

Central Office
910-678-8002
310 Green St.
Fayetteville, NC
28303

Website:
fayaa.org

Upcoming Events

May 22:
District 51 Spring Fellowship meeting will be held at Open Doors Ministries building, 2704 E. Broad St., (Highway 87 E. Bypass) in Elizabethtown. District board meeting at 1 p.m. Traditions workshop by the Bare Bones Group at 2 p.m. Meal, with fried chicken and BBQ, served at 3 p.m.

June 11:
Founders Day celebration hosted by the BRC-CO at Myrover-Reese Group Home on Wilkes Road in Fayetteville from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Food will be served at 2 p.m.

May 21:
Districts 18 and 19 and Intergroup will present a Big Book study: Obedience to Spiritual Principles from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Konoak Hills United Methodist Church Annex, 430 Weisner St., Winston-Salem. Lunch served for \$3. Bring a dessert to share and your Big Book.

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

The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office

May 2011

Founders Day celebration is planned for June 11

The physician was exhausted. He had spent the entire day traipsing across town visiting with old colleagues, friends, patients and other acquaintances. It was a task he had put off far too long and he knew it could wait no longer, for his very life might be on the line.

The physician was Dr. Bob, the date was June 10, 1935, and his task was to complete the 9th step: Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

For Dr. Bob, the result of his action was his first day of permanent sobriety; for us it was the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, which counts its existence from that day.

This year, the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office is hosting a celebration of A.A.'s 76th anniversary on Saturday, June 11 at Myrover-Reese Halfway House on Wilkes Road.

The celebration, which will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., will feature food, activities, a raffle and a speaker.

It will also feature something new this year: shade. Al S., chairman of the Founders Day committee, has arranged for two 20-foot-by-20-foot canopies. At past events, the inability of people to get out of the sun was a concern for many. The hope is the shade will allow people to stay longer at the event.

Food will be served and will feature barbecue and fried chicken. Participants are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

Picnic-type activities are in the planning stages, but the list is incomplete at this printing.

The traditional Founders Day raffle will also be held and the BCR-CO is accepting donated items for it.

Jackie M. of the Central Group said she is seeking prizes for both adults and children. Prizes in the past have included things from A.A. literature and tapes to electronics.

Items may be dropped off at the Alco Club on German Street. Jackie said to put her name on anything left at the club for the raffle. She said she usually is

at the club after 4 p.m. Prizes can also be donated at the Central Office on Green Street. The office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An A.A. speaker has not yet been announced. The time of the address is tentatively set for 3:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend the celebration and members are encouraged to bring their friends and families, including children.

Al S., said that while the Central Office plans the event and makes sure "it comes off without a hitch," it is still dependent on its members for financial support.

He said that A.A. attendees will be asked to make a donation to help pay the picnic's costs.

Suggested donations range from \$1 per year of sobriety, to the cost of a drink, to whatever one feels he or she can afford.

Donations can also be given your council representative or mailed to the BCR-Central Office, 310 Green St., Fayetteville, NC 28303.

**BCR-CO
Board**

Chairman
Rocky O
Vice chairman
Jim B
Treasurer
Ryan R.
At-Large members
Bladen
(Open)
Cumberland
Cliff B.
Robeson
(Open)
**Office manager/
 secretary**
Donny W.

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.

Hotline

Webmaster
Jim H.
Common Bond
editor
Dave C.

Area 51 General Assembly

Webs, vines and aliens

Discussions at the spring Area 51 General Assembly included a how to session on signing up for email notifications on North Carolina's A.A. website, the budget problems of the Grapevine and why an alien figure was making a guest appearance in a slideshow presentation by the Area's delegate to the national conference.

The session on the web by the subcommittee chairman noted the Area 51 website had 1,500 unique visitors, but less than 2 percent of them were accessing the members section. He said only 70 members were taking advantage of the electronic notification for documents. The Internet committee encourages GSRs and DCMs to sign up for the notification for agendas and other information to help the state organization save on mailing costs.

The report included a PowerPoint demonstration on how to sign up for email notices from the area. Each district has been assigned a password to access the members' area. There they can click on email notifications a fill out a form. After filling out the form, users will get a message saying "Success ... you have subscribed to email notification." Don't believe it, said the subcommittee chairman, Glen V. Without going into technical explanations, he said this flaw cannot be fixed, but that users should then check their email for a message from Major Domo. That email contains a link that must be clicked on to actually activate the notices. It then will say the process has been completed.

