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# The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Cumberland and Robeson Central Office

June 2015

## Upcoming Events

### June 10

The 80th anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, marked as Dr. Bob's first day of sobriety.

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### June 14

Founders' Day celebration at Paradise Acres, 1965 John McMillan Rd., Hope Mills from 1 to 5 p.m. See information on this page.

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### July 15

BCR-CO Council meets at 6:30 p.m. in the board room at the office, 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

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### July 19

The District 51 committee meeting will be at 3 p.m. in Robeson County, site to be announced.

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### July 30-Aug. 2

The 68th North Carolina State Convention will be held at the Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Exit 10 off I-440. Registration \$15 before June 22, \$20 after. Flyer, with directions and hotel reservation code at [aanorthcarolina.org](http://aanorthcarolina.org) under events.

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### Aug. 29-30

Area 51 Summer Committee Meeting at Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Exit 10 off I-440.



## Celebrate AA's 80th

**What:** Founders' Day Celebration

**When:** June 14, 1 to 5 p.m.

**Where:** Paradise Acres, 1965 John McMillan Rd., Hope Mills.

**What:** Food, fun and a speaker.

**Speaker:** 2 p.m., Jana L., the Wilmington area district committee member, who has 29 years of Experience, Hope and Strength.

**Admission:** Free

**Raffles:** \$10 per ticket: Grant prize: flat-screen, other prizes: Kindle, Fit Bit. Also 50/50 day of event.

### BCR-CO to set up literature table

The BCR-CO will sell AA literature at the Founders' Day celebration this year.

The table will allow members to see what is available at the office. It also will save some people a trip downtown.

Artwork from Shutterstock

## Central Office Board

Chairman  
Rocky O.  
Vice chairman  
Jim B.  
Treasurer  
Kate S.  
At-Large members  
Cumberland  
Audrey C.  
Robeson  
Thomas E.  
Office manager/secretary  
Linda C.

## Council

Central Group  
Dorothy C.  
Sandalwood  
Wayne C.  
Back to Basics  
Dan. A.  
Bare Bones  
(vacant)  
ODAT  
Cathy M.  
Fort Bragg  
Michael  
Freedom in Growth  
Amanda K.  
Keep It Simple  
Liz M.  
Principles Group:  
Charles K.  
Little Group  
Cass C.  
Pine Run  
Craig  
Seekers of Sobriety  
Darlene D.  
Spring Into Action  
Anne S.  
Turning Point  
John L.  
Walking the Same Path  
Alexis L.

## Services

Hotline  
Dorothy C.  
Webmaster  
Jim H.  
Common Bond editor  
Dave C.



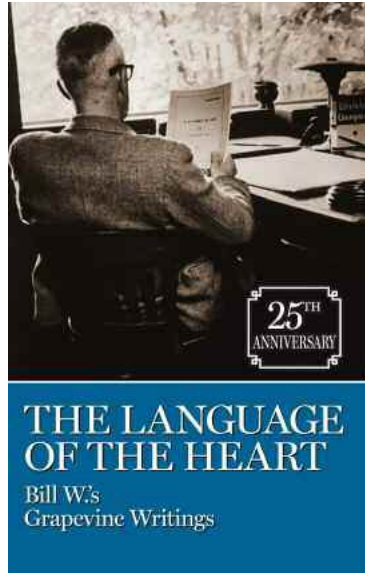
# 'Language of the Heart' audio book coming

Reprinted from Box 459, Spring 2015:

Between 1944 and 1970, Bill wrote 150 articles for AA Grapevine, helping to unite the Fellowship's new groups and hammering out the principles of A.A.

These articles give us a living history of Alcoholics Anonymous and the story of Bill W.'s emotional and spiritual growth. 2013 marked the 25th anniversary of The Language of the Heart.

Coming soon as an audio book, The Language of the Heart comes in many formats: hard cover,



softcover, large print and ebook. A limited quantity of the Commemorative softcover print edition is available.

To order go to: [aa-grapevine.org/books](http://aa-grapevine.org/books); phone: (800) 631-6025 (US/Canada), (818) 487-2091 (International).

## Sober thoughts

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

I ask you to consider the fact that we live in a web of mystery and have simply gotten so used to the fact that we have crossed out the world and replaced it with one we like better, that one being reality.  
– pg 183, The Colorado Kid, Stephen King.

