

MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Central Office Newsletter

JANUARY 2000



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

Y2K has arrived! Welcome to all in the Fellowship!

As we settle into the beginning of our New Year 2000, our North Carolina Mountain Central Office welcomes all Groups in our Districts of 70, 71, and 80, and we hope that we can all continue our journey in recovery, with the help of the program and the Fellowship of A.A. We hope, too, that we will continue to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic.

Our monthly contributions to all A.A. Services can continue to keep our Fellowship capable of meeting its day-to-day obligations and even expand its efforts to help more and more alcoholics enjoy the benefits of learning to live lives of sobriety. Contributions are the only source of income for all these A.A. services.

Here is an updated list of services within the Fellowship that rely solely on our regular contributions in order to keep functioning.

Central Office

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

General Service Office

General Service Office,
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459,
New York, NY 10163-0423

Area 51

NCGSC Treasurer/GSC
P.O. Box 11522
Winston Salem 27116-1522

District 70

District 70 Treasurer
P.O. Box 4351,
Asheville, NC 28805-1260

District 71

District 71 Treasurer/GSC,
P.O. Box 6224,
Hendersonville, NC 28793-6224

District 80

District 80 GSC,
251 Watauga Street,
Franklin NC 28734

To help A.A.'s essential services, the General Service conference suggests that individual groups adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, etc.), and a "prudent reserve" has been decided upon, (often about two months' worth of group expenses, to provide for any unforeseen circumstances), it is recommended that the remaining monies are dispersed to aid A.A. services. A popular plan for group contributions is: Central Office—50%; G.S.O.—30%; Area—10%; District—10%. Or, whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.

The A.A. General Service leaflet *Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix* contains information on the subject and offers some alternative suggestions for group contribution plans.

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.

Central Office Closing Dates

Last minute information: Central Office will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31, 1999. The Telephone Answering Service will continue to function as normal.

Readers' Forum

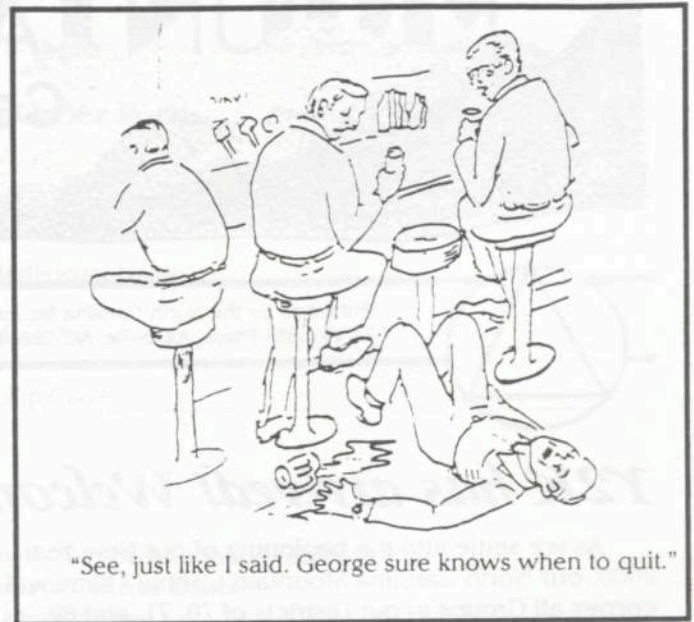
LIVE LETTERS

Welcome Y2K with Service

Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern—that's what it says in our Second Tradition.

Well, in many of the groups I used to attend the "servants" were certainly to be trusted. It was the same people who arrived early to make the coffee, who put out the literature, who set up the chairs, who cleared away afterwards, and who led meetings if asked. And what did the rest of us do? We just took it for granted that everything will be done, so we can always turn up just in time for the meeting, or maybe a little later, when all that "How it Works" and other opening remarks had been said. And we could leave as soon as the Lord's Prayer had been said.

But one day I developed a guilt feeling about simply letting all this happen. I began to get involved. And do you know what? It became one of the most gratifying parts of my recovery. I learned to become responsible, dependable, reliable. I actually enjoyed becoming a useful and dependable member of the groups I attend; always willing to lend a hand where I can. My



guilty conscience has faded away and I've become, whisper it, a trusted servant.

Today, I welcome the new millennium as an opportunity to continue being of service to my Home Group, and to other groups who need help. —CP



Fellowship News

New Meeting: The Hendersonville Group has started a new meeting to be held on Thursdays at 8 P.M. to replace the already canceled women's meeting. The meeting will be Closed, Big Book Study.

Highlands Meeting cancellations: The Wednesday 5.30 P.M. **Mountain View Group** meeting at First Presbyterian Church, and the Saturday 5.30 P.M. **Twelve and Twelve Meeting** at Highlands Methodist Church, have been canceled.

