



Unity Newsletter



“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

After twenty-eight years of mind-obliterating alcoholism, I finally attended my first AA meeting. Within a few weeks, I became capable of memorizing the Third Step Prayer that I had positioned on my refrigerator door. I would repeat it quite often throughout the day. My idea was that in so doing, I was turning my will, and my life, over to God . . . then, He would remove my problem—and that would be that!

This erroneous notion was justified by an overwhelming new happiness—please spell that (A. A. h-o-n-e-y-m-o-o-n). After all, my phone was ringing off the hook and I had new AA friends galore! Of course, I was surviving on the fellowship by keeping my telephone real hot and attending meetings every chance I had (I believe that was necessary because, otherwise, I would have headed right back to the bar room).

I thought this groovy-groovy (that was an expression back then) feeling was going to provide permanent protection from king alcohol, so I had sort of short-shrimped the rest of the steps and waited for that persistent nagging mental obsession to disappear. Well, it didn't! I was six-months sober and just after a parade on Hollywood Blvd, I marched into a bar and almost ordered a drink! I didn't, but I was so terrified that I found a new sponsor to take me through the rest of the steps, el pronto.

The Big Book speaks of the Great Reality (God) deep within (p. 55). I believe this means I need to delve deep into my subconscious self by working the rest of the Twelve Steps with a sponsor. I believe that Step Three was only a beginning. This was only carried out by learning to do steps Four through Nine with my heart (not just my head), then continuing to put these directions into action by living in the spirit of Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve. By the bye, the last three steps include the essential elements of the first nine.

At some point during the first year or so of my new-found sobriety, I experienced a release from all obsession to drink; inexplicably it no longer exists in my emotional vocabulary! However, I am convinced that if I lose contact with the “Great Reality deep within,” I will be back where I started—or worse!

By Bob S., Richmond, IN; From Alcoholics Anonymous-Cleveland OH
<https://www.aacle.org/step-three-beginning/>



DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1 meets ODD MONTHS ONLY at 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 during even-numbered months at the 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.

Intergroup Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

Step Three: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over the care of God as we understood him “

PRACTICING Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is a key, and the decision to swing the door open. There is only one key, and it is called willingness.

Tradition Three (long form): Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Tradition Three Checklist:

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Concept III: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. —the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Concept III Checklist:

- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?
- Do we trust our trusted servants—G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

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.

Submissions

Is your group celebrating Birthdays/Anniversaries? Are you? Do you have AA-related questions or myths that Intergroup of East Tennessee Alcoholics Anonymous (ETIAA) 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,
manager@etiaa.org

Around East Tennessee

Meetings: New, Changed, Discontinued:

For approximately two weeks starting Monday 3/2/20 the **Pigeon River Club** meetings will be at Middle Creek UMC in the Fellowship Hall behind the Chapel at 1828 Middle Creek Road, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863.

The **Cover to Cover Meeting** has changed their Tuesday meeting time to 7pm.

Final Destiny Group in Greeneville has moved locations. This open discussion meeting (handicap-accessible) now meets at Eastview Recreation Center, 456 E. Bernard Ave. It meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM.

Green Pastures in Elizabethton has moved locations. This open discussion meeting (handicap accessible) now meets at 546 East Elk Avenue.

The **Greeneville women's meeting, A Women's Journey** no longer meets.

Service Opportunity

The **Golden Age Retirement Village** in East Knoxville by Skyline Park would like to have a meeting brought in and/or offer their space for a meeting. Contact Kimberly at 585-4044 if you or your group is interested.

AA Birthdays:

Monday Night Men's Group (Erin Presbyterian Church)

Scott B.	18 years
Dennis D.	27 years

Individuals (no home group given):

Dennis 3-13-90	30 years
Preston M 3-4-72	48 years

Primary Purpose Group, Oak Ridge, TN

February 2020 Anniversaries

Celebrating 110 years of sobriety this month!

Tom S.	43 years
Lynette B.	35 years
Bruce H.	18 years
Thomas W.	9 years
Doug M.	4 years
Jennifer R.	1 year

Park West 40, January 13

Karen S.	37 years
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Please use the following format: **first full name; last name initial; birthday month; number of years sober.**

