

EAST TENNESSEE INTERGROUP UNITY NEWSLETTER



May 2019
Volume 43, Issue 5

Step Five:

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

ALL OF A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires . . . they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, page 55. Copyright © 1981
Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Fifth Step Prayer

*Higher Power,
My inventory has shown me who I am,
Yet I ask for Your help
In admitting my wrongs to another person and to You.
Assure me, and be with me, in this Step,
For without this Step I cannot progress in my recovery.
With Your help, I can do this, and I do it.*

From Alcoholics Anonymous of Cleveland, OH
[https://www.aacle.org/twelve-step-prayers/
20Step%20Prayers%20-%20Spiritual%20-%20Alcoholics%20Anonymous%](https://www.aacle.org/twelve-step-prayers/20Step%20Prayers%20-%20Spiritual%20-%20Alcoholics%20Anonymous%20)



DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1 meets 11:00am on the second Saturday at the Renaissance Ctr., Kingsport, TN.

District 2 meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the Mountain Home VA in Johnson City.

District 3 meets the first Sunday of the month at 12:30pm at the Morristown Group.

District 4 meets the first Sunday at 2:00pm at Happy Destiny meeting place.

District 50/51 meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Intergroup Office.

District 6 meets at 10:00am the first Saturday of the month at the Serenity Club.

SERVICE COMMITTEES

Intergroup Committee meets at 12:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Intergroup Office. **IN MAY: WILL MEET ON 5-19 DUE TO MOTHER'S DAY.**

District 50/51 - Treatment Committee meets at 7:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Park 40; includes Bridging the Gap.

Tradition Five (Long Form):

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, page 190. Copyright © 1981 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Tradition Five Checklist:

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, “I’m not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn’t apply to me”?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Concept V:

Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated. Copyright © 1986 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc.

Concept IV Checklist:

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the “Right of Appeal,” to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as “substantial unanimity”?
- Has our group experienced the “tyranny of the majority” or the “tyranny of the minority”?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

UNITY NEWSLETTER

is a monthly publication of East Tennessee Intergroup about, by and for members of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Opinions herein are not to be attributed to AA. Except when indicated, this publication does not imply endorsement by either AA or the Newsletter. Delegates to the General Service Conference on April 24, 1972 agreed that the use of full names and addresses could improve communication within the Fellowship. Consequently, we may use full names for AA service members. To ensure anonymity, it is requested that the Newsletter be kept within the Fellowship.

AA BIRTHDAYS

Primary Purpose Group, Oak Ridge TN

April 2019 Anniversaries

Karen D., 44 years
Jack P., 33 years
Jeff C., 18 years
Gracie B., 14 years
Paula M., 5 years
Diane D., 5 years

Maryville 12-Step Group CORRECTION

Sherman H. Jan. 18, 1981,
38 years

Submit AA Anniversaries to:
newsletter@etiaa.org

Please use the following format:

- ◇ *first full name*
- ◇ *last name initial*
- ◇ *birthday month*
- ◇ *number of years sober*

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Would you like to submit something for the Newsletter?

- Is your group celebrating Birthday/Anniversary? Are you?
- Do you have AA-related questions or myths that East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (ETIAA) East Tennessee of Alcoholics Anonymous can answer for you?
- Is there an "In Memory" group member to be recognized?
- We encourage all appropriate submissions by sending them to:

Newsletter Coordinator, newsletter@etiaa.org

***Please make sure
submissions arrive by
the 20th of the month prior
to the month you want your
notice to appear in the Unity
Newsletter! For notices arriving after the
25th, we cannot guarantee they will be included.***



We have expanded the newsletter!

We have increased the subscription rate to cover a \$1 stamp so that we are no longer limited to 12 pages and tiny (unreadable) type. If you receive the newsletter by email, it will be the same — longer but more readable.

