

{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

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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.

AA HOTLINE PHONE # 501-623-ODAT (6328)

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

A Fragment of History

{Part 2}

By Bill W.

Copyright © [AA Grapevine, Inc](#), July 1953

Then Came Akron

Shortly after this history-making conversation, I found myself in Akron, Ohio, on a business venture which promptly collapsed. Alone in the town, I was scared to death of getting drunk. I was no longer a teacher or a preacher, I was an alcoholic who knew that he needed another alcoholic as much as that one could possibly need me. Driven by that urge, I was soon face to face with Dr. Bob. It was at once evident that Dr. Bob knew more of the spiritual things than I did. He also had been in touch with the Oxford Groupers at Akron. But somehow he simply couldn't get sober. Following Dr. Silkworth's advice, I used the medical sledgehammer. I told him what alcoholism was and just how fatal it could be. Apparently this did something to Dr. Bob. On June 10, 1935, he sobered up, never to drink again. When, in 1939, Dr. Bob's story first appeared in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, he put one paragraph of it in italics. Speaking of me, he said: *"Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience."*

The Missing Link

Dr. Silkworth had indeed supplied us the missing link without which the chain of principles now forged into our Twelve Steps could never have been complete. Then and there, the spark that was to become Alcoholics Anonymous had been struck.

During the next three years after Dr. Bob's recovery our growing groups at Akron, New York and Cleveland evolved the so-called word-of-mouth program of our pioneering time. As we commenced to form a society separate from the Oxford Group, we began to state our principles something like this:

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol
2. We got honest with ourselves
3. We got honest with another person, in confidence
4. We made amends for harms done others
5. We worked with other alcoholics without demand for prestige or money
6. We prayed to God to help us to do these things as best we could

Though these principles were advocated according to the whim or liking of each of us, and though in Akron and Cleveland they still stuck by the O.G. absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, this was the gist of our message to incoming alcoholics up to 1939, when our present Twelve Steps were put to paper. I well remember the evening on which the Twelve Steps was written. I was lying in bed quite dejected and suffering from one of my imaginary ulcer attacks. Four chapters of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, had been roughed out and read in meetings at Akron and New York. We quickly found that everybody

wanted to be an author. The hassles as to what should go into our new book were terrific. For example, some wanted a purely psychological book which would draw in alcoholics without scaring them. We could tell them about the "God business" afterwards. A few, led by our wonderful southern friend, Fitz M., wanted a fairly religious book infused with some of the dogma we had picked up from the churches and missions which had tried to help us. The louder the arguments, the more I felt in the middle. It appeared that I wasn't going to be the author at all. I was only going to be an umpire who would decide the contents of the book. This didn't mean, though, that there wasn't terrific enthusiasm for the undertaking. Every one of us was wildly excited at the possibility of getting our message before all those countless alcoholics who still didn't know.

Having arrived at Chapter Five, it seemed high time to state what our program really was. I remember running over in my mind the word-of-mouth phrases then in current use. Jotting these down, they added up to the six named above. Then came the idea that our program ought to be more accurately and clearly stated. Distant readers would have to have a precise set of principles. Knowing the alcoholic's ability to rationalize, something airtight would have to be written. We couldn't let the reader wiggle out anywhere. Besides, a more complete statement would help in the chapters to come where we would need to show exactly how the recovery program ought to be worked.

12 Steps in 30 Minutes

At length I began to write on a cheap yellow tablet. I split the word-of-mouth program up into smaller pieces, meanwhile enlarging its scope considerably. Uninspired as I felt, I was surprised that in a short time, perhaps half an hour, I had set down certain principles which, on being counted, turned out to be twelve in number. And for some unaccountable reason, I had moved the idea of God into the Second Step, right up front. Besides, I had named God very liberally throughout the other steps. In one of the steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees.

When this document was shown to our New York meeting the protests were many and loud. Our agnostic friends didn't go at all for the idea of kneeling. Others said we were talking altogether too much about God. And anyhow, why should there be twelve steps when we had done fine on six? Let's keep it simple, they said.

This sort of heated discussion went on for days and nights. But out of it all there came a ten-strike for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our agnostic contingent, speared by Hank P. and Jim B., finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as "a Higher Power" or "God as we understand Him!" Those expressions, as we so well know today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic. They have enabled thousands of us to make a beginning where none could have been made had we left the steps just as I originally wrote them. Happily for us there were no other changes in the original draft and the number of steps stood at twelve. Little did we then guess that our Twelve Steps would soon be widely approved by clergymen of all denominations and even by our latter-day friends, the psychiatrists.

