

{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 XXIV – SEPTEMBER -- 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.](http://intergroupwcark.org) I am sure you will very much like what you find

We Pay the Piper

By W.H. of New York, NY

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“The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.” -Long form of Tradition Seven.

A big word--emancipation. Whatever does it have to do with whether I put something in the basket at an AA meeting? Why do I have to put anything in the basket in the first place?

Groups went out of their way, so it seemed when I finally came into Alcoholics Anonymous over twenty years ago, to tell me that "there are no dues or fees for AA membership." That line from the definition of AA (our Preamble) registered on one part of my brain and struck me with awe and disbelief. In another part of my brain, I saw myself going to meetings in the same way I had gone to the Boys Club Friday nights as a child, with a nickel in my hand for the club show. How proudly I used to walk into the auditorium, holding my little ticket aloft as my legitimate entrée into that arena of strangeness and power.

Now, at the AA meeting, it was a quarter or half dollar for the basket. I would drop the coin in with a flourish to make sure that everybody noticed and understood that I belonged--that I was not an interloper. It was a while before I got the message that dropping a quarter in the basket (a dollar or two would be more appropriate today!) was not a requirement for AA membership. Thank goodness for that. I didn't always have a quarter, or even a dime. In time, I came to see that if I wanted a comfortable meeting hall, if I wanted hot coffee and some cookies, somebody had to pay. On this subject (and this one only), my thinking suddenly became exquisitely clear: The somebody who had to pay was the group; I was part of the group; therefore, I had to put something in the basket whenever I was able.

The first conscious action that I took in the adventure of recovery was to admit my powerlessness over alcohol. My second most important action was to embrace the Seventh Tradition and its implications of personal responsibility, even though I knew nothing about the Traditions in those days.

However often I go back to the account of our growing up in that most exciting of books, AA Comes of Age, I am impressed by the unearthly wisdom of our founding

fathers and of our trustees who sat on the board in the early 1940s. As co-founder Bill W. recorded it in the book, that was when the principle of corporate poverty was securely implanted in the AA way--all as the direct result of wrestling with real and pressing money problems and then, through the group conscience, accepting the guidance of our ultimate authority.

Early members' actions laid the foundation for this Tradition. They did the worrying, and the Tradition tells me that I do not have to worry about the future of my group's treasury if I will do my part, that is, make my contribution just for today.

To avoid needless worry, many groups find it a wise policy to have a financial reserve. If possible, they like to keep on hand enough for one or two months' rent (or contribution for meeting space), coffee-and-cake money, and regular donations to their local intergroup or central office, their area committee, and the AA General Service Office (GSO). However, some groups find it impossible to have even a minimum reserve. Groups have been forced to close their doors because they could not meet their expenses. You probably know of at least one such group in your area.

I am thinking of a group that had been viable for a number of years when, for a variety of reasons, attendance fell off, and the group appeared to be finished. An old-timer took an interest, and with his help, things were turned around. One of his actions, in order to get the group out of the red, was to insist that every meeting pay for itself. If the collection basket did not yield enough to cover that meeting's expenses, it was sent around again. I was present when the basket made the rounds three times in one meeting. Some AAs were horrified at the procedure (no dues or fees, remember?), but the old-timer stuck to his guns, and the group became self-supporting again. Eventually, it was in a position to contribute to the local intergroup and to the intergroup's institution committee literature fund. Their next venture might well have been a contribution to the support of their area committee and our GSO.

I sometimes forget that our service centers rely on my contributions of money and volunteer time. I also tend to forget the one very good reason why I should want to help in their support. By smoothing the way into a multitude of service areas, they make it that much easier for me to enjoy the benefits of AA unity and strengthen my sobriety at the same time.

I am reminded of another old-timer whose approach was quite different from that of the pay-as-you-go advocate. This story was told me by a longtime AA friend whose home group was once in need of new chairs. The old-timer, who was well-to-do, offered to buy them. That attractive offer was considered by the group but turned down. They told him that they loved him but, from a practical viewpoint, it would not be a good idea for the group's sake or for his. "What if one day you were to get a resentment against the group," they said, "and decided to pick up your chairs and

go home? Where would that leave the group?" He saw the wisdom of the group conscience and withdrew his offer gracefully. "Whoever pays the piper is apt to call the tune." That's the way Bill W. put it in his discussion of Concept Eleven in AA Service Manual. The context was money matters and power brokerage. Bill's observation is apropos on other levels as well, and in other areas.

