

NOVEMBER  
1980

NEWSLETTER OF INTERGROUP OF WESTERN NORTH  
CAROLINA, 107 PARKWAY OFFICE BUILDING,  
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28801\*\*\* PHONE 704-254-8539

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UP-COMING EVENTS!

NOVEMBER 9, 1980: Mark this date on your calendar now. The Waynesville Group is going to host a District 8 meeting so take a little Sunday drive and enjoy some great fellowship. The place is the Grace Episcopal Church. The eating time (due to the church activities) will take place at 2:30 P.M. (instead of the usual time of 1:30 P.M.) and immediately after Lorraine and Irene will tell us about it. We urge you to make every effort to attend this meeting of our friends to the west. Pack yourself a little box, bag or dish and motor on out to have a part in this special occasion.

NOVEMBER 24, 1980: Haw Creek Group will celebrate the 3rd anniversary Monday, November 24 at their regular meeting. Alvin W. from Cullowhee will be the speaker. Come on our and hear Alvin tell you how he got married.

NOVEMBER 29-30, 1980: G.S.R. Assembly to be held in Winston-Salem Hyatt House. All G.S.R.'s (old and new elected) and Alternates are urged to attend this meeting. This meeting will be to discuss topics that will be of importance to your group and to A.A. as a whole.

DECEMBER 12,13,14, 1980: Southeastern Regional Forum will be held at the Ladha Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. This is a meeting for G.S.R.'s and alternates on A.A. World Service level, but is not restricted to just those people. All those interested in A.A. service are urged to attend.

TO ALL GROUPS: Intergroup is enclosing with this news letter a questionnaire for each group in Districts 7 & 8 and ask that they be filled out completely and returned by the date requested. This information is filed in the Intergroup Office, in the confidential files, and used for communication when someone calls for help. Thank you to reply.

## ANNOUNCING:

## A FORMATION SESSION OF AN INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

To serve our area.

Date Nov. 10, 1980.

Place: 12½ Wall Street

Time: 6:30 PM. We hope to be free in time to "make a meeting" for any who so desire.

Purpose: To provide a place and time for sharing experience, strength and hope with each other, among those already involved in institutions work: To share our wants and needs in those institutions served, in hope that others may be able to help where we are "stumped": To assess what we have in the line of services already: And finally to see what needs there are, and how they may be filled for institutions not already served. In the light of this last part of the purpose, all persons who have any information that they feel will be useful to such a committee, are invited to attend, if that is possible and if it is not, they are invited to send such information to P.O. Box 9312, Asheville, 28815 before the date of the meeting, so that it may be shared by all in attendance.

## NEWS ITEM, AND AN APPEAL

It has been brought to the attention of some, that there is a particular and specific need for the formation of a meeting to serve the inmates of the Henderson Co. unit of the N.C. Prison system, located outside of Mountain Home, N.C. Any and all persons who would care to share in this most valuable opportunity to help with a twelfth step "job" to a group are most cordially invited to join us at the above meeting, and if this is not possible, to get such information as times they might be available, whether one time or on a regular basis, to the temporary chairman: "Gerry" D. P.O. Box 9312, Asheville, N.C. 28815.

"I understand they have a curfew in this village," said the visitor to the proprietor of the general store.

"No," he answered, "they did have one, but they abandoned it."

"What was the matter?"

"Well, the bell rang at 9 o'clock and almost everybody complained it woke them up."

*Sunshine Magazine*

PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU never to let little things bother you have never tried sleeping in a room with a mosquito.

On Swearing

We have been receiving many calls of late regarding swearing at open meetings. The use of foul language is especially embarrassing to fellow members who bring their spouses, children and friends to these meetings. They feel that an open meeting is a nice way to introduce loved ones to our fellowship so they may better understand what we are like and how we are finding a new way of life through A.A.

It's hard to explain away the use of vile language that wouldn't be tolerated even at the local tavern.

Please, let's remember that we may be the only big book someone else may read.

From time to time we have featured articles regarding the use of foul language by speakers at closed and open meetings, and to date we have received not one letter from our readers to condone or justify using the language of the gutter. (Thanks to "Here's How," Chicago)

"A person who thinketh by the inch,  
But talketh by the yard,  
Deserveth  
To be kicketh by the foot."

(From Elks' Club Bulletin Board, New Bern, N.C.)

The Only Requirement

No one could ever claim that A.A. is a stranger to controversy, but sometimes an issue arises that could do serious harm to A.A., if not eventually destroy our fellowship. Our Fourth Tradition states that each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups as a whole. But at what point does autonomy cease being desirable and start to affect other groups and A.A. overall?

CONT. #

Our Fifth Tradition states that each group has but one primary purpose -- to carry its message to alcoholics who still suffer. But notice that it says "alcoholic" rather than "drug addict" or "chemically dependent person." Many treatment centers and hospitals are now telling their patients that there is no difference between alcoholism and addiction to narcotics, barbiturates, tranquilizers and other addictive drugs.

