



Volume 5, Number 3, September 2006

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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UPDATING THE 12TH STEP ANSWERING SERVICE LIST

DO YOU WANT TO BE ON THE 12TH STEP ANSWERING SV. LIST ?

DO YOU WANT YOUR NAME TAKEN OFF THE LIST ?

It is September and time for our yearly up-date of the 12th Step Answering Service list. If you are currently on the list your name will remain active unless you tell us otherwise.

Anyone who is a member of AA in Moore County with one year or more of sobriety is eligible, and ENCOURAGED to be on the list.

The Ans. Service works like this: a caller dials 1-800-495-1742 and will be in contact with an operator who can provide meeting information, including directions.

If the caller is in distress the operator will explain that she is not an AA member but will

contact one of us on the list and that we will call them back as soon as possible. She requests only the first name of the caller and their phone number.

The operator then refers to our 12th Step list and will call until she gets an actual answer. She does not leave a message on an answering machine. It often takes 10 or more calls to reach an available member and that is why a large list is critical. WE NEED EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU !

It is then up to the AA 12th Stepper to return the call & to share his or her experience, strength & hope with the caller. This often results in the new-comer being picked up for a meeting or being directed to one but, often it is just the contact with another alcoholic that will be of help to the caller.

Contact Deirdre,
Ans,Sv. Chairperson
blcdlc@yahoo.com

TRAVELING HIGHLIGHTS



FOUNDERS' DAY TRIP

On June 10th, 1935, Dr. Bob had his last drink and we, in AA, credit this day with being the beginning of our program.

June 10th, 2006 began the 71st year of AA and was celebrated with great gusto in Akron, Ohio, where Dr. Bob lived & where he and Bill had their historic first meeting.

I was anxious to make the trip to Akron this year and it was a privilege to take the journey with good friends from Sanford, John & Pat K. They have made this trip so many times that it felt like they were my own personal "Guide Book". Thanks so much to you both!

We arrived around supper time on Thursday and our first stop was at Dr. Bob's gravesite. Many people had been there before us and left chips, notes and remembrances.

I understand that over 14,000 sober alcoholics attended the conference and it was fun to see them with their AA badges when we stopped for meals or

while driving around town and visiting the historic sites.

These are some of the two day highlights:

A visit to the home of Dr. Bob with a big "Welcome Home" banner outside. We even ran into two Aberdeen members who had arrived earlier!

A wonderful 2-man play performed within site of the Gate Lodge where Bill & Bob had their first meeting. The play was a portrayal of that event and was excellent, as was the tour of the house.

A stop at the chapel in St. Thomas Hospital that honors the memory of Sister Ignatia who was referred to as the "Angel of Hope" for her love of the alcoholic and her steadfast care of them. She is credited with being the first one to use "chips" to designate times of sobriety. She gave the drunks who were leaving the hospital after a five day dry-out a Sacred Heart Medallion and instructed them that acceptance signified a commitment to AA and if they were to drink they were to give the medallion back to her.

A memorable and touching visit to the lobby of the Hotel Mayflower where an impromptu meeting was in progress with people sharing their feelings & thoughts about being in this historic spot.

A short stop at the King's School, where the first AA mtg. was held after the break off from the Oxford Group.

A "not-to-be-missed" visit to the Akron Intergroup's archives. This is an amazing collection of memorabilia, as well as a book store and a beautiful stained glass window depicting Bill W. & Dr. Bob visiting AA's third member at his hospital bedside.

Then, of course, there were the regularly scheduled speaker meetings and a magnificent "History of the Big Book" presentation by Gail L., (Akron archivist.)

On Saturday night we got together with our Moore County AA friends (Rich, Ronnie, Shea & George) and a good friend of John & Pat's, Bill S. from Sonora, Ca., who had flown in to be with us.

We were in the Rhodes Arena at the University of Akron for the main speaker meeting and it was packed. Before the speaker was presented they had a sobriety countdown. We all stood and then sat down as our years of sobriety were called out. It was a thrill when we realized that our new-found friend Bill S. was the last person standing with an accumulation of 57 years of sobriety!

