

# MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

## Central Office Newsletter

April 1992



Published by the North Carolina Mountain Central Office (Districts 70, 71, & 80). Address: 107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801. Phone: Buncombe County: 254-8539. Elsewhere in WNC: 1-800-524-0465

Why the change of wording in the masthead? Effective immediately, Intergroup has changed its name to North Carolina Mountain Central Office. Read all about the workings and objectives of our newly renamed office on pages 3 and 4 of this month's *Mountain Doin's*.

And please share the article with all your A.A. friends and Group leaders.

Additional copies will be made available by writing or calling our new Mountain Central Office.

— The Editor

### Readers' Forum

## LIVE LETTERS

#### Stop Bad-Mouthing the Church!

A.A. meetings are a place to share our experience and thus stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety by seeing themselves in us. It is not a forum for bad-mouthing any person or organization.

While I am not pushing the Church or organized religion, I do not believe A.A. is the place to bad-mouth these entities or the people who participate in them. Particularly in areas of the country like this, where fundamentalism rules supreme, I am well aware of the difficulties some folks have with "the God of my Understanding." However, statements which I often hear, such as "the Church never got me sober" (and the implied conclusion "therefore, the Church plays no meaningful role in the affairs of mankind") is meaningless and smacks of intolerance. It's about as meaningful as saying "Dentists were never able to fix my earaches." Many good husbands, wives, children — find meaning in the Church. They have attributes which many of us wish we

had had during our drinking days.

A churchgoing acquaintance of mine came to A.A. meetings until such time as she picked up her 90-day chip. She is not drinking (yet) but hasn't been back for about three months because she was so offended by comments about the Church. We must bear the responsibility for this. Such irresponsible talk simply has no place at A.A. meetings. Let's remember that many of our meetings are held in churches whose members love us enough to allow us to meet there. Who should be teaching tolerance to whom? Let's remember also that Bill and Lois W. were not the original inventors of spirituality. There were one or two spiritual giants on the scene long before them. Bill simply took what was already there and shaped it into a program of recovery, which happens to work for us.

— LF

#### The First Step's Broad Application

I want to express my gratitude to a visiting A.A. member from another city who was speaker at one of my Group's meetings the other day. He opened my eyes to a fact that surely must have escaped many of us in A.A.

He pointed out that Step One can be applied to many other aspects of our A.A. recovery program. He mentioned, for instance, that one of our character defects often is anger.

"Admit that you are powerless over anger," he said, "just as you are powerless over alcohol. Apply it to the rest of the Steps and along with your recovery from alcohol will come your recovery from anger."

Now, this might not have been word for word with what he said, but it sent to me the message that passing all our character defects through the First Step treatment will bring about a whole new perspective to our total recovery process.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. You helped me a lot. — P.S.

*Mountain Doin's* is published monthly as an informational service to all A.A. members in Western North Carolina Districts 70, 71 and 80. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. nor does publication of any feature imply endorsement by A.A. or by the N.C. Mountain Central Office. Material reprinted from A.A. World Services, Incorporated, or from *The Grapevine* is published with permission.





#### Acceptance Group

Richard B.	1-5-85	7 years
Boyce R.	1-7-81	11 years
John M.	1-15-84	8 years
John B.	1-17-89	3 years
Kathy Y.	1-21-86	6 years
Dick T.	2-5-77	15 years
Sam B.	2-15-81	12 years
Vicki N	2-22-85	7 years
Loretta C.	2-28-91	1 year
Susan G.	3-31-91	1 year
Peggy W.	4-4-89	3 years
Merritt	4-5-89	3 years

#### Black Mountain Group

Betty L.	4-26-63	29 years
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#### Cumberland Group

Doug O.	2-9-72	20 years
Dan R.	4-16-83	9 years

#### Hayesville Group

John B.	4-15-61	31 years
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#### Hendersonville Group

Mike S.	3-29-77	15 years
Keith H.	3-15-88	4 years
Irma D.	3-6-85	7 years
Deborah W.	3-17-88	4 years
Max B.	3-17-89	3 years
Maude G.	3-21-83	9 years

#### Midday Group

Gail A	4-24-88	4 years
Joyce H.	4-15-89	3 years
Miriam S.	4-17-87	5 years
Ken W.	4-24-90	2 years
Gene McF.	4-1-68	24 years
Carol S.	4-20-90	2 years

#### Pathfinders Group

Corean W.	3-15-85	7 years
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#### Traditional Group

Chuck W.	4-13-87	5 years
Dawn B.	4-18-89	3 years
Carolyn O.	4-27-80	12 years
Denise L.	4-13-80	12 years
Danny S.	4-27-89	3 years
Jim D.	4-26-77	15 years



## Calendar of Events

**Weekend Spiritual Retreat** (for A.A. members only). To be held on April 24-26, 1992. For information please call: 5-7 p.m. Danny K. (704)689-9867, 9-10 p.m. Mary D. (704) 891-2531.

