



NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 2, May 2012

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ADOPT - A - PRO (CARRY THE MESSAGE)

It's no secret that the majority of professionals have little knowledge about AA and the part that we play in restoring the alcoholic to a meaningful life. Well, that is about to change with the advent of ...

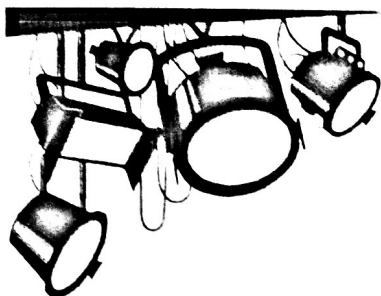
ADOPT-A-PRO

Simply stated this is a program that forms a personal relationship between the AA member and their doctor, attorney, minister or employer. It is this personal contact that is a critical factor in making the project a success.

If you, as an active AA member, want to be part of this exciting venture go to Page 3 and get all the detailed information. ADOPT-A-PRO folders are being distributed to the AA Home Groups in Moore County so ...

LET'S ALL GET INVOLVED !!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS !



ABERDEEN K. I. S. G.

The Aberdeen "Keep it Sober" group was formed in August of 2004. That was when some of the members that regularly attended the Tuesday and Saturday night Wilder building meeting decided to become a home group.

The main purpose of the group is to carry the AA message of recovery to the alcoholic and to provide a structured group as outlined by the GSO. The group also wanted to show that getting and staying sober can be fun.

At one of the early organizational meetings a member was heard to say, "let's just keep it sober" ... hence, the group got its name.

The group meets every Tuesday at 8 pm for a Closed Discussion and on Saturdays at 8 pm for an Open Speaker Meeting.

In the beginning some of the members had to hold more than one service position, but over the years the group has grown to be one of the largest in Moore County and now the service spots can rotate as needed.

The "K.I.S.G." is active in many areas of AA service including District 52, Area 51, Sandhills Intergroup, CPC/CPI, Treatment and CFC work.

"K.I.S.G." also sponsors many fun AA activities ... such as the annual Halloween costume and dance party, golf and picnic outings and their yearly Anniversary cook out.

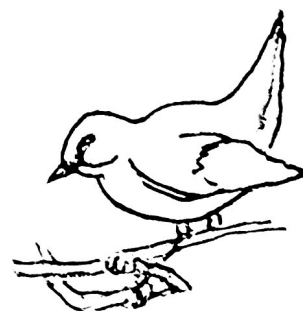
The "Keep It Sober" group holds their monthly business meetings the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm and all AA's are welcome to attend.

The group members also

hold positions needed to keep the Aberdeen building running smoothly, such as the purchasing of literature and chips ... as well as supplies and they organize painting and cleaning get-togethers too.

Editor's note:

The "Keep It Sober Group" members are to be commended for their service work in the upkeep of the Aberdeen building which holds over thirty meetings and functions per week that are not directly tied to their home group. (these include A.A., O.A. and Al-anon meetings as well as District functions, the Intergroup monthly meetings and Holiday & golf related festivities.)



The Bluebird of Happiness is
NOT another swallow !!

CARRYING THE MESSAGE



ADOPT-A-PRO

The following letter is self-explanatory and will be given to each person who becomes involved with the Adopt-a-Pro project.

“Any member of AA in recovery can help carry the message in a very simple way.

We are providing members of the professional community with basic information about AA which will enable them to make an effective referral to our fellowship. Those professionals who are particularly likely to encounter an alcoholic in crisis are those in the legal & medical fields as well as the clergy and the employer.

We're hoping that any group member will consider sharing this information with their personal physician, minister, attorney, employer, or other legal professional.

This can be done quickly and easily at the time of a scheduled appointment or after a church service. The personal contact between our member and the professional is crucial. Don't just drop the folder off at the front desk.

Conveying this information could be as brief and simple as: 'As you may know, I'm a member of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It has helped me turn my life around. Here's some basic information about AA, with meeting schedules and contact information, in the event you learn of someone who may need help. There is a web site with the most current info.(www.moorecountyaa.org) and a toll free phone service: 1-800-496-1742 accessible 24/7.'

We also hope the member would be willing to serve as a contact for that professional or any prospects.