MOBILE INTERGROUP

When should we visit your group?

~~~~~  
Mobile Intergroup will be at:

Great Smoky Mountain Recovery Camp Out, from 4pm to 8pm on June 1, Saturday night, for the camp out.  
(see flyer p. 15)

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Is there an AA-related event you would like Intergroup to attend? If so, please contact us at: 865-522-9667 or email manager@etiaa.org

## We're on Facebook

ETIAA has a private FB group. If you would like to join, call the Intergroup Office: 865-522-9667.

We'll be happy to add you to the group.



# INTERGROUP SERVICE NEEDS

**Want to get involved and do rewarding service work?** Currently there are many Service Work opportunities available at Intergroup.

**24/7 Hotline Volunteers:** Volunteer monthly, bi-monthly or weekly. Answer the phones when the office is closed.

**12-Step Volunteers:** When someone calls the office/hotline for help and the hotline worker cannot easily help, we try to hook them up with a person of the same sex as geographically close to them as we can. That way if you want to connect at a meeting, it's convenient. Callers usually need to be 12 stepped, are new to the area, need directions to local meetings, etc. This is separate from the Hotline and you can stipulate the type of calls you are willing to receive.

To serve, contact Jacque H., Hotline Coordinator. Or email us at manager@etiaa.org, visit the website at ETIAA.org, or call us at 865-522-9667.

**Office Workers:** Answer the phones, complete sales and keep the Intergroup Office open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons are open.

**Mobile Intergroup Coordinator** – Coordinate, pack, prepare for Mobile Intergroup Events. Service workers for Intergroup Mobile events also are needed.

**CPC/PI Chairperson** – Coordinate Cooperation with the Professional Community and Public Information Committees

**Events & Workshop Committee Chairperson** – We want to share some fun events! Plan and coordinate events.

**Intergroup Reps:** Attend the monthly Intergroup meetings at 12:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Take the information back to your groups.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Manage Service Workers schedules and make sure all shifts are covered.

**Outreach Committee:** Visit meetings and talk to them about Intergroup.

We are looking to fill the above positions. The term of office, qualifications and duties are on the website <http://www.etiaa.org/service/>

Members interested in any of these positions should attend the next meeting of Intergroup on the second Sunday of the month at the Intergroup Office at 5833 Clinton Highway, Suite 202, Knoxville, TN 37912 865-522-9667.



## How can groups participate?

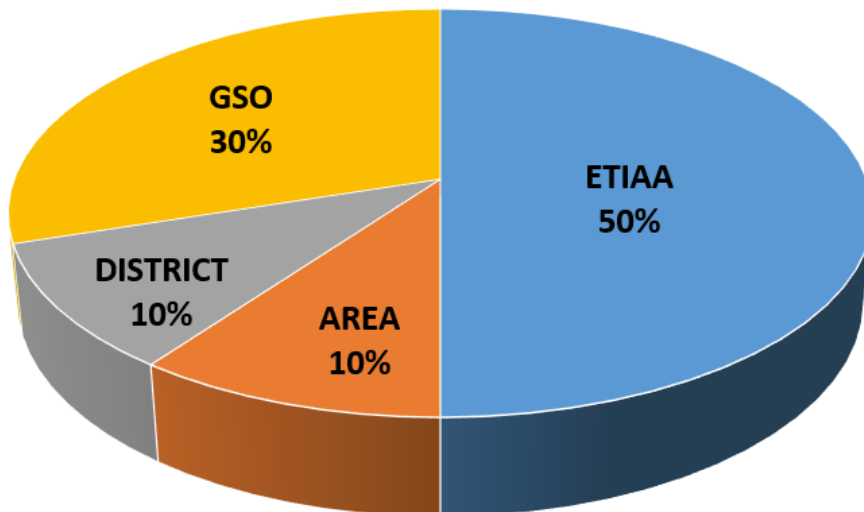
To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (for example, rent, refreshments, AA literature, Grapevine literature, local meeting lists, GSR travel expenses to attend service functions) and a "prudent reserve" has been set aside to cover any emergency contingencies that might arise, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following AA service entities.

- The local district, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies and serving as a link between the area delegates and the GSRs.
- The area committee, which coordinates vital AA activities over a broad geographic area, sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference, holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship, and provides information at all levels of service.
- The local intergroup or central office, which may provide phone service for Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries, coordination of group activities, AA literature sales, institutions work, public information, and cooperation with the professional community activities.
- AA's General Service Office, which functions as a storehouse of AA information, communicating with members and groups around the world, publishes AA literature, and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in AA.

[Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix. Go to [www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-3\\_selfsupport.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-3_selfsupport.pdf)].

## 7 TH TRADITION SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS

From "AA's Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" Pamphlet



***Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.***

## Contribution addresses

**ETIAA East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
 5833 Clinton Highway  
 Suite #202  
 Knoxville, TN 37912  
 865-522-9667  
[www.etiaa.org](http://www.etiaa.org)

**General Service Office**  
 Grand Central Station  
 P.O. Box 459  
 New York, NY 10163  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**Area 64 Assembly** \*NEW ADDRESS  
