

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Intergroup Newsletter

November 1991



Published by Intergroup of WNC (Districts 70, 71, and 80). Address: 107 Park Place
Offices, 70 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801. Phone: (704) 254-8539 or 1-800-287-5534

Readers' Forum

LIVE LETTERS

Reader Criticizes "Advertisement"

I would appreciate your printing this in the "Live Letters" section of *Mountain Doin's*. I have my doubts that you will, but as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous I feel I have a responsibility to write this letter.

I was appalled by the column on page 3 of the October *Mountain Doin's*, informing readers of the Neil Dobbins Detox Center. In my opinion it is a clear violation of the Sixth Tradition, in that it implies affiliation and endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous of an outside agency.

If I was a newcomer to AA and read that column I most likely would make the assumption that the Detox Center was a part of Alcoholics Anonymous where we were supposed to take "wet ones" to sober up.

AA's focus is on "Carrying the Message," and we as AA members are RESPONSIBLE for being there when anyone, anywhere reaches out. While Detox's and Treatment Centers may be necessary for some, advertisement of a Detox's policy in an AA newsletters is not in keeping with AA principles. —BR

An Alcoholic's Real World

Welcome to the Real World of an alcoholic.

Good morning sunshine. Thank you, Higher Power, for another day in your beautiful world. A world where I no longer pull the shades down to drown your being. A world where I no longer cry myself to sleep or into awakeness. A world where a scream or fight is no longer necessary to get your attention.

A world of feeling great most of the time and my sickness, if any, is not caused by a hangover. A world where my pain does not come from a broken arm or a fight with a loved one or a crash of an automobile or falling down unnecessarily. From being very drunk and out of my mind and out of the *real* world.

A world that is not full of broken promises and lies and hate and hunger and theft in my soul. A world that is not lived in blackouts and fakeouts anymore.

I thank you for a world where one can still love another enough to say, "Mom! You are going to have to do something about your drinking problem. What about that thing called AA?"

A world where there is such a thing to be offered to someone like me for FREE to let me know that my drinking problem is a disease. The only requirement is a desire to stop drinking and to start living a new and sober life.

For you see, I wanted to live. My ten years of hard drinking (along with other drugs) told me that I wanted to die; take the cheap and easy way out.

How did I know what death is? I was very confused and miserable.

My name is Debbie; I am an alcoholic. Of my thirty-two years of living I let the bottle own ten years of my life. Ten years of drinking and drugging led me to a new-found freedom and happiness. Thank you, Higher Power, for loving me through all. Thank you for being my co-pilot, driving me home from drinking too much, too many times. Thank you for keeping innocent bystanders out of my line of blindness while operating a car that could turn into a deadly weapon when operated by my drunkenness.

Thank you for loving me when I was at my lowest low. Thank you for one of the most beautiful families anyone could want for. Thank you for all the people who make this program of AA a success. Because, Higher Power, I could not live in this beautiful world of ours without the wonderful program of Alcoholics Anonymous. —DJ

"Mountain Brewin's" Scores

I'm glad *Mountain Doin's* has introduced a little humor into the newsletter. I think in general we alcoholics *do* tend to take ourselves too seriously and a little reminder in the form of a few "alky" jokes in our newsletter is good for us all. I hope you'll make it a regular feature. —PM

(Editor's note: *Thanks, and we hope our readers will share your enthusiasm and send us their jokes, cartoons, witticisms, and one-liners, so that the feature can appear each month. Send your "funnies" (and your letters) to The Editor, Mountain Doin's, Intergroup of WNC, 107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801.*)



Acceptance Group

Dan B.	October	4 years
Toby B.		5 years
Dan G.		8 years
Kay T.	November	13 years
Loraine B.		8 years
Dave A.		6 years
Rick C.		2 years
Celia L.	December	3 years
Joann P.		1 year