While the word is yet unspoken you are master of it; when once it is spoken, it is master of you.

– Arab Proverb

## Make contact with the Central Office

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# Chance meeting started it all

Here are some excerpts on the early history on the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, from Ebby T.'s visit to Bill W. in November 1934 to Dr. Bob's last drink.

## Alcoholic Anonymous, Bill's Story, Pages 9 and 12:

"I pushed a drink across the table. He refused it. Disappointed but curious, I wondered what had got into the fellow. He wasn't himself. "Come, what's all this about?" I queried. He looked straight at me. Simply, but smilingly, he said, "I've got religion."



Dr. Bob

I was aghast ...

In a matter of fact way he told how two men had appeared in court, persuading the judge to suspend his commitment. They had told of a simple religious idea and a practical program of action. ... The result was self-evident. It worked!

He had come to pass his experience along to me ...

The word God still aroused a certain antipathy ...

My friend suggested what then seemed a novel idea. He said, "Why don't you choose your own conception of God?"

That statement hit me hard. It melted the icy intellectual mountain in whose shadow I had lived and shivered for many years. I stood in the sunlight at last.

*It was only a matter of being willing to believe in a Power greater than myself. Nothing more was*

*required of me to make my beginning.*

## From Pass It On, Pages 135 and 136:

Saturday noon found him (Bill W.) pacing up and down the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel in extreme agitation, wondering how to pass the weekend. He had about ten dollars in his pocket.

Now began the personal crisis that was to set in motion a serious of life-changing events for Bill. There was a bar at one end of the lobby, and Bill felt himself drawn to it. Should he have a ginger ale or two, perhaps scrape up and acquaintance? What could be the harm in that?

For almost anyone else, no harm. But for Bill Wilson, the alcoholic, the idea was loaded with danger.

...In New York he had kept himself sober for more than five months through working with other drunks at Towns (hospital) and at Calvary Mission. ... Now he had nobody. As he recalled later, "I thought 'You need another alcoholic to talk to. You need another alcoholic just as much as he needs you!'" It was this thought that led him to the church directory at the other end of the lobby.

(His call to a minister eventually led him to Akron socialite Henrietta Seiberling, a friend of Dr. Bob's.

## From Pass it On, Page 143:

Dr. Bob later said that he could not remember ever feeling much worse than he did on the afternoon he met Bill. He had agreed to the meeting only because he was very fond of Henrietta, and Anne had already committed them to going. But he made Anne promise that they would stay only

15 minutes. "I didn't want to talk to this mug or anybody else, and we'd really make it snappy."

... The Smiths arrived at the Stan Hywet gatehouse at five o'clock. Bob announced immediately that they could stay only briefly.

"Though embarrassed, he brightened a little when I said I thought he needed a drink," Bill recalled. "After dinner, which he did not eat, Henrietta discreetly put us off in her little library. There, Bob and I talked until eleven o'clock."

## Alcoholic Anonymous, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, Page 180:

The question which might naturally come into your mind would be: "What did the man do or say that was different from what others had done or said?" It must be



Bill W.

remembered that I had read a great deal and talked to everyone who knew, or thought they knew anything about the subject of alcoholism. But this was a man who had experienced many years of frightful drinking, who had had most all the drunkard's experiences known to man, but who had been cured by the very means I had been trying to employ, that is to say the spiritual approach. He gave me information about the subject of alcoholism which was undoubtedly helpful. *Of far more importance was the fact that he was*

