

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

**Website:**  
fayaa.org

## Upcoming Events

**January 18-20:** Tar Heel Mid-Winter Conference at the Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Road. Open to everyone. Details: [www.aanorthcarolina.org/events.asp](http://www.aanorthcarolina.org/events.asp)

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**January 27:** Central Group's 67th anniversary celebration, 1 p.m. at Alco Club on German Street.

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**February 9:** One Day at A Time 25th anniversary celebration at noon at Holy Trinity Episcopal. Three speakers, all original members of the group. Food and fellowship follows.

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**March 1-3:** Area 51 winter committee meetings. Holiday Inn Bordeaux, Fayetteville. Committee members only.

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### **March 15-17**

N.C. Corrections Conference, Hampton Inn & Suites, Aberdeen. Reservations by Feb. 17. Details: [www.aanorthcarolina.org](http://www.aanorthcarolina.org)

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**March 17:** District 51 Committee meeting, 3 p.m. at Fort Bragg group.

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**March 20:** BCR-CO Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., board room, 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

# The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office

February 2013

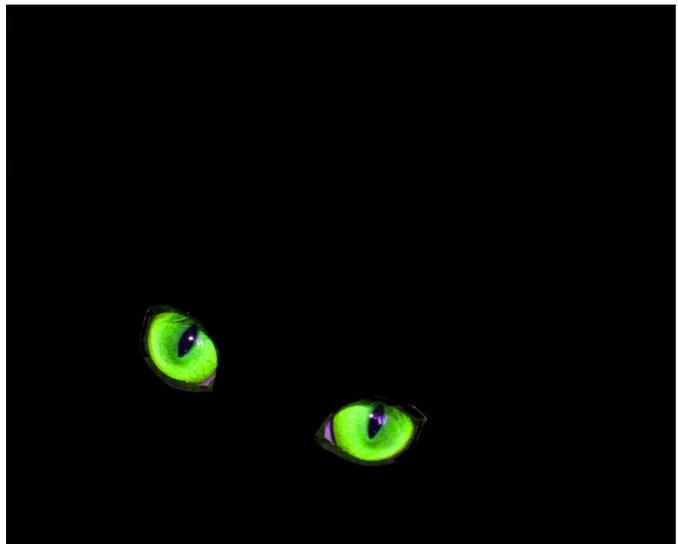
## Dark Groups: A Spiritual Malady?

By Carl Anonym

About five years ago I came to hear about the concept of darkness in AA. No, this doesn't have to do with spirituality – well perhaps it does; you'll decide that for yourself. It concerns a group, district or other division of AA which does not participate in AA life above the individual group.

What this means is that these organizations have no say nor do they keep their members informed of the goings on beyond the confines of their meeting rooms. They do not participate in the larger life of AA.

Because of this non-participation their members get no vote in our service organs. They may have great ideas and abilities to assist us in our work outside the group but we don't get them. For many reasons, I suppose, they don't participate. I have long thought this is a



result of their collective selfishness. For after all, this is the root of our individual spiritual disease and thus we can expect a form suited to a group to manifest itself.

We often can carry our group autonomy to a selfish and self-centered degree. Groups withdraw, isolate, deny they are affected, rationalize that they don't need other groups and organs of AA Intergroup, Central Offices, Districts, committees, Area and their Assemblies, Regions,

and General Service Council, AA World Services, The Grape Vine, New York Central Office, and Our other boards and committees. All of these require staffing, group participation, and money.

There are entire districts that don't participate in Area Assemblies; thus depriving all groups and members of those groups of participation. Right now only about half the groups in

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## 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  
Tom C.  
Back to Basics  
Dan. A  
Bare Bones  
Bagley J.  
ODAT  
Beverly R.  
Fort Bragg  
Andrea HR  
Freedom in Growth  
Darlene D.  
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.



# Comments sought on Hotline document

Hotline committee chairman Tom Mc presented a proposed appendix for its operations during the Jan. 16 council meeting of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office.

The appendix spells out the guidelines and procedures for running the Hotline. The written document allows future committee members to know how the Hotline has operated.

Tom asked each council member to take the draft back to their groups for discussion and to forward any suggested changes or addi-

tions to him by Feb. 20, so a final document can be ready for the council's March 20 meetings.

Suggestions can be sent to the Central Office's email: [bcrcentraloffice@embarqmail.com](mailto:bcrcentraloffice@embarqmail.com)

Other inquiries about the Hotline appendix or copies of it should be directed to the Central Office.

