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DON'T MISS THIS !

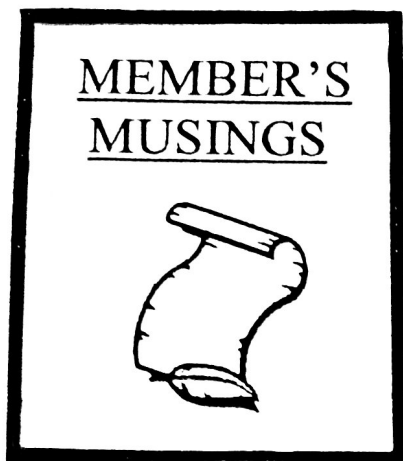
July 4th celebration at the Aberdeen Building
Lots of FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Intergroup's Special Events Committee is doing it again! They will be hosting a cook-out on the 4th of July and you know, if you've attended any of their other eating events, it will be a day to remember. Watch for flyers as to time, etc.

In 2006 the Aberdeen Steering Committee asked the Intergroup if they would be willing to take on the job of hosting their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and the Marathon. Aberdeen would still foot the bill but needed a dedicated group to handle the logistics. The intergroup took up the challenge and the Special Events Committee was formed.

This has proved to be a very compatible union and the schedule of events now includes a New Year's Day traditional Southern luncheon, a corned beef and cabbage feast on St. Patrick's day and the up-coming celebration on July 4th.

It takes many people to make these events a success and is a great way to do service work in AA. Please contact the chairman, Diane H, if you'd like to be part of the fun. She will be glad to put you to work!



THE FIRST 90 DAYS

I returned to the rooms of AA this past December. At that time my shoes and heart were very heavy. I knew exactly what to expect and yet I was unsure.

I'd come in and out of these rooms for 20 years. I'd had sponsors; but didn't reach out to them. Went to meetings; but came late & left early. Acquired names and phone numbers; but set them aside.

I cannot explain why this time seemed different, but it was and is.

It wasn't easy for me to take that "long walk" into a meeting and to look people in the eye. I know on more than one occasion I introduced myself to the other person's shoes. But I found courage somehow and what a ride it has been.

I found familiar faces from before and sat close. I came

early enough to pour myself a cup of coffee and to get and give a hug to someone before the meeting began. I listened to the readings of the Steps and Traditions and began to understand the routine.

I said my name...out loud, and I tried to learn and remember names of others and those who conveyed experience, strength and hope. I remembered some.

The synapses were firing again.

I took some old telephone numbers again and found new ones. I programmed them into my cell phone & slowly, very slowly, I called some people. I even became part of the 21st century with text messaging.

I had every intention of attending 90 meetings in 90 days; but illness happens as does apathy. Some days I simply could not go. But I didn't let more than a day pass, because this was too important.

My drinking cost me jobs, friends, family, respect and dignity. I wasn't whole when I came back to AA. I am not whole now, but, as with the process, I am a work in progress and always will be.

I'm learning faith and love; patience and tolerance; acceptance & forgiveness; and trust in all things. I'm learning when to pray and when to speak and which should come first.

Today I have meetings I regularly attend and have been asked to chair a couple.

Today I have friends to call and people to talk to.

Today I am working on my spirituality with my sponsor and others from the rooms.

TODAY I AM SOBER !

When I picked up my 90-day chip and got hugs and congratulations, an "old-timer" walked past & asked me what I would do on the 91st day. Simply I said, "Keep coming back". He said, "You got it".

I hope so. God willing and one day at a time.

Submitted by AA member
Laura K.

An old-timer's warning to the newcomers in AA...

"If you're looking for a relationship in AA odds are good you'll find one.

But beware...

It often follows that the goods will be odd."

HISTORICAL Facts of AA

KICKED OUT OF AA ???

The early days of AA, since June 10th 1935, were fraught with controversy and trial and error.

The history of AA abounds with stories of individual members actually being kicked out of certain meetings by self-appointed group members.

Something needed to be done and the Traditions were born. They were first published in 1946 and confirmed at AA's first International Convention, held in Cleveland in 1950.

