

EAST TENNESSEE INTERGROUP UNITY NEWSLETTER



June 2019
Volume 43, Issue 6

Step Six:

*“Were entirely ready to have God
remove all these defects of character.”*

“This is the Step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well-loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.'s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults—*without any reservations whatever*—has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can—and will, under certain conditions—remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, page 63. Copyright © 1981
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Sixth Step Prayer

*Dear God, I am ready for Your help
In removing from me the defects of character
Which I now realize are an obstacle to my recovery.
Help me to continue being honest with myself and
Guide me toward spiritual and mental health.*

From Alcoholics Anonymous of Cleveland, OH

<https://www.aacle.org/twelve-step-prayers/>

20Step%20Prayers%20-%20Spiritual%20-%20Alcoholics%20Anonymous%
20Cleveland.htm



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.

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

Tradition Six (Long Form):

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A. such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

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

Tradition Six Checklist:

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with “Guidelines on Clubs” (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor’s advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

Concept VI:

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Concept VI Checklist:

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- Are we clear about the terms, “chief initiative” and “active responsibility”? Can we see a direct link to our home group?

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

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

Jill and Glenn Mooresburg
31 years 5-6-2019

Monday Night Men's Group
Levi K. 10 years

Primary Purpose Group, Oak Ridge TN

May 2019 Anniversaries
Brad B., 12 years
Dale M., 2 years
Kim C., 1 year

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

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.



**NEW ITEMS FOR SALE
AT THE
INTERGROUP
OFFICE!!!**

See p. 10 for details.

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](mailto: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](mailto:manager@etiaa.org), visit the website at [ETIAA.org](http://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.

**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?

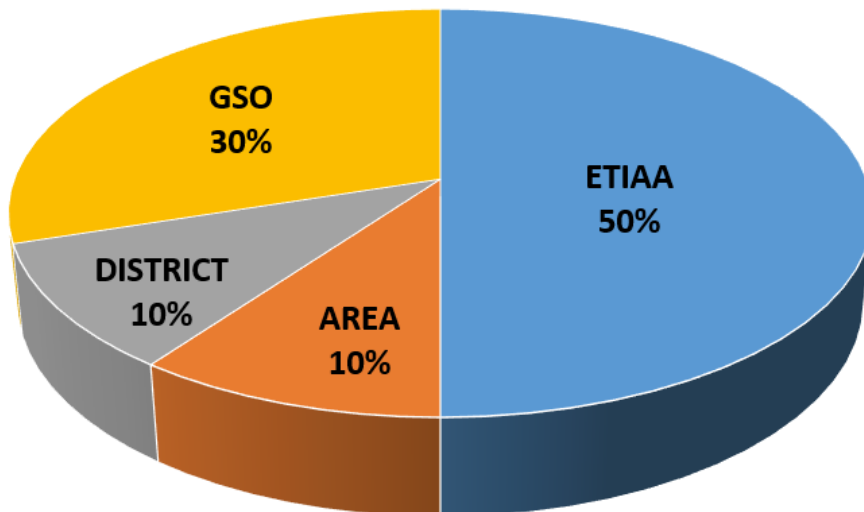
To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (for example, rent, 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