 2500 Murfreesboro Pike  
 Suite 105, Box 235  
 Nashville, TN 37217  
[www.area64assembly.org](http://www.area64assembly.org)

**District 1 Treasurer**  
 Stephanie H.  
 2213 Pendragon Rd  
 Kingsport, TN 37660

**District 2 Treasurer**  
 PO BOX 1872  
 Johnson City, TN 37605

**District 3 Treasurer**  
 John H.  
 1466 Darbee Dr.  
 Morristown, TN 37814

**District 4 Treasurer**  
 PO Box 264 \*NEW ADDRESS  
 Alcoa, TN 37701

**District 6 Treasurer**  
 Richard B.  
 105 Mariner Point  
 Clinton, TN 37716

**Districts 50/51 Treasurer**  
 PO Box 27264  
 Knoxville, TN 37917

## MARCH 2019 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

If you belong to one of the groups that is able to contribute to Intergroup through AA's Seventh Tradition, would you check on your group's contribution at the next business meeting? If your group has any concerns that need addressing, let us know. If desired, we would love the chance to address them and possibly attend your business meeting.

**NOTE:** East Tennessee Intergroup of AA fiscal year is July 1 -June 30. July 1, 2018, began the current FY.

|                            | <b>Mar 19</b> | <b>Jul 18 -<br/>Mar 19</b> |                                 | <b>Mar 19</b>  | <b>Jul 18 -<br/>Mar 19</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1ST THINGS 1ST-P40         | 1171.45       | 2,426.45                   | MARYVILLE UNITY                 | 625.00         | 625.00                     |
| 4-WAY GROUP                | 0.00          | 10.17                      | MEMORIAL RECOVERY               | 0.00           | 100.00                     |
| 4TH DIMENSION              | 227.00        | 816.00                     | METRO GROUP                     | 0.00           | 875.00                     |
| 50/51 CHRISTMAS PARTY      | 0.00          | 3.65                       | MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S              | 0.00           | 200.00                     |
| 50/51 PANCAKE BREAKFAST    | 0.00          | 1.40                       | MONROE COUNTY                   | 0.00           | 100.00                     |
| 501 Group                  | 0.00          | 60.00                      | MORRISTOWN GROUP                | 25.61          | 55.61                      |
| AA ASSEMBLY                | 0.00          | 17.36                      | NEW BEGINNING- LOUDON           | 0.00           | 250.00                     |
| ARR                        | 19.24         | 19.24                      | NEW PATH                        | 120.00         | 225.00                     |
| ARR SPAGHETTI DINNER       | 0.00          | 2.91                       | NORRIS CLINTON GROUP            | 0.00           | 260.00                     |
| BACK TO BASICS- OAK RIDGE  | 0.00          | 50.61                      | NORRIS GROUP                    | 0.00           | 20.00                      |
| BACK TO BASICS-SWEETWATER  | 0.00          | 120.00                     | NORTH GATLINBURG GR             | 0.00           | 909.10                     |
| BIG BOOK RECOVERY          | 0.00          | 139.00                     | NORTH STATION GR                | 237.21         | 237.21                     |
| BIG BOOKS STUDY P40        | 0.00          | 468.35                     | ONEIDA                          | 0.00           | 20.00                      |
| BLOUNT COUNTY GROUP        | 50.00         | 400.00                     | OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE             | 0.00           | 259.00                     |
| COLONIAL GROUP             | 0.00          | 125.00                     | PHOENIX GROUP                   | 0.00           | 711.50                     |
| COLONIAL HEIGHTS           | 0.00          | 25.00                      | PRIMARY PURPOSE- OAK RIDGE      | 0.00           | 240.00                     |
| CONCORD GROUP              | 3.28          | 45.28                      | PRIME TIME                      | 0.00           | 580.00                     |
| CONTRIBUTION JAR           | 27.50         | 125.84                     | PRINCIPALS BEFORE PERSONALITIES | 0.00           | 50.00                      |
| COOKIE GROUP               | 0.00          | 240.00                     | RIVERSIDE GROUP                 | 0.00           | 333.92                     |
| CORRECTIONS 50/51          | 0.00          | 2.36                       | ROADMAP EVENT                   | 0.00           | 70.00                      |
| CORRECTIONS DIST 3         | 0.00          | 5.67                       | ROANE COUNTY UNITY              | 104.37         | 104.37                     |
| COURAGE TO CHANGE          | 0.00          | 150.00                     | ROCKFORD                        | 0.00           | 5.82                       |
| COVER TO COVER             | 120.00        | 235.00                     | RULE 62                         | 0.00           | 45.00                      |