Intergroup Financial / Contributions Report

January 2020	Jan 20	Jul 19 - Dec 20	January 2020	Jan 20	Jul 19 -
4-WAY GROUP	0.00	50.00		0.00	30.00
4TH DIMENSION	0.00	627.00	NORRIS CLINTON GROUP	100.00	200.00
BACK TO BASICS- OAK RIDGE	50.00	150.00	NORTH GATLINBURG GR	0.00	582.87
BIG BOOK RECOVERY	0.00	100.00	ONEIDA	0.00	50.00
BIG BOOK STUDY P40	0.00	374.36	OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE	0.00	114.00
BLOUNT COUNTY GROUP	0.00	150.00	PHOENIX GROUP	0.00	1,016.86
COLONIAL GROUP	0.00	100.00	PRIMARY PURPOSE- OAK RIDGE	0.00	400.00
CONCORD GROUP	0.00	81.46	PRIME TIME	360.00	685.00
CONTRIBUTION JAR	7.35	40.32	RIVERSIDE GROUP	0.00	773.35
COOKIE GROUP	0.00	120.00	ROANE COUNTY UNITY	0.00	150.00
COVER TO COVER	130.00	130.00	Sandy P	0.00	2.33
DAILY REPRIEVE	0.00	2.82	SEEDS OF HOPE	0.00	50.00
DANDRIDGE UNITY 638213	0.00	64.00	SERENITY IMPROVEMENT	0.00	200.00
DISTRICT 50/51	30.00	210.00	SERENITY IN THE SMOKIES EVENT	0.00	7.24
DOWN ON THE RIVER	200.00	200.00	SERENITY SEEKERS	0.00	70.00
FOUNTAIN CITY SERENITY	0.00	742.50	SEVEN ISLANDS	0.00	40.00
FREE AT LAST	0.00	60.00	SEYMOUR SHARING	0.00	564.12
GOOD VIBES	0.00	0.00	SOBER PRIDE	0.00	451.64
GROUP PRIMARY PURPOSE	0.00	75.00	SOBRIETY SOCIETY- SO-SO	0.00	300.00
GROUP WITH NO NAME	275.00	675.00	STEPS FORWARD	55.00	110.00
GSMRC EVENT	0.00	2.56	SUNDAYS AT 7	225.00	225.00
Individual	456.06	838.83	TELLICO VILLAGE	0.00	120.00
JEFFERSON CITY UNITY	138.05	216.34	TENNESSEE GROUP	0.00	642.20
KEEP LEANING FORWARD	0.00	52.00	TRI-STATE GROUP	0.00	300.00
KODAK HWY 66	0.00	100.00	TRI-STATE GROUP-HARROGATE	300.00	300.00
LAFOLLETTE-THERE IS HOPE	20.00	120.00	TURNIP PATCH	0.00	109.00
LUNCH BUNCH- GREENEVILLE	82.05	291.05	WEST KNOXVILLE GROUP	0.00	86.72
MEMORIAL RECOVERY	0.00	150.00	WORKING WITH OTHERS	0.00	100.00
MORRISTOWN GROUP	200.00	230.00			
NEW BEGINNING- LOUDON	0.00	100.00			
			TOTALS	3,026.67	14,566.87

East Tennessee Intergroup of AA fiscal year is July 1 -June 30

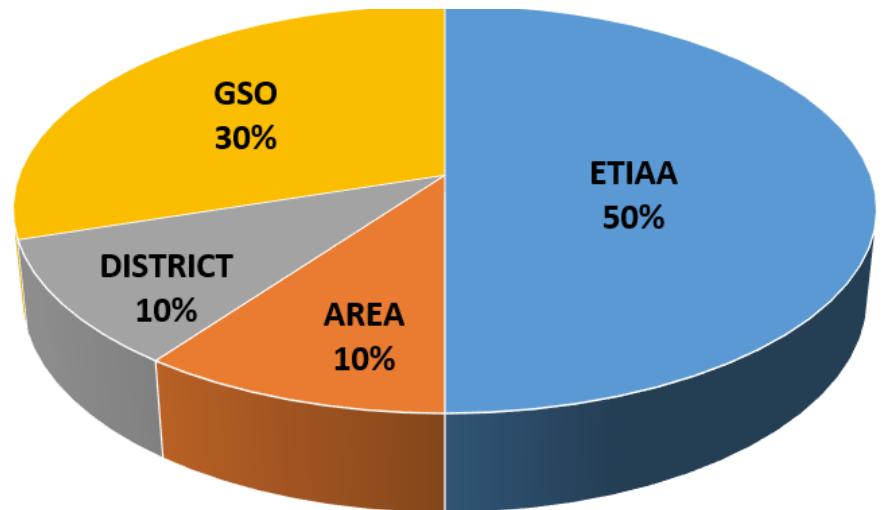
How can groups participate?

