

Sandhills
Intergroup

NEWSLETTER

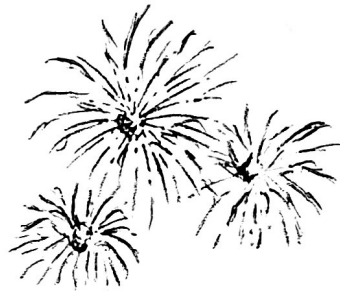


Volume 11, Number 3, September 2012

FEATURES:

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



The Adopt-a-Pro program takes off

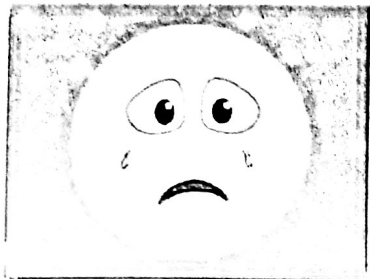
In the last Newsletter we told you about the exciting new program that forms a relationship between you, the AA member, and your own doctor, attorney, minister or employer.

It is proving to be a huge success & folders are available just for the asking. If you would like to take this "Adopt-a-Pro" information to your personal professional please don't hesitate to contact our District 52 DCM Karen P.

Karen may be reached either by phone: 910-639-7797 or by email: kaspo415@gmail.com

Another way we can CARRY THE MESSAGE

MEMBERS MUSINGS



Bottom of the Bottle

I'm at the bottom and I
can't see out. You
understand in my mind
there is no doubt.

The glass is crystal clear
and life is my greatest fear.

To me there is no way out
of this bottle. It is cold,
dark and hopeless.

I see all the things around
me, I see people happy and
free ... but I'm not.

I'm trapped here, lost and
alone. Here, all on my own.

I have only one choice
because no one can hear
my voice.

It's life or death in this
internal fight ... and in my

mind there is no light.

So I plan it out and weigh
it too, because I don't
know what else to do.

I have my plan, do you
want to hear? Can you
help me escape my fear?

To me my day has come in
the bottom of this bottle I
can't get away from.

Understand I want to be
alive but in this state of
mind I cannot survive.

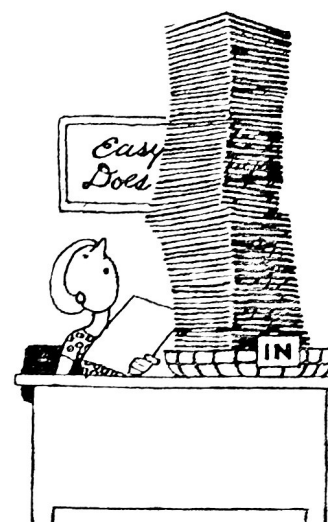
*I wrote the following poem
in Sept. 2007. My words
describe the loss of hope
and despair that I felt
before turning to AA.*

*If you have felt this way or
are feeling it now please
come join us. You may be
our next miracle ... they
happen every day !*

AA member: Rebecca R.

Scramble answer:

(while, group, lazily, yeast)
RELAPSE



KEEP IT SIMPLE

“Keeping it simple” is not
always easy for the new-
comer in AA. That is
especially true when they
come up against the many
paradoxes that are heard in
the rooms.

Here is a list of some of
these paradoxes:

“SURRENDER TO WIN”

“LET GO ... HOLD ON”

“TAKE IT EASY...but
DO IT”

“STRENGTH arising out
of DEFEAT”

The gift of sobriety ...
“TO KEEP IT ...we must
GIVE IT AWAY”



TRAVELING HIGHLIGHTS

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

I got the yen to travel to Mexico when a girl that I sponsored raved to me about her trip to San Miguel de Allende.

She told me that it was a haven for artists and musicians and that many of them frequented the great AA English speaking meetings. I couldn't wait to see for myself and she and I traveled there in February of 2002.

San Miguel de Allende is in the center of Mexico and was originally established as a Franciscan mission. The cobble stone streets are still there and they seem to retain the quiet serenity of those days although they are filled with tourists and businesses now.

The center of the town remains unspoiled however, as there are no traffic lights, no parking meters, no fast food franchises and a very large central park where the locals congregate.

