



Volume 13, Number 2, May 2014

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



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Set your sights on Atlanta in 2015

It's AA's 80th birthday & it's none too early to start planning for the big event. ... the 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The theme will be "80 years ... Happy, Joyous & Free". AA's will be coming from all corners of the world but we are the lucky ones who live just hours away from Atlanta where the convention will be held.

So, gather your AA buddies, get those reservations locked in and be prepared to enjoy a "once in a lifetime" thrill !!!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GROUPS



If you are looking for a group with a historical background you will find it at 8 o'clock on Monday nights at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines.

AA actually started in Moore County in 1947 but the members had been meeting in a variety of places before they moved to the church in 1982 and it has been their permanent location since then.

The group format has changed over the years. It has evolved from being a Speaker Meeting, to "As Bill Sees It" and is now in it's present form as a Step Meeting.

It is a closed discussion, non-smoking mtg. and meets in the library.

The group uses the 12x12 AA book and they read a step a week and then they discuss it. Once the steps are finished they read and discuss the 12 Traditions in the same way.

If you are looking for a smaller and more intimate group than many in Moore County this could be the answer, especially if you are interested in the history of AA here.

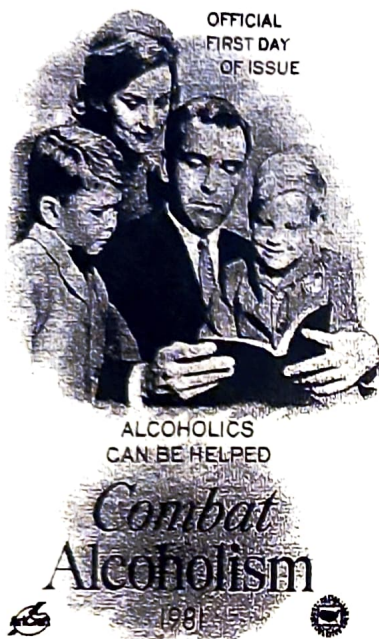
According to one of our long time members (who is now deceased) the group was visited by Bill Wilson in 1948 when he passed through Southern Pines on his way to a vacation in Florida. Our member asked Bill how their new found group could best serve AA and he remembers that Bill answered simply "just pass it on".

Good advice and what better way to do that than by studying the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA.

TEST YOUR AA IQ

True or False:

1. Dr Bob founded AA on his own? _____
2. The Big Book is In it's 5th edition _____
3. The only requirement for membership in AA the desire to stop drinking. _____
4. The 12 Steps tell us HOW it works. _____
5. The 12 Traditions Tell us WHY. _____
6. Both Bill W. and Dr. Bob once lived In Vermont. _____
7. Moore County now Has more than 30 Meetings per week. _____
8. AA was founded in the year 1940 _____
9. Anne was Bill's wife. _____
10. We now have a daily morning mtg. _____



Alcoholism
You can beat it!

USA 18c

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Mrs. Myrtle D. Brooks
P.O. Box 21
White Stone, Virginia 22578

HISTORICAL FACTS OF A. A.

In 1981 Nancy Reagan became the first lady of the United States. Her major contribution during her husband/s reign was to champion the movement to fight the use of recreational drugs and alcohol. This prevention program she founded was called "JUST SAY NO !" The effectiveness of this campaign is doubtful but at least she tried and it put a spotlight, for the first time, on the problem.

It was also in 1981 that 1st class postage in the U.S. was raised from 15 to 18 cents and a new stamp, "Alcoholism, You Can Beat It", was introduced.

The picture above is of an envelope stamped on the first day of issue, August 18, 1981. It shows a united family studiously reading from a "big" book. I wonder how many non-alcoholics would realize that it is actually the "Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous" ?

MEMBERS MUSINGS



We, in AA, are not a glum lot and our member Margie is proof of that. She has a ready smile for everyone who shows up and when I asked her if she'd like to contribute something to the Newsletter she already had something in mind.

This is what she shared and it's really interesting. Her father, Warner K, was an alcoholic and attended AA for a long time.

Margie's parents were from Pleasantville, New York, near to where Bill W. and Lois retired.

Her father's Home Group was in the Congregational Church in Chappaqua, NY and Bill Wilson attended the Bedford group just 10 miles from there.