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]

7TH TRADITION SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS



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

CONTRIBUTION ADDRESSES

ETIAA East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous
9217 Park West Blvd #B3
Knoxville, TN 37923
865-522-9667
www.etiaa.org
General Service Office
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163

www.aa.org
The GSO prefers online contributions
Area 64 Assembly
2500 Murfreesboro Pike
Suite 105 Box 235
Nashville, TN 37217
www.area64assembly.org
District 1 Treasurer
Richard Ellis
1302 Chestnut Street
Kingsport, TN 376604

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
Alcoa, TN 37701
District 6 Treasurer
Richard B.
105 Mariner Point
Clinton, TN 37716

NEW ADDRESS
AA District 50/51 Treasurer
9217 Park West Blvd
Suite B-3 (ETIAA)
Knoxville, TN 37923

Please be sure to include your Group Name and Number.

February Intergroup Minutes

Service Committees

Intergroup Committee meets at 12:30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm 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.

District 50/51 CPC/PI Committee meets regularly at Intergroup the last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm.

District 50/51 Corrections Committee meets the 1st Friday of the month at 6:30pm.

To add your district's service committees email us at manager@etiaa.org

Present: Rebekah R., David C., Shelley M., Carole W., Katie R., Beth C., David R., Robin Y., Bernice P., David R., Fawn L., Jacque H., Linda N., Susi M., Dave S., Calvin W., Patrick W., Marian G., Ken L., Heather B., Rhonda M., Lynette B., Brad T., Scott B., Barbara S., Trent W., Joshua S.,

Opened with serenity prayer and monthly tradition
Introduction and Sign-in sheet
Accepted previous minutes.
Manager's report – Rebekah R
Gearing up for Round-up
Mobile IG update
Feb 22 Spaghetti Dinner (Johnson City) – need to be there by 4:30 p.m.

Will have mobile intergroup training prior to Spaghetti Dinner. Possible more trainings here at Intergroup office.

ARR – have two vendors giving us consignments
Open House April 25th from 9 to 6 – Flyers being distributed, would like Intergroup Chairs to be present for Open House to answer questions about service work

Website update – in the process of migrating from old server to new server, mostly done, Sterling is helping

GSO Pricing – need to discuss pricing, GSO took off some discounts related to pamphlets, going forward and if we want to be competitive need to talk about whether we want to match GSO prices, now we raise prices 10%, may want to reduce

Also may need to review our prices on “drunk junk” – may want to increase

We currently operate on Quickbooks desktop and possibly may want to upgrade Quickbooks online
Bookcases- our bookcases are old and in disrepair, getting quotes on new bookcases that would be attached to the wall, also possible upgrade to pamphlet shelf

Treasurer report – Fawn L present – January contributions were at an all-time high. Prudent reserve funded. New location appears to be having a big impact on finances, as well as exposure.

Hotline – Jacque H present – 12-step call list updated, Still have Jimmy Z. doing both Monday and Tuesday nights, if anyone wants to volunteer to help Jimmy Z, service requirements are 1 year, have a sponsor, and worked 12 steps, also there is a packet of information available for new volunteers, hotline runs from 9 at night to 5 the next morning.

Office Service Workers- Annie B (not present-), she has a new volunteer that she is training.
Archive – Annie B, she needs some help.

Website – Shelley M - 2,940 website visitors this month, visitors stayed about 2 minutes, most searching for meetings, the majority of the searches were from cell phones, 61% were under the age of 35, viewers about 54% male and 46% female.

Accessibilities – Carole W – many items to check at

each location, began calling the churches for the information to help, suggested possibly list meetings as entrance-accessible rather than handicapped-accessible due to all items that go into the discussion, and put location's phone numbers if location is willing so individual can obtain more details, locations are concerned with what we put because liability is a concern for them.

Spanish Speaking Liaison – Open
CPC/PI – Robin G. (not present)

Treatment- Beth C. – Visited 50/51 this month with Marian, also Visited Treatment Committee meeting for 50/51, please have groups send reps, it meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of every month at Park 40 in the blue room, 50/51 has new meetings being started and volunteers needed

Corrections – Marian G. – Visited 50/51 with Beth, has literature, waiting on information from Districts to divide pamphlets, took District 6 off the schedule since currently dark

District 6 update still does not have a DCM, trying to fill those positions

Outreach – Ken L. has volunteered

Events – Suzan – planning open house, she would like a budget, recommend going for cold subs, wants food available for lunch crowd, and snacks, drinks, cups, napkins, plates, and utensils

Mobile Intergroup Coordinator- Patrick W. has volunteered.

Old Business

Rhonda – new map on its way for the Intergroup office wall

Committee Chairpersons write descriptions of your positions – please do so before March meeting.
Easel has arrived

New Business

Discussion on changing prices for literature based on GSO prices, how will it effect income, lots of different factors go into the discussion, possibly get an ad hoc committee.

