

{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 XXXV - AUGUST -- 2015

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

Listen to Learn, Learn to Listen

AA Grapevine December 1992

When I first attended AA meetings in 1964, I was an active priest. I was puzzled at first when they said that AA was a spiritual, not a religious, program because I tended to use these two words interchangeably. I gradually learned that "religious" referred to organized religion. AA was not a denomination. It was not affiliated with the Roman Catholic or Episcopal or Lutheran Church, or with any organized religion. But it was spiritual. All of the Twelve Steps were very spiritual.

I was told in the beginning, politely and not exactly in these words, to leave my roman collar at the door. The idea was that I came here not as Father M., but as Bernie, an alcoholic. I was advised that priests and other professional people usually had difficulty in the beginning with the program. It was a simple program, and we tended to complicate it. Being highly educated, we tended to be philosophical, to analyze, to look for causes, to ask for reasons why. I was asked if I had managed to stay sober by myself, and when I said no, they said, then do it our way. You have always wanted to get sober and stay sober, but you didn't know how. We'll show you how. But you have to listen.

When you go to a meeting, they said, don't come at the last minute and hang out at the back of the room and off by yourself. Come early, put out your hand and say to someone: Hello, my name is Bernie. Sit up front, in the first row, where you can see and hear the speaker. And take the cotton out of your ears. Even if you're the pope or the president of the United States or the chairman of the board of General Motors or a godfather in the Mafia, take the cotton out of your ears, put it in your mouth and listen. Try to identify with the speaker, especially with his or her feelings.

You would think it would be easy to listen, but I had to learn how. You listen in order to learn, and you learn to listen. I remember attending an AA meeting with thirty people sitting around two long tables put together. I happened to be sitting next to the speaker and in the discussion he called on me first. When he came to the last person, that person started off by saying, "Father, do you remember teaching English in a certain high school twenty-two years ago?" He turned out to be a former student, who had a well-known author for a father and was himself a political reporter for a metropolitan newspaper. I remember saying, "Here we are, teacher and student, back in kindergarten together, and learning the ABCs of how to get sober and stay sober."

I recalled then what Jesus did when his twelve apostles were arguing among themselves about which one of them was the greatest. He called a child over and placed him in their midst and said "Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

It took me a long time to get long-term, unbroken sobriety. I went through many detoxes and rehabs and attended hundreds of meetings for many years. Eighty to ninety percent of the time I was sober, or dry, but I couldn't put it all together. From a daily drinker and periodic drunk, I became, in AA, a periodic drunk. Finally, at the last rehab, at a staff meeting, the director asked me, "Why did you come here?" And I said,

"I want to find out why so many others come into AA and get and stay sober right from the very first meeting." (I was thinking especially of an AA group in the East Village of Manhattan which was attended by many street people. They didn't go to detoxes or rehabs, they didn't have jobs, but they went to a meeting every day, often two or three meetings a day, and they listened and they did what was suggested, and they got sober and stayed sober.) I don't know exactly what happened, but from that time on I haven't had a drink; it's almost thirteen years.

I had some therapy in which I was told that I had a chronic case of obsession-compulsion, guilt, anxiety, and neurotic perfectionism which went by the name of scrupulosity. I said to the director of a rehab for alcoholic priests that scrupulosity had given me more trouble for more years than alcoholism had ever done and that if I didn't crack the scrupulosity, I had no guarantee of long-term sobriety, or of inner peace, or of any success in the work I did. He said what I later heard so often in AA: If you have a drinking problem, you have to put it first.

Two years after coming into AA, I was ex-claustrated --put "outside the walls" --by the religious order to which I belonged. It was somewhat similar to a wife getting a restraining order from a judge that said the husband had to stay away from the house. After I was ex-claustrated, I felt like a doctor or lawyer who at age fifty had lost his wife and children through divorce as well as lost his license to practice medicine or law. I went for eight years before I asked formal permission to become a layman.

I don't mean to suggest to others to get a divorce or leave the active priesthood, but sometimes it might be the circumstances in which we are living that have to be changed. In my case, after nine years on my own--of being neither fish nor flesh, neither priest nor layman--I made a decision to get married. That was over fifteen years ago and it will soon be thirteen years since the last drink. The best thing I did during all that time was to keep close to AA and the Fellowship. Somewhere along the way the obsession to drink was lifted, the compulsion passed, and the miracle happened. Thanks be to God, to my wife, and to AA.

Bernie M. New York, New York

This Step seemed so simple. I identified several people who I had harmed, but they were no longer available. Still, I was uneasy about the Step and avoided conversations dealing with it. In time I learned to investigate those Steps and areas of my life which made me uncomfortable. My search revealed my parents, who had been deeply hurt by my isolation from them; my employer, who worried about my absences, my memory lapses, my temper; and the friends I have shunned, without explanation. As I faced the reality of the harm I had done, Step Eight took on new meaning. I am no longer uncomfortable and I feel clean and light.

