

# MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

## Central Office Newsletter

### MAY 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

## Area 51 Spring Assembly

June 3 and 4

Hilton North Raleigh

Raleigh, N.C.

The Assembly Session commences at 1 P.M. on Saturday, June 3. The Assembly theme is "Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles."

There will be an "Early Bird" open A.A. Speaker meeting on Friday evening, June 2, at 8 P.M.—9 P.M.

Registration begins at 9 A.M. on Saturday, June 3.

**The deadline for making room reservations at the rate of \$66 (for up to four people) is May 5.**

To make your reservation, call the Hilton North Raleigh at (919) 872-2323, or the nationwide toll-free hotel number at 1-800-445-8667.

Identify yourself as being with the Area General Service Committee Assembly. Be sure to get a confirmation number.

If you encounter any problems, please call Art D., our Area Chair, at (252) 726-9150.

For full details regarding meeting times, workshops, and subject matters, talk to your G.S.R. or call our Central Office (phone number listed in mast-head above).



Please register before May 5th—or we will not meet our room block and have to pay extra for the assembly hall and workshop rooms. Also, please stay with us at the host hotel (The Hilton North Raleigh).

Remember that the "Speaker Meeting" portion of our Sunday morning session is an open meeting. We are looking forward to sharing the weekend and hearing our guest from GSO (Lois F.) speak on Sunday morning.

*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.

# LIVE LETTERS

## Happiness In The Fellowship

I had a real hard time adjusting to the members in the group when I first came into A.A. They seemed small minded, insensitive, and uncaring about the needs of others. I feared them, and yet longed to be a part of them. But I misjudged them, as I was soon to find out.

I found that I was accepted as soon as I had the courage to open up a bit. People never asked me about my politics, religion, my job. I was treated with love, understanding, and acceptance. And suddenly I began to look forward to going to meetings, for it was there that I felt wanted.

As the Big Book says: "We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful."

Today, I feel truly blessed to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. —JP

## 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.

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 the 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 2-28-2000—3-31-2000

Answering Service Calls	318
General Information	5
A.A. Help	5
Family Help (Al-Anon)	17
Meeting Information	82
Central Office Business	77
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	3
P.I. Calls	0
Others	5
Visitors	65



## Fellowship News

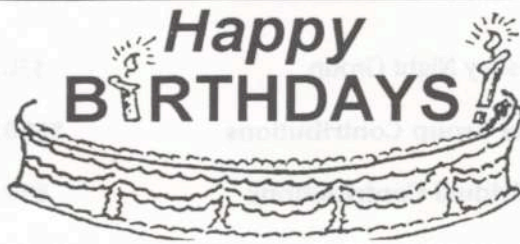
**New Meeting:** The Arden Fellowship Group has begun meetings at 12 noon on Mondays and Thursdays. The meetings, at St. Barnabas Church, Crescent Hill Drive, are open, discussion, nonsmoking.

**Meeting cancellation:** The Arden Group, which met on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, Crescent Hill Drive, has closed.

**Meeting Location Change:** The Asheville Turning Point Group, which meets at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays has moved its meeting location from VA Hospital main floor Conference Room to Room 5, south, in the same building.

**Meeting change:** The Black Mountain Pathfinders Group has changed its First and Last Saturday 8 p.m. meetings to Big Book Study meetings.

**Meeting cancellation:** The Waynesville Sunshine Group has canceled its Sunday 8 p.m. meeting. The meetings were held at 1st United Methodist Church.



**Acceptance Group**

Rod B.	5-5-85	15 years
Floyd	5-10-96	4 years
Pat J.	5-15-83	17 years
Vivian	5-31-79	21 years

**Back To Basics Group**

Rusty M.	5-10-83	17 years
Jesse W.	5-12-99	1 year

**Conscious Contact Group**

Cricket H.	??-??	? years
Michelle M.	5-31-88	12 years

**Cumberland Group**

Danny K.	5-1-89	11 years
Marriann R.	5-3-86	14 years
Lee R.	5-8-92	8 years

**Grace Group (Asheville)**

Michael R.	5-02-87	13 years
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Lynn W.	5-06-90	10 years
Charles G.	5-11-99	1 year
Malinda B.	5-18-99	1 year

**Grace Group (Waynesville)**

Pete M.,	5-25-82	18 years
Roy C.	5-08-90	10 years
Samantha S.	5-09-79	21 years

**Happy Hour Group**

Robert G.	5-21-92	8 years
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**Hendersonville Group**

Vee S.	5-20-79	21 years
Harold P.	5-24-82	18 years
Glen H.	5-24-93	7 years
Ralph K.	5-10-??	?? years

**Maple Grove Group (Waynesville)**

Dick B.	5-02-80	20 years
Judy H.	5-08-88	12 years
Clyde M.	5-03-93	7 years

**Midday Group**

Karen C.	5-31-83	17 years
Rosemary McC.	5-20-85	15 years

**Thursday Afternoon Women's Group**

Eleanor D.	5-15-88	12 years
Vee S.	5-20-79	21 years
Lorry F.	5-29-74	26 years

**Information on A.A. Court Programs and Treatment Facilities**

In the last year, A.A. groups have welcomed many new members from court programs and treatment facilities. Some have come to A.A. voluntarily; others, under a degree of pressure. In the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate," the following appears: We cannot discriminate against any prospective A.A. member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency.

Although the strength of our program lies in the voluntary nature of membership in A.A., many of us first attended meetings because we were forced to, either by someone else or by inner discomfort. But continual exposure to A.A. educated us to the true nature of the illness . . . Who made the referral to A.A. is *not* what A.A. is interested in. It is the problem drinker who is our concern . . . We cannot predict who will recover, nor do we have the authority to decide how recovery should be sought by any other alcoholic.