Motion for ad hoc committee for price and cost analysis, seconded, approved.

Rhonda M., Heather B., Lynette B. volunteered for committee – will get data from Rebekah on pricing. Katie and Rhonda have volunteered to help Rebekah with possible Quickbooks changed.

Discussion on budget for food for open house – tabled for more information at next meeting.
Will close Intergroup survey in April, would like to have iPad for survey at AAR, Barbara S. volunteered her tablet.

Look into setting up Venmo account for Intergroup, discussion about personal notes for Intergroup contributions but need volunteer

Need volunteers for preparing Meetings in a Pocket and laminating bookmarks for ARR

Need contributions of old tablets

Next Meeting-Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm

February District 50/51 Minutes

Attending: Erica, Sandy, Rick, John, Marian, David, David, Katie, Jacque, Sandra, Jeff, Trey, Beth, Patrick, Calvin, Frankie, Jennifer
The meeting was opened by Angela with a moment of silence followed by The Serenity Prayer. Introductions were made around the room.
A motion was made to accept the minutes from last month as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Jacque District 50

Jacque reviews 1st Quarter Assembly in Chattanooga. All standing committees elected new chairs.

New announcements. TYCPA will be in Chattanooga \$129/night. First pre-conference report will be held at 2020 TCYPPA. Pre-conference report will be held in Knoxville on March 22nd at the Intergroup office. 2nd Quarter Assembly will held in Memphis (this is a mock conference) 4/3-4/5. Cutoff is 3/15.

SERCYPPA Regional is 4/23-4/26

New literature committee for Area 64

Ad Hoc committee looking into alternate hosting for assemblies.

International Conference in Detroit – all from area 64 please contact Joy C. at 901-907-4217

Jeff, Sandy, Erica, David C, Sheldon – THANK YOU for attending 1st Quarter Assembly.

2021 Knoxville would like to host 1st quarter assembly. We will discuss in new business.

Jacque & Trey are on new literature committee for area 64.

David C is on Assemblies and Conventions committee for area 64.

Jacque can be reached at sweetiepie5267@gmail.com and/or 865-296-4501

Angela District 51

Angela attended 1st quarter assembly.

Angela is now literature for corrections committee.

Angela can be reached agl8137@tds.net and/or 865-924-3055

Treasurer's Report – Trey reporting for Sheldon

Our current balance in checking as of February 3, 2020 \$2,795.79. No contributions from January. Marian noted there was a deposit from Tennessee Group on January 12, 2020.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as given. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CPC/PI – Trey

Billboards will be up soon.

Trey is CPC chair for Area 64.

The next PCP/PI meeting will be on Wednesday February 26th at 5:30 at the Intergroup office.

Treatment Report – John S.

The treatment coordinates meetings for treatment centers. Great Starts, Cornerstone, Centerpointe are the three facilities where we currently have a presence. Treatment is looking for chairs for meetings Knoxville Center for the Deaf is unable to provide interpreters for meetings.

They are still currently taking meetings into Centerpointe, Great Starts and Cornerstone.

New meeting will be taken in Irongate Recovery (need women)...date is flexible.

Susannah's House will be having a meeting on Thursdays at 11:00a.m (women)

The next treatment committee will be on Thursday February 13th at 7:00pm in the Blue Room at Park 40.

Corrections Report – Frankie (filling in for Bree):

Bree W is new corrections chair. She was unable to attend today.

Morgan County literature is "status quo".

Always looking for new volunteers! Must be approved by Knox County Detention Facility. Process takes approximately 3 months. Please send to Jeffrey Hunter at Jeffrey.Hunter@knoxsheriff.org or call him at 865-281-6900.

The next Corrections meeting is February 7, 2020 6:30 at Intergroup.

Frankie can be reached at: frankie.amos@rocketmail.com or 813-486-3085

Grapevine Report – Sandra:

No new report. Jacque still delivering to jail. Sandra can be reached at: sgbrown0418@comcast.net

Events Report – Open (Erica J. voted in on 1/6/20)

Jerry reports on Christmas party: There was a total of \$814 made. We forgot to pass the 7th tradition basket.

Angela nominated Erica J. for Events Chair. Erica is unanimously voted as chair.

Bridging the Gap Report – David T.

Phone calls are picking up, but most referrals have been for DAA and NA. Has been in contact with Cornerstone, Centerpointe and Bradford. David can be reached at: BTG5150@gmail.com or 865-272-9526

Events – Erica & Sandy

Trying to get people together to meet tonight after district meeting. Please meet in blue room at Park 40. Brainstorming activities to support 2021 1st Quarter Assembly.