**Spring Break Round-up '92.** May 1-3 at Jackson Beach, Florida. A Sobriety Celebration.

Fun in the Sun! Volley Ball tournament! Dance! Bring your guitar for sing-along at the Luau Friday night!

Early Bird meeting Thursday (April 30) at 8 p.m.  
Continuous A.A. meetings from Friday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 12 noon.

For more information call: Steve C. at (904)724-3719 or Bobby R. at (904) 241-3117. Make Your Reservations Early: Days Inn Oceanfront Resort, 1031 South First Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 (904)249-7231

Room Rate: 1-4 People: \$50.00 Plus Tax.

**45th North Carolina State Convention of A.A.** to be held Thursday through Sunday, July 16,17,18, and 19, 1992, at the Sheraton Airport Plaza at Billy Graham and I-85, Charlotte, NC.

Theme of the Convention: Happy, Joyous, and Free. Hotel rates are: \$45 per day up to four persons.

For full information, write to: N.C. Convention committee, P.O. Box 19528, Charlotte, NC 28319-9528.

## New 1992 *Where and When* Now Available from Central Office

Copies of the latest issue of *Where and When* (which lists details of all meetings held within the WNC area, covered by Districts 70, 71, and 80) are now available to groups and individuals.

*Where and When* is extremely useful as a handout to newcomers - to the program as well as to the area. Copies are on sale at 10 cents apiece.

Order from: N.C. Mountain Central Office  
107 Park Place Offices  
70 Woodfin Place  
Asheville, NC 28801

### Tolerance

Tolerance is the positive and cordial effort to understand another's beliefs, practices, and habits, without necessarily sharing or accepting them.

- Joshua Liebman



# North Carolina Mountain Central Office

## Its mission of service and cooperation

Today, we are known as the North Carolina Mountain Central Office, yesterday we were Intergroup of WNC. Why the change? And what does the Central Office do?

Well, we think when you have read what we have to say, you'll agree that the new name better describes the office's function. It is indeed the office that is central to the support of all the groups in Western North Carolina and to the still suffering alcoholic who seeks help.

In describing the functions of Central Offices in A.A., Bill W. in a 1950 *Grapevine* article summed it all up with: ". . . [Central Offices] do those area chores that no single individual or group could. They unify regions; they make A.A. tick."

So, let's take a closer look at our North Carolina Mountain Central Office. Just whom does it really serve? And how?

The answer to the first question is simple. Our Central Office serves all groups within Districts 70, 71, and 80. And those three districts include every group in the following WNC counties: Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain, and Transylvania. The Office exists solely to serve all the groups in those counties by *performing those functions that can only be handled efficiently by a central office.*

## What Are those Functions?

If your group needs A.A. books, pamphlets, sobriety tokens, meeting information, referral services, Twelfth Step volunteers, sponsors, speakers, information about recovery institutions or prison facilities, A.A. guidelines, manuals and handbooks, telephone services (including an 800 phone number available at no charge to the caller, and a twenty-four-hour answering service), information about A.A. activities within the WNC area, as well as outside it, such as a calendar of events that includes nationwide A.A. conventions and other happenings — all of which could not be handled by groups alone — the Central Office is there to provide these very services.

Every part of the Central Office's program revolves around serving our groups and carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

All publications and A.A. materials are sold by the Central Office to groups and individual members. Generally, most books can be delivered within three days. And because it buys these materials in quantity our

Central Office can re-sell them at a cheaper price than if they were bought directly by members or groups from the General Service Office.

In addition to its services to groups and individuals, the Central Office publishes a monthly newsletter — *Mountain Doin's* — which contains information about A.A. meetings and meeting changes, financial statements, readers' letters, a humor column, listings of members' A.A. birthdays, fellowship news, Central Office treasurer's reports (which include listings of group contributions), lists of events of interest to area groups, and general-interest articles about A.A.

It is not generally understood by most members that our Central Office has no source of funding whatsoever except through contributions from the groups, and individual contributions from A.A. members. It must rent and maintain an office, a telephone, pay for an 800 number and an answering service, purchase all the office supplies, including the publications that are to be resold to the groups and their members, and, of course, it has to pay for the printing of the monthly newsletter, *Mountain Doin's*.

Furthermore, the Office is not only totally reliant upon support from our groups, but those groups are surely the best source of funding. After all, who would you rather have it dependent upon — the very groups it serves and who decide upon its *modus operandi* or upon outside sources who are not involved? Your group's very destiny and interrelationships depend upon a central office that is responsive to your needs.

