

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Central Office Newsletter

MAY 1997



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

S.E. Regional Forum—A Weekend of Sharing At Its Best

The Southeast Regional Forum report from the General Service Office began: "High in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the heart of the region, the Southeast Regional Forum in Asheville, North Carolina, was a 'mountain top experience' for 617 A.A.s gathered for a weekend of service-oriented presentations, workshops and sharing, December 6-8, 1996. With A.A. Traditions in mind, discussion covered a wide range of topics including the issue of financial incentives from cities bidding for international conventions, A.A.'s World Wide Web Site and group and area concerns.

Reflections from four past trustees, including former general manager John B., during the closing session were a highlight. Hearing about 'Bill and the old days at G.S.O.' from former controller Dennis M. and Lib S., former G.S.O. staff member, along with Southern hospitality, civility and the good-natured spirit of all who attended made the Southeast Regional Forum a week-end of A.A. sharing at its best."

Joanie M., G.S.O. staff member, referring to G.S.O. Staff assignments added: "Through sharing with A.A. love, we discourage members from looking to G.S.O. as an authority with special status. Our response to requests for an "official" statement to resolve a group problem is to share experiences gathered at G.S.O. for more than 50 years and housed in our files and Archives, together with the collective wisdom of the staff and management guided by a 'loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.'

"We are always delighted when a new group asks to be listed with G.S.O. We don't examine a group for authenticity. G.S.O. follows Tradition Three with the occasional exception being when details on a New Group Information Form indicates that the group name of membership may have more than one purpose. In those instances, Conference actions and the Traditions may lead us to request more information of

the group, or to refer the group to the area delegate for follow up."

Lois F., G.S.O. Staff member, referring to Staff Services, pointed out that, ". . . To help carry the message to alcoholics with special needs, G.S.O. has developed a variety of materials. A five-volume video of the Big Book in American Sign Language was produced several years ago, and has been well-received by the deaf community. In September we completed an ASL version of the 12 & 12 on video. The Big Book and 12 & 12 have been available in braille for many years. In addition, we now have 3 recovery pamphlets in braille—*44 Questions, This is A.A.*, and *Is A.A. For You?*

"We can best serve you if we communicate with one another. If you have suggestions for improving our service manual, updating the guidelines or just want some sharing on a general topic, please let us know."

Mountain Doin's adds that the easiest way to obtain information on these G.S.O. services is to call N.C. Mountain Central Office at the phone number listed above in our masthead.

Future issues of *Mountain Doin's* will include some of the information brought up at the Forum, such as *Grapevine* Director Chuck C.'s comments regarding the *Grapevine*, including information on how *Grapevine* articles are selected—a process involving many staff members; Dennis M.'s "ramblings" about G.S.O.'s early days; Panel 45 Rep. Bob R.'s comments on Cooperating with the Professional Community; Panel 45 Rep Charles B.'s comments on The Group Conscience, and comments on the Twelve Traditions; John B.'s comments on anonymity. In addition, Question and Answer sessions held at the Forum will be published, beginning with this month's issue.

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.

June Central Office & Dist. 70 Eating Meeting

The next Eating Meeting for District 70 (and Central Office meeting) will be held in E. Asheville Community Center on June 8. Full details will be published in the June *Mountain Doin's*