Graduates of these institutions then continue to foster misconceptions by sponsoring "more recent graduates and encouraging narcotic and pill addicts, who have no real alcohol problem at all, to call themselves A.A. members and to attend closed A.A. meetings. In many cases this is leading to the formation of so-called "A.A. groups," many of whose members are not alcoholic at all, but who use the group to try to recover from a narcotic or pill addiction.

This violates our Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Traditions. We feel strongly at this point the autonomy of these "groups" and their members is affecting other groups and A.A. as a whole, and could even lead to the collapse of A.A. as a fellowship, unless these misconceptions are corrected. This whole controversial subject is more than adequately covered in the A.A. pamphlet entitled, "Problems Other Than Alcohol," by A.A. cofounder Bill W.

We could not be more sympathetic with the non-alcoholic drug addict who sincerely wants to recover and sees A.A.'s astounding record of success with alcoholics. We'll gladly lend you our Twelve Steps and other tools if they will help you, but we must ask you not to attend our closed meetings under false pretenses, since that lead to misunderstanding and disappointment for you, and would divert us alcoholics from our primary purpose, which is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

We must also request that hospitals, treatment centers and counselors refrain from encouraging their nonalcoholic patients to attend closed meetings in A.A. under false pretenses. Honesty is one of the primary requirements for recovery, whether from alcoholism or any other addiction.

If you have a genuine alcoholic problem and in addition have become hooked on pills, as has happened to so many of us, you are of course welcome at any A.A. meeting, whether open or closed. We do ask, however, that at meetings you confine your remarks to your alcoholic problem. With recovery from alcoholism, the pill problem will usually take care of itself in due time.

(Thanks to the Louisiana Area Assembly Newsletter)



*"Please let me know when I've exceeded the minimum daily adult requirement."*

THE DARKEST HOUR has only 60 minutes.

—Morris Mandel in *Jewish Press*

During a flood, one family sent their little boy to stay with an uncle in another part of the state, accompanied by a letter explaining the reason for the nephew's sudden and unexpected visit. A few days later, the parents received this telegram: "Am returning your boy. Send the flood."

*Sunshine Magazine*

The real great man is the man who makes every man feel great.  
C. C. Chesterton

SEX APPEAL is 50 percent what you've got and 50 percent what people think you've got.  
—Sophia Loren, quoted in *The Wit and Wisdom of Hollywood*, edited by Max Wilk (Atheneum)  
—Aristotle  
THERE IS a foolish corner in the brain of the wisest man.

—George Washington  
TRUE FRIENDSHIP is a plant of slow growth.  
TELL ME what you are busy about, and I will tell you what you are. —Goethe  
ANYBODY WITH MONEY TO BURN will easily find someone to tend the fire.  
—Pocket Crossword Puzzles

To support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference recommends that groups follow the "60-30-10" plan. It works like this:

**AA**

**First, take care of basic group expenses** (rent, refreshments and A.A. literature).

**AA**

**Divide remaining funds as follows:**

**60%**

**to your Intergroup or Central Office.**

To support phone service for 12th step calls and other inquiries; coordination of group activities; and A.A. literature sales.\*

**30%**

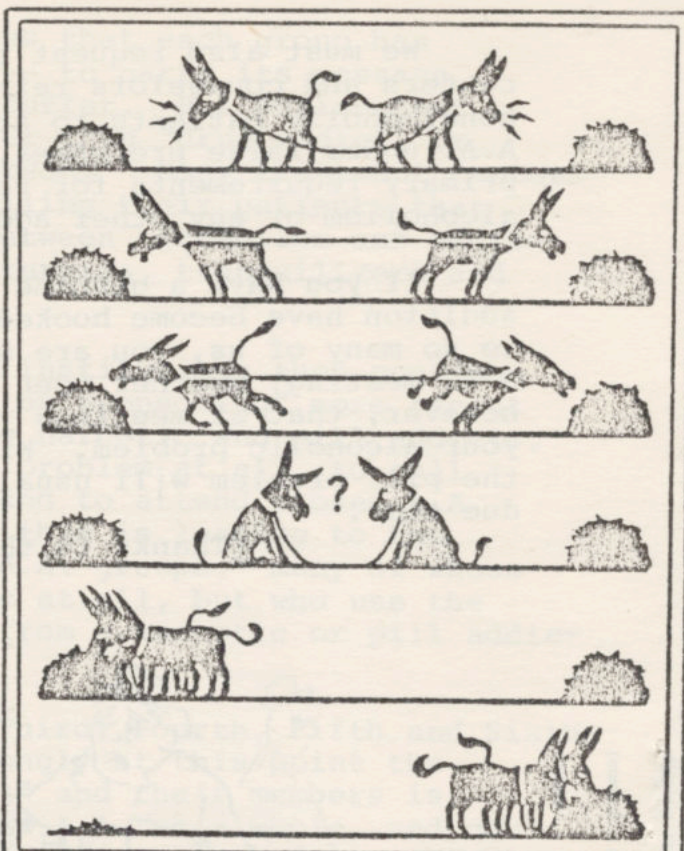
**to your General Service Office.**

To support group services throughout the U.S./Canada; the General Service Conference; helping lone members and groups in institutions; and carrying the A.A. message worldwide.

