



Conscious Contact

Prescott Area Intergroup: Serving Central Yavapai
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March 2026

- INSIDE
- Hugh H.: Intergroup News
- Greg S.: Make the Decision
 - Russ: Roving Report
- Lewis O.: Tradition Three
- Dan S.: Roland Hazard

EDITORS NOTE: If you enjoy reading the articles, please consider submitting one also! We are always in need of a good story or article that you have read and that you would like to share. We just ask that you please keep it around 500 words, or less

Please submit your contributions to the following email addresses: lauralee@verizon.net & prescottaa@prescottaa.org If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox, simply send a message to prescottaa@prescottaa.org. It's a great way to stay connected!

STEP THREE: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

TRADITION THREE: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

CONCEPT THREE: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision." Intergroup News

Intergroup News

A recent price increase from AAWS will soon be in effect for the primary AA books. Please continue to support the Intergroup by purchasing books, pamphlets and sobriety medallions from our office. These sales totaled \$19,962 last year. And you never know who you might run into when stopping by.

The Prescott Intergroup Shoestring Roundup (PISR) will be held at the Prescott Rodeo grounds this year on July 24-25-26. Yavapai College, our venue the past 3 years, is doing some remodeling work which made this change necessary. Stay tuned. The Planning Committee is up and running. Volunteers are still needed, so come to the next meeting at 5:30 PM, March 20 at Safe Harbor, lower level.

There are several events coming up this Spring – the Women's Luncheon, the Traditions Breakfast, the Bingo Fundraiser, a picnic in May, and a St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. Please search the prescottaa.org website for the latest information. Here's to a great 2026 within our AA community. Hugh H./Service Board Chair

Make the Decision—The Third Step

By Greg S.

At first, the decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him* seems rather drastic. After all, when one turns their will and their life over to a Power greater than any human power, what's leftover? The individual believes they'll look like the "hole in the doughnut" (12&12, p. 36). How well we give our thought life (our will), and how we function in our lives for the day we're granted (our life) takes faith and willingness, even if only a little which can be a great start.

Faith and willingness are the principles necessary to opening the door to invite God into our lives. Although our self-will "may slam it shut again, as it frequently does, it will always respond the moment we again pick up the key of willingness" (ibid, p. 35). It's not as hard as it seems; it helps to say to ourselves throughout the day, "Thy will, not mine be done."

We learned in Step One that powerlessness over alcohol and an unmanageable life (as lived by self-propulsion) nearly did us in. Step One springboards us into Step Two, where we come to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to soundness of mind (definition of sanity). Step Two naturally leads us into Step Three, where this decision needs only to be made One Day at a Time. We can't turn our will and our lives over for a lifetime but we can practice it for the day we're in, which is completely doable.

Step Three also opens the door, or the decision to take the remaining nine steps into our lives "that is where the remaining Steps of the A.A. program come in. Nothing short of continuous action upon these as a way of life can bring about the much-desired result" (ibid, p. 40). The much-desired result is to "become happily and usefully whole," as outlined in the Foreword of the 12&12, p. 15.

This Step also enables the practitioner to develop this precious quality of willingness. Alignment of our will with God's is precisely how we "begin to use it rightly. To all of us, this was a most wonderful revelation. *Our whole trouble had been the misuse of willpower. We had tried to bombard our problems with it instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God's intention for us.* To make this increasingly possible is the purpose of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, and Step Three opens the door" (ibid, p. 40). Oftentimes people worry that making this Step Three decision voids them of their will, but given this information, it simply isn't so. We sincerely attempt to use our free will and align it with that of our Higher Power leaving us feeling "as though we had been placed in a position of neutrality—safe and protected" (Big Book, p. 85).

Got AA? Dewey Does

On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, your humble Intergroup Roving Representative, Russ H, traveled to Dewey, AZ to a relatively new meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Located at the Orchard Ranch Resort RV Park and Manufactured Homes (11250 E. State Route 69, Bldg. A) “AA at the Ranch” starts at 3:00 pm, following the format of reading the Big Book and 12 x 12 cover to cover.

I introduced myself to the group participants, who were thrilled that the Prescott Intergroup office was happy to be of service to this group. After the meeting began with the Serenity Prayer, we were joined by two other people, including a newcomer who wasn't certain she had a serious enough problem with alcohol to attend. Five of us began to read the Big Book (from page 500).