| DISTRICT 50/51             | 60.00         | 270.00                     | SEEDS OF HOPE                   | 0.00           | 100.00                     |
| DISTRICT 6                 | 0.00          | 0.44                       | SERENITY IMPROVEMENT            | 0.00           | 450.00                     |
| DOWN BY THE RIVER          | 0.00          | 100.00                     | SERENITY IN THE SMOKIES EVENT   | 0.00           | 11.08                      |
| FIRST 164                  | 0.00          | 20.00                      | SERENITY SEEKERS                | 0.00           | 140.00                     |
| FOUNTAIN CITY SERENITY     | 0.00          | 1,442.27                   | SERENITY SISTERS                | 0.00           | 578.71                     |
| FREE AT LAST               | 0.00          | 40.00                      | SEVEN ISLANDS                   | 0.00           | 40.00                      |
| GREEN PASTURES             | 0.00          | 250.00                     | SEYMOUR SHARING                 | 0.00           | 791.16                     |
| GROUP WITH NO NAME         | 0.00          | 623.98                     | SIMPLY AA                       | 0.00           | 30.00                      |
| GSMRC EVENT                | 0.00          | 7.27                       | SISTERS IN SOBRIETY             | 0.00           | 40.00                      |
| HAPPY DESTINY              | 0.00          | 1,125.00                   | SOBRIETY SOCIETY- SO-SO         | 96.50          | 359.00                     |
| HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE     | 0.00          | 50.00                      | SPIRITUAL PROGRESS              | 0.00           | 130.00                     |
| HIGH NOON ROGERSVILLE      | 25.00         | 45.00                      | STEPS FORWARD                   | 55.00          | 110.00                     |
| HOPE IN THE CHAPEL         | 0.00          | 30.00                      | SUNDAYS AT 7                    | 213.37         | 213.37                     |
| Individual                 | 50.36         | 1,534.71                   | TELLICO VILLAGE                 | 0.00           | 120.00                     |
| KODAK - BIG BOOK STUDY     | 0.00          | 50.00                      | TENNESSEE GROUP                 | 318.50         | 597.42                     |
| KODAK-STEPS AND TRADITIONS | 0.00          | 50.00                      | TRI-STATE GROUP                 | 0.00           | 257.80                     |
| KODAK GROUP                | 0.00          | 250.00                     | TRUDGING THE ROAD               | 0.00           | 50.14                      |
| LAFOLLETTE-THERE IS HOPE   | 20.00         | 180.00                     | TURNIP PATCH                    | 0.00           | 112.88                     |
| LENGUAJE DEL CORAZON       | 100.00        | 100.00                     | WELCOME HOME DINNER             | 0.00           | 0.00                       |
| LOUDON                     | 0.00          | 225.00                     | WEST KNOXVILLE GROUP            | 111.16         | 222.21                     |
| LUNCH BUNCH- GREENEVILLE   | 0.00          | 341.96                     | WORKING WITH OTHERS             | 0.00           | 215.00                     |
| MARYVILLE 12 STEP          | 0.00          | 100.00                     | <b>TOTALS</b>                   | <b>3780.55</b> | <b>23,170.22</b>           |

## INTERGROUP APRIL MINUTES

Open with serenity prayer and monthly tradition

Attendees: Joni Q, Rebekah R, Fawn L, Nick T, Joan S, Louise S, Jacque H, Susi M, Trent W, Amber R, Connie B, David C, Beth H.

Introduction and Sign-in sheet

Accept/modify previous minutes: Accepted.

Manager's report – Rebekah R

Mobile IG update

ARR \$6428.12 – Sales total for 3 days – AMAZING!

Colonial Heights Dinner – April 25th – everyone's welcome to go.

GSMRC – Coming up March 30th – June 2nd.

Inventory Adjustment \$150

New items – Because of ARR we got some God dice, wallet cards and playing cards.

Narcan and Square Training -3pm May 19th – Directly after our May Meeting.

Meet and Greet Viability – We had 5 total this past

GV prices – We need to reconsider the prices as the price we're paying has dropped significantly.

Medallion bulk discount – Consider 10% Discount.

Barcode Scanner \$119 – after ARR, Rebekah R believes we need it and would work with our Square Program. It would definitely help with accuracy in checking people out.

Riverside group in Pigeon Forge gave a contribution of \$2,600.

Treasurer report – Fawn L – Higher than average. Fiscal year to date we're up \$4,556.

Hotline – Jacque H – Going good; Working on calendar for May and June. Barbara S is working on updating the 12step Call List.

Office Service Workers- Annie B – Lost a couple of people – Need someone 1-5 on Fridays.

