



East Tennessee Intergroup

# UNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2021

Volume 45; Issue 2

## A.A. Oldtimers...On the Second Step

A.A. Grapevine, December 1944, Vol. 1 No. 7

*"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."*

Having taken the First Step of the A.A. program by admitting that we were powerless over alcohol, we were confronted with Step Two: "We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

This Second Step is often referred to as the first spiritual step; but is it or the subsequent steps any more spiritual than Step One? Is not anything spiritual which tends toward elevating us to the best and highest type of human being we are capable of becoming?

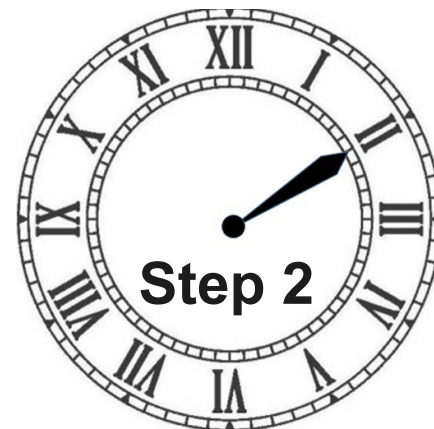
The Second Step contains the crux of the A.A. method of getting well: it shows us how to expel that little streak of insanity which caused so many relapses into debauchery long after the normal drinker would have shrunk from another drink. This twisted kind of thinking is eliminated by faith in a Power greater than ourselves.

The question which naturally arises in the newcomer's mind is: "How can I acquire enough faith to get well?" The road to faith is by taking all Twelve Steps. Faith is acquired by working for it; it is retained by continuous use of the Twelve Steps.

One who has gained faith in this greater Power finds such faith reflected toward himself. To the alcoholic this means faith that he will not take the first, fatal drink. But that is not all, for soon we learn that in some mysterious way our whole lives have been changed, our thinking changed, and our desires as well. Finally the realization comes that we no longer drink—because we just don't want to.

The greater Power now becomes for us the court of final appeal. Those harsh judgments of people, conditions, and so on, which we made in the past are now left to this court. This is the way to tolerance. Our own ideals, aims and ambitions are also submitted. This leads to progress, and it is by progressing that we become—and remain—well.

Horace C.



*"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could return us to sanity."*

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**East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous  
Presents  
2021 Monthly Online Zoom Step Meetings**



Second Saturday of the Month from 10:00am to 11:00am ET  
(limited to first 100 attendees)

STEP 1, January 9<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Gerry C. - Dundee, Scotland

STEP 2, February 13<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Mike D. - Brooklyn, NY

STEP 3, March 13<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Penny P. - Livermore, California

Zoom ID: 881 6025 4458

*For More Information Contact the ETLAA Office Manager at 865-522-9667*

**Dr. Bob's thoughts on anonymity:**

“He [Dr. Bob] said there were two ways to break the anonymity Tradition: **(1)** by giving your name at the public level of press or radio; **(2)** by being so anonymous that you can't be reached by other drunks.”

In an article in the February 1969 Grapevine, D. S. of San Mateo, California, wrote that Dr. Bob commented on the Eleventh Tradition as follows:

*“Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition.”*

“The A.A. who hides his identity from his fellow A.A. by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the A.A. who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to A.A.”

“The former is maintaining his anonymity above the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity below the level of press, radio, and films—whereas the Tradition states that we should maintain our anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

-Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers

## New Website! New Online Store! New Office Hours!

<https://www.etiaa.org/>



We have updated our website! Check it out! All online meetings are available with links by searching the site, on the app, or on the meeting PDF.

We now have an online store! It's still a work in progress but you can now shop online and have stuff shipped or ready for porch pickup at the Intergroup Office.

We have new hours! Please let us know if you'd like to do service work at the office. Shifts are 2 to 5 hours Monday- Saturday and can be weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or on call. Requirements are 1 year sobriety, a sponsor, and completion of the 12 Steps.