**10%**

**to your Area Committee.**

To support area assemblies, delegates' expenses and area public information and institution work.



## TEAMWORK

AN EDITORIAL  
WITHOUT WORDS

**We all find time to do what we really want to do** (William Feather).

**Seldom is anyone so spiritual as to strip himself entirely of self-love** (Thomas à Kempis).

**He who has no government of himself has no enjoyment of himself** (Benjamin Whichcote).

WITH great curiosity many students have on several occasions asked me to describe hell. Sometimes I wonder whether there could be any hell worse than simply being completely undisturbed. Life is deadly with boredom when there is neither risk nor discomfort in it.

A cartoon I saw recently pictured a woman in a bookstore saying to a clerk as she perused a book, "I'd like to be moved, but not upset."

Living such an undisturbed life causes us to ignore life's available alternatives. This kind of laziness, indecision, and apathy creates hell—a sameness that lasts forever.

Life is for venturing, and that means taking and using the available alternatives plus all the risks involved for the sake of something worthy and good. There is no other road to inner satisfaction except that which leads by way of discontent with things as they are.

The future is always open to new possibilities.

P. E. Adotey Addo (Greensboro, North Carolina)

### FAITH

Faith--what is it to me?

I believe faith without works is no faith at all.

When I took the 3rd step, I turned everything over to God, not just parts. Everything: life, will and future. Because I never did anything right when I was running the show.

My faith begins every day and ends with prayer. And my right to drink, I have none.

My faith today is doing everything that I think is pleasing to God. My action in the program, my sharing with others, my working hard at my job, my accepting others as they are and giving them the right to live too.

And by doing this, I ask for nothing in return. Today, God gives me what I need. And, I'm not alone any more.

"ANONYMOUS" - REBOS GROUP

Henry David Thoreau:

When I am going out for an evening I arrange the fire in my stove so that I do not fail to find a good one when I return, though it would have engaged my frequent attention had I been present. Sometimes, when I know I am to be home, I make believe I may go out and I build my best fire. And this is the art of living, too—to leave our life in a condition to go alone, and not to require a constant supervision. We will then sit down serenely to live, as by the side of a stove.

James Thom:

If you try to improve one person by being a good example, you're improving two. If you try to improve someone without being a good example, you won't improve anybody. *- Nuggets*

ONE STRAWBERRY to another: "If we hadn't been in the same bed, we wouldn't be in this jam now."

*-Sir George Bellow in After-Dinner Laughter, edited by Sylvia L. Boehm (Sterling)*

MY HUSBAND works for an oil company that has been in the Boston area for well over a century. One day a check came from a man whose name was not on the books. Assuming the payment was made in error, my husband phoned the sender.

No mistake. "Forty years ago, I was forced into bankruptcy," the man explained. "I vowed then that I'd repay those debts, if ever I could. I kept a list, and this month it was your turn."

*-MRS. BERNARD A. SMITH (Concord, Mass.)*

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION brought back an Egyptian mummy to Russia. After failing to determine the mummy's exact age, the scientists called in the KGB. Four hours later the secret police came out of the lab and said the mummy was exactly 3147 years old. The scientists were amazed and wanted to know how they found out.

"Simple," said a KGB man. "The mummy confessed."

*-Pat Henry, quoted by Joey Adams, Columbia Features*



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NOVEMBER  
~~OCTOBER~~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

YEARS

Nat A.	Hendersonville	19
Fred E.	Hendersonville	3
Ed G.	Hendersonville	1
Jean W.	Traditional	4
Barry O'B.	Traditional	7
Dallas N.	Traditional	4
Morris R.	Traditional	7
Pat C.	Victoria	3
Tom H.	Victoria	10
Oliver A.	Waynesville	7
Don O.	Fletcher	18
Alvin W.	Sylva	12
Ray S.	Sylva	2
Howard B.	Sylva	2
Bill W.	Haw Creek	3
Mary W.	Haw Creek	3
Johnny W.	Ledger	1
Howard P.	Blue Ridge	32
Woody O.	Blue Ridge	17
		<u>155</u>

11,688



Note: Next Intergroup meeting will be held in the Parkway Office Building, Asheville, N.C. at 3:00 P.M. November 16. Each group is welcome and urged to attend.

REPEAT

DAY TIME MEETINGS IN ASHEVILLE AS FOLLOWS (12:30 P.M.)  
(Except as noted.)

- Monday ----- Allen Center, 331 College Street
- Tuesday ----- 12½ Wall Street
- Wednesday (Men) ----- 12½ Wall Street
- (Women) ----- Allen Center
- Thursday ----- 12½ Wall Street
- Friday ----- Allen Center
- Saturday ----- Allen Center (11:00 A.M.)
- Sunday ----- Allen Center (11:00 A.M.)

HAZELWOOD PRISON: Thursday nights at 7:30 P.M. Need speakers sponsors. Contact Mr. John D. P.O. Box 206, Hazelwood, N.C. 28378. Phone (704)452-5141.

WE OFTEN PARDON those who bore us, but we cannot pardon those whom we bore.  
-La Rochefoucauld