

# “Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition”

By: Robbie W. ☺

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(2006-2007)

**Opening Remarks:** Good morning Convention! My name is Robbie and I am an alcoholic! I have the privilege of serving Cape Atlantic Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous as its Chairman for the panel term: 2006-2007. We would like to thank Area 45 of General Services for allowing us the opportunity to participate in this annual Intergroup Workshop at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Area 45 General Services Convention.

This morning our Intergroup has decided to utilize our time by putting on a short skit entitled: *Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition*. The main idea for our skit has been extracted from our Fellowship's *Twelve & Twelve*; more specifically from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition (p.132-138 *Alcoholics Anonymous*). We have added; of course, a little Southern New Jersey humor and enthusiasm! It is our belief that we are not a glum lot and therefore; laughter makes for cheerfulness.

Our Intergroup embodies AA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition in all our proceedings. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition states emphatically: *For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority---a loving God as He may express Himself I our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern!* Let's take a look and see how the first group in Southern New Jersey fared with this vital Tradition.

So freshen up your coffees sit back, and enjoy!

Disclaimer: If the AA group in our skit resembles yours or any of our fictional characters reminds you of a fellow home-group member ... please rest assured it is purely coincidental!



**Narrator:** Our skit unfolds as the first AA group in New Jersey is in its formative stages. A sober AA from Philadelphia moves to a small wooded town in Southern New Jersey called *Bada Bing!* He immediately feels a spiritual and ethical compulsion to pass onto other alcoholics what was so freely passed onto him in Philly AA. Our pioneer; self-named Louie the Leader, visits preachers, doctors, editors, policeman, and bartenders and guess what? Bada Bing now has its first AA group and he calls his new group: *This Thing Of Ours*. Louie and his followers run the group with an iron fist. They assume authority to run everything "the way they seem fit". AA is booming in Bada Bing, NJ!

Allow me audience to now introduce to you *This Thing Of Ours* Group members:

**Louie The Leader:** *played by Bob D. – Intergroup Vice Chair*

**Louie's Recovered Robots:**

**Robot Rochelle:** *played by Joanne C. – Intergroup Unity Committee Chair,*

**Robot Rachael:** *played by Maureen V. – Intergroup Rep.*

**Robot Rebecca:** *played by Heather Anne C. – District 19 DCM*

**Newcomer Naomi:** *played by Margaret B. – Intergroup Recording Secretary*

**Elder Statesman Eddie:** *played by Mark – Intergroup Phone Coordinator*

**Bleeding Deacon Bernie:** *played by Bill W. – Intergroup Liaison to the Assembly*

Let's all listen in and see what Louie and *his* group is up to ...

\*\*\* (*Group members get close to microphone ... you're on!!!!*)

**Louie:** (*banging the gavel loudly and then proclaiming in your best Italian accent*)  
 "Welcome everyone to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *This Thing Of Ours* Group of Alcoholics Anonymous my name is ... (*clear your throat loudly and fix your tie so everyone realizes how important you are*) ... Louie the Leader and I am an alcoholic!!!"

**All:** (*sound enthusiastic*) "Hi Louie the Leader!"

**Louie:** (*sound very enthusiastic*) "Well, well, well. Thank you everyone for showing up at our *first ever* group business meeting. Hasn't this been a great first 10 years group?"

**Recovered Robot Rochelle:** (*sound pumped up*) "Oh Louie, you have been such a great leader! We just love how you bring up all the topics at our meetings, and correct newcomers when they don't know what they're talking about!"

**Recovered Robot Rachael:** (*keep up the enthusiasm*) "Yes Louie, I *totally love* how you created all our group's traditions and bylaws. I just don't think the group would still be in existence without you Louie!"

**Recovered Robot Rene:** (*sound sexy*) "Oh, and Louie, I have been so moved by your *knowledge and experience* since the day I met you. If it weren't for you Louie, I'm sure I would be drinking ... in fact, I will be forever indebted to you for going over the steps with me, on a *one on one basis* when I was new!"

**Louie:** (*basking in the glory*) "Yes, yes, yes, it is true. We have had an incredible 10 years group my fellow *robots* ... Um, I mean fellow home-group members! Yes friends, look at all the good we've done all the drunks who have stumbled into *This Thing Of Ours* Group. They are obviously grateful and indebted to *me*, I mean *us*!!!"

**Elder Statesman Eddie:** (*breaking in to Louie's diatribe in a loud voice*) "Excuse me Mr. Chairman, Bylaws Creator, Traditions Chair, Anniversary Chair, and Designated Sponsor for all new members, may I *please* have a second of the group's time?"

**Louie:** (*sound sarcastic*) "Oh, look who it is: Mr. Enthusiastic Elder Statesman Eddie! Sure Eddie, go ahead and throw a monkey wrench into our well-oiled machine like you *always* do!"

**Elder Statesman Eddie:** (*laughing at Louie's immature sarcasm*) "Good morning group, my name is Eddie and I'm an alcoholic. This is my new home group and my sobriety date is June 1<sup>st</sup> 1945."

