

{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.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

STICKING TO OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

"Although we can borrow from religion, medicine, and psychiatry, we are not any one of them. We cannot run hospitals nor half-way houses, nor marry the group with a religious sect. We cannot send lobbyists to Congress and we don't mix AA with banking enterprises. We aren't educators nor counselors. We cannot lend our name to any other cause except our own. The more we mind our own business, the greater our influence becomes; medicine, religion, and psychiatry start borrowing from our experience and ideas. So do the fields of education, research, and rehabilitation. All kinds of groups based on AA's Twelve Steps have evolved, groups that deal with gambling, eating, drug addiction, mental illness, divorce, etc. They've borrowed from the AA program and made their own adaptations. We didn't have to endorse them or lend our name. This tells us strongly that the more AA sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence."

San Antonio, Texas, June 1996

"Simplicity Works Best,"

AA Grapevine

"Step Six may be the greatest act of courage in the whole twelve-step process: a total act of faith. I have to trust that God will see the big picture and make the right choices"

Grapevine Quote

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

MAY

YEAR TO DATE

*Central book Group
 Hot Springs AA Group
 Eastgate
 Welcome Group
 Serenity in the Pines
 Hot Springs AA Group
 Mt. Ida Resentment Group*

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

Jun 3-5	S.W. Additional Regional Forum AREA 10 Colorado	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Jun 10-12	Founders Day Conference – Akron, OH.	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Jun 11	Founders Day Picnic Maumelle Park	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Jun 11	Rock House Annual Picnic Iron Springs Picnic Grounds 7 Miles north of Jessieville on Highway	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Jun 17	28 th Annual Potluck in Sherwood	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Jun 18	District 8 Annual Bake at the Lake at De Gray Lake	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Jul 29-31	76 th Arkansas State Old Grandad Convention Hot Springs	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Sep 16-18	16 th Annual Arkansas Travelers Roundup	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Sep 16-18	Autumn in the Ozarks Mountain Home.	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Oct 6-9	ARKYPAA XXXIV Petit Jean Mountain	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Oct 21-23	SWRAASA – Rogers, AR.	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>
Nov 11-13	64 th Annual Jonesboro AA Thanksgiving Program	<u><i>See Flyer Sent Separately.</i></u>

May Birthdays

Bryan N.	1 Year	05/25/2015	Rockhouse Group
Wes O.	1 Year	05/22/2015	Rockhouse Group
Erin O.	1 Year	05/20/2015	Hot Springs AA Group
Wesley G.	1 Year	05/15/2015	Hot Springs AA Group
Kristin L.	1 Year	05/05/2015	Hot Springs AA Group
Bob S.	1 Year	05/05/2015	Rockhouse Group
Kathy L.	1 Year	05/01/2015	Malvern Open Door Group
Kevin B.	4 Years	05/17/2012	Rockhouse Group
Deborah D.	4 Years	05/18/2012	Rockhouse Ladies Group
Pat N.	6 Years	05/19/2010	Rockhouse Group
Bill L.	7 Years	05/23/2009	Rockhouse Group
zach z.	8 Years	05/15/2008	Hot Springs AA Group
Michael K.	9 Years	05/17/2007	Hot Springs AA Group
Fran S.	16 Years	01/01/2000	Hot Springs AA Group
Sheila D.	17 Years	05/17/1999	Rockhouse Group
Debby V.	18 Years	05/01/2006	Rockhouse Group
Bill B.	22 Years	05/01/1994	Hot Springs AA Group
Marty W.	24 Years	05/22/1992	Mt. Ida Resentment Group
John S.	25 Years	05/21/1991	Rockhouse Group
Gerry S.	32 Years	05/12/2984	Mena Fox Hall Group
Jim G.	50 Years	05/19/1966	Hot Springs AA Group

Life is like a mirror. If you frown at it, it frowns back. If you smile, it returns the greeting.



Your Intergroup wishes all you great Dad's out there a wonderful Father's Day

SPONSORSHIP

A man in a hot air balloon realized that he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted another man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below replied, "You're in a hot air ball hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude." 5} told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The man below responded, "You must be a sponsee"

"I am,," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?" "Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect other people to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

Re-Printed from Daily Ponderables 01/27/13

**CAR IN DITCH
DRIVER IN TREE
THE MOON WAS FULL
AND SO WAS HE.**

Burma Shave

{5}

One Day at a Time

by Gary C. (Serenity Improvement Group)

Tomorrow's problems; are not for today
Stuff just happens; life comes my way

I need not worry; he will show me the way
I just have ask; and live in today

The freedom that comes; it was always there
So simple and easy not even a care

Just for today; GOD please just drive
When you're at the wheel I feel so alive

You were always there; waiting for the time
When I could live; just one day at a time.

"The beginning of maturing for me was becoming willing to try to face the realities of my own life, a day at a time, and letting go of my childhood fantasies of living happily ever after in a perfect world made up of perfect people."

GV Quote, 1980 From: "Toward Reality"
Spiritual Awakenings

Save for the brief moments of temptation t
he thought of drink has never returned; and at such times a great revulsion has
risen up in him. Seemingly he could not drink even if he would. God had restored his
sanity.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 37

The word "God" was frightening to me when I first saw it associated with A.A.'s Twelve Steps. Having tried all the means could to stop drinking, I found that it was not possible for me to sustain that desire over a period of time. Yet, how could I believe in a "God" that had allowed me to sink to the deep despair that engulfed me--whether drinking or dry? The answer was in finally admitting that it might be possible for me to know the mercy of a Power greater than myself who could grant me sobriety contingent on my willingness to "come to believe." By finally admitting that I was one among many, and by following the example of my sponsor and other A.A. members in practicing faith I did not have, my life has been given meaning, direction and purpose.

From the book Daily Reflections

