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

## Upcoming Events

### April 13-15

Crystal Coast  
Roundup in Morehead  
City, N.C. Contact:  
CCR@ec.rr.com.

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### April 21

Spring Into Action  
Conference, sponsored by the There Is  
A Solution group, beginning at 10 a.m. in  
Sanford. It will be at  
the New Hope Baptist Church, 3007  
Beechtree Drive. No  
registration fees.

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### May 16

BCR Central Office  
Council meeting at  
6:30 p.m., boardroom  
at 310 Green St.,  
Fayetteville.

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### May 20

District 51 meeting  
and Spring Roundup  
at Hope Mills United  
Methodist Church,  
4955 Legion Road.  
Meeting at 1 p.m.,  
panel at 2 p.m. and  
fellowship at 3 p.m.  
All A.A. members  
welcome.

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# The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland and Robeson Central Office

April 2018



All artwork courtesy of Bing/Common Core

## Redistricting scrapped; book changes eyed

One of the big surprises coming out of the A.A. Central Pre-conference is a plan to redraw district boundaries has been scrapped.

Near the end of the meeting in Greensboro, participants were told that some districts objected to the change. They brought their objections to the Area 51 committee saying the plan violated the traditions, that such a change should come from the bottom up and not from the top down.

The committee members working on redistricting agreed that, in current form, the plan did violate the traditions and moved to drop the plan.

Homer, a former area delegate to

the General Services Conference, said problems still exist with discrepancies between districts and a need for revisions, but it will have to wait for a solution that follows the traditions.

In the proposed plan, District 51 would have lost Bladen County, which we understand welcomed the change, and gained Sampson County. We have not heard how Sampson AA's felt about the change.

The mission of the pre-conference, the first to be held in the state, is for the area delegate to get feedback from local AA's on what they think about items that will be on the General Service Conference agenda. This allows

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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  
Sean L.  
Back to Basics  
Dan. A  
Bare Bones  
Michael B.  
ODAT  
Jerry T.  
Fort Bragg  
Michael  
Freedom in Growth  
Laureen O.  
Keep It Simple  
Jackie W.  
New Freedom  
Spencer G.  
101 Big Book  
Ann Marie  
Principles Group  
Charles K.  
Pine Run  
Craig  
Seekers of Sobriety  
Donna L.  
Spring Into Action  
Anne S.  
There is a Solution  
Stephen B.  
Village Group  
Sylvia E.  
Walking the Same Path  
Alexis L.

**Services**

Hotline  
Audrey C.  
Webmaster  
Jim H.  
Common Bond  
Dave C.

## District 51

## Progress made on return to jails, Spring Roundup set for May

Matt of the prisons committee told the District 51 board members that A.A. is close to restarting a meeting in the Cumberland County jail.

The district lost its access to the jail several months ago when a recent inmate tried to enter facility as part of an A.A. group. Recent inmates are barred from returning to the facility.

Matt said 10 people — 5 men and 5 women — have passed background checks and taken a Penitentiary Rape Elimination Act course as requirements for admission.

A date to resume jail meetings has not been set, but Matt is hopeful they will begin within a few months.

The Spring Roundup will be May 20, it will be hosted by Keep It Simple at Hope Mills United Methodist Church, 4955 Legion Road. The district meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the Keep It Simple's meeting room in the basement of the gym building, which is at the rear of the property. A workshop on the steps will begin at 2 p.m. in the gym. It will be a panel on the 12 steps with different presenters for each step. Dinner will be at 3 p.m.

Among other topics was the Eastern Pre-conference. It was noted the conference discussed options for helping alcoholics with disabilities.

One tool for the deaf, soberfingers.com, allows them to attend meetings online using sign language. There are a number of other tools to help disabled people including a braille big book for the blind.

Dixon of There is a Solution told the board that anyone interested in helping to take a meeting into area treatment facilities to contact him. Those interested in going into Roxie need to contact Angela at Sandalwood, who handles that facility.

There is a solution also will host a workshop "Spring Into Action" at New Hope Baptist Church, 3007 Beechtree Drive in Sanford on April 21.

It will begin at 10 a.m. and feature topics on A.A. history, working the steps, the 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition, carrying the message and home groups.

Steve M. of Raleigh will speak at 8 p.m. on There is a Solution.

Food trucks will be available for lunch and dinner.