Archive – Annie B – Working on it with Area 64.

Website – Shelley M – Absent – Rebekah R says in March we had 2400 users.

Accessibilities – Open – Beth H. says under the Treatment umbrella but still OPEN.

Spanish Speaking Liaison – Open

CPC/PI – Open

Treatment- Beth H – Bradford meetings will cease and still gathering information.

Corrections – Lisa - Absent

Outreach – Nick T – Still going to meetings but would welcome any help or assistance; either to go with Nick or divide up.

Events – Open

### **Old Business**

No new lease, now month to month.

Meet and Greet Viability – Rebekah R. Motions to discontinue Meet and Greets due to lack of participation. Motion Approved.

May Meeting is Mother's Day – Meeting moved to 3rd Sunday - May 19th.

### **New Business**

Bronze Medallion bulk discount – Rebekah R Motion for 10% Discount on 20 medallions or more. Accepted. None opposed.

Barcode Scanner – Rebekah R Motion to purchase a barcode scanner for \$119 which will help immensely in inventory mistakes. Accepted. None opposed.

Our service worker George R – SANTA – has passed away and arrangements are this week.

Next Meeting-Sunday, May 19th at 12:30pm.





# Founders' Day Herald

## 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

June 7, 8, & 9, 2019 | Akron, Ohio | Birthplace of A.A.

### FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

#### A.A. 12 Step Panel • 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Discussion of One Step Per Hour  
Chaired by: Jeff C.

#### A.A. Early Bird Meeting\* • 3:00 p.m.

Chad S. - Akron, OH  
"A Quiet Mind and A Loving Heart"  
Chaired by: Aaron K.

#### Actors Guild Play • 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

"A Song and a Coffee Pot"

#### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer K. - Plano, TX  
"Everything Is Bigger In Texas"  
Chaired by: Woody W.

#### Serenity Singers • 8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Olin Hall

#### NEW MEETING!

#### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 9:00 p.m.

Denny S. - Woodlands, CA  
"Together Our Lives Come Full Circle"  
Chaired by: Tom O.

#### Junta en Español • 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

"Los Jóvenes en AA" Crispin O., Morristown, TN  
"Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza"  
Mauricio R., Alcoa, TN  
"La Viña, nuestra reunión impresa"  
Raymundo L., San José, CA

#### A.A. Alkathon • 11:00 p.m. - 2:30 a.m.

### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

#### Bus Tours of Historic A.A. Sites

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
2 buses continuously - Bierce Circle

#### A.A. Archives

Located in Akron Intergroup Office  
(Stop on bus tour)

#### The 12 Traditions • 9:00 a.m.

Gail L. & Harmon V.  
"Why It Works"  
Chaired by: Tom O.

#### Taller Internacional de La Viña

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Coordinador: Ana L., San José, CA  
Expositores: Arturo A. y Juan T., San José, CA

#### A.A. Old Timers' Panel\* • 10:30 a.m.

Topic: "Early In Sobriety"  
Debbie D. - Concord, CA  
Tommy M. - Largo, FL  
Tom H. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
Chaired by: Tom O.

#### Actors Guild Play • 12:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

"A Song and a Coffee Pot"

#### NEW TIME, DAY & LOCATION!

#### A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting\* • 12:00 p.m.

Dain and Rhonda J. - Rocky Hill, CT  
"Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love"  
E.J. Thomas Hall  
Chaired by: Cathy C.

#### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 2:00 p.m.

Chris S. - Bedminster, NJ  
"Your Job Now Is To Be In A Place Where You  
May Be Of Maximum Usefulness To Others"  
Chaired by: Jeff C.

#### The History of Our Big Book • 4:00 p.m.

Presented by: Gail L. - The Villages, FL  
Chaired by: Aaron K.

#### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 8:00 p.m.

Tim H. - Louisville, KY  
"I Lied My Whole Life, When The Truth  
Was Good Enough"  
UA Infocision Stadium\*\*  
Chaired by: Scott T.

#### \*\*Stadium Weather Contingency Plan for Saturday Night - See Web Site

#### DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Saturday Night

### SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

#### MOTORCADE TO DR. BOB'S GRAVE\*

7:30 a.m.  
Motorcycle procession and graveside  
memorial tribute to Dr. Bob & Anne S.  
Speaker: Harmon V.  
Chaired by: Woody W.

#### A.A. Spiritual Panel Meeting • 9:00 a.m.

Topic: "God As I Understand Him"  
Chaired by: Jeff C.

#### A.A. Closing Speaker Meeting\*

10:30 a.m.  
Don L. - Bellingham, WA  
"I Found That Change Was Impossible  
Without First Being Wrong About Something.  
I Learned To Embrace The Power Of Being Wrong"  
Chaired by: Joyce B.

### AL-ANON

### FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

#### Al-Anon Panel • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Concepts  
Chaired by: Irena H.

