

{NO BOOZE NEWS}



THE MORE DEPENDENT WE BECOME ON A HIGHER POWER, THE MORE INDEPENDENT WE BECOME
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE AA INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF WEST CENTRAL ARKANSAS
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INTERGROUP BULLETIN

VOLUME XVIII - MARCH -- 2014

The Intergroup meets 2PM, the last Sunday of each month at 411 Sellers Street. We urge all groups to have an intergroup rep present so you will be up to date on what is going on with your intergroup, and also to provide us with any input from your group.

We need your input for this Bulletin on items of interest, i.e. birthday lists, upcoming events, personal stories, we are always in need of guest writers, and anything else that you would like to see in your bulletin. You can mail your information to: Intergroup Bulletin, P.O. Box 6401, Hot Springs, AR. 71902. You can also E-mail your information to Bill D. at bjd62070@cablelynx.com. Please put "NO BOOZE NEWS" in the subject line. Bulletins will be snail mailed to group representatives for reproduction and distribution. You can also receive the Bulletin in your E-mail by providing your E-mail address to Bill D., or you can pick up a copy from the book store at 411 Sellers.

Our website is up and running....Go to <http://intergroupwcark.org> and check it out. I am sure you will very much like what you find

Faith without Works and the Body without the Spirit

The Grapevine October 1946 (**thanks Ronny H**)

Editorial:

On the 12th Step. . .

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of those steps we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all of our affairs."

The 12th Step is the climax of the other 11. Without the 12th Step, the conception formulated in the other 11 would be like faith without works and the body without the spirit.

Here is the plan put into action, and it is a two-way action. Through the 12th Step, one receives as he gives. He gives to another what he has learned and in so doing receives new strength for himself. And it is through this two-way action that A.A. grows not only larger but stronger, for it is through the 12th Step that new members are made and old members extend the length and the quality of their sobriety.

When the 12th Step operates as it is intended to it precludes the development of the stultifying results of the ordinary debtor-creditor relationship. Although the A.A. engaged on a 12th Step mission may appear to be the donor--donor of a priceless gift which has helped thousands of others--and though the distraught recipient may feel grateful either then or subsequently, there is a powerfully restraining factor in the transaction. The A.A. cannot feel smugly virtuous as bearer of this gift when he knows that by giving it he keeps it and that 12th Step work is the way he helps to preserve his own sobriety. He is not likely to get a fatally righteous and inflated estimation of himself when he remembers that in 12th Step work one receives at least as much and usually much more than he gives. He cannot well fancy himself becoming a saint when he remembers that through 12th Step work he helps to keep himself from becoming a drunk again.

Even for the newcomer who discovers A.A. by way of some member applying the 12th Step in his behalf, there is an equalizer. He may always feel grateful, but as he learns more about A.A. he realizes the necessity of the 12th Step work to the do-er as well as the receiver and thus is relieved of any sense of imposed obligation. And he in turn can embark on 12th Step work knowing that he is doing it for himself more even than for others and certainly without the duress of paying off a [debt](#).

By virtue of these factors, 12th Step work is both inspirational and practical, often the spark that rekindles the fires of shining hope, and at the same time a completely realistic approach to a very tough problem. Few situations arise anywhere that [offer](#) a greater challenge to one's ingenuity, resourcefulness, perseverance and the best of his brains than those which arise commonly in 12th Step work. Nor, it should be added, are there many things which man does that require more hard work than is so often needed in the completion of a 12th Step task.

In 12th Step work, one is dealing with the most exasperating, stubborn, conniving, prevaricating, baffling, unpredictable, twisted and messed-up human being at large --the drunk. Successful 12th Step work calls for practically all of the virtues and talents given man, and often, even if any A.A. had all of the virtues and all of the talents, they would not be enough.

Yet, 12th Step work also offers more drama, more comedy, suspense, thrills and excitement than one will ever find on any movie screen. And it is real. It is life in the raw. It takes care of any idle time that may have been dragging heavily. And it has given to many an A.A. experiences that yield the greatest happiness of a lifetime.

Finally, of course, 12th Step work is certainly one of the surest, if not the surest, way of keeping sober. The reason it is so effective is that it almost compels one engaging in it to keep thinking in the direction that preserves sobriety. It is, at the same time, a reminder of what has been and a warning of what could be again.

But, more even than its value as both a reminder and a warning, 12th Step work is the practice of the basic principle of a way of life. The principle has been voiced in many different phrases --as "Do unto others. . ." and "My brother's keeper," or "Brotherhood of man," and simply, "Helping others." So, likewise, is 12th Step work helping others, keeping the brother, doing unto others as we have been done unto. And doing it without expectancy of repayment or bouquets.