In other business, the council directed the treasurer to set aside \$40 a month to build a prudent reserve.

Ray V., the Central Office's new chairman, directed his first council meeting.

# Sober thoughts

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

We only learn our limits by going beyond them.

– Unattributed

All experience is a foundation to build upon.

– Henry Adams

To know is nothing at all: To imagine is everything.

– Anatole France

# District 51 committee plans workshops

The District 51 Committee had decided to start holding 15-minute workshops at its meetings to help inform the group service representatives about the AA service work and other topics.

The 15-minute time was suggested as a way to provide the information without making the meetings too long.

The idea is to increase participation through education of AA principles. The proposal gained ground as several

members at the Jan. 6 meeting at Sandalwood said they felt in the dark about the committee's work.

Chairman John B. noted his concern of the poor attendance at the area assemblies. Five groups were represented at the fall meeting in Fayetteville.

Both Corrections and CPI-PI chairpersons said they also were planning workshops to increase participation in their work.

# Make contact with the BCR-CO

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# The Man on the Bed: A.A. Number Three

Reprinted from: Box 459, Vol. 58, No. 1/ Spring 2012

Do you ever wonder what it would have been like to be 12 stepped by Bill W. and Dr. Bob S.? Well, Bill D., a well-known attorney and Akron city councilman, who in the summer of 1935 had once again been admitted to Akron City Hospital, in DTs and strapped to a gurney this time, having already punched out two nurses, described it this way some years after the fact.

"I looked up and there's two great big fellows over 6 feet tall, very likeable looking," said Bill in a conversation he had with Bill W. in 1953. "Before very long we began to relate some incidents of our drinking and, naturally, pretty soon, I realized both of you knew what you were talking about. ... A lot of folks tried to talk to me about my drinking — the fact is, they'd come around ... and I'd just dry up and wouldn't listen to them. They told me I ought to quit. Of course, I knew that much better than they did, because on top of all the things they knew, only I knew how sick I got.

"Both of you were very likeable fellows, and after a while I remember that I had been doing quite a bit of the talking. ... So, after hearing some of my story, you turned around and said to Doc — I don't think you knew I heard you, but I did — you said, 'Well, I believe he's worth saving and working on.'"

Bill D. later came to be known in AA circles as the "Man on the

## PART 1 of 2

Bed," continued. "You both said to me, 'Do you want to quit drinking? It's none of our business about your drinking. We're not up here trying to take any of your rights or privileges away from you, but we have a program whereby we think we can stay sober. Part of that program is that we take it to someone else that needs it and wants it. Now, if you don't want it we'll not take up your time, an we'll be going and looking for someone else.'"

They then asked Bill a number of questions. Did he think he could quit of his own accord, without any help? Did he believe in a Higher Power and, if so, would he be willing to go to this Higher Power and ask for help?

They left this with Bill to think over and, as he lay in the hospital bed, he went over his drinking history in his mind. "I reviewed what liquor had done to me ... the opportunities that I had discarded, went over the possibilities and things that had been given me and how I had wasted them, and I finally came to the conclusion that if I didn't want to quit, I certainly *ought* to want to quit."

When the two 12 steppers returned sometime later, Dr. Bob asked Bill if he wanted to quit drinking. "Yes Doc." Bill said, "I would like to quit, at least for five, six, or eight months, until I get things straightened up, and begin to get the respect of my wife and

some other people back, get my finances fixed up, and so on."

Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. both laughed heartily. Then, according to Bill, one of the two turned to him. "We've got some bad news for you. It was bad news to us, and it will probably be bad news for you. Whether you quit six days, months, or years, if you go back out and take a drink or two you'll end up in this hospital, tied down, just like you have been in these past six months. You are an alcoholic."

"As far as I knew that was the first time I had paid any attention to the word. I figured I was a drunk. And you said, 'No, you have a disease, and it doesn't make any difference how long you do without it, after a drink or two you'll end up just like you are now.' That certainly was disheartening news, at the time."

The next thing Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. asked was whether Bill thought he could quit for 24 hours. "Sure ... anybody can do that, for 24 hours," said Bill.

"That's what we're talking about. Just 24 hours at a time," the two AA co-founders said.

"That sure did take a load off my mind," said Bill. "Every time I'd start thinking about drinking, I wouldn't think of long, dry, arid years without having a drink, but this idea for 24 hours."

