



MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Intergroup of W.N.C. March 1988

A.A. CALENDAR

District 70 Eating Meeting (Open meeting) Sun. Mar. 13, Eat-4PM, Speaker-5 PM. St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., Asheville. Host: Dist. 70 GSRs. Speaker: Dick W.

Dist. 80 GSR's Business Meeting/Workshop Quarterly meeting. Sun. Mar. 13, 3 PM in the Jackson County Public Library, Main Street, Sylva. Please ask your GSR's, alternates, and any others interested to attend. A report on the Mar. 5-6 Area Committee Meeting will be given, also the schedule for the GSR's Spring Assembly.

Dist. 70 Public Information Sat. Mar. 20, 2 PM, St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., Asheville. The P.I. committee needs your help. Groups: PLEASE choose a P.I. Representative to attend this meeting. Any other interested AAs are urged to attend.

District 70 & 80 Intergroup Sun. Mar. 13

3 PM, St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Road, Asheville. Intergroup also needs your help. Groups: PLEASE send the name, address, and phone number your Intergroup Representative to: Intergroup of WNC, 107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801

N.C.-Bermuda Spring Assembly May 7 & 8. Regency Hyatt House, Winston Salem, NC. Hotel Reservations: (Special rate \$46 for two double beds/night.) Toll free phone: 1 800 228 9000 or phone direct: 1 919 725 1234 ext 622 - Reservations.

Southeastern Convention & North Carolina State Convention Aug. 17 - 20, Regency Hyatt House, Winston Salem. For Advance Registration and Advance Hotel application write: Chairman, P.O. Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27619

Grape-a-thon, March 12, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh, NC Pete G., former Ashevillean, is leading a workshop for the Grapevine.

A Plea for Help

Many of the new members that now come into A.A. do so after first being exposed to A.A. in a institution. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. There are three places that desparately need help. Sarge H. who just suffered a stroke was active at each of these. You can help too. You can enrich your own sobriety from attending these meetings to regularly chairing some of them. The need here is for AAs that have good sobriety who will lead, not push, keep it simple and carry the Big Book message to those that need it. You can help by just visiting to regularly chair meetings.

1. The Turning Point Group has meetings attended by those in a 21 day recovery program. It meets in the conference room on the east side of the main floor of the Oteen VA Hospital at 1 P.M. Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information see Jim O'H. or Jim D.

2. At the Alcoholic Rehab. Center, Black Mountain, at 10 AM Saturday mornings, a "question and answer" meeting is paneled by A.A. members with the alcoholics going through a 28 day program. For information see Jim O'H.

3. Eight meeting a week are held by the Just for Today Group. At the Neil D. Detox Center these open meetings are attended by people in treatment, clients of Blue Ridge Mental Health, as well as many newcomers. As many as 25 to 30 may attend this meeting, almost all having less than a year's sobriety. This group meets Mon.-Fri. 12 Noon, Tues. & Sat. 8 PM, Sun. 2 PM. For more information please see Sharon or Wayne W. or Jim D.

The Haywood Road group has discontinued their Thursday night meeting. They will continue to meet Monday at 8 P.M.

INTERGROUP MEETING

The regular January meeting of Intergroup representatives was postponed. It was finally held at St. Joan of Arc Church in West Asheville on January 31, too late to be reported in the last edition of Mountain Doin's. Thirteen people including five Intergroup officers, one G.S.R. and three other visitors attended.

In previous meetings it was proposed that Intergroup obtain a 1-800 telephone number to serve areas in Western North Carolina where local phone access to A.A. is unavailable or not listed. Marvin M. presiding read a letter from G.S.O. reporting their limited experience with use by Intergroups of 1-800 telephone numbers. He also read cost figures for the proposed installation and use of toll-free 800 numbers to serve areas in Districts 70 and 80 where access to A.A. by a local call is unavailable and not listed. Future study and action was discussed.

After five and one-half years of service Charlotte F. has resigned as Intergroup Coordinator. Bob V. was elected to be the new Intergroup Coordinator. The current plan is that Bob will be at the Intergroup Office three days a week and Miriam K. will handle it the other two. And after five years Diane M. resigned as Mountain Doin's Editor, but will remain as Intergroup Treasurer. Jim D. volunteered and was accepted for this job.