#### Marathon Al-Anon Meeting

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Come Share Your Experience, Strength  
and Hope!  
Chaired by: Amber M. and Dan C.

### AL-ANON

### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

#### Al-Anon Sponsorship Panel • 9:30 a.m.

Pat A., Cheryl B., Julie C.  
Chaired by: Dan C.

#### NEW TIME, DAY & LOCATION!

#### A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting\* • 12:00 p.m.

Dain and Rhonda J. - Rocky Hill, CT  
"Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love"  
E.J. Thomas Hall  
Chaired by: Cathy C.

#### Al-Anon Band • 2:00 p.m.

12 Songs Of Recovery  
The 12 Steppers - Columbus, OH  
Chris M. - Piano, Vocals  
Tony J. - Mandolin, Flute  
Mike S. - Drums  
TL V. - Bass Guitar  
Intro by: Cathy C.

#### Alateen • 3:30 p.m.

Chaired by: Wendy Y.

### REGISTRATION

#### UA STUDENT UNION

#### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### Registrations must be picked up by

6:00 p.m. Saturday - **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

#### Package Plans must be picked up at designated dormitories. Check confirmation letter or e-mail.

#### Coffee & Fellowship Room

Student Union

#### A.A. Literature Sales

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

#### \* A.S.L. INTERPRETER

**NO BASIC REGISTRATION REFUND.  
\$30.00 FEE FOR ALL PACKAGE PLAN CANCELLATIONS!**

**FOUNDERS' DAY IS A SERVICE OF THE AKRON AREA INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF A.A.**

**Name badges & ribbons must be worn for admittance to all meetings — NO EXCEPTIONS!**





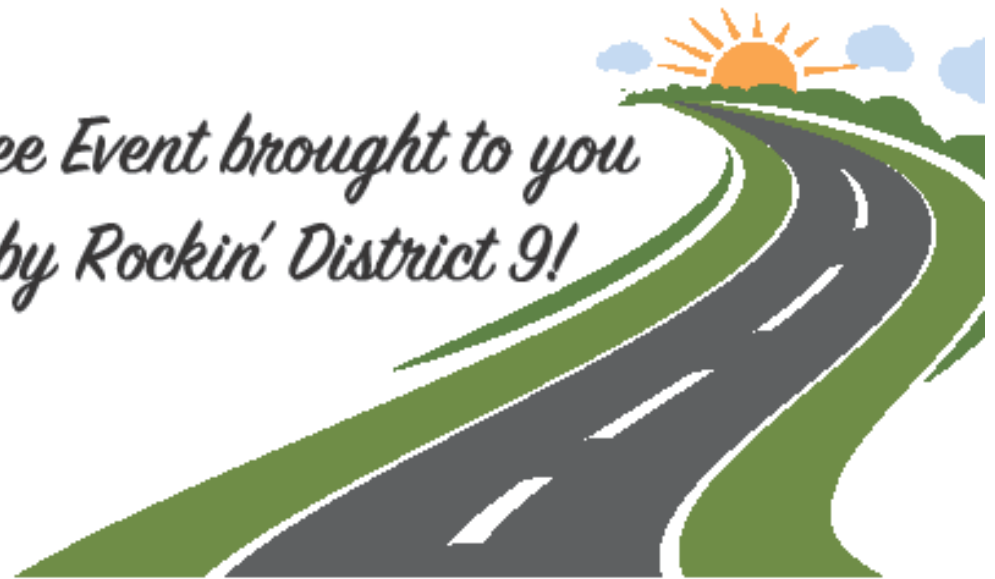
# Roadmap to Recovery

**JOIN US FOR THIS ONE DAY EVENT**

JOURNEY THROUGH THE FIRST 164 PAGES OF THE BIG BOOK OF  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



*Free Event brought to you  
by Rockin' District 9!*



**Lunch, Snacks and  
Refreshment provided!**

**Presented by  
Chris B. (Murfreesboro, TN)  
Daniel T. (Murfreesboro, TN)**

**SATURDAY JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>  
(7AM - 4PM)**

Sponsored by

**Rockin'  
District 9**

122 S Madison Ave  
Cookeville, TN 38501

**(931) 310-7079**

Contact Lary L. for more  
information.

# **NEW DATES!!!**

*66<sup>th</sup> Great Smoky Mountain*

*Recovery Campout*

**May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Open AA Meetings 11am and 8pm daily

Al-anon Meetings Sat. and Sun. @ 9:30am

Sat. June 1<sup>st</sup> Dinner @ 5pm

Speaker @ 6:45pm

**Linda H.**

**from South Carolina**

For more info email [gsmrc.greenbrier@gmail.com](mailto:gsmrc.greenbrier@gmail.com)

or call Toby W. 865-654-3884

No pets at the meetings please

For campground reservations contact

Greenbrier Campground

<https://www.smokymountaincamping.com/>

5406 Pittman Center Rd

Pitman Center 37836

865-430-7415

## **BONUS READING: AA and the Religion Turnoff ::: AA Grapevine September 1977**

### **Does our image of religiosity scare off too many suffering alcoholics?**

A FRIEND OF MINE, a fellow alcoholic, died last month. He needn't have. He could have joined AA. The reason he didn't is the reason I nearly didn't, many years ago, and his death recalls the feelings I had then toward the program.

My friend, Tom, and I worked for the same newspaper. In our youth, we contributed heavily to the fortune of a greasy tavern owner in an alley behind the press room. Tom and I were lean and cocky in those years. The thought of a drinking problem for either of us would have been ridiculous. Tom went on to become a well-known correspondent and editor. After we left the paper, we kept in touch, and whenever our paths crossed, the encounter would occasion a glorious and usually prolonged drunk.

Eventually, though, we knew we had a problem. Not knowing how to "frame" it, see it in its true perspective, we called it booze, and let it go at that. We thought it went with the territory. Tom had remarried several times, his wives leaving him because of his drinking. I'd been in and out of several hospitals. Tom and I would lament the passing of the good old days and mark our observance by getting drunk.

Once, over a couple of prairie oysters to aid us through a horrendous hangover, I remember suggesting, half seriously, that we try AA.

"Not those Holy Rollers," he replied.

Several of our acquaintances had joined the program by then, but we saw little of them. On getting sober, they had a habit of avoiding the watering holes they'd helped make famous. Tom would bomb in from some far-flung war and call my place, and we'd hold a wake for those poor lost souls.

"Whatever happened to Ted?"

"Ah, the silly man got religion and joined AA."

"Is that a fact? The saints preserve us. Timothy, give us two more of the same. Drink up, me boyo. Our work's cut out for us."