Archives Report – Open

The position of Archives chair is open. Please see Angela or Jacque if you are interested. Job entails retrieving group history forms. Talk to our archivist in Murfreesboro and compare to current meeting list. If there is a group that has old photos or tapes you may be responsible to sending to Murfreesboro for preservation.

Group News: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Tentative bid was given at 1st Quarter assembly for Knoxville in 2021 – it was accepted. DCM's were given funds to attend assembly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Survey – link on ETIAA for 10 questions. Need a strategic plan for Intergroup. Possible need for a satellite office in Tri-Cities or Morristown. GSR's please take back to your home groups.

Robin: There are no bids for 3rd and 4th Quarter Assemblies. A hotel in Knoxville is willing to support the assemblies. Holiday Inn will refund \$5 on each room that can go into a revolving account that could reduce overall cost. Contacted District 2,3 and 4 if they would be willing to help and advised that we would need support with hospitality. Estimate of 5 months is needed to plan an assembly. Estimate is \$575 per Assembly. Please consult your groups and report back to district. Jeff made a motion to pay Intergroup \$30 for the use of the office for the District meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

(Trey advised that Assembly Committee meeting needs to pay rent for the use of Intergroup at 5:30)

Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer.

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 2, 2020 AT 6:30PM AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE.

Service Work Opportunities for Intergroup

Looking for involvement in Service Work? Following is a list of Intergroup projects that need assistance:

- Outreach to meetings; does not have to cover all of East Tennessee
- Written Description of all chair responsibilities for each IG chair
- List of all service opportunities
- Meeting list/app coordinator to update meeting info
- Someone to help with YouTube videos
- Re-label and reorganize pamphlets

We have need for a Mobile Intergroup Coordinator. This service position coordinates schedules for all Mobile events, makes sure all service workers have been trained for the Mobile Intergroup and schedules the packing and storing of inventory. The majority of this service work can be performed from home. This is an ongoing position but is urgent now due to the upcoming Appalachian Regional Roundup at the end of March.

Are you interested in doing service work during the Roundup? The East Tennessee Intergroup of AA is currently looking for workers to man the Mobile Intergroup table during the event. Our first training in the Tri-Cities will be at 4:30pm before the Spaghetti Dinner Scheduled for April 22, 2020. If you are interested, contact the office.

Intergroup needs the following items:

- Do you have an old tablet collecting dust in your garage and looking for a new home?
- Do you have an extra square credit card reader?
- We are currently in need of tablets with USB compatibility to be used at remote events.

If you have one, please drop it by the office. We may also be able to meet you in a VERY well-lit public place to pick it up.



On the lighter side....



me: I'm not going to a meeting in this weather

me in active addiction:



CHUCK "C"



A free copy of *A New Pair of Glasses* is available in PDF at:

<http://www.mediafire.com/file/1tff3emp575canc/>

**A NEW PAIR
OF
GLASSES**

by CHUCK "C"



Again at the Crossroads — Grapevine November 1961

The substance of Bill's remarks at the closing session of AA's 1961 General Service Conference

WE AAs are everywhere developing a keener sense of our history and the meaning of its turning points. Moreover, I believe that we are getting a right sense of our history; something of the utmost importance indeed. The world's past reveals that many societies and nations have fallen victims to fear and pride, or to their aggressive designs. Thus they lost their sense of meaning, purpose and right destiny, and so they disintegrated and vanished. Neither power nor glory nor wealth could in the least guarantee their long-time survival.

There is little on the record of AA's first quarter-century to suggest such a fate for us. In our personal lives, and therefore in our Fellowship itself, we have steadily striven to lay aside all those vainglorious clamors for prestige, power and possessions which had ruined so many of us in the drinking days. With those fearful experiences vividly before us, it is not strange that AA's Twelve Steps continually remind us of the stark need for ego reduction; that our Twelve Traditions warn heavily against the perils of concentrated wealth, the vain pursuit of fame and the ever-present temptation to controversy and attack.

We did not come to such wisdom by reason of our virtues; our better understanding is rooted in our former follies. In the nick of time, and by God's Grace, each of us has been enabled to develop a growing sense of the meaning and purpose of his own life. Because this has been the essence of our individual experience, it is also the essence of our experience as a Fellowship. We have suffered enough to learn something of the love of God and of each other. Thus we have been taught to choose those principles and practices by which we can surely survive and grow. This is the spiritual climate in which we AAs are today privileged to live.