## MAY 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.*

|                              | Apr 19 | Jul 18 -<br>Apr 19 |                                 | Apr 19         | Jul 18 -<br>Apr 19 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1ST THINGS 1ST-P40           | 0.00   | 2,426.45           | LAFOLLETTE-THERE IS HOPE        | 20.00          | 200.00             |
| 4-WAY GROUP                  | 0.00   | 10.17              | LENGUAJE DEL CORAZON            | 0.00           | 100.00             |
| 4TH DIMENSION                | 185.00 | 1,001.00           | LOUDON                          | 0.00           | 225.00             |
| 50/51 CHRISTMAS PARTY        | 0.00   | 3.65               | LUNCH BUNCH- GREENEVILLE        | 57.60          | 399.56             |
| 50/51 PANCAKE BREAKFAST      | 0.00   | 1.40               | MARYVILLE 12 STEP               | 0.00           | 100.00             |
| 501 Group                    | 0.00   | 60.00              | MARYVILLE UNITY                 | 0.00           | 625.00             |
| AA ASSEMBLY                  | 0.00   | 17.36              | MEMORIAL RECOVERY               | 0.00           | 100.00             |
| ARR                          | 0.00   | 19.24              | METRO GROUP                     | 0.00           | 875.00             |
| ARR SPAGHETTI DINNER         | 0.00   | 2.91               | MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S              | 0.00           | 200.00             |
| BACK TO BASICS- OAK RIDGE    | 50.00  | 100.61             | MONROE COUNTY                   | 0.00           | 100.00             |
| BACK TO BASICS-SWEETWATER    | 0.00   | 120.00             | MORRISTOWN GROUP                | 30.00          | 85.61              |
| BIG BOOK RECOVERY            | 22.00  | 161.00             | NEW BEGINNING- LOUDON           | 0.00           | 250.00             |
| BIG BOOKS STUDY P40          | 0.00   | 468.35             | NEW PATH                        | 0.00           | 225.00             |
| BLOUNT COUNTY GROUP          | 0.00   | 400.00             | NORRIS CLINTON GROUP            | 100.00         | 360.00             |
| COLONIAL GROUP               | 50.00  | 175.00             | NORRIS GROUP                    | 0.00           | 20.00              |
| COLONIAL HEIGHTS             | 0.00   | 25.00              | NORTH GATLINBURG GR             | 192.75         | 1,101.85           |
| CONCORD GROUP                | 0.00   | 45.28              | NORTH STATION GR                | 0.00           | 237.21             |
| CONTRIBUTION JAR             | 12.40  | 138.24             | ONEIDA                          | 0.00           | 20.00              |
| COOKIE GROUP                 | 240.00 | 480.00             | OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE             | 0.00           | 259.00             |
| CORRECTIONS 50/51            | 0.00   | 2.36               | PHOENIX GROUP                   | 237.52         | 949.02             |
| CORRECTIONS DIST 3           | 0.00   | 5.67               | PRIMARY PURPOSE- OAK RIDGE      | 200.00         | 440.00             |
| COURAGE TO CHANGE            | 0.00   | 150.00             | PRIME TIME                      | 0.00           | 580.00             |
| COVER TO COVER               | 0.00   | 235.00             | PRINCIPALS BEFORE PERSONALITIES | 0.00           | 50.00              |
| DISTRICT 50/51               | 30.00  | 300.00             | RIVERSIDE GROUP                 | 2649.73        | 2,983.65           |
| DISTRICT 6                   | 0.00   | 0.44               | ROADMAP EVENT                   | 0.00           | 70.00              |
| DOWN BY THE RIVER            | 0.00   | 100.00             | ROANE COUNTY UNITY              | 0.00           | 104.37             |
| FIRST 164                    | 0.00   | 20.00              | ROCKFORD                        | 0.00           | 5.82               |
| FOUNTAIN CITY SERENITY       | 150.00 | 1,592.27           | RULE 62                         | 0.00           | 45.00              |
| FREE AT LAST                 | 0.00   | 40.00              | SEEDS OF HOPE                   | 74.00          | 174.00             |
| GREEN PASTURES               | 0.00   | 250.00             | SERENITY IMPROVEMENT            | 0.00           | 450.00             |
| GROUP WITH NO NAME           | 0.00   | 623.98             | SERENITY IN THE SMOKIES EVENT   | 0.00           | 11.08              |
| GSMRC EVENT                  | 0.00   | 7.27               | SERENITY SEEKERS                | 0.00           | 140.00             |
| HAPPY DESTINY                | 0.00   | 1,125.00           | SERENITY SISTERS                | 0.00           | 578.71             |
| HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE       | 0.00   | 50.00              | SEVEN ISLANDS                   | 0.00           | 40.00              |
| HIGH NOON ROGERSVILLE        | 0.00   | 45.00              | SEYMOUR SHARING                 | 313.60         | 1,104.76           |
| HOPE IN THE CHAPEL           | 0.00   | 30.00              | SIMPLY AA                       | 0.00           | 30.00              |
| Individual                   | 102.80 | 1,637.51           | SISTERS IN SOBRIETY             | 0.00           | 40.00              |
| KODAK - BIG BOOK STUDY       | 0.00   | 50.00              | SOBRIETY SOCIETY- SO-SO         | 0.00           | 359.00             |
| KODAK - STEPS AND TRADITIONS | 0.00   | 50.00              | SPIRITUAL PROGRESS              | 0.00           | 130.00             |
| KODAK GROUP                  | 0.00   | 250.00             | STEPS FORWARD                   | 0.00           | 110.00             |
|                              |        |                    | SUNDAYS AT 7                    | 0.00           | 213.37             |
|                              |        |                    | TELLICO VILLAGE                 | 60.00          | 180.00             |
|                              |        |                    | TENNESSEE GROUP                 | 0.00           | 597.42             |
|                              |        |                    | TRI-STATE GROUP                 | 0.00           | 257.80             |
|                              |        |                    | TRUDGING THE ROAD               | 56.20          | 106.34             |
|                              |        |                    | TURNIP PATCH                    | 0.00           | 112.88             |
|                              |        |                    | WELCOME HOME DINNER             | 0.00           | 0.00               |
|                              |        |                    | WEST KNOXVILLE GROUP            | 0.00           | 222.21             |
|                              |        |                    | WORKING WITH OTHERS             | 0.00           | 215.00             |
|                              |        |                    | <b>TOTALS</b>                   | <b>4833.60</b> | <b>28,003.82</b>   |

# INTERGROUP MAY MINUTES

Open with serenity prayer and monthly tradition

Attendees: Rebekah R, Fawn L, Joan S, Jacque H, Susi M, Annie B, Trent W, David C, Beth H, John W, Charlie M, Greg S, Carol T

Introduction and Sign-in sheet

Accept/modify previous minutes: Accepted. Campout dates need changing.