**Louie:** (*mumble into the microphone*) "That has never been documented!"

**Elder Statesman Eddie:** “You know group, for the last ten years, your founder and his recovered robots have pretty much run this group the way *they’ve* seen fit. I mean, let’s face it group, AA groups and structures are not supposed to be run like a dictatorship.

**All Recovered Robots:** (*mumble amongst yourselves the audacity Eddie has!*)

**Elder Statesman Eddie:** “ I say it’s high time this group learns and puts into the practice our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition! By golly group, I say it’s time to get an *informed* group conscience here in *This Thing Of Ours* AA Group!”

**Recovered Robot Rochelle:** (*sound angry and offended*) “Yo, yo, yo ... what’s all this talk about an informed group conscience? I’ve never heard of this crap! Where’s that at in the Book?” (*Thumb angrily through your Big Book or 12 and 12*)

**Recovered Robot Rachael:** (*sound like a Jersey Girl with an attitude*) “Yeah, yeah, yeah, I hear you girlfriend! We love being “governed” by Louie the Leader ... This group’s just fine the way it is Mr. Elder Statesman ... Whatsa’ Matter Wit U?”

**Recovered Robot Rene:** (*bring home your point with sexy passion*) “Oh, Louie, Louie, Louie... Our exalted leader and charismatic guru ... why, we can’t let these group members take this group away from us .... Can’t you put an end to all this rhetoric about a *group conscience*????”

**Louie:** (*sounding defeated*) “Well, I’m not really sure what I can do about this girls ... Eddie does have a point here concerning *Our Second Tradition* ...”

**Newcomer Naomi:** (*sound nervous and stutter a little*) “Ummmm, Mr. Leader, may I please say a few words?”

**Louie:** (*sounding very sarcastic and directing your point to Eddie*) “Oh boy, now look at all the controversy you’ve created Eddie ... now we got a newcomer with less than year of sobriety who wants to talk at *our* business meeting! What on earth could a newcomer possibly offer our group ... (*sounding exasperated*) ... Oh, go ahead *sweetie!*”

**Newcomer Naomi:** (*sounding like a cute southern belle*) “Why good morning everyone, my name is Newcomer Naomi and I am an alcoholic!”

**All:** “Hi Newcomer Naomi!!!”

**Newcomer Naomi:** “Hi all! I just moved here from Texas and our group down there believed fully in listening for a loving God during our group conscience proceedings. I am absolutely amazed that a *few* old-timers in *This Thing Of Ours* group make all the decisions. Something’s wrong with that group. (*Now say this part loud and enthusiastic*) I therefore propose we have an election to vote in who the group would like to have as leaders!!!”

**Recovered Robots:** *(together all mumble that this just can't happen; talk amongst yourselves)*

**Bleeding Deacon Bernie:** *(talk loudly over the Recovered Robots mumblings)* “Hold on hold on, don't worry girls, I'll handle this mutiny! May I have the floor Louie the Leader?”

**Louie:** “Bleeding Deacon Bernie ... in the flesh! Why sure sir, please help me out here!”

**Bleeding Deacon Bernie:** *(project your voice)* “Perhaps some of you here *don't know who I am?* My name is Bernie and I am an alcoholic. I've been sober since the inception of this here group. I sponsor half the men in Southern New Jersey. They are lucky to have me. In fact, this group is lucky to have me. As your co-chair, GSR, Intergroup Rep., Secretary, and Treasurer, I stay on top of things around here. I hear all this crap about group conscience this and group conscience that, and all I gotta' say about that is: *hogwash!* This group has been doing just fine with Louie the Leader and Bleeding Deacon Bernie running it. Hogwash, I say Hogwash .....

**Newcomer Naomi:** “Mr. Chairman, I hereby put forth the motion that we have a group conscience and elect group trusted servants to share the service work in *This Thing Of Ours* group.”

**Elder Statesman Eddie:** “I second Newcomer Naomi's motion!”

**Louie:** *(sound defeated)* “Well group we have had ample discussion, we have a motion and a second, all in favor signify by saying: Aye!”

**All:** *(except Louie, Bernie, and the recovered robots)* “Aye!!!”

**Louie:** “All opposed?”

**Louie, Bernie, and the Recovered Robots:** *(say it low; sounding defeated)* “Aye.”

**Louie:** “Well gang, the group conscience has spoken ... please be here next month and feel free to make yourself available to serve *This Thing Of Ours* group! Perhaps a change will be good ... we have a nice way of closing, thanks for showing up!

**Narrator:** At times the AA landscape seems to be littered with bleeding forms. Nearly every old-timer in our society has gone through this process in some degree. Happily, most of them survive and live to become elder statesmen. Hopefully, you have some elder statesmen in your group. Theirs is the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge, and humble example that resolves group problems.

In effect, the group turns to these good AA's for advice. They become the voice of the group conscience; in fact, they are the true voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. They do not drive by mandate ... they lead by example!

Our Group conscience therefore, well advised by its elders, will be in the long run wiser than any single leader. Hence, that is what our group members found out from the *This Thing Of Ours* group out of Bada Bing, New Jersey.

Cape Atlantic Intergroup thanks you for the opportunity to perform this skit for you this morning. We further invite you to attend our business meeting and watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition in action! Thank you for allowing us to serve you today!!!

**The End**