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The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Cumberland and Robeson Central Office

August 2014

Upcoming Events

July 20

District 51 Committee meeting, Central Group, (Alco Club), 401 German St., Fayetteville.

Aug. 23-44

Area 51 Summer Committee meetings. Committee members only. Hilton North Raleigh 3415 Wake Forest Road (Exit 10 off I-440 Beltline). Info: aanorthcarolina.org.

Sept. 17

Cumberland and Robeson Central Office Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., board room at 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

Sept. 21

District 51 Fall Fellowship, Keep It Simple Group, Hope Mills Methodist Church, 4955 Legion Rd., Hope Mills. Committee meeting at 1 p.m., program, fellowship to follow.

Oct. 17-19

Area 51 Fall Election & Assembly, Hilton North Raleigh 3415 Wake Forest Road (Exit 10 off I-440 Beltline). Details at aanorthcarolina.org.

Nov. 19

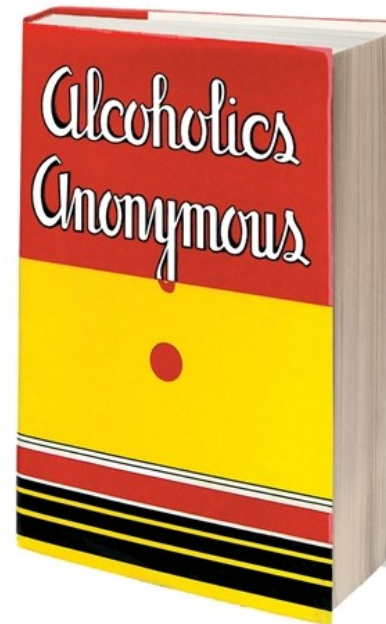
Cumberland and Robeson Central Office Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

The price of 'Just don't drink and go to meetings'

One AA member's thoughts on this advice: Read The Big Book

The following was found in an AA electronic archive by Rocky O. and he offers it for your consideration. The original author and original publication are unknown to us at this time.

When Bill W. prepared the Forward to the Second Edition, he shared with us the success that he and the other recovered alcoholics had witnessed as the result of having the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" as the only guide for recovery within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. What he wrote was, "Of alcoholics who came to AA and really tried, 50% got sober at once and remained that way; 25% sobered up after some relapses, and among the remainder, those who stayed on with AA showed improvement." (AA, pg. xx.) On the average, 75% got sober and stayed sober



and Dr. Bob, Clarence S. and some of the others were realizing 90%+!!!

When carefully reading the Big Book (AA member's fond nickname for this volume and which very few alcoholics ever do read let alone study) we learn that these alcoholics went to only one or two meetings a week. They

did, however, spend a great deal of their spare time searching for sick alcoholics and sharing their experience with each other on where to find the sick ones and how to be more effective in trying to carry our message to the suffering ones. Of course, they had a message to carry. They had been blessed with a spiritual awakening/experience as the result of

taking the Steps in the early days of their sobriety. In many cases, the alcoholic had taken the Steps and recovered before he/she ever attended an AA meeting.

They report this fact in the Big Book. "Here are the Steps we took which are suggested as a

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Central Office Board

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

Council

Central Group
Charlotte S.
Sandalwood
Wayne C.
Back to Basics
Dan. A.
Bare Bones
(vacant)
ODAT
Jeff W.
Fort Bragg
Michael
Freedom in Growth
Amanda K.
Keep It Simple
Liz M.
Principles Group:
Charles K.
Little Group
Cass C.
Pine Run
Craig
Seekers of Sobriety
Darlene D.
Spring Into Action
Mark P.
S.U.R.E.
Jeff
Turning Point
Syndi

Services

Hotline
Tom Mc
Webmaster
Jim H.
Common Bond editor
Dave C.



2015 International Convention

AA announces registration to begin for Atlanta meet

Reprinted from Box 459, AA newsletter, Summer 2014:

Registration forms for the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 2-5, will be mailed around the world in August. You can get your form from your G.S.R., your area structure, your local intergroup/central office, from your G.S.O., and, of course, on G.S.O.'s A.A. website, www.aa.org. You may also register online starting September 3.

The preregistration fee is \$100 USD; after May 12, 2015, registration will be \$110.00 USD. Your registration badge entitles you to attend all Convention events, including the Thursday night Party in the Park, the Stadium meetings on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in the Georgia Dome, and all of the marathons, panels, work-

shops, and topic, special interest and other meetings at the Georgia World Congress Center and nearby hotels.

Housing reservation information, including the Housing Bureau's contact information, will be included with your registration confirmation. Similar to the 2010 Convention, housing for the 2015 International Convention will be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, you must be registered for the Convention before you can make your reservations.

