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The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Cumberland and Robeson Central Office

October 2014

Upcoming Events

Sept. 21

District 51 Fall Fellowship, Keep It Simple Group, Hope Mills Methodist Church, 4955 Legion Rd., Hope Mills. Committee meeting at 1 p.m., program, fellowship to follow.

Oct. 10-13

Sandalwood group's "Serenity in the Woods" campout at Jordan Lake. For more see page 3A.

Oct. 17-19

Area 51 Fall Election & Assembly, Hilton North Raleigh 3415 Wake Forest Road (Exit 10 off I-440 Beltline). Details at aanorthcarolina.org.

Oct. 31

Happy Halloween.

Nov. 16

District 51 meeting and elections, 3 p.m., ALCO Club, German Street, Fayetteville.

Nov. 19

Cumberland and Robeson Central Office Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

Nov. 27-30

Thanksgiving weekend. Check local groups for meeting times.



Two AA's work together to fit the pieces of the Big Book together, just as a legendary duo did.

Local Big Book Study is Déjà Vu, all over again

By Carl Anonym

On a Saturday in July, I was prevailed upon to go to a "new" Big Book study at The Fort Bragg Group. I've been to an awful lot of Big Book studies and taught a fair number in my time. I really didn't expect anything unusual.

I found myself becoming enthusiastic as the time wore on with complete engagement in the presentation. I watched the others at the table gradually become more and more

enlivened. As I sat and was engaged, entertained, and I'll admit it, captivated I gradually got a sense of déjà Vu.

This rarely happens to me but I always pay a good deal of attention when it does. I had to go all the way back to January 1988 before I was able to put the "déjà" with the "vu." There it was. I was a bit startled to recognize it so I checked my memory again and could see no incongruity between past and present; except for a bit of polish

needed to complete the mirroring of experiences past and present.

I had witnessed a pair of men — Bryan and Donivan (alphabetical here) — who were the spitting image of the in person Joe and Charlie Big Book study that I attended in Honolulu, Hawaii about January 1988. It could have been Dec of 87 my mind is a little blurry after all this time. Never was real good with dates you see. This was the first

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Central Office Board

Chairman
Ray V.
Vice chairman
Duncan K.
Treasurer
Dave C.
At-Large members
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
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
Mark P.
S.U.R.E
Jeff
Turning Point
Syndi

Services

Hotline
Charlotte S.
Webmaster
Jim H.
Common Bond editor
Dave C.



District committee discusses assembly, leftover funds

DCM John B. encouraged GSRs to attend the state's Fall Assembly and Elections on Oct. 17-19 in Raleigh.

During the District 51 meeting in July at the Alco Club, John addressed the district's continuing poor attendance at Area 51 (North Carolina) assemblies. Even when the assemblies were held in Fayetteville, requiring little travel and no overnight hotel rooms, two years ago, attendance by district groups was low.

John pointed out that it is the GSRs duty to represent their groups at the state meetings in helping to make decisions for AA.

Information on the fall meetings is available on the state AA's webpage at aanorthcarolina.org.

The elections are held every two years. GSRs and DCMs vote for the state officers for AA, including the delegate to

the General Service Conference.

Treasurer's report

Also during the July meeting, treasurer Dave C. reported that the district has about \$1,300 in funds beyond the needs of the budget for the fiscal year ending May 31.

A debate followed on what to do with the unspent funds. According to the AA General Service Manual, the district is required to maintain a prudent reserve – which is \$3,200 – about a year's worth of expenses. While the district is budgeted to spend that amount, Dave C. reported, the district has budgeted much less the last two years and not spent all the funds.

The surplus has mounted partly because two years ago, the quarterly state meetings (which includes the assemblies) were all held in Fayetteville, cutting out one of the district's major expenses – hotel

expenses for the DCM.

While the passing along of surplus funds, is called for in AA guidelines, not all GSRs want to expend the money. They argued by sending the money elsewhere, some groups would not want to contribute.

Other GSRs argued that the money was given us to do AA work for the year and if we have not used the funds we should pass it on (long form of the 7th tradition warns against holding money without a purpose.) They also that more education on AA's guidelines on this matter and service work may be needed at the group level.