Submitted by: Ginnie D
Vass Group

Historical Facts of AA

THE BEGINNINGS OF AA

The origin of AA can be traced to the Oxford Group, a religious movement then popular in the United States and Europe.

A Vermonter named Ebby T., an alcoholic, was able to keep from drinking by attending Oxford Group meetings. It was a formula of self-inventory, admission of wrongs, making amends, using prayer and meditation and carrying the message to others who still suffered.

One of Ebby's schoolmate friends was Bill Wilson, also a Vermonter. Ebby sought out his old friend to carry the message of hope. He found him in Towns Hospital undergoing treatment for alcoholism.

After Ebby left, Bill underwent a powerful spiritual experience. When he asked Dr. Silkworth about this the "kindly little Dr. who loved drunks" did not scoff but encouraged Bill to "hang on to it".

This was in Dec. 1934 and after his release from Towns Hospital Bill began to attend Oxford Group meetings and was buoyed by his contact with other drunks. He set out, with little success, to fix all the

drunks in the world.

In May of '35 he was sent to Akron, Ohio on business. While there he faced a crisis that many alcoholics can relate to, he found himself alone on a Saturday night in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel. He was sorely tempted to drink but chose, instead, to try to find an other alcoholic.

He was finally put in contact with Dr. Bob Smith, a once brilliant surgeon about to lose his practice because of alcoholism.

Dr. Bob, by coincidence also a Vermonter, had already sought help from the Oxford Group. When he met with Bill he was expecting to hear the rantings of an evangelistic do-gooder; but, instead found himself sharing with a fellow alcoholic. They talked for five hours.

Dr. Bob was to go on one more drunken spree a few weeks later while at a medical convention in Atlantic City. He had his last drink on June 10th, 1935...the day that is now known as AA's FOUNDERS' DAY!

Bill stayed on in Akron to try to salvage the business deal, and, strapped for funds, he moved in with Dr. Bob, his wife Anne and their two children, Bob & Sue. Almost immediately the two men began to try to help other drunks.

After some failures, they learned that a patient was in the Akron City Hospital for the 6th time in four months and was in bad shape with the DT's. They called on him. He was Bill D., a lawyer who became AA number three.

Soon Dr. Bob began to treat prospective members on a regular basis. Bill returned home late that year and began to call on alcoholics in Towns Hospital. His first "success" was Hank P. (who later drank), and slowly a group began to take shape in New York.

The first meeting place was Bill and Lois's house in Brooklyn. They later met at the old 24th St. Clubhouse. Here Bill would meet Father Ed Dowling, who came as a visitor & became Bill's close friend and advisor and one of AA's staunchest non-alcoholic supporters.

This was the humble beginning.

It is with awe that we report that the membership in AA in 2006 has reached an estimated two million or more, with nearly 100,800 groups in 150 countries around the world.

"In any meeting anywhere AA's share experience, strength and hope with others in order to stay sober & help other alcoholics. Modern-to-modern or face-to-face, AA's speak the language of the heart in all it's power and simplicity.

CARRYING THE MESSAGE.. FOUND

A Few Good Women



In Sept. 2004, the Newsletter ran an article titled: "Carrying the message...Needed, a Few Good Women".

Ist of all, Thank You for the article and 2nd: it is with great joy that we bring GOOD NEWS from the Southern Correctional Institution for women in Troy, NC.

We held our first meeting on Oct. 12., 2004. One of the first four members was a young woman who had been a "Peer Counselor" with Dart for the past 2 years. We were truly "aware of God doing for us what we could not." She became our first "trusted chairwoman"...knowing how far to push and when to step back. She was a key factor in helping us get up & going.

We held a "Group Conscience" meeting right away and decided to retain the name the men before them had chosen with the change being, of course, women's...not men's group. Our ladies began experiencing that even "behind the wall" in

the rooms of AA, they still have some rights & freedoms.

Our miracles had just begun !! A gentleman from Montgomery County, who had been of service at Southern when it held men, has remained a part of our ladies group. He has been, and continues to be "in the right place at the right time."

Pattie H. and Pat S. have been such treasures at Southern. Another woman, while living in our area, Candy D., was with us for a short time before she moved to Winston-Salem. And we've had several women...for special occasions, come out and share their own personal stories.