**Proof of Attendance at Meetings**

Sometimes, courts ask for proof of attendance at

A.A. meetings.

Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance.

Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.

This proof of attendance at meetings is *not* part of A.A.'s procedure. Each group is autonomous and has the right to choose whether or not to sign court slips. In some areas the attendees report on themselves, at the request of the referring agency, and thus alleviate breaking A.A. members' anonymity. —from Box 4-5-9

**It isn't the things that go in one ear and out the other that cause trouble. It's the things that go in one ear, get all mixed up, and then slip out of the mouth.**



## Treasurer's Report

N.C. Mountain Central Office, Inc.  
Financial Report  
for the month of March 2000

### INCOME

#### Group Contributions

Acceptance Group	\$50.00
Arden Group	\$89.50
AWOL Group	\$6.00
Brevard Group	\$50.00
Common Sense Group	\$30.00
Conscious Contact Group	\$192.00
Fellowship Group	\$30.00
Fletcher Group	\$50.00
Happy Hour Group	\$50.00
Hayesville Group	\$25.00
Hendersonville Group	\$20.00
Hendersonville group	\$68.36
Midday Group	\$90.00
Reaching Out Group	\$10.00
Triangle Group	\$40.00

Tuesday Night Group	\$50.00
<b>Total Group Contributions</b>	<b>\$850.86</b>
<b>Individual Contributions</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$850.86</b>

### Financial Position as of 4/01/2000

Bank Balance	\$2408.63
Deposits 3/15 & 4/01	\$2525.22
Cash on Hand	\$27.76
Accounts Receivable	\$716.05
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5677.66</b>
Outstanding checks	-\$3205.76
Reserve for Tax Liability-	-\$0.00
Reserve for Copy Machine	-\$300.00
Reserve for Correctional Facilities	-\$100.00
Reserve for CPC/PI Use	-\$100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1971.90</b>

Note: Since approval by the Board on 3-9-97 \$3318.33 in A.A. literature has been used by Groups bringing meetings to correctional facilities.

## Self-Support in A.A.

Bill W., A.A.'s co-founder, discusses the reasons why A.A. groups do not seek charity and why they support A.A. Central Services.

A.A.'s far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our A.A. adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die.

Now, where do A.A.'s services—world-wide, area, local—fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. *Every single A.A. Service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a Central or Inter group Office, to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the World Service Headquarters to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe.*

Though not costly, services are absolutely essential to our continued expansion—to our survival as a fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength—and that, under our Tradition of Self-Support, *we are all going to foot the bill.*

We have long known that Alcoholics Anonymous has no need for charitable contributions from any

source. Our Fellowship is self-supporting. Neither do A.A. groups try to meet the rehabilitation expenses of thousand of newcomers. Long ago we learned that that was impractical.

Of course, we see A.A.'s primary charity in the Twelfth Step activities of tens of thousands of us as we daily carry the A.A. message to newcomers. We travel millions of miles; we absent ourselves from business and home. In the aggregate, we lay out very large sums. As individuals, we do not hesitate to give temporary financial aid to a newcomer, if and when he seems to want sobriety first. Here, then, is money charity aplenty, always given on a very personal, face-to-face basis. And perhaps even this cannot be called wholly charitable, since every Twelfth Step effort means more certain sobriety and added spiritual growth for the sponsor.

Both these principles we understand: that A.A. wants no charity; that we support our own services. We understand—but we sometimes forget.

Bill W.'s letter appeared in the Oct. 1967 *Grapevine*

**We must learn from the mistakes of others. After all, we'll never live long enough to make them all ourselves.**



# 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.

**Roundup at Sea 2000.** Sober Cruise on the S.S. Norway, May 6 - 13, 2000. From Miami, to St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles, St. John and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Great Stirrup Cay (private island), Bahamas. Join your friends in recovery for Meetings, Speakers, Sober fellowship. For full information call Jim and Cathy M. (561) 844-7655.

E-Mail SOBERCRUIS@AOL.COM

**A.A. Endorsed Conference:** Alcoholics Anonymous Area 51 Correctional Facilities Committee Twelfth Annual Conference.

"Freedom From Bondage XII" June 9, 10 and 11, 2000. At Holiday Inn Conference Center, U.S. 1 North, Southern Pines, N.C. Phone: 1-800-262-5737 or (910) 692-8585. Make reservations early: Room rates \$53.00

Workshops/Panels/Speakers/Great Fellowship/Lots of Fun.

Conference registration fee: \$10 per person. Make checks payable to: Area 51 1111 Ladell Lane, Shelby, N.C. 28152.

## 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.

# MOUNTAIN BREWIN'S



The innocent old lady had a huge bottle with her as she passed through the Irish Customs. "What have you got there?" asked the Customs Inspector with

suspicion.

"'Tis Lourdes water I'm bringing with me," she responded.

The Inspector took the bottle, tried some and sputtered. "Let me tell you," he said, "that's not Lourdes water. That's first-class brandy."

"Lord bless us," said the old lady. "It's a miracle."

x x x

A drunk fell off the building and bounced from awning to awning to finally sprawl in the gutter. A crowd gathered. Someone helped the poor sot up and asked, "What happened?"

The drunk looked around and mumbled, "I don't know, I only just got here."

x x x

What does the attractive blonde alky lady do the first thing in the morning?

She gets dressed and goes home.

x x x

A couple met in a bar and at the end of the evening he offered to take her home. After a few miles into the night, the car stalled.

He: "Out of gas, by golly!"

She: "Oh yeah?" She pulled out a large flask."

He: "Aha! What have we got in the flask?"

She: "Gasoline."

x x x

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