

Central Office
910-678-8002
310 Green St.
Fayetteville, NC
28301
Website:
fayaa.org

The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Bladen, Cumberland, Robeson Central Office

February 2014

Upcoming Events

Jan. 26

Central Group will celebrate its 68th anniversary at the ALCO Club at 640 German St. Fellowship begins at 1 p.m., history will be at 2 p.m. The speaker will be Tom I. Food will be served after the speaker.

Feb. 6

The Bare Bones Group's Thursday night book study will begin reading "Pass It On." The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

March 1-2

Area 51 Winter Committee Meeting at Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Road (Off I-440). Committee members only.

March 14-16

The Area 51 Corrections Conference, Freedom from Bondage XXVI will be at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen.

March 19

The BCR-CO Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the conference room at the office at 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

March 23

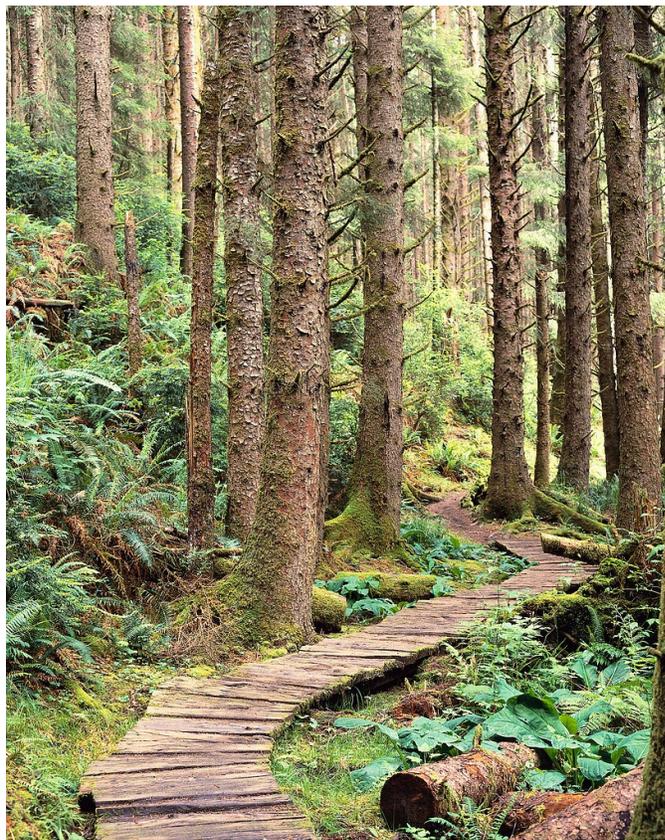
The District 51 Committee will meet at 3 p.m. at the ALCO Club at 640 German St., Fayetteville.

Which path to follow on special groups?

Alcoholics Anonymous has confronted the issue of special groups, or special-purpose groups, from its early days.

It's an issue that doesn't ever seem to go away. Even now, some groups are designated – such as women's groups, although many will allow men who wander in looking for a meeting to stay. I've heard of others that were not officially special groups. Most AAs found out about the special focus by dropping in on a meeting without knowing about its membership.

AA has generally gone against recognizing these groups, citing the traditions. The Fifth Tradition says, "Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry the message to alcoholics who still suffer." The Sixth Tradition speaks of singleness of purpose: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to



any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose." And of course the Third Tradition that sets the standard of membership for

any group: "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."

So what drives the desire for special groups? Apparently, fear

Continued on page 3

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

Services

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



Group needed to lead plans for Founders' Day celebration

The Bladen, Robeson, Cumberland Central Office is looking for a member group to lead the planning and running of this year's Founders' Day celebration.

The chair for the event shifts to a different group each year. Last year, Spring Into Action, lead the effort. Two years ago, Central Group took charge.

The celebration is tentatively

set for June 15 (a Sunday).

The last two Founders' Days have been held at Paradise Acres and a new group leader is needed to reserve a site and make necessary plans.

Groups interested in taking the chair or wanting to know more about the requirements, should contact the Central Office (910-678-8002) or Chairman Ray V.