As the subcommittee chair took questions, one GSR in the audience noted he had followed the instructions along on his cell phone and had successfully registered for the program – which drew laughter and applause from the assembly.

Jennifer D., the area's delegate to the 61st General Services Conference reported on her trip to New York and conference business. To hand out to fellow delegates, she took along

magnets featuring a cartoon alien, which has become the unofficial mascot for Area 51. She said not all the delegates that she gave magnets got the connection, at first, to that other Area 51 in Nevada.

On conference business, she reported the GSO gets 43 percent of its funding from contributions and 57 percent from literature sales. Literature sales, however, are down. The switch to digital sources for literature is taking a bite out of that source of income. She said the financial information has spurred her to now give \$5 in 7th tradition contributions at all home group meeting she attends and \$2 at non home group meetings.

The highlight of the report was the condition of The Grapevine magazine. Jennifer said she is now the chair of the Grapevine committee. Her message to the assembly was simple, "If you want to save the Grapevine, if you think it is important, you need to subscribe.

The Grapevine she said continues to lose money and staff levels have been cut.

A report later in the day by the area's Grapevine coordinator, Debbie M., indicated that if an additional 4,800 subscriptions, including digital subscriptions, were sold this year, The Grapevine would be able to balance its budget. Only 48 new subscriptions would need to be sold in each area to reach that goal, and she encourage members to make that commitment.

In the only voting item on the agenda, Newton P. was elected the state's archivist.

The assembly was attended by 265 voting members, with 178 needed for a quorum.



Make contact with the BCR-CO

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Are we really self supporting?

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

By Carl Anonym

This is about our giving. I hope I've convinced you in installment 1 of this need. How can we increase our contributions? The last installment will concern cost cutting and spending.

All of us are familiar with the basket. What goes in to our basket is completely dependent upon a few factors. They appear to me to be conscience, habit, duty, peer pressure and group need. Maybe, I've missed one or two, such as pride and selfishness. Some that you think of may be subsumed within the above. However, our contributions simply don't meet the needs. These for the most part, tend to put a lid on the amount we give. They also "set the standard" of giving within a group.

For good or for ill, one can look through the receipts of a group and, within reason, tell a lot about a group. Is it stingy? (Selfish) Is it poor? (probably not) What about spiritual gratitude? Could it be ignorance/education? The problem for the group, The BCR-CO, District 51, Area 51 and GSO is how to match giving with need. Sheesh, looks a lot like a need for a group inventory (from the heart not the head). Once we inventory we must decide upon a course of action to change the limiting factors. Do you think that the amount you pitch in has a lot to do with how recovered we are, how spiritual we are and our level of gratitude? How do you and your group check out?

How about comparing your group to other groups? A good place to do this is at our district meetings.

You may ask, "Carl, just how do we go about changing the factors

FORUM: Thoughts on AA from individual members.

which limit giving?" My answer is simple: use the steps and traditions as a group exercise to enlist change actions – exactly what you did when you recovered. Just begin with honesty, open-mindedness and willingness, set some goals and use two way prayer to help you make a plan and implement it – as a group. We don't call it a group conscience (guided by God) for nothing.

Now about a very personnel aspect in which we should all search ourselves and our groups. How grateful are you for return of your life, happiness and current productivity, not to mention your sobriety? How much are you saving on alcohol that you no longer consume? You could also consider other costs, such as lawyers, bond, repairs to damaged property or restitution for wrecked property. How much are you returning to help God reach out to the suffering?

You know, it's curious that we all prayed the third step prayer but we apparently don't think of this in terms of ourselves financially. Perhaps this is because in spite of all our 4th step efforts we are, at least in some measure, still wantonly selfish. Are you and your group still caught in the trap of selfishness, self-centeredness? Well, we all know the quote from the top of page 62 in the Big Book. I just wonder ...

So how can we increase our giving? How about activating that 3rd step prayer and give as He di-

rects. After all, The Power Greater Than You did give you back your life – how do you think He revalued your life and the life of the group where you belong? More than a buck a meeting I'll wager. How much have you saved on a weekly basis? Ask God to show you how to increase His spiritual coffers to further the message and aid the newcomer and build up a spiritual financial account to help another alcoholic help a future member.