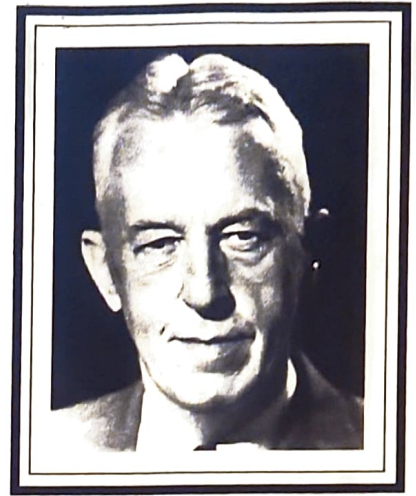
Every now and then Margie's dad would see Bill at the local diner in Pleasantville.

Margie's dad passed away in 2003 and when her mother was looking through some of his belongings she found his 14 year medallion.

She also found a copy of the announcement of the Memorial service for Bill Wilson held in 1971 at St. John the Devine in New York City. (The front page of the service is shown on the adjoining page.)

It's interesting to note that the service was dedicated to AA as well as to Bill. It opened with the Serenity Prayer ... included the complete Preamble of the fellowship as well as a reading from the 11th chapter of the Big Book, "A Vision for You" and ended with the Prayer of St. Francis and the Lord's Prayer.

Bill was always promoting his beloved AA program & he made sure that his own service was no exception !



William G "Bill" Wilson
11/26/1895 - 1/24/1971

In Bill's last message to AA he spoke of gratitude to the Fellowship and for the "myriad blessings bestowed upon us by God's Grace".

He went on to say "If I were asked which of these blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth ... I would say, the 'Concept of Anonymity'".

On the spiritual level anonymity demands the greatest discipline, ...on the practical level it has brought protection for the new-comer, respect and support of the world outside and security from those of us who would use AA for sick & selfish reasons.

AA ...will continue to change with the passing years ...as long as we accept our sobriety in our traditional spirit of anonymity we will continue to receive God's Grace."

*Ever Yours
Bill*

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH



OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

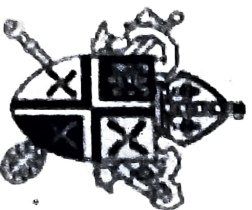
FOR

WILLIAM GRIFFITH WILSON

1893-1971

♦ ♦ ♦

**THIS SERVICE IS HELD BY INVITATION OF
THE BISHOP OF NEW YORK**



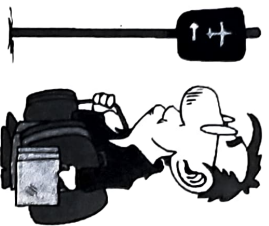
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971

2:00 P.M.

The Service is sponsored by:

The A. A. Intergroup Association of Greater New York

TRAVELING HIGHLIGHTS



A.A. in BROOKLYN

Planning my trip to New York for January of this year to see my brother, his wife and my two nephews, I also had in mind an itinerary designed to feed my soul's perceived need for enrichment. Entertainment was a must, with a level of amusement only New York could provide.

I wanted spectacle, but a spectacle that I could appreciate and that would energize me. And I got all that on a frigid Sunday night at an AA meeting in Brooklyn.

Make no mistake... a ticket for Book of Mormon was procured, reservations for Le Bernadin made. A trip to Strand Book-store near Union Square Park was mapped. The Museum of Modern Art decided. And plenty of ad hoc time to let the City tell me, in a way few cities can, what absolutely must not

be missed.

But also on my 'must not be missed' list was a meeting. This I knew. I also wanted, (no ... NEEDED), to see some friends who lived in Brooklyn: two people for whom my membership in AA was a fact of life and appreciated. So added to my schedule was a night combining the epicenter of "hipster" with the program that saved my life.

Book of Mormon? Profane, hilarious and surprisingly affirming of what it means to have faith. Le Bernadin? Expensive fish lunch (what can I say...I'm supposed to be working an honest program). Strand? Their slogan is "For people who love books." I do, and they mean it. MOMA? I still don't have words for Matisse...just...beautiful.

After time with my brother's troop, Sunday afternoon arrived and I took the commuter train back into the city. Not wanting to be late for the 7:00pm meeting at St. Francis of Paola Catholic Church, I left with plenty of time to take the subway and find the church.

Arriving an hour early, the church was locked and no one was outside. Maybe I had the directions wrong, though I was an hour early. I had spied a coffee shop on the way from the subway, so I trudged back a few blocks and got out of the 20 degree weather.

