

# {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  
P.O. BOX 6401 - HOT SPRINGS, AR. 71902 - {501} 623-6328  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR: BILL D. -- COMMITTEE, BILL B. & JOHN S.

## INTERGROUP BULLETIN

VOLUME XIX - APRIL -- 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](mailto: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.](http://intergroupwcark.org) I am sure you will very much like what you find

## **A.A. DOESN'T WORK**

One of the saddest statements I have ever heard is, "I've been to A.A. and it doesn't work." There is no way I can count the number of times over the past couple of decades I have found an alcoholic coming off a drunk who made that statement. Just today, one of my protégés called to tell me of a man, holed up in a cheap motel room, he was asked to locate and see if he could help him.

My protégé was successful in locating the suffering alcoholic and did what he had been instructed to do on a Twelve Step call. He told him some of the story of his drinking and how he had come to know it to be an illness over which he had no control nor did the medical profession have a solution.

The suffering alcoholic finally said, "You're going to try to tell me about A.A. aren't you?" Jake said, "That is where I found my solution. "The sick one said, "I have gone to A.A. meetings for the last eight 8 months and did what they told me to do. It doesn't work for me."

Jake asked, "Did you take the Steps with a sponsor who had been blessed with a spiritual experience as the result of having taken the Steps?" The sick one said, "I think I did but the main thing they told me was just keep coming back and you'll be OK. When I asked what else I should do, I was told, Don't drink and keep on going to more meetings. I did what they told me to do and A.A. just doesn't work."

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous found me near death in 1964 and told me he could help me. He said to me, "I understand. I have been where you are and I want to help you if you will let me." I was willing to do anything. He took me to his A.A. club and began sobering me up on orange juice with some honey mixed in it. When I began having delirium tremens, they added some Bay Rum to the mixture. There were no treatment centers in our area at that time and hospitals would not admit us for alcoholism. We either shook and sweat it out in jail or at an A.A. club. By far, most of them made it to the end sober or they still are. I wasn't one of them. I saw an opportunity to return my ego to its earlier level by getting involved in a new and exciting profession and so I went for it. Sixteen years after my last drink; 11 years after my last meeting, on a day without a cloud in the sky, I thought having a beer would be a good idea, so being in a very dry county, I drove 70 miles for a six-pack. It took me 2 years to make it back to Alcoholics Anonymous very, very drunk.

But what a difference 13 years can make! There were no alcoholics laying around the club with dry heaves. There were no blood shot eyes, sweating faces, no vibrating bodies, the aroma of alcoholism was missing. There was no orange juice in the refrigerator nor honey near the coffee pot. There was no Bay Rum in the file cabinet. It was no longer needed because almost everyone had gone to treatment and been medicated through the process of what is termed de-tox. They had missed those wonderful golden moments of the misery, suffering and pain of sobering up. At first, I thought the new approach was good but then I began to see the results. There was less and less commitment to the group and the action necessary for long term emotional sobriety was being ignored.

There were very few Big Book study or speaker meetings but a large number of discussion/participation meetings where everyone was given an opportunity to talk about whatever was on their mind whether or not they knew anything about alcoholism or recovery from alcoholism. There were even non-alcoholics participating in these meetings. This newer approach of learning to live with alcoholism was beginning to prove to be a dismal failure.

I heard a tape of Joe McQ. and later attended a weekend of Joe McQ. and Charlie P. presenting their Big Book Comes Alive program. It then became very clear why so many were returning to the bottle. Not only were we without sick alcoholics laying around the meeting places, there was so little program in our meetings, it was almost hidden from the newcomers. No wonder so few were finding more than a few months of physical sobriety. They were denied what is required for long term emotional sobriety.

Without the sick alcoholics laying round the meeting place, I had to find a place where I could again see and smell alcoholism. I needed a frequent reminder of where I came from and what was waiting for me if I didn't continue to pay the price for emotional sobriety. Over the years since I have been blessed to have been given another opportunity to survive the deadliest disease known to mankind, I have volunteered in many wind-up places where those coming off a drunk are present and available to talk with. Again and again, I heard that sickening statement, "I went to A.A. and it doesn't work."

Of course, they are right. Alcoholics Anonymous does not work! **We must work it!** But they were not told the truth. My basic text reads, "**Rarely, have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path**" The path being the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as outlined in a book titled Alcoholics Anonymous. My basic text does not read, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of don't drink and go to meetings." It reads, "**Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and practice these principles in all our affairs.**"

Our real problem is ego driven sponsorship with very little if any real concern for the welfare of the newcomer. Proclaimed members of our fellowship who have never taken the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous will assume the responsibility for the life of a newcomer and will proudly announce the number of sponsees they have. As one of my dear friends said, "The manner in which we now fail our responsibility to the newcomer borders on slaughter." The demise of our sense of responsibility to those seeking help for alcoholism is one of the greatest tragedies of our time in history. **It works only if we work it (working all 12 Steps, meetings/fellowship, and being of service expecting nothing in return)!**

Cliff B.

