

Central Office
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Office hours: 10 a.m.
to 2 p.m. Tuesdays
and Thursdays
Website: fayaa.org

Upcoming Events

Oct. 31

Happy Halloween.
Treat yourself by
staying sober.

Nov. 2-4

Fall committee
meetings and Gen-
eral Assembly and
Elections. Assembly
beings Nov. 3 at 12:30
p.m. North Raleigh
Hilton, 3415 Wake
Forest Road, off I-440
at Exit 10. See
aanorthcarolina.org
for hotel reservations.

Nov. 16-18

The 2018 Southeast
Regional Forum,
Washington Dulles
Airport Marriott,
45020 Aviation Drive,
Sterling, Va.

Nov. 19

District 51 board
meeting, election and
Fall Fellowship. Meet-
ing and election at
1 p.m. Speaker at 2
p.m., Fellowship at 3
p.m.

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The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland and Robeson Central Office

October 2018



Photo courtesy of Common Core

An old tradition

A new effort to convince Alcoholics Anonymous members to change their thinking about the Seventh Tradition is underway.

This has been tried in the past, but for more than 50 years the standard has been \$1 per meeting. While several generations of A.A.'s have come and gone, that belief has held steady despite the staggering changes in the inflation rate over all these years.

A brochure being circulated in some meetings asks "Would a 2 BUCK contribution ruin your week?" Inside it notes the various changes in the cost of living.

What is even more obvious is the costs of running a meeting, leaves very few dollars to support anything else. Both the district and the BCR-Central Office

are in need to funds, but a lot of meetings are just surviving themselves.

So why is it that the persistent thought among those coming into A.A., and those that have been in A.A. for many years that a dollar a week is a sufficient amount? Some may argue that they go to more than one meeting a week and that it adds up. But that has always been true.

I am nearing 25 years in A.A., and when I came in, I heard the dollar a meeting standard. But it soon became apparent to me that this was not enough. The meetings I attended at a club house had many people who legitimately did not have even the dollar to give. Some came from a work release facility or half-way houses. I felt, though not having a

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Central Office Board

Chairman
Dave C.
Vice chairman
Johnny V.
Treasurer
Carey D.
At-Large members
Bladen
Vacant
Cumberland
Carl S.
Robeson
Vacant
Office manager/
secretary
Audrey C.

Council

Agnostics & Others
Vacant
Central Group
Jackie M.
Sandalwood
Billy B.
Back to Basics
Dan. A
Bare Bones
Richard A.
ODAT
Jon F.
Fort Bragg
Michael
Freedom in Growth
Leah W.
Keep It Simple
Jackie W.
New Freedom
Tami
101 Big Book
Ashlin
Principles Group
Charles K.
Pine Run
Craig
Seekers of Sobriety
Donna L.
Spring Into Action
Anne S.
There is a Solution
Bryan Z.
Village Group
Sylvia E.
Walking the Same Path
Alexis L.
Services
Hotline
Audrey C.
Webmaster
Jim H.
Common Bond
Dave C.

Around the Area

Fall election, fellowship set

The District 51 Fall Fellowship, postponed by Hurricane Florence, will be Nov. 19 will be hosted by the Central Group at the ALCO Club, 604 German St. in Fayetteville. It will begin at 1 p.m. with a meeting and election of officers. There will be a speaker at 2 p.m., followed by food and fellowship at 3 p.m.

Most of the details for the gathering are still in the works.

Area 51 elections

The Area 51 Fall Committee & Election Assembly meetings will be held at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown, Nov. 2-4.

The deadline for reservations at the hotel is Oct. 4. Room rates are \$120 for single/double; \$125 for triple; \$130 for a quad. Reservations can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/yev84qg2>. Code is GSA.

BCR-CO elections

The Council will elect new officers at the Nov. 14 meeting. The meeting was moved up a week to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving. The meeting will be in the Green Street board room at 6:30 p.m.

Candidates interested as serving as chairman, treasurer or the Cumberland County representative must attend the meeting. Bylaws require candidates to be present to speak to the council before the vote.

Treasurer resigns

Carey D. resigned as chairman during the August board meeting after a disagreement with the board's other members.

Dave C. of the Central Group has agreed to take over for the remainder of the term. He will serve until after November's election,

Upcoming events Continued from page 1

Nov. 14

BCR-CO council meeting and election for chairman, treasurer and Cumberland County board member. The meeting is moved a week earlier because of Thanksgiving.

Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Day. Sandalwood expected to hold Alacathon from Wednesday night, Nov. 21 through Sunday, Nov. 25.

Make contact with the Central Office

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Tradition

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huge salary by any means, I should give an extra dollar for those who couldn't or wouldn't.

Not many chose to follow my example. Yet, even in my thought of giving more, I stayed in this practice for about 15 years. Then, at an area assembly, the state's delegate shared that she had started giving \$5 for a meeting. I and others in my group decided this was a good practice and increased our donations. But, I only did it for my home group. I still only gave \$2 when I visited other groups. If anyone has seen me give less, it's because I went to a meeting without checking to see if I had any small bills.

I share this not because I think I'm doing anything grand, but to point out that what I thought was fair nearly 25 years ago (\$2 a meeting), I'm still doing at non-home group meetings. Perhaps, I don't want to treat other groups as well as my home meetings. But most likely, I have stuck with a habit I formed a long time ago without thinking about the rate of inflation.

So, I have to ask myself, is it time to set a better example by increasing my donations at meetings other than my home group? The answer should be yes. But will I follow through? I'm hopeful, but my first duty remains to my home group. And how more years will it be before I see that support should be in-

creased?

I know some will say they don't have the money. Yes, there are some people in A.A. just squeaking by. But does their small gift make us look ungrateful for what we have got? Do we sit there and go others are not giving more, why should I? I go back to the main reason for originally giving \$2 a meeting long ago, I give an extra dollar for those who cannot or will not give more.

Some may feel that giving more will put undue social pressure on others or look grandiose. I recall a story Bill wrote (I don't remember whether it was in the Grapevine or another book) where in the early years of A.A., he felt a silver dollar in his pocket and had a yearning to contrib-

ute it for the Seventh Tradition. But as the basket was passed, Bill realized that by giving that much when others could only contribute was a dime, was more about ego than helping others. So he held the dollar back.

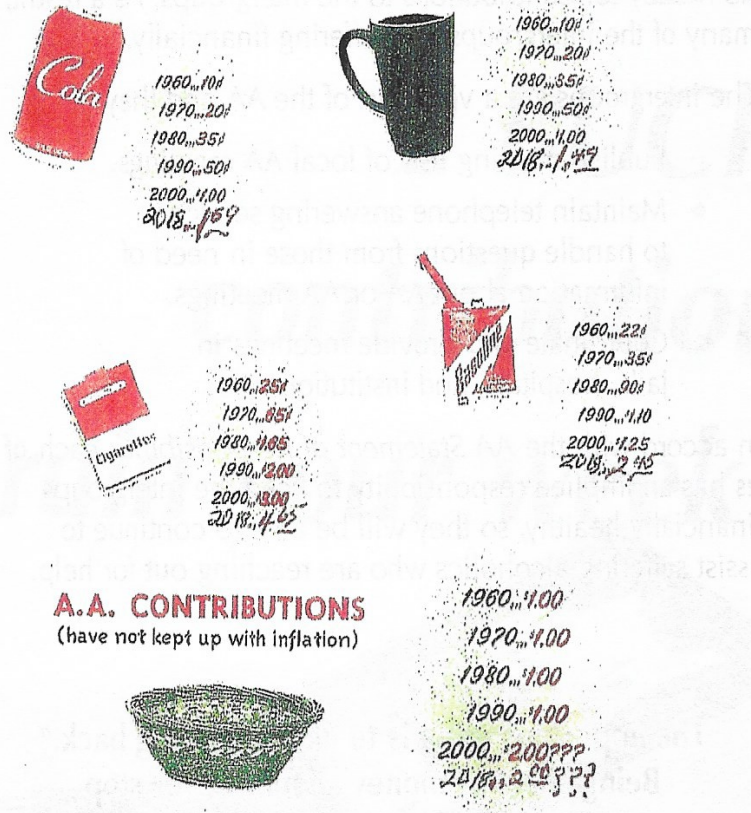
Ironically, only about 20 years later, \$1 became the standard and has stayed there for nearly 60 years.

It is up to us, but a simple \$1 donation for most of us is a tradition that flies in the face of a true Seventh Tradition offering.

We need to support our district, our central office, our area and the GSO. We need your help.

I beg you for your help, so we can continue to carry the message throughout our region.

— Dave C.



Costs graphic from brochure "Would a 2 BUCK contribution ruin your week?"

