

## What is the Singleness of Purpose?

My name is Dawn Marie and I am an alcoholic. I first walked into the rooms of A.A. in April of 2004. I had been in a treatment center that held A.A. meetings and attended them regularly. Most of the time I was in what they called I.O.P. ( Intensive Outpatient Program). I attended a group session with about ten other people. We all had different addictions. Some were heroin addicts and some were dually addicted alcoholics. When we attended these meetings people would say they were alcoholic/addicts. At first I didn't understand this, then I thought, well, I used to do some recreational drugs when I couldn't use alcohol.. So I figured that made me an alcoholic/addict and I started to say that in the meetings I attended at the treatment center. When I "graduated" from I.O.P. I had no idea what other meetings would be like. I had gone to few outside the treatment center, but not very many and I hadn't learned much about our traditions or steps, but I knew I couldn't do this thing alone. I asked about sponsorship and what it entailed and I was told to look for someone that I related to. I was turned down twice until I went to a women's meeting and asked a women with 4 years of sobriety who was enlightened by life and just plain happy to be sober. She said yes and immediately went over the meeting schedule with me and set me up with meetings she wanted me to attend. During this time she asked me which group I related with the most. I told her it was the 5:30 Sobriety Hour and she said OK that is your home group. I had no idea what a home group was or what that entailed, but was eager to learn. My sponsor lived out of town, so the only time she could hear me share was when we attended the women's meeting. Every time someone asked for me to share in my home group I would say hello my name is Dawn and I'm an alcoholic/ addict until one day an old-timer approached me after the meeting and asked why I would say that I was an alcoholic/addict in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous? I had no clue why I should or shouldn't say that. He asked me if I had read the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, and of course I had because we read them before the meeting. Then he asked "well, what does the third tradition mean to you?" I was definitely confused, but I went home that night and read the long form in my Big Book. It reads as follows:

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together may call themselves an A.A. group, providing that, as a group, they have no other affiliations." After reading this and meditating on it, the light came on. I had to ask myself am I an alcoholic or an addict. I stopped saying that I was an alcoholic/addict after I read this tradition and the other two before it. I talked to my sponsor and other members of A.A. about this as well and quickly learned that it is called the "singleness of purpose." It has taken me a couple of years to really understand

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CENTRAL OFFICE  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Central Office is to provide the basic services listed, to include, but not limited to:

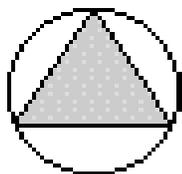
- To carry the A.A. message and help those individuals who suffer from alcoholism;
- to maintain a 24-hour Twelve-Step phone service;
- to answer phone inquiries as needed;
- to compile, update and print meeting lists;
- to maintain A.A.-approved literature for sale to members and the public;
- and to print and distribute a newsletter.

Specifically excluded shall be the operation of any club, clubhouse or drying-out place, and acts in violation of the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

Suiting up and Showing Up  
Groups Represented At the  
Central Office Reps Meeting for:

March 2007

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| HILLCREST                   | NOMADIC LUNCH      |
| CAME TO BELIEVE             | VALLEY VIEW        |
| ACCEPTANCE GROUP            | 974 GROUP          |
| HAPPY GROUP                 | BOGIRISH           |
| VISION FOR YOU              | CITY AT SEVEN      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> STEP GROUP | ST. VINCENT'S      |
| AN AA GROUP                 | COME AS YOU ARE    |
| MURRAY GROUP                | MIDVALE LUNCH      |
| SERENITY VIEW               | MAGNA FRIENDLY     |
| OFF THE CUFF                | WE CARE            |
| NEW LIFE                    | SERENITY HOUR      |
| APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES     | GREATER KEARNS     |
| ONE SMALL STEP              | BASIC YOUNG PEOPLE |
| DNS                         | UNITY LUNCH        |
| BIGUGLIES                   | A NEW LIFE         |
| COTTONWOOD                  | IT'S IN THE BOOK   |
| FRESH AIR                   | SHARING AND CARING |
| SPIRITUAL QUEST             |                    |
| SIMPLY BIG                  |                    |



LIFELINE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

We welcome your correspondence and will publish your material, space permitting, if it meets editorial criteria. *Share your experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic.* For a free subscription or to submit articles, suggestions or contributions, contact Central Office of Salt Lake City:

CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.  
80 West Louise Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115  
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To reduce our costs, Central Office would like to update our mailing list for the **LIFELINE**. If you have moved please contact C.O. at 484-7871  
Thank you.

