

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

Website:
fayaa.org

Upcoming Events

August 11-14:
64th North Carolina State
Convention and 67th
Southeast Conference.
Hilton Midtown Hotel,
Raleigh. Hotel reservation
deadline is July 24. Info:
aanorthcarolina.org/
events.asp#1

Sept. 10-11:
Area 51 (North Carolina)
Summer Committee meet-
ing, Hilton North Raleigh,
Wake Forest Road. Open
to area committee mem-
bers. Agenda for Fall As-
sembly will be set.

Sept. 18:
District 51 Fall Fellowship,
1 p.m. at Sandalwood in
Fayetteville. Includes dis-
trict board meeting, work-
shop and fellowship.

Nov. 4-6:
The first Southern States
Alcoholics Anonymous
Service Assembly. Fair
Oaks Marriott, Fairfax, Va.
For more information:
SSAASA2011@gmail.com

Nov. 18-20:
Area 51 (North Carolina)
Fall Assembly. Open to all
A.A. members. GSRs are
voting delegates. Hilton
North Raleigh, Wake For-
est Road. Information at
aanorthcarolina.org

The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office

July 2011

Telephone is a lifeline for maintaining sobriety

On Thursday nights, our AA group has been studying the book "Living Sober." The following describes one of the techniques the book offers as support in keeping on track with our program of recovery.

An important tool we can use to stay sober is the telephone. Often we find ourselves alone when the urge to drink comes upon us. These are dangerous times for an alcoholic. If we dwell too long on this urge we may experience that strange mental twist which can cause us to fool ourselves into taking that first drink.

Newcomers are often encouraged to obtain phone numbers from other AA members. We should remember that our sponsors may not always be available when we try to call them. When we can't reach our sponsors it is good to be able to call someone else, remember, being alone when the urge to drink enters your mind is a very dangerous situation to be in.

Understandably, it isn't always easy for one to pick up the phone and call

This article on issues in sobriety was submitted by the Bare Bones Group. We encourage other groups to submit similar articles on AA life.

someone, especially if we don't know them very well. Trust issues arise. We may be too proud to admit our weakness in such a situation or maybe just genuine fear of not knowing what the other person might say or think.

If these defects crop up, we should pray to the God of our understanding, put aside the defects and remember that people want to help you when you are in need. Their hands are tied unless you are **willing** to open up and let them know what's going on.

Another good reason to call someone in our darkest hour is that it may be the start of a trusting relationship with another AA member. To discuss our most private fears and open up to another member builds a bond. It is a wonderful feeling to have a friend in which you can

share your life experiences with and journey together in a happy and sober life.

All of the above are pretty much directed to the new comer, although there are degrees of newness. But what about the fellow or gal who gives a telephone number to a new-comer, even one just new to our town? Those who receive such numbers are very resistant to calling you! They of course often have a raft of untreated character defects which discourage and prevent them from calling you! So they languish and perhaps become more and more desperate and perhaps even die.

Since the giver of a number has perhaps worked the steps and is in better mental, emotional and spiritual shape than the newcomer; why not get the new member's number and you call them? Doesn't this make more sense than asking the helpless to respond to the strong? After all aren't we to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers? — **A composition from the Bare Bones AA Group in Fayetteville**

BCR-CO Board

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Vice chairman
Jim B
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(Open)
Cumberland
Cliff B.
Robeson
(Open)
**Office manager/
secretary**
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Council
Central Group
Jackie M.
Sandalwood
Al S.
Back to basics
Dan. A
Bare Bones
Carl S.
ODAT
Jim H.
Fort Bragg
Victoria J.
Freedom in Growth
Darlene D.
Principles Group:
Rhonda H.
Hope Mills:
Dana R.
Little Group
Cass C.
Keeping It Real
Jacquie H.
Hotline

Webmaster
Jim H.
**Common Bond
editor**
Dave C.



District 51 news

Archives moved to Central Office

The District 51 archives are now being housed in the Central Office on Green Street.

The District 51 chairman, Carl S., expressed gratitude on behalf of the district members to the BCR-CO for agreeing to allow the records and artifacts to be kept there.

The district will pay rent for the use of the space.

If groups in the district, which like the Central Office covers Bladen, Cumberland and Robeson counties, would like to include any items or records in the archive, they should notify the District 51 chairman.

Area 51 meet

The summer Area 51 committee meeting will be held in August.

Any issues that groups would like to put before the state



organization should be submitted to the district chairman by Aug. 14.

Fall event

The Sandalwood Group in Fayetteville will play host to the Fall Fellowship.

The gathering is set for Sept. 18 beginning at 1 p.m.

The district board meeting, a workshop and fellowship are being planned.

Complete details will be announced later.

Sober thoughts

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

Nothing is so difficult as not deceiving oneself.
—Ludwig Wittgenstein

Sooner or later, false thinking brings wrong conduct.
—Julian Huxley

A man should never be ashamed to admit he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, he is wiser today than he was yesterday.
—Alexander Pope

Make contact with the BCR-CO

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Where should our support go?