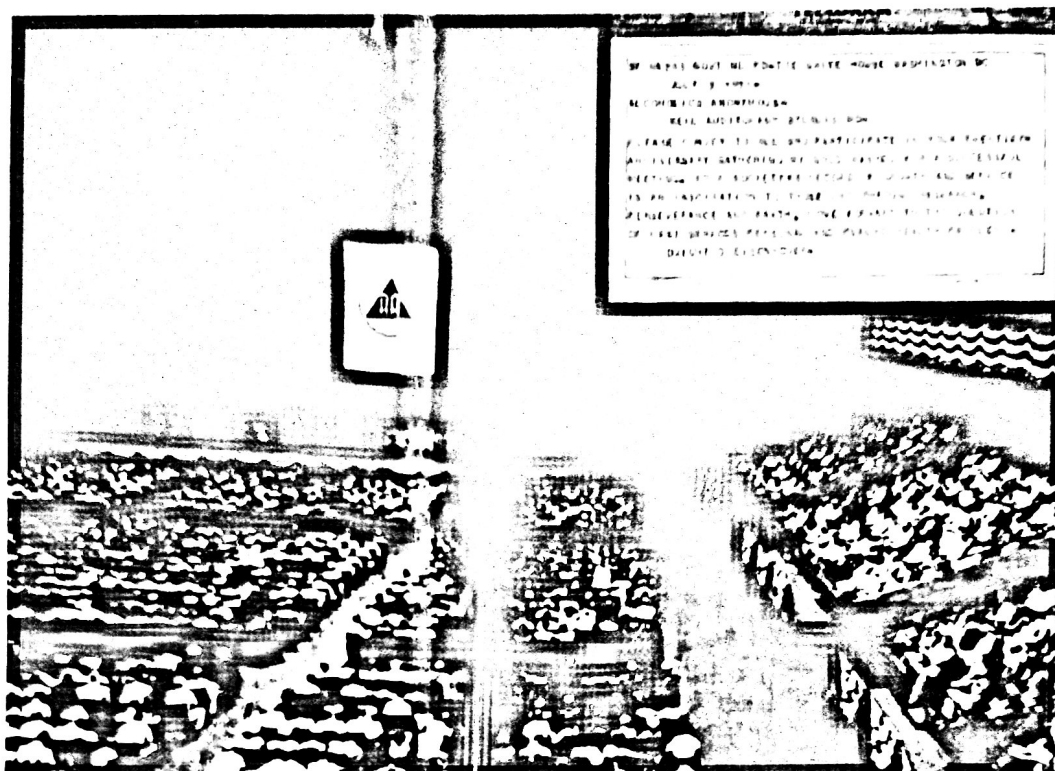
We found the AA building on a side street. It was on the 2nd floor and reached by a set of steps on the outside of a colorful building. As a matter of fact, almost all the buildings were painted in bright colors. It was extremely picturesque and we kept our cameras clicking.

A women's meeting was just beginning as we found our seats but they were very friendly and invited us to join them for lunch after the meeting so we got to know them better.

At another time we met a man who was there for his first AA meeting. He had moved to San Miguel and was 2 weeks sober but "didn't want to do it alone anymore." We would often bump into him around town and you could see his face light up when he saw us. He even kept in contact by email after we came home and has since married and started a new life ! A great example of AA at work.

We were in San Miguel for 2 weeks and attended at least 6 meetings. It was such a comfort to see all the same slogans and to listen to all the readings that are the same the whole world over. Thank you AA !

Anonymous AA member



In July 1955, some 5,000 people attended the second International Convention in St. Louis. *President Dwight D. Eisenhower* recognized the occasion with a congratulatory telegram which read, "Please convey to all who participate in your twentieth anniversary gathering my good wishes for a successful meeting. Your Societies record of growth and service is an inspiration to those who through research, perseverance and faith, move forward to the solution of many serious personal and public health problems."

HISTORICAL FACTS of AA



Our "Unofficial" Logo

Most of us have chips in our pockets, a ring on our

finger or a charm around our neck that bears the beloved circle and triangle that we all have come to know as the logo of the A.A. Fellowship. There is older literature floating around that displays this logo as well.

This symbol was adopted as the official A.A. symbol at the International Con-

vention in St. Louis in 1955. The three legs of the triangle represented the Three Legacies and the Circle symbolized the world of A.A.

Bill W. describes the symbol in his speech on July 3, 1955, "Above us floats a banner on which is inscribed the new symbol for A.A., a circle enclosing

a triangle. The circle stands for the whole world of A.A., and the triangle stands for A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. Within our wonderful new world, we have found freedom from our fatal obsession.

That we have chosen this particular symbol is perhaps no accident. The priests and seers of antiquity regarded the circle enclosing the triangle as a means of warding off the spirits of evil, and A.A.'s circle and triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service has certainly meant all of that to us and much more.”
(p. 139 AA Comes of Age)

Bill W. felt that the symbol represented the three legacies under which our fellowship had been created:

Recovery,
Unity
Service.

So ... for almost 40 years literature, chips, building signs, and other entities proudly displayed this logo. It was a symbol of

our fellowship and of our recovery.