This past April - 2006 - was very special for each of us, as on Volunteer's Night we could bring a guest. My sponsor of more than 10 years came from Concord, NC. Pattie H. brought her mother & Pat S. brought a new lady to our area as well as her sponsee.

By the Grace of God I was brought to the rooms of AA and given a solution to my drinking-problem plus the way to live life on life's terms...not Virgies. It has been my privilege, when asked, to "pass on what has so freely been shared with me".

In April two ladies appeared that had been sponsees of mine in the past. Now they have come to Southern and it is my joy to be with them in our

meeting each Tuesday. Thank God that the doors of AA are always open.

One step backward, if I may? The staff member at Southern who did our orientation said many things I needed to learn. However, he made one statement that truly amazed me. He had been on staff at Southern for the past 17 years, when there were men there. In going back & forth to Raleigh he had found that women inmates had much lower self-esteem than the men. Whereas most of the men would talk, some even brag, about their pasts, women felt far more shame and remorse and did not want to talk about it.

Because of the differences Southern urged the volunteers to always refer to the women as Ladies. We couldn't have agreed more. Since then we feel that there has been as much growth between us and the staff as in the lives of "The Ladies".

Back to the group. The 2nd Group Conscience was to set the format of the meetings. We decided on splitting the month up...the 1st Tues. 12x12, 2nd: Discussion, 3rd BB, 4th Topic and when the month has a 5th Tuesday...a speaker.

So many of you AA's in Moore County have helped us in more ways than you can imagine. If we had a problem and took it to a meeting you would always help. The hospital Friday & Sunday groups donated 35

books each of the BB, 12x12, Daily Reflections & Living Sober. I assure you it's all being used.

We have witnessed so many miracles in our group that it's hard to imagine that we are not even two years old yet !!

One of the ladies came to us with a guard on each side, cuffed ...a beautiful woman who had barely spoken to anyone in several years, but she had so much peace of mind, simply at peace with herself & God. When I asked her how and where she had found so much peace in the past 26 years she said; "The first time I was allowed to come to the AA meeting you all gave me my first Big Book. I've had my Big, Big Book with me for years and they work so well together.

When our first chairwoman was transferred back to Raleigh in March, 2005 it took 4 women to replace her and now we have a chairwoman, a co-chair and a librarian and a secretary!

All 480 beds have now been filled and our meeting numbers have swelled. Once they learned to trust us the bonding process took over. It's amazing to see how quickly the new ones bond...simply from watching & sharing with those who remain.

Most of the ladies are working the Steps, at various stages. A few months back we had a very

excited member who told us, "This stuff really works". She had been in a fight with another girl but had stopped, asked herself if it was worth it. Her answer was "No", went to her room & prayed & did some writing. A few hours later she apologized to the other lady who was skeptical at first but realized she was sincere when she said she just "wanted to clean up my side of the street."

Another girl was transferred to Raleigh about 10 months ago & we lost track of her. We were thrilled to hear that one of our members who had been released in June ran into her at an AA meeting in Raleigh. Now they have teamed up and go to mtgs. together.

God has certainly blessed me with carrying the message to these girls behind the walls at Southern. I have never felt the rewards that I feel there every Tuesday night. We have some wonderful women in our circle & they are coming to like themselves and care about each other, one day at a time.

In a very personal note: In Aug. 2004 my grandson, age 18, was arrested for 1st degree murder in S.C. (alcohol or drugs had nothing to do with this.) Words cannot express my gratitude for AA. You told me that ours is a program that works under any circumstances! From the moment I read the Sept. 2004 article in the Newsletter I knew

that God was showing me "where" and "how" my help was to come from. It came from my getting out of myself and concentrating on the suffering alcoholic at the Southern Correctional Inst..

In April my grandchild confessed and tried to apologize to the victim's family. He was sentenced to 42 years with no parole. My prayers for him are the same as for myself; "May God's will be done this day."

After his sentencing I shared my experience with the ladies in our Group. Several of them have shared back that they are serving life sentences, too, and that peace of mind can be found behind the walls.

"Working With Others", BB pg 89.."Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics....carry this message to other alcoholics. You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail...life will take on new meaning. To watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends...this is an experience you must not miss.."