Manager's report – Rebekah R

✦ Mobile IG update

o April 25 Colonial Heights Dinner. Made about \$100.00. Might need to reconsider if we go next year.

o District 3 picnic on Saturday May 25 at Panther Creek State Park. Need more information on timing of event. Will try to attend.

o GSMRC May 30 - June 2. Rebekah has plenty of help for this event.

o General Service Post Conference Report June 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm. This will be here at the IG office.

o Barcode Scanner Update – Rebekah has purchased one. All books have been coded.

o Narcan and Square Training today at 3pm directly after meeting. The training will be recorded and available on the website for those unable to attend.

o GV prices – We need to reconsider the prices as the price we're paying has dropped based upon a new discount we are receiving. We only sold 6 GV books total in April and May.

o Language of the Heart \$13.50

o All others \$10.75

DVD's-Rebekah has stocked some new AA DVDs from GSO in the office. Will keep one copy of each in the office and see how they move. Also Beth H. has contacted Page124 productions about purchasing and selling "Bill W." documentary. They will sell the DVD to us in bulk of 20 for \$9.99 each or 50 for \$7.49 each.

Custom tT-shirts – Rebekah has contacted a woman about selling t-shirts of various colors, sizes, and AA designs. The t-shirts will cost \$13 each, and the woman will work with us on keeping sizes and designs in stock.

Also have some other new drunk junk in stock wallet cards and playing cards.

New books – We have some new books available for sale in the office – "Our Great Responsibility"; "Take Me to Sponsor" (joke book).

New drunk junk – Generic (non-year) medallions; playing cards and quote cards; new lapel pins; new bookmark.

Treasurer report – Fawn L – Higher than average for the month of

April, added \$3,149.30 to the balance sheet. Balance sheet looks good as compared to this time last year. We have filled orders for Park 40 and no longer doing mileage reimbursement, which is also helping financial outlook.

Hotline – Jacque H – Going good. Have regular workers but have also added some new ones. Remind office workers to call the hotline volunteers that the phones are being forwarded when the office is closing.

Office Service Workers- Annie B – Have a new worker, Greg, who has been trained, and he will be working Friday afternoons 1-5. Susi is going to start training as well. Doing our best to get the word out that we need help.

Archive – Annie B – Not much to report. Trying to get together with Ray T to gather information.

Website – Shelley M – Absent – Rebekah R says in April we had 2400 users for 3800 sessions. Rebekah purchased a copy of Windows 10 because Windows 7 will cease being viable. Had a computer donated. It has some technical issues we are trying to work out.

Accessibilities – *Open* – Some feedback on accessibilities form that we have sent out.

Spanish Speaking Liaison – *Open*

CPC/PI – *Open*

Treatment- Beth H – Nothing to report. Still trying to gather information.

Corrections – Lisa – Absent. May need to find a new person. Have an interested person.

Outreach – Nick T – Absent.

Events – *Open*

**Old Business** – No new lease, now month to month. Fawn L (treasurer) believes that we could probably afford rent in the amount of \$900 to \$1,000 a month when we find a new place. Rebekah will probably be working about 16 hours a week. Our balance looks good. Suggest that we could think about a fundraiser. Maybe we should suggest to groups that we need help and to put more money in the basket. Comment to try to keep office centrally located and accessible to bus line. Comment that the new Vapor shop is causing marijuana smell in the office. Motion to have an exploratory committee (which includes Rebekah and Fawn and anyone else willing to participate) look into new spaces and hopefully present new options at next IG meeting.

**New Business**

Motion to reduce GV prices as presented. Accepted.

Motion to buy 20 T-shirts of various sizes and sayings for \$13 each. Accepted. Motion to sell those shirts for \$15 each. Accepted.

Motion to buy 20 DVDS of "Bill W." documentary from Page124 productions for \$9.99 each and sell for \$15 each. Accepted.

Next Meeting: June 9th at 12:30pm.

## DISTRCT 50/51 MAY MINUTES

May 6, 2019: District 50/51 Meeting

Attending: Angela, Jacque, Sandra Paul, Krisa, Jerry, Nicole, Robin, Trey, Katie, Katie, Karen, Frankie, Sheldon

The meeting was opened by Jerry with a moment of silence followed by The Serenity Prayer.

Introductions were made around the room.

### **Jerry District 50**

Jerry shared that he has rented the pavilion for the Founder's Day picnic at Adair Park. The picnic will be on June 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be serving from 11:30am to 4:00pm. We will be providing the meat, buns and drinks. Angela will do the flyer.

Jerry can be reached at [jerrythebman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrythebman@yahoo.com) and/or 865-719-0308.

### **Robin District 51**

Robin shared that at assembly, she took the \$750 seed money and returned it to Area. They voted to let District 50/51 keep the \$791.62 that was leftover.

Robin and Caitlin are discussing presenting a workshop titled Safeguarding the Newcomer.

Robin can be reached [robingavilan@gmail.com](mailto:robingavilan@gmail.com) and/or 865-438-3571

### **Treasurer's Report – Nicole:**

Nicole just received the check from area for \$791.62. Our balance is now \$3,485.83. She has reimbursed Robin for assembly. She will reimburse Jerry when he brings his receipts.

### **CPC/PI – Trey:**

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter assembly, a recommendation came out of a committee to do away with the pamphlet Alcoholics Anonymous In Your Community. It is part of the Service Kit for PI & CPC. It is believed that the pamphlets Alcoholics Anonymous At a Glance and Information on Alcoholics Anonymous provide the same information. Please be talking to your groups about how they feel about getting rid of the pamphlet. A motion was made at this meeting to table the discussion of this and let us take it to our groups and report back next month.

