



Volume 12, Number 1, January 2013

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- District 52
- Member's Musings
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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION



AA TALKS

RECORDED

We are very excited about our new venture at INTERGROUP. A Recording Committee has been added to our list of services. This committee will provide the equipment and the expertise to record the talks of AA members speaking at our local meetings, (with their permission, of course) The talks will be uploaded to our website:

[www.moorecountya.org](http://www.moorecountya.org)

& you can listen ~~at~~ to them at your convenience.

Simply click the links/download icon on the first page of our website. It will take you to a list of speakers already in the system. Just click on your choice, sit back, listen and ...

**ENJOY !!**

Email Steve M., Recording Chairperson, for info regarding this service ... [smoore21@nc.rr.com](mailto:smoore21@nc.rr.com)

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## MEMBERS MUSINGS



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When I read this poem it made me smile. My favorite line is "Your life is the manifestation of the choices you make each moment and each day".

I love that because when I was consumed by alcohol I believed that my life was everyone else's fault. All that misery and trouble was always blamed on outside circumstances and other people and I never even acknowledged the beautiful things in life.

Today I've received the gift of awareness. Early in sobriety I was taught by a sponsor that my life and recovery are my responsibility ...along with Gods guidance of course ... and that all we have is

time, so make it count !

In sobriety it is not a matter of choosing not to drink, but whether or not you will choose to use the "kit of tools" the program teaches you. When you use this wonderful gift of choice to the best of your advantage there is nothing you can't do.

Kelly M,  
Keep It Sober Group  
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### *You've Got Choices*

*You've got this moment ...  
You can choose to be  
happy or unhappy. You  
can choose what you think,  
what you say and how you  
feel.*

*You can choose to be hope-  
ful or hopeless, to respond  
angrily or cheerfully, to be  
bored or interested.*

*You've got this day ... no  
matter what the weather is  
like, you can choose what  
kind of day it will be...  
Beautiful or awful or  
somewhere in between.*

*You can choose what you  
will do or what you won't,*

*to give up or give in or go  
on. You have a choice to  
do something or nothing...  
To start now or later. You  
can choose your attitude  
about what you're facing.*

*You've got your life ...if  
you're not happy, satisfied,  
encouraged and hopeful  
you are cheating yourself.*

*You can talk and talk to  
yourself about what you  
need to do to honor life but  
if you don't turn those  
thoughts into actions,  
you're just playing games  
and giving up to whatever  
comes to mind.*

*You've got the power to  
make choices. Your life is  
the manifestation of the  
choices you make each  
moment and each day.  
When you use this  
awesome gift to your best  
advantage there is nothing  
you can't do.*

Donna Fargo

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### SCRAMBLE WORDS

scarf, bother, impair, valve

Answer. STEP FIVE

\*\*\*\*\*

accent from Jersey she asked me to be her speaker for the night. You don't say "No" in AA, even in Texas, so they were subjected to Jersey-gobble in Abilene AA one frosty Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> in the mid Nineteen Eighties.

Years before I had spent the 1975 Christmas Day at the AA house in El Paso, Texas, while working the Sun Bowl game that was played the day after Christmas. There was a mtg. every 3<sup>rd</sup> hour that day and it helped me get through a lonely time being away from home on that Christmas.

Even across the Atlantic one can find AA in most locations, from Dublin to Moscow. My wife and I travel to Ireland regularly and have close friends in that beautiful island nation.

But the most striking aspect of sobriety in Ireland, for me, comes in our regular visits to Tralee, the little West Ireland city in County Kerry. That is where Matt Talbot comes from. There is a major road in Tralee named Matt Talbot Street.

When I first joined AA my home group was in a Catholic Church on the Atlantic Ocean shore in Long Branch, NJ. Across the street from the church was a retreat house where, twice a year, AA members came from all over the Northeast to attend a semi-annual, three day, Matt Talbot retreat. So, when we visit

Ireland I make it a point of driving along Matt Talbot Street in Tralee.