Even our sometimes erratic behavior since sobriety has never changed this all-pervading climate of humility and love. This, we think, is the spiritual condition which has invited into our midst so much wise and Providential guidance. We say this in no conceit; it is an obvious fact of our experience. We only need to ponder the long series of apparently correct choices that we have been enabled to make over the past twenty-six years; choices respecting our principles and right methods of communicating them. Not a single one of these major decisions has yet shown the slightest sign of being a mistake. Up to now AA seems to have taken the right turning at each new crossroad. This could scarcely have been our doing alone. Our Fellowship has afforded a convincing proof of that wise old adage which declares that "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." This being our record, we can surely face the next hour of decision in confident faith.

The fact is that AA does now stand at a new turning point in its affairs. This has to do with the future World Service leadership of AA as a whole. Therefore, we shall have to take a new look at the shape of things to come. At this particular crossroad a crucial decision is required of me. And here it is:

It is my conviction that I should now retire from all active management of AA World Service affairs, and that my leadership in these matters should be fully transferred to the Trustees of AA's General Service Board.

This is not at all a new concept; it is simply the last step in a plan which has been in development for more than ten years. It was in mind when, in 1948, Dr. Bob and I jointly wrote an article for the Grapevine which was called, "Why Can't We Join AA Too?" It was even more in mind when our first General Service Conference was experimentally assembled in 1951. And when, at St. Louis in 1955, the full authority and responsibility for the maintenance of World Services was transferred to our Conference, my retirement from active service leadership was definitely foreshadowed.

Yet a vestige of my old-time status remains, and this should be explained. Following the St. Louis transference there were a few tasks that still required my full attention. But these are now virtually completed. During the last six years I have, respecting these particular matters, exercised a joint leadership with our Trustees. This sustained activity has no doubt tended to confirm me, in the minds of many AAs, as a continuing fact and symbol of AA leadership world-wide. This is the last remainder of my service leadership.

For this action there are excellent and even compelling reasons. The basic one is the present need to strictly apply AA's Tradition Two to every area of our World Service operation. This means that I should no longer act in service leadership for the group conscience of AA. This must now become fully the function of our Trustees, as guided by the Conference Delegates. Consider, too, AA's very healthy tradition of rotating leadership. Everywhere today this is a strictly applied principle--excepting to me. This is a left-over inconsistency that ought to be eliminated by my own retirement to the sidelines, where practically all of AA's old-timers now are.

But this is not all. My continued activity at AA's Headquarters may be covering up unforeseen flaws in our organizational structure. These should be given an opportunity to reveal themselves, if they exist. Moreover, the excellent leadership that we now have among the Trustees and in the Headquarters should be allowed to operate without further collaboration with me. We know that, in the long run, double-headed management is highly unsound. My retirement from active service would cure this defect.

There are also psychological reasons of the deepest import. AA is very much a family, of which we elders have surely been the spiritual parents. Now the parent who quits before his family has arrived at the age of responsibility, has unquestionably forsaken his trust. But the parent who far overstays his time can be extremely damaging, too. If he insists on continuing his parental authority and the protective custody of his wards well after they have reached the age of responsibility, he is simply robbing them of the priceless privilege of facing life on their own. What was perfectly right for their infancy and adolescence becomes strictly no good for their maturity. So the wise parent always changes his status accordingly. Of course he is still one who, if asked, will lend a hand in serious emergencies. But he knows that he simply must let his heirs make and repair most of their own mistakes, live their own lives, and grow up. Tradition Two of the AA program deeply recognizes this universal truth when it declares "There is but one ultimate authority. . . a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience."

Of course I am not suggesting a complete withdrawal; I propose only to change my relationship with AA. For example, I expect to be available at Trustee and Conference meetings. Should marked defects appear in our present service structure, I shall, if asked, be very happy to aid in the work of repair. In short, I expect to be "on tap" but never again "on top," this being precisely the stance that AA hopes all its old-timers will take.

My coming shift to the sidelines will necessarily involve other changes. Save for the possibility of a future visit or two overseas, and my attendance at whatever international conventions there may be, I think that my days of traveling and speaking are over. Practically speaking, it is no longer possible for me to respond to the hundreds of invitations that now come in. It is very clear, too, that continued appearances would increase my prominence in AA at the very time when this should greatly diminish. There is much the same situation respecting my very large correspondence which has grown so far out of hand that I can no longer do it justice.

Nevertheless, one primary channel of communication still stands wide open--my writing for the Grapevine. This I would certainly like to continue. Just now, for example, I'm doing a series of articles entitled "Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs." Maybe these pieces can later be expanded into a full-sized book which would try to deal with the whole problem of living, as seen by us AAs. If it turns out that I can write it, such a volume might be of permanent value.