Just think where we would be today without our THIRD TRADITION? "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Bill Wilson writes of these days in *Alcoholics Anonymous comes of Age*, (pg's 102, 103). Here are excerpts from his writings:

"Tradition Three for a long time was a puzzler too... We worried a lot about membership. In fact, when heavy publicity first came our way we were scared witless.

We said to ourselves, 'Won't all kinds of people show up? Com-

plications, you know. Alcohol mixed with other things.' In those days we were always talking about the mythical character called the pure alcoholic, no complications, you understand, just a guzzler. We actually thought we were like that ourselves.

Hence, when members began pouring in, our worry mounted. 'Won't there be mighty queer people? Won't there be criminals? Won't there be undesirables?' we asked. Mixed with a certain amount of snobbishness and smugness, there was downright fear.

Since that early time literally all kinds of people have found their way to Alcoholics Anonymous. ...but it took a long time to become really democratic. There used to be so many membership rules out among the groups that if they were all enforced at once nobody - actually *nobody* - could have joined AA.

But, as our fears subsided we finally said to ourselves, 'Who are we to keep anybody out?'

To many a desperate drunk AA is the court of his last appeal. How can we slam the door on anybody who stands outside? No, we must never do that.

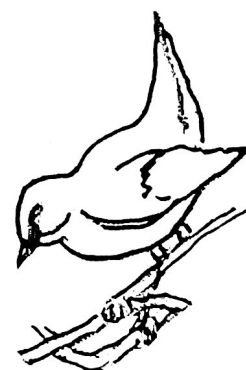
We must always take the risk no matter who comes in. Maybe our public relations will be damaged because a few strange characters are among us.

Of course our public relations are important, but is not the real character of this society still more important? Who of us dares to say, 'No, you can't come in?', thereby setting himself up as JUDGE, JURY and perhaps EXECUTIONER of his brother alcoholic?

So, the experience through the years, now distilled into Tradition Three says, 'You are an AA member if you say so. No matter what you have done, or still will do, you are an AA member as long as *you* say so.'"

Editor's note:

Did anyone else get a chuckle over Bill's colorful use of the English language in the last paragraph, where he wrote: "experience was DISTILLED into Tradition Three"?



The Bluebird of Happiness
is NOT another swallow !!

TRAVELING HIGHLIGHTS



STEPPING OUT OF TOWN

Meetings away from home? Do we all love them? Thirteen years later I can say for myself, YES.

I think just like "home group meetings", out of town meetings have a place in my life and mean more than I can say.

I moved to Pinehurst, NC almost two years ago with my son Jeremy. We previously lived in metro Detroit.

I still have family up there so we make the long drive four or five times a year. That adds up to ten weeks out of the year.

For that reason alone I believe it is important for this alcoholic to have more than one "home group."

The only tricky part for me was figuring which group was the "out of town" meeting. Like everything else, by not picking up a drink and going to meetings, the answer came.

There seems to be many good reasons to go to meetings, regardless of whether at home or out of town. What is interesting to me is how the reasons have changed over the years.

Don't get me wrong. If you're an alcoholic and don't want to drink, it goes without saying, hit a meeting.

That being said, it amazes me how similar the experience really is. I think the longer I'm in recovery the more I realize that "wherever I go, there I go".

Not too many years ago that was just a hollow line. Today, because of AA and the fellowship I have been shown what it is to "carry the message" and the honor and privilege that goes with it.

Going to meetings has not solved all my problems, but they have helped make me aware of some I didn't know I had. How's that for an irony?

With your help I've learned not to take myself too seriously. With your support and love I go out of meetings feeling "revived" and at the same time "grounded".