An ADHOC committee was formed (at the area level) to rewrite *Speaking at Non AA Events*. Trey would like district's support with this.

### **Archives Report – Karen:**

Karen said there was nothing to report.

### **Treatment Report (per Robin):**

Bradford is out of the treatment rotation because they have changed their policy due to insurance reasons and we are no longer allowed to identify as alcoholics. They want it to be a "peer support". They are interested in someone coming in on Wednesday nights to start an actual AA meeting.

The current chair of this committee is withdrawing from his position. That means that there is service position open of Treatment Chair. The requirement is one year of sobriety.

The Treatment Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month at Park 40 at 7:00pm in the Blue Room.



## DISTRCT 50/51 MAY MINUTES

### **Corrections Report – Frankie:**

The Corrections Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at the Intergroup office at 6:00.

They are entertaining the thought of having a fundraiser – probably a pancake breakfast/speaker meeting. The proposed date is October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Frankie reported they are having issues of having their cash converted into Big Books and they are trying to streamline the process. Intergroup has approved people from the corrections committee to come in to get books on “credit”. Nicole proposed Intergroup sending a bill to her and her reimbursing them directly. Everyone agreed with this.

Frankie can be reached at: frankie.ramos@rocketmail.com

**Grapevine Report – Sandra:** Nothing new to report.

### **Events Report – Jerry:**

The Founder’s Day picnic is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Nicole stated that The Serenity Sisters will be doing a basket to raffle off and the proceeds will go to The Corrections Committee. We will see if other groups would like to contribute baskets to raffle off.

The Corrections Committee pancake breakfast/speaker meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Park 40 is hosting a picnic called The Family Afterward on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Bridging the Gap Report – Chair not present.**

### **Announcements:**

The Post Conference report will be at the Intergroup office on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Assembly is in Manchester at the Holiday Inn on August 16,17 and 18. The room rate is \$115 and you can call and make reservations at 931-728-9383 and the room code is AREA64.

If you have any questions about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Assembly, call 931-434-5224.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Metro Group has added a new meeting on Mondays at St. John’s Episcopal.

The Cookie Group is adding a meeting on Friday nights at 7:00pm. It will be a Big Book Study and the first one will be this Friday.

Park 40 is adding a Sunday Step Study at 5:30.

Jacque made a motion that District 50/51 write a check to Intergroup for \$30 for using the office. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Trey mentioned that the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Assembly will have to have all meals catered (due to new hotel policies) and wants District 50/51 to think about pitching in to cover the cost because it will be a huge expense.

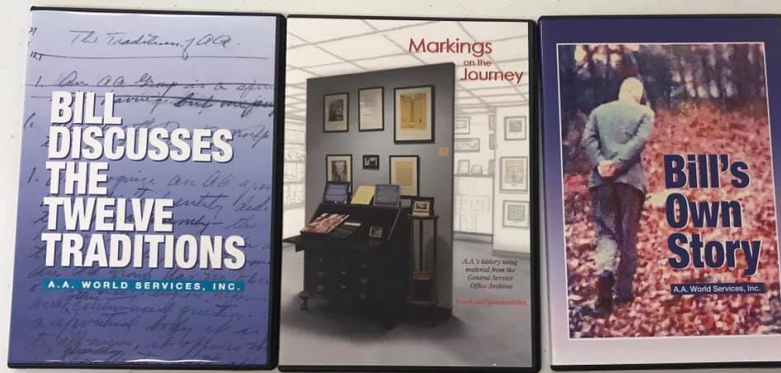
The next District Meeting will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

**NEW ITEMS AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE!!!**

**NEW GSO BOOK!  
OUR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**



**NEW GRAPEVINE BOOK! TAKE ME TO YOUR SPONSOR**

**GSO Documentaries and BILL W Movie**



**Also NEW!- Playing Cards, Lapel Pins, Coffee Mugs, Medallions and Magnets T-Shirts coming mid June!**



# 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.

## DISTRCT 4 APRIL MINUTES

### District 4 Meeting Minutes -April 2019\*\*

14 April 2019 @ 2:00pm

Happy Destiny II

325 Whitecrest Road, Maryville TN 37801

Attendees: Debbie H., Mike T; Ed H.; Toby W.; Jeff P.; Rodney H.; Leslie O; Pam S.; Charlie C.; Johnny H.

Debbie H. opened the meeting with *The Serenity Prayer*

Ed H. read the *4nd Tradition (long form)*.

**Secretary's Report:** Johnny H. passed copies of the February 2019 District meeting minutes. Minutes were reviewed. Charlie C. made a motion to accept the minutes, none opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Toby W reported there is \$1408.72 in the checking account plus \$748.69 in undeposited checks. Total balance = \$2167.41. Prudent reserve is fully funded at \$1,500.00 Mike T. made a motion to accept the Treasurers report, none opposed.

### **Group (GSR) Reports:**

Mike T. GSR Happy Destiny II reported group attendance is up. The noon meeting could use more support. A Happy Destiny II Facebook page with 'secret' designation is intended for group members only.

Lesley O. GSR North Gatlinburg group reported attendance is fluctuating recently. The new Wednesday 12&12 meeting is going well.