*The Man on the Bed will be continued in the April edition of the Common Bond.*

## A.A. BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1	Tomie Ann – 7
Kyna O. – 11	Feb. 25
Feb. 2	Lupe G. – 12
Stacy W. – 11	Feb. 28
Feb. 6	Bill C. – 26
Johnny H. – 7	March 1
Feb. 9	Patricia H. – 15
Jay A. – 7	Elsie – 4
Feb. 11	March 10
Rocky O. – 39	Crystal J. – 5
Feb. 14	March 11
Bennie R. – 14	Joe G. – 9
Dick V. – 8	March 27
Feb. 15	Bobbie E. – 21
Jim M. – 4	March 28
Matt D. – 30	Doug C. – 18

## Celebrate your sobriety with us

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



commobond2011@gmail.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).

## Dark Groups drop out of the greater A.A. works

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our BCR-CO participate and vote. They don't pick up mail, or get info on upcoming events, financial reports, and don't provide their experience to our community.

When I go to our district meeting, we are lucky to get a third of the groups to participate in the bi-monthly gathering. The ones who do come do not come consistently.

At our Area Assemblies we normally get about three groups represented out of 24 groups. If a group GSR doesn't go to the Area Assembly the group has no vote and we do not vote by proxy.

I could name the groups that don't participate – but I won't. It would be far easier to list those that do participate.

So what does this mean for our primary purpose, the primary purpose of a group? To carry our message to the alcoholic who still suffers? It means our efforts are diffused, attenuated and incoherent. We do not speak with the One Voice of AA. It means that the dark groups shape our response as the majority. It means we are stripped of both manpower and focus. We are un-

derfunded, ideas go wanting and we are unable to be effective in our community.

We are not aware of our short comings and our strengths because we don't know our communities, our groups and their needs.

We need your groups participation and strengths. I am quite sure that our God wants it also.

Find out if your group participates. Who is your GSR and BCR-CO council member? How much is given to Central Office and District? Are your events posted on our BCR-CO website? Are announcements being made by your group? Are reports of The Central Office, District Committee, Area and the General Service Conference being transmitted to you? Are you well informed about what is going on in the BCR-CO, District and Area?

So you tell me if you think this is a spiritual malady?

As with personal recovery the first thing is to admit we have a problem. Then believe, determine to do the will of the Maker, and take inventory of your group.

Then pray, meditate and act in an altruistic manner for the good of us all

### BCR-CO Financial Report for December

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>3,039.80</b>	9/12 CenturyLink (office)	97.02	Little grp	0	0	76.00
<b>Date Contrib Sales Tax Total</b>			<b>145.93</b>	Men of Sobriety	0	0	393.19
12/11	60.00 167.89 11.52		239.41	Principles Grp	54.50	0	259.50
12/20	0 55.14 3.86		59.00	Spring Into Action	0	250.00	1,450.00
12/27	250.00 86.20 6.03		342.23	SOS Grp	0	0	175.00
	<b>606.64</b>	Founder's Day Group Contributions 2013	<b>1,099.20</b>	Sandalwood Grp	0	0	680.00
<b>Expenses: Checks paid</b>			<b>2,619.40</b>	Unity Grp	0	0	100.00
12/4 CCF, Inc. Rent	240.83	<b>Ending Balance</b>		ODAT Grp	0	0	1,746.72
12/4 Payroll	109.45			<b>Birthday contributions 2011 2012</b>			
12/4 WAI Supplies	120.39	<b>Contributions</b>	Nov. Dec. Year	John B.	22.00	23.00	
12/20 Payroll	109.45	Bare Bones Grp	0 0 794.15	<b>Faithful Fivers</b>			
12/20 WAI Supplies	120.39	Camp Ground Grp	21.00 0 141.00	Michael R.	10.00	10.00	
12/20 Recovery Accents Inc.	85.10	Central Grp	0 0 1,089.89		265.00	thru 4/2014	
12/20 Creative Arts	25.00	Freedom In Growth	0 0 130.55	Dave C.	32.00	32.00	thru 12/2012
12/29 Payroll	109.45	Fort Bragg	0 0 427.57	Jim B	60.00	60.00	thru 9/16/2013
	<b>881.11</b>	Kiss Grp	0 50.00 300.00				
<b>Expense: Debit</b>		Keepin it Real	0 0 150.00				
10/12 Straighttalk (hotline)	48.91						