Here's an example. Most groups do not have a telephone of their own. That's why it is so necessary that any alcoholic or person needing A.A. help may pick up a phone and dial the Central Office's 800 number and get help. The number may be called twenty-four hours a day.

Last year, records show that our Central Office responded to no less than 3,790 calls — which included calls concerning A.A. help, family help, meeting information, Central Office business, medical help such as hospitalization and detox-center information.

## Do Groups contribute their fair share?

Within the Western North Carolina area served by our Central Office there are 90 groups on record. Do all these groups accept their responsibility to support the N.C. Mountain Central Office by sending in regular contributions to help pay for the services from which all groups benefit? Your own group will know the answer to that!

As the *Grapevine* put it, as long ago as 1951, "Common need, common interest, common aid — these spell A.A. unity. Each group's single primary purpose (Tradition Five) is to carry the message." Similarly, the North

*continued on next page*



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Carolina Central Office has only one valid reason for its existence: to aid all groups in those functions that are outside the scope of group abilities to handle. And it can only perform those functions with your help.

## How much should a Group contribute?

Some groups prefer to send in a contribution every month; other groups prefer quarterly or even annual contributions. In general, a monthly contribution system seems to be the most popular method. It's a matter of individual group choice.

As for the amount that each group should contribute, the A.A. General Service Conference suggests, in its pamphlet *Self-Supporting Through our own Contributions*, that individual groups "adopt a specific contributions plan suitable to their particular situation.

"Such a commitment might work like this:

"First, take care of basic group expenses (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, and a prudent reserve 'emergency' fund).

"Divide the remaining funds according to whatever division suits your local needs."

The prudent reserve is usually suggested to be three months' basic group expenses.

Then, of the remaining funds, it is suggested that a percentage be forwarded to the Central Office, a percentage to G.S.O., a percentage to the Area Committee, and a percentage to the District.

A popular breakdown in Western North Carolina is:  
60% to NC Mountain Central Office  
25% to G.S.O.  
10% to Area Committee  
5% to District

An alternative breakdown offered is:  
50% to NC Central Office  
30% to G.S.O.  
10% to Area Committee  
10% to District

The addresses of the Various offices are:

<b>NC Mnt. Central Office</b>	<b>General Service Office</b>
107 Park Place Offices	P.O. Box 459,
70 Woodfin Place	Grand Central Station
Asheville NC 28801	New York NY 10163

### Your District Committee.

<b>District 70</b>	<b>District 71</b>
P.O.Box 17545	Barbara S., Dist 71 Treas.
Asheville, NC 28816	404 Sky Lane Drive
	Hendersonville, NC 28739

### **District 80**

Kevin C., DCM  
P.O.Box 403  
Franklin NC 28734

### **Area Committee**

Doug F.,  
P.O.Box 470842  
Charlotte, NC 28247-0842

## Another Area Needing Group Support

The North Carolina Mountain Central Office holds a full meeting every quarter to which all groups are urged to send their Group Representatives so that they may be able to add their groups' input to the meeting. Their comments are eagerly sought, because the Central Office exists solely to serve the groups in our three Districts covering Western North Carolina. And it can only operate successfully if groups' opinions and suggestions are aired, listened to, and acted upon.

Attendance at these meetings provides the opportunity for Group Representatives to make sure that the money their groups contribute goes where it is needed. And attendance also gives the representatives the ability to report in person to their groups about points raised at the meetings.

The Central Office is grateful to those group representatives who attend the meetings, and reminds us that it is in every group's best interest to make sure that a representative attends and brings along the group's opinions, questions, doubts, and suggestions, and shares them with the Central Office so that necessary changes can be made, and new ideas can be implemented.

There's another reason why all groups should send their representatives to the meetings. Central Office officers are elected and hold office for two years only. Thus, it is by attending these meetings that you can nominate and vote for the members of your choice.

Notice of each upcoming Central Office meeting is published well ahead of time in *Mountain Doin's*.

Finally, it is our North Carolina Mountain Central Office's sincere hope that with the publication of this article about the need for financial support and the Office's functions and how it serves all groups, more groups will participate both through contributions and by appointing Group Representatives and urging them to attend the Central Office quarterly meetings.

We exist to serve, and we can only succeed fully with your financial and personal support.

Please help us continue to help you, and if you have any thoughts on how we can improve our services to you, please do not hesitate to let us know. Write to us or call us, or perhaps, best of all, write a letter to the Editor of *Mountain Doin's* so that others can share in your thoughts or suggestions.

Involvement, sharing, and caring — that's what it is all about. We look forward to your involvement in the broader A.A. picture, and we look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions and comments.



