

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Intergroup Newsletter

June 1990



Published by Intergroup of WNC
(N. Carolina Districts 70 & 80)

107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woodfin Place,
Asheville, NC 28801 Phone: (704)254-8539

Readers' Forum

LIVE LETTERS

Our Program of Paradoxes

The longer I am in this wonderful program, the more I realize the many paradoxes. To me, the 12 step program of recovery isn't a prison which confines me, but a vehicle which frees me. Certainly, the Big Book, the 12 & 12, meetings, etc. are and always must be the cornerstone of my recovery. I look at these as the tip of a spiritual iceberg which is available to me and feel truly blessed that mountains of other sources of spiritual growth are available which, thanks to this program, I am beginning to understand and apply for the first time in my life. —B.B.

Non-AAs at Open Meetings

I am writing to ask all the AA groups to share their experience, strength and hope on the issue of visitors at OPEN AA meetings. At some meetings, members of other Twelve-Step programs such as Al-Anon and NA attend. Are they permitted to speak to the topic? To read the literature? To contribute money? To make coffee?

Are there specific guidelines about this, or how do other group-conscience decisions resolve this? —J.A.

(Editor's note: Good question. Opinions from members of groups in our areas will be welcomed. In the meantime, here's what Bill W. had to say about the subject: "We cannot give AA membership to non-alcoholic narcotics addicts. But, like anyone else, they should be able to attend certain open AA

meetings, provided, of course, that the groups themselves are willing. . . . There seems to be no reason why several AAs cannot join with a group of straight addicts to solve the alcohol and drug problem together." We hope that readers will share their own thoughts on this subject.)

The Invisible Minority

This letter comes to share the experience, strength and hope of gay and lesbian alcoholics in Districts 70 and 80. We are an invisible minority, yet we sit with you, share our problems and hopes with you, and we work the AA program just like you. Yet, respecting AA's singleness of purpose, and yes, fearing rejection, we generally don't share our homosexuality at meetings.

Some of our unique problems in sobriety may be: discovering where to go for a healthy gay social life when we give up our old playgrounds, the gay bars; how we might introduce our "partners" to the benefits of Al-Anon (and how they can possibly introduce themselves when they finally get there!) and most importantly, how to deal with life without picking up that drink!

To help gay and lesbian AAs deal with these problems, there are two AA meetings in Asheville which are sponsored by gays and lesbians. The *Live and Let Live* group meets every Friday night at 8:00p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Charlotte Street. This is an open meeting. The *Lambda* group of AA is a closed meeting (for alcoholics only whether gay or straight), and meets on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. at Unity In The Mountains, Center for the Spiritual Arts, at 701 Merrimon Ave. —a fellow Alcoholic.

(Editor's note: A new pamphlet, "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" is now available as AA approved Conference Literature).



Fellowship News

District 80 Eating Meeting

An Eating Meeting for District 80 has been arranged for Sunday, July 8, at Grace Episcopal Church, Haywood Street, Waynesville, NC. Eating is at 1:30 p.m., Speaker at 2:30 p.m.

New Meetings

Asheville. The Grace Group meets at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays at Orange Street Recovery Center, 25 Orange Street (open, nonsmoking); Tuesdays and Thursdays at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (behind McDonald's Restaurant), corner of Merrimon and Gracelyn Aves. (closed, nonsmoking).

Asheville. Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Early Bird Meeting, at the Spiritual Growth Foundation, 891, Haywood Rd. (Open, nonsmoking)

Hendersonville. In addition to its regular Monday—Friday noon meetings, the Midday Group now meets at noon on Saturdays. (Open, nonsmoking.)

Saluda. "Happy Hour" nonsmoking meetings are now held from 5 p.m to 6 p.m. at Saluda's Episcopal Church Parish House, on Charles Street (one half block up the hill from the post office). For further information, phone 749-9887.

Meeting Changes

Marion. The Marion Group meeting schedule has been changed and the new schedule is as follows:

Monday, 8 p.m. 505 Virginia Ave.
(McDowell Care Center) Open.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. St. John's Parish House, S. Main Street. Closed.

Friday, 8 p.m. 505 Virginia Ave.
(McDowell Care Center) Open.

New "Where and When"

Copies of the newly published *Where and When* are now available at Intergroup. The publication lists all meetings in Districts 70 and 80. A list of Al-Anon meetings is also included.



Intergroup Phone Log

4/9/90--5/4/90

Answering Service Calls	146
General Information	3
A.A.Help	7
Family Help (Al-Anon)	9
Meeting Information	34
Intergroup Business	26
Others	15
Total	240
Visitors to Office	50



Calendar of Events

A.A.L.A. 1990 Roundup

June 8 - 10, 1990, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City, California. Registration forms are available at the Intergroup Office or contact: A.A.L.A. Roundup, 14755 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1-756, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.