Ed H. GSR Riverside group reported attendance is steady. The group voted to be a facilitator for District 4 by hosting working groups being planned. The groups is starting a Friday Fun night that will start at 7pm as soon as an official start date is determined.

Johnny H. reported attendance at the Rockford Fellowship is steady

Jeff P. GSR for Kodak Hwy 66 at United Methodist Church reported there are 12 regulars attending the Monday through Thursday evening meetings. A speaker meeting was being considered but was voted down due to lack of space.

Rodney H. GSR Serenity and Beyond on Tipton Rd. in Knox county reported the Monday evening @ 7pm meeting has good attendance on a regular basis

### **DCM Report:**

Debbie H reported District 4 attendance at the Assembly in Murfreesboro had 156 voting members, 217 signed in including 7 from District 4 . The Third Quarter Assembly is scheduled in August at Manchester TN; Forth Quarter voting Assembly scheduled in Clarksville TN.

### **Old Business:**

District 4 will be Supporting the Manchester hosting of the Second Qtr. 2020 Assembly. It is suggested District 4 GSRs talk with respective groups about interest in having workshops that cover Service Structure in order to educate and increase interest and participation.

### **New Business:**

Mike T. made a motion to increase the amount reimbursed to DCM attendance at Assemblies from \$250.00 to \$300.00. Charlie C. made a motion to accept the increase, none opposed.

The first workshop on 'Service Structure Simplified' will be held at the Riverside Group August 10 from 1230 to 1630. A Q&A with at panel of four will be included in the agenda. An informal discussion will follow.

The 7<sup>th</sup> tradition basket was passed.

Debbie H. made a motion to close, none opposed.

Meeting closed with the *Lord's Prayer*. Next meeting will be Sunday 02 June at Happy Destiny II at 2pm .



# 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!**

## **BONUS READING: 12 STEPS IN 30 MINUTES by Bill W.**

From The Grapevine July 1953; Vol. 10 No. 2

AAs are always asking: "Where did the Twelve Steps come from?" In the last analysis, perhaps nobody knows. Yet some of the events which led to their formulation are as clear to me as though they took place yesterday.

So far as people were concerned, the main channels of inspiration for our Steps were three in number--the Oxford Groups, Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital and the famed psychologist, William James, called by some the father of modern psychology. The story of how these streams of influence were brought together and how they led to the writing of our Twelve Steps is exciting and in spots downright incredible.

Many of us will remember the Oxford Groups as a modern evangelical movement which flourished in the 1920's and early 30's, led by a one-time Lutheran minister, Dr. Frank Buchman. The Oxford Groups of that day threw heavy emphasis on personal work, one member with another. AA's Twelfth Step had its origin in that vital practice. The moral backbone of the "O.G." was absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. They also practiced a type of confession, which they called "sharing"; the making of amends for harms done they called "restitution." They believed deeply in their "quiet time," a meditation practiced by groups and individuals alike, in which the guidance of God was sought for every detail of living, great or small.

These basic ideas were not new; they could have been found elsewhere. But the saving thing for us first alcoholics who contacted the Oxford Groupers was that they laid great stress on these particular principles. And fortunate for us was the fact that the Groupers took special pains not to interfere with one's personal religious views. Their society, like ours later on, saw the need to be strictly non-denominational.

In the late summer of 1934, my well-loved alcoholic friend and schoolmate "Ebbie" had fallen in with these good folks and had promptly sobered up. Being an alcoholic, and rather on the obstinate side, he hadn't been able to "buy" all the Oxford Group ideas and attitudes. Nevertheless, he was moved by their deep sincerity and felt mighty grateful for the fact that their ministrations had, for the time being, lifted his obsession to drink.

When he arrived in New York in the late fall of 1934, Ebbie thought at once of me. On a bleak November day he rang up. Soon he was looking at me across our kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York. As I remember that conversation, he constantly used phrases like these: "I found I couldn't run my own life;" "I had to get honest with myself and somebody else;" "I had to make restitution for the damage I had done;" "I had to pray to God for guidance and strength, even though I wasn't sure there was any God;" "And after I'd tried hard to do these things I found that my craving for alcohol left." Then over and over Ebbie would say something like this: "Bill, it isn't a bit like being on the water-wagon. You don't fight the desire to drink--you get released from it. I never had such a feeling before."

Such was the sum of what Ebbie had extracted from his Oxford Group friends and had transmitted to me that day. While these simple ideas were not new, they certainly hit me like tons of brick. Today we understand just why that was. . . one alcoholic was talking to another as no one else can.

Two or three weeks later, December 11th to be exact, I staggered into the Charles B. Towns Hospital, that famous drying-out emporium on Central Park West, New York City. I'd been there before, so I knew and already loved the doctor in charge--Dr. Silkworth. It was he who was soon to contribute a very great idea without which AA could never have succeeded. For years he had been proclaiming alcoholism an illness, an obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body. By now I knew this meant me. I also understood what a fatal combination these twin ogres could be. Of course, I'd once hoped to be among the small percentage of victims who now and then escape their vengeance. But this outside hope was now gone. I was about to hit bottom. That verdict of science--the obsession that condemned me to drink and the allergy that condemned me to die--was about to do the trick. That's where medical science, personified by this benign little doctor, began to fit in. Held in the hands of one alcoholic talking to the next, this double-edged truth was a sledgehammer which could shatter the tough alcoholic's ego at depth and lay him wide open to the grace of God.

