

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Intergroup Newsletter

March 1991



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Readers' Forum

LIVE LETTERS

Dis-Ease about our Disease

I certainly agree with the "TV Talk Show Scoffer's" letter in the February Mountain Doin's. The writer had heard on a recent talk show that alcoholism is not a disease but only an excuse for lack of willpower.

Yet, I've observed that alcoholics are often their own worst enemies in blaming their "disease" for problems which have nothing to do with alcoholism. For example, I recently heard a woman with quite a few years of sobriety share that her employer was very displeased with her work and was about to fire her. On one occasion her employer had asked her "what's wrong with you, anyway? Why can't you do this simple job?" Her comment: "I keep telling him I've got this *disease*, and he just doesn't understand." Likewise, I've heard spouses of alcoholics tell of their alcoholic husbands making a perfectly human mistake, such as running out of gas, and shake their head and say, "Yes, he's stopped drinking but the "ism" is still there." Certainly, alcoholism is a disease; however the Big Book states clearly that when an alcoholic stops drinking and lives according to the 12 steps, he becomes a productive member of society and very much like a non-alcoholic.

This program calls for honesty and responsibility for our own actions. The mistakes we make as imperfect members of the human race have nothing to do with our "disease." So let's not use our "disease" as a scapegoat for our human blunders.

—ST

The Program—in a Nutshell

This letter is in response to the member who in the January 1991 issue of "Mountain Doin's" expressed confusion as to what the AA Program of Recovery is. The AA Program of Recovery is the book called "Alcoholics Anonymous," fondly nicknamed the "Big Book." Let me shed some light on this simple fact.

About two years after the historic meeting between Bill W. and Dr. Bob, 18 recovered alcoholics met to discuss the future of their fledgling society. Among several ideas they discussed, the one which was most predominant was how to preserve their program of recovery for future generations of alcoholics. They had two primary reasons for doing this. First, they had already sensed that their program of recovery was being garbled in the fellowship. Second, the program was being spread throughout the country and thereby outside the then existing realm of Akron, Cleveland and New York, whose members understood the program of recovery.

They decided to write a book which, after some deliberation, they called "Alcoholics Anonymous."

Because the new book was to show a "way out" from alcoholism, they decided to write it in textbook fashion so that they could outline precisely how they had recovered. Bill W. was picked to write the book, subject to the approval of 39 other recovered alcoholics. By the time the book was finished, the number of alcoholics in on its approval was 100.

The book was written in textbook fashion and, in writings up to page 103,

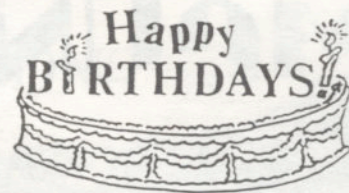
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Live Letters (continued from page 1)

laid out the program of recovery exactly as the first 100 had worked and were living it. In other words, the Program of Recovery, and the Fellowship at that time were exactly the same! This is not true today. Today, the program of recovery as it has been carefully preserved and laid out in the Big Book and the program of recovery as it is discussed in the fellowship are often quite different. For example, the meetings often refer to the 12 steps as they are written on placards in the front of the meeting room as the program of recovery. This is a dangerous half-truth. Yes, those are the suggested twelve steps of the program of recovery, but there is a vital piece of information missing. That is that the INSTRUCTIONS for working the program of recovery are carefully laid out in the Big Book. No precise program of action can be worked to a successful conclusion without the directions and the directions are in the text of our book.

The fellowship has many, many members today. Our job is never to forget what our program is or where it is found. Already the recovery rate in AA for our fatal illness is far below that experienced in the early days of our society. The fact that the individual who wrote the January letter had to ask, "What is our program of recovery?" should be ample proof that we are at risk of losing our program of recovery to a well-intentioned fellowship that needs to remind itself where the program of recovery is to be found. It is not in the fellowship; it is in the first 103 pages of the Big Book! Those of us who are sponsors carefully study our book and walk hand-in-hand with our "pigeons" through its program of recovery. And, "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path." —TB

Editor's note: Readers are reminded that "Live Letters" is a forum for readers' opinions. Views differing from the above will be published in future issues. It is emphasized that the views expressed do not necessarily represent those of AA, Intergroup, or the Editors. All views are welcomed.



Acceptance Group

Richard B.	1-1-85	6 years
Janice	1-1-89	2 years
John C.	1-2-83	8 years
Boyce R.	1-7-82	9 years
John M.	1-15-84	7 years
John S.	1-17-90	1 year
Kathy Y.	1-21-86	5 years
Pam K.	1-30-85	6 years
Dick T.	1-5-77	14 years
Sam S.	2-15-81	10 years
Vicki N.	2-22-85	6 years
Tommy M.	3-8-90	1 year

Blue Ridge Group

Ruth G.	3-26-74	17 years
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Canton Easy Does It Group

Ed H.	2-21-88	3 years
Tommy H.	1-8-89	2 years
Zane H.	1-17-85	6 years
Mike S.	1-21-90	1 year