Fourth Annual "Sailing Sober Salts" Cruise

June 28 - July 5, 1990, leaving from Vancouver, B.C., and returning there one week later. The return coincides with the start of the International Conference in Seattle. For information call toll-free 1-800-247-1899.

1990 International Conference of Alconolics Anonymous

July 5 - 8, 1990, in Seattle, Washington. A travel agent here in North Carolina has arranged for some special air fares to Seattle. For conference registration and information on the travel packages, contact the Intergroup office.

Fifth International Serenity Run

August 2 - 5, 1990, in Cedaredge, Colorado. Contact: I.S.R., P.O.Box 1143, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

What is Intergroup?

Most of us have heard of Intergroup in connection with AA, but exactly what is it? What does it do?

Bill W. first explained the idea of a centralized office or "intergroup" when he wrote in the *Grapevine* in September, 1950, "We learned that each AA group ought to be primarily a spiritual entity, not a business corporation . . . that group responsibility would have to reach much further than the meeting hall doorstep on Tuesday and Thursday nights only. Otherwise the new man approaching our door might miss his chance, might lose his life."

"Slowly, most reluctantly, groups in densely populated areas saw they would have to form associations, open small offices, pay a few fulltime secretaries.

". . . We have lots of good intergroup associations now, voluntarily supported, . . . local meeting directories are issued, public relations attended to, regional gatherings and dinners set up . . . In short, intergroups do those area chores that no single individual or group could. They unify regions; they make AA tick."

WNC Intergroup's Mission

Every part of Intergroup's program revolves around carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. And it does this in a number of ways. First, it keeps groups and individual members informed of activities available for their mutual and general interest. It provides a communications and referral service for members, prospective members, sponsors, Twelfth Step volunteers, speakers, the public and media, and assists where possible in cooperating with, but not affiliating with, institutions whose interests include recovery from alcoholism. It provides, as a convenience for groups and individuals, a selection of *Intergroup approved* literature (and this might not be limited only to Conference approved literature). Chips and other items are available for sale on a nonprofit basis.

Telephone Service

A very important function is the telephone service. Anyone who has any type of inquiry may call the Intergroup office number between 9:30 and 12:30 any morning be-

tween Monday and Friday and seek any sort of information relating to AA, and receive a courteous and informed response. At all other times, an answering service will respond. The telephone number at present is (704) 254-8539, but, as reported elsewhere in *Mountain Doin's* an 800 number will be available at some time in the future.

Other Objectives

Intergroup also endeavors to pass on information about activities, group meeting changes, new meetings and other events, and also to serve as an interchange of news, suggestions, questions, and many other points of interest that encourage friendly communication between all members of AA in their many widespread groups, through publication of the monthly *Mountain Doin's*, in order to act as a forum of mutual interest and sharing. That's why individual as well as group subscriptions are strongly encouraged. For \$3 a year you can keep in touch with AA activities and fellow members throughout all of Western North Carolina.

Where the money comes from

The General Service Conference suggests that individual groups adopt a specific contribution plan that suits their own situation. And as an example it suggests that groups first take care of basic group expenses for rent, refreshments, literature, and a prudent reserve for emergencies; then divide the remaining funds to Intergroup, GSO, area committee, district. And a popular contribution plan seems to be: 60% to Intergroup, 25% to GSO, 10% to area committee, 5% to district.

Obviously, Intergroup has to operate within its budget—and its budget comes entirely from the groups within its district. Does your group follow these suggestions? You can tell how much your group contributes by reading the Treasurer's Reports published each month in *Mountain Doin's*.

Group Involvement

First, let's look at numbers. We've been to groups where there were just five members. And we've been to groups where fifty members are the norm. Most groups who meet regularly, sometimes daily, sometimes once or twice a week, number somewhere between those two extremes. And there are more than seventy groups in Districts 70

and 80 (served by our Intergroup of Western North Carolina).

All groups are encouraged to nominate an Intergroup representative. That person is a very important link between the central office and the representative's own group. And it is in each group's own interest to have a member attend every Intergroup meeting so that they can bring their own group's point of view, wishes, and suggestions.

Intergroup Meeting Attendance

Does a representative from your group attend Intergroup meetings, of which there are only four a year? Take a look at the Intergroup Meeting Minutes published in *Mountain Doin's*. Those attending are listed (first names and initials only, of course). Do you recognize your group representative's name? If not, try and encourage the representative to attend future meetings—it is in the interest of every member of your group to provide input. And there's another reason why it's important that your group is represented. Intergroup officers are elected and hold office for two years only. And it is only by attending these meetings that you can nominate and vote for the members of your choice.

Just Where Is Intergroup of WNC?