Re-Printed from Daily Ponderables 01/22/13

**"Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."**

## GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

**MARCH**  
*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*

## MARCH TWELVE STEP CALLS

**2 CALLS FOR HELP, AND 43 FOR DIRECTIONS**

**THANKS JODENE L.**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS'

<i>Paul M.</i>	<i>1 Year</i>	<i>02/26/2013</i>	<i>Rock House</i>
<i>Randy W.</i>	<i>1 Year</i>	<i>03/10/2013</i>	<i>Rock House</i>
<i>Janine G.</i>	<i>2 Years</i>	<i>03/12/2012</i>	<i>East Gate Group</i>
<i>Rebecca B.</i>	<i>2 Years</i>	<i>03/23/2012</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Eli H.</i>	<i>2 Years</i>	<i>03/23/2012</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Jim B.</i>	<i>3 Years</i>	<i>03/12/2011</i>	<i>Rock House</i>
<i>Anna B.</i>	<i>3 Year</i>	<i>03/03/2011</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Jodene L.</i>	<i>3 Years</i>	<i>03/07/2011</i>	<i>Central Big Book</i>
<i>Jim B.</i>	<i>3 Year</i>	<i>03/12/2011</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Rochelle C.</i>	<i>4 Years</i>	<i>03/24/2010</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Denise L.</i>	<i>5 Years</i>	<i>03/06/2009</i>	<i>Central Big Book</i>
<i>Timothy T.</i>	<i>5 Years</i>	<i>03/26/2009</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Allison G.</i>	<i>17 Years</i>	<i>03/03/1997</i>	<i>Rock House</i>
<i>Dayna C.</i>	<i>20 Years</i>	<i>03/26/1994</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>David H.</i>	<i>21 Years</i>	<i>03/01/1993</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Bill B.</i>	<i>23 Years</i>	<i>03/14/1991</i>	<i>Rock House</i>
<i>David H.</i>	<i>28 Years</i>	<i>03/16/1986</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>
<i>Rich F.</i>	<i>28 Years</i>	<i>03/19/1986</i>	<i>Rock House</i>
<i>Sammy B.</i>	<i>31 Years</i>	<i>03/09/1983</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>



"Great love is the sunlight of AA's tree of life."

**On The Lighter Side**

An alcoholic who had abused his family, imposed on his few friends and generally been a public nuisance, finally died. At the funeral service, the preacher asked, "Does anyone wish to say some kind words about the departed?" There was a dead silence. The minister repeated the question. Finally, a man stood up and said grudgingly, "His brother was worse."

Re-Printed from Huston AA Link

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

April 5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>st</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Area Assembly	Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	District Meeting	411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs	501-840-1196
October 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Area Assembly	Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	District Meeting	411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs	501-329-2961

## Four Men

Grapevine --- April 1946 --- Vol. 2 No. 11

(The following is reprinted from the well known Southern newspaper column, Everyday Counselor, with the permission of the author, The Rev. Herbert Spaugh, D.D.)

A thumb-nail sketch of the program of the Alcoholics Anonymous is given for the benefit of many readers who have inquired about it. The picture presented is general, and will be seen to be a fine program for the church or any organization designed to help others.

In the first place, the patient must be willing to be helped, must admit his need of help.

He is then urged to make the acquaintance and face squarely four men.

**THE FIRST MAN.** This man is yourself. Stand in front of a mirror and honestly look at yourself alone. This is difficult, as it is the last thing which many want to do, but it is the necessary first thing. Look beyond your face and down into your heart. You may fool the world, your family, your friends, but you can never fool yourself. A guilty conscience is poor company. It is responsible for more sickness, misery and suffering than anything else in the world. You may try to run away from it in work, in play; but it is always within you; you can't escape it.

**THE SECOND MAN.** This man is your God. To the Christian, He is The Man, Christ Jesus. He who rules all creation, guides the heavenly bodies in their courses, plans and directs the workings of nature, is ready to help you, if you will let Him. He stands ready to help you with every problem. You will never know how to live happily, successfully, victoriously with yourself until you learn to live with your God. Only in Him can you find a clean and pure conscience.

**THE THIRD MAN,** for the one who would take the program of the Alcoholics Anonymous, is your fellow-member of the local A.A. club. These clubs meet every week, report on themselves and on each other. If a member has been unfortunate enough to have slipped and fallen, the other members go after him and bring him back.

**THE FOURTH MAN WITHOUT WHOM YOUR LIFE WILL NOT BE COMPLETE** is the man with whom you must share your new experience. One requirement in an A.A. club is that each member must share his new strength with other alcoholics; this is their strongest aid to sobriety.

Four is the world-number of completion. To live successfully in this world you must meet and know these four men.

**THE ROCK HOUSE WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY  
OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS AT 7PM  
NEED SUPPORT AND AA PARTICIPATION.  
OTHERWISE WE MAY HAVE TO CLOSE THEM.**