As I recall, drinking *was* becoming work. An uphill fight all the way. All at once, it seemed, we had grown too old for chasing down Third Avenue in pursuit of rheumatic ghosts and the faltering legends of youth. Marathon drinking, to catch the blood-red sun over the East River, was no longer the lyrical experience it had been. Nor even running plays with a professional quarterback, or composing dirty limericks with a famous poet among the pillars of the EI, some silver dawn.

But Tom and I had a grudging--perhaps the word is sneaking--respect for AA. Ironically, it was through Tom that I'd first become aware of the Fellowship. He'd written an article on alcoholism, mentioning the successful "cure" found by so many in AA.

Tom's and my attitude at that point could be summed up by saying we thought the program was okay for the people in it, but for ourselves we couldn't buy the God bit. The program, in our view, smacked of Christian fundamentalism, even evangelism. Then, too, while we were admitted drunks--defiantly so--we didn't admit to having the problem of definitive "alcoholics," as AA members labeled themselves.

For my last birthday, my wife gave me the latest--the fourth--edition of the Columbia Encyclopedia, hailed as the best one-volume encyclopedia in the language. I looked up AA, and there it was--Tom's mistake, repeated for the nth time. The program was described as a means for "curing" alcoholism. My old copy, the second edition, doesn't even have an entry for AA, and I'm not sure which is worse--misinformation or no information.

It seems to me that we editorial types share with other professionals what is so frequently a fatal misconception about the program. A misconception going beyond the careless reporting and editing that allow "cure" instead of "recovery." It goes to the heart of the matter, explaining why so many of us, like my late friend Tom, fail to make it into AA.



Our liverish, bloated egos feel insulted by what we don't even intellectually understand. We think the program is reserved for the poor, the ignorant, the uninformed. (G. K. Chesterton was fond of saying that intellectuals were seldom intelligent.) We think--even by the time we're driven to the desperate realization that something is the matter, something is killing us--that AA may be okay for the next guy, but *we're* too sophisticated for anything like that to work for us. We need something more complicated, more subtle, more suited to our peculiar genius, the exquisite refinements of our pain. Something, let us say, that sounds more medically or scientifically impressive.

And so, like Tom, we elect to die.

My recovery began with a fantastic awakening. I realized that it is possible to believe in a Higher Power, in the efficacy of prayer and meditation, in making a conscious contact with a Higher Power as those concepts, privately understood--*or not understood*--are suggested in AA, without the loss of one iota of my precious identity.

Instead of loss, the dread void of what to do in place of drinking, there is gain. A spiritual redeepening of the self, through the affirmation of AA principles that stem, not merely from Christianity, but from all the great faiths and philosophies. A sense of humility, the reapportioning of what is really important for the remainder of my life. Best of all, a new understanding of simplicity, of keeping things simple, of knowing truth, the truth that works for me. It could never have been found through the complicated search that always ended in despair when I drank.

I'd been looking for a reality that doesn't exist outside today! Tom never knew this. He never really knew what time it was. Never, that is, knew that the time is always and forever Now.

I attended his funeral and looked on the stranger in the casket. Yet not entirely a stranger. Assuredly, it was not the Tom of old, with whom I'd run and drunk and sung. It could have been, incredibly, myself lying there, except for a grace and power beyond my telling here. He died for both of us (and all those that read this now).

As I left the funeral home on Madison Avenue, I was joined by another battered survivor, whom I hadn't seen in years. There was little left to see. He looked almost as bad as the one we'd come to mourn. We chatted on the corner. His watery eyes searched out a bar half a block up.

"C'mon, let's hoist a few."

I hesitated, not because I was tempted but because, after all this time in the program, that's still my reaction to friends and acquaintances who might also have a problem--and don't know how I've solved mine. One day at a time.

"I don't drink any more, Charlie. I'm in AA."

I saw the familiar start, the gleam of fright that crossed his face. We talked for a minute or two longer, then said goodbye. Charlie wanted to be rid of me, and how could I blame him, knowing so well what he was feeling? He didn't look back. Braving crowds and traffic with unswerving accuracy (he could have been crossing a minefield and it wouldn't have mattered), he disappeared under the neon sign of El Dorado, dreams, music, and that old black magic called oblivion. He left his life waiting in the street outside, like a dog tied to a lamppost.