Several GSRs asked for more time so they could consult with group members. The discussion was tabled until the Fall Fellowship meeting at 1 p.m. Sept. 21 at Hope Mills United Methodist Church, 4955 Legion Road.

Make contact with the Central Office

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Déjà vu, all over again Continued from Page 1

gift I'd given myself in sobriety. It fit right in with the alcoholic's never doing anything for just one reason. This was for both Christmas and my AA birthday.

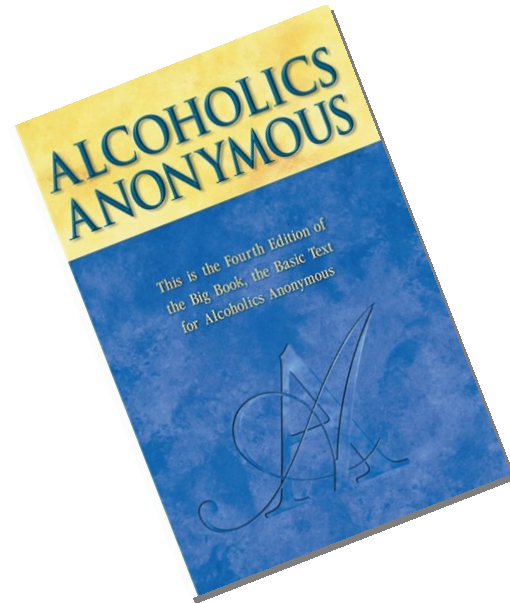
Here I am, now, in Fayetteville, N.C., watching the beginning of another team of two men, one black the other white just like Joe and Charlie, developing a routine for teaching the Big Book in exactly the same manner as the original two.

Imagine my thrill when they gave the same reasons for their efforts as the original duo!

I plan to go back and watch this develop; as was impossible for me with Joe and Charlie. Imagine a reincarnation of these two as Donivan's and Bryan's Big Book study! This is an opportunity that must not be missed.

Though fledgling in nature they have the vigor and intelligently knowledgeable teaching attributes to carry it off. Not to mention the unselfish way they hand the thread of the book back and forth.

I hesitate as I write this because having been to and taught Big Book studies now for about 26 years I know that the one thing that can thwart the development of this team is a selfish hogging of this meeting by myself or others. So come, please and be quietly respectful and demurring letting them develop as God intends without our trying to grab the show to feed our own egos while telling ourselves that we "have a right" or likewise letting our lower powers interfere. So come enjoy, quietly learn and observe them. Some of you'll share that you were in at the beginning of this and that you fought to give them space with encouragement to



continue as the next generation of heralded replacements for the beloved, at least by me, Big Book teachers who are now gone. By the way I was able after all these years to learn something. Who says you can't teach an old dog a new trick? This dog did!

Oh and as Dr. Bob said "let's not louse this up." It's too precious for that.

Congratulations to the Ft. Bragg group for offering this to the community.

With best regards to the new study. The Donivan and Bryan Big Book Study.

May it have harmony and prosper.

Editor's Note: The Fort Bragg group's Big Book Study is at 10 a.m. on post.

Sandalwood's fall campout set for Jordan Lake

The Sandalwood group's fall camp out "Serenity in the woods" will be Oct. 10-13 at Jordan Lake Vista Point group campsite #1. There is \$20.00 fee per tent site, but you can put as people as you like in a tent.

Meetings, fellowship and lots of fun are planned. Only the Friday night meal and drinks will be provided by Sandalwood group. Camp-

ers must provide their own camping equipment, supplies, food and drinks for the rest of the weekend.

The site is on the water and a bath house and restroom is within walking distance.

Registration and money is due by Oct. 8th.

For more information, contact Angie G. @ 910-850-1176 or 910-339-8346



A.A. BIRTHDAYS

Celebrate your sobriety with us



Would your group like to add its members to our birthday celebration list?

Send your dates to commobond2011@gmail.com. Include name, date and year of sobriety. The names will be added to our list (we'll do the math on which birthday it is).