Chips are now being sold at the Intergroup office at 20 cents each.

On Sunday March 20 another meeting of Intergroup representatives was held at St. Joan of Arc Church. The 1-800 telephone number was discussed in detail. This service is being investigated primarily to handle 12 step calls in two situations-- (1.) For areas where A.A. is not in the phone book, and (2.) For communities in W.N.C. which now bear high cost locally due to having a local A.A. phone and/or answering service, which might be eliminated.

The monthly for this service for incoming calls only from a 50 mile radius obtained was \$33/month which covers the charge for first hour of use. This flat monthly charge calculates to 55 cents per minute for the first hour's use. After the first hour an additional charge of 22 cents per minute will be made.

Various ways of handling the calls by Intergroup and the answering service were discussed. A method arrive at a protects members' anonymity and reduces or eliminates long distance calls which would be necessary if calls were handled by the present method.

This service is not needed by the groups in or near Asheville. To be effective local groups must bear the cost of putting this in their local phone books. It was decided to refer this matter to the DCMs of Districts 70 & 80 so that a group conscience can be obtained.

DCM's Corner - District 80

Our Second Tradition: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

There is a great deal said in these few lines. To try and sum it up briefly- there are no bosses in A.A. No one in A.A. can tell another A.A. what to do. For our group, decisions should be made as a group conscience--after a full discussion of all the information. It's always been said in A.A. the best group conscience is an informed group conscience. Your group is kept informed by your trusted servants, i.e. GSR and Intergroup Representative. If your servants are not doing what your group trusted them to do then your group is not being informed. Rotation of group officers is suggested, so that all may share, to prevent problems based on personalities, and so that no power or prestige is built up. A term used by the State Committee for the latter is "The Daddy Rabbit". It is the one person in the group who makes all the decisions without the discussion on approval of the group conscience. This tradition if utilized by the group will put an end to the "Daddy Rabbit", will involve more members, and truly let God express Himself in your group conscience. Bob R. DCM, District 80

FIRST TRADITION: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.

Our brother the noisy drunk affords the simplest illustration of this Tradition. If he insists on disrupting the meeting, we "invite" him to leave, and we bring him back when he's in better shape to hear the message. We are putting the 'common welfare' first. But it is his welfare, too; if he's ever to get sober, the group must go on functioning, ready for him.

Yet he is only one rare aspect of the problem. When we do get sober in A.A., we shed a few small bits of the Big Ego: We admit, "I can't handle alcohol, and I can't stay away from it on my own." Fine so far! Then we find there is plenty of that Ego still with us. It may lead us to take other members' inventories and to gossip about their supposed shortcomings. It may lure us into hogging the floor at every discussion meeting.

Oh well, it's a selfish program, isn't it? After all the miseries of active alcoholism, why shouldn't we indulge ourselves a little? We all know one good reason why we shouldn't: Self-indulgence of this kind is an immediate personal danger; it threatens the individual's own sobriety. More than that, it threatens the very basis of our sobriety--the unity of the A.A. group. For a self-righteous gossip can damage the mutual trust that is vital to every group. And a compulsive talker can ruin the effectiveness of a discussion meeting--"I've stopped going to that group. Nobody but Joe can get a word in edgewise." (The above is from the pamphlet 'The Twelve Traditions Illustrated' with permission of A.A. World Services.)

FROM THE EDITOR: We got an anonymous complaint of A.A. speakers swearing. On hearing one young man recently, I was delighted with his growth in a few years of sobriety, but a gentleman in the audience loudly objected to a relatively few four letter words that the young man now used.

When I read the above tradition article my Big Ego then got in the way of my sanity. I wrote a long list of my gripes about people in A.A., all much worse than a swearer. The compulsive talker, chronic complainer, self-appointed expert, bleeding deacon, and the self-righteous gossip and reformer, were all on my list. I justified resenting these people because they broke the First Tradition. They were driving others from A.A. This had to stop!

I recalled "Easy Does It" and a line out of the Third Step in the Big Book "First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work." Then my sanity returned. I had not taken their inventory I had taken my own. Hadn't I been the very kind of person which I resented. I was being the chronic complainer, the self-righteous reformer, the bleeding deacon etc. I had been covering up self-hate with self-justifications and resentments.