# MOUNTAIN BREWING'S



Alcoholic Al came to spend the night with his wife for a change. Suddenly the phone rang, and he staggered out of bed to

answer it. "Sorry he said into the phone, "you'll have to call the weather bureau for that information."

"Who was that?" asked his wife.

"Oh, some nutty guy wanted to know if the coast was clear!"

x x x

A boozing husband decided on a geographic cure. A week later, his wife received a telegram saying, "Got good job. A feather in my cap."

Another week brought another wire: "Got promoted. Another feather in my cap."

The third week: "Got a raise. More feathers."

Then, the fourth week brought: "Got drunk. Send money to come home."

His wife wired back: "Use feathers. Fly Home."

x x x

Two drunks got work as laborers on a construction site. One day, the foreman grabbed one of them and yelled: "How come you only carry four bricks and your buddy carries eight?"

"I dunno," the alky replied. "I guess he's just too lazy to make two trips."

x x x

Hillbilly Hank was a regular at Grandpa's Bar, and he always ordered two shots of Bourbon.

Then, one evening, Grandpa asked him why he didn't simply order a double instead of two singles.

"Well, it's in memory of my friend, Sid," replied Hank. "Sid died a few weeks ago and on his deathbed he asked me if, when I order a drink, I get one for him, too."

But a week or so afterward, Hank came in and ordered just one Bourbon.

"Why only one today?" asked Grandpa. "What about your dead pal?"

"This is his drink," responded Hank. "I'm on the wagon."

x x x

Humans are the only machines that can be lubricated with alcohol.

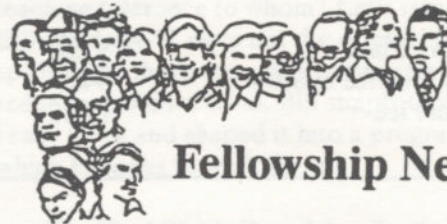
## Central Office Phone Log



*"I am responsible . . .  
When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A.  
always to be there. And  
for that, I am responsible."*

Phone Log 2-3-92 - 2-28-92

Answering Service Calls	98
General Information	9
A.A. Help	5
Family Help (Al-Anon)	7
Meeting Information	43
Central Office Business	45
Others	16
Visitors to Office	37



## Fellowship News

**New Meeting.** Friday evening meetings are now being held in Candler at Oak Hill Road Methodist Church, 277 Oak Hill Road. The meetings are at 8 p.m. No other details have been furnished regarding whether the meetings are open or closed nor if the group has selected a name

**Discontinued Meeting.** The Franklin Group has discontinued its Saturday, 8 p.m. meeting.

**New Meeting.** The Black Mountain Group now holds Closed Beginners Meetings on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., prior to the regular 8 p.m. Step Study meetings. The meetings are all located at St. James Episcopal Church, 417 Vance Ave., Black Mountain. Newcomers and oldtimers are all welcome.

**Discontinued Meeting.** the Haywood Road Group has been discontinued.

## We Want to Hear from You

Letters for publication in *Mountain Doin's* help to bring your views to a wide audience. If you have questions, there's someone who might have the answers. Your own experiences and thoughts could help many. It's one way of Twelfth Stepping.





## Treasurer's

### Report

#### Contributions, February 1992

Acceptance Group	60.00
Black Mountain Group	35.00
Brevard Group	37.75
Cashiers group	25.00
Cumberland Group	40.00
Day By Day Group	45.00
Happy Hour Group, Hendersonville	35.00
Haywood Road Group	55.11
Hendersonville Group	129.42
Live and Let Live Group	10.00
Mars Hill group	25.00
Midday Group	200.00
Pathfinders group	5.00
West Asheville Group	<u>35.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>737.28</b>

#### Expenses

Rent - 107 Park Place	97.00
Phone - Basic Service & 800#	94.29
Answering Service	59.00

Petty Cash	10.00
Postage	43.10
Printing Newsletter	153.00
Special workers - Coordinators	531.00
Editor	<u>125.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1112.39</b>

#### Summary

Balance Fwd., January 31, 1992	348.05
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#### Income

Group contributions	737.28
Literature and Chips Sales	827.17
Transfer from Reserve	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1764.45</b>

#### Subtotal (Available)

\$2112.50

#### Expenses

Office	1112.39
Literature	768.89
Chips	<u>46.98</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1928.26</b>

#### Balance

\$184.24

#### Reserve Balance

\$1954.63

*Mountain Doin's* is your personal contact with other members in your area and with the North Carolina Mountain Central Office. 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 with your check or money order to the address shown on the form.

## 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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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

Town and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Clip and mail with check or Money Order to:  
 N.C. Mountain Central Office  
 107 Park Place Offices  
 70 Woodfin Place  
 Asheville NC 28801