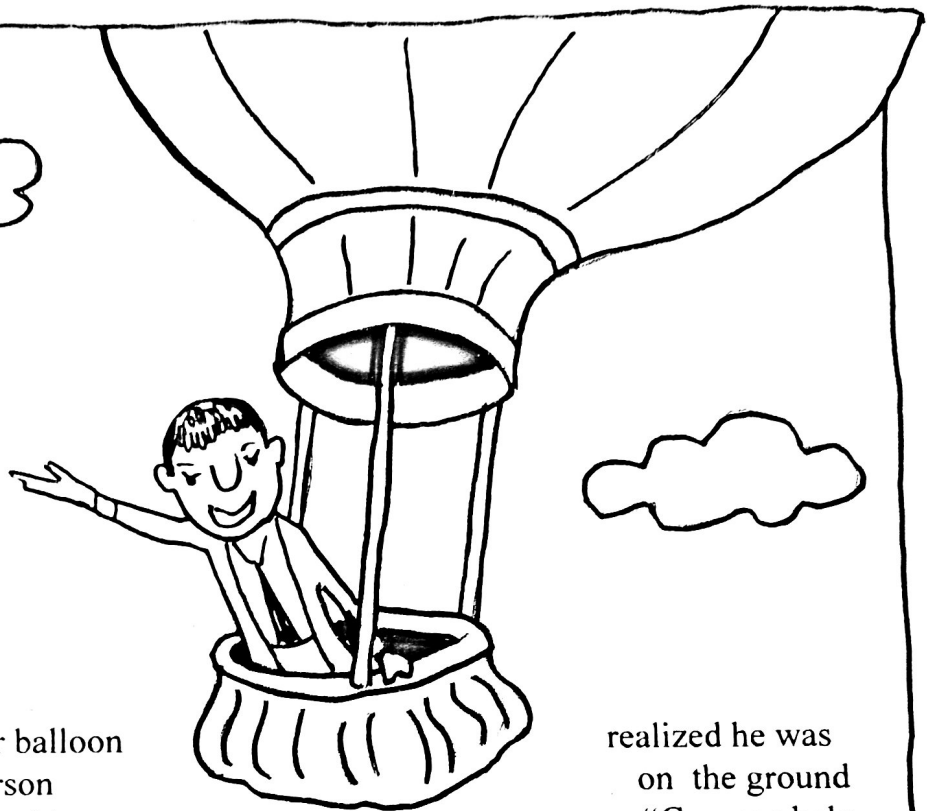
I'm pretty sure none of this is why I started going to meetings. Who knew ??

Submitted by AA member
John T.

Editor's note:

John is an extensive traveler, attending AA meetings the world over.

It is interesting that, for this article, he chose to not highlight any of those meetings, but to turn the tables on us, and write about our meetings as being the out-of-town ones for him. Thanks, John.



A man in a hot air balloon lost. He saw a person and yelled down to him, "me? I don't know where I am." The man replied, "Sure, I'll help you. You are in a hot air balloon hovering 30 feet above the ground...between 40 and 41 degrees North latitude and between 59 & 60 degrees West longitude."

realized he was on the ground
"Can you help

"Wow, you must be a sponsor", said the man in the balloon. "I am", said the man, "but what gave me away?"

"Well", answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically right but I am still lost. Frankly you're not much help at all and you might even have delayed my trip."

"You must be a sponsee", replied the man. The man in the balloon was amazed and said, "I am, but how did you know?"

The man on the ground said, "Well, you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a lot of hot air. You are expecting other people to solve your problems and the fact is that you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but, somehow now IT'S MY FAULT" !

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS



WEST END GROUP

The old West End Senior Citizen's Building has been the meeting location of the West End Group since it's inception in March, 1979.

The group meets at 7 pm on Sunday nights. The format is Open Discussion, no smoking and both AA members and their family members or Al-anons are encouraged to participate.

The West End Group was the first group started away from the more populace Southern Pines/Pinehurst/Aberdeen communities and has benefited from the growth of the Seven Lakes area.

This warm and friendly group also attracts a lot of recovering people from nearby Montgomery County. It is a Home Group and is registered with GSO.

CARRYING THE MESSAGE

During my college years & during a stint in the air force I was an avid golfer (and drinker) to the dismay of my attention to studies and work.

Life was good & carefree and when I started my business career golf became a less important part of daily living. When I did play it was usually accompanied by a pint of brandy ... to compensate for the cold weather, of course.