I said a prayer for Charlie--for all of us, for Tom lately departed, for the living trapped in their denial and loneliness, in their embittered, cynical selves. I prayed that Charlie might get it. And suddenly the city blazed with a great beauty that throbbed and thrilled through me--that thing, that high I'd sought and never found in the bottom of a bottle. I felt the fierce, sweet joy of gratitude, standing there in the sunlit afternoon.

Maybe, I thought, maybe he'll come out before it's too late. God's will, chance, and change bear wondrous fruit. Just maybe what I said to him, the seed, will take hold and sprout. I recalled Tom's old tale of a miracle "cure" for what had ailed us both.

Now he was free of it. And dead. I still had it, but was alive and well. You never know.

J. W., Manhattan, New York

# SPONSORSHIP MEET & GREET

FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS AND SPONSEES

FIRST SATURDAY MORNING  
MONTH FROM 9-11

**Due to lack of participation, the Sponsorship Meet and Greet will be discontinued starting in May.**

AT THE BERGOUPOFFICE

5833 CLINTON HIGHWAY

SUITE 202, LOWER LEVEL, BACK DOOR

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## **NEW MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

- What:** 11<sup>th</sup> Step Meditation Meeting
- When:** Friday Night at 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
*Access to the building limited from 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM*
- Where:** Concord United Methodist Church - Room 293  
11020 Roane Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37934  
**Park near Playground to enter building.**  
*Access to the building limited from 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM*
- How:** This is an OPEN meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous that includes a 20-minute period of silent mediation. This meeting is designed to help us improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power as We understand it and is not an open discussion meeting.



***NOTE: This is not a meeting that promotes any form of meditation over another. We have no opinions on religious or spiritual practices and ask all present to be respectful and kind.***



## AVAILABILITY & MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Meetings:

1. A new meeting, **SEEDS OF HOPE**, an open Discussion meeting, meets Thursdays at 6:00-7:00pm, at the First Baptist Church at 261 East Broadway St, Newport, TN 37821.
2. A new **Friday Meditation Meeting** has started. We are going to apply as a formal AA group in the near future. **See the flyer on the previous page for details.**
3. New meeting in Greeneville. **The Final Destiny** meeting is on Tuesdays at 6 pm. It is an open discussion meeting and is handicap accessible. It meets at Calvary Chapel Church located at 401 W. Main St., Greeneville, 37743.

### Meeting Changes: (as reflected in the new meeting schedule)

1. A format change for the **Unity Group** on Fridays: The **Big Book Meeting**, Fridays at 7:30 pm. This is an open, Big Book discussion meeting and is handicap accessible. It meets at Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church, 610 E. Watauga Avenue, Johnson City, 37601.
2. A change of meeting location and time change: **Friends of Bill and Dorothy** is now meeting at 802 Buffalo St, Johnson City 37604. It continues to meet on Sundays but now it meets at 6:30 pm instead of 7:00.
3. A format change for **A Woman's Journey** in Greeneville is no longer a literature meeting. It is now an open, women only discussion meeting and is handicap accessible.
4. A location change for the **Green Pastures** in Elizabethton. It now meets at 429 East Elk Ave., Elizabethton, 37643.
5. The **Serenity Improvement Group** at the Renaissance Center in Kingsport has a change in format for 2 of their meetings. Their Monday 7:30 pm meeting is now an open 12 Step and 12 Tradition Study meeting. Their Monday 12 pm meeting is now an open Big Book Study. Both meetings are handicap accessible.
7. The **Seekers Group** in Jonesborough is NOT handicap accessible. That detail has been removed from the schedule information.
8. Beginning in June, the **Seymour Sharing Group** is moving the Friday-night meetings from 8:00pm to 7:00pm. The last Friday of each month remains the same: Eat at 7:00pm; speak at 8:00pm.
9. The **Serendipity Meeting** in Kingsport is no longer meeting.

**Available Meeting Space:** The Ketron Memorial United Methodist Church in Kingsport has available space for meetings.  
Call Josh at 865-776-1805.

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