Readers' Forum

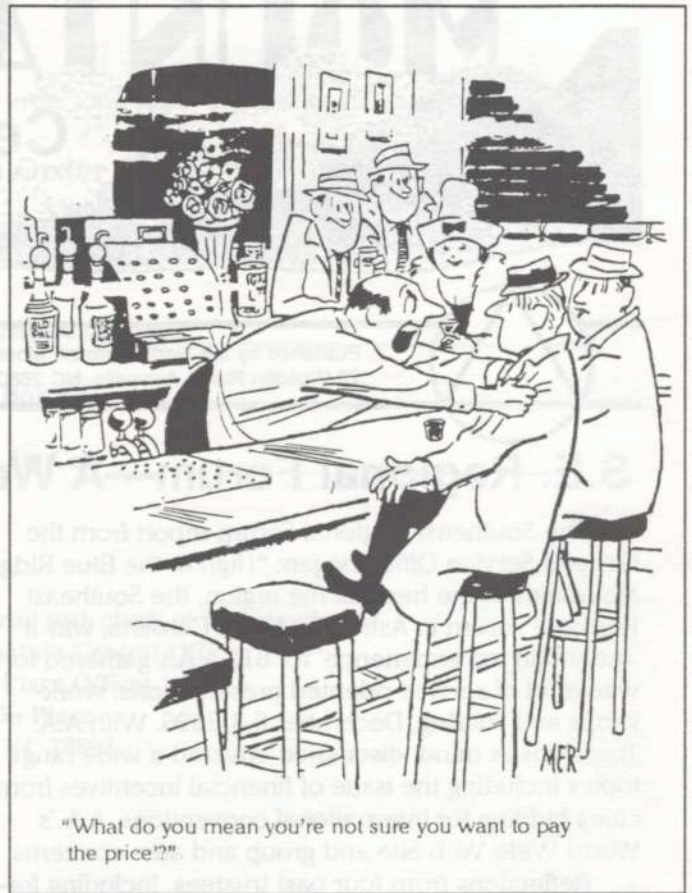
LIVE LETTERS

Promotion Beats Attraction

For a long time I've wanted to write about the "attraction rather than promotion" statement in Tradition 11. I think people have been taking it out of context. It refers solely to *personal* anonymity—"We need always maintain *personal* anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

But I feel strongly that A.A. as a program should be strongly promoted. Our history proves it. According to *A.A. Comes of Age* (page 35) A.A. wasn't doing very well and in 1941 Jack Alexander was asked to write about A.A. in the *Saturday Evening Post*. "As soon as the article appeared, 6,000 frantic inquiries hit our New York Post Office. So, what's wrong with promotion?"

Then, John D. Rockefeller went out of his way to get other prominent men interested. He bought 400 Big Books and sent them to everyone who attended a special dinner. The publicity that followed was carried on news wires all over the world (page 105). The result—A.A. was given a public status of dignity. —RD



"What do you mean you're not sure you want to pay the price?"

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 3-3-97—3-28-97

Answering Service Calls	156
General Information	2
A.A. Help	10
Family Help (Al-Anon)	8
Meeting Information	54
Central Office Business	89
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	0
P.I. Calls	1
Others	3
Visitors	42



Fellowship News

New Meeting: **One Step At A Time Group** now meets at Acton United Methodist Church, Sand Hill School Road, Enka (behind McDonald's) on Thursdays at 7p.m. the meeting is Big Book and 12&12 Study.

New Meeting: **The Conscious Contact Group** has added a meeting on Mondays at 8 p.m. at Thoms Hospital Mtn. Care Building, 68 Sweeten Creek Rd. The meeting is open, Eleventh Step Study.

New Meeting: (No name given) Meetings are now being held at Asbury Methodist Church in Otto. (Next to Otto School). The meetings are held on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and are open, discussion.

New Meetings: **The Burnsville Group** has added two new meetings: Wednesdays at 8 p.m. (Step Study) and Thursdays at 5.30 p.m. (Women's Meeting).

Meeting cancellation: **Canton Easy Does it Group** has canceled its Thursday night 8 p.m. meetings.

Meeting cancellation: **Long's Chapel Group** of Lake Junaluska has canceled its meetings.

Meeting cancellation: The Tuesday night Women's Meeting in **Black Mountain** has been canceled.



Acceptance Group

Rod B	- - 85	12 years
Jack C.	- - 83	14 years
Bob V.	- - 80	17 years
Vivian G.	- - 79	18 years

Back To Basics Group

Rusty M.	5-10-83	14 years
Marianne P.	5-3-86	11 years
Lee R.	5-8-92	5 years

Black Mountain Group

Hugh H.	5-11-78	19 years
Frank M.	5-16-88	9 years
Jimmy L.	5-25-85	12 years

Conscious Contact Group

Jan H.	5-5-88	9 years
Michelle M.	5-3-88	9 years

Cumberland Group

Danny K.	5-1-89	8 years
Charlie E.	5-8-90	7 years
Chuck R.	5-23-93	4 years

Happy Hour Group

Carolyn T.	5-28-94	3 years
Bob G.	5-23-92	5 years

Hendersonville Group

Glen H.	5-24-93	4 years
John P.	5-15-85	12 years

Midday Group

Larry F.	5-26-76	21 years
Kenny P.	5-13-94	3 years
John T.	5-11-89	8 years
Jim B.	5-17-93	4 years

Mission Group

Mike W.	5-21-95	2 years
---------	---------	---------

Traditional Group

Miriam K.	5-4-79	18 years
Helen K.	5-20-84	13 years
Eugene P.	5-11-91	6 years
Brenda B.	5-10-94	3 years
Richard T.	5-8-90	7 years
Brian M.	5-1-96	1 year
Cyndy T.	5-26-94	3 years
Michael B.	5-20-96	1 year
David R.	5-21-77	20 years

Note: A.A. birthdays are published in *Mountain Doin's* for the month of the publication only. (June anniversaries only will be published in the June issue.) All birthday lists must reach Central Office by 11 a.m. on the 5th of the preceding month.