**Monday 11a-4p**

**Tuesday 11a-4p**

**Wednesday 9a-4p**

**Thursday 11a-4p**

**Friday 11a-7p**

**Saturday 11a-4p**

## **Step Two: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could return us to sanity.**

THE moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won’t* believe in God, others can’t, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you’ve got us over the barrel, all right—but where do we go from here?”

### **Second Step Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I know in my heart that only You can restore me to sanity. I humbly ask that You remove all twisted thought and addictive behavior from me this day. Heal my spirit and restore in me a clear mind.



### **Tradition Two (long form):**

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

### **Tradition Two Checklist:**

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?



**Concept II and Checklist: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.**

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the “Conference”)?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group’s G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

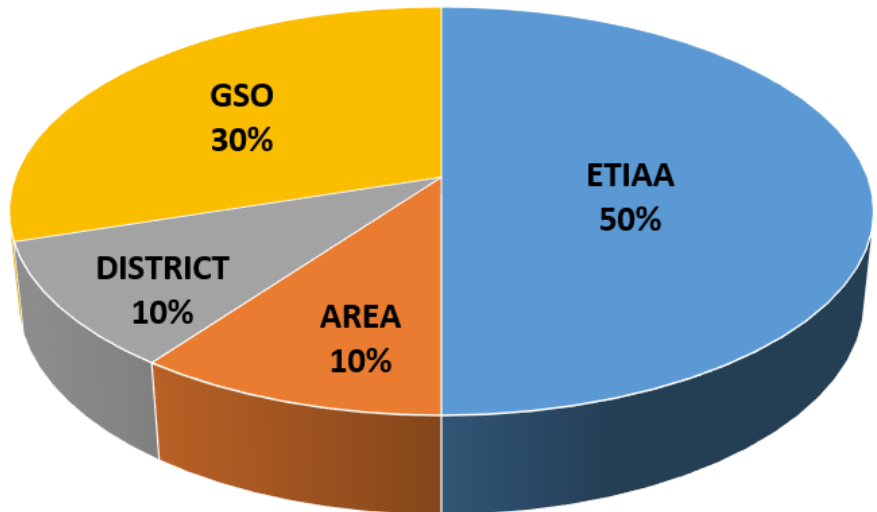
## 7TH TRADITION SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS

### 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)]



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

### Contribution Addresses

**ETIAA East Tennessee  
Intergroup of AA**  
9217 Park West Blvd #B3  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
865-522-9667    [www.etiaa.org](http://www.etiaa.org)

**New ways to donate:**

**Paypal Manager@etiaa.org or  
865-320-8649**

**Zelle Manager@etiaa.org or  
865-320-8649**

**Venmo @ETIAA**

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

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

**District 1 Treasurer**  
Richard Ellis  
1302 Chestnut St.  
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 mail all District 50/51 donations to the Intergroup Office. Please specify on the check AND on the outside of the envelope that it is for district 50/51. Electronic donations can be made with Venmo at: @Sandra—Brown-289