Please visit our website for meeting information.  
[www.saltlakeaa.org](http://www.saltlakeaa.org)

**Is Your Group Represented?**  
The next C.O. Reps Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at Central Office, 80 West Louise Ave. (2680 West)

“Let us never be a closed corporation; let us never deny our experience, for whatever it may be worth, to the world around us. Let our individual members heed the call to every field of human endeavor. Let them carry the experience and spirit of A.A. into all these affairs, for whatever good they may accomplish. For not only has God saved us from alcoholism; the world has recieved us back into its citizenship.”  
A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 232-233

### SCHEDULE INFORMATION

THESE ARE AA MEETINGS HELD IN TREATMENT  
CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE  
SALT LAKE VALLEY.

THEY REALLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

**VOA WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S CENTER;** 697 W.  
4170 S., Friday @ 7:00 pm.

**HIGHLAND RIDGE;** 175 W. 7200 S. Mon. @  
8:30 pm and Thurs. @ 8:45pm.

**HIGHLANDERS;** 8072 Highland Dr, Wed. @ 8:00  
pm

**WHIPPER SNAPPERS;** 5770 S. 1500 W., bldg. D,  
Fri @ 5:30 pm.

**WOMEN'S BIG BOOK MEETING;** 175 W. 7200  
S., Mon. @ 7:00 pm.

**ONE SMALL STEP;** 5770 S. 1500 W., bldg. D,  
Mon. @ 8:00 pm.

### **NEW MEETING**

The Northern lights Group meets  
at the Veterans Administration  
Hospital on Fridays at 7:00 pm to  
8:00pm. Bldg 3, room GA05,  
ground floor. If you're unfamiliar  
with the VA call Laura J.  
@638.1513 or Del C. @631.6340  
for directions. This is an open  
meeting.

### **Upcoming Events**

April 27th—29th; **!9th Annual Lava Hot Springs Women's  
Retreat**, Lava Hot Springs, ID. Contact Angela: 208.720.7433  
or [getresults@angelasgym.com](mailto:getresults@angelasgym.com)

April 27th—29th; **Rocky Mountain Round-up 2007**, Eccles  
Conference Center, Ogden, UT. Contact: AA-Larry G. @  
801.731.2913; Al-anon- Ruth A. @ 801.737.5717

May 4th—6th; **Seventh Annual Fellowship of the Spirit  
West Conference**, Big Bear Lake, CA

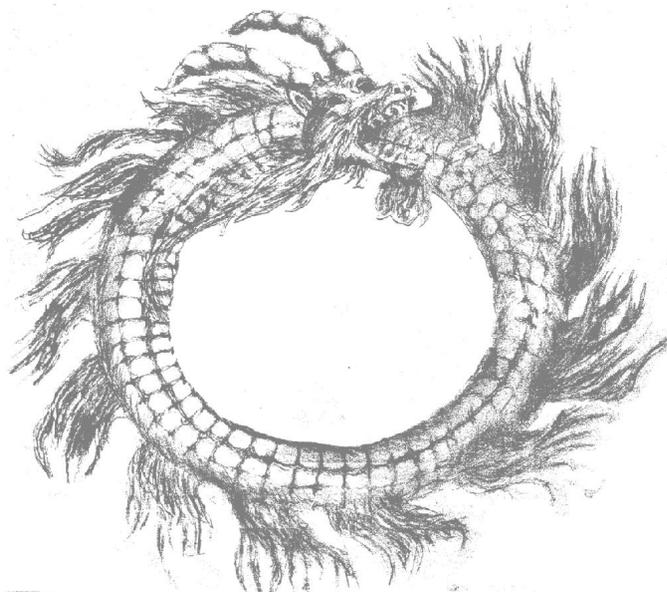
register online @ [www.fotswest.com](http://www.fotswest.com), or call 301.379.9456