Back to Basics Group

Lynda Mc	8-6-85	6 years
Juana T.	8-6-87	4 years
Diana R.	9-10-86	5 years
Tad C.	9-14-87	4 years
Helene V.	9-27-80	11 years
Jim T.	10-17-78	13 years

Black Mountain Group

David C.	9-8-84	7 years
Barbara R.	9-3-88	3 years
Don H.	10-25-68	23 years
Joy G.	10-12-83	8 years
Connie H.	10-24-83	8 years
Bob S.	10-9-84	7 years
Jim M.	10-28-85	6 years
Bill G.	11-30-83	8 years
Kay G.	11-5-84	7 years
Kathy F.	11-7-87	4 years
Jack F.	11-13-89	2 years
Jerry J.	11-20-90	1 year

Blue Ridge Group

Don O.	11-8-62	29 years
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Brevard Group

Linda N.	10-?-80	11 years
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Franklin Group

Winnie H.	11-9-71	20 years
J.C.J.	11-4-88	3 years

Hendersonville Group

Ed. G.	11-3-79	12 years
Willie M.	11-5-90	1 year
George C.	11-15-87	4 years
Joe H.	11-19-90	1 year
Woody O.	11-22-90	1 year

Lake Group

Susie J.	11-16-90	1 year
Bill S.	11-16-83	8 years
Anne O.	11-6-79	12 years
Fred P.	11-11-79	12 years
Dan L.	11-15-??	Not stated

Marion Group

Mack B.	Not stated	1 year
Lou A.	Not stated	1 year

Midday Group

Susan H.	11-2-90	1 year
Kathy	11-?-90	1 year

Ridgerunners Group

Jim L.	10-15-79	12 years
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Thursday Afternoon Ladies Group

Frankie	5-1-66	25 years
Millie W.	5-3-88	3 years
Eleanor D.	5-3-88	3 years
Gen G.	5-25-65	26 years
Pat D.	6-8-82	9 years
Marybeth M.	6-9-57	34 years
Kay G.	6-9-82	9 years
Virgie R.	7-1-68	23 years
Liz D.	8-12-85	6 years
Rosemary M.	8-16-87	4 years
Maija G.	9-4-87	4 years
Beth A.	9-19-85	6 years
Carol H.	9-28-72	19 years

West Asheville Group

Lee H.	10-13-75	16 years
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District 70 Meeting for GSRs

— From Gayle P, DCM — District 70

Please note on your calendar that the next District Meeting of GSR's and Alternates will be held on Sunday, November 3, 1991, at 2:00 p.m. at the Serenity Service Group, 853 Merrimon Ave. (upstairs — behind Mitchell's Restaurant.).

It is especially important that all groups be repre-

sented by a GSR, Alternate or selected group member. This is our last meeting prior to the Fall General Assembly to be held on November 9 — 13, 1991, at the Sheraton — Airport Plaza in Charlotte.

Of concern to all of us is that our Delegate — Jim K. — suffered a heart attack several weeks ago. He is, however, recuperating nicely and has no permanent damage. For

Continued on next page

District 70 Meeting for GSRs

continued from previous page

anyone wishing to write or send a card, his mailing address is: 4342 Witherow Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

I attended the State Committee Meeting on September 21 – 22 in Charlotte and have information regarding items to be voted on at the General Assembly. The State Committee has requested that districts sit together at the Assembly for voting purposes. Each GSR will be mailed an agenda of these items to discuss with your groups prior to our District Meeting. Please be prepared to voice your group's conscience at our District Meeting, and be prepared to vote that conscience at the General Assembly.

Planning of District activities, including eating meetings, will be discussed, as well as other items of interest to your groups. Copies of the 1991 Final Report of the General Service Conference will be distributed. The business conducted at these District Meetings affects your group and is also your link to the District, the Area, and GSO. Your support and attendance is needed and appreciated.

If any of your groups have any information changes: i.e., New GSR or Alternate, group meeting place, etc., please call me immediately. We are updating all information in the State for GSO and I must have current information to provide GSO for publication in the world directory. Any changes are needed right away.