There is another factor that bears upon my decision. Like every AA member I have a definite responsibility to become a citizen of the world around me; to channel into it the experience of living and working which has been mine in our Fellowship. Therefore, I'm already exploring certain areas of outside activity in which I may be able to make a helpful, and possibly a meaningful, contribution. For the first time, I now feel at liberty to follow the constructive example already set by uncounted numbers of my fellow members. But of course my principal reason for taking this new direction is the deep and confident belief that this will prove to be in the best long-time interest of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It scarce needs be said that I approach this new crossroad for AA and for me with a lump in my throat, and with a heart very full of gratitude for all those unexampled privileges and gifts with which I have so long been blessed.

Bill W.

Please take this survey and tell us how we are doing at the Intergroup.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7GXHWPB>

Take the East Tennessee Intergroup Satisfaction Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7GXHWPB>



QRV code to take the ETIAA Satisfaction Survey:



Does Your
Have an

Home Group Intergroup Representative?

Keep your Home Group connected to events
and information in our area.

Help the *East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous* be an informed body to serve its local groups. Just as healthy AA groups need informed group consciences, so do healthy Intergroups.

Elect and Send your Home Group's Intergroup Representative to our next monthly meeting:

3rd Monday of every month
6:30 pm at the Intergroup Office
9217 Parkwest Blvd #B3
Knoxville, TN 37923
865-522-9667

ETIAA maintains our area's website and hotline; publishes our newsletter and meeting directory; has AAWS and Grapevine literature, chips and medallions for purchase; has information about Steps, Traditions, and other AA related topics, including Archives, Corrections, and CPC/PI

Service Opportunities: Outreach, Hotline, Volunteer in Office, CPC/PI

EACYPAA XVIII

PITTSBURGH PA MARCH 26-29 2020

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Our Pick Struck

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Appalachian Regional Roundup

"Faith without works is dead."

March 27-29 2020

Kingsport, TN

Speakers

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- Astrid H from CA
- Steve L from TN
- Don L from WA
- Kent C from OH
- Tami P from CA
- Michael D from SD
- Billy N from GA
- Theresa F from CA
- Aaron J from NC (Al-Anon)

Meadowview Conference Resort
& Convention Center
1901 Meadowview Parkway
Kingsport, TN 37660

Room Rate \$116.00
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Call Or Visit Our Website To Book
423-578-6600

Make check or money order
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Roundup & mail to:
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Join us for a golf outing on
Friday! Starts at 9AM, meet at the
clubhouse. 9 holes for \$23 or
18 holes for \$38.

Pre-registration is \$25; cut off date March 13th
\$30 at the
door. Online pre-registration is
available at
www.appalachianregionalroundup.com

For more information, contact Tia H at
423-470-9203 or visit our website at
www.appalachianregionalroundup.com

Third Annual Appalachian Regional Roundup

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scholarship contribution: \$ _____
(lend a hand to those unable to
pay the registration fee)

number of registrations: _____ total: \$ _____

Spring Into The Traditions

District 3 Traditions Workshop

When: March 14, 2020 at 1:30 P.M.

Where: 314 S. Fairmont St. Morristown

A Tradition Play will be presented by the District 3 Workshop Committee. See some of the folks you attend meetings with as actors in the play, followed by a question and answer discussion. Learn about the 12 Traditions that kept A.A. functioning for all these years.

Coffee will be provided. Please bring finger foods to share.

Meeting room donated by the Morristown Group.

CARRY THE MESSAGE WITH CORRECTIONS CORRESPONDENCE

Many years ago in my early sobriety I used to take meetings inside the walls of prisons. Unfortunately today, my job inhibits dedicated service work of that kind. Another kind of service work I enjoy that can be done almost anytime anywhere is the Corrections Correspondence Service.

I first wrote to Gabe in October, 2012. The last time I wrote to Gabe was in November, 2017. Over the time we corresponded, I sent Gabe over 90 letters. He was an inmate in a Michigan state prison.

Gabe was trying to stay clean and sober in a difficult environment. I tried to encourage his effort with positive words of what it was like for me, what happened and what it is like now. Gabe relapsed a few times but at one point had put together over a year of sobriety. As far as I know, he was paroled in late 2017 or early 2018. I don't know if Gabe is still sober today but I hope and pray that he is. He stopped writing. One sure thing is that writing to Gabe helped me in my own sobriety.

Gabe isn't the only inmate I've written to. I've tried corresponding with several others. Most returned at least one letter and some a few more than that. Occasionally I am surprised by a letter from an inmate with as many as 6 months since the last one was received.