May 25th—27th; **U.C.Y.P.A.A. UTAH VALLEY 2007**, Court-  
yard Marriott, Provo, UT. Marriott's address and phone  
number are: 1600 N. Freedom Blvd.[200 West]; landline @  
801.373.2222

June 1st —3rd; **Flagstaff 2007 Roundup**, Ft. Tuthill Fair-  
grounds, Flagstaff, AZ. Questions? 928.853.7192

June 8th — 10th; **The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Roundup**, Pahrump, NV  
Questions? AA, Kay T. @775.751.9212, Al-Anon, Laura H.  
@775.537.1827

August 26th; **Central Office Picnic**, Murray Park, Pavilion 5  
Murray, UT



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIRTHDAYS!**



“We are not cured of our alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintainence of our spiritual condition.”

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, page 85



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{... singleness of purpose, continued from page one}

what that means, but I think I have a better understanding today.

I have visited sister fellowships and realized we don't have the same problems or stories that our sister fellowships have. Though I realize that in the times we live in, it is not uncommon for most of our members to be dually addicted. That is the world we live in. I just feel that if we are to share on the subject of drugs that alcohol should be related in some way.

In the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" it outlines specifically what a group is. Here are a couple of things from pages 15 and 16;

"That any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group that they have no other purposes or affiliation..

Some A.A.'s come together as specialized groups. - for men, women, young people, doctors, gays, and others. If the members are all alcoholics, and if they open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction, and meet all the other aspects defining an A.A. group, they may call themselves an A.A. group".

"About open and closed meetings:

At both types of meetings, the A.A. chairperson may request that participants confine their discussion to matters pertaining to recovery from alcoholism."

Now, when I am attending a closed meeting of A.A. this means there is no reason to share on my drug use. That is disrespectful to the meeting itself. A closed meeting of A.A. is a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous for people who feel they have a problem with alcohol and may not wish to speak to others about non-alcoholic issues. This tells me that I do not touch the subject of drugs or personal issues. I stick to recovery from alcohol. That means talking about the traditions or the steps. When I attend an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous such as my home group, I can touch on the subject of drugs as long as it ties in with recovery from alcoholism and the chairperson hasn't requested that they want to stick to recovery from alcoholism.

Our singleness of purpose is a very touchy subject. I have done quite a bit of research on the studies of alcoholism versus drug addiction and in all cases have found that scientists and doctors know there is not a cure for alcoholism yet there is nothing stating the same for the drug addict. Doctors and Scientists are constantly coming up with ways to help the addict. When I speak to an addict on the subject of our "Singleness of Purpose" they feel I'm being prejudiced. That is not what I'm trying to portray. Whether you are an alcoholic or an addict, if you are in a meeting you are more than welcome, we just need to try to keep our sharing to alcoholism and the recovery therefrom.

My point is, who is going to educate the next generation? We live in a society where drugs and alcohol are an everyday occurrence. So the questions is how do WE as Alcoholics Anonymous grow into this trend. We cannot be prejudiced and say that an addict/alcoholic does not belong in a meeting of A.A. But yet how do we keep to the "Singleness of Purpose"? And avoid "dying from within as one of our co-founders said. If this program turns into a melting pot for every addiction then we lose Alcoholics Anonymous. For me, I am an alcoholic, there are no ifs ands or buts about it. Yet there are going to be people who come into the program dually addicted or just an addict, and how do I just turn them away and say "no you don't belong here". I don't. I try to educate them by talking with them.. I believe there needs to be education. If you are an addict, by all

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**{Singleness of Purpose}**

means come sit in and see what we are all about, but please don't share about drug addiction. We should be all encompassing. But where do we draw the line?