Apologies are extended to any groups experiencing trouble with our District Post Office Box. It has been corrected and district contributions should be mailed to:

District 70 Fund
P.O. Box 17545
Asheville, NC 28816

October Intergroup Meeting

The October meeting of WNC Intergroup, which includes Districts 70, 71, and 80, was held in Hendersonville at the Hendersonville Group Meeting Room on Sunday, October 13. A full report will be published in the December *Mountain Doin's*.



Calendar of Events

Louisville, KY Big Book Seminar. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, January 17, 18, 19, 1992. Hurstbourne Hotel & Conference Center, 9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville KY 40299.

For reservations phone: (502) 491-4830 or 1-800-289-1009. Special Room Rates: \$46.00 Night – Double Occupancy. For full details of the Seminar phone (502) 499-8928 or (502) 895-5825 or write: Host Committee,

P.O.Box 206404, Louisville, KY 40250-6404.

Participants are urged to bring Big Book, highlighter, pens, pencils, and notepads.

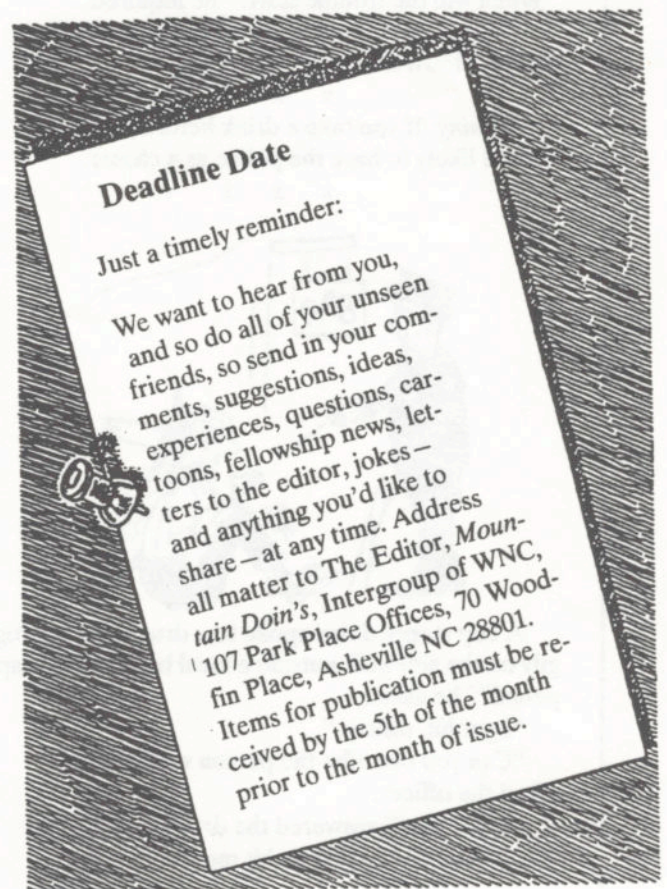
AA Weekend Spiritual Retreat. (Not allied with any sect, denomination, organization or institution.)

Date: November 29 – December 1, 1991. At Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Road, Maggie Valley, NC 28751. All AA members are invited. Its purpose is to afford all AA members an opportunity for quiet reflection and to participate in a directed approach to their spiritual well-being.

For more information call Mac (704) 687-2324 between 4 – 7 p.m. only, or Danny K. (704) 689-9867 between 5 – 7 p.m. only.

7th Annual Cruise Without Booze. January 26 – February 2, 1992. 7 days – 7 nights. This exciting "Gems of the Caribbean" cruise sails from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and visits the spectacular "nature island" of Dominica, followed by the lovely ports of St. Lucia, Martinique, and St. Kitts. A final port call in St. Thomas allows for last-minute sunning and shopping before returning to San Juan. Air/Sea information may be obtained from Cruise Chairpersons Phyllis McC (918)446-9707 or Bob C. (918)747-0165.