Asheville Meeting cancellation: The Growing Together Group Friday, 7 P.M. meeting at St. John's Episcopal church has been canceled.

Burnsville Meeting cancellation: The Saturday 9.30 A.M. **Women's 12 Step Group** meeting at New Hope Counseling Center, has been canceled.

Big Book Study to be held Jan 14, 15, and 16, 2000, in Long's Chapel Methodist Church, 133 Old Clyde Rd., Waynesville, N.C. This will be an in-depth study of the first 164 pages of The Big Book. Pre-registration By Dec. 31, 1999—\$10.00. Late registration—\$15.00. For detailed information, and meeting times, please call David S., 627-1447. Please bring Big Book, highlighters, pen, and notebook.

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 11-1-99—12-3-99

Answering Service Calls	304
General Information	7
A.A. Help	3
Family Help (Al-Anon)	16
Meeting Information	99
Central Office Business	100
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	3
P.I. Calls	0
Others	5
Visitors	65



Acceptance Group

Suzanne T.	1-1-92	8 years
Robin S.	1-5-99	1 year
Sheila W.	1-5-82	18 years
Don M.	1-5-85	15 years
Faye Mc	1-5-93	7 years
Flo V.	1-11-95	5 years
Pam	1-29-98	2 years

Back To Basics Group

Peggy S.	1-4-95	5 years
Joanne B.	1-6-91	9 years
Judy M.	1-19-82	18 years
Paul W.	1-19-98	2 years
Amy M.	1-21-74	26 years

Black Mountain Group

Jack B.	1-12-96	4 years
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Brevard Group

Dot P.	1-21-82	18 years
Don H.	1-5-92	8 years
Bob M.	1-24-93	7 years

Grace Group (Asheville)

Margie M.	1-1-95	5 years
Jane A.	1-2-98	2 years
Karl K.	1-7-98	2 years

Bob F.	1-15-96	4 years
Matt G.	1-17-98	2 years
Kathy Y.	1-21-86	14 years
Amy M.	1-21-75	25 years
Blake B.	1-25-93	7 years

Grace Group (Waynesville)

Rick C.	1-29-87	13 years
Doris H.	1-13-89	11 years
Wayne O.	1-?-97	3 years
Dawn	1-17-97	3 years
Mike S.	1-11-98	2 years
Ruby R.	1-10-99	1 year

Happy Hour Group

Jerry M.	1-4-90	10 years
Hugh A.	1-3-90	10 years

Hendersonville Group

Tom R.	1-30-75	25 years
Anne Marie D.	1-2-89	11 years
Scott B.	1-20-99	1 year
Scott J.	1-1-97	3 years

Maple Grove Group

Carol T.	1-6-80	20 years
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Midday Group

Joe G.	1-19-78	22 years
Eddie S.	1-13-99	1 year
Ed. F.	1-23-85	15 years

Thurs. Afternoon Women's Group

Martha K.	1-5-77	23 years
Janet W.	1-6-86	14 years
Kay C.	1-25-74	26 years

A Classic Prayer

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace—that where there is hatred, I may bring love—that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness—that where there is discord, I may bring harmony—that where there is error, I may bring truth—that where there is doubt, I may bring faith—that where there is despair, I may bring hope—that where there are shadows, I may bring light—that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted—to understand, than to be understood—to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.

—Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.99

No matter where I am in my spiritual growth, the

St. Francis prayer helps me improve my conscious contact with the God of my understanding. I think that one of the great advantages of my faith in God is that I do not understand Him, or Her, or It. It may be that my relationship with my Higher Power is so fruitful that I do not have to understand. All that I am certain of is that if I work the Eleventh Step regularly, as best I can, I will continue to improve my conscious contact, I will know His will for me, and I will have the power to carry it out.

—Daily Reflections p. 334

**Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift.
That's why it's called the present.**



Treasurer's Report

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

INCOME

Group Contributions

Acceptance Group	\$50.00
AWOL Group	\$11.00
Brevard Group	\$50.00
Burnsville Group	\$50.00
Conscious Contact Group	\$220.80
Etowah Group	\$25.00
Franklin group	\$30.00
Grace Group (Asheville)	\$310.00
Grace Group (Waynesville)	\$487.00
Happy Hour Group	\$50.00
Hendersonville Group	\$115.56
Maple Grove Group	\$50.00
Marion Group	\$10.00
Midday Group	\$90.00
Pathfinders Group	\$50.00
Six O'Clock Open Group	\$100.00

Women's By the Book Group \$65.00

Total Group Contributions \$1764.36

Individual Contributions \$100.00

Total Contributions \$1864.36

Financial Position as of 12/01/99

Bank Balance	\$1142.68
Deposits on 11/15 & 12/01	\$3064.06
Cash on Hand	\$27.76
Accounts Receivable	\$924.95
Subtotal	\$5159.45
Outstanding checks	-\$2835.42
Reserve for Tax Liability	-\$183.60
Reserve for Copy Machine	-\$300.00
Reserve for Correctional Facilities	-\$130.18
Total	\$1701.25

Note: Since approval by the Board on 3-9-97 \$3188.28 in A.A. literature has been used by Groups bringing meetings to correctional facilities.