The Grapevine October 1946

I Am A Pickle by Terri B. (thanks Terri)

I'm a little Pickle
But I didn't start this way
I started as a cucumber
And then I drank one day
It tasted kind of funny
But it made me feel so good
I found that I was drinking
A bit more than what I should
One day my eyes were opened
And I began to sway
I had become a Pickle
How did I get this way?
I want to be that cucumber
Like I was back in those days
But there's no going back
I Pickle I will stay

**CAR IN DITCH
DRIVER IN TREE
THE MOON WAS FULL
AND SO WAS HE.**

Burma Shave

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| March 2 nd | District Meeting | 411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs | 501-840-1196 |
| April 5 th – 6 th | Area Assembly | Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway | 501-329-2961 |
| May 7-20 | Sober Adventure to China -- | Snow@sobercelebrations.com | 561-702-2312 |
| June 1 st | District Meeting | 411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs | 501-329-2961 |
| June 6th-8th | Founders Day 2014 Akron, Ohio - | Website - foundersday@akronaa.org | |
| | | Phone: 330-203-1468 | |
| July 12 th – 13 th | Area Assembly | Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway | 501-329-2961 |
| September 7 th | District Meeting | 411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs | 501-840-1196 |
| October 4 th – 5 th | Area Assembly | Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway | 501-329-2961 |
| December 7 th | District Meeting | 411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs | 501-329-2961 |



"First explain to me what a 'slip' is ... "

"From the moment I pulled open the doors to my very first meeting, I felt something different, something good was going to happen. Those doors, which at the time I believed to be the heaviest ever made, allowed me to walk into a new way of life."

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

FEBRUARY

Resentment Group

YEAR TO DATE

*Hot Springs AA
Central Big Book
Eastgate
Rock Bottom
New Comers
Grant County Group*

*Evergreen
Welcome
Lake Catherine
Rock House
Open Door Group
Resentment Group*

JANUARY TWELVE STEP CALLS

February was a very busy month with over 100 calls from folks looking for meetings, directions and help

THANKS JODENE L.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|----------------------|
| Paul M. | 1 Year | 02/26/2013 | Rock House |
| Nakia | 1 Year | 02/23/2013 | Hot Springs AA |
| Joe McA | 1 Year | 02/09/2013 | Central Big Book |
| Charles B. | 6 Years | 02/28/2008 | Lake Catherine Group |
| Heidi D. | 7 Years | 02/15/2007 | Hot Springs AA |
| Patrick M. | 7 Years | 02/14/2007 | Rock house |
| Courtney S. | 8 Years | 02/25/2006 | Hot Springs AA |
| Mark S. | 18 Years | 02/07/1996 | Grant County Group |
| Anne F. | 19 Years | 02/04/1995 | Rock House Women's |
| Will K. | 25 Years | 02/10/1984 | Hot Springs AA |
| Frank S. | 43 Years | 01/21/1971 | Resentment Group |
| Bill L | 43 Years | 02/17/1971 | Lake Catherine Group |

"What I see convinces me that God exists; what I cannot see, confirms it."

Albert Einstein

Hearing **O**thers **P**ersonal **E**xperiences

ARE YOU AWARE?

{A message from your treasurer }

DOING OUR PART

In 1956 the Conference approved a plan whereby older members would remind other members of their responsibility toward the General Service Office. It was named the Anniversary Fund Plan.

In 1961 The Finance Committee recommended the adoption or continued use of use of the so-called Birthday Plan to provide "Supplementary" support of A.A.'s world services. Under the plan, individual members, on their A.A. birthdays, can contribute one dollar for each year of sobriety. The plan went into effect immediately and A.A. members began contributing annually a sum equivalent to the number of years they had been sober.

In the same year, 1961, the desirability of an annual contribution of \$3.00 per member was reaffirmed. In 1963 the Conference again emphasized the \$3.00 annual contribution, focusing on the nature of this contribution as an individual responsibility. And in 1973 the Conference recommended that the sum of \$3.00 per year per member be changed to \$3.65, thus making a sobriety contribution of a penny a day.

Members wishing to express gratitude for sobriety through individual contributions to their General Service Office might add to a base figure of \$3.65, one dollar for each year they have enjoyed sobriety as a member of A.A.

Note: Some members simply contribute, during their birthday week, a dollar for each year of sobriety to each of their regular meetings and the monies are distributed based on the usual 50-30-10-10% plan in effect in their groups.

Pretty inexpensive contribution considering the benefits gained from sobriety.



HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY

A NEWCOMER climbed up to the top of a mountain with the idea that if he could close enough to the heavens, he could talk with his Higher Power. Scanning the sky, he called out, "God, what does a million years look like to you?"

To his surprise, a booming voice answered, "A minute." The astonished newcomer bravely continued, "What does a million dollars mean to you?"

God answered, "A penny."

Now confident, the new AA asked, "May I have a penny?" After a short pause, God replied, "In a minute."

Reprinted with permission. AA Grapevine, July 2005



Pray For Potatoes. --- *Faith and Works*

One of the sayings heard at AA meetings is "Pray for potatoes but grab a hoe." This says that both prayer and action are needed to get favorable results in our lives.

But recovering alcoholics do not really need to be told to "grab a hoe." One of our problems is that we often worked too hard for certain ends, only to lose out in the long run. What we really need to know is that our prayers work with our actions to bring about good results. The saying should be "Pray for potatoes and grab a hoe." Faith and actions are both needed.

In the strong belief that God is working through us, we can do our own work with confidence and gratitude. Our own efforts are strengthened when we know that we are not alone. We may even receive inspiration and new understanding as we continue on this path. Changes in our lives will turn out to be positive and beneficial if we remind ourselves that God is in charge of the process.

Under the right conditions, potatoes grow in a miraculous way. Other projects will also come to maturity in our lives under God's direction.

I will be grateful for the opportunity to work today. Moreover, I will know that a Higher Power is living and working in my life.

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