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Upcoming Events

December 25:

Sandalwood is in planning stages for an alcohon over the holidays. Check with the group for details.

January 6:

District 51 Committee meeting. 3 p.m. at Sandalwood. Date moved up due to conflicts with other AA events during the month.

January 16:

BCR-CO Council meeting. 6:30 p.m. Board room, 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

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

January 27:

Central Group anniversary celebration at Alco Club on German Street. Event still in planning stages.

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.

The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office

December 2012

New chair elected

Ray V. of the One Day at a Time Group has been elected chairman of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office. Ray was chosen at the council meeting on Nov. 28. He will begin his two-year term in January.

He succeeds Rocky O., who served of the first chairman of the new BCR-CO.

Tom Mc was named chairman of the hotline committee. Tom has been the Central Group's representative on the council.

Also the council named Linda. C. as the new office manager. She succeeds Donny W. She begins her duties on Jan 1.



Assembly draws 400 to Bordeaux

The Area 51 General Assembly and Election drew about 400 AAs to the Holiday Inn Bordeaux in Fayetteville the weekend of Oct. 26-28.

Registrar Amy T., said 363 people registered for the weekend, but estimated unregistered participants pushed the number to about 400. The District 51 delegation had 8 voting members.

Elected during the session were: Delegate: Homer M.; alternate delegate Rachel M.; chairman: Jennifer S.; alternate chairman Amy T.; treasurer: Kenneth C.; Secretary: Katy P.; registrar: Rainer L.

District 51 schedule

The District 51 committee set meeting dates and sites at its November meeting at the Alco Club on German Street. Meetings will be hosted by different groups throughout the year. Some dates were altered from the third Sunday of the month to avoid conflicts with other AA events.

For instance the January meeting will at Sandalwood on June 6 at 3 p.m. so it would not conflict with a conference at Myrtle Beach on Jan. 13, the Tar Heel Mid-Winter Conference in Raleigh on Jan. 20 or the Central Group's anniver-

sary session on Jan. 27.

Other meeting dates are:
March 17 at 3 p.m. at Fort Bragg.

May 26, Spring Fellowship, hosted by Central Group on German Street. Business meeting at 1 p.m., speaker or program at 2 p.m., food and fellowship at 3 p.m.

July 14 at 3 p.m. at Pine Wood Drive in Lumberton.

Sept. 15, Fall Fellowship in Lumberton, hosted by Robeson County groups. Business meeting at 1 p.m., speaker or program at 2 p.m., food and fellowship at 3 p.m.

Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. at Central Group.

BCR-CO Board

Chairman
Rocky O.
Vice chairman
Duncan K.
Treasurer
Dave C.
At-Large members
Bladen
(Open)
Cumberland
Mike E.
Robeson
Thomas E.
Office manager/secretary
Donny W.

Council

Central Group
Tom Mc.
Sandalwood
Tom C.
Back to Basics
Dan. A
Bare Bones
Carl S.
ODAT
Beverly R.
Fort Bragg
Andrea HR
Freedom in Growth
Darlene D.
Principles Group:
Carolyn L.
Hope Mills:
Dana R.
Little Group
Cass C.
Keeping It Real
Jacquie H.
Spring Into Action
Tommy R.
Pine Run
Craig
S.U.R.E
Jeff

Services

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



Value of protecting anonymity

We continue now with the second, and final, installment of the article titled "When Is Breaking Your Anonymity Not an Anonymity Break?" from Box 459 vol. 58, No.3./ Fall 2012, pp. 1-2. With the second Question:

Q. What if I see public figures at a meeting, such as an actor or actress, or the local chief of police?

A. Like everyone else, public figures should have the protection of anonymity to the extent that they desire it.

Q. I saw an ad in the paper for an A.A. group. It told where the group was meeting and everything. Shouldn't you contact that group about breaking their anonymity at the public level?

A. "Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks it should be anonymous, too. The (Eleventh) Tradition is talking about 'personal anonymity,' remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to

A.A. if they don't know that it exists." (The Twelve Steps Illustrated)

Q. I'm not ashamed of my alcoholism and don't feel any need to keep my A.A. membership a secret. In fact, I think my story will be able to help lots of others. I think that I should be able to use my full name in my book (or television interview, blog, Web site, etc.) when I share my A.A. experience. Why should anyone have a problem with that?

A. Disclosing you're A.A. membership at the public level, in any publicly accessible medium, is considered a break of the A.A. Tradition of Anonymity. Bill W. wrote, in an article in *The Best Of The Grapevine*, Volume 1, p.278, "The old files at A.A. Headquarters reveal many scores of... experiences with broken anonymity. Most of them point up the same lessons. They tell us that we alcoholics are the biggest rationalizers in the world; that fortified with the excuse we are doing great things for

A.A. we can, through broken anonymity, resume our old and disastrous pursuit of personal power and prestige, public honors, and money — the same implacable urges that when frustrated once caused us to drink."

Q. Why do we say that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions?

A. "Anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside those very human aspirations, we believe each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole society and under which we may work and grow in unanimity." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.187)

– Transcribed and edited by Carl Anonym

Make contact with the BCR-CO

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grate·ful adjective 1. warmly or deeply appreciative of kindness or benefits received; thankful: *I am grateful to you for your help.* 2. expressing or actuated by gratitude: *a grateful letter.* 3. pleasing to the mind or senses; agreeable or welcome; refreshing: *a grateful breeze.* **Origin:** 1545–55; obsolete *grate* pleasing (< Latin *grātus*) + *-ful*

I am very grateful to have a second chance to get it right for those who love me and those who depend on me.

– *Chris D.*

I am grateful for my sobriety and the AA program. It has changed my life forever.

– *Audrey P.*

I am grateful to be sober and learning to be a responsible human being.

– *Edwin W.*



I am grateful for this new life. – *Bagley J.*

I am grateful for New Beginnings and get my life back on track. – *Kerry S.*

Grateful for good health, lots of work and a very loving God. – *Mike E.*

I'm grateful to be sober just for today.

– *Chris S.*



I am grateful for my sobriety which has led me to a relationship with my higher power.

– *Jane A.*

I am grateful for good friends and the support we share ... thanks be to God. – *Abby*

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be grateful today. – *Chris W.*

I am grateful for today – because in sobriety I can enjoy it. – *Dave C.*

An Akron old timers saying: "Watch your attitude your gratitude is showing." by permission Clancy Uterhart S.D 1940-d.s.1991

I am glad for my defects of character — shortcomings, sin nature, yetzer hara, stunted growth — whatever one may name them. For these are the things which created my conflict with reality. They are the convincing evidence that I am not God — and thus human *in nature*. Further they convince me, that God does love me; else why would He tolerate my existence and defiance. Further they are the proof of my perfection as a human — BEING within the spirit and within nature. For all of these I am thankful to the Maker-Counselor- Redeemer.

– *Carl S.*