Once your registration form and payment have been received, you will receive housing information by the same method you sent in your registration. If online, a link to the Housing Reservation website will be sent to your email address along with your registration confirmation. You will then be

able to complete your hotel reservation online. If you register by mail or fax, housing information will be sent to you by postal mail. Complete your housing and deposit information and send it to the address indicated on the Housing Reservation Form. Your hotel reservation will be processed and a confirmation mailed to you.

As at other International Conventions, many A.A.s will be accompanied by Al-Anons and Alateens (check appropriate badge box on form), and Al-Anon and Alateen have scheduled a variety of daytime activities, including meetings and workshops at the Marriott Marquis. Of course, Al-Anons and Alateens will join in the festivities at the Party in the Park, the Big Meetings and more.

Make contact with the Central Office

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Don't drink, go to meetings Continued from Page 1

program of recovery." (AA, pg. 59) They did not say, "Here are the meetings we went to," nor did they say, "Here are the Steps we discussed and/or talked about." No, they said they TOOK the Steps and they further said, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." (AA, pg. 60) They did not say, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of going to meetings." No, they TOOK these Twelve Steps following a "course of vigorous action" (AA, pg. 63) by "precisely" (AA, pg. xiii), "specifically" (AA, pg. 20), "exactly" (AA, pg. 45) following the "clear-cut directions" (AA, pg. 29) the 1st One Hundred laid down for us in the Basic Text for our Society, "Alcoholics Anonymous." (AA, pg. xi)

The founders of our Program recognized a basic truth about alcoholism, "*We were unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We were without defense against the first drink.*" (AA, pg. 24). Because of that truth, it was customary for a Sponsor to insist that the newcomer take the Steps before he/she went to meetings. They also recognized the absolute necessity of taking and living by our Steps as the key to emotional sobriety. They knew that living our Program was far more important than talking about our Program. Taking and living by our Twelve Steps was and is the Program.

Of historical interest in our area is the fact that the man who brought AA to Texas never went

to a meeting before arriving in Houston. He was found near death in Cleveland by some of Clarence S.'s proteges. Clarence and Dr. Bob helped this man, Larry J., take the Steps while he was hospitalized. On his release from the hospital, they bought him a train ticket to Houston and sent him there for his health. He arrived in Houston with a copy of the Big Book and the experience of having taken the Steps. He found a job with a newspaper and after writing six articles about "Alcoholics Anonymous," he followed the directions in Chapters Seven & Eleven, "Working With Others" & "A Vision For You." In a matter of days, he had several alcoholics seeking his help. AA in Texas was born.

Alcoholics Anonymous was brought to Dallas, TX by a lady named Ester who came to Dallas from Houston. She arrived with a copy of the Big Book and the willingness to search out suffering alcoholics. Like Larry J., she followed the directions in Chapters Seven & Eleven, of the Big Book, "Working With Others" & "A Vision For You." Her story, "A FLOWER OF THE SOUTH" can be found in both the Second Edition (pgs. 343-354) and the Third Edition (pgs. 384-399).

Throughout the world, it has been repeatedly proven that one sober alcoholic, with a copy of the Big Book, can make a difference in the lives of innumerable alcoholics by following the clear-cut directions the 1st 100 laid down for us in our Basic Text. As Bill so well put it, "The spiritual life is not a theory. *We have to live it.*" (AA, pg. 83) And he further stated what we must do to live a spiritual life when he wrote, "For if an alcoholic failed to perfect

and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead. If he did not work, he would surely drink again, and if he drank, he would surely die." (AA, pgs.14-15)

So, how well are we doing now with our advice to the newcomer to "just don't drink and go to meetings" and/or "go to 90 meetings in 90 days"? Let's take a look at what appears to be happening as is reported in one of our major cities in the Southwest (Houston).

NUMBER OF CHIPS SOLD BY THE INTERGROUP OFFICE IN 1996

Desire	24,246	100%
30 days	8,839	36%
60 days	5,960	25%
90 days	5,019	21%
6 mos.	3,370	15%
1 yr.	2,102	9%
2 yrs.	1,170	5%
5 yrs.	707	3%
10 yrs.	560	2%
20 yrs.	143	0.6%
30 yrs.	26	0.1%

For the year 1997, the number of "desire chips" sold was reduced to 22,191. For 1998, the number dropped to 19,504. For 1999, 16,285 Desire Chips were sold. The other statistics remained the same. So how well is your group doing?

A very disturbing observation from the 1998 statistics is that 592 medallions were purchased for AA's celebrating 10 years of sobriety. The total number of folks taking "desire chips" in 1988 was in excess of 40,000. Did only about 1.5% apply our Program?

A.A. BIRTHDAYS

Celebrate with us



Would your group like to add its members to our birthday celebration list?

Send your dates to commobond2011@gmail.com.