Understanding that the newcomer was unsure she needed to become a member of AA, and was there “testing the waters,” the shares were redirected to talk of what AA is, and what it is not. At some point the newcomer was asked if she would like to share what she had been going through; she declined but did ask what we meant by talking about putting sobriety before anything else. She was surprised to learn that our sobriety came before relationships, work or anything in our lives, assuring her that without our sobriety, everything we held near and dear would soon be gone after drinking again.

At that point in the meeting, the focus of the discussion became directed toward the basics of this recovery program in action. For example, we explained how our lives had become so hopeless and destructive that we surrendered ourselves to the idea that we were powerless over alcohol, and that our lives were completely unmanageable (Step 1). Additionally, a few of us went on to explain that, even after some time in sobriety, if we were to drink again, that our drinking would soon be as bad or worse as when we stopped drinking. One member mentioned that he tried drinking after some time in recovery and proved to himself that the idea of once becoming a pickle, never again a cucumber was very true!

To be sure, shares continued to explain the Truth of not being able to get sober by oneself, that searching for a power greater than ourselves was necessary to return our lives to correct thinking (Sanity, Step 2). Furthermore, the members spoke about Step 3, where we made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, and by doing so we would discover a Higher Power through working the remaining steps.

Overall, this great group is well equipped to assist any newcomer who might find their group. It's a bit tricky to locate the building where the meeting takes place. However, if you plan to attend the AA at the Ranch meeting sometime, feel free to contact me at the Intergroup office and I'd be happy to explain how to find it.

Roland Hazard

Roland Hazard (1881-1945) was from a 10th generation Rhode Island family that was prominent in early American textile industry. He was a Yale graduate and very successful himself. Though never a member of Alcoholics Anonymous he is credited with saving Ebby Thacher, and bringing him to the Oxford Group. Ebby is the man who carried the message of recovery to Bill from alcoholism through spiritual means.

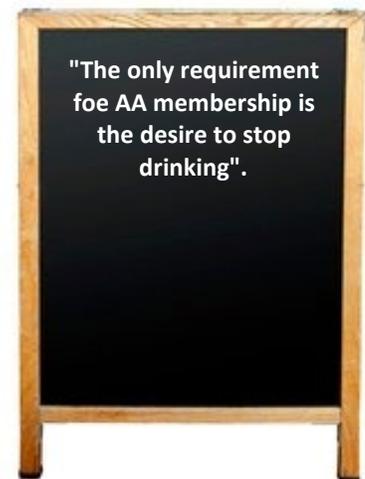
Roland's story of getting psychiatric treatment from the Swiss doctor Carl Jung is a story told in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as through the fellowship. Roland was an alcoholic before AA started, and sought out Dr. Jung, a renowned psychiatrist. After some extensive treatment, thinking he was relieved of the desire to drink, Roland soon found himself drunk again. Returning to Dr. Jung, he was told he was a hopeless chronic alcoholic. Roland begged for an answer to his problem and the doctor told him on rare occasions alcoholics of his type can have a vital, although rare spiritual experience, and can live sober. The story goes that Roland returned to the United States and encountered the Oxford Group, a Christian organization popular in America in the 1930's, gained sobriety, and eventually helped Ebby who consequently helped Bill.

Many researchers believe there is more to this story. It seems that Roland did not encounter the Oxford Group until 1934, the same year he helped Ebby. They believe he was hospitalized again for alcoholism in February and October of 1932. So, there remains the question of where else did Roland receive help?

Though Dr. Jung planted the seed of recovery, the help Roland received (eventually being able to carry the message of recovery) came from the Emmanuel Movement, located in Massachusetts. He was treated by therapist Courtenay Baylor in 1933 and 1934. The Emmanuel Movement was a psychologically based approach to religious healing. Baylor was the first recovered alcoholic to work as a professional addiction counselor. Though Baylor was neither a clergyman nor medically trained, he was able to use his experience in helping others to recovery. His ideas were published in the 1919 book "Remaking a Man."

