

Sandhills
Intergroup

NEWSLETTER

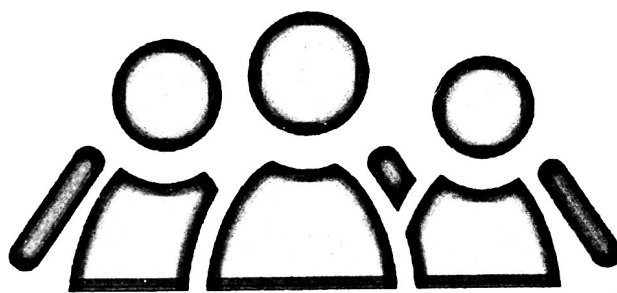


Volume 12, Number 2, May 2013

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FEATURES:

- FYI
- Spotlight on Our Groups
- Traveling Highlights
- Historical Facts of AA
- District 52
- Member's Musings
- Carrying the Message



LISTEN... SHARE ... SERVE

As we mentioned in our last Newsletter, we are recording the talks of AA members and it's become a very successful endeavor. At this writing there are over 30 talks available on our website www.moorecountyyaa.org and you can tune in to them for your pleasure and convenience.

This is just one of the many ways that the Sandhills Intergroup serves the AA community in Moore County. Come join us! It doesn't matter if you have one day or 40 years of sobriety, your input is welcome and needed. We meet at 9AM each Saturday of the month in the Aberdeen bldg. & we hope to see you there.

Experience proves that when we "listen", "share" and "serve" we become part of the AA community and it's a powerful way to get and STAY sober.

MEMBERS MUSINGS



An EPIPHANY

Early sobriety is a fragile time for many of us. It was for me. My siblings were not happy at all that I had decided to start down the AA road to recovery. The "whys and wherefores" of this are unimportant ... it's enough to say that they were very hurt and angry and the feelings were intensified when my mother died shortly after I started my journey.

Of course I was grieving too and it was difficult to accept that I needed to stay true to AA and to all its teachings. I struggled mightily with this until I was saved by an epiphany. It was then that the truth came through loud and clear !

I quickly wrote down the words that expressed how I

felt and I added to the original over the next few months.

Here is the final version. I have it framed & hanging on my wall so that I will never forget how fragile I was then and how the AA program saved me.

Sobriety

And the woman said
"sobriety is it's own reward ...
Nothing more, nothing less
No promise that life would
be easier ...
No promise that people
would like me or be kinder.

To be able to forgive me or
even want to.
Just that by being sober I
would be better.
My part in things would be
better ...
And for that I am truly
grateful.

For I have been given a gift.
A gift that few ever receive.
Even many of those who
have suffered more than I
have not received this gift of

SOBRIETY

And for that and that alone I
will remain eternally grateful.

Marilyn R., Vass Group



The SKEPTIC ...
he's not dumb but
he may be too

— — — — —
to get this simple
A A program !

A G N I T



F R A S C



M E O P T



Unscramble the words and
use circled letters to solve.
(Answer on page 6)

CARRYING THE MESSAGE



GOING STRONG FOR 25 YEARS

One of my favorite AA meetings in Moore County is the "11th Step Meeting" at 11AM every Sunday in the Aberdeen building.

I decided to learn more about it and found that it has been in existence for more than a quarter of a century. One of the things that makes the meeting special for me is that several of the old-timers that were active in forming the meeting can still be found in attendance on any given Sunday morning.

The collective wisdom that these old-timers impart to the meeting is invaluable. It is one of the factors that contributes to what makes AA so great ... people

getting together to share their experiences , strength and hope.

The emphasis of the 11th Step meeting is spiritual. It opens with the St. Francis Prayer, from pg. 99 of the AA "12 x 12":

"Lord, make me a channel of thy peace - that where there is hatred, I may bring love - that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness - that where there is discord, I may bring harmony - that where there is error, I may bring truth - that where there is doubt, I may bring faith - that where there is despair, I may bring hope -that where there are shadows, I may bring light -that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted - to understand than to be understood - to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven and it is by dying that one awakens to eternal life. Amen"

This is followed by reading of the 11th step:

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge

of God's will for us and the power to carry that out."

The discussion leader then spends a few minutes introducing a topic and this is followed by the remainder of the meeting in open sharing.

While not necessarily a substitute for a "regular" church service I find the "11th Step Meeting" a great means of recharging my spiritual batteries.