### Make contact with the Central Office

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# Pre-conference Continued from page 1

the delegate to better represent the opinions of all AA's in the area.

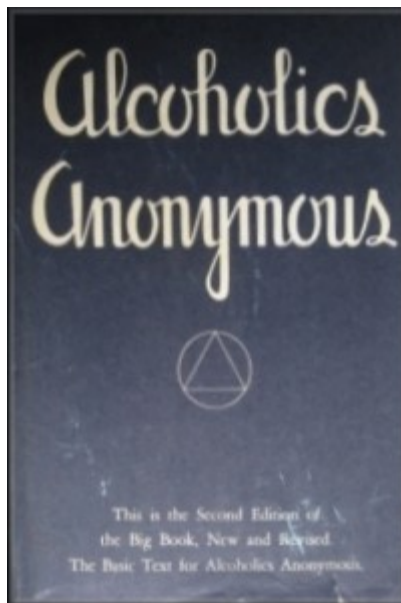
The participants choose one of six groups to give feedback on issues that the conference will discuss or hear reports on.

One lively discussion was in the Literature Group on whether to have the GSO publish two pamphlets on for agnostics and atheists.

The first suggestion was to publish a 24-page pamphlet (also referred to as a booklet) called "The God Word," which is published by Great Britain's General Service Board of AA. The pamphlet is used by some groups in the U.S., but it must be bought and shipped from Great Britain. One group in the Kansas City area felt that the GSO could get permission to publish it for the U.S. and Canada, making it more available, and at a lower cost.

A second one called for the development of a pamphlet for agnostics and atheists. The two proposals will be handled separately by the conference and group participants said it was possible both or neither one could pass.

Overwhelmingly, group participants favored in adding the pamphlets after a long discussion. While most favored that A.A. ought to be as inclusive as possible in addressing issues or views of members, several who identified themselves as atheists or agnostics felt they were being slighted in A.A. and the pamphlets represented acceptance of their views within A.A. The objection to the pamphlets was a warning that God should not be taken out of the program, and this not be used to build momentum for



trying to change the Big Book.

Three changes to the Big Book were also discussed by the group. One was a request to add an appendix reflecting recognition the text had received from the Library of Congress. "Alcoholics Anonymous" was named as one of 23 books that changed the world by the library.

A large majority was against it, with arguments ranging from not seeming to seek acceptance by a government agency to looking egotistical by promoting the recognition. During the discussion, surprisingly, a majority of the group admitted they were not aware of the appendix on the Lasker Award, recognition A.A. received from the American Public Health Association in 1951. It is on page 571.

Another proposal would have added the A.A. Preamble and the Responsibility Statement to the Big Book. It was opposed as most thought it was unnecessary since these are read at many meetings

and readily available.

The last revision request was to add a footnote at the end of Bill's Story noting where the story of Dr. Bob, A.A.'s co-founder, could be found. It is currently on page 171. The addition was sought because many people were not aware that Dr. Bob's story was in the Big Book. Participants noted many Big Book studies end on page 164.

Among other groups, one proposal that could affect the Fort Bragg area, is that A.A. is working with the Armed Forces, which is looking at other alternatives on addressing alcoholism treatment. In a similar area, that group suggested that The Grapevine increase its focus on the military, including giving it a full month. It was suggested that the May issue would be ideal for that.

An issue that was raised in every focus area involved safety, from posting or reading the safety card at meetings, to adding language on safety to several pamphlets.

Former delegate Homer said the need to focus on safety comes from a lawsuit that was filed against A.A. In that case, a woman was murdered by a man she met at an A.A. meeting.

The woman's family felt the program failed to protect her. The suit was rejected in part because of A.A.'s declaration on group autonomy.

However, A.A. felt it necessary to warn people on safety issues because of the potential for lawsuits.