Include name, date and year of sobriety. The names will be added to our list (we'll do the math on which birth-

Aug. 1
Dana C. - 7
Dana E. - 7
Jen S. - 7
Sharon H. - 8

Aug. 2
Michael R. - 8
Daniel T. - 3

Aug. 3
Paul S. - 7
Sharon H. - 8

Aug. 4
Darlene H. - 27
Diane D. - 25
Edwin W. - 5

Aug. 5
Doreen B. - 18
Beth M. - 6

Aug. 6
Cindy W. - 7
Marco - 5

Aug. 7
Chris J. - 19
Chris T. - 19

Aug. 8
Mark B. - 6
Richard - 6

Aug. 9
Denny M. - 30
Justine B. - 6
Teresa H. - 3

Aug. 11
Crystal M. - 5

Aug. 13
Penny - 8
Faye - 6

Aug. 14
Linda G. - 22
Mack H. - not listed

Aug. 15
Renee L. - 5

Aug. 17
Chris T. - 19

Aug. 18
Mac - 7

Aug. 19
Jim C. - 5

Aug. 20
Dan T. - 8

Aug. 21
Marcus R. - 8

Aug. 22
Matt Y. - 6

Aug. 23
Christy G. - 10

Aug. 24
Greg W. - 22
Chad S. - 13
Jen S. - 7

Aug. 25
Scott T. - 5

Aug. 27
Jacky M. - 19
Cheryl E. - 5

Sept. 1
Ed S. - 9

Sept. 2
Howard A. - 6

Sept. 4
Walt S. - 5

Sept. 7
Deb. D. - 11
Tom H. - 40

Sept. 8
Scott S. - 12

Sept. 9
Rufus M. - 10
Jennie M. - 5

Sept. 10
Virginia J. - 3

Sept. 12
Ernest G. - 28
Howard F. - 6

Sept. 13
Mitzi A. - 32

Sept. 15
Kevin G. - 5
Lenora W. - 12

Marty H. - 9
Michelle C. - 11

Lisa M. - 2

Sept. 16
Zhack H. - 6

Sept. 17
Ann-Marie H. - 6

Sept. 19
Al B. - 16

Sept. 20
Davi D. - 5
Jay - 3

Joey D. - 6
Teri Q. - 10

Sept. 21
John Luke - 5

Sept. 22
Gary H. - 6

Sept. 26
Kevin B. - 9
Michel J. - 31

Sept. 27
Nick K. - 6

Sober thoughts

(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)

You must take personal responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself. That is something you have charge of.

— Jim Rohn

The farther behind I leave the past, the closer I am to forging my own character.

— Isabelle Eberhardt

The Promised Land always lies on the other side of a wilderness.

— Havelock Ellis

Financial Report for June 2014

Beginning Balance	4,980.54	6/06 CCF (Rent)	240.83	Freedom In Growth	0	0	258.50
Date Contb Tickets Sales Tax Total		6/09 Straighttalk (Hotline)	46.81	Fort Bragg	0	0	207.00
6/05 415.74 30.00 197.28 13.82 656.84		6/09 AAWS (Books)	236.10	Kiss Grp	13.50	0	213.50
6/10 32.61 350.00 0.00 0.00 382.61		6/10 Transfer to Savings (FD)	380.00	Little Grp	0	27.00	42.00
6/19 0.00 210.00 444.62 24.40 679.02		6/16 Centurylink (Office Phone)	120.24	Principles Grp	0	0	30.00
6/24 0.00 2,130.39 305.97 19.70 2,456.72		6/19 Post Office	5.80	Spring Into Action	0	250.00	500.00
6/17 Transfer from Savings (FD) 3,038.72		6/26 Transfer to Savings (FD)	2,140.39	SOS Grp	0	160.74	335.74
	7,213.25	6/30 AAWS (Books)	500.45	Sandalwood Grp	0	0	325.00
Expenses: Checks Paid		Total	3,711.49	Turning Point	59.48	0	59.48
6/02 LBM(Copier)	605.00	Prudent Reserves/Savings	680.00	Unity Grp	0	0	0
6/03 Recovery Accents	11.75	Founder's Day left over	2,140.39	ODAT Grp	406.83	0	1,559.34
6/04 Payroll	105.12	Checking Acct	1,023.28	Walking Same Path	0	0	0
6/17 Payroll	105.13	Ending Balance	3,843.67	Faithful Fivers			
6/20 Faye C. (FD)	3,238.72	Contributions		Michael R.			20.00
6/30 Practically Spiritual Books	53.99	May June Year		John L.			20.00
Total	4,119.71	Bare Bones Grp	0 0 0	Cass & Dorothy			50.00
Expenses: Debits		Camp Ground Grp	0 20 40.00	District 51			500.00
6/02 Staples (Supplies)	40.87	Central Grp	49.56 32.61 703.24				