This is the third part of a three-part series on the Seventh Tradition.

By Carl Anonym

I've been talking with you about our 7th Tradition, but there is a part of this matrix which is rarely discussed. We've all ready talked about parts one and two. Now for the final part. The first was history, why we give and inflations effects. Part two was about how much we as individuals should give and how to determine this.

Part 3 concerns who to give to and how these 7th tradition funds should be spent and accounted for AA organizations exist on at least 5 levels and types of organizations. The first four levels from highest to lowest are The Group, District, Area and finally the General Service Board/Conference. Most folks persist in viewing them in the opposite order. The only truly autonomous (self-governing) organization is the Group, all others derive from it.

The other types of organizations, though at different levels, serve the groups through creation at one level or another. They fulfill our duties to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, either directly or indirectly by supporting the groups in these efforts. Some also help us to create fellowship with our brethren in AA. Such as the North Carolina Convention, local group dances, and clubs. We, of course, have a Central Office which serves the groups within our District 51.

From this structure, it would seem that we should either fund from the periphery and lowest to the highest and most central elements or the reverse. I put my money in the opposite! That is my group funds itself first and its attempts to carry the message, where we alone can. Next, we move to lower levels within our structure. That is District and then Area. You must be asking why. We fund from closest to furthest from the action of our primary purpose. Further, we have decided to participate in our lateral organization – the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Counties Central Office (BCR-CO). This way our common hotline can be manned and for outreach to the public and various ways to support and strengthen other local group's efforts in their primary purpose, ammunition on the firing line so to speak.

So a logical approach to this sharing to support our primary purpose appears

FORUM: Thoughts on AA from individual members.

to be your home group gets everything you give. Remember to be generous, remember that you give to your group to fund your group's efforts to perform as your Group Conscience directs the group. Remember that the God of your understanding gave you back your life (what's it worth?). Remember, you don't have to spend your money on drink now so at least give this much. Once your groups needs are met (no not for barbecues or dances they are the other organizations which facilitate fellowship not the primary purpose), think about the next lower levels of service, your district and your BCR-CO.

Why these next? These should be funded with all your excess funds – those in excess of a prudent reserve. They are the next line in our primary purpose front. They serve and are made up of groups. Your groups sit on their governing boards and councils. They further the second level of our primary purpose. They both have committees which support and dovetail with your groups purpose of outreach. They also have no other means of support. It is true that your BCR-CO does sell some items such as literature, medallions and other things oriented to recovery. These are sold at a profit except the book Alcoholics Anonymous, Corrections, CPC/PI/I, this publication committee, the hotline and the Founders Day committee are some of these that have been created and which support your groups primary purpose.

Clubs are another organizational type which is supported outside your 7th tradition, usually through rent, grants and memberships. They are outside our 7th tradition structure and should not be supported by group money except for rent. After these, and further from the center of action is the Area. There is usually no corresponding organization above the Central Office/Intergroup before the General Service level in New York. These central offices serve local concerns and groups and are solely creations of our local groups. In our case our BCR-CO serves three counties and twenty five groups. Other local Intergroups/Central Offices may serve a

thousand meetings such as Chicago or New York. Next out from the core of our highest is our lowest level. Our General Service Board, and General Service Office.

When I started out on these little talks, I told you that one of the things that brought me to meditate on this was that our General Service Board and Office has been increasingly funded by profits on our literature. The old bargain I talked about in my first installment in which groups contributed more and the GSO would renounce profits on literature broke down. They are gradually being transformed into an organization funded by profits. Three important conclusions can be derived from this. The first is that because they exist on profits the GSO and GSB are essentially uncontrollable and independent of the groups. This is highly significant for at least two reasons. The first is control and this would also signal a divergence between perceived need at the highest level (group) and lowest (GSO/GSC) level. It would seem that groups perceive that the lowest level is trying to do too much and the GSO/GSB thinks we need to do more. The second is that the groups' desires and national needs are not being prayed about and His guidance *is not* being sought and followed.

A third reason follows from the other two, which is that groups have lost the ability to deny spending on individual items of the lower organizations budgets. In essence, the General Service Conference and GSO are in a power struggle with the groups. Recently, a panel delegate plead with the Area Committee not to restrict the conscience and thus the vote of delegates at the lowest level. It's always about power and control folks.

For this and other reasons, I recommend that any contributions to the lowest level organizations be from the excess of our district and BCR-CO contributions respectively. I would further allow the trend to play itself out and contribute nothing to GSO/GSB until their respective financial documents are purged, GSB delegates are directed to vote lower level consciences and control the national organizations by direction of our groups.

I assure you that, inshallah, GSO and the other organizations will survive albeit in a truncated servant position. I

Continued on next page

A.A. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate with us

Would your group would like to add your members to our birthday celebration list? Just email your information to



commobond2011@gmail.com.

Include name (but not full name), sobriety date and year they became sober. This information will go into a master list (and will do the math on which birthday it is).