Other groups tackled issues concerning the A.A.'s use of social

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## A.A. BIRTHDAYS

**April 1**  
Russell J. – 22  
**April 4**  
Victoria J. – 13  
**April 8**  
Frank N. – 17  
Jerry T. – 17  
**April 11**  
Donny W. – 30  
Paula B. – 23  
Kay C. – 21  
Willie B. – 10  
**April 13**  
Cliff B. – 27  
Ann H. – 19  
Ron H. – 10  
**April 14**  
Mark P. – 34  
**April 15**  
Bill D. – 13  
**April 18**  
Jennifer C. – 8  
**April 21**  
Bernard – 9  
**April 22**  
Tom Mc – 14  
**April 23**  
Jim C. – 20  
**April 24**  
Anni – 17  
Jason S – 9  
**April 28**  
Wayne C. – 28  
**April 30**  
Tiffany K. – 2



Send your birthdays, with first name and last initial, date and first year of sobriety to the Central Office at [bcrcentraloffice@embarqmail](mailto:bcrcentraloffice@embarqmail) or to

<b>May 1</b>	<b>May 17</b>
Kenny F. – 17	Ty G. – 24
<b>May 19</b>	<b>May 19</b>
Joyce L. – 11	Brandon L. – 10
<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 20</b>
Royce – 11	Stephanie F. – 13
<b>May 5</b>	<b>May 21</b>
Rae E. – 41	April F. – 9
<b>May 7</b>	<b>May 22</b>
Gerry L. – 12	Aaron J. – 9
<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 24</b>
Mike B. – 19	Eric E. – 14
<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 27</b>
Jack L. – 34	John B. – 29
<b>May 15</b>	<b>May 28</b>
William – 34	Audrey – 8
<b>May 15</b>	<b>May 31</b>
James H. – 12	Megan G. – 18
<b>May 15</b>	
Sonja H – 18	

## Pre-conference

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media to spread the message, help for members with disabilities and the publishing of a new book that will combine the 12x12 and the 12 Concepts of World Service and service manual. The 12x12 and the Service Manual would still be available separately. The change was sought by groups who wanted to handle all three in one book during a book study.

The eastern pre-conference was in Raleigh on March 24 and the western one is in Hendersonville on April 7.

Upcoming events Continued from page 1

### June 16

A.A. Founders Day Celebration at St. John's Episcopal Church, 302 Green St., Fayetteville. Beginning at 1 p.m. (2 doors down from the Central Office).

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### June 16-17

Area 51 (North Carolina) Spring General Assembly at North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 North Wake Forest Road, Raleigh (Exit 10 off I-440). Session begins Saturday at 12 p.m. and end Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

## Sober thoughts

*(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)*

While the word is yet unspoken you are master of it; when once it is spoken, it is master of you.

— Arab Proverb

Sooner or later, false thinking brings wrong conduct.

— Julian Huxley

## Financial Report for February 2018

Balance sheet		Revenue	Month	Year	Contributions	Jan/Feb.	Total
<b>Assets</b>		Book & Material Sales	\$421.92	\$5,186.75	101 Big Book Study	0.00	210.49
Cash - Unrestricted	\$728.63	Contributions	1,277.00	4,199.40	Agnostics & Others	0.00	0.00
Founders' Day	1,540.98	Other Revenue	—	—	Bare Bones	500.00	990.00
Prudent Reserve	2,500.00	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,698.91</b>	<b>9,386.15</b>	Central Group	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,769.61</b>	<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>	<b>104.75</b>	<b>3,881.00</b>	Freedom In Growth	0.00	125.00
<b>Liabilities</b>		<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$1,594.16</b>	<b>\$5,505.15</b>	Fort Bragg	0.00	0.00
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>Other Income and Expense</b>			Keep It Simple	0.00	0.00
Employee Tax Payable	\$21.72	Bank Service Charges		-6.00	Principles Group	0.00	55.06
Sales Tax Payable	68.10	Hotline Telephone	-48.34	386.90	Spring Into Action	0.00	750.00
Total Current Liabilities	89.82	Insurance/office expenses	—	-658.09	SOS Group	0.00	168.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$89.82</b>	Office Expenses	—	-101.00	Sandalwood Group	0.00	250.00
<b>Equity</b>		Payroll Tax Expense	—	-2.40	ODAT	542.00	1,146.87
Beginning equity	\$4,862.54	Rent	-240.83	-1,926.24	Walking The Same Path	0.00	0.00
Current income	-182.75	Telephone/Internet	-121.75	-998.87	Village Group	0.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$4,679.79	Wages and Salaries	—	-1,608.00	Faithful Fivers/ Individuals	265.98	503.98
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$4,769.61</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$410.92</b>	<b>-\$5,687.90</b>	Others	0.00	0.00
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$1,183.24</b>	<b>-\$182.75</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,277.00</b>	<b>\$4,199.40</b>