In my case it was of course Dr. Silkworth who swung the sledge while my friend Ebbie carried to me the spiritual principles and the grace which brought on my sudden spiritual awakening at the hospital three days later. I immediately knew that I was a free man. And with this astonishing experience came a feeling of wonderful certainty that great numbers of alcoholics might one day enjoy the priceless gift which had been bestowed upon me.

### **THIRD INFLUENCE**

At this point a third stream of influence entered my life through the pages of William James' book, "Varieties of Religious Experience." Somebody had brought it to my hospital room. Following my sudden experience, Dr. Silkworth had taken great pains to convince me that I was not hallucinated. But William James did even more. Not only, he said, could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual, their variety could be almost infinite. But the biggest

payoff of that noted book was this: in most of the cases described, those who had been transformed were hopeless people. In some controlling area of their lives they had met absolute defeat. Well, that was me all right. In complete defeat, with no hope or faith whatever, I had made an appeal to a higher Power. I had taken Step One of today's AA program--"admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable," I'd also taken Step Three--"made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to God as we understood him." Thus was I set free. It was just as simple, yet just is mysterious, as that.

These realizations were so exciting that I instantly joined up with the Oxford Groups. But to their consternation I insisted on devoting myself exclusively to drunks. This was disturbing to the O.G.'s on two counts. Firstly, they wanted to help save the whole world. Secondly, their luck with drunks had been poor. Just as I joined they had been working over a batch of alcoholics who had proved disappointing indeed. One of them, it was rumored, had flippantly cast his shoe through a valuable stained glass window of an Episcopal church across the alley from O.G. headquarters. Neither did they take kindly to my repeated declaration that it shouldn't take long to sober up all the drunks in the world. They rightly declared that my conceit was still immense.

### **SOMETHING MISSING**

After some six months of violent exertion with scores of alcoholics which I found at a nearby mission and Towns Hospital, it began to look like the Groupers were right. I hadn't sobered up anybody. In Brooklyn we always had a houseful of drinkers living with us, sometimes as many as five. My valiant wife, Lois, once arrived home from work to find three of them fairly tight. The remaining two were worse. They were whaling each other with two-by-fours. Though events like these slowed me down somewhat, the persistent conviction that a way to sobriety could be found never seemed to leave me. There was, though, one bright spot. My sponsor, Ebbie, still clung precariously to his new-found sobriety.

What was the reason for all these fiascoes? If Ebbie and I could achieve sobriety, why couldn't all the rest find it too? Some of those we'd worked on certainly wanted to get well. We speculated day and night why nothing much had happened to them. Maybe they couldn't stand the spiritual pace of the Oxford Group's four absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. In fact some of the alcoholics declared that this was the trouble. The aggressive pressure upon them to get good overnight would make them fly high as geese for a few weeks and then flop dismally. They complained, too, about another form of coercion--something the Oxford Groupers called "guidance for others." A "team" composed of non-alcoholic Groupers would sit down with an alcoholic and after a "quiet time" would come up with precise instructions as to how the alcoholic should run his own life. As grateful as we were to our O.G. friends, this was sometimes tough to take. It obviously had something to do with the wholesale skidding that went on.

But this wasn't the entire reason for failure. After months I saw the trouble was mainly in me. I had become very aggressive, very cocksure. I talked a lot about my sudden spiritual experience, as though it was something very special. I had been playing the double role of teacher and preacher. In my exhortations I'd forgotten all about the medical side of our malady, and that need for deflation at depth so emphasized by William James had been neglected. We weren't using that medical sledgehammer that Dr. Silkworth had so providentially given us.

Finally, one day, Dr. Silkworth took me back down to my right size. Said he, "Bill, why don't you quit talking so much about that bright light experience of yours, it sounds too crazy. Though I'm convinced that nothing but better morals will make alcoholics really well, I do think you have got the cart before the horse. The point is that alcoholics won't buy all this moral exhortation until they convince themselves that they must. If I were you I'd go after them on the medical basis first. While it has never done any good for me to tell them how fatal their malady is, it might be a very different story if you, a formerly hopeless alcoholic, gave them the bad news. Because of the identification you naturally have with alcoholics, you might be able to penetrate where I can't. Give them the medical business first, and give it to them hard. This might soften them up so they will accept the principles that will really get them well."

### **THEN CAME AKRON**

Shortly after this history-making conversation, I found myself in Akron, Ohio, on a business venture which promptly collapsed. Alone in the town, I was scared to death of getting drunk. I was no longer a teacher or a preacher, I was an alcoholic who knew that he needed another alcoholic, as much as that one could possibly need me. Driven by that urge, I was soon face to face with Dr. Bob. It was at once evident that Dr. Bob knew more of spiritual things than I did. He also had been in touch with the Oxford Groupers at Akron, But somehow he simply couldn't get sober. Following Dr. Silkworth's advice, I used the medical sledgehammer. I told him what alcoholism was and just how fatal it could be. Apparently this did something to Dr. Bob, On June 10, 1935, he sobered up, never to drink again. When, in 1939, Dr. Bob's story first appeared in the book, *Alcoholic Anonymous*, he put one paragraph of it in italics. Speaking of me, he said: "Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience".