I have attended AA meetings in Boston, Syracuse, Portland Me., Houston, San Francisco, Miami, South Bend, Ind., Pittsburgh, Detroit, Lexington, Ky, Kansas City, Nashville, Palm Springs, Ca., Palm Beach, Fl. and on and on. It must be noted that I also got drunk in each of the above locations in the bad old days.

What is so important to me is that no matter where I go for an AA meeting, the welcome is uniformly warm with no questions asked. I have always felt right at home just as I was walking into my original old Home Group in New Jersey.

AA is a rare and magnificent fellowship that takes to it's bosom the drunk, the long sober ones and the ones who slip. AA holds them and comforts them in the same fashion no matter where in the world you seek out a gathering of AA members.

No church, social organization, club or other group gives as genuinely warm a welcome to a stranger as you will find in AA.

Maybe that is because there really are no strangers in AA... just friends that you have not met before.

AA member,  
Gordon W.

## CARRYING THE MESSAGE



### "THE GRAPEVINE"

was first published in June, 1944. Do you enjoy the magazine and want to read some of these early articles?

Now there is a way. The AA Grapevine digital archive provides access to everything ever published except for the issues of the current year.

You can find answers to questions about recover, AA history, spirituality or get information on any number of topics concerning the fellowship.

You can search by topic, by date, by magazine dept. or by keyword to find what you are looking for.



[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS



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### THE VASS GROUP

The Vass Group originated in 1983 at the invitation of a local minister. He invited three AA members who lived in Vass to start an AA meeting at the First Baptist Church on Old Rt. 1.

The first meeting was held in the sanctuary of the church. It was attended by three men, a prospect they were 12<sup>th</sup> Stepping and a

couple of members of the Sanford Group.

Three of the members of the Vass Group signed a note at the local bank and the old church sanctuary was fixed up with a kitchen and central heating and air conditioning to make it suitable to hold meetings.

The group originally had a closed discussion meeting on Wed. & Thurs. nights and a speaker meeting on Saturday. The format now is a closed discussion on Wednesday nights at 8.

Because of their location in the northern part of Moore County the Vass Group has

members from Lee, Harnett and Chatham Counties.

The Vass group has a good sized membership but is also pleased that many members of other groups consider Vass as their 2<sup>nd</sup> home. Both members and non-members sign up to chair the weekly meetings.

Every year at their anniversary the Vass Group has an eating meeting with a special speaker. This past year they celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> year and our own Tom I. of Moore County was the speaker. He spoke to a large audience of hungry and enthusiastic AA members.

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### \*\*\*\*\* RENT-A-SPONSOR \*\*\*\*\*

Are you tired of being told like it is? Still looking for the easier, softer way? Had enough of that same old time-tested direction? Then it's time for you to **RENT -A -SPONSOR !!**

No reading...no writing...no deadlines. Our **RENTAL SPONSORS** will listen to your sniveling without constant reference to the **Basic Text** or the **Steps ! ...** will co-sign your excuses and rationalizations, work only on the **Steps** that **YOU** want, in the order **YOU** choose. You will learn the secret of giving it away before you even have it! Why "walk the walk" when you can just "talk the talk"? Why save your ass at the cost of losing your face?

Yes, at **RENT-A-SPONSOR** we know how unique you are and we do understand !

Call 1-900-O-POOR-ME or 1-900-POUR-M-1

(Call now and receive your **FREE** copy of "Staying Clean on War Stories Alone")

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS !!



### The Early Risers Group

If you are an early riser this is the meeting for you.

Ever since it's inception two years ago the "Early Risers Group" has been host to a large group of AA members needing a good head start to the day.

The "Early Risers Group" has a closed discussion format and the group conscience defined the meeting's purpose as:

*"The 'Early Risers Group' values the presence of everyone and believes that each of us sharing our experience, strength and hope is important to helping everybody."*

*Whether we have days, weeks or months of*

*sobriety, or many years, our experience will always be a tremendous source of strength and hope for others. We encourage everyone to contribute."*

Anyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome. The "Early Risers Group" regulars represent a broad cross section of sobriety, ranging from newcomers to those with many years and the group thrives on the sharing of their individual experience.

