

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Central Office Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1999



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

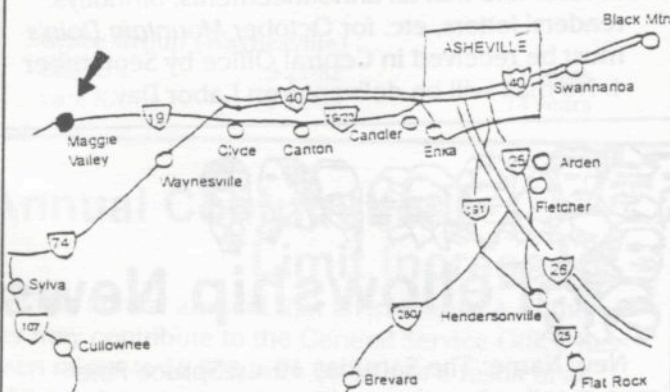
District 80 Eatin' Meeting and Central Office Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 19, 1999
at
Maggie Valley

United Methodist Church
4192 Soco Road, Rte 19
(Next to the Post Office)

Across from the Maggie Crest Motel
meeting held in Fellowship Hall at rear of Church.

Eating at 2 P.M.
Speaker at 3 P.M.
Central Office Mtg at 4 P.M.



Please bring a covered dish

District 71 Eatin' Meeting and G.S.R. Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 19, 1999
at
Columbus (Polk County)
at the 4-H Building

How to get there: Take exit 36 (Columbus Tryon Hwy 74) off Interstate 26. Turn left (east) at the intersection toward Columbus. Go through two sets of lights and turn right on Locust Street (there is a 4-H sign at the turn.

The 4-H Building is at the end of Locust Street.



G.S.R. Meeting at
2:30p.m.

Eating at
4:00P.M.

Speaker at:
5:00P.M.

Bring a covered dish

Have Fun!

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.

Important Central Office Announcement

All Groups who have not sent in their 12 Step telephone lists, asked for in both July and August *Mountain Doin's*, are asked to do so right away. This is vital because the present lists held in Central Office are out of date. As explained in earlier requests, the function of the lists is to have names and phone numbers of members of groups all over Western North Carolina who are willing to accept calls from still-suffering alcoholics who call Central Office to ask for meeting locations and times of meeting details.

The Central Office final lists are to be compiled by September 1, 1999.

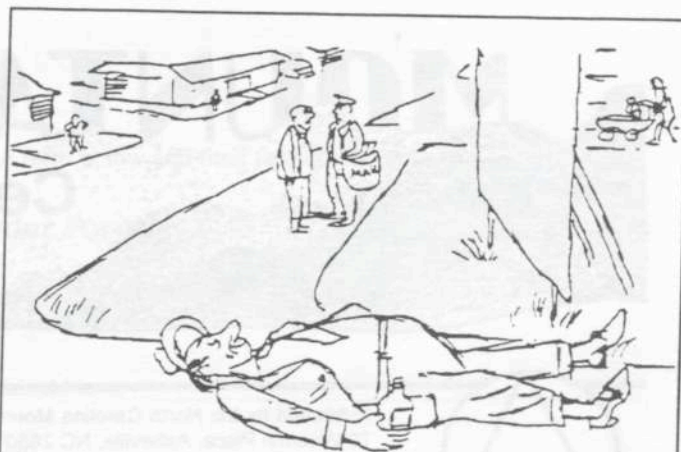
If your Group has not returned the list, please ask them to do so at once. All that is required is first names and phone numbers of members willing to be a part of this vital A.A. function.

Readers' Forum

Live Letters

The Debt We Owe

Everything changes in life today, and that applies to A.A., too. I've noticed in the groups I attend as the years go by we find that there are more and more people coming to meetings, but they don't stay like they used to. A week, maybe two or three, and many of them are gone.



"He says he'd try A.A., but he's afraid his neighbors will find out he's a drunk."

Is it our fault? Don't we try to help them like we used to? Encourage them to keep coming back? To take a serious look at what the steps are all about?

I just feel so grateful that people cared about me at my first meeting, offered to sponsor me, actually bought me a Big Book, telling me that I must read it if I want to know what A.A. is all about.

The fact is, we who gained our sobriety through A.A. owe the Fellowship a debt—it's what we mean when we say: "To keep it, you have to give it away."

We must carry the message, sponsor new members, and take a serious interest in those who are newly coming through our doors. It's a debt we owe in order to insure our own sobriety and to pay back some of what was graciously given us. —PD

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 7-5-99—7-30-99

Answering Service Calls	237
General Information	4
A.A. Help	2
Family Help (Al-Anon)	24
Meeting Information	89
Central Office Business	70
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	0
P.I. Calls	0
Others	2
Visitors	65

Announcements for October *Mountain Doin's*

Please note that all announcements, birthdays, readers' letters, etc. for October *Mountain Doin's* must be received in Central Office by September 4. No mail will be delivered on Labor Day.



Fellowship News

New Name: The Saturday 10 A.M. Spruce Pine Group meeting has changed its name to the **Easy Does It Group**. The Group will continue to meet at St. Lucien Catholic Church Annex (adjoining the Church). The meetings are Closed, Discussion.