Needless to say, as time went by and the mixture of work, booze and golf became too cumbersome I gave up golf.

Certainly I couldn't let golf interfere with my work, and drinking was "very" important to the social aspects of my work!

GOLF HAD TO GO.

For the next twenty odd years my work deteriorated & my drinking thrived... golf was just a fond memory.

The end came when my job was a shambles and the drinking was a 24 hour habit ... life was out of my control and I made my call to AA.

My first two or three years my concentration was on getting sober & putting my wrecked career back on track.

During this period I often mentioned to my wife, Sue, who was also in the program, that "maybe" I would like to give golf another try.

She encouraged me to do so but I kept putting up obstacles, fearing that I might not be as good as I was and my golfing "ego" would be shattered.

It was during my third year of sobriety, while on vacation in Maine, that I dragged my old clubs along, just in case an opportunity came up and I might play nine holes or so of golf.

There was a small public nine hole course there and my wife kept pushing.

Reluctantly we went to the course one day, accompanied by all my fears (meeting strangers, playing alone, whiffing a few shots) you name it I had it.

As we drove into the parking lot I noticed the spot reserved for the pro. His small, sporty car was there but what I noticed most was a bumper sticker that said "ONE DAY AT A TIME".

I entered the shop, introduced myself and the rest is history.

That day he not only welcomed us to the area but played with me, giving me a few pointers along the way, and he also gave Sue a golf lesson. His name was Vern S.

From then on we went to meetings with Vern, had dinner, etc., and for the next few years were fast friends. His support went far beyond the usual AA companionship.

Vern not only became our great AA support while we vacationed in Maine, but

he refueled my interest in golf.

As a result of this renewed interest it became a major influence in our selection of Pinehurst as our place to retire.

So, here I am, still playing golf and still sober. Some might call it serendipity, or coincidence...but I call it just another example of God's influence in my life since sobriety.

Some years later I had a chance to revisit Southwest Harbor, Maine, and that nine hole course. That very day they were having a memorial golf tournament for Vern Smiley who had died that year of cancer. (Another example of God's influence in my life since sobriety ?)

I still think of him and wonder where I might have been without our "meeting"....probably somewhere in Florida playing horseshoes and shuffleboard.!

Submitted by AA member,
John O.

SANDY HILLS



My Big Book is falling apart
from too much thumping !

TRADITION # 12

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

DISTRICT 52 **NEWS**

District 52 is the AA Service entity made up of Moore, Hoke, Richmond, Lee and Scotland Counties.

District meetings of the GSR's (General Service Representatives) from our groups are held four times a year.

Additionally, our officers and GSR's attend Area (State) Assemblies twice a year and our DCM (chairperson) attends the two meetings each year of DCM's and Area officers for the state.

This is the basic process of keeping your Home Groups and Meetings connected to the world-wide AA organization.

We now have 19 groups with GSR's who are actively participating in the District. If your Group or Meeting is not, we hope you will consider doing so.

For more information on GSR's or how to join in, Contact:

Jim M. - 295-1285

Or

jm61285@nc.rr.com

IMPORTANT DATES

(look for flyers)

Area Spring Assembly

May 16-18

North Raleigh Hilton
(Hopefully you are sending your GSR, but the event is open to all members.)

DISTRICT UNITY DAY

DON'T MISS THIS !!

Saturday - July 5th

Aberdeen Bldg.

1 pm lunch served

2pm speaker

(Deborah A., our Alternate Delegate to the General Service Conference)

NC STATE **CONVENTION**

July 17-20

North Raleigh Hilton
(Watch for flyers)

WHAT IS **INTERGROUP?**

We are a service committee formed for the purpose of supporting AA activities in Moore County. Our goal is to improve communication and understanding among our AA groups.

The Sandhills Intergroup is comprised of interested volunteer members and representatives from the AA groups in Moore Co.

The ideas and suggestions of local AA's are welcome and all are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings at 9 am on the first Saturday of each month at the AA building on Wilder Avenue in Aberdeen. The Sandhills Intergroup is financed solely by the local AA groups.

Published & distributed by

Sandhills Intergroup

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