I feel that a lot of meetings are being watered down by personal issues and addicts speaking at the podium about needles and other things I cannot even fathom. Personally I don't relate. So how are many newcomers who are alcoholic going to feel when they walk into a meeting and the topic is watered down by someone's personal experience with no information on the steps, the Big Book or alcoholism? I would immediately think, well, this is just a bunch of people talking about their screwed up lives.

Our founders and co-founders built our traditions to avoid this, and I feel we are losing sight of our traditions, our primary purpose and what it truly means to take the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This is a wonderful program and I say these words hoping to inform and educate so that this program is here for my son if he ever needs it.



Love and Light  
Dawn Marie

*Thanks, ed.*

**TRUE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SPIRIT**

The more we become willing to depend upon a Higher Power, the more independent we actually are. Therefore, dependence as A.A. practices it is really a means of gaining true independence of the spirit.

At the level of everyday living, it is startling to discover how dependent we really are, and how unconscious of that dependence. Every modern house has electric wiring carrying power and light to its interior. By accepting with delight our dependence upon this marvel of science, we find ourselves personally more independent, more comfortable and secure. Power flows just where it is needed. Silently and surely, electricity, that strange energy so few people understand, meets our simplest daily needs.

Though we readily accept this principle of healthy dependence in many of our temporal affairs, we often fiercely resist the identical principle when asked to apply it as a means of growth in the life of the spirit. Clearly, we shall never know freedom under God until we try to seek His will for us. The choice is ours.

As Bill Sees It, page 26  
from the

**Twelve and Twelve**, page 36

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9-12p open 12-6p An AA Grp 7-9p 974 Grp	2 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p NNS 10:30-11:55p Monica	3 5:30-10p 10th Step 10-11:55p open	4 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p Fish Air Smty 10:30-11:55p Monica	5 5:30-11:55p Open	6 6:30-11p Greater Keams 10-11p open	6-10:55p open
8 9-12p open 12-6p An AA Grp 7-12:55a open	9 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p NNS 10:30-11:55p Monica	10 5:30-10p 10th Step 10-11:55p open	11 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p Fish Air Smty 10:30-11:55p Monica	12 6:30-11p Hillcrest	13 6:30-11p Basic Yng Ppl 10-11p open	3-7p Its in the Book 6-10:55p open
15 9-12p open 12-6p An AA Grp 7-12:55a open	16 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p NNS 10:30-11:55p Monica	17 5:30-10p 10th Step 10-11:55p open	18 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p Fish Air Smty 10:30-11:55p Monica	19 6:30-12:55a open	20 6:30-11p NonSmoking Sobriety Hour 10-11p open	6-10:55p open
22 9-12p open 12-6p An AA Grp 7-12:55a open	23 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p NNS 10:30-11:55p Monica	24 5:30-10p 10th Step 10-11:55p open	25 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p Fish Air Smty 10:30-11:55p Monica	26 6:30-12:55a open	27 6-10p Honey's 10-11p open	6-10:55p Grapevine
29 9-12p open 12-6p An AA Grp 7-12:55a open	30 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p NNS 10:30-11:55p Monica	1 5:30-10p 10th Step 10-11:55p open	2 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p Fish Air Smty 10:30-11:55p Monica	3 6:30-12:55a open	4 6-10p Honey's 10-11p open	6-10:55p Grapevine
6 9-12p open 12-6p An AA Grp 7-12:55a open	7 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p NNS 10:30-11:55p Monica	8 5:30-10p 10th Step 10-11:55p open	9 12-1a Monica 5:30-10:30p Fish Air Smty 10:30-11:55p Monica	10 6:30-12:55a open	11 6-10p Honey's 10-11p open	6-10:55p Grapevine

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? 's gr comments Camille 916-0831