The Seventh declares that it is possible for me, personally, to become self-reliant. It shows how impossible self-reliance was as long as I was drinking. I always wanted to be self-reliant. Oh, how I wanted to be my own person! But I had to keep abandoning my self-reliance in order to hold on to a source of gratification, whether it was money, sex, or alcohol. Why was total freedom always at the bottom of the bottle rather than, say, halfway down?

My list of "outside contributions" was long. They would more appropriately be called handouts. They came from acquaintances, companions, lovers, buddies, friends, and family, and from the most beloved and most dreaded of mortals--the bartender.

A still better word for those "contributions" is loot. Through the emancipation of this Tradition, I learned that I could quit the petty thievery I had practiced for years and still survive.

Standing on my own two feet has been one of the oddest experiences of my life. I had always been totally convinced that the world owed me a living and owed me respect on top of it. Today, I see that it is just the other way around. And my biggest debt is to Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is all so obvious, and yet that nagging old way of mine does rear its head at the darnedest times. That habit pattern can still come uncomfortably close to convincing me that the world really does owe me a living.

Being responsible for my group, and for myself, is still a novelty with me. Is it that way with you?

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

***JUNE
Hot Springs AA***

***YEAR TO DATE
Hot Springs AA
Central Big Book
Eastgate
Rock Bottom
New Comers
Grant County Group
ARKYPAA***

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

AA Hot line calls in July

We had about 50 calls in August, for directions and times.

None needing 12 steps

Thanks for your service Steve B.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jody	1 Year	08/07/2013	Hot Springs AA
Tommy	1 Tear	08/01/2013	Hot Springs AA
Dean S.	2 Years	08/27/2012	Central Big Book
Susan O'K	2 Years	08/23/2012	Central Big Book
Ed D.	2 Years	08/17/2012	Rock House
David W.	2 Years	08/15/2012	Central Big Book
Sharon G.	2 Years	08/13/2012	Rock House
Greg G.	3 Years	08/14/2011	Hot Springs AA
Judy	4 Years	08/26/2010	Hot Springs AA
Cathy	4 Years	08/23/2010	Hot Springs AA
Sarah	4 Years	08/19/2010	Hot Springs AA
Mary Beth C.	5 Years	08/17/2009	Rock House Ladies
Dyrek B.	6 Years	08/07/2008	Rock House
Claire G.	7 Years	08/15/2007	Central Big Book
Joey	9 Years	08/11/2005	Hot Springs AA
Ann MacP.	23 Years	08/05 1991	Rock House Ladies
Terry G.	30 Years	08/07/1984	Rock House
Maurice T.	42 Years	08/18/1972	Mt Ida Resentment Group

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep 7	District Meeting	411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs	501-840-1196
Sep 18-21	15th Annual Arkansas Traveler Roundup	El Dorado	<u>See Flyer sent separately.</u>
Oct 4 – 5	Area Assembly	Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
Oct 10-12	S.W.R.A.A.S.A.	Corpus Christi, TX.	<u>See flyer sent separately.</u>
Oct 10-12	ARKYPAA XXXII	Mt. Camp Mitchell Campgrounds	<u>See flyer sent separately.</u>
December 7	District Meeting	411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs	501-329-2961
December 18-21	WACYPAA XVIII	Big Island Hawaii	<u>See Flyer sent separately.</u>
July 2-5, 2015	International convention	in Atlanta, Ga.	<u>See flyer sent separately.</u>



Don't Blame yourself Honey, I am sure there were reasons other than you getting sober

10 Signs You May Have Had a Spiritual Awakening:

10. Finally memorized or broken all the AA rules.
9. Don't get a resentment when people share too long.
8. Enjoy going to home group business meetings.
7. See the difference between experience and pain.
6. Allow people to continually surprise me.
5. Realize our differences from our unity.
4. Let grace create my will.
3. Said the Serenity Prayer more often than "NOT GUILTY".
2. Quit taking money out of the 7th tradition Basket for breakfast and gas.
3. Traded in all the slogans, clichés, program history discussions and higher power issues for the simple truth of LOVE AND SERVICE. -Bill D.

God Bless The Alcoholic *by Angela M.*

God loves the alcoholic
For who knows mercy like he
A sensitive in this cold, hard world
He drinks spirits to be free

God bless the alcoholic
Shunned by friends and foe
Who can know what drives him
When he himself can't know

God help the alcoholic
His plague is his disease
Destroying everything he once held dear
Can there be a life for these?

God carry the alcoholic
It's a sliding and slippery slope
Protect and guide his steps until
He finds the rooms of hope.

9TH TRADITION -- LONG FORM

Each A.A. groups needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its Secretary, the large group its Rotating Committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their Central or Intergroup Committee, which often employs a full-time Secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principle newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