With its emphasis on prayer and meditation the 11th Step meeting is a good opportunity to either start or end my week in a reflective mode, focusing on how we can better conform to Gods will for us.

AA member, Bruce K.



WANTED

Share your strength
and hope with other
AA members.

Submit your story,
poem or artwork to
the NEWSLETTER.

Your REWARD is in
the telling !

The Sandhills Newsletter is looking for
participation by AA members in our area.

If you have something to say about your
journey into sobriety ...here's your
opportunity. Anything related to your
recovery will be sure to help others.

The Newsletter is published three times
a year (Jan., May and Sept.) & articles
must be submitted a month before those
dates.

Please email entries to:
Ginnie D. Snowflakes@pinehurst.net

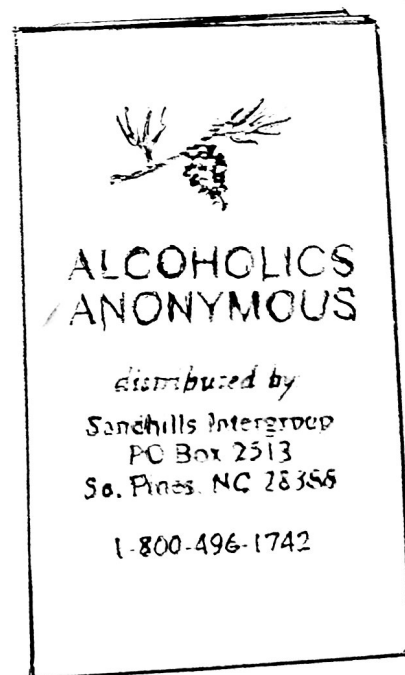
Thanks in advance for sharing your
experience, strength and hope !

OUR LITTLE AA WALLET CARDS

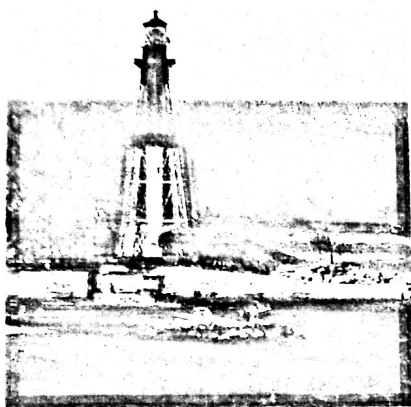
Sandhills Intergroup is pleased to report that over
30,000 of our little pocket cards have found their way
into the hands of the AA community since we first began
to print them in 2003 !

These are truly little cards with a big message and you
may have noticed that more space has been allotted for
writing names and phone numbers now. The cards still
include The 12 Steps, The Promises and The Serenity
Prayer.

The wallet cards are stored in a drawer of the cabinet
in the lobby of the Aberdeen building and we will keep
on printing them as long as they are in demand. It's one
more way we can CARRY THE MESSAGE !



TRAVELING HIGHLIGHTS



The "Pink Church" Lighthouse Point, Florida

This past February was the 20th year that my husband and I have been joining friends in Lighthouse Point, Florida. When I first started in AA, 5 ½ years ago, I thought it might be a problem because this group does enjoy a social drink or two at the end of the day; but, they proved to be very supportive of me and have never made me feel out of place or uncomfortable.

However, I had never searched for AA in the area until this year ... and I am

so glad I did. I found a meeting that suited me to a "T". It's the "Spirituality Seekers" and they meet at the First Presbyterian Church (fondly referred to as the Big Pink Church) in Pompano Monday through Friday at 7 AM.

This is a small meeting, only about 6 or 8 people attending each day, and that made it very nice and comfortable for me. The meeting is held in the lobby of the church and definitely follows the "rule" that AA should never be organized ... rarely did it start on time, no coffee is served and tables and chairs are put out at random.

It was a great mix of people ... Jack knows the preamble by heart and recites it at a fast clip, Ruth brings her two dogs and John and I have very similar sobriety dates. There was also a member with just 13 sober days so that kept it fresh for us.

Their format is very different from what I am used to. They read either

the Serenity Prayer or the St. Francis Prayer first and then have a five minute meditation period. (I really liked this as it gave me time to calm my mind and gather my thoughts.) Topics were from the Big Book, the 12x12 and then, once a week, it was the chair person's choice.

They really made me feel very welcome and even suggested that I make it my Home Away From Home Group on my yearly trips South. I intend to do that and can't wait for next year and my AA meeting in the "Pink Church".