Aug. 1 Dana C. - 4 Dana E. - 4 Jen S. - 4 Sharon H. - 5	Aug. 2 Michael R. - 5	Aug. 3 Paul S. - 4 Sharon H. - 5	Aug. 4 Darlene H. - 24 Diane D. - 22	Aug. 5 Beth M. - 3	Aug. 6 Beth M. - 3 Marco - 2	Aug. 7 Chris J. - 16	Aug. 8 Mark B. - 3	Richard - 3	Aug. 9 Denny M. - 17 Justine B. - 2	Aug. 11 Crystal M. - 2	Aug. 13 Faye - 3 Penny - 6	Aug. 14 Linda G. - 19 Mack H. - Unknown	Aug. 15 Renee L. - 2 Aug. 17 Chris T. - 16	Aug. 18 Mac - 4	Aug. 19 Jim C. - 2	Aug. 20 Dan T. - 5	Aug. 21 Marcus R. - 5	Aug. 22 Matt Y. - 3	Aug. 23 Christy G. - 7	Aug. 24 Greg W. - 9 Jen S. - 4	Aug. 25 Scott T. - 2	Aug. 27 Cheryl E. - 2	Aug. 30 Devon - 1	Sept. 1 Ed S. - 6	Sept. 2 Howard A. - 3	Sept. 4 Walt S. - 2	Sept. 7 Deb. D. - 8 Tom H. - 37	Sept. 8 Scott S. - 9	Sept. 9 Rufus M. - 7	Sept. 12 Howard F. - 3	Sept. 13 Mitzi A. - 19	Sept. 15 Kevin G. - 2 Michelle C. - 8	Sept. 16 Zhack H. - 3	Sept. 20 Davi D. - 2 Joey D. - 3 Teri Q. - 7	Sept. 22 Gary H. - 3	Sept. 26 Kevin B. - 6 Michel J. - 20	Sept. 27 Nick K. - 3
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Support

Continued from Page 3

hope to never hear one quote "well that's what GSO says we have to contribute."

I assure you I have no dudgeon (resentment) against the lower levels of AA's structure.

Since I've brought up the idea of rigorously reviewing budgets and expenditures,

we should do this at all levels: group, district, BCR-CO, GSO/GSB, and committees. We should make sure we are doing our group consciences will in the most judicious and cheapest way we can. This requires oversight (I mean this in both ways), innovation (remember email and the cost of postage?), involvement of informed trusted servants, and above all the care and direction of our God.

We should pray, meditate, and listen to God before we vote to spend, create, dis-

band, and change. For after all we have, all of us, turned our will and our lives over to God. He is our Director and we are His agents. Most good ideas are simple and being undisciplined we let God discipline through this simple way. Remember, every day in every way our job is to carry God's will into all our activities.

May God bless you with all your needs, comfort you in times of trouble and hold you in the hollow of His hand until I can talk with you again.

BCR-CO Financial Report for June

Beginning Balance:	2,923.68+
Income	
Date Contrib.	Sales Tax Deposits
6/2 210.00	131.48 10.51 351.99
6/8 198.87	76.26 6.10 281.23
6/14 414.00	13.50 1.08 428.50
6/21 110.00	63.75 4.56 178.31
6/23	399.21 31.94 431.15
6/28	38.76 3.10 41.86
6/30	20.60 1.65 22.25
Total	932.87 743.56 58.94 1,735.29
	4,659.05+
Expenses	
Checks paid	
6/10 CCF rent	192.67-
6/16 Pay roll ending 6/2	109.45-
6/28 Hazelden Literature	33.42-
6/30 GSO Literature	356.60-
6/29 Payroll ending 6/16	109.45

6/29 Pay roll ending 6/30	109.45-
6/30 Wilmington Intergrp/Chips	148.78-
6/30 Creative Arts/literature	18.00-
Total	1,077.82
Debits	
6/9 Food Lion (Tea /Founders Day)	18.11-
6/10 Wal-Mart (Tr.bags/Name Tags)	27.54-
6/10 Sandpiper (Food)	866.99-
6/13 Food Lion (Tea & Ice)	46.22-
6/13 Harris Teeter (Cake)	59.94-
6/14 Lafayette Business M (Toner)	30.78-
6/14 Century Link	107.73-
6/17 Amazon (Quick Book)	129.99-
6/20 Straight Talk (hot line)	49.36-
6/23 Post Office (Stamps)	8.80-
Total	1,345.56-
Ending Balance	2,335.59+

June 2011 Contributions			
Group	May	June	YTD
SOS	71.00		131.00
Principles	239.12		239.12
Freedom in Growth	148.75		148.75
Fort Bragg	700.00		2,700.00
Bare Bones	100.00	50.00	275.00
Little Group	40.00		60.00
Sandalwood	500.00		500.00
Keep It Simple	50.00		300.00
Men of Sobriety	22.03		214.47
ODAT	100.00		1,259.48
Central Group	188.87		413.33
Keep It Real	50.00		50.00
Spring Into Action	0.00		0.00