Folders have been prepared containing some of our pamphlets, meeting schedules and a brief letter of explanation. --- If you do take one of these folders, please ensure that it is used.

If the professional already has the information available, thank them kindly for keeping us in mind, and please return the folder for another member to use.”

We hope, now that you've read the letter, you will want to become involved with this exciting project. This is truly a unique way to carry the AA message.



Carrying the message of sobriety is often beyond the expertise of many professionals and you, as a recovering alcoholic, may be the one person who can effectively do this.

By making yourself known to your professional you may be just the person that he or she needs.

Folders are being provided to all the Home Groups in Moore County and it will be up to all of us in the AA community to make the

ADOPT-A-PRO

program a huge success !!

MEMBERS MUSING



(Coming from a large and loving family didn't stop this AA member from taking his first drink at age 11. It spiraled downhill from there until...)

"The beginning of the end for me happened in January 1984. I had managed to get my second DUI and got a felony charge against me as well. I knew my life was over. I remember lying in bed one night asking God to help me straighten up. I was trying to lay off the booze but the shakes and the cold sweats were unbearable. At this point I was drinking every day just to maintain. I'm not sure if it was my prayers or the faithful prayers of my Mom and Dad, but things were about to change in my life.

At a meeting with my attorney he suggested I go see an alcohol and drug counselor...which I did. The counselor suggested I abstain from drinking and go to an AA meeting...which I did. When I went back the next week to meet with my counselor

I informed him I went to an AA meeting, however; I also informed him I had not stayed away from alcohol. He then suggested I go to Samaritan Colony in Rockingham and try to get sober, which I did. (Strange how I seemed to start following directions before I ever made it to AA).

Samaritan Colony, at that time, was an 8 week program and I was sure the world would not function with me being out of commission for 8 weeks.

When I arrived at Samaritan Colony I was as scared as I had ever been. I experienced what the Big Book refers to as, "the four hideous horseman...terror, bewilderment, frustration, and despair." Those 4 characteristics summed up perfectly my 20 years of being on this planet.

I listened to what the counselors were teaching and I began to learn that alcoholism is a disease and that, although I had done some bad things in the throes of my alcoholism, I was not a bad person. (For the most part). I also understood the powerlessness talked about in the first step. I knew in my heart that once I started drinking, I couldn't stop.

They also informed me I was in the first to middle stages of my alcoholism and that I could either address it now at 20 years old or I would address it at some point in the future but

they assured me my life would gradually get worse if my alcoholism went untreated. It was in treatment that I was introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and where I picked up my white chip.

Upon getting out of Samaritan Colony I went to court and lost my license for 2 years and spent 7 days in jail. I know that may not seem like a very long time...but trust me...it was a VERY long time for this ole' boy. It let me know that my disease was taking me down a dark path that I didn't want to travel.

I was able to get work here and there the first 2 years and was even able to get my own apartment. Then I was offered a good job at 2 years sober and, by the Grace of God and AA I was able to work that job for 5 years, which was a miracle, because before Alcoholics Anonymous I could not hold a job for 2 weeks.

When I got laid off after 5 years I started my own business and have been self-employed since. God has been very good to me and has blessed me with a great life, a great business, and a great wife.

I have been fortunate to help start a new AA group in Moore County in 1997 and I have been privileged to serve on many levels in my home group and at the District level. I'm grateful

that God has blessed me with a great home group that provides many opportunities to carry the message to detox units, correctional facilities, and treatment facilities, as well as working one on one with new guys coming into the program.

I was also fortunate to have some folks early on in my recovery that taught me how to give of my time and my money. To me that is what AA is all about anyway, helping connect me to my Higher Power and to pay it forward because I could NEVER pay back what has been so freely given to me and that is the freedom to be me and to have a great, sober life in Alcoholics Anonymous.

By the Grace of God and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous this past March I celebrated 28 yrs. of continuous sobriety one day at a time.

In closing I would like to say I'm grateful that my home group voted me to serve as their Intergroup Representative. . I really appreciate what our Intergroup does in Moore County in carrying the message of hope and recovery to our members through the answering service, the website, public relations and, of course, through articles like mine here in the Newsletter."