### **THE MISSING LINK**

Dr. Silkworth had indeed supplied us the missing link without which the chain of principles now forged into our Twelve Steps could never have been complete. Then and there, the spark that was to become *Alcoholics Anonymous* had been struck.

During the next three years after Dr. Bob's recovery our growing groups at Akron, New York and Cleveland evolved the so-called word-of-mouth program of our pioneering time. As we commenced to form a society separate from the Oxford Group, we began to state our principles something like this:

- 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol*
- 2. We got honest with ourselves*
- 3. We got honest with another person, in confidence*
- 4. We made amends for harms done others*
- 5. We worked with other alcoholics without demand for prestige or money*
- 6. We prayed to God to help us to do these things as best we could*

Though these principles were advocated according to the whim or liking of each of us, and though in Akron and Cleveland they still stuck by the O.G. absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, this was the gist of our message to incoming alcoholics up to 1939, when our present Twelve Steps were put to paper.

I well remember the evening on which the Twelve Steps were written. I was lying in bed quite dejected and suffering from one of my imaginary ulcer attacks. Four chapters of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, had been roughed out and read in meetings at Akron and New York. We quickly found that everybody wanted to be an author. The hassles as to what should go into our new book were terrific. For example, some wanted a purely psychological book which would draw in alcoholics without scaring them. We could tell them about the "God business" afterwards. A few, led by our wonderful southern friend, Fitz M., wanted a fairly religious book infused with some of the dogma we had picked up from the churches and missions which had tried to help us. The louder these arguments, the more I felt in the middle. It appeared that I wasn't going to be the author at all. I was only going to be an umpire who would decide the contents of the book. This didn't mean, though, that there wasn't terrific enthusiasm for the undertaking. Every one of us was wildly excited at the possibility of getting our message before all those countless alcoholics who still didn't know.

Having arrived at Chapter Five, it seemed high time to state what our program really was I remember running over in my mind the word-of-mouth phrases then in current use. Jotting these down, they added up to the six named above. Then came the idea that our program ought to be more accurately and clearly stated. Distant readers would have to have a precise set of principles. Knowing the alcoholic's ability to rationalize, something airtight would have to be written. We couldn't let the reader wiggle our anywhere. Besides, a more complete statement would help in the chapters to come where we would need to show exactly how the recovery program ought to be worked.

### **12 STEPS IN 30 MINUTES**

At length I began to write on a cheap yellow tablet. I split the word-of-mouth program up into smaller pieces, meanwhile enlarging its scope considerably. Uninspired as I felt, I was surprised that in a short time, perhaps half an hour, I had set down certain principles which, on being counted, turned out to be twelve in number. And for some unaccountable reason, I had moved the idea of God into the Second Step, right up front. Besides, I had named God very liberally throughout the other steps. In one of the steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees. When this document was shown to our New York meeting the protests were many and loud. Our agnostic friends didn't go at all for the idea of kneeling. Others said we were talking altogether too much about God. And anyhow, why should there be twelve steps when we had done fine on six? Let's keep it simple, they said.

This sort of heated discussion went on for days and nights. But out of it all there came a ten-strike for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our agnostic contingent, spearheaded by Hank P. and Jim B., finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as "a Higher Power" or "God as we understand Him!" Those expressions, as we so well know today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic. They have enabled thousands of us to make a beginning where none could have been made had we left the steps just as I originally wrote them. Happily for us there were no other changes in the original draft and the number of steps still stood at twelve. Little did we then guess that our Twelve Steps would soon be widely approved by clergymen of all denominations and even by our latter-day friends, the psychiatrists.

This little fragment of history ought to convince the most skeptical that nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous.

It just grew. . .by the grace of God.

*Bill W.*



# **The Flatiron**

## **Issue #1**

**My name is Trent W., and my official sobriety date is July 4<sup>th</sup> 1994. I've been charged with the duty of managing "the Flatiron." which is a recovery clubhouse in South Knoxville at 5925 Chapman Hwy, Knoxville, TN, 37920.**

**The intent of this article is for me to give the recovery community a monthly update as to the goings on at "the Flatiron." I intend to make this section an interesting story about "the Flatiron" from its beginning in 1953 to today.**

**My goal as club manager is to bring "the Flatiron" back to its former glory of being not only the oldest recovery clubhouse in Knoxville, but one of the strongest clubhouses in the area. After taking my position as manager at "the Flatiron" I discovered a lot of problems. Most were simply cosmetic, but deeper issues exist, such as the dramatic decline in membership. I'm feverishly working to correct the cosmetic issues, and with the help of the board and discussions with past and present members the deeper issues will all be corrected.**

**I've received a lot of the feedback that has been very constructive, and no suggestion falls on deaf ears with me. There is a "Suggestion Box" on the counter at the Concession Stand, and any suggestions will be taken very seriously by me. With everyone's help, "the Flatiron" will once again become the thriving club that it once was.**