Another thought for us recovered members: When you were fresh and full of joy, how many meetings did you go to? Let's say six. Today how many? For me, it is usually 3. So at a dollar a meeting I'm actually contributing less in current dollars and the present value of those dollars buys about half as much (remember the stamp). So \$6 turns into \$3, and then, because of inflation, is reduced to \$1.50. This while real costs escalate.

So in today's money, considering the number of meetings I go to, I should be contributing about \$3 at each meeting – just to keep even. But remember those pesky increases in expenses I discussed with you in our first little talk? It looks like I should up it to at least \$5 per meeting today. That's just me, not you. I hope you'll be even more generous and by so doing shame others into giving more (see how the limiting factors can help you get me to do the right thing).

Use two way prayer for this and see what The One True Friend of us all tells you in your heart of hearts. Then, of course, do it!



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).



Sober thoughts

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

Success is not built on what we accomplish for ourselves. Its' foundation lies in what we do for others.

– *Danny Thomas, comedian and philanthropist*

The real secret of success is enthusiasm.

– *Unknown*

A.A. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

May 1 Joyce L. – 4 years Royce – 3 years	May 28 Audrey – 1 year	Mercedes R. – 4 years
May 5 Gerry L. – 5 years Rae E. – 34 years	June 2 Tilton T. – 6 years	Mike G. – 4 years
May 7 Mike B – 12 years	June 3 Sharon C. – 3 years	July 5 Sue S. – 5 years
May 10 Jack L. – 27 years William – 27 years	June 6 Robert B. – 2 years	July 7 Julie C. – 7 years
May 14 Grady – 19 years	June 10 Bethany B – 9 years Bob P. 19 years	July 9 Greg – 3 years
May 15 James H. – 5 years Sonja H – 11 years	June 12 Charlene C. – 3 years	July 10 Ellie O. – 35 years Terry C. – 5 years
May 17 Ty G. – 17 years	June 14 Craig E. – 5 years Sandra E. – 5 years William B. – 9 years	July 11 Mike L. – 2 years
May 19 Brandon L - 3 years	June 16 Tim V. – 3 years	July 18 Mike – 4 years
May 20 Stephanie F. – 6 years Robbie R. – 4 years	June 17 Allison K. – 7 years Allison K. – 2 years	July 19 Deb S. – 21 years Kate S. – 15 years
May 21 April F. – 2 years	June 18 Henry K. – 2 years	July 21 Andre C. – 3 years Bernard – 2 years Eric R. – 3 years
May 22 Aaron J. – 2 years	June 19 Charlie L. 30 years	July 24 Delores B. – 25 years
May 24 Eric E. – 7 years	June 20 Jerry – 23 years	July 25 Cass C. – 26 years
May 27 John B. – 12 years	June 27 Tom C. – 6 years	July 26 Don L. – 2 years James P. – 3 years James P. – 3 years
	July 1 Jay S. – 6 years	July 31 Peaches P. – 4 years
	July 4 Mercedes – 4 years	

BCR-CO Financial Report for April

Beginning Balance				2,262.76	
Date	Contributions	Sales	Tax	Total DEP.	
04/07	144.46	235.55	18.37	398.38	
04/12		20.42	1.63	22.05	
04/19	563.94	5.90	.47	570.32	
04/21	75.80	29.90	1.70	105.70	
04/28		286.17	22.90	309.07	
Total	784.20	577.94	45.07	1,405.52+	
Credits:				0.00	
Expenses: checks paid					
04/26	Personnel and professional expenses			766.12-	
04/08	Cumberland Community Foundation	Rent		192.67-	
04/12	GSO Literature Order			700.95-	
04/25	Creative Arts Literature			9.25-	
04/26	Hazelden Books			116.97-	
Total				1,785.96-	
Debits from account:					
04/20	Straight Talk Cell	Hot Line		49.36-	
Ending Balance				1,832.96+	
Contributors					
04/05	SOS GRP	20.00	04/07	Central GRP	114.46
04/19	ODAT GRP	563.94	04/21	Men of Sobriety	75.80
Faithful Fivers	Michael R			Total	774.20
					10.00