

# {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 XXVI – NOVEMBER – 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. I am sure you will very much like what you find

# The Fundamentals--In Retrospect - AA Grapevine - September 1948

*Dr. Bob*

THE feeling that one belongs to and has a definite personal part in the work of a growing and spiritually prospering organization for the release of the alcoholics of mankind from a deadly enslavement is always gratifying. For me, there is double gratification in the realization that more than 13 years ago, an All-wise Providence, whose ways must always be mysterious to our limited understandings, brought me to "see my duty clear" and to contribute in a decent humility, as have so many others, my part in guiding the first trembling steps of the then infant organization, Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is fitting at this time to indulge in some retrospect regarding certain fundamentals. Much has been written, much has been said about the 12 Steps of A.A. These tenets of our faith and practice were not worked out overnight and then presented to our members as an opportunist creed. Born of our early trials and many tribulations, they were and are the result of humble and sincere desire, sought in personal prayer for Divine guidance.

**As finally expressed and offered, they are simple in language, plain in meaning. They are also workable by any person having a sincere desire to obtain and keep sobriety. The results are the proof. Their simplicity and workability are such that no special interpretations, and certainly no reservations, have ever been necessary. And it has become increasingly clear that the degree of harmonious living which we achieve is in direct ratio to our earnest attempt to follow them literally under Divine guidance to the best of our ability.**

YET, withal, there are no "shibboleths" in A.A. We are not bound by the thongs of theological doctrine. None of us may be excommunicated and cast into outer darkness. For we are many minds in our organization and an A.A. Decalogue in the language of "Thou shalt not" would gall us indeed.

Look at our 12 Points of A.A. Tradition. No random expressions these, based on just casual observation. On the contrary, they represent the sum of our experience as individuals, as groups within A.A. and similarly with our fellows and other organizations in the great fellowship of humanity under God throughout the world. They are entirely suggestive, yet the spirit in which they have been conceived merits their serious, prayerful consideration as the guidepost of A.A. policy for the individual, the group and our various committees, local and national.

We have found it wise policy, too, to hold to no glorification of the individual. Obviously, that is sound. Most of us will concede that when it came to the personal showdown of admitting our failures and deciding to surrender our will and our lives to Almighty God, as we understood Him, we still had some sneaking ideas of personal justification and excuse. We had to discard them but the ego of the alcoholic dies a hard death. Many of us because of activity have received

praise not only from our fellow A.A.s but from the world at large. We would be ungrateful indeed to be boorish when that happens yet it is so easy for us to become, privately perhaps, just a little vain about it all. **Yet, fitting and wearing halos is not for us.**

WE'VE all seen the new member who stays sober for a time, largely through sponsor-worship. Then maybe the sponsor gets drunk and you know what usually happens. Left without a human prop, the new member gets drunk too. **He has been glorifying an individual instead of following the Program.**

Certainly we need leaders but we must regard them as the human agents of the Higher Power and not with undue adulation as individuals. The 4th and 10th Steps cannot be too strongly emphasized here--"Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves . . . continue to make personal inventory . . . promptly admit it when we are wrong." **There is your perfect antidote for halo-poisoning.**

So with the question of Anonymity. If we have a banner, that word, speaking of the surrender of the individual--the ego--is emblazoned on it. Let us dwell thoughtfully on its full meaning and learn thereby to remain humble, modest, ever-conscious that we are eternally under Divine direction.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS was nurtured in its early days around a kitchen table. **Many of our pioneer groups, some of our most result-full meetings and best programs have had their origin around that modest piece of furniture with the coffee pot handy on the stove.**

True, we have progressed materially to better furniture and more comfortable surroundings, yet the kitchen table must ever be appropriate for us. It is the perfect symbol of simplicity. In A.A. we have no V.I.P.'s nor have we need of any. Our organization needs no title-holders nor grandiose buildings. That is by design. Experience has taught us that simplicity is basic in preservation of our personal sobriety and helping those in need.

Far better it is for us to fully understand the meaning and practice of "Thou good and faithful servant" than to listen to "With 60,000 members you should have a 60 stories high administration headquarters in New York with an assortment of trained 'ists' to direct your affairs." We need nothing of the sort. **God grant that A.A. may ever stay simple.**

Over the years we have tested and developed suitable techniques for our purpose. They are entirely flexible. We have all known and seen miracles--the healing of broken individuals, the rebuilding of broken homes. And always, it has been the constructive personal 12th Step work based on an ever upward-looking faith which has done the job.

IN as large an organization as ours, we naturally have had our share of those who fail to measure up to certain obvious standards of conduct. They have included schemers for personal gain, petty swindlers and confidence men, crooks of various kinds and other human fallibles. Relatively their number has been small, much smaller than in many religious and social uplift organizations.

Yet they have been a problem and not an easy one. **They have caused many an A.A. to stop thinking and working constructively for a time.**

We cannot condone their actions, yet we must concede that when we have used normal caution and precaution in dealing with such cases, we may safely leave them to that Higher Power. Let me reiterate that we A.A.'s are many men and women, that we are of many minds. It will be well for us to concentrate on the goal of personal sobriety and active work. We humans and alcoholics on strict moral stock-taking must confess to at least a slight degree of larcenous instinct. We can hardly arrogate the roles of judges and executioners.