*Please be sure to include your Group Name and Number.*



## Intergroup Financial / Contributions Report

GROUPS DONATING	Dec 20	Jul 20— Dec 20	GROUPS DONATING	Dec 20	Jul 20— Dec 20
1ST THINGS 1ST KNOXVILLE 719412	150.00	1,500.00	MORRISTOWN GROUP	50.00	100.00
4-WAY GROUP	0.00	100.00	NEW BEGINNING- LOUDON	0.00	50.00
4TH DIMENSION	50.00	408.25	NEW PATH	50.00	50.00
BACK TO BASICS- OAK RIDGE	0.00	300.00	NORRIS CLINTON GROUP	0.00	50.00
BIG BOOK RECOVERY	0.00	145.00	NORTH GATLINBURG 157790	0.00	146.75
BLOUNT COUNTY GROUP	100.00	250.00	Paypal	0.00	8.00
BREAKFAST BUNCH GREENEVILLE	0.00	110.00	PHOENIX GROUP	0.00	912.00
COLONIAL GROUP	0.00	200.00	PRIMARY PURPOSE- OAK RIDGE	0.00	250.00
COLONIAL HEIGHTS 99658/120932	70.00	105.00	ROANE COUNTY UNITY 112631	50.00	100.00
CONTRIBUTION JAR	15.00	53.97	SATURDAY MORNING BIG BOOK STUDY	385.35	939.05
COOKIE GROUP	120.00	360.00	SEEKERS JONESBOROUGH 66383	0.00	20.00
COVER TO COVER	0.00	120.00	SERENITY IMPROVEMENT	0.00	600.00
DANDRIDGE UNITY 638213	0.00	86.00	SERENITY SISTERS 630722	0.00	1,620.79
DISTRICT 50/51	0.00	0.00	SEYMOUR SHARING	0.00	420.00
DOWN BY THE RIVER 101834	0.00	400.00	SOBER PRIDE	655.03	655.03
FOUNTAIN CITY SERENITY	0.00	168.08	SOBRIETY SOCIETY- SO-SO 709581	0.00	200.00
FREE AT LAST 712012	0.00	36.00	SPIRITUAL PROGRESS	100.00	100.00
GROUP WITH NO NAME	340.00	550.00	STEPS FORWARD	55.00	165.00
HAPPY HOUR	165.00	1,373.00	SUNDAYS AT 7-KNOXVILLE	0.00	130.00
HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE	0.00	50.00	TCYPAA	0.00	40.00
HIGH NOON ROGERSVILLE 713957	0.00	30.00	TELLICO VILLAGE	60.00	150.00
HIGH NOONERS-P40	200.00	400.00	TENNESSEE GROUP 723519	0.00	202.90
Individual	691.69	3,855.89	TRI-STATE GROUP-HARROGATE	0.00	200.00
KEEP LEANING FORWARD	16.00	106.00	TURNIP PATCH	126.03	126.03
KODAK HWY 66	0.00	150.00	UNKNOWN GROUP	80.00	188.82
LAFOLLETTE-THERE IS HOPE	20.00	120.00	Venmo	0.00	39.00
LUNCH BUNCH- GREENEVILLE	118.52	218.23	WEST KNOXVILLE GROUP	0.00	102.30
MEMORIAL RECOVERY 112566	0.00	50.00	TOTALS	3,667.62	18,811.09

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

### DONATIONS TO DISTRICT 50/51

**Mail all District 50/51 donations** to the Intergroup Office. Please make sure you are specifying on the check AND on the outside of the envelope that is for District. 50/51.

**District 50/51; C/O. East TN Intergroup; 9217 Park West Boulevard #B3; Knoxville, TN 37923**

Make your check out to District5051. This will help the office staff maintain separation between Intergroup and District donations

Also, donations can accepted electronically with Venmo at: @Sandra—Brown-289

Thank you for your support! Also, if you have questions or concerns, the District 50/51 treasurer may be contacted at 865.599.5288. Initially, texting will be the fastest option for contact.

## 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.

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, managr@etiaa.org

## Around East Tennessee

### Notable Passings

With sadness, we inform you that our sweet and salty **Annie B.** passed away very early Tuesday morning from COVID at Fort Sanders. She was our current longest serving Service Worker. She was there before any of us currently. She served as our Service Worker Coordinator/Trainer and Archives Chair. Annie was quick to step in when needed and had a passion for AA Service. Her husband said it gave her purpose. By profession, Annie was a nurse. She worked at Baptist Hospital and at the Free Medical Clinic in South Knoxville. She was the very proud mother of 2 and grandmother of 3. She attend St. John's Cathedral and was a member of the Metro Group and a home group member of Happy Destiny. We will miss her sorely.

**Bobby K.**, known to many in AA and sponsor to many others, passed away on January 1 at his home in West Knoxville. Bob had 39 years of sobriety and always extended the hand of AA anytime it was requested. Bob practiced Law in Knox County, and sponsored many people over the years in both AA and NA. A memorial service was held at the Emerald Avenue Methodist Church on Jan. 16, and was attended by many friends, sponsees, and family, with many other friends joining by ZOOM.

