

**Central Office**  
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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.

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**June 2:**

District 51 Spring Fellow-  
ship, 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 pro-  
gram — about 3 p.m.  
(Moved back because of  
Area 51 Spring Assembly  
and Memorial Day week-  
end).

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**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. Pre-  
registration \$15 before  
June 27, \$20 afterwards.  
Details: [aanorthcaolina.org](http://aanorthcaolina.org)

# The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office

June 2013

## Founders' Day 2013

**When:** June 23

**Where:** Paradise Acres, 1965 John McMillian

Rd., (off Chickenfoot Road) Hope Mills

**Time:** 12-4 p.m.

**Speaker:** Jim B.

**Food and activities:** softball (bring glove)

horseshoes, playground, tie-dye station (bring

white T-shirt) Also: Raffle

## BCR-CO Board

Chairman  
Ray V.  
Vice chairman  
Duncan K.  
Treasurer  
Dave C.  
At-Large members  
Bladen  
(Open)  
Cumberland  
Mike E.  
Robeson  
Thomas E.  
Office manager/secretary  
Linda C.

## Council

Central Group  
Tom Mc.  
Sandalwood  
(vacant)  
Back to Basics  
Dan. A  
Bare Bones  
Bagley J.  
ODAT  
(vacant)  
Fort Bragg  
Jennifer C.  
Freedom in Growth  
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  
Jeff

## 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 yes.

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.com](mailto:commobond2011@gmail.com). 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

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# 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 many 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

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