Office: 604 E. Vista Way, Vista, CA 92084
East County Intergroup: P.O. Box 1035, El Cajon, CA 92020
General Service Office (GSO): P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, NY 10163-0459
Area 8-San Diego Imperial Area Assembly: P.O. 3670, San Diego, CA 92163-3670
District ____: Check the local District tab on www.area8aa.org

Meeting Our Self-Support Responsibilities—*It's Personal*

- ✓ Enhance your own knowledge of what services are provided across the Alcoholics Anonymous service structure, who performs the services, and what is necessary to make this happen.
- ✓ Get involved in A.A. outside of your group; let your group members know what you are doing, and encourage them to get involved too.
- ✓ Encourage members to be aware of the services performed at the local, District, Area, and General Service level to support our work to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This presentation can help you do just that.
- ✓ Ensure that each meeting you attend elects a GSR, and holds a group conscious on the importance of making contributions to GSO, the Area, and other service entities, based on it's own Pie Chart.
- ✓ Carry the message of the Responsibility Pledge to each meeting you attend. The more the meeting understands what we do, the more they will understand how money and spirituality mix to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous continues to be available for another 80 plus years.



Resources on the Budget, Financial Reports, 7th Tradition and Contributions

- ▶ **Area 8 Website:** www.area8AA.org
- ▶ **A.A. Publications-** available at your local Central Office
 - The A.A. GROUP...Where It All Begins¹ (P-16)
 - Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix¹ (F-3)
 - The A.A. Group Treasurer¹ (F-96)
 - Self-Support “Green Card”² (F-42)

¹A.A. Conference approved literature

²Service Material from the General Service Office



Thank You All for your Service and Participation



“We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.”

Alcoholics Anonymous, Forward to First Edition, page XIII.