Early morning can present scheduling demands for the working alcoholic so coming late or having to leave early to honor work hours is perfectly OK and requires no apology.

We meet at the Aberdeen building 7:30 am Monday thru Saturday, and look forward to meeting you.

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### Extending AA's Hand



I feel great ! I just finished ...

FRASC



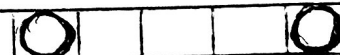
TOBREH



PIMIRA



LVEAV



Unscramble the words and use circled letters to solve.  
(answer on page 2 )

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## HISTORICAL FACTS of AA



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## THERE'S A SLOGAN FOR THAT !!

It doesn't take very long for a newcomer to realize that there is a "slogan" for just about every situation that might arise in recovery. We first see these sayings hanging on the walls in our meetings. We see them stuck on bumpers and we hear them quoted by old-timers.

A few of us looked at them with disdain when we first arrived to the program. We would listen with disbelief as our sponsors shared these "gems" with us when what we surely needed was REAL advice. After all, it would take much more than a simple kindergarten saying to solve the huge problems that we brought with us to A.A.

However., as we continued to hang around the rooms, soaking up the wisdom and staying sober, we found ourselves quoting and sharing these very same slogans right along with the old-timers and our sponsors.

We began to understand that

these very slogans don't just get us through a tough time or a rough patch, but they often downright save our lives.

Where did these slogans come from? Who thought up all these profound snippets of insight?

Unfortunately there is not a great deal of information about the origins of AA's slogans. Many of these slogans, as with other practices in AA, have simply been passed along verbally to other members.

It is possible that some of the slogans may have originally stemmed from the *Oxford Group Movement*, but it is difficult to narrow it down.

When a similar question was asked of GSO Archivist Frank M, in 1989 his response was:

*"Your interest in the origins of 'One Day at a Time' is shared by many of us. Like hand-holding, however, it's difficult to pin-point the exact 'moment.'"*

There is the belief that many slogans have been around since the early days of the Fellowship. In December of 1958 non-alcoholic Ruth Hock who was AA's first secretary, wrote the following in response to another question concerning slogans.

*"...Bill W. and I first worked together in January 1936 when he had been sober just a little over one year and at that time*

*'Easy Does It,' 'Live and Let Live,' and 'First Things First,' were part of the daily conversation. They were also used in the very first drafts of the book, but probably only Bill himself could tell you where he picked them up.*

*As far as I'm concerned all of the above were introduced into A.A. by Bill W. himself, though not original with him. Some of these could have been used in Oxford Group meetings but there is no way to know for sure."*

Bill Wilson's biography *Pass It On* also addresses this topic. On page 220 it states:

*"Some 'A.A. saws' were also used as long ago as the late 1930s: 'First Things First,' 'Easy Does It,' 'Live and Let Live.' because these appear in the first edition of the Big Book (at the end of the chapter on 'The Family Afterward'), it's probable that the use of the slogans originated with Bill and that he brought them with him from Vermont – old saws with new teeth."*

Regardless of the history of our slogans, I think we could all agree that they do become an important part of our recovery.

"One day at a time" we begin to rely on them to help keep us moving forward in our sobriety.

Marilyn R., Vass Group

## STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP (as represented in our Sandhills area)

### HOME GROUPS

The Moore County registered Home Groups elect a GSR (General Service Rep.) and an alternate GSR and one or the other attends the quarterly District mtgs. The views and concerns of the group are presented there.

### DISTRICT 52

District 52 is made up of 5 counties, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Hoke and Lee. GSR's make up the membership & representatives are chosen from the group to attend the Area Assemblies. Officers for District 52 are elected from this group for 2 yr. terms. The offices: DCM (District Committee Member) alternate DCM, secretary and treasurer.