### AA Birthdays:

#### Surrender To Win group Anniversaries:

Jerry O.	36 years
Rod J.	30 years
Johnene J.	30 years
Richard B.	29 years
Zeke C.	19 years
Karen C.	17 years
George E.	17 years

#### Kodak Group:

Mike C.	35 years
Monty L.	35 years

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



## **December 2020 Intergroup Meeting Minutes**

Open with Serenity Prayer and monthly Tradition at 6:30.

Present via Zoom: - Tami D, Rebekah R., Fawn L., Suzanne A., Heather B., Brad T., Dave., Greg S., Robert G., Carole W., Wesley., Sterling, Mark R., Thomas, Nancy T., Ken L., Maggie, Annie B., Nicole L.

Groups Represented: Group affiliation not requested.

Previous minutes were accepted, motion by Fawn L., seconded by Mark R., all in favor.

### **Manager's Report – Rebekah R.**

- Remind – Rebekah again asked for anyone wanting to be added to the Remind App for staying up-to-date with announcements and updates to add their contact information in the Zoom chat box.
- Discontinue Zoom meeting list – Rebekah advised she has now combined the in-person meeting list with the Zoom meeting list and all are in PDF format. The Zoom meetings listed include a hyperlink for direct navigation to Zoom meeting log in. Rebekah also advised she wants to remove all meetings that have been suspended due to Covid19 from the meeting list and that they can be added back as they open back up.
- Christmas gifts for service workers – Rebekah advised the Starbucks gift cards were emailed to the Intergroup service workers today and should be received within the next 3 days.
- Extended Open House – Rebekah reported the Open House is going well. Lots of t-shirts given away in the raffles. She stated she needs some help for the next couple of weeks as she is under quarantine due to an exposed family member.
- US/Canada Forum – Rebekah participated in the Forum 12/05/2020 and spoke with many other Intergroup managers specifically about issues arising from the ongoing pandemic.
- Office Rearranged – Rebekah showed pictures of the new office arrangement (Thank you Greg S.!).

### **Treasurer's Report – Fawn L.**

- Profit and Loss – November net income \$1701.84. December 1-16 net income \$1704.87. Year to date, as of December 16th net income \$6393.87.
- Fawn reported cash, checking and prudent reserve all healthy!
- Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Maggie., seconded by Mark R., all in favor.

**Hotline – Susi M. – not present:** Rebekah advised the Hotline workers workshop is still in the works and she is looking into new Hotline software.

### **Service Workers – Annie B.**

Need more people to fulfill obligations and fill in when necessary.

**Archives – Annie B. :** Nothing new to report.

### **Website – Sterling**

Rebekah sent a link to the new website for all to review. Sterling asked for on-going feedback as they are working on revising the website. Sterling advised he is getting lots of help on this project from SuZanne A. and Eamonn. There is lots to do and they are currently working on new forms for the purposes of updating meetings and applications for service work positions. New site will be live sometime in 2021!



## **December 2020 Intergroup Meeting Minutes (Cont.)**

### **Accessibilities** – Carole W.

Carole advised nothing new to report

### **Spanish Liaison** – still open

### **CPC/PI** – Robin G. – not present

### **Treatment** – Beth C. – not present

### **Corrections** – Marian G. – not present

Marian reported via text to Tami D., nothing new to report

### **Outreach** - open

Ken L., advised he is willing to be a backup to the chair. Otherwise nothing new to report.

### **Events** – SuZanne A.

SuZanne shared a spreadsheet with all of the upcoming speakers for the Step Series Workshop. All months are filled save July and August as she would like to put together a couple of live events for those months. More to come! Flyers for the January, February and March Step Workshops have been printed in the newsletter and posted to appropriate social media sites.

### **Mobile Intergroup – Patrick - not present**

### **Old Business:**

December Elections for open positions: the following people had been nominated for open positions and a vote was taken all at once to approve the following nominations. All were in favor, none opposed.

Vice Chair – Welsey nominated.

Secretary – Tami D. nominated.

Hotline Chair – Susi L. nominated.

Archives – open

Accessibilities Chair – Carole W nominated.