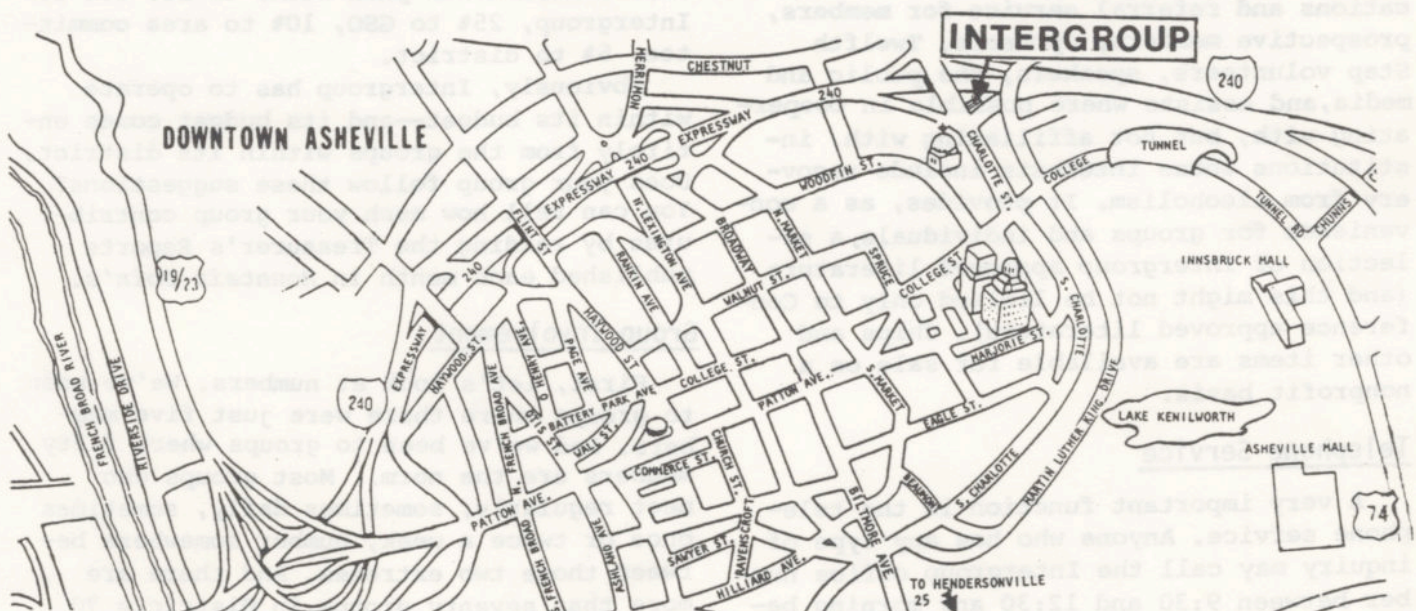
Well, most of us know it's in Asheville and, of course, if you live in Asheville, probably all you need to be told is that

Intergroup's office is in that large red-brick building that stands on the corner of Charlotte and Woodfin Place.

If you sometimes visit Asheville but don't know it very well, it's a safe assumption that you've been through the tunnel on Tunnel Road. Well, if you drive from the east along Tunnel Road, past the Asheville Mall on your left, drive through the tunnel and take the second turning on your right. (The first is Martin Luther King Drive and the second is Charlotte Street.) So turn right onto Charlotte and right again at the next turning, which is Woodfin Place. The big red-brick building staring at you on the corner is what you're looking for. Drive into the parking lot, enter through the double doors under the large green awning. You're there!

If you're coming up from the south or southeast—such as Flat Rock, Saluda, Hendersonville, Fletcher, Arden, etc., on I.26, you'll need to follow Rte 240 and stay on it until you reach the Charlotte Street exit. The ramp leads straight into Woodfin Place. At the traffic signal at the ramp's end, cross straight over, and the building on the lefthand corner is what you're looking for. (Those traveling from the west would also most likely approach via 240).

And if that isn't clear, then, of course, there's always the map.



Treasurer's Report



CONTRIBUTIONS

Acceptance	\$ 10.00
Arden Step-Study	40.00
Black Mountain	30.00
Blue Ridge	25.00
Brevard	35.91
Cashiers Valley	25.00
Day-By-Day	30.00
First Step	25.00
Fletcher	25.00
Franklin	30.00
Hendersonville	68.17
Intergroup Meeting	15.00
Leicester	25.00
Live & Let Live	5.00
Maggie Valley	40.00
Marion	50.00
Marshall	20.00
Midday	100.00
Ridgerunners	45.00
Serenity Service	40.00
Unity	20.00
West Asheville	35.00
Total	739.08