### AREA 51

This is the final link between AA in N. C. & the world services of AA. The committee is composed of District Committee members, those from each District whom GSR's have elected to represent them. The officers are elected from this group & serve a 2 yr. term. Area assemblies are held 3 or 4 times a year and a delegate (& alternate) are elected to attend the Gen'l Sv. Conference of that year.

### GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

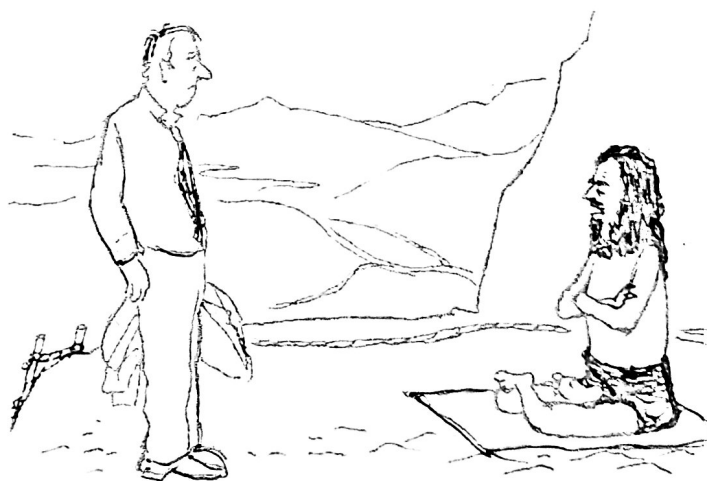
A yearly conference made up of worldwide delegates chosen from the Area assemblies. The concerns of local Home Groups finally get to be viewed and voted on at these conferences. Everyone who is a delegate has a voice and a vote.

Note: The Sandhills Intergroup is not a part of the Structure of the Fellowship. We are an organization formed solely to provide services for the AA community in the County of Moore. The Intergroup does not act as mediator or make any suggestions or recommendations. We have no voting privileges.

The Sandhills Intergroup provides local services that would be difficult for any one Home Group to handle...such as: Answering Service, Website, Meeting Lists, Recording of AA speeches and uploading onto our Website, Adopt-a-Pro folders, the publication of the Newsletter 3 times a year and placing AA literature where needed.

We rely upon the generosity of our Home Groups to cover financial needs and thank you for your support so that we may continue to serve you.

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***Don't drink and go to meetings !***

(from the Sept. 1975 "Grapevine")

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## **DISTRICT 52** **NEWS**

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### **New District 52 Officers**

Elections were held at the Sept. District Meeting and the following members are elected for the upcoming 2 year term:

1/1/2013 to 12/31/2014

DCM: Wilder R.

Alt. DCM: Teri W.

Secretary: Bill S.

Treasurer: Kelly M.

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A message from outgoing  
District 52 DCM:

I'd like to thank all of AA for the opportunity to serve as your DCM. The position has stretched me in ways I never realized possible.

I am truly grateful and amazed at how our fellowship continues to be of service to the AA community as a whole. It's awesome to be a part of such a fellowship.

In love and service,  
Karen Peters

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The next DISTRICT 52  
Meeting will be held on

February 10, 2013

2 PM

Aberdeen Building

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 10<sup>th</sup>

Pre-conferences in Durham

(more information will be sent to GSR's by email & it is hoped that a large group from our District will be attending this vital event.)

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### **WINTER COMMITTEE** **MEETING**

March 1 - 3, 2013

### **SPRING COMMITTEE** **MEETING**

May 17, 2013

### **SPRING ASSEMBLY**

May 18 - 19, 2013

All of the above events to  
be held at:

The North Raleigh Hilton

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## **Sandhills Intergroup**

A central office established to aid all the groups and meetings in Moore County in the common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

We are funded solely by the AA groups in our county and we need and ask for your input.

- 1) 24 hr. Answering Serv.
- 2) A Website
- 3) Moore Co. Meeting List
- 4) Publish a Newsletter
- 5) P. I. Committee

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