However, if I had been chastised by A.A. for my shortcomings I might be dead or insane today. Instead I was accepted as I was and A.A. let God restore me to sanity. How do A.A.'s Twelve Steps work? It works just fine if we work them! And the Traditions? They work just fine also, if we work them. This tradition means to me: For my own good, I have to remember that God didn't make me boss. What does it mean to you?

Mountain Doin's is the monthly newsletter for Intergroup of WNC of Alcoholics Anonymous serving A.A. Districts 70 & 80.

A.A. groups and members may contribute information or very short articles for publication in keeping with our Twelve Traditions. Material may contain quotations with credit only from the A.A. Grapevine or A.A. conference approved literature. The dead line for publication is the 25th for the following month's issue. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Intergroup or A.A. as a whole.

With permission Mountain Doin's may contain material copyrighted by The Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc. or Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Intergroup of WNC is located at 107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801. Phone number is (704) 254-8539. Office hours - 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Visitors always welcome.

I-Group Phone Log

Feb. 2 to 19 = 3 weeks

Answering Service Calls	76
General Information	7
A.A. Help	8
Family Help (Alanon)	7
Meeting Information	16
Intergroup Business	7
Public Information	3
Others	5
Total calls	129
Visitors to Office	18

A.A. Birthdays

Acceptance Group		
Tom C.	3/2/87	1
Sterrn M.	3/27/83	5
Doug W.	3/28/87	1
Bruno V.	3/22/82	6
Andrews Group		
Jim W.	2/12/61	27
Brevard Group		
Dell B.	2/25/87	1
Cumberland Avenue Group		
Mike P.	2/12/81	7
Doug O.	3/9/72	16
Bill D.	3/4/72	16
Haywood Road Group		
Jo H.	Dec. 73	14
Bill W.	Nov. 76	11
Mars Hill Group		
Luther W.	Feb. 87	1
Barbara N.	5/15/82	5
Ginnie S.	5/30/78	10
Marshall Group		
Jake Z.	3/31/65	3
Murphy Group		
Bob W.	Mar. 87	9
Not Today Group		
Bryson City		
Pam C.	3/21/86	2
Hayesville Group		
John B.	4/15/61	27
Hendersonville Group		
Mike S.	3/29/77	11
Linda F.	3/3/86	2
Grady S.	3/29/86	2
Irma D.	3/7/85	3
David F.	3/19/87	1
Carmelita T.	3/20/83	5
Traditional Group		
Thurman W.	3/11/85	3
Bob V.	3/14/79	9
Mike J.	3/25/86	2
Waynesville Grace Group		
Curly S.	1/1/87	1
Charline T.	1/1/80	8
Joseph M.	1/4/74	14
Harold M.	1/6/86	2
Jim B.	1/16/84	4
Kittie P.	1/29/84	4
Rick C.	1/29/84	1
Harriet P.	2/20/84	4
West Asheville Group		
Jack L.	3/18/86	2
Ed R.	3/4/72	16
Claton W.	3/9/80	8

Treasurer's Report

February 1988

Group Contributions:	
Acceptance	30.00
Back to Basics	20.00
Black Mountain	31.34
Brevard	25.00
Fletcher	25.00
Haywood Road	30.00
Hendersonville	99.41
Hope	10.00
Intergroup Meeting	33.35
Marshall	20.00
Murphy	20.00
Open Door	10.00
Round Table	36.00
Traditional	30.00
West Asheville	35.00
Total for Groups	460.10
Individual Contrib.	200.00

Expenses:	
AA World Services (literature)	131.50
Answerphone	51.80
Asheville Citizen Times	64.71
Coordinator Expense	360.00
Haywood Road Group	5.00
Mountain Doin's	59.01
Office Supplies	25.88
Park Place Rent	85.00
St. Joan of Arc Church	10.00
Southern Bell	72.21
Total Expenses	865.11

Summary:	
Balance	4.29
Groups	460.10
Individuals	200.00
Literature Sold	205.40
Total	869.79
Less Expenses	-865.11
Balance	4.68

We closed the books early this month. Check next month's financial statement for contributions made after 2/22/88.

For five years Diane M. has done excellent job as Editor of the Mountain Doin's. Assisted only by her Apple computer she quietly and unselfishly spent many of her hours each month to twelve step us all with this publication.