However, in the early 1990's the General Service Board asked the medallion and coin makers to “cease and desist” using the logo on their products.

At first the manufacturers complied, but around 1992 they decided to renegotiate and they contested the Board's position.

The case never went to trial and the advice the Board got was that the copyright was not renewed or was completely unenforceable.

It was found that other entities have used this symbol as well so it would have been hard to hold up in copy-right court. (For example: turned upside down it is the symbol for an air raid shelter and in Illinois they have the same symbol on their manhole covers !)

There was some discussion at the time of A.A. minting their own coins and suing the coin makers, but this was not in the ‘spirit and

letter’ of the 12 Concepts for World Service – so in 1993 the logo moved into unofficial status.

It was agreed that the two word phrase “conference approved” would now be used on all official AA literature in lieu of our beloved symbol.

However, the 1993 AA Conference recognized that many A.A. members and groups would still be using the symbol and they could see no problem with that.

Because no one “owns” the logo we can use it freely among our individual groups without infringing on anyone's copyright.

So, although this symbol is no longer the official logo it is still considered to be our number one choice in AA memorabilia.

I would imagine that it is still the most recognizable logo representing the wonderful fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Submitted by Marilyn R,
Vass Group

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MEMBERS MUSINGS

AA in my country.. Ireland



It's common knowledge that AA was started in the United States in Akron, Ohio in 1935 . But how many of you know when it began in Ireland?

In 1943 an Irishman, Conor F. from the West of Ireland, joined an A.A. group in Philadelphia. In the same year word of AA spread to Sydney, Australia and a group was formed there.

Those two happenings led to the start of A.A. in Ireland and the formation of the first A.A. group of native Europeans, run by themselves, in Dublin.

Fr. Tom Dunlea, an Irish priest running a Boy's Town Home in Sydney, had

noticed & been impressed with the gradual growth and success of the AA group there.

In 1946 he came back to Ireland on holiday and, while in Dublin, was asked by the Dublin "EVENING MAIL" to give an interview on his Boy's Home.

Not only did Fr. Tom give an account of his project, but he also spoke at some length on the success of the Sydney group of A.A.

This opened the door to a knowledge of A.A. and coincided with the visit of Conor F., three years sober himself and on holiday in Ireland.

Conor was determined to leave a group of A.A.ers behind him when he left Dublin and made his return to Philadelphia in January 1947. He was able to do this and AA in Ireland got its start.

However, the progress of AA was difficult to say the least. Few doctors took a serious interest in their alcoholic patients then and

it was well into the fifties before AA was accepted by the medical profession.

To be fair it should be said that in Medical School at that time the aspiring doctors were given little more than a cursory few hours of comment in regards to alcoholics and alcoholism.

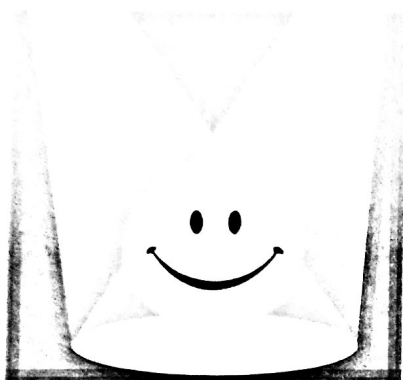
They were taught how to get a patient out of the D.T.'s but the idea was instilled that people who became alcoholics were weak-minded.

Even worse, these doctors were taught that alcoholics would not be a credit to their practices and that they had a poor reputation for paying. Above all, the alcoholic was never to be considered for a bed in a general hospital unless they had a more respectable illness apart from their drinking problem !

Thank goodness that A.A. is alive and well in Ireland today.

AA member, Olive B Vass Group

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS



The Vass Group

The Vass Group was founded in 1983 at the invitation of a local minister. He invited 3 AA members living in Vass to start a meeting in his church, the First Baptist Church on Old Route 1.

The first meeting was held in the sanctuary of the church. Three men were in attendance and a prospect that they were 12th Stepping. In the following weeks a few members of the AA Sanford Group came to help out.

The original 3 members 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 for the meetings.

The group originally had 3 meetings a week but the format now is a closed discussion on Wednesday nights at 8.

Because of their location in the Northern part of Moore County the group has a membership that includes members from Lee and Harnett Counties also.

The all-male membership in the 80's has changed considerably and now the women constitute at least 50 % of the group. Young parents feel comfortable to attend also since dedicated Vass members take turns keeping an eye on the children so their parents can attend the meetings & listen to the AA message.

Vass just hosted an eating meeting to celebrate 29 years and it was a great success.



The "old timer" decided to relax. He figured he didn't need AA meetings. His "relax" became a:

W I E L H

O R P G U

Z Y L L I A

A S Y E T

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