The cruise includes Singles Meeting, Big Book Study, Closed Meetings.



MOUNTAIN BREWIN'S



"What part of an automobile kills the most people?"
 "I don't know. You tell me."
 "Why, the nut behind the wheel, of course!"

x x x

The woman alcoholic visited her doctor early one morning and she was having one of the worst cases of the shakes he had ever seen.

Asked the doctor, "Do you drink much in the early morning?"

"Heavens no, doctor," she replied. "I *spill* most of it!"

x x x

A drunk ran into a bar. "Quick!" he yelled at the bartender. "Pour me a drink before the trouble starts."

The bartender poured him his usual, at once. "When will the trouble start?" he inquired.

"Right now," replied the drunk, as he hastily swigged down his drink. "I'm broke!"

x x x

Warning: If you take a drink before you drive, you are likely to have the police as a chaser.

x x x

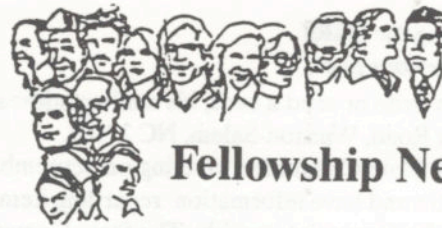


A cop stopped and spoke to a drunk sitting groggily on the sidewalk outside a local bar. "What happened?" he asked.

"I got hit, officer."

"Can you describe the person who hit you?" asked the officer.

"I sure can," answered the drunk. "That's just what I was doing when he hit me."



Fellowship News

New Group. The Pathfinder Group now meets on Saturdays at 8 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, Vance Ave., Asheville. Meetings are nonsmoking, Step Studies.

Meeting Change. The Ridgerunners Group, which meets in the Ridgecrest Baptist Church is now **nonsmoking**. Tuesdays—Closed, Step Study. Fridays—Closed discussion. Last Friday in month—Open, speaker. All meetings are at 8 p.m.

Location change. The Haywood Road Nonsmoking Group now meets at Faith Tabernacle, 36 Michigan St., Asheville, NC, on Mondays at 8 p.m. The meetings are Closed, Discussion. Mail: P.O. Box 1856, Asheville NC 28802.

New location. The Candler KISS Group now meets at Sardis Road Methodist Church, corner of Route 191 and Sardis Road.

New Meetings. A Big Book Study Meeting is being held on Sundays 7—7.30 p.m. at Moore's Grove United Methodist Church, Highway 64.

Anniversary. The Black Mountain Group will commemorate its 14th anniversary on Monday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. We invite y'all to share a covered dish and celebrate with us for dinner and an open meeting. The Group will provide the meat, drinks, and a speaker.

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 responsible."*

Phone Log 9-2-91 — 10-4-91

Answering Service Calls	157
General Information	14
AA Help	13
Family Help (Al-Anon)	7
Meeting Information	32
Intergroup Business	58
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	0
Others	20
Visitors	43

**God grant me the serenity
To accept the things
I cannot change,
Courage to change
the things I can,
And wisdom to know
the difference.**

Origin of the Serenity Prayer

The Serenity Prayer is repeated at most meetings in Western North Carolina and in many other parts of the Nation. Most frequently it is read at the beginning of meetings; sometimes at the end instead of the Lord's Prayer. And probably there is not a Group in all of WNC that has not at some time or another heard discussions as to the origin of the Serenity Prayer.

Some claim that it began with AA; others believe it to be of ancient origin, but nobody has come up with proof positive. So *Mountain Doin's* did a little digging of its own and here are the results:

In its January, 1950, issue, *The Grapevine* reported that the Serenity Prayer had been traced to Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, who wrote it in 1932.

Although other reports have claimed that the prayer was of much earlier origin, no substantiation of those claims has ever been made.

Dr. Niebuhr, of the Union Theological Seminary in New York city, included the prayer as part of a longer one, and in 1934, the doctor's friend and neighbor, Dr. Howard Robbins, asked permission to use the prayer in a compilation he was making. The reduced version, which AAs recognize as the Serenity Prayer, was published that year in Dr. Robbins' book of prayers.