I can't be sure of why an inmate would write to GSO and ask to be connected an AA member only to not write back. Again, what I can be sure of is that it has helped me stay sober. Letter writing helps me practice my program. I can't be hypocritical and suggest something to someone trying to stay sober and not practice the same thing myself.

Generally I have been put in contact with inmates that are in other 'regions' of the country. Most have been out west. I believe that the CCS is designed that way. I think Gabe was the closest inmate to me in Michigan.

More information about the program can be found in the '**Corrections Correspondence**' pamphlet **F-26** (see link below). I would encourage anybody looking for a way to carry the message to pick up pen and paper (or a keyboard and a computer) and reach out to an inmate today. It's an easy but important way to practice Step 12.

Ken L.

To download the AA Corrections Correspondence manual F-26, link here

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-26correctcorrespondence.pdf



EAST TENNESSEE INTERGROUP – OPEN HOUSE!

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP!!!

Saturday, April 25th, 2020

9:00am to 6:00pm

9217 Park West Blvd., #B3, Knoxville

Stop by your East Tennessee
Intergroup (ETIAA) to learn more
about how we support AA in your
area!

**10% Discount Off All Merchandise!
Give-Aways!**

Meet Committee Chairs and find
out more about Service Work! For
more information contact
Manager@etiaa.org

*Sponsored by East Tennessee Intergroup
Alcohol Anonymous*



**Guest Speaker:
Heather G.
12:30-1:30**

**Step
Into
Spring!**

**Saturday April 18th
Victor Ashe Park
11:00-2:00**

**Cake and
Basket
Auction**

**Please
Bring
Covered**

Contributions dedicated to
support 2021 1st Quarter
Assembly Host Committee



You're invited to the

MOBILE INTERGROUP WORKSHOP

If you are interested in working the MOBILE INTERGROUP at any mobile events but especially the ARR, please join us for training to work the booth.

Where: East Tennessee Intergroup Office

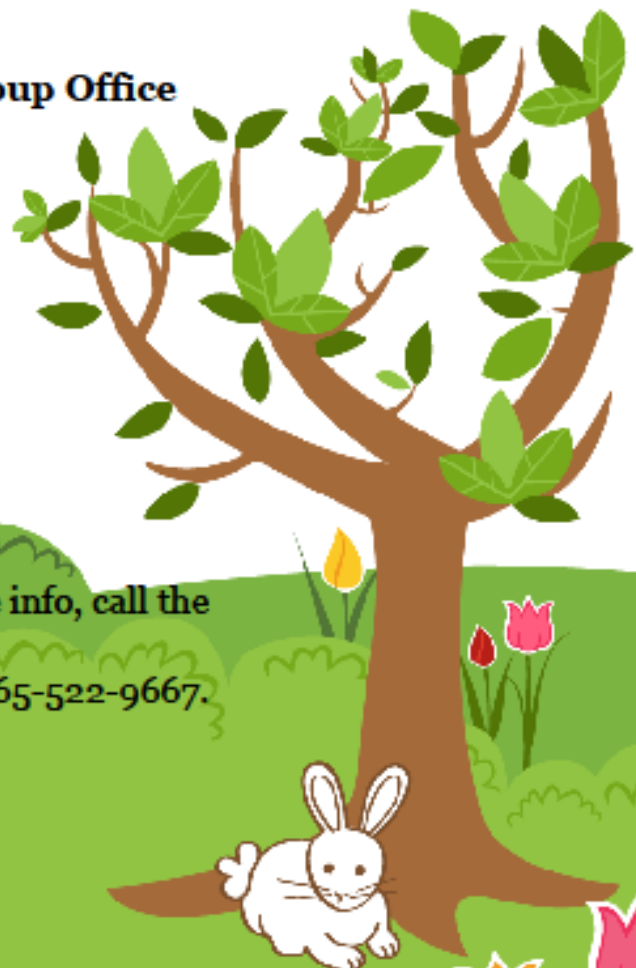
9217 Park West Blvd, B3

Knoxville, TN 37923

When: March 7, 2020

Time: 3 pm

If you need more info, call the
Intergroup Office at 865-522-9667.



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NEWSLETTER



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24/7 HOTLINE
865-522-9667
Manager@etiaa.org
ETIAA.ORG

MARCH 2020

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If you would like the newsletter mailed to your home, please fill out the form to the right and mail it to the address shown below. Include \$12.00 for a one-year subscription to cover postage.

ETIAA

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Sign up at ETIAA.org for a free email subscription.



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