Thirteen grand years! To have been a part of it all from the beginning has been reward indeed

Dr. Bob  
AA Co-Founder, Dr. Bob, September 1948  
The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 2



*"I really tied one on last night,  
Thank God it's Sunday so I can sleep in"*



Your intergroup wishes all a most  
wonderful Thanksgiving

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

November 20-23	District 13 Winter Holiday, Neosho, MO	<u>See Flyer sent separately.</u>
November 21-23	Jonesboro Thanksgiving Program	<u>See Flyer sent separately.</u>
December 4-7	Woodstock of the South, Buford, GA	<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>

**AA Hot line calls in October**  
**45 calls in October all for locations and directions.**  
**No 12 step calls**  
THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE STEVE B.

"A sincere attempt to exercise the first ten Steps brings into play some of the finest virtues in the human character: humility, hope, faith, honesty, courage, and sincerity."

Jackson Heights, N.Y., April 1956  
*"What a Spiritual Awakening Means to Me,"*  
**AA Grapevine**

## **GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS**

**October**  
**Central Big Book**  
**Eastgate**

**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**

### **October Birthdays'**

Dennis C.	4 Years	10/25/2010	Hot Springs AA Group
Belinda B.	4 Years	10/10/2010	Grant County Group
Rosa M.	6 Years	10/31/1998	Rockhouse Ladies Group
Jane M.	10 Years	10/13/2004	Central Big Book Study Group
Joe M.	10 Years	10/10/2004	Rockhouse Group
Rasa M.	16 Years	10/31/1998	Hot Springs AA Group
Bonny G.	21 Years	10/10/1993	Hot Springs AA Group
Jeff D.	25 Years	10/15/1989	Rockhouse Group
Cindy S.	28 Years	10/17/1986	Central Big Book Study Group
Eric P.	29 Years	10/22/1985	Central Big Book Study Group
Mary Lou H.	41 Years	10/01/1973	Rockhouse Ladies Group
Chuck S.	45 Years	10/21/1969	Lake Catherine Group

### **Book Store Bulletin Board**

The Bookstore has a new bulletin board to the left of door for intergroup announcements.

"I'd like to develop Step Eleven further -- for the benefit of the complete doubter, the unlucky one who can't believe it has any real merit at all .... As he goes along with his process of prayer, he begins to add up the results. If he persists, he will almost surely find more serenity, more tolerance, less fear, and less anger. He will acquire a quiet courage, the kind that doesn't strain him. He can look at so-called failure and success for what they really are. Problems and calamity will begin to mean instruction, instead of destruction. He will feel freer and saner ... His sense of purpose and of direction will increase. His tensions and anxieties will commence to fade. His physical health is likely to improve. Wonderful and unaccountable things will start to happen. Twisted relations in his family and on the outside will unaccountably improve.

"Even if few of these things happen, he will still find himself in possession of great gifts. When he has to deal with hard circumstances he can face them and accept them. He can now accept himself and the world around him."

*AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1958*  
*"Take Step Eleven"*  
**The Language of the Heart**

I invest my time in what I truly love. Step Eleven is a discipline that allows me and my Higher Power to be together, reminding me that, with God's help, intuition and inspiration are possible. Practice of the Step brings on self-love. In a consistent attempt to improve my conscious contact with a Higher Power, I am subtly reminded of my unhealthy past, with its patterns of grandiose thinking and false feelings of omnipotence. When I ask for the power to carry out God's will for me, I am made aware of my powerlessness. Humility and healthy self-love are compatible, a direct result of working Step Eleven

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

November 20-23	District 13 34th Winter Holiday Neosho, MO	<u><a href="#">See Flyer sent separately.</a></u>
November 21-23	Jonesboro Thanksgiving Program	<u><a href="#">See Flyer sent separately.</a></u>
December 4-7	Woodstock of the South Buford, GA	<u><a href="#">See Flyer sent separately.</a></u>
December 7	District Meeting 411 Sellers St. in Hot Springs	501-329-2961
December 18-21	WACYPAA XVIII Big Island Hawaii	<u><a href="#">See Flyer sent separately.</a></u>
Jan 3 & 4	Area Assembly Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-296
July 2-5, 2015	International convention in Atlanta, Ga.	<u><a href="#">See Flyer sent separately.</a></u>

## **This is YOUR Newsletter**

Send us your articles and letters sharing your experience, strength and hope. We need your help to reduce our reliance on borrowed material from the AA Grapevine, literature and other newsletters.

Please help us make your newsletter a true reflection of AA in West central Arkansas.

Send your articles and letters of 250 words or less to: Newsletter Editor, 254 Ramble St. Hot Springs, AR 71901 or email to bjd62070@cablelynx.com. Include the name of your home group. *We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, content and length.*

### **Note from the Book store**

*When purchasing materials from the store, please do not bring bills larger than 20 dollar bills. We have limited change available. Your help in this will be greatly appreciated.*

### **NEW MEETING**

*Open Discussion on Saturday 5:30 PM*

*411 Sellers needs your support*

*It is your road and yours alone.  
Others may walk it with you, but no  
one can walk it for you.*