There are not words to express how grateful I am to AA.

Your Trusted Servant
Virgie S, West Side Group

District 52 News

District 52 is the AA Service entity encompassing Moore, Hoke, Richmond, Lee and Scotland Counties. District meetings of the General Service Representatives (GSR's) from our groups are held four times a year, usually in Aberdeen.

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 keeping your meeting connected to the world-wide AA organization, provided of course that it chooses to participate.

CPC/PI Committee

CPC/PI stands for "Cooperation with the Professional Community and Public Information", and is a category of AA service activities aimed at helping the outside world better understand what AA is and is not, and where to find us.

The District has concentrated much of our energy recently in this area of service. We want the "Hand of AA" to be more easily found by those needing our help. CPC/PI is a category of service that is particularly

difficult and sometimes frustrating. It involves a wide variety of activities that require people of varied backgrounds and interests to carry out, and everything we do must be consistent with our Traditions and guidance from General Services.

Here are some of the things we have been working on:

- 1.) GSO approved public service announcements have been placed on several radio stations and on a local access TV channel.
- 2.) We have reviewed the ways telephone and website information is made available in all 5 counties in an attempt to insure someone hearing about AA can reasonably find a meeting or contact. We are hoping for assistance from Sandhills Intergroup (Moore County only) in improving response to inquiries in the other 4 counties.
- 3.) We have compiled and published a 5 county meeting schedule that is available to supplement the Moore County schedule published by the Intergroup.
- 4.) Contact with the Sandhills Fellowship of Churches has been made, and we made a presentation recently at their monthly meeting.
- 5.) We are reviewing current and planned websites to insure

that they provide a clear path to our meeting schedules. This is becoming more important as the Internet becomes a popular method of finding information.

6.) In conjunction with the Intergroup we are periodically refreshing the supply of meeting schedules given to hotels and motels with extra attention to special events in the area. (Such as the US Open.)

As time goes on we are hoping to further open lines of communication with medical, legal, counseling and education professionals and the clergy throughout our District.

We need committed and reliable volunteers to help us and hope some of you will consider this type of AA service.

Participation in the AA Service Structure

At our next District meeting we will again begin the process of electing District officers from the very small pool of people who participate in the AA Service structure.

Only about a third of the meetings in our District have chosen to register as Groups. Of these Groups only a few regularly participate in service at the District and Area level. A few others provide financial donations but cannot get

members to serve as GSR's. It is probably fair to say that only the dedication of a very small number of "trusted servants" is keeping the District 52 alive.

We hope you will all discuss this problem with your group. We hope you will all reflect on whether it is in the long-term interests of our great Fellowship that most groups do not participate in its business beyond the group level and don't vote in the election of those entrusted with AA's future.

We would be glad to meet with your group on this or other subjects.

Contacts:

DCM
Rick M...(910) 582-5928
rmason21@carolina.rr.com.....

Alternate DCM
Jim M...(910) 295-1285
jm61285@nc.rr.com

CPC/PI Chairman
Dave C. (910) 295-0999
dcook7@nc.rr.com

Come join us at our next District Meeting:

**September 9th
2:00 PM
Aberdeen Building**

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS



The weekday noon meetings at the Wilder Building are a local institution today. Many of us attend regularly to break up the day or during lunch hours from work.

Even out-of-towners join us occasionally. In fact, the noon meetings initially began with the idea of making meetings available to golfer's who were visiting.

Until June of 2003 we had only one noon meeting at the Wilder building. It was on Wednesday. I was the chairperson, having just taken over from Liz C. That month I was approached by two out-of-towners, Mary Jane and Harold of Palm Bay, Florida. They loved the area but were disappointed to learn : that there was only one weekday noon meeting.

My heart went out to these fellow AA's. I wanted to help. I knew the Wednesday meeting was well attended and I felt we could support a noon meeting every weekday. I asked Willie what he thought of the idea and he said it would be "my responsibility" and to run the

idea by Neil...and he said, "Go for it!"

We formed a committee to organize the effort and In typical AA fashion a number of our fellowship committed to helping me...chairing meetings, making coffee and opening and closing the building.