EXPENSES

Rent: 107 Park Place	92.00
Meeting Room	10.00
Phone: Basic Service	83.01
Answer Service	64.40
Equipment Lease	16.53
Printing--Newsletter	105.00
Checks	30.19
Postage	30.46
Meeting Supplies	5.00
Petty Cash	5.00
Special Worker-Coordinator	390.00
Editorial expenses	46.00
Literature--AAWS	119.75
Chips	43.00
Bank Services	1.00
Total	1118.20

SUMMARY

Balance 3-31-90 224.87

INCOME

Group Contributions	739.08
Sales--Lit. & Chips	308.30
Total	1047.38
Sub-total (Available)	1272.25

Office	954.45
Literature	119.75
Chips	43.00
Bank Services	1.00
Total	1118.20
BALANCE	154.05

Mountain Doin's is your personal contact with other members in our area and with Intergroup of Western North Carolina. We encourage personal subscriptions as well

as group subscriptions to the newsletter. All you have to do is fill in the form below and mail it in with your check or money order to the address shown below.

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Name: _____ (If group, name of contact) _____
(individual or group)

Mailing address: _____

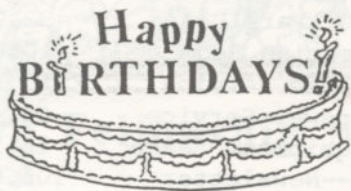
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

	MONTHLY RATE		ANNUAL RATE	
	1st class	3rd class	1st class	3rd class
One copy (1 oz)	.25c	.25c	\$3.00	n/a
Five copies (3 oz)	.65c	.65c	\$7.80	n/a
Ten copies (6 oz)	\$1.25	\$1.00	\$15.00	\$12.00
Fifteen (8 oz)	\$1.65	\$1.10	\$19.80	\$13.20

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ copies to be sent by _____ class mail.

Please make check or money order payable to:

Intergroup of WNC, 107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woofdin Place, Asheville, NC 28801



Acceptance Group

Jack M. 9 years

Black Mountain Group

Cindy P. 6/10/79 11 years
 Don R. 6/22/61 29 years
 Ken F. 6/12/84 6 years
 Forrest M. 6/10/79 11 years
 David J. 6/22/86 4 years

Blue Ridge Group (Flat Rock)

Barbara S. 6/11/83 7 years

Brevard Group

Steve F. 5/13/83 7 years
 Karen B. 5/4/86 4 years

Cumberland Group

Danny K. 5/1/89 1 year
 Bob C. 5/10/80 10 years

Hayesville Group

John B. 4/15/61 29 years

Marion Group

Bill J. 11 years
 Glenda B. 8 years
 Francene D. 3 years

Midday Group

Sam B. 6/9/88 2 years
 Tom B. 6/2/88 2 years
 Bob J. 6/15/88 2 years
 Alan W. 6/20/88 2 years

Ridgerunners Group

Jim T. 12 years
 Janet F. 4 years
 Chris M. 1 year

Traditional Group

Luther B. 6/7/89 1 year
 Pete G. 6/21/84 6 years
 Wilma G. 6/28/84 6 years
 Dwight O. 6/6/84 6 years

Intergroup Meeting Minutes

INTERGROUP MEETING--APRIL 8, 1990

Attending: Rod B., Ken F., Alan W., Bob V., Jim R., Cindy P., Bill S., Marty S., Mark P., Glenn H., Jim W., Ruth R., Gene V., Martin M., Charlie A., Alvin W.

Minutes of the January meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Rod B. gave a brief review of recent Intergroup changes for the benefit of the many individuals attending an Intergroup meeting for the first time. A discussion of purposes of Intergroup and its value to groups at the far reaches of our districts followed.

Approval was voted for Bob V. to serve as office coordinator and Alan W. to serve as *Mountain Doin's* editor.

Mountain Doin's report: Alan has had good response to his invitation for letters from readers and will include several in the next issue. The deadline for items to be submitted is the fifth of each month for the next month's issue.

Decision was made to reprint the *Where and When* with Al-Anon meetings listed as before because contact has not been made with the persons in Al-Anon with authority to consider printing their own list.

Bob V. gave a brief report of statewide Intergroup meeting attended in Winston-Salem in January.

Bob V. investigated costs for an 800 phone number. It is much less than when the previous inquiry had been made. It is too late to get listed in the 1990 directories. The Treasurer says that we cannot afford it at this time. The 800 number will be considered again at the next Intergroup meeting.

The Hendersonville local phone number to Intergroup was installed three weeks ago.

Inquiry of incoming calls as to their source for our phone number is ongoing. Preliminary report indicates that the telephone directory is the primary source.

The next meeting of full Intergroup will be July 15, 1990, in conjunction with the District 70 Eating Meeting. Location and time will be published in *Mountain Doin's*. Election of officers will occur at the July meeting. Full membership is urged to attend. Leslie H., Secretary.