Service Is the Reason

From the very beginning, Alcoholics Anonymous wasted neither time nor effort in trying to determine the why of alcoholism or what causes the phenomenon. We were simply advised to accept the fact of our illness and get on with the recovery program.

Not too many days gone by, I found myself thinking, "Why me?" It was not the old "Why me?" prompted by self-pity, but the realization that of all the people who were still suffering, somehow I was given sobriety. With an absolutely honest appraisal, I could in no way understand why I had been selected to enjoy the blessings of our sober life when people all around were still in the darkness of alcoholism.

I found the answer in the very steps of recovery I was encouraged to take. The prayer in the Third Step in the Big Book held the key: "Take away my difficulties that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help . . ." Perhaps there was a reason. Just maybe, a purpose could be found right here. Also, there were those words mentioned in the Big Book discussion of Step Six: "my usefulness to You and to my fellows." The reason for my existence must be of maximum service to God and the people around us.

Service to God and my fellows is the reason I am given sobriety, and there is no other reason. If I fail to serve, my purpose in life will be unfulfilled. Sooner or

later, all our prayers should change from "What can you give me?" to "What have you got for me to do?" How best can I serve?

I deeply believe in the recovery miracle of our program. I have experienced that recovery in my life. I believe we have a program of recovery that works. No one will be able to say it any better than Bill W. He wrote: "Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do for the man who is still sick."—from *The Grapevine*

Inventory and Growth

In the years ahead we shall, of course, make mistakes. Experience has taught us that we need have no fear of doing this, providing that we always remain willing to confess our faults and to correct them promptly. Our growth as individuals has depended upon this healthy process of trial and error. So will our growth as a fellowship. Let us always remember that any society of men and women that cannot freely correct its own faults must surely fall into decay if not into collapse. Such is the universal penalty for the failure to go on growing. Just as each A.A. must continue to take his moral inventory and act upon it, so must our whole society do if we are to survive and if we are to serve as usefully and well.

—From A.A. Comes of Age



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.

"Language Of The Heart", Ocean Front 24th Anniversary Conference., at The Cavalier Hotel, Oceanfront at 42nd St., Virginia Beach, Virginia. **February 18, 19, and 20, 2000.** For details call The Cavalier Hotel 1-800-446-8199.

A.A. Endorsed Event: 26th Annual A.A. Winter Conference, January 27,28,29,30, 2000 at International Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue at Berry St., Winnipeg, Manitoba. For more information contact The Chairperson: Box 42026, 1891 Pertage Ave. Winnipeg, Man R3J 3X7.

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 thoughts. 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 that are always of interest to our readers:

- *Questions about A.A. and Central Office.
- *How A.A. has helped you
- *What do you think would help others?
- *What disturbs you about some A.A. meetings?
- *Some surprises you have had in the program.
- *How you have learned to deal with relations or situations.
- *Why you keep going to meetings.

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

Your Editor, Alan W.

Compelling Love

The life of each A.A. and of each group is built around our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We know that the penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death for the individual and dissolution for the group. But an even greater force for A.A.'s unity is our compelling love for our fellow members and for our principles.

From Twelve Concepts



Mountain Doin's, NC Mtn. Central Office

The recovering alky was reading through her Central Office newsletter's birthday list. She noted that her new A.A. friend was listed in the Birthday column as December 26. But no

year was given.

"What was the sobriety year?" she asked her friend.

"Oh, every year," was the reply.

x x x

Judge: "What is the man charged with?"

Officer: "Intoxication, your honor."

Prisoner: "Judge, I'm as sober as you are this minute."

Judge: "Pleads guilty—ten days! Next case!"

x x x

The maid had been drinking when the phone rang. She picked it up and muttered something before slamming it down.

"Who was that, Mary?" asked her mistress. "I'm expecting an overseas call."

"It was only some idiot, ma'am," answered the maid. "He said it was a long distance from England, and I told him I already knew that."

x x x

A drunk was looking down at the moon's reflection in the water: "Say, what's that I see down there?"

Said a passing cop, "It's the moon."

Drunk: "Well, how in heck did I get way up here?"

x x x

A duck waddled into a bar and asked the bartender for a double Scotch.

Smiled the bartender: "Will that be cash or charge?"

"Oh," said the duck. "Put it on my bill."

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