Area 51 delegate notes GSO donations up, Grapevine financials improve

Homer M., the state's delegate to the General Service Conference, passed along some information on the General Service Organization during the Fall Assembly in Raleigh.

The highlights:

Groups and members contributed \$5 million to the GSO during the first 9 months of 2013. The contributions were a 6 percent increase over 2012 and 2 percent above budget. Contributions in 2012 had increased 4 percent over the previous year. Area 51 contributions were tracking close to 2012's.

Literature sales for the first 9 months of 2013 are \$9.5 million. That's 1 percent above budget and 1.5

percent greater than 2012.

Grapevine sales are 8 percent ahead of budget for the first 9 months of 2013 and had a net income of \$250,000 for that period. The budgeted net income was \$20,000. Sales of the Grapevine literature and books and cost cutting are driving profitability, Homer reports.

The cost of providing La Vina as a fellowship service was \$104,000, which was 10 percent over budget.

On Dec. 1, the Big Book became available as an e-book through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and iTunes for \$5.99. Homer said 10 other books will be made available with a new one every two weeks.

Make contact with the BCR-CO

Common Bond editor: commonbond2011@gmail.com
Fayaa.org webmaster: webmaster@fayaa.org
Central Office: bcrcentraloffice@embarqmail.com
also info@fayaa.org
Hotline: 910-678-8737
Snail mail: 310 Green St. Fayetteville, NC 28301



Special groups

Continued from page 1
of exposure is one. Some appear to just want to meet with like-minded people or with ones that might understand their special circumstances that they wouldn't normally share in an open or closed meeting.

In "Not-God: A History of Alcoholics Anonymous," Ernest Kurtz discussed the phenomena from A.A.'s early days. He described them as groups wanting to restrict membership to "a shared factor in the lives of their members other than alcoholism."

Kurtz found in his study that the call for special groups first came from occupations – physicians, clergy and police – that feared despite AA's rules, their attendance might be disclosed and it could harm them professionally. However, he noted some wanted to hold meetings based on their own beliefs of a higher power. Kurtz said that most early AA's saw these groups as "not really AA." Generally, they were denied official status and listings.

Some of these groups set off on their own. Others stuck to the AA program, but did not note any special interest. This included the era of segregation. Groups could not be listed by race, but it was apparent in many communities who was allowed in which group, Kurtz points out.

Then there is the standard definition of an AA group, which is two or more alcoholics gathering for the purpose of sobriety. Kurtz argues that definition doesn't entirely rule out special groups. However, the pamphlet "The A.A. Group ... Where it All Beings," adds to the definition "provided they ... have no other



purpose or affiliation." That could mean no special groups, since its limitation on membership would suggest another purpose.

AA will probably always be challenged by its singleness of purpose and helping individuals whose problems don't stop with alcohol. Many members these days suffer from dual addictions, alcohol and drugs. Others who are drug addicts may feel the AA groups better fit their needs than NA or other programs.

AA as a whole will probably always have trouble drawing the line to accepting all who want the program and problems that go beyond alcoholism.

For now, it has chosen a path of singleness of purpose in aiding alcoholics, while leaving the groups to choose their own paths as long as it does not affect other groups.

A review of a few books on the quest for a treatment for alcoholism seems to lead to the conclusion that those attempting to go beyond the singleness of purpose generally failed.

A good reason to stay the course.

Sober thoughts

(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)

We live less and less, and we learn more and more. Sensibility is surrendering to intelligence.

–Remy De Gourmont

Get the better of yourself—this is the best kind of victory.

– Miguel De Cervantes

People do not live in the present always, at one with it. They live at all kinds of and manners of distance from it, as difficult to measure as the course of planets. Fears and traumas make their journeys slanted, peripheral, uneven, and evasive.