Continued on page 4

## A.A. BIRTHDAYS

**June 2**  
Tilton T. – 10  
years

**June 3**  
Sharon C. – 7

**June 4**  
John G. – 3

**June 6**  
Robert B. – 6

**June 8**  
Ricky S. – 24

**June 10**  
Bethany B – 13  
Bob P. – 23

**June 11**  
Charles K. – 5

**June 12**  
Charlene C. – 7

**June 13**  
Pete F. – 7

**June 14**  
Craig E. – 9  
Sandra E. – 9

**June 15**  
William B. – 13

**June 16**  
Tim V. – 7

**June 17**  
Allison K. – 11  
Allison K. – 6

**June 18**  
Henry K. – 6

**June 19**  
Charlie L. – 34



**June 20**  
Jerry – 27

**June 26**  
Don L. – 26  
Bagley J. – 9

**June 27**  
Tom C. – 10

**July 1**  
Jay S. – 9  
Amy P. – 3

**July 4**  
Mercedes – 8  
Mercedes R. – 8

**July 5**  
Mike G. – 8

**July 6**  
Sue S. – 9

**July 7**  
Sam A. – 20

**July 9**  
Julie C. – 9

**July 9**  
Thurmond G. – 10  
Greg – 7  
Rick L. – 4

**July 10**  
Terry C. – 9

**July 11**  
Mike L. – 6  
Brandon T. – 3

**July 18**  
Mitzi A. – 33

**July 18**  
Mike – 8

**July 19**  
Ellie O. – 39  
Deb S. – 25

**July 21**  
Kate S. – 29

**July 21**  
Andre C. – 7  
Bernard – 6

**July 24**  
Eric R. – 7

**July 24**  
Delores B. – 29

**July 26**  
Cass C. – 30  
Don L. – 6

**July 31**  
James P. – 6

**July 31**  
Peaches P. – 8

AA's beginnings Continued from Page 3

*the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience. In other words, he talked my language.*

**Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, Page 74:**

“At four o'clock in the morning of the operation, he turned, looked at me, and said, ‘I am going through with this,’” Bill recalled

“‘You men you are going through with the operation?’

“‘I have placed both operation and myself in God’s hands. I’m going to do what it takes to get sober and stay that way.’

... “At nine o'clock, he shook miserably as we helped him into his clothes.” Bill said. “We were panic-stricken. Could he every do it? Were he too tight or shaky, it would make little difference. His misguided scalpel might take

the life of his patient.”

On the way to City Hospital ... Dr. Bob held out his hand from time to time to see whether the shakes subsided. Just before they stopped, Bill, who also had his practical side, gave him a bottle of beer.

Bill and Anne went back to house to wait. After many hours, Bob phoned to tell them that the operation had been successful. Still, he didn't return right after the call.

... He had spent the hours after the operation making restitution to friends and acquaintances in Akron. The bottle of beer Bill gave him that morning was the last drink he ever had.

Although arguments have been and will be made for other significant occasions in A.A. history, it is generally agreed that Alcoholics Anonymous began there, in Akron, on that date: June 10, 1935.

**Financial Report for March 2015**

Beginning Balance				\$1,723.18						
					04/27 Recovery Accents	29.05	Campground Grp	0	0	0
					Total	453.38	Central Group	222.53	0	222.53
<b>Date</b>	<b>Contrib</b>	<b>Sales</b>	<b>Tax</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Expenses: Debits</b>		Freedom In Growth	0	0	0
04/02	5.00	69.80	4.54	79.34	04/03 Straighttalk (Hotline)	46.81	Fort Bragg	0	0	0
04/16	5.00	365.47	24.63	395.10	04/03 Transfer, prudent reserve	40.00	Kiss Grp	74.14	0	74.14
04/28	337.00	50.77	3.55	391.32	04/07 Rent	240.83	Little Grp	16.00	17.00	33.00
04/30	100.00	359.04	25.12	484.16	04/08 GoDaddy	18.17	Turning Point	49.64	0	49.64
Total				1,349.92	04/15 CenturyLink (Office)	120.85	Principles Grp	58.76	0	58.76
<b>Expenses: Checks Paid</b>					Total	466.66	Spring Into Action	250.00	0	250.00
04/13 Wilmington Intgrp				18.41	Deposit subtotal	1,349.92	SOS Grp	0	0	0
04/13 Wilmington Intgrp				25.44	Check & debit subtotal	920.04	Sandalwood Grp	0	0	0
04/13 Wilmington Intgrp				11.00	Prudent Reserves/Saving	1,691.40	ODAT	759.93	0	759.93
04/08 Recovery Accents				8.00	Founder's Day Funds	500.00	Walking Same Path	50.00	0	50.00
04/06 Payroll				105.12	Checking account	2,153.06	Faithful fivers	15.00	110.00	125.00
04/13 Wilmington Intgp				119.85	<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>6,927.40</b>	Founders' Day	0	320.00	320.00
04/14 Hazelden				17.04						
04/17 Wilmington Intgrp				14.34	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Jan.-Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,496.00 447.00 1,943.00</b>
04/23 Payroll				105.13	Bare Bones Group	0	0	0		