There are some questions I would like to bring up at this point. When Roland rescued Ebby from being institutionalized, why did he take him to the Cavalry Mission (Oxford Group) in New York City? Was he (at that time) more connected to the Oxford Group than the Emmanuel Movement? If he brought Ebby to Baylor, in Massachusetts, would he ever have considered seeking out Bill as one to help? While Baylor was working with the Emmanuel Movement, the Oxford Group helped Bill and Bob get sober. The Jacoby Club, which was part of the Emmanuel Movement, later joined the AA group in Boston. These recovering alcoholics, later to be known as Alcoholics Anonymous, cut their ties with the New York Oxford Group in 1937, and Akron in 1939. Roland never joined AA and some believe he did not remain sober. He died in 1945 after his two sons were killed in World War II.

Researchers used are as follows: Richard M. Dubiel, "The Road to Fellowship," William White "Slaying the Dragon," and Glen Chestnut's paper on Roland Hazard.



AA Membership...

In AA there are not many rules,
Though it offers so many tools,
It's simple and quick,
And really quite slick,
Offering skills not taught in our schools.

But there's more to the story here,
Something old timers hold very dear,
It's the look in the eyes,
And the inspiration it implies,
As the lifelines slowly appear.

To Serve is an important part,
Newcomers rekindle the spark,
In reality we're all the same,
Fighting demons, BS and shame,
The combination offers a fresh start.

Through all of the harrowing hardship,
You can find a new kind of fellowship,
It takes courage to change,
When new it seems strange,
You can find comfort with AA membership.!



ST. PATRICKS DAY BREAKFAST
MARCH 14, 2026 9:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
7763 E Long Look Dr, Prescott Valley

It's that time of year again for Sub-District 14-142's annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast and speaker meeting! Food and fellowship start at 9:00 followed by our speaker at 9:30.

Pancakes, sausage and refreshments will be served

This year's speaker will be our very own John M!
We would love for you to join us for fellowship and John's experience, strength and hope

Volunteers or questions contact Travis D. (928) 356-2969

Mail body:

~Women Helping Women~
~You Never Have To Stand Alone~

WOMEN'S UNITY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

11:00AM

AA and Al Anon SPEAKERS ~ NOON
RAFFLE



CENTENNIAL CENTER AT ANTELOPE HILLS GOLF
COURSE
1 PERKINS ROAD, PRESCOTT

Tickets \$40

(Vegetarian and vegan options available -
inform at time of ticket purchase.)

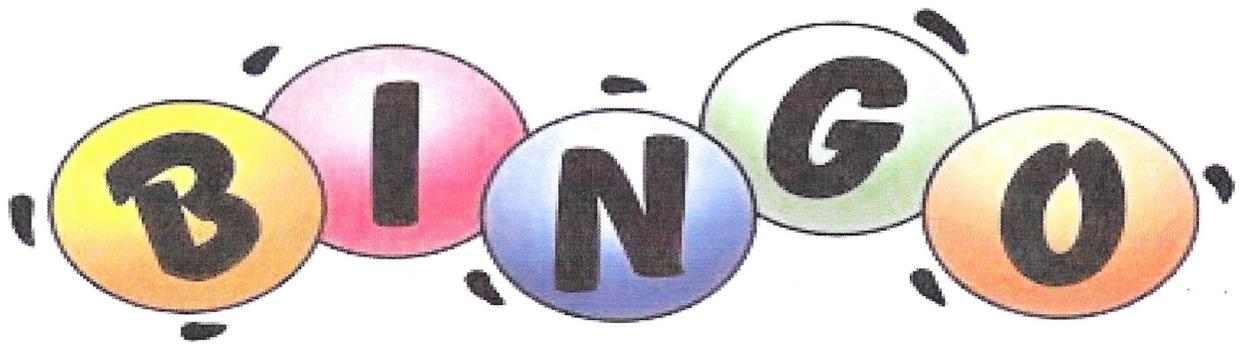
Ticket purchase deadline - April 1st.

For more information and tickets, contact Alex P.

562-522-8813

Cash or Zelle

Men may pat your ass. . . women will save it.



Prescott Intergroup Shoestring Roundup Fundraiser

Bingo for Baskets

April 18, 2026 – 2pm – 4pm; Doors open at 1:30pm.

\$10 for 10 games

SAFE HARBOR, 520 W. Delano Ave., Prescott, AZ.

50/50 Raffle

Door Prizes

Coffee will be provided.

Basket donations can be dropped off at the Intergroup office.

Questions? Call Laura (951)445-8984