This little fragment of history ought to convince the most skeptical that nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous. It just grew...by the grace of God.

"Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions, they become habits.
Watch your habits, they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny."

--Frank Outlaw

"Every newcomer, every friend who looks at AA for the first time is vastly puzzled. They see liberty verging on license, yet they recognize at once that AA has an irresistible strength of purpose and action. 'How,' they ask, 'can such a crowd of anarchists function at all? How can they possibly place their common welfare first? What, in heaven's name, holds them together?'

"Those who look well soon have the key to this strange paradox. The AA member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies. At first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover, he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away."

Re-Printed from Language of the Heart

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

April 11 & 12	Area Assembly Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
	<u>Take note this is the second weekend in July</u>	
April 16 – 19	Springtime in the Ozarks Eureka Spring	<u>See Flyer sent Separately.</u>
May 2 nd	Fun day in May Heber Springs	<u>See Flyer sent Separately.</u>
May 9 th	Soberfest 2015 in Sherwood	<u>See Flyer sent Separately.</u>
June 7th	District 8 quarterly meeting 411 Sellers 1:00 PM	
July 2-5,	International convention in Atlanta, Ga.	<u>See Flyer sent Separately.</u>
July 11 & 12	Area Assembly Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
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Aug 14 - 16	Summertime in the Ozarks Al-Anon Convention	<u>See Flyer sent Separately</u>
Sept 6th	District 8 quarterly meeting 411 Sellers 1:00PM	
Oct 3 & 4	Area Assembly Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
Oct 9 & 10	Southwest Regional Forum in St. Louis	<u>See Flyer sent Separately.</u>
Dec 6th	District 8 quarterly meeting 411 Sellers 1:00 PM	

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

**February
Hot Springs AA**

**YEAR TO DATE
Hot Springs AA
Grant County Group
Eastgate**

February Birthdays'

Paul M.	2 Years	02/26/2013	Rockhouse Group
Joe McA.	2 Years	02/09/2013	Central Big Book Study Group
Carl J.	3 Years	02/17/2012	Hot Springs AA Group
Laurie S.	4 Years	02/15/2011	Rockhouse Group
Tricia L.	6 Years	02/07/2009	Hot Springs AA Group
Russ C.	7 Years	02/02/2008	Rockhouse Group
Patrick M.	7 Years	02/14/2008	Rockhouse Group
Charles B.	7 Years	02/28/2008	Lake Catherine Group
Heidi O.	8 Years	02/15/2007	Hot Springs AA Group
Ray P.	14 Years	02/15/2001	Hot Springs AA Group
Mark S.	19 Years	02/07/1996	Grant County Group
Anne F.	20 Years	02/04/1995	Rockhouse Ladies Group
Ken H.	22 Years	02/02/1993	Malvern Open Door Group
Mike F.	25 Years	02/05/1990	Hot Springs AA Group
Dennis P.	26 Years	02/21/1989	Rockhouse Group
Bill L.	44 Years	02/17/1971	Lake Catherine Group



Your intergroup wishes all a fun filled Sober St. Patrick's Day

"If the day comes that I do drink again, it will not be because I had no alternative. It will be because I had an alternative, provided by a loving God, but was unwilling to use it."

Syracuse, N.Y., October 1994

"Lock Me Up, Please,"

AA Grapevine

I pray that I may make each visitor desire to return. I pray that I may never make anyone feel repulsed or unwanted.

From the book Twenty-Four Hours a Day

The Simple Approach to the 12 Steps!

- There's a power that will kill me.
- There's a power that wants me to live.
- Which do I want? {If you want to die, stop here. If you want to live, go on.}
- Using examples from your own life, understand that selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear control your actions.
 - Tell all your private, embarrassing secrets to another person.
 - Decide whether or not you want to live that way any more.
- If you want your life to change, ask a power greater than yourself to change it for you. {If you could have changed it yourself, you would have long ago.}
 - Figure out how to make right all the things you did wrong.
 - Fix what you can without causing more trouble in the process.
- Understand that making mistakes is part of being human (When you make a mistake, fix it, immediately if you can.)
- Ask for help to treat yourself and others the way you want your higher power to treat you.
 - Don't stop doing 1 through 11, and Pass It On!!

--Author Unknown

{Re-Printed from Daily Ponderables}

"Every sponsor is necessarily a leader. The stakes are huge. A human life, and usually the happiness of a whole family, hangs in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example -- well, these attributes of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., April 1959

"Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need,"

The Language of the Heart

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From the book Twenty-Four Hours a Day

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