

December
January

BOTTOM LINE

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DEC/JAN Step Eleven: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out." **Tradition Eleven:** "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."

Reprinted & adapted from the A.A. World Services book.

HOTLINE REPORT: Mary L., Intergroup Hotline Rep, reported that in November there were 29 calls; seven were from out of town; four were public relations type; and eighteen were NYC local calls. November's mailbag was empty.

VITAL STATISTICS: November '86 Meeting Attendees

Chairperson:	Ken B.
Secretary (Acting)/Sat. @ St. Barts	Deanna S.
Treasurer	Alex I.
Meeting List Publisher/Prosperity	Bruce W.
Hotline Rep/Self-Employed	Mary L.
Bottomline Publisher/Vanderbilt	Douglas S.
Literature Rep	Sylvia J.
Business Owners	Steve F.
Douglaston-Keep It Simple	Dawn Z.
Freedom/St. Vincent's	Mark D.
Matinee	Andi S.
Ten Dollar/Bellmore	Robert J.
Vanderbilt	Kay W.

COMMON CENTS: Alex I., Intergroup Treasurer, reports that we received contributions from six groups which represent only 30% of the number of groups in the Metropolitan area. Visions, a new group, is especially welcomed as a first-time contributor. The vitality of the Visions groups speaks for itself. The other groups that contributed are: Steps to Solvency, Westsiders, Self-Employed, Freedom and Visions. Also, for the first time in our history, D.A. Treasury accepted a contribution and the fact that D.A. Intergroup accepts it represents the fact that this group (Business Owners) is accepted as a clan relative in our family (sorry!) of debtors.

Intergroup Treasury is also proud to announce the fact that we are finally funneling all the literature all D.A. literature funds into a D.A. Intergroup account.

Since the D.A. Treasury is also fully abundant and our Abundance has momentum, with Intergroup authorizing a fund of \$50/month for provide free literature for beginners. These beginners' packages will be distributed to literature reps on a first-come, first-serve basis. Do note that literature can only be purchased at the monthly Intergroup meeting which occurs Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM.

MEETING CHANGES: Bruce W. reports that the Thursday Business Owners' Tools Meeting is at 208 West 13 Street/3rd Floor-Rear and starts at 6 PM. Literature Reps please note that a new updated Meeting List will be available for sale and distribution at the Wednesday, December 17th meeting of Intergroup.

HEAR ALL ABOUT IT NOW: Nancy C., GSB General Manager reports that "We're getting a home." Members of the Board of GSB are completing negotiations with a church on the Westside of Manhattan where part-time temporary space will be available for our GSB office. This means we will have storage space for literature and office supplies and we will have a regular time and place available for outreach work. The Board is again reprinting the basic D.A. booklet so we will again have plenty for Literature Reps.

An other exciting development is to be found in the pages of McCall's Magazine this month. December issue offers a feature article on compulsive spending and mentions D.A. as one source for help. In just two weeks since this issue arrived on the stands 250 people from all over the country have written for help. Wouldn't you like to have the opportunity to reply to them at the Gratitude Party? Look for details about the time and place for your Gratitude Party.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: A gratifying and exciting event occurred at the November 19th Intergroup meeting. In an unprecedentedly succinct action, Intergroup ratified the newly proposed By-laws and Constitution. The body of data was several months in preparation and contains some serious challenges for a new level of manifestation in D.A. recovery. Among other noteworthy provisions, our Treasurer shall now see that an annual audit is prepared by an independent auditor, and such audit shall be submitted to the I.R.S. and New York State Tax Office on a timely basis. Also, at every meeting of New York Intergroup there shall be a parliamentarian, if available, present to serve in said capacity. We hope that these actions along with many others contained in the By-laws will lead us to a more sane, serene and mature way of going in our Intergroup actions as well as our day-to-day recovery.

The By-laws and Constitution also provide for an expanded slate of officers. We hope that the added manpower will increase our efficacy in serving the Metropolitan groups. The first elections governed by our new By laws will occur at the January 28th meeting. We urge ALL INTERGROUP REPS to make a special effort

to attend this meeting. To avoid past confusion regarding the eligibility for Intergroup office, I am publishing the following information as it appears in our newly adopted Constitution.

A. To be eligible for election to office, a person must, at least, at the time of election:

1. Be a regularly attending delegate of a registered affiliated Debtors Anonymous group or a first term officer.
2. Have abstained from compulsive debtting for at least six (6) months and have had two (2) pressure meetings.
3. Be present at the time of elections.
4. Be available to attend all meetings of NYIA.