S.E. Forum Q. and A.s

Published below is the first in a series of columns to run in *Mountain Doin's* consisting of questions and answers from the S.E. Regional Forum held in Asheville in December. The selected Q.&A.s are, we feel, of special interest to members and their Groups.

Q. Is it permissible to have more than one home group and can you vote in more than one group?

A. Most felt that the policy of "one group, one vote" should hold, although A.A. members could certainly participate in more than one group.

Q. How can you get members to stay for business meetings?

A. Focus on trying to get people interested in serving the group as coffee makers, greeters, etc., early in sobriety. Choose a "busy night" so more members will stay. Have business meetings before a regular meetings. Have an agenda and keep it short.

Q. Are open and closed meetings no longer appropriate?

A. Most felt closed meetings are still appropriate

because some still feel a need to protect their anonymity and others may just desire to attend a meeting for alcoholics only. There is still a need for open meetings for those who need to know more about A.A. Confusion can be reduced by explaining the difference between closed and open meetings.

Q. How can we help alcoholics with addictions other than alcohol?

A. As long as the person is primarily concerned about his or her alcoholism, he or she deserves our love and support. If the other problem has become primary, they are lovingly referred to the appropriate program.

Q. How do we explain "singleness of purpose" to the newcomer?

A. We convey it through love and tolerance, by reading the blue service cards for open and closed meetings and sharing one-on-one with the newcomer. Newcomers should be urged to attend beginners' meetings to learn what A.A. is.

More Forum Q. & A.s next month.

Treasurer's Report

N.C. Mountain Central Office, Inc.
Financial Report
for the month of March, 1997

INCOME

Acceptance Group	\$132.17
Brevard Group	\$35.00
Common Sense Group	\$22.09
Conscious Contact Group	\$204.00
Day By Day Group	\$45.00
Happy Hour (Hendersonville) Group	\$50.00
Hendersonville Group	\$84.42
Lakeside Group	\$25.00
Maggie Valley Group	\$40.00
Marshall Group	\$50.00
Midday (Hendersonville) Group	\$75.00
Mountain View Group	\$40.00

Newdale New Day Group	\$10.00
Pathfinders Group	\$10.00
Reaching Out Group	\$5.00
Serenity Service Group	\$27.80
Six O'Clock Open Group	\$60.00
Sylvan Valley Group	75.00

Total Group Contributions \$990.48

Financial Statement as of April 2, 1997

Bank Balance March 13, 1997,	\$3,670.67
Deposits 3-17-97 & -4-01-97	\$2,026.03
Cash on Hand	\$28.08
Accounts Receivable	\$871.70

Sub-Total	\$6,596.48
Outstanding checks	(\$3,611.01)
Res. for Corr. Facilities	(\$985.50)
Total	\$1,999.97

In accordance with 3-9-97 resolution, \$445 has been distributed to A.A. General Service & N.C. General Service (70% and 30%)

Central Office Mtg. Report

Minutes of the March 9 meeting held at Murphy were taken by Barbara K. in the absence of the Secretary, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Amended and updated Articles of Association, were passed as presented.

A decision to distribute excess funds in the Central Office Treasury to the amount of \$2,250 over the prudent reserve of \$4,000 was approved. The disbursement is to be:

1. \$1,000 to go to A.A. prison groups for literature and other needs.
2. \$250 each to Districts 70, 71, and 80 for PI/CPC work.
3. The remaining \$500 was to be mailed as follows: 70% to G.S.O., 30% to Area 51.

As already announced in *Mountain Doin's* A.A. literature prices will be raised by G.S.O. on April 28, but current prices will be held at Central Office until June 1, and Central Office will continue to absorb postage costs. The list of new prices was published in the April *Mountain Doin's*.

A program for A.A. members newly released from prison and treatment centers, named "Bridging the Gap," is being organized by District 70. The purpose is to provide a link between prison/treatment facilities and the newly released A.A. members' home groups. A G.S.O. pamphlet on this subject is available from Area 51.

A request was made to have Central Office's 800 phone number printed on the chips. Bob V. will research the cost of this procedure and will report on it at the next Central Office meeting. It was also sug-

gested that Groups notify Central Office if they are interested in having the 800 number printed on chips.

Reports of dissatisfaction with the current answering service were discussed. Suggestions were made for making changes to the service. It was suggested that Groups might consider the following:

1. That the Answering Service be given phone numbers of 4 A.A. members to refer calls to.
2. Have Central Office staffed by volunteers until 9 p.m., and then have call-forwarding to volunteers' home phone numbers.
3. Because of the large geographic area covered by Area 51, have individual districts assume responsibility for handling a phone answering service in their area.
4. "Educate" present 800 operators to provide phone numbers of 12th Step volunteers to callers who have questions which operators are unable to answer.
5. Investigate more sophisticated phone answering alternatives to the 800 number answering service or call-forwarding options.
6. Investigate whether there is an adequate number of A.A. volunteers in Districts 70, 71, and 80 to switch to a volunteers-only answering system.