Outreach Chair – open

Treatment Chair – Beth C. nominated.

### **New Business:**

Fawn L. – stated she would like to see the Intergroup office begin to recycle paper. She is willing to bring a box for this purpose and is also willing to come by and empty as needed.

Meeting closed via motion from Annie B. and seconded by SuZanne A. at 7:30 pm. All in favor.

**Next meeting to be held Monday January 18th at 6:30pm**

## **District 50/51 Meeting Minutes: December 7, 2020**

*Virtually Attending: Jacque H, Katie C, Sandy H, Jeff J, David T, Sandra B, Trey M, Rick B, Robin G, David C, Bree W, Andrew, John S, Erica J*

\*please note this meeting was a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform\*

Jacque opened the at 6:33 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by The Serenity Prayer.

Introductions were made around the virtual "room."

Jeff J. moved to accept the minutes from last month as written; the motion was seconded (Andrew) and passed unanimously.

### **Jacque District 50**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Assembly will be virtual starting on 1/9/21. There is a spot open on the public information committee if anyone is interested please contact Jacque at [sweetiepie5267@gmail.com](mailto:sweetiepie5267@gmail.com) and/or 865-296-4501.

### **Angela District 51 (ABSENT)**

NO REPORT. Angela can be reached [aql8137@tds.net](mailto:aql8137@tds.net) and/or 865-924-3055.

### **Treasurer's Report – Sandra B.**

Balance as of 12/7/2020 is \$3,141.95 (no change from last month)

A motion was made (Katie C) to accept the treasurer's report as given. Motion was seconded (Sandy H) and passed unanimously.

PLEASE SEND DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERGROUP OFFICE (and label mail properly).

### **CPC/PI – Trey M.**

NO REPORT

### **Treatment Report – John S.**

Meetings have resumed at Centerpointe and Cornerstone, no meetings at Great Starts at this time. Committee helped purchase pamphlets for Centerpointe. John announced he is moving out of state and this will be his last meeting. The committee will look to replace chairperson.

### **Corrections Report – Bree W.**

KCSO emailed about possibility of Zoom meetings and is gathering interest at this point in time, more information to come.

Corrections subcommittee will now begin meeting quarterly. Contact Bree for information regarding next meeting. Committee meeting date TBD. Bree can be reached at 865-936-3133 (no emails requested).

### **Grapevine Report – Sandra B**

Renewal for Grapevine subscription will be completed today. Sandra can be reached at: [sgbrown0418@comcast.net](mailto:sgbrown0418@comcast.net)

*Continued on p. 10*

## District 50/51 Meeting Minutes, continued:

### Bridging the Gap Report – David T

NO REPORT

David can be reached at: [BTG5150@gmail.com](mailto:BTG5150@gmail.com) or 865-272-9526.

### Events – Erica/Sandy H

Brainstorming for future ideas, please attend next committee meeting with any ideas.

Committee meetings immediately after District meeting via Zoom. Next meeting will be February 1 at 5:30.

Email Erica for Zoom information.

### 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:

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Assembly (2021) – Virtual event proposed, vote for rollover to 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter to occur in new business today.*

*So/So has a new home at Norwood United Methodist Church.*

*Serenity Sisters is back to virtual until further notice.*

*TN Group cancelled Christmas Party, but is still meeting.*

### OLD BUSINESS:

Motion by Katie to leave Venmo account tied to Sandra B, seconded by David T., passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to host 2021 3rd Quarter Assembly as a rollover from 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Assembly which was cancelled as an “in-person” event. Motion (Jeff), seconded (Andrew) – passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn (Jeff J), seconded (Katie).

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

**THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 4, 2020 AT 6:30PM VIA ZOOM.**

**Here is the link and meeting ID for the monthly District 50/51 meeting.**

<https://zoom.us/j/129330698> Meeting ID: 129 330 698



## District 4

**will meet via Zoom Sunday, February 7, 2021, 2:00PM – 3:00PM EST:**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 894 2575 2021      Passcode: 072965**

## **Intergroup Meeting Minutes: January 2021**

Open with Serenity Prayer and monthly Tradition at 6:30.

Present via Zoom: - Tami D, Rebekah R., Fawn L., Heather B., Brad T., Dave., Greg S., Robert G., Carole W., Wesley, Marian G., Nancy, Susi M., Kellie M., Beth C., Rhonda, Al L., Chris K.

Groups Represented: First Things First, Cookie Group, Prime Time, So-So, Happy Destiny II, Primary Purpose, Morristown Group, 4th Dimension, 4-Way Group, TN Group.

Previous minutes were accepted with modification to change the name "Maggie" to actual name of Carole W. (Carole displayed the name Maggie on Zoom), motion by Carole W., seconded by Nancy, all in favor.

### **Manager's Report – Rebekah R.**

Welcome new IGRs – Rebekah welcomed new reps to the meeting

Remind – Rebekah again asked for anyone wanting to be added to the Remind App for staying up-to-date with announcements and updates to add their contact information in the Zoom chat box.

Annie B – Rebekah reported Annie B passed away. She has left a big hole at the Intergroup office as she volunteered for many shifts and responsibilities. Per her husband, services to be held at a later date.

Online Store – Rebekah presented the group with screen shares of the Online Store she is currently working on. She has volunteers taking pictures of items and is also utilizing pictures from AA.org. She is proposing shipping costs of \$5.00 for all orders totaling up to \$25.00 and shipping costs will increase accordingly. Currently, all orders are taken to post office for mailing but will consider an on-site mailing service in the future. Additionally, there is a curbside pickup option for all orders.

Pricing Update – pricing is on track versus last year's numbers.

Meeting Changes Update – Barb to assume responsibility for making all meeting update changes to the hardcopy meeting list as well as the Meeting Guide App.

Chattanooga 7th Tradition Workshop – Rebekah attended this workshop which covered where your donations go when sent to District and Intergroup.

Mesa Hotline Workshop – Rebekah attended with several other Intergroup offices from across the country.

Open House Update – Nine winners thus far. Have given away t-shirts and 2 GSO books.

New Book – Rebekah reported she has ordered 20 copies of a new book titled 'Visual History of AA' to be on the shelves 02/14/2021.

### **Treasurer's Report – Fawn L.**

Profit and Loss – December net income \$958.02. January 1-15 net income \$868.95. Year to date, as of January 15th net income \$5647.02.

Square sales showing a decrease in comparison to previous years due to March closing of Intergroup office.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Greg S., seconded by Rhonda, all in favor.

### **Hotline – Susi M.**

Hotline Workshop – Susi reported there is a monthly Hotline Workshop via Zoom at 8:15p EST on the 3rd Friday of the month. Susi has the Zoom ID and Passwords for anyone interested.

Susi also reported she has updated the 12 Step Call List and has compiled a list of all Hotline Volunteers and sent this information out to all Hotline volunteers. She has also added a couple more people as back-ups for the Hotline.

### **Service Workers – Greg S.**

Need more people to fulfill obligations and fill in when necessary. As it currently stands, there are 4 open shifts at the Intergroup office that will need to be filled.

### **Archives – open**

### **Website – open**

## **Intergroup January Meeting Minutes, continued:**

### **Accessibilities** – Carole W.

Carole stated she has heard of many groups who follow CDC guidelines for Covid-19 prevention are requesting anyone who doesn't want to follow the guidelines leave the meeting.

Carole stated she read a study showing AA is not diversified.

### **Spanish Liaison** – still open

### **CPC/PI** – Robin G. – not present

Rebekah to remove Robin from this position as she has not attended meetings in several months.

### **Treatment** – Beth C.

Beth stated CenterPoint may be allowing meetings to come back to their facility soon, she will provide updates as she has them. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

### **Corrections** – Marian G.

Marian advised nothing new to report on meetings going back into Correctional Facilities.

Marian was introduced to a woman who recently moved here from California and she would like to get involved in Corrections and/or Treatment when things are back to normal.

### **Outreach** - open

### **Events** – SuZanne A. – not present

SuZanne reported thru Rebekah that the First Step Workshop was a success and had 23 attendees. She would like for Intergroup Reps to print the flyer and make sure homegroups are aware of the ongoing series of step workshops.

### **Mobile Intergroup** – Patrick - not present

Rebekah to remove Patrick from this position as he has not attended meetings in several months.

### **Old Business:**

Recycle bin – Susi reported the recycle bin for waste paper is up and operational at the Intergroup Office.

### **New Business:**

Intergroup Office Hours – Rebekah stated she would like to decrease the schedule currently being utilized at the Intergroup Office for 6 months. The current schedule is Monday – Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-7 and Saturday 9-1. Annie's passing left 4 shifts open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday morning shifts. There was much discussion by many attendees about new proposed hours, impact to Hotline Volunteers and possibly closing on Mondays. After much discussion, Nancy made a motion that

Rebekah R., Greg S., and Fawn L. come up with the new office hours on their own and advise at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Rhonda and all present were in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Fawn L. and seconded by Carole W. at 7:41 pm. All in favor.

**Next meeting to be held Monday February 15th at 6:30 pm.**

## **Dr. Bob: The Fundamentals--In Retrospect AA Grapevine - September 1948**

THE feeling that one belongs to and has a definite personal part in the work of a growing and spiritually prospering organization for the release of the alcoholics of mankind from a deadly enslavement is always gratifying. For me, there is double gratification in the realization that more than 13 years ago, an All-wise Providence, whose ways must always be mysterious to our limited understandings, brought me to "see my duty clear" and to contribute in a decent humility, as have so many others, my part in guiding the first trembling steps of the then infant organization, Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is fitting at this time to indulge in some retrospect regarding certain fundamentals. Much has been written, much has been said about the 12 Steps of A.A. These tenets of our faith and practice were not worked out overnight and then presented to our members as an opportunist creed. Born of our early trials and many tribulations, they were and are the result of humble and sincere desire, sought in personal prayer for Divine guidance.

As finally expressed and offered, they are simple in language, plain in meaning. They are also workable by any person having a sincere desire to obtain and keep sobriety. The results are the proof. Their simplicity and workability are such that no special interpretations, and certainly no reservations, have ever been necessary. And it has become increasingly clear that the degree of harmonious living which we achieve is in direct ratio to our earnest attempt to follow them literally under Divine guidance to the best of our ability.

YET, withal, there are no "shibboleths" in A.A. We are not bound by the thongs of theological doctrine. None of us may be excommunicated and cast into outer darkness. For we are many minds in our organization and an A.A. Decalogue in the language of "Thou shalt not" would gall us indeed.

Look at our 12 Points of A.A. Tradition. No random expressions these, based on just casual observation. On the contrary, they represent the sum of our experience as individuals, as groups within A.A. and similarly with our fellows and other organizations in the great fellowship of humanity under God throughout the world. They are entirely suggestive, yet the spirit in which they have been conceived merits their serious, prayerful consideration as the guidepost of A.A. policy for the individual, the group and our various committees, local and national.

We have found it wise policy, too, to hold to no glorification of the individual. Obviously, that is sound. Most of us will concede that when it came to the personal showdown of admitting our failures and deciding to surrender our will and our lives to Almighty God, as we understood Him, we still had some sneaking ideas of personal justification and excuse. We had to discard them but the ego of the alcoholic dies a hard death. Many of us because of activity have received praise not only from our fellow A.A.s but from the world at large. We would be ungrateful indeed to be boorish when that happens yet it is so easy for us to become, privately perhaps, just a little vain about it all. Yet, fitting and wearing halos is not for us.

WE'VE all seen the new member who stays sober for a time, largely through sponsorship. Then maybe the sponsor gets drunk and you know what usually happens. Left without a human prop, the new member gets drunk too. He has been glorifying an individual instead of following the Program.



Certainly we need leaders but we must regard them as the human agents of the Higher Power and not with undue adulation as individuals. The 4th and 10th Steps can not be too strongly emphasized here--"Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves . . . continue to make personal inventory . . . promptly admit it when we are wrong." There is your perfect antidote for halo-poisoning.

So with the question of Anonymity. If we have a banner, that word, speaking of the surrender of the individual--the ego--is emblazoned on it. Let us dwell thoughtfully on its full meaning and learn thereby to remain humble, modest, ever-conscious that we are eternally under Divine direction.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS was nurtured in its early days around a kitchen table. Many of our pioneer groups, some of our most result-full meetings and best programs have had their origin around that modest piece of furniture with the coffee pot handy on the stove.

True, we have progressed materially to better furniture and more comfortable surroundings, yet the kitchen table must ever be appropriate for us. It is the perfect symbol of simplicity. In A.A. we have no V.I.P.'s nor have we need of any. Our organization needs no title-holders nor grandiose buildings. That is by design. Experience has taught us that simplicity is basic in preservation of our personal sobriety and helping those in need.

Far better it is for us to fully understand the meaning and practice of "Thou good and faithful servant" than to listen to "With 60,000 members you should have a 60 stories high administration headquarters in New York with an assortment of trained 'ists' to direct your affairs." We need nothing of the sort. God grant that A.A. may ever stay simple.

Over the years we have tested and developed suitable techniques for our purpose. They are entirely flexible. We have all known and seen miracles--the healing of broken individuals, the rebuilding of broken homes. And always, it has been the constructive personal 12th Step work based on an ever upward-looking faith which has done the job.

IN as large an organization as ours, we naturally have had our share of those who fail to measure up to certain obvious standards of conduct. They have included schemers for personal gain, petty swindlers and confidence men, crooks of various kinds and other human fallibles. Relatively their number has been small, much smaller than in many religious and social uplift organizations. Yet they have been a problem and not an easy one. They have caused many an A.A. to stop thinking and working constructively for a time.

We cannot condone their actions, yet we must concede that when we have used normal caution and precaution in dealing with such cases, we may safely leave them to that Higher Power. Let me reiterate that we A.A.'s are many men and women, that we are of many minds. It will be well for us to concentrate on the goal of personal sobriety and active work. We humans and alcoholics on strict moral stock-taking must confess to at least a slight degree of larcenous instinct. We can hardly arrogate the roles of judges and executioners.

Thirteen grand years! To have been a part of it all from the beginning has been reward indeed.

Dr. Bob  
AA Co-Founder, Dr. Bob, September 1948  
The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 2



# PRICE CHANGES

Starting 1st November 2020 your local intergroup office is offering reduced pricing on the following items

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**BRONZE MEDALLIONS - \$1.00**

**HARD BACK BIG BOOK - \$9.50**

**PRICE REDUCTION ON GRAPEVINE**

**PRICE REDUCTION ON GENERAL SERVICE**

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East Tennessee Intergroup Office  
\*Some items may increase in price

**Why in the world would  
you get a tattoo there  
of all places?**

**A bottle of tequilla,  
bored and the wrong  
friends with me.**

*On the lighter side....*

**WARNING:**

**DRINKING MAY CAUSE MEMORY LOSS.  
OR WORSE, MEMORY LOSS.**





GIVE THE GIFT OF  
RECOVERY

# Grateful?

Help Carry The Message  
By Gifting An AA Grapevine/  
La Viña Subscription

We can't reach our members behind the walls right now, but our message of hope and recovery can. These are some actual quotes from A.A. members in prison who have received a "Carry the message" subscription

“ Thank you to those who care enough to help us in here. We're trying so hard to stay sober ”

“ I'm writing from my prison cell to thank the Grapevine staff and all those members who contribute to the "Carry the Message" project ”

“ So many [stories] have touched my heart and given me hope ... I don't ever want this subscription to end ”

“ Seeing the warm welcoming spaces being used as A.A. sanctuaries for people in recovery is so heartwarming. This, my friend, is what keeps me going and gives me hope ”

2021  
CARRY THE  
MESSAGE  
PROJECT

“ I'm sitting here in prison and I have 75 days sober today. Thank you so much for Grapevine ”

Click [HERE](#) to learn more

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**February 2021**



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