Oct. 1
Kelly C. - 7
Mike S. - 7
Oct. 2
Al S. - 26
Beth D - 31
Matthew C. - 4
Oct. 3
Lisa L. - 3
Oct. 4
Zack O. - 5
Oct. 5
Alfonso P. - 2
Oct. 7
Jared D. - 7
Cameron B. - 7
Oct. 8
Sandra M. - 7
Oct. 9
Robert I - 5
Oct. 15
Maura M. - 2
Oct. 16
Milton S. - 8
Sue R. - 29
Chad T. - 10
Oct. 18
Don Z. - 30
Patrick W. - 11
Pete P. - 6
Fagan M. - 7
Oct. 19
Elisha - 7

Mike P - 29
Oct. 20
Jay O. - 9
Chris D. - 6
Chris W. - 5
Oct. 21
Stanley E. - 14
Oct. 22
Kasey R. - 6

Oct. 24
Todd W. - 7
David B. - 6
Oct. 25
Joe H. - 8
Oct. 26
Kelly M. - 6
Mike R. - 10

Oct. 28
Frazier S. - 10
Oct. 30
Ernest S. - 9
Nov. 1
Mike K. - 5
Nov. 2
Harvey G. - 29
Tom L. - 28
Aninty Y. - 2
Nov. 4
Alfonso P. - 2
Nov. 5
Ron S. - 33
Ray V. - 28
Mike E. - 15
Nov. 6
Jeff W. - 24
Nov. 7
Jed T. - 10
Edward E. - 3
Nov. 8
Wanda P. - 20
Nov. 10
Crystal - 9
Nov. 11
Joseph M. - 47
Carl S. - 28
Wade S. - 15
Nov. 12
Esther S. - 17
Scott T. - 5

Audrey - 3
Nov. 14
Johnny B. - 6
Nov. 15
Andrew K. - 6
Nov. 16
Kathy E. - 34
Charles J. - 6
Nov. 18
Dan - 16
Nov. 19
Julie S. - 29
Audrey C. - 16
Debora B. - 7
Jordan W. - 2
Nov. 21
Mike L. - 23
Gary M. - 10
Melissa L. - 7
Nov. 23
Bryan L. - 23
Bill L. - 21
Nov. 24
Jeff W. - 24
Nov. 25
Bryan L. - 23
Nov. 26
Daniela D. - 7
Johnny F. - 10
Nov. 29
Gary H. - 5

Sober thoughts

(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)

The ideas I stand for are not mine. I borrowed them from Socrates. I swiped them from Chesterfield. I stole them from Jesus. And I put them in a book. If you don't like their rules, whose would you use?

-Dale Carnegie

Financial Report for August 2014

Beginning Balance	3,843.67	8/06 CCF(Rent)	240.83	Freedom In Growth	0	152.00	410.50
		8/08 Sober Camel(Supplies)	14.29	Fort Bragg	148.00	0	355.00
Contrib Sales Tax Total		8/14 Centurylink(Office)	120.71	Kiss Grp	0	0	213.50
8/07 152.00 178.40 11.08	341.48	8/25 AAWS(Books)	573.55	Keeping It Real	0	0	0
8/21 612.04 709.60 51.09	1,372.73	8/29 Paper Statement Fee	3.00	Little Grp	24.00	0	66.00
	1,714.21		1,044.42	Turning Point	0	54.25	113.73
Expenses: Checks Paid		Prudent Reserves/Savings	760.63	Principles Grp	0	0	30.00
8/01 IRS	118.49	Founders Day Leftover	2,140.39	Spring Into Action	250.00	0	750.00
8/20 Payroll	105.13	Checking Acct.	1,473.40	SOS Grp	0	0	335.74
8/29 Payroll	105.12	Ending Balance	4,374.42	Sandalwood Grp	150.00	0	475.00
8/18 Recovery Accents	11.75	Contributions		Unity Grp	0	0	0
8/22 Wilmington Intergroup	15.59	Bare Bones Group	0	0	0	0	0
8/26 Recovery Accents	8.00	Campground Grp	0	0	40.00	776.30	
	364.08	Central Group	0	73.06	776.30		
Expenses: Debits							
8/06 Staples(Supplies)	45.23						
8/06 Straighttalk(Hotline)	46.81						