

10am - Sharing Session Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Coree H. Chair. DCMs, visitors, and GSRs attended. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and participation on the topics. **Please bring radios. Announcements.** Marianne announced availability of radios, please return them at the end. Recording secretary announced signing in and checking accuracy of email on sign-in sheet.

Presentation – Tradition Four by Gabrielle J. from District 10 → Autonomy is defined as ‘acting in accordance with one's moral duty rather than one's desires’ and ‘acting independently or having the freedom to do so.’ This allows for diversity in meeting formats, as long as we maintain the primary purpose as a guiding light. At the same time, we have to be mindful of how our behavior represents our fellowship and affects others, remembering the idea that “we may be the only Big Book that someone sees.” Bill W.'s editorial on the 4th Tradition emphasized understanding a group's own affairs versus affairs of surrounding groups, intergroups, or regional committees, highlighting the *principle of consultation*. A.A. Grapevine's Traditions Checklist is a useful inventory tool to assess practicing the traditions in one's life. “Every group has the right to be wrong,” according to Tradition Four in the 12x12. In the same spirit, every AA member has the right to be wrong and to make his/her own mistakes. After all, aren't mistakes our best teachers? We have to be careful not to use the tradition of autonomy as an excuse to break all the others.

Members Share. Each person had 90 seconds to share on the presentation. **Highlights:**

- Members thanked Gabrielle for her presentation and shared their experiences of how each group does things differently and the varied benefits and dangers of what they see happen in groups (e.g., meeting formats, commitments, excluding groups of peoples from attending, use of non-conference approved literature, adaptation of the Twelve Steps or the Preamble, what speakers share about, crosstalk, support of service entities)
- The 12 X 12 talks about the elder statesmen and the bleeding deacons, and the importance that we remember there is no “moral high ground” because we are all equal
- Traditions are principles, not hard and fast rules; they require interpretation and consultation; perhaps we have survived this long because of Tradition Four. There are no “A.A. police,” but we can correct occurrences in meetings that have the potential to be harmful through our example.
- Controversy can arise when intergroups make decisions about what an A.A. group is based on whether they list meetings in their directories. This points to the danger associated with dictating what groups can and cannot do.
- Traditions were born out of our mistakes, so we have a history of messing up. Breaking of traditions often happens when we practice half measures of the Traditions (i.e., not practicing the entire content of each tradition). Tradition Four helps us to check our judgements of how groups function and insistence that groups do things the “right” way

Next Month's Topic → DCM Sharing Session Inventory; no presenter needed, will be facilitated by chair. **Discussion of topics for September** → Reaching out to the African American alcoholic (3); **Reaching out to remote communities** (majority); best practices for communication and service (1) → Presentation by Beth S. from district 06.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary