Central Office 910-678-8002 310 Green St. Fayetteville, NC 28301

Website: fayaa.org

# Upcoming Events



#### May 17-19:

Area 51 (North Carolina) Spring Assembly at the Bordeaux Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Fayetteville. Attendance required by all GSRs.

\*\*\*

### June 2:

District 51 Spring Fellowship, hosted by Central Group on German Street. Business meeting at 1 p.m., Bill S. of Havelock will speak 2 p.m., food and fellowship following program — about 3 p.m. (Moved back because of Area 51 Spring Assembly and Memorial Day weekend).

\*\*

#### June 10:

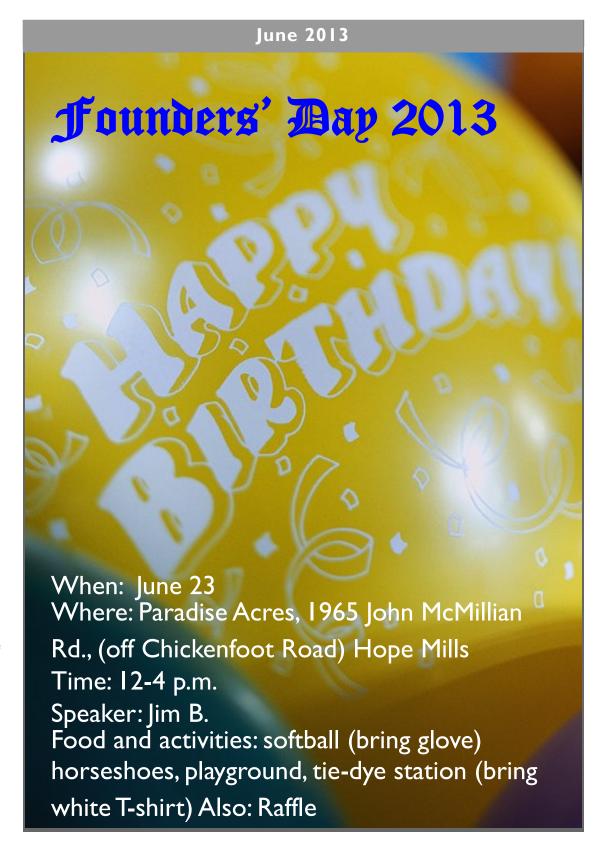
Founders' Day, AA turns 78. (Local celebration June 23, details at right).

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#### July 18-21:

Sixty-sixth North Carolina State Convention at Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown on Wake Forest Road. Preregistration \$15 before June 27, \$20 afterwards. Details: aanorthcaolina.org **The Common Bond** 

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office



The Common Bond Page 2

## **BCR-CO Board**

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Vice chairman

Duncan K.

Treasurer Dave C.

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(Open)

Cumberland

Mike E.

Robeson

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Sandalwood

(vacant)

Back to Basics

Dan A

Bare Bones Bagley J.

ODAT

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Amanda K.

Principles Group:

Charles K.

Keep It Simple

Jason M.

Little Group

Cass C.

Keeping It Real

Jacquie H.

Spring Into Action

Mark P. Pine Run

Craig

S.U.R.E

#### Services

Hotline

Tom Mc

Webmaster

Jim H

Common Bond editor

Dave C.



# See your group's news in The Common Bond

"Can anyone write an article for The Common Bond?" That questioned was asked at a recent meeting of the BCR-CO. The answer of course is

The Common Bond committee welcomes articles submitted by other A.A. members.

Of course, not everyone who would like to see news of their group in The Common Bond is going to write an article. That's OK. If you have happenings you want to share, just send us the basic information and The Common Bond will write up a brief story. Also, we're always looking for happenings for the Upcoming Events column. Flyer information is all that's needed for Upcoming events. For a brief we just need a few facts. The following form can help lead you put together the information:

Who: Lighthouse Group:

What: Dance;

When: Saturday, Aug

32, at 7 p.m.

Where: Lighthouse

meeting place, 500 Any Street, Your Town.

How: A DJ will play music and a \$5 per person donation requested.

Why: To raise money for the Christmas fund for the poor.

If you're looking to contribute more consider a full article. Any topic of interest to our membership and A.A. community is acceptable.

If you are not used to writing, you may think, "I have the information, but I don't know how to do it!" Don't worry about formality. Write it as if you were having a conversation with a friend. How would you tell someone about this?

Once it's done, you can submit it by email: commobond2011@gmail. Please be sure to include a name (Joe P is fine) and either a telephone number and/or email address so the editor can contact you if he has any questions or suggested changes.

No email? Mail it to the Central Office and we'll pick it up there.

# Sober thoughts

(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)

Words are the smaller part of our Testimony. - Hans Vaxby, Finland

Whatever man loves, that is his god. For he carries it in his heart; he goes about with it night and day; he sleeps and wakes with it, be it what it may — wealth or self, pleasure or renown.

- Martin Luther

A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.

- William James

## Make contact with the BCR-CO

Common Bond editor: commonbond2011@gmail.com Fayaa.org webmaster: webmaster@fayaa.org Central Office: bcrcentraloffice@embargmail.com

also info@fayaa.org Hotline: 910-678-8737

Snail mail: 310 Green St. Fayetteville, NC 28301



# How it began

## A look at Alcoholics Anonymous in the early days

Here are some excerpts on the early history on the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, from Ebby T.'s visit to Bill W. in November 1934 to Dr. Bob's last drink.

## Alcoholic Anonymous, Bill's Story, Pages 9 and 12:

"I pushed a drink across the table. He refused it. Disappointed but curious, I wondered what had got into the fellow. He wasn't himself.

"Come, what's all this about?" I queried.

He looked straight at me. Simply, but smilingly, he said, "I've got religion."

I was aghast. So that was it — last summer an alcoholic crackpot; now, I suspect, a little cracked about religion. ... Yes, the old boy was on fire all right. But bless his heart, let him rant! Besides, my gin would last longer than his preaching.

But he did not ranting. In a matter of fact way he told how two men had appeared in court, persuading the judge to suspend his commitment. They had told of a simple religious idea and a practical program of action. ... The result was self-evident. It worked!

He had come to pass his experience along to me ...

The word God still aroused a certain antipathy ...

My friend suggested what then seemed a novel idea. He said, "Why don't you choose your own conception of God?"

That statement hit me hard. It melted the icy intellectual moun-

tain in whose shadow I had lived and shivered for many years. I stood in the sunlight at last.

It was only a matter of being willing to believe in a Power greater than myself. Nothing more was required of me to make my beginning.

## From Pass It On, Pages 135 and 136:

Saturday noon found him (Bill W.) pacing up and down the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel in extreme agitation, wondering how to pass the weekend. He had about ten dollars in his pocket.

Now began the personal crisis that was to set in motion a serious of life-changing events for Bill. There was a bar at one end of the lobby, and Bill felt himself drawn to it. Should he have a ginger ale or two, perhaps scrape up and acquaintance? What could be the harm in that?

For almost anyone else, no harm. But for Bill Wilson, the alcoholic, the idea was loaded with danger.

... In New York he had kept himself sober for more than five months through working with other drunks at Towns (hospital) and at Calvary Mission. ... Now he had nobody. As he recalled later, "I thought 'You need another alcoholic to talk to. You need another alcoholic just as much as he needs you!" It was this thought that led him to the church directory at the other end of the lobby.

(His call to a minister eventually led him to Akron socialite Henrietta Seiberling, a friend of Dr.

Bob's

#### From Pass it On, Page 143

Dr. Bob later said that he could not remember ever feeling much worse than he did on the afternoon he met Bill. He had agreed to the meeting only because he was very fond of Henrietta, and Anne had already committed them to going. But he made Anne promise that they would stay only 15 minutes. "I didn't want to talk to this mug or anybody else, and we'd really make it snappy."

... The Smiths arrived at the Stan Hywet gatehouse at five o'clock. Bob announced immediately that they could stay only briefly.

"Though embarrassed, he brightened a little when I said I thought he needed a drink," Bill recalled. "After dinner, which he did not eat, Henrietta discreetly put us off in her little library. There, Bob and I talked until eleven o'clock."

# Alcoholic Anonymous, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, Page 180:

The question which might naturally come into your mind would be: "What did the man do or say that was different from what others had done or said?" It must be remembered that I had read a great deal and talked to everyone who knew, or thought they knew anything about the subject of alcoholism. But this was a man who had experienced may years of frightful drinking, who had had most all the drunkard's experiences known to man, but who had been cured by the very means I

Continued on next page

**COMMON BOND** 

## A.A. BIRTHDAYS

## June 2 Tilton T. - 18 years June 3 Sharon C. - 5 June 4 John G. - I

June 6

Robert B. - 4

June 8

Ricky S. – 22

June 10

Bethany B. - II

Bob O. - 31

June 11

Charles K. - 3 June 12

Charlene C. - 5

lune 13

Pete F. -5

June 14

Craig E. - 7

Sandra E. – 7

William B. - II

June 16

Tim V. - 5

June 17

Allison K. - 9

Allison K. - 4

June 18

Henry L. - 4 June 19

Charlie L. - 32

June 20

Jerry - 25

June 26

Don L. - 24

## Celebrate your sobriety with us

Would your group like to add its members to our birthday celebration list? Email your information to commobond2011@gamail.com.