A.A. BIRTHDAYS



Oct. 1
Kelly C. – 11
Mike S. – 11

Oct. 2
Al S. – 30
Beth D. – 35
Matthew C. – 7

Oct. 3
Lisa L. – 7

Oct. 4
Zack O. – 9

Oct. 5
Alfonso P. – 6

Oct. 7
Jared D. – 11
Cameron B. – 11

Oct. 8
Sandra M. – 11

Oct. 9
Robert I. – 9

Oct. 15
Maura M. – 6

Oct. 16
Milton S. – 12
Sue R. – 42
Chad T. – 14

Oct. 18
Don Z. – 34
Patrick W. – 15

Oct. 25
Pete P. – 10

Send your birthdays, with first name and last initial, date and first year of sobriety to the Central Office at bcrcentraloffice@embarqmail or to commonbond2011@gmail.com.

Fagan M. – 11
Oct. 19
Elisha – 11
Mike P. – 33

Oct. 20
Jay O. – 13

Oct. 21
Stanley E. – 18

Oct. 22
Kasey R. – 10

Oct. 24
Todd W. – 11
David B. – 10

Joe H. – 12
Oct. 26
Kelly M. – 10
Mike R. – 14

Oct. 27
Lauren O. – 2

Oct. 28
Frazier S. – 14

Oct. 30
Ernest S. – 11

Nov. 1
Mike K. – 9

Nov. 2
Harvey G. – 33
Tom L. – 31

Aninty Y. – 6
Nov. 4
Alfonso P. – 37

Nov. 5
Ron S. – 38
Ray V. – 32
Mike E. – 19

Nov. 6
Jeff W. – 30

Nov. 7
Jed T. – 14
Edward E. – 7

Nov. 8
Wanda P. – 24

Nov. 10
Crystal – 13

Nov. 11
Joseph M. – 51
Carl S. – 32
Wade S. – 19

Nov. 12
Esther S. – 21
Scott T. – 9
Audrey – 7

Nov. 14
Johnny B. – 10

Nov. 15
Andrew K. – 10

Nov. 16
Kathy E. – 38
Charles J. – 10

Nov. 18
Dan – 20

Nov. 19
Julie S. – 33
Audrey C. – 20
Debora B. – 11
Jordan W. – 6

Nov. 21
Mike L. – 27
Gary M. – 14
Melissa L. – 11

Nov. 23
Bryan L. – 27
Bill L. – 25

Nov. 24
Jeff W. – 28

Nov. 25
Bryan L. – 26

Nov. 26
Johnny F. – 13
Daniela D. – 10
Trisha F. – 2

Nov. 29
Gary H. – 8

Sober thoughts

(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)

I ask you to consider the fact that we live in a web of mystery and have simply gotten so used to the fact that we have crossed out the world and replaced it with one we like better, that one being reality.

— pg 183, *The Colorado Kid*, Stephen King.

Annual Financial Report for July 2018

Revenue	2018	2017	Hotline Telephone	-580.26	-561.72	Bare Bones	0.00	990.00
Book & Material Sales	\$8,747.64	\$8,587.45	Inactive (formerly Insurance)	-500.00		New Freedom	25.00	25.00
Contributions	7,260.00	8,962.89	Insurance/office expenses	-792.82	-404.85	Central Group	76.83	261.07
Other Revenue	—	37.76	Payroll Tax Expense	-202.88	-223.98	Freedom In Growth	50.50	337.50
Total Revenue	16,007.64	17,588.10	Postage & delivery	-2.40		Fort Bragg	0.00	0.00
			Rent	-3,274.96	-3,354.96	Keep It Simple	100.00	188.41
Less Cost of Sales			Telephone/Internet	-1,485.81	-1,539.68	Principles Group	0.00	121.56
Book & Material Sales	8,050.30	5,925.80	Wages and Salaries	-2,652.00	-2,929.00	Spring Into Action	250.00	1,000.00
Food & supplies	347.13	323.73	Total	-\$9,302.13	-\$7,730.99	SOS Group	0.00	168.00
Total	8,397.43	6,249.53	Net Income	-1,691.92	-\$1,795.38	Sandalwood Group	0.00	250.00
Gross Profit	\$7,610.21	\$11,338.57				ODAT	0.00	1,621.84
			Contributions	May/June	Total	Walking The Same Path	0.00	0.00
Other Income and Expense			101 Big Book Study	145.15	355.64	Village Group	50.00	50.00
Bank Service Charges	-12.00	-29.00	Agnostics & Others	0.00	0.00	Faithful Fivers/ Others	1,102.00	1,890.98
Founders Day Celebration	-299.00					Totals	\$1,257.08	\$7,260.00