New meeting: The Asheville **Lambda Group** that meets at 8 P.M. Fridays now also meets on Thursdays at 6 P.M. at the same location—All Souls Episcopal Church, Biltmore. The meetings are Gay, Open, Disc.



Acceptance Group

Debbie H.	9-6-98	1 year
Susie B.	9-18-96	3 year
Mary Mc	9-20-98	1 year
Norma J.	9-30-94	5 years

Back To Basics Group

Robert H.	9-1-97	2 years
Jeff G.	9-6-89	10 years
Cate M.	9-25-82	17 years

Conscious Contact Group

Becky H.	9-21-94	5 years
Eric C.	9-2-96	3 years
Jeri L.	9-27-98	1 year
Mary M.	9-29-92	7 years
Bill S.	9-2-82	17 years

Cumberland Group

Bob R.	9-7-83	16 years
Connie A.	9-30-92	7 years

Grace Group (Asheville)

Steve C.	9-04-98	1 year
Mary P.	9-11-97	2 years
Bob B.	9-11-94	5 years
Debra H.	9-13-96	3 years
Glenn E.	9-13-98	1 year
Rick B.	9-15-95	4 years
Gerd S.	9-17-79	20 years
Diana D.	9-28-96	3 years

Grace Group (Waynesville)

Lee R.	9-21-82	17 years
Lani K.	9-22-85	14 years

Dave W.	9-19-87	12 years
Joe P.	9-10-91	8 years
Jane H.	9-4-96	3 years
Lorraine W.	9-30-98	1 year

Happy Hour Group

Frank B.	9-27-89	10 years
Nancy L.	9-2-89	10 years

Hendersonville Group

Robin L.	9-1-97	2 years
Raymond F.	9-18-96	3 years
Eric C.	9-2-96	3 years
Chris S.	9-26-95	4 years
Nancy L.	9-2-89	10 years
Camille R.	9-9-79	20 years
Charlie E.	9-5-97	2 years
Lisa Ann T.	9-11-98	1 year
H.C.O.	9-6-94	5 years

H'ville Thurs. Afternoon Womens Group

Maija G.	9-4-86	12 years
Camille R.	9-9-79	20 years
Beth H.	9-16-85	14 years
Carol H.	9-28-72	27 years

Mars Hill Group

Steve N.	??-??	? years
David C.	9-8-84	15 years

Midday Group

Debbie M.	9-21-95	4 years
Beth McC.	9-4-98	1 year
Ileana R.	9-20-97	2 years

Traditional Group

Michael C.	9-4-97	2 years
Oscar F.	9-20-95	4 years
Jennifer Mc.	9-5-97	2 years
Wayne C.	9-26-93	6 years
LeRoy P	9-28-97	2 years
Deborah Y.	9-26-98	1 year
Kenneth H.	9-4-98	1 year

Annual Contributions Limit Increased

The annual amount that an individual A.A. member may contribute to the General Service Office has been raised to \$2,000 from \$1,000, as a result of an Advisory Action of the 1999 General Service Conference. This new limit applies to bequests in wills; an A.A. member may leave \$2,000 on a one-time basis, not in perpetuity. It is the responsibility of the Conference Finance Committee to periodically review the limit that G.S.O. accepts. When it seems time to increase the limit a recommendation is made to the Conference as a whole.

It is not anticipated that this increase will have sig-

nificant impact on the office's finances. During 1998, 33 members contributed the \$1,000 limit. One reason for the increase was that of those who contributed \$1,000, many suggested they would like to contribute more but were restrained from doing so. Another consideration was that the limit had not been increased since 1986 (13 years).

Speaking of the contributions limit, recently, G.S.O.'s general manager, Greg M., had to advise a large foundation that we could not take a \$750,000 gift that the foundation intended to send to A.A. on behalf of a donor to the foundation. He informed the Foundation of our Seventh Tradition and the principle of corporate poverty inherent in the Tradition.

Excerpted from Box 4-5-9 Aug/Sep '99



Treasurer's Report

N.C. Mountain Central Office, Inc.
Financial Report
for the month of July 1999

INCOME

Group Contributions

Acceptance Group	\$50.00
Back To Basics Group	\$139.50
Bethel Up the River Group	\$40.00
Black Mountain Group	\$89.90
Blue Ridge Group	\$100.00
Brevard Group	\$50.00
Common Sense Group	\$40.00
Conscious Contact Group	\$106.00
Day By Day Group	\$100.00
Early Bird Group (Flat Rock)	\$200.00
Franklin Group	\$30.00
Happy Hour Group	\$50.00
Joy Of Living Group	\$107.87
Maggie Group	\$50.00
Midday Group	\$90.00
Serenity Service Group	\$10.00

Sylva Group	\$50.00
Thurs. Aft. Women's Group	\$100.00

Total Group Contributions \$1403.27

Individual Contributions \$25.00

Total Contributions \$1428.27

Financial Position as of 7/13/99

Bank Balance	\$105.89
Deposits 7/19, & 7/29	\$2850.18
Cash on Hand	\$28.08
Accounts Receivable	\$701.40

Sub-Total \$3685.55

Outstanding checks	-\$2787.76
Reserve for Tax Liability	-\$91.80
Reserve for Copy Machine	-\$350.00
Reserve for Correctional Facilities	-\$165.63

Total \$290.36

Note: Since approval by the Board on 3-9-97 \$2902.83 in A.A. literature has been used by Groups bringing meetings to correctional facilities.