Marion Group

Buddy F.	1-5-87	4 years
Walter A.	1-15-87	4 years
James M.	1-18-88	3 years

Midday Group

Dale McC.	3-27-84	7 years
Lillian C.	3-15-90	1 year
Don N.	3-23-71	20 years

One Day At A Time Group

Dell B.	2-25-87	4 years
Dot M.	2-14-73	18 years

Sylva Group

Gerald K.	3-21-65	26 years
Herbert W.	1-22-90	1 year
Dan B.	1-2-88	3 years
Margaret G.	2-19-84	7 years
Steve S.	3-8-89	2 years
Brack J.	3-9-83	8 years

West Asheville Group

Charyl R.		7 years
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Treasurer's Report



CONTRIBUTIONS

Acceptance	\$160.00
Back to Basics	75.00
Black Mountain	35.00
Blue Ridge	25.00
Brevard	25.19
Conscious Contact	100.00
Cumberland	50.00
Day by Day	40.00
Etowah Step	20.00
Fletcher	25.00
Franklin (Jan-Mar)	30.00
Hendersonville	74.47
Intergroup Meeting	18.01
Maggie	24.00
Midday	100.00
No Nonsense	25.00
Ridgerunners	41.00
Saluda Happy Hour	5.00
Serenity Service	40.00
Sylvan Valley	30.00
Traditional	56.65
Turning Point	10.00
West Asheville	85.00
Individual Members	15.00
Total	1129.32

EXPENSES

Rent - 107 Park Place	94.00	94
Meeting Room	10.00	
Phone - Basic Service	85.04	72.94
Answer Service	76.20	59.00
Postage	43.94	50.12
Meeting Supplies	5.00	
Printing - Newsletter	90.00	-98.00
Admin. Report	18.90	
Petty Cash	5.00	5.00
Special Workers - Coordinator	408.00	384.00
Editor	46.00	46
Literature	558.88	516.82
Chips	35.10	2.22
Transfer to Reserve	129.65	
Total	1602.71	1,328.10

SUMMARY

Balance ~~12-31-90~~ 2-28-91 390.70 332.17

INCOME

Group Contributions	1114.32	774.89
Individual Contributions	15.00	2.00
Sales - Literature & Chips	406.00	620.70
Total	1535.32	1397.59

Subtotal (Available) 1926.02 1727.76

EXPENSES

Office	882.08	809.06
Literature	555.88	516.82
Chips	35.10	2.22
Transfer to Reserve	129.65	
(Bal. 1-3-91 \$1515.81)		
Total	\$1602.71	1328.10

Balance 1-31-91 \$323.31 406.66

Intergroup Phone Log



"I am responsible . . .
When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I
want the hand of AA al-
ways to be there. And
for that, I am respon-
sible."

Phone Log 1/7/91--2/1/91

Answering Service Calls	178
General Information	16
AA Help	18
Family Help (Al-Anon)	10
Meeting Information	42
Intergroup Business	53
PI Calls	1
Others	24
Visitors	50

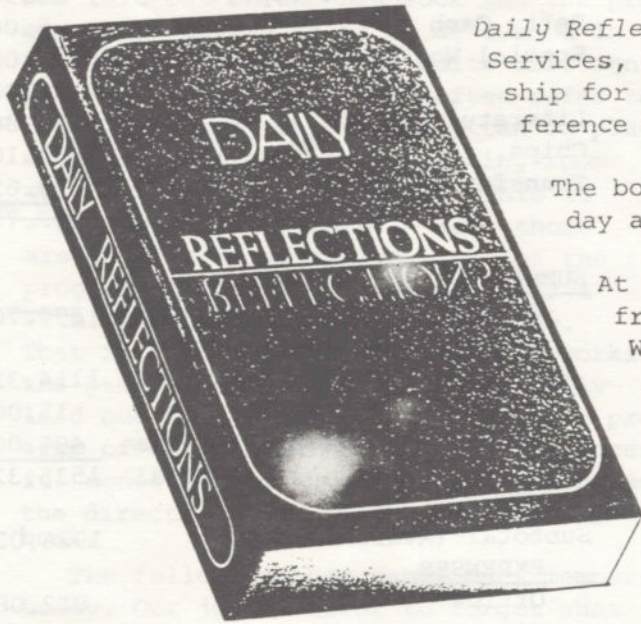


Calendar of Events

29th St. Simon's Island, Georgia, AA
Weekend. February 27--March 3, at the
Methodist Center, Epworth-By-The-Sea, St.
Simons Island, GA 31522. St. Simons will
run as it always has. There will be an
Early Bird Meeting on Wednesday evening,
Speakers meetings on Thursday evening,
Friday evening, Saturday morning, Satur-
day evening, and Sunday morning, with
closing on Sunday at noon. Call Statesboro
(912) 764-5544 about registration or con-
ference; call Epworth (912) 638-8688
about room and board.

DAILY REFLECTIONS

A Book of Reflections by A.A. Members for A.A. Members



Daily Reflections, recently published by A.A. World Services, fulfills a long-felt need in the Fellowship for a book of daily readings that is A.A. Conference approved.

The book moves through the calendar year, one day at a time.

At the top of each dated page is a quotation from one of many A.A. sources, such as Bill W., Dr. Bob, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *As Bill Sees It*, and other Conference approved literature. Following each quotation is a personal reflection on the quotation by an individual A.A. member. The daily reflections were selected from over 1,300 submissions.

Now available from Intergroup at \$5:50 each

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15 Additional Copies	19.80 Per Yr.

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