Mara F; Vass Group

THINK

Is what I am about to say: Thoughtful

Helpful

Intelligent

Necessary

Kind

HISTORICAL FACTS of AA

Instead of our usual AA Historical fact we chose to present this true story. It proves that there are those who know nothing of AA ...much less the history related to it !

Our ADOPT-A-PRO program opens the eyes of a world corporation

Recently one of our AA members who is the local branch manager of a world-wide organization ran into a troubling situation. One of her employees came to work drunk and, after she'd sent the employee home for the day, she contacted the Human Resources department at the main office of the corporation to see what protocol she was to follow.

Lo and behold she was amazed to find that no such protocol existed. They knew almost nothing about alcoholism and AA in

particular. Although the company has been in existence longer than AA, it has never implemented a plan of action to cover these contingencies. This put our manager in an awkward position.

Then she remembered that her Home Group had ADOPT-A-PRO folders filled with relevant AA pamphlets and a cover letter that reads in part:
"Greetings from the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. You are a professional who is likely to encounter an alcoholic in crisis in one or more areas of their lives. Rapid and effective referral to AA may well have a life-changing impact on the individual and their families. Accordingly we have compiled an "AA Referral" folder for you"

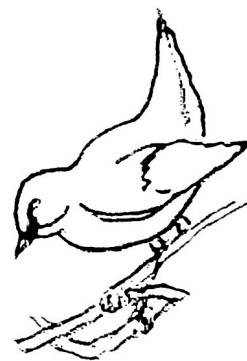
She sent an ADOPT-A-PRO folder to the HR department at the main office and they were overjoyed to get the information. It has set the ball rolling & they are now implementing a set of rules

and regulations that their company will adopt for future occurrences.

It just proves that, with the aid of the ADOPT-A-PRO folder, any member of AA can carry the message of recovery to all areas of the professional community.

If your Home Group does not have any folders please contact your Intergroup representative.

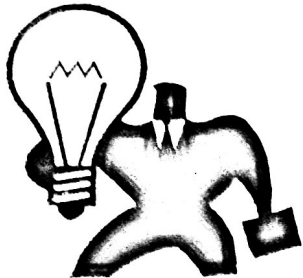
ADOPT-A-PRO is one of the many services provided by the Sandhills Intergroup



The Bluebird of Happiness
is NOT another swallow !!

Scramble answer:
(Giant, Scarf, Tempo)
S M A R T

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS



PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP

AA is often described as a group of alcoholics in ACTION. With this in mind a group of AA members in Moore County formed the Primary Purpose Group. They felt that a new group was needed that emphasized ACTION.

An exploratory meeting was held in March, 1977, where the basic planning for the group was accomplished. They endeavored to have a job available for every one that would want to participate.

In order to achieve this it was decided to establish service committees as well as the usual officers that are found in most groups.

These committees are:
CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community)
PI (Public Information)
Correctional facilities,
Treatment Facilities,
Newcomers, Literature, a Newsletter and a Program Planning committee.

The first group meeting was held June 2, 1997 and was a huge success. On Mondays the group breaks into three smaller groups. These include a Closed pre-selected topic disc. Meeting and a Newcomer meeting that is Open.

Thursdays there is an Open Speaker meeting with speakers from inside and outside our community.

The service hours expended by the Group to Detox, Rehab Centers and Correctional Facilities are impressive and this does not include the countless hours spent with the professional community, public information and all other aspects of the AA service structure.

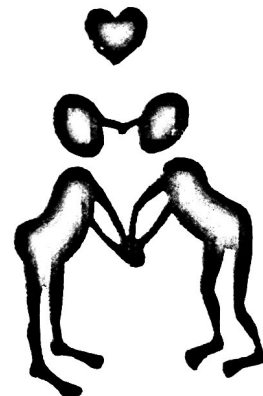
Each quarter the Group has an "outing" which is an

excuse to share a good meal and AA fellowship.

The Primary Purpose Group wants to assure that the next person who comes to AA for help gets as good an opportunity to recover as was so freely given to them.

PRIMARY PURPOSE is not just their name ... it is their job description !

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 !

DISTRICT 52 **NEWS**

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

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

Additionally, the GSR's and officers attend Area (State) Assemblies twice a year and our DCM (Chairperson) attends the 2 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.

IMPORTANT DATES **TO** **REMEMBER**

Spring Assembly

May 17 - 19

Holiday Inn Bordeaux
1705 Owen Drive
Fayetteville, NC

District 52 Meeting

Workshop & business
Meeting

June 9th, 2 PM
Aberdeen Building



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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