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GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>JULY</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	
<i>Hot Springs AA</i>	<i>Hot Springs AA</i>	<i>Evergreen</i>
<i>Eastgate</i>	<i>Grant County</i>	<i>Lake Catherine</i>
<i>Malvern open Door</i>	<i>Eastgate Group HSV</i>	<i>Resentment Mt. Ida</i>
	<i>Malvern Open Door</i>	<i>Rock Bottom</i>
	<i>Newcomers Group HSV</i>	<i>Welcome HSV</i>
	<i>Central Big Book</i>	<i>Rockhouse</i>
	<i>Serenity in the Pines HSV</i>	<i>ARKYPAA</i>
		<i>Private</i>

July Birthdays

Jimmy D. (belated) – 14 Years	06/18/2001	Malvern Open Door Group
Frances 1 Year	07/30/2014	Hot Springs AA
Dawn S. 1 Year	07/14/2014	Rockhouse
Gigi B. 1 Year	07/03/2014	Hot Springs AA
Ed D. 2 Years	07/20/13	Hot Springs AA/LHOB
John M. 3 Years	07/29/2012	Hot Springs AA
Lane M. 3 Years	07/27/2012	Hot Springs AA
Donnie H. 4 Years	07/15/2011	Hot Springs AA
David P. 5 Years	07/24/2010	Hot Springs AA
Rick C. 6 Years	07/23/2009	Central Big Book Study
Denise B. 6 Years	07/08/2009	Hot Springs AA
Daniel B 6 Years	07/08/2009	Malvern Open Door Group
Don W. 6 Years	07/04/2009	Central Big Book Study
Leonard P. 9 Years	07/31/2006	Lake Catherine Group
Joe L. 21 Years	07/25/1994	Rockhouse Group
Lisa Ann F. 23 Years	07/05/1992	Hot Springs AA
Barbara L. 23 Years	07/14/1992	Rockhouse Group
Beth M. 23 Years	07/12/1992	Rock House Ladies
Bob H. 25 Years	07/05/1990	Eastgate Group
Jon M. 27 Years	1988	Hot Springs AA
David D. 30 Years	07/08/1985	Rock House Group
David C. 32 Years	07/14/1983	At Large
Larry R 32 Years	07/08/1983	Hot Springs AA
Bill D. 34 Years	07/16/1981	Central Big Book Study
Hall N. 35 Years	07/27/1980	Grant County Group
Fred F. 53 Years	1962	Hot Springs AA

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 14 - 16	Summertime in the Ozarks Al-Anon Convention	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Sept 6 th	District 8 quarterly meeting 411 Sellers 1:00PM	
Sept 12 th	Searcy Group Celebrates 64 Years	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Nov 6-8	Border City Roundup .. Fort Smith	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Oct 3 & 4	Area Assembly Howard Johnson Hotel in Conway	501-329-2961
Oct 9 & 11	Southwest Regional Forum in St. Louis	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Dec 6th	District 8 quarterly meeting 411 Sellers 1:00 PM	

"The absence of profanity offends no one."

Bill W.

One Man's Reflections on Atlanta International Convention

Atlanta 2015

60,000 trickled in...
And soon we were as one
The celebration would begin...
As the drummers beat their drums

One by one from far and near...
United as one nation
Peace and love was in the air...
A spiritual celebration

A piper stood a stoic stance...
As he played a Scottish hymn
The masses paused to take a glance...
As his music lured us in

We celebrated freedom in a different kind of way...
The world had come together on this Independence Day.

A man from prison shared his tale...
His pain was plain to see
He made his peace with God in jail...
Those prison walls that hold him now had set him free

An angel stood on every street...
To guide us on our way
A helping hand to meet and greet...
For this they took no pay

Love and tolerance filled the air...
It was there for all to see
A place and time for all to share...
80 years... Happy, Joyous and Free

Atlanta, you welcomed us with open arms... Your true colors surely shined
You wowed us with your Southern charm... Georgia, whoa Georgia... You are on my mind.

Thank you AA...
Thank you Atlanta...

*Gordon R.
Carol Stream, IL*

Tradition of the Month Checklist

Tradition Eight: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?

2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?

3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts?

4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?

5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?

6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?

7. Have I paid enough attention to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? To the pamphlet AA Tradition—How It Developed?

National Historic Landmark Designation Celebrated with Marker Unveiling



Guests and Dignitaries Gathered for Ceremony at Start of 64th Annual Picnic at Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones Foundation recently unveiled the plaque from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service that recognizes Stepping Stones' designation as a National Historic Landmark. The plaque is affixed on the home of Bill Wilson, co-founder, Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.), and Lois Wilson, co-founder, Al-Anon Family Groups.

The ceremony was held at the start of the 64th Annual Picnic at Stepping Stones on June 6, 2015, to coincide with the 80th anniversary month of A.A. The designation recognizes the important work of the Wilsons and acknowledges the Foundation's commitment to preservation of their home. Approximately 2,500 historically-significant sites around the country have earned the designation.

Ceremony participants included National Park Service representative Mindi Rambo (pictured right), N.Y. State Senator George Latimer, N.Y. State Assemblyman David Buchwald, Town of Bedford Supervisor Christopher Burdick, Bill W.'s great niece Margaret Griffith Strong Dettman, Stepping



Stones' President John Koster, Past President Jim Moogan, and Executive Director Sally Corbett. In a proclamation, Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino declared the day "Stepping Stones Day." Gratitude was expressed by the presenters for all past and present volunteers, staff, and supporters who have worked together over the course of 27 years to maintain and preserve Stepping Stones for generations to come.



In the spirit of unity and fellowship that are hallmarks of 12 Step organizations worldwide, the plaque was unveiled by a group (left, Ms. Corbett, Mrs. Dettman, Mr. Koster and Mr. Moogan). A video of the ceremony will be made available to you soon.

To all of our friends gathered in Atlanta this week and to all of our friends celebrating around the world, we wish you and the entire fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous a very happy and joyous 80th Anniversary!

Thank you for your interest and support of Stepping Stones.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter at BillWHome