At the coffee shop, it was all cliché. Bushy beards, flannel, nose rings and the glow of laptops where the next great American novel detailing our current cultural angst was likely being penned. I double checked my directions with the Brooklyn AA online directory and confirmed my earlier scouting.

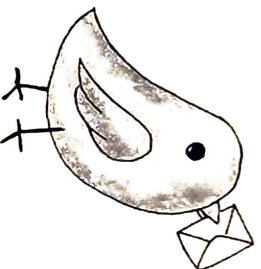
Halfway through my cup of coffee, the shop seemed to explode with people lining up for a cup to go...a good sign. People spoke of gratitude, inventories and sponsors as they waited their turn to order. My people!

I followed a few out the door and back to the church, where a crowd now started to mass, some talking, some quiet. The door was still locked and someone announced that the church had been double-booked for another event. Well, I thought, I had made the effort.

Just as I was about to call my friends to see if dinner time could be adjusted, the door opened, some enterprising member of our tribe having figured out how to break in (some habits die hard), and whoosh, in we went to the church's auditorium.

It was set up for a fashion shoot. Lights, cameras, and racks upon racks of one-of-a-kind dresses some hopeful designer intended for his big break in the industry. Expensive finger foods,

CARRYING THE MESSAGE



When I came into AA as a newcomer people in the rooms came up to me and welcomed me.

They shook my hand and introduced themselves, they asked me my name.

They gave me hugs, told me where the coffee pot was and introduced me to other people in the rooms.

They said hello with a smile, said “keep coming back” (even when I didn’t want to hear it).

They gave me their phone numbers when I asked for them and picked me up for meetings.

They answered the phone, sometimes in the middle of the night when I was thinking about taking that drink.

Whether times were going good

or times were difficult they shared their experience, strength and hope with me to let me know that things would get better.

My sponsor listens to me and says, “I hear you.” All of these things were freely given to me when I walked into the rooms of A. A.

When I see a newcomer I shake their hand, say “my name is Rebecca and I’m glad you’re here today”.

Two of my closest friends in AA were attending their first meeting when I greeted them and welcomed them. We have been friends ever since; they are my AA sisters.

Staying after a meeting to listen to a new person talk about whatever is on their mind or going out for ice cream or coffee after a meeting just to let them know they are not alone.

By doing all these things people did for me I CARRY THE MESSAGE every day.

Being available says that I care and helping the newcomer that walks in the door is carrying the message of AA.

I cannot keep the gift I have been given unless I give it away as freely as it was given to me.

AA member Rebecca R.
Vass Group

chocolate-dipped strawberries, bottled herbal teas and other delectable goodies resided at the craft services table ...or at least they did for the first five minutes ! Evidently the crowd coming for the meeting thought they had been provided sustenance beyond the normal Oreos and coffee, and – poof – the table was emptied

It was an anniversary meeting, and all those celebrating were asked to come up let us know “how they did it,” where it was confirmed yet again what an amazing and limitless gift AA provides, not matter the locale.

Falls to jobs, heartbreak to hope; each story filled my heart and renewed my belief in this amazing thing that is AA.

I’m not so sure if the models, the photographer and the fashion designer, having returned from dinner halfway through the meeting, felt the same way. I hope they did: from the looks on their faces as I exited the church, they all sure looked like they needed a meeting. And perhaps one day, one of them will recount this story as they tell us how they did it.

As I was writing this, I looked up the meeting in the Brooklyn AA online guide. I think it has moved to another church. Probably for good, I’d say.

AA member Jason T
Vass Group

DISTRICT 52 **NEWS**

AREA 51 Assembly

May 30, 31 & June 1
N. Raleigh Hilton

District 52

Sponsorship Workshop Business meeting

June 8 - 2 pm
Aberdeen Building

District 52

Workshop Business Meeting

August 3 - 2 pm
Sanford

If you have any ideas for
a workshop you'd like
please contact our DCM.

Wilder R. District 52 DCM
910-639-0000

NC Convention

July 10 - 13
N. Raleigh Hilton

Area 51

SUMMER COMMITTEE

August 23 - 24
N. Raleigh Hilton

Test your AA IQ answers:

1. False (Bill W and Dr.
Bob co-founded AA)
2. False (4th Edition)

3. True

4. True

5. True

6. True

7. True

8. False (1935)

9. False (Anne was Dr.
Bob's wife. Bill was
married to Lois)

10. True

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

Published & distributed by

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