Steve M.-Primary Purpose Group, Southern Pines, NC



The soprano was so proud of her new-found sobriety that she sang:

P I M I R A



A G N I T



I N R A D



B O N D A N A



Unscramble the words & use the circled letters to solve.
(answer on back page.)

HISTORICAL FACTS of AA

In an article in the 1967 Grapevine Bill W. refers to the services provided by the General Service Org. and how they are funded. He states in part:

"AA's Twelfth Step activities, (carrying the message to the next sufferer), are the very life-blood of our A.A. adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die.

Now where do the services of AA, worldwide, area & local, fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money?

The answer is simple. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, be it a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office, ... or the World Service Headquarters [now the General Service Office] to maintain unity & effectiveness all over the globe.

Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential ...to our continued expansion. **Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us.**

Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A. A. must everywhere function in full strength—and that, under our Seventh Tradition of self-support, **we are all going to foot the bill.**

According to G.S.O. these services “are funded by group contributions, the Birthday Plan, central office /district /area contributions and excess funds of AA events. **The balance is made up of profits from the sale of AA literature.**”

But now, with hard cover book sales way down there will be fewer profits and this could put the GSO in great financial need. It's with this in mind that we urge all AA groups to review their distribution of

funds and to see if they can do more.

Many members can afford much more than the usual “dollar in the basket” ... they just need to be reminded that the cost of living affects GSO as well as the rest of us.

Other ways to contribute are: the **Birthday Plan**, which suggests that members send a dollar a year for each year of sobriety ... & a **Gratitude Jar** to be brought out in November, (the “gratitude month”) and the proceeds sent to GSO.

Our 3rd Tradition states: “the **ONLY** requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking”, meaning that even the most destitute person can be a member of AA in good standing even though he or she may not have a \$1 to put in the pot.

AA is like no other organization because it has no dues or fees but it does have expenses and it's incumbent on each and every one of us to see that

those expenses are paid.

AA is a priceless gift and as our lives continue to improve as a result of this gift, so will our pocket-books. We can only hope that the amount of our contributions will be as large as our gratitude.



“You will be receiving many gifts from people in the program: gifts of help, time, energy, money, talents, and knowledge.

You will never be able to pay them all back. You are not obligated to pay them back.

You are obligated to pay them forward by giving away what you have when you can.”

~**Pocket Sponsor**

TRAVELING HIGHLIGHTS

In May of 2011 I went on vacation to Rome, Florence and Venice, Italy.



This was my first vacation where I actively sought out AA meetings. I was just over a year sober, and meetings had become the integral part of my life.

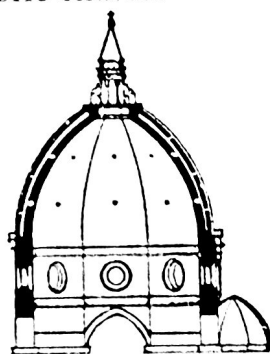
The first meeting I went to in Rome was amazing. It was in the basement of an old church but a familiar AA sign pointed the way to the room. The meeting was the same as any other AA meeting. There was: coffee, the Steps, the Traditions and a welcoming handshake.

The meeting was half-full of tourists and half-full of English speaking locals. The locals were living in Italy, but from Ireland, Sweden, Germany and a

number of other countries. Their English was very accented, but AA is AA no matter where you go. I really appreciated that fact on this trip

A few days later while still in Rome, I went out to coffee with a member, and ended up getting a guided tour of parts of the city. Those were some of my best memories of the trip, sharing my story with another AA while walking the streets of Rome.

In Florence the meetings were held in another historic church.



This meeting was a step meeting, and it was great reading the 12 and 12 and having the traditional discussion after. The locals were exceedingly nice and welcoming.

My last meetings in Italy

were in Venice and they were surreal.



I was a little early for the meeting, so I sat on the side of the canal, watching the boats go by, waiting for the meeting to start. The meetings were in a religious school, and the sisters showed me where the room was. The meeting was again a mixture of locals and tourists, but we all spoke AA for an hour.

The trip was great, and staying in contact with my fellow AA's helped me enjoy the trip.

This trip helped to remind me that the first word of the first Step is "We". No matter where in the world I am (within reason), there is an AA member to create that "We" with me.

Thanks for letting me share

Jason E.,
Primary Purpose Group