B. As a condition of election as officer, each person shall before qualifying to serve as an officer, execute an appropriate instrument, addressed to the delegates of NYIA, stating that he or she has read and agrees to be bound by all the terms and conditions of these By-laws.

We at the Intergroup look forward to a newly revitalized level of energy and service for the coming year. I wish you all an abundance, prosperous and solvent Holiday season with peace and prosperity in the New Year. **Ken B.**

QUOTE-UNQUOTE: The November 30 edition of the Sunday Business section of the New York Times featured an article on the impact of credit card promotion on consumers and card issuers. Aptly titled, "Pick a Card, Any Card, Every Card," the article points out that "all the card issuers are using new gimmicks to make people want more plastic. For consumers, the result can be unbearable indebtedness."

Author Robert A. Bennett notes that the 105.5 million Americans who have credit cards own an average of 6.9 cards apiece, and the credit card industry is getting close to market saturation. Some card issuers "are resorting to questionable tactics" to attract new customers; some banks fail to disclose the true costs of using the card. (One industry analyst suggested that consumers value the "convenience" of their credit cards so much that they "are willing to pay almost any price.")

In an effort to expand their customer bases, many banks offer randomly "pre-approved" cards and applications to people who cannot handle credit, resulting in a noticeable rise in delinquencies and bankruptcies. The temptation of profligate plastic is acknowledged as a source of "overextension and fiscal hardship" for

consumers. (Ed. note: We share the highlights of this article with you as part of the step in our recovery which encourages us to examine the costs of credit and the impact of credit card advertising and promotion.)

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HASTE MAKES WASTE: Penalties to be Harsher for Careless Taxpayers. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 obligates each wage earning employee to submit a new W-4 Wage Withholding Statement: employers got them from the IRS this month. W-4 submission deadline will be 10/1/87. Since the Tax System is still Pay-As-You-Go, you can choose withholding by employer or Quarterly Installment estimates. Estimators' taxes must show payments that total 100% of your previous year's expected taxes or 90% (up from 80%) of current year's expected taxes. Taxes withheld are the same as estimated taxes. First estimated payment is due 4/15/87. Estimated tax minimum starts at \$500/year. Social Security numbers are now needed for everyone claimed as a dependent who is 5 years or older. Numbers must be reported with 1987 returns in early 1988. Now 1 parent claims 1 child. In 1986 new Social Security numbers totalled 5.7 million. Ask your Social Security office for application form SS-5: send a Certified Birth Certificate copy plus an I.D., such as a school I.D. card. Personal documents are returned. For tax returns due on or after 1/1/88, there is a \$5 penalty for reporting incorrect Social Security numbers. We all must report tax-exempt interest even though there's no tax on it because we Private-Purpose Municipal Bonds' interest is taxed under The Alternative Minimum Tax. If a retiree's Adjusted Gross Income plus tax-exempt interest plus one-half their Social Security benefits is more than \$32,000 (Joint) or \$25,000 (Single), tax is due. New passport document applications now are accompanied with an IRS form so U.S. citizens living in foreign countries can pay taxes. 61% of the 1.8 million U.S. citizens abroad do not file tax returns. In 1987 new 1099 Forms show royalty payments of \$10 or more (down from a \$600 minimum). Real Estate Settlement Attorneys or Title Insurance Companies are now responsible for reporting Real Estate closing transactions to the IRS. Failure to report tax-shelter I.D. numbers by a general partner on a tax return carries a \$250 penalty. Failure to show any income on 1099's has a Negligence Penalty of 5% of the underpaid tax. The interest on late tax payments is 1% higher than the IRS rate paid on tax over-payments. "Substantial underpayment of tax is the difference between the IRS's figures and your figures. Understatement is more than 10% of the correct tax or more than \$5,000 (whichever is larger). Substantial understatement is 20% (up from 10%) of correct tax. Before adjournment, Congress upped that 20% to 25%, making it retroactive to penalties assessed after 10/21/86. "The new penalty gives a big incentive for disclosing," says Gerald P. of a national accounting firm. (Paraphrased from the New York Times, 1/7/86, Section D Pages 1 & 3, "Penalties to be Harsher For Careless Taxpayers.")

Submitted by Douglas S./601 East 9 Street, Apt. 6-B, NYC 10009-4701

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