Donnie volunteered to be chairperson for a Monday "Daily Reflections" meeting and Pat S agreed to pitch hit when needed. I had responsibility for Tues.' "As Bill Sees It" (after Nancy B had it initially) and the Step mtg. on Wednesday.

Douglas backed me up and would pinch-hit as chair when needed...at other noon meetings as well. Nancy B. chaired the Tues. discussion meeting until Myrna moved the Living Sober group from Sandhills Comm. College to Thursdays at Wilder.

"Tennessee Bob" was responsible for the Big Book group on Fridays. We all committed to backing each other up when needed and in short order the meetings took on a life of their own.

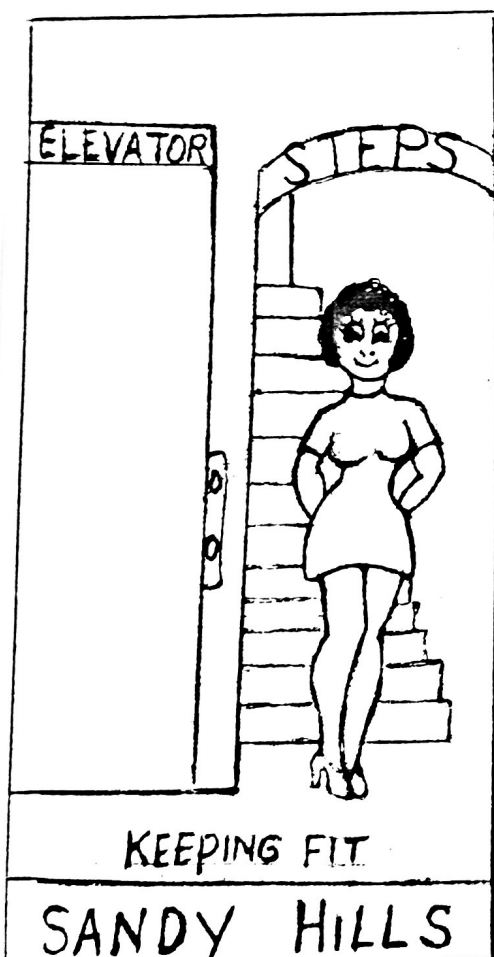
Today weekday noon meetings at the Wilder building are well attended by local and out-of-town members, thanks to the love and dedication of so many of our fellowship.

Oh, by the way, Mary Jane and Harold continue to visit the area

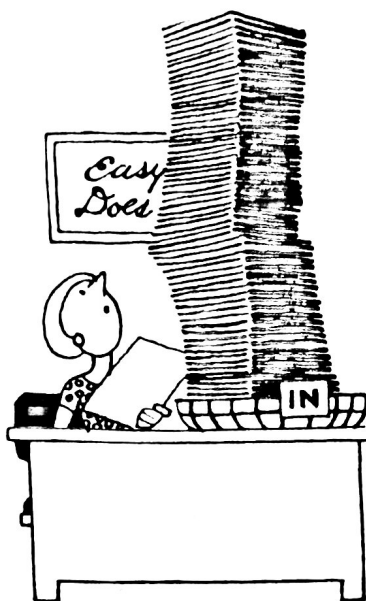
to play golf and to attend the noon meetings. I am very grateful for their continued friendship and the inspiration they provided.

Note: If my memory has caused me to leave anyone out please let me know so that you can be properly recognized in the next Newsletter.

Submitted by:
Kaye C.
Westside Group



Suggestions for the Sandy Hills cartoon.....please see Myrna J



KEEP IT SIMPLE

"Keeping it simple" is not always easy for the newcomer in AA. That is especially true when he or she comes in contact with the many paradoxical phrases that are heard in the rooms.

Here is a list of some of those phrases:

"SURRENDER to WIN"

"LET Go...HOLD ON"

"TAKE IT EASY...but DO IT"

"STRENGTH arising out of DEFEAT"

"To KEEP the gift of sobriety I must GIVE IT AWAY."

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 9AM on the first Saturday of each month at the AA building on Wilder Ave. in Aberdeen. The Sandhills Intergroup is financed solely by local AA groups.

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