Include name, date and year he or she became sober. This information will go into a master list (and will do the math on which birthday it is).



Bagley J. – 7	Terry C. – 7
June 27	July I I
Tom C. – 8	Mike L. – 4
July I	Brandon T. – I
Jay S. – 8	Mitzi A. – 31
Ámy P. – I	July 18
July 4	Mike – 6
Mercedes – 6	July 19
Mercedes R. – 6	Deb S. – 23
Mike G. – 6	Kate S. – 27
July 5	July 21
Sue S. – 7	Andre C. – 5
July 6	Bernard – 4
Sam A. –18	Eric R. – 5
July 7	July 24
Julie C. – 9	Delores B. – 27
July 9	July 26
Thurmond G. – 8	Cass C. – 28
Greg – 5	Don L. – 4
Rick L. – 2	James P. – 5
July 10	July 3 I
Ellie O. – 37	Peaches P. – 6

## A.A. history

Continued from page 3

had been trying to employ, that is to say the spiritual approach. He gave me information about the subject of alcoholism which was undoubtedly helpful. 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. In other words, he talked my language.

### Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, Pages 74 and **75**:

"At four o'clock in the morning of the operation, he turned, looked at me, and said, 'I am going through with this," Bill recalled

"'You men you are going through with the operation?'

"'I have placed both operation and myself in God's hands. I'm going to do what it takes to get sober and stay that way.' ...

"At nine o'clock, he shook miserably as we helped him into his clothes." Bill said. "We were panic-stricken. Could he every do it? Were he too tight or shaky, it would make little difference. His misguided scalpel might take the life of his patient."

On the way to City Hospital ... Dr. Bob held out his hand from time to time to see whether the shakes subsided. Just before they stopped, Bill, who also had his practical side, gave him a bottle of beer.

Bill and Anne went back to house to wait. After many hours, Bob phoned to tell them that the operation had been successful. Still, he didn't return right after the call.

... He had spent the hours after the operation making restitution to friends and acquaintances in Akron. The bottle of beer Bill gave him that morning was the last drink he ever had.

Although arguments have been and will be made for other significant occasions in A.A. history, it is generally agreed that Alcoholics Anonymous began there, in Akron, on that date: June 10, 1935.

## **BCR-CO** Financial Report for April 2013

Beginning Balance 3	, 345.62	Expense: Debit	Freedom In Growth 0 0 126.71
Date Contrib Sales Tax	Total	4/10 Straighttalk (Cell) 48.91	Fort Bragg 0 0 22
		4/16 CenturyLink (Phone) 96.77	Kiss Grp 0 65 165
4/11 478.08 209.95 21.44	705.47	4/09 World Svcs (Books) 326.80	Keepin it Real 0 0 0
4/18 169.00 12.20 .85	182.05	4/11 Staples 67.61	Little Grp 0 10 26
4/18 Miscellaneous Credit	105.00	*	Men of Sobriety 118.78 0 118.78
Total	992.52	Total 580.09	•
Expenses: Checks paid			Spring Into Action 0 0 0
4/12 CCF Apr (rent)	240.83	Other	SOS Grp 0 0 160
4/12 NCDOR (tax)	142.35	Savings Acct balance 160.00	Sandalwood Grp 0 0 0
4/01 Payroll	109.45	Founder's Day Contribution 1,151.20	Unity Grp 0 0 37
4/10 Payroll	109.45	Ending Balance 1,726.10	ODAT Grp 0 329 902
4/12 WAI	25.54		
4/12 WAI	11.77	Contributions	Faithful Fivers
4/26 WAI	13.70	Mar. Apr. Year	Michael R. 10 10 265 to 4/2014
4/26 WAI	12.77	Bare Bones Grp 0 0 400	Jim B. 60 60 to 9/16/13
4/24 Payroll	94.89	Camp Ground Grp 0 0 0	
Total	760.75	Central Grp 111.99 124.80 373.03	