– Anais Nin

I never got in trouble while taking a nap

– Carl Anonym

A.A. BIRTHDAYS Central to celebrate 68th anniversary

Feb. 1 Kyna O. – 12	March 1 Patricia H. – 16
Feb. 2 Stacy W. – 12	Elsie S. – 5
Feb. 6 Johnny H. – 8	March 3 Linda C. – 3
Feb. 7 Robyn W. – 32	Abby P. – 2
Feb. 9 Jay A. – 8	March 5 Dale N. – 13
Feb. 11 Rocky O. – 40	March 8 Joseph B. – 2
Robert C. – 2	March 10 Sharman W. – 3
Feb. 14 Bennie R. – 15	March 11 Joe G. – 10
Billy W. – 13	March 13 Jim B. – 25
Dirk V. – 9	March 17 Gary F. – 12
Jim O. – 4	March 19 Gene W. – 29
Feb. 15 Jim M. – 5	March 21 Lisa F. – 4
Matt D. – 31	Lisa F. – 4
Tomie Ann – 8	Michael C. – 2
Feb. 18 John D. – 4	March 26 Russell J. – 19
Feb. 21 Teresa E. – 2	March 27 Bobbie E. – 22
Feb. 25 Lupe G. – 13	March 28 Doug C. – 19
Feb. 28 Bill C. – 27	

The Central Group is planning to mark its 68th anniversary on Jan. 26.

The ceremonies will start with fellowship at 1 p.m. at group's home, the ALCO Club at 640 German St.

in Fayetteville.

It will be followed with a history at 2 p.m. and Tom I. will be the guest speaker.

Food will follow Tom's talk.

Council rejects request to list group

The BCR Council turned down a request in November to recognize a group that wanted to be listed as an agnostic group.

In its request the group submitted a rewritten version of the 12 Steps that took out all references to God

and a Higher Power.

The consensus of the council was that the AA 12 Steps cannot be altered, and in doing so the group would be something other than AA.

Many other 12 step programs have their own versions of the steps.

Hotline seeks groups to share duties

Charlotte S., the Central Group council member and chairwoman of the Hotline Committee, wants to encourage more groups to help answer share phone duties.

Charlotte told the council during a meeting on Jan. 15 that only 3 groups were currently alternating in handling the chores.

Members of a group traditionally take the phone for

a month to direct callers to AA meetings.

Charlotte said the goal is to get 12 groups involved, so each has the responsibility for only 1 month each year. She the more groups involved the less likelihood people handling the calls will "burn out."

Any group interested in helping should contact Charlotte.



Celebrate sobriety with us

To add your group's birthdays to our list, email members names, date and year to commonbond2011@gmail.com. You can also send them to the Central Office.

BCR-CO Financial Report for December 2013

Beginning Balance	2,701.24	12/12 AA World Svc Lit	321.25	Fort Bragg	0	0	236.00					
		12/12 CenturyLink (office)	137.33	Kiss Grp	227.00	0	642.00					
Date	Contrib	Sales	Tax	Total	12/13 CCF Rent	240.83	Keeping it Real	0	0	0		
12/10	29.00	521.25	40.97	521.22	12/23 AA World Svc Lit	71.40	Little Grp	15.00	0	51.00		
12/12	60.00	65.00	4.55	129.55	12/27 Prudent Reserve Savings	40.00	Men of Sobriety	0	0	118.78		
12/19	300.00	123.61	4.18	427.79	860.32	Principles Grp	0	24.00	116.00			
				1,148.56	Prudent Reserve/Savings	480.00	Spring Into Action	0	0	550.00		
					Founder's Day Contribution	1,433.00	SOS Gap			181.58		
Expenses: Checks Paid					Checking Acct	716.57	Sandalwood Grp	0	0	175.00		
12/14 Payroll				105.12	Ending Balance	2,629.57	Unity Grp	0	0	37.00		
12/17 Payroll				105.13	Contributions	Nov	Dec	Year	ODAT Grp	0	0	1,854.20
12/27 WAI				87.79	Bare bones Grp	0	0	1,100.00	Walking Same Path	0	0	100.00
12/24 Hazelden				61.87	Camp Ground Grp	0	300.00	300.00	Faithful Fivers			
				359.91	Central Grp	0	0	829.57	Michael R.	10.00	5.00	265.00
Expenses: Debits					Freedom In Growth	0	0	126.71	Jim B	60.00		
12/06 Straighttalk (hot line)				49.51					Nat T.	22.00	20.00	64.00