Rarely/Never?

Bill W. Explains

From time to time over the years, some A.A. member will question the wording in the first sentence of Chapter 5 of *Alcoholics Anonymous*: "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path." Why, the enthusiastic member asks, doesn't the Big Book say, "*Never* have we seen a person fail . . . "?

Bill W., A.A.'s co-founder, answered with these words: "Concerning your comment about the use of the word 'rarely' in Chapter 5 of the Big Book: My recollection is that we did give this considerable thought at the time of writing. I think the main reason for the use of the word 'rarely' was to avoid anything that would look like a claim of a 100% result. Assuming, of course, that an alcoholic is willing enough and sane enough, there can be a perfect score on (a person of this sort). But the willingness and sanity are such elusive and fluctuating values, we simply didn't like to be too positive: the medical profession could jump right down our throats.

"Then, too, we have seen people who apparently have tried their best, and then failed, not because of unwillingness, but perhaps by reason of physical tension or some undisclosed quirk, not known to them or

anyone else. Neither did we want to over-encourage relatives and friends in the supposition that their dear ones could surely get well in A.A. if only they were willing. I think that's why we chose that word. I remember thinking about it a lot."

—from the *Grapevine* Dec. 1978

We Want to Hear from You

We welcome letters from our readers, and we encourage all to send the Editor letters about any aspect of A.A. that they like or that bothers them, or questions, suggestions, and opinions. By voicing your thoughts through letters to the Editor you are, in fact, doing Twelfth Step work, for it is by sharing that our Fellowship gains. Need some ideas? Here are a few subjects to write about:

- Questions about A.A. and Central Office.
- How has A.A. helped you
- What do you think would help others?
- Some surprises you've had in the program.
- How about an unforgettable moment in A.A. you'd like to share?

Send all letters to the Editor, Mountain Doin's, 107 Park Place Offices, 70 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801.

Thanks!— your Editor, Alan W.



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.

NCCYPAA III (North Carolina Conference of Young People in A.A.) will be held at Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, N.C., on October 21-24, 1999. For reservations call (919) 872-2323, or Fax (919) 876-0890. Reservations should be received by September 21, 1999, in order to guarantee lowest room rates. For more information, please contact Amy P. at (919) 363-7982.

What A.A. Does NOT Do

1. A.A. does *not* run membership drives to try to argue alcoholics into joining. A.A. is for alcoholics who *want* to get sober.
2. A.A. does *not* check up on its members to see that they don't drink. It helps alcoholics to help *themselves*.
3. A.A. is *not* a religious organization. All members are free to decide on their own personal ideas about the meaning of life.
4. A.A. is *not* a medical organization, does *not* give out medicines or psychiatric advice.
5. A.A. does *not* run any hospitals, wards, or sanitariums or provide nursing services.
6. A.A. is *not connected* with any other organizations that fight alcoholism. Some members work for such organizations—but on their own—*not* as representatives of A.A.
7. A.A. does not accept money from sources outside A.A., either private or government.
8. A.A. does *not* offer any social services, does *not* provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, or money. It helps alcoholics stay sober, so they can earn these things for themselves.
9. Alcoholics Anonymous lives up to the "Anonymous" part of its title. It does *not* want members' names to be told on TV or radio or in newspapers, and members do not tell other members' names to people outside A.A. But members are *not* ashamed of belonging to A.A. They just want to encourage more alcoholics to come to A.A. for help. And they do not want to make heroes and heroines of themselves simply for taking care of their own health.
10. A.A. does *not* provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

—From *A Brief Guide to A.A.*

Often the people who help us the most are the people we resent the most.



Mountain Doin's, NC Mtn. Central Office



Returning home from an evening spent at the bar, the couple heard the phone ringing. He picked up the phone while his wife made her way to bed. When the husband joined her, the

wife asked: "Who was it?"

"Oh, just some guy who wanted to know the the coast was clear!"

"Oh, my God. What did you say?"

"I said, what the hell do you think this is, the Weather Bureau?"

x x x

Judge to drunk: "Have you ever been up before me?"

Accused alky: "I don't know. What time do you get up?"

x x x

A single mother often brought her two children, ages six and eight, to A.A. meetings. One evening at home, the three held hands at the table and prayed Grace before their supper. After their thoughtful Amen, the little six-year-old added, "Keep coming back, it works if you work it!"

x x x

An A.A. Group was flying to Hawaii. They decided to hold a meeting on the plane. Everything went fine until one member, called on to share, identified himself and everyone yelled "Hi, Jack!"

x x x

"Don't you know, sir," said the Reverend. "Brandy is your worst enemy?"

"Yes, Reverend, but just last Sunday you said we should love our enemies!"

x x x

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