**I'm working to find any information that I can about "the Flatiron's" past, and keep everyone abreast of all the exciting changes that are happening there today. Any historical data that can be provided to me by you would be greatly appreciated. I am also creating a small Flatiron Museum in the breezeway leading into the Main Meeting Room at "the Flatiron." Any old books, typed or handwritten stories, photographs, etc. relating to "the Flatiron," it's groups, or early East Tennessee Recovery for display would be greatly appreciated in this monumental labor of love for me. Contact me at the club at (865) 579-5854**

**Thanks, Trent**

# **FALL CAMPOUT**

## **67<sup>th</sup> Great Smoky Mountain Recovery Campout**

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

Open A.A. Meetings 11am and 8pm Daily  
Al-anon Meetings Saturday and Sunday @ 9:30am

Saturday Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Dinner @ 5pm

Speakers @ 6:45pm

Marian and David G. from Knoxville, TN

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

Or call Toby W. (865) 654 - 3884

For campground reservations contact:

Greenbrier Campground

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

5406 Pittman Center Road

Pittman Center 37836

(865) 430 - 7415

**Please no pets at the meetings**

**FYI Save the date for Campouts: May 28-31st 2020, Sept 18-20th 2020**

# *SPIRITUALITY IN RECOVERY*

## *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat August 23rd-25th*

Mountain Lake  
Ranch  
2865  
Mountain  
Ranch Dr.  
Dandridge, TN  
37725

Fun, Fellowship,  
Swimming,  
Walks, Fireside  
and  
Yoga Meditation



### Mission:

A  
community  
of  
recovering  
women  
united for  
one  
weekend to  
share our  
experience,  
strength  
and hope

### Bring:

Big Book  
12X12  
Towels  
Toiletries  
Sheets  
(Full  
Queen)  
Yoga  
Mat  
Blanket

Contacts: Terry Johnson 865-805-8107 Terryajohnson2012@gmail.com  
Leslie O'Neil 865-386-5423 Anotherme1@aol.com

Registration

\*\*\*\*NO REFUNDS\*\*\*\*

\$125.00 for weekend (includes meals)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Wertheim Scholarship Fund Donation: (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OCTOBER 25-26, 2019

# A DESIGN FOR LIVING

Including: Step 4 The Easy Way



## REGISTRATION

\$20.00

Eventbrite.com  
or at the door

## LOCATION

Prospect Center  
1425 E. Center St  
Kingsport, TN

## SCHEDULE

Friday, October 25th  
6pm-9pm

Saturday, October 26th  
9am-12pm

Break

1:30pm-5:30pm

Break

7pm-8pm

## CONTACT

Ben R.

423-333-7746

## SPEAKERS

**Scott L.**

Nashville, TN

**John E.**

Frederick, MD



## SPECIAL SATURDAY NIGHT SPEAKER

7:00pm

**Marian G.**

Knoxville, TN

Space limited and will sell out.

Book TODAY

Invitation from the Outreach Co-Chair for the 61st International Conference of Young People in AA. I'm writing to invite you and those in your area to our conference August 22nd - 25th in Boston Massachusetts. "Young People" is not meant to be an exclusionary term and we define it as someone young at heart with room to grow and change. I've attached some flyers and I'm hoping you can help us carry the message of AA's recovery to alcoholics of all ages. Please let me know if you have any questions,

Samantha K.; 61st ICYPAA Outreach Co-Chair

**VISIT ICYPAA.ORG**  
**FOR HOTEL INFO AND TO PRE REG!**

**\$35**  
**PRE REGISTER HERE**

**THE 61<sup>ST</sup> ICYPAA**  
**ENTIRE PSYCHIC CHANGE**  
**BOSTON**  
**AUGUST 22 - 25, 2019**

**BOSTON MARRIOTT COPLEY PLACE**  
**BOOK YOUR HOTEL HERE**

**WITH AL ANON ALATEEN PARTICIPATION**

## AVAILABILITY & MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW MEETINGS:

**Metro Group** (Downtown Knoxville) meets on Mondays from noon to 1:30pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 401 Cumberland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37902. Closed, Discussion group. Look for the Bill W. plaque off Walnut Street, room on the right.

**Morristown Group** (Morristown) meets on Saturdays from 9am to 10am at 314 S. Fairmont, Morristown, TN 37813. Women's Step Meeting. Back side of the Smoke Shop.

### MEETING CHANGES:

**Cookie Group** (North Knoxville) meets Fridays from 7pm to 8pm at Powell United Methodist Church, 323 W. Emory Rd., Powell, TN 37849. Now a Closed, Big Book Study group. Left building, 2nd floor.



The Flat Iron 4 cordially invites you to the beginning of a new **MONTHLY** trend

**THE  
SECOND SUNDAY SUPER SPADES  
EVENT**

Cost is \$5/person  
\$10/team  
Winning team takes half  
entry fees  
concessions will be open & available  
Come for the background music, dance  
game, or conversation  
Possible 50/50 raffle

5:00 P.M. Cards are dealt  
Ends when one team is left standing

**SECOND SUNDAY SUPER SPADES  
EVENT**

@

The Flat Iron 4  
5925 Chapman Highway  
579-5854

Times, dates, raffle, cost, music, games, and concessions subject to change



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**JUNE 2019**

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