It was suggested that the problem with the current answering service should be discussed by Groups with a request for suggestions. A steering committee will meet in May to prepare options to present at the next Central Office meeting on June 8 at the Asheville Community Center.

(*Mountain Doin's* Editor and Secretary of the Central Office Board, Alan W., thanks Barbara K. for taking minutes during his absence.)



Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office or by the North Carolina Mountain Central Office. For any additional information please use the addresses or phone numbers provided.

Sobriety at Sea, Alaska. 2nd annual Recovery Cruise. Seven days of Fellowship/Fun/Adventure aboard Celebrity Cruise Lines superliner "Galaxy." June 13, 1997. Ship departs Vancouver, BC for Juneau, Skagway, Haines, Hubbard Glacier, and Ketchikan. For information and brochures, call Bob at 1-800-650-7245.

Whitewater Sobriety Retreat, June 19-22, 1997, Ocoee River, Ocoee, Tenn. Saturday night bonfire/Jam session, bring your guitars and voices—acoustic only. For more information, call Bob at (813) 596-2970. On the internet at <<http://swww.interedu.com/sober>>

District 71 G.S.R. Meeting

It was announced at the District 71 G.S.R. meeting in April that an anonymous donor gave \$500 to the District and that N.C. Central Office had donated \$250 to the District. The total amount in the Treasury as of April 7, 1997, was \$1535.08.

D.C.M. Jerry B. discussed the agenda for the Spring Assembly to be held in Winston-Salem, starting May 9, and he encouraged all G.S.R.s to attend. These Assemblies give G.S.R.s a better understanding of the workings of A.A. The Assembly theme will be The Home Group—Where It All Begins. Evening Workshops will include G.S.R.—the Most Important Job in A.A.; Home Group—The Heartbeat of A.A.; and A.A.—Service Structure.

Jerry B. also encouraged everyone to attend the 49th State Convention in July.

At the Winston Salem Spring Assembly Jerry B. was made chairman of the Site Investigation Committee to locate hotels for the years 1999 and 2000. Jerry B. announced that he would shortly be sending out around 100 letters to Hotels, trying to find one to be used in the 1999 and 2000 Assemblies.

Michelle J. is compiling a list of Treatment Centers in the Area and State and would appreciate all help that G.S.R.s can offer.

The next G.S.R. meeting will be held at the next District 71 Eating Meeting, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Brevard, June 8, 1997, at 2.30 p.m. Eating will be at 4 p.m. and the Speaker at 5 p.m.

Every hard-boiled egg has a soft center

MOUNTAIN BREWING'S



Mountain Doin's, NC Mtn. Central Office

A clergyman was telling his congregation the effects of intemperance. I hope the time will come when all liquor will be poured into the river," he concluded. "Now, let us

sing hymn number ninety-four."

Some members smiled when they opened their hymn books and read the title: "Shall We Gather at the River?"

x x x

Two alxies were discussing money matters as they sat at the bar.

"Is your wife economical?" asked one.

Said the other: "Sometimes. She had only twenty-six candles on her fortieth birthday cake last night."

x x x

"What are you cutting out of the paper?" asked the drunk, when he spotted his pal on a park bench.

"About a man securing a divorce because his wife went through his pockets."

"What are you going to do with the article?"

"Put it in my pocket."

x x x

"Papa," asked the youngster, "What is the person called who brings you in contact with the spirit world?"

"A bartender, my boy."

x x x

The alky was walking along the Appalachian trail with a bottle of whisky in his trouser pocket. A car came along just when he was stepping across the road, and it grazed him slightly and threw him to the ground. He rose and limped along and suddenly noticed something warm and wet was trickling down his leg.

"Oh, God," he groaned. "I hope that's blood."

x x x

Would you like a subscription to *Mountain Doin's*? Just fill in the form below and mail to the address below

Mountain Doin's Order Form

Mountain Doin's Annual Subscriptions:

Groups:

3 copies monthly	No charge
10 additional copies	\$10.00 per year
15 additional copies	\$15.00 per year
20 additional copies	\$20.00 per year
25 additional copies	\$25.00 per year

Group or Individual Name _____

Street/PO Box No. _____

Town and Zip Code _____

Individual Members:

Single copy monthly \$5.00 per year

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

North Carolina Mountain Central Office
107 Park Place Offices
70 Woodfin Place
Asheville NC 28801

Address correction requested

Place
Postage
Stamp
Here