The prayer came to the attention of an early member of AA. He read it in an obituary in the *New York Herald Tribune*. He liked it so much that he brought it to the G.S.O., then on Vesey Street, for Bill W. to read. When Bill and the staff read the little prayer they felt that it particularly suited the needs of AA. Cards were printed and passed around. (Source: July 1961, *AA Exchange Bulletin*.)

According to the *Grapevine*, AA first used those cards in 1939. Dr. Niebuhr stated at the time that he thought the verse "might have been spooking around for years, even centuries. . . ."

In 1964, *The Grapevine* reported that an alert member had forwarded a clipping from the *Paris Herald Tribune* of an article written by its special Koblenz (then West Ger-

many) correspondent, which read: "In the rather dreary hall of a converted hotel, overlooking the Rhine at Koblenz, framed by the flags of famous Prussian regiments rescued from the Tannenberg memorial, is a tablet inscribed in the following words: 'God give me the detachment to accept those things I cannot alter; the courage to alter those things which I can alter; and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.' These words are by Friedrich Otenger, an evangelical pietist of the Eighteenth Century."

The Grapevine went on to state that it did not have the original German of the Koblenz tablet, but it mentioned that it had a printed card stating that the prayer is a "soldier's prayer from the fourteenth century."

Thus, the origin of the Serenity Prayer has still not conclusively been pinpointed.

In the meantime, here is Reinhold Niebuhr's prayer in full:

Prayer for Serenity. *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next.*

This is Twelfth Step Work...



and
So is This...



CONTRIBUTIONS EQUAL SERVICE
Money in the basket is Twelfth Step work

Treasurer's Report



Contributions, September, 1991

Acceptance Group	60.00
Arden Step Group	40.00
Black Mountain group	35.00
Brevard Group	35.00
Candler KISS Group	11.00
Cumberland Hillside Group	50.00
Cashiers Valley Group	25.00
Day By Day Group	40.00
Fletcher Group	25.00
Grace Group	75.00
Hendersonville Group	138.44
Maggie Valley Group	24.00
Marshall Group	20.00
Monday Morning Women's Group	25.00
Ridgerunners Group	70.00
Serenity Service Group	40.00
Sylva Group	25.00
Thursday Afternoon Ladies Group	100.00
West Asheville Group	35.00
Enka/Candler Area Picnic	48.00
Individual Contributions	<u>96.00</u>

Total 1017.44

Expenses

Rent, 107 Park Place	94.00
Phone - Basic Service	85.41
Answering Service	81.80

Expenses (continued)

Postage	48.05
Printing Newsletter	102.06
Special workers - Coordinator	384.00
Editor	46.00
Literature	762.16
Chips	96.61

Total 1700.03

Summary

Balance 8-30-91 369.55

Income

Group Contributions	921.44
Individual Contributions	96.00
Sales - Literature, Chips	<u>998.84</u>

Total 2016.28

Subtotal - Available 2385.83

Expenses

Office	841.26
Literature	762.16
Chips	<u>96.61</u>

Total 1700.03

Balance 685.80
Transfer to Reserve 400.00

Balance 9-30-91 285.80

Reserve Balance \$2985.14

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S ORDER FORM

Mountain Doin's Annual Subscriptions

AA Groups

3 copies	No charge
5 Additional copies	\$7.80 per year
10 Additional copies	15.00 per year
15 Additional copies	19.80 per year

Individual Members

Single copy	10.00 per year
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Please circle which of the above you wish to receive and make out check or money order accordingly.

Subscription rates are subject to change dependent upon USPS rates.

Name _____

Group Reg. No. _____

Street/POB No. _____

Town and Zip _____

Clip and mail with check/M.O. to:

Intergroup of WNC
107 Park Place Office
70 Woodfin Place
Asheville, N.C. 28801