

# MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

## Central Office Newsletter

### JANUARY 2001



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

## Holiday Period Reminders

### Asheville Serenity Service Group

**Christmas:** Open House activities on December 24 and 25, each day from 8 A.M. TO 10 P.M.

**New Year's Eve:** Open House activities on December 31 from 8 A.M. to 1 A.M. January 1.

**New Year's Day:** Open House activities on January 1, from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M.

### Grace Group, Asheville

**Christmas meetings** on December 24 and 25 at Blue Ridge Center, 356 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, from 6 P.M. December 24 to 6 P.M. December 25.

### Christmas Alcathon, Hendersonville

The Hendersonville Group has planned a Christmas Alcathon to run from Noon, Sunday, December 24, through Noon, Tuesday 26, at its meeting place at 818 Greenville Highway, Hendersonville. (Building next to Food Lion).

Open meetings every hour will be followed by food and fellowship around the clock. The Hendersonville Group is furnishing beverages and tableware. This is a pot-luck affair, so please bring a dish to share, and a friend.

For more information, phone Bill H. at 697-2845.

## Annual Contribution 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 also applies to bequests in wills. An A.A. member may leave \$2,000 on a one-time basis, not in perpetuity.

This increase does not indicate that G.S.O. is broke or in poor financial straits. It is the responsibility of the Conference Finance Committee to periodically review the limit that G.S.O. accepts; and, 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 a significant impact on the office's finances. During 1998, thirty-three members contributed the \$1,000 limit. One reason for the increase was that many of those who contributed \$1,000 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 (thirteen years).

—from Box 4-5-9

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# Fellowship News

Meeting Cancellation: The Monday 6.30 P.M. meeting of the **Candler KISS Group** has been canceled. The 8 P.M. Monday meeting of the same group will continue.

New Meeting: The Cherokee **Big Cove Sober Warrior's Group** has begun meetings on Thursdays at 7 P.M. at Big Cove Nazarene Church, Big Cove Road, Cherokee, N.C. The meetings are open, discussion, non-smoking.

Meeting Location Change: The Sunday Hendersonville **By The Book Group** Step Meeting is now open to men and women and has moved from the Trend Building opposite Pardee Hospital to the Day Reporting Center, 331 1st Avenue E., corner of Grove St. and 1st Ave. (Next to the new Courthouse.). The time has changed from 10 A.M. to 9.30 A.M. Everyone is invited.

Meeting Location Change: The Hendersonville **Happy Hour Group** has moved from the Trend building opposite Pardee Hospital to the 1st Baptist Church annex, corner of 5th Avenue and Buncombe St. On 5th Ave. pass 1st Baptist Church on left, turn left onto Buncombe St. The building on the corner is the new Church annex. Enter double-doors, walk down short passage and turn right. The Room at this corner is

Number 537, Happy Hour's new meeting room. The Group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30 P.M. to 6.30 P.M. and is open, discussion, nonsmoking.

Meeting Location Change: The Hendersonville **Midday Group's** Saturday meetings, which met at The Trend Building opposite Pardee Hospital, now meets at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Church, 409 Patterson St. (at the corner of Kanuga and Price Streets) The meetings are at noon on Saturdays, and are open, discussion, nonsmoking.

## Edneyville Eatin' Meeting

**Date: Sunday, January 21, 2001**

**Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

St. Paul's Road, Edneyville (near Policeman's School).

Meeting at 2.30 P.M.,

Covered dish picnic after meeting.

Come and enjoy fellowship, fun, and food.

## Readers Forum

# Live Letters

### Holiday Time —A Scary Thought

I wonder how many of our friends in A.A. are annoyed by reading in newspapers, especially at Christmas and New Year times, that a few glasses of wine a day are healthy for us and save us from heart attacks. That statement might be all right for nonalcoholics, but for us in the program it could mean a return to the journey toward death.

For us, any form of alcohol is a "no-no" Just one drink is too many, because we have already learned that one drink automatically leads to another, and another. Lots of us in the program have tried it. And all of us who are addicted find it impossible. We have a disease. It's called alcoholism.

As the Big Book says on page 30: The idea that somehow, someday, he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession . . . Many pursue it into the gates of insanity and death.

The answer is simple: We alcoholics can never drink again. Let's believe that and stay sober by working the program.

Happy New Year!

—FW

## 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 10-30-00—11-24-00

Answering Service Calls	265
General Information	0
A.A. Help	9
Family Help (Al-Anon)	9
Meeting Information	97
Central Office Business	69
P.I. Calls	0
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	5
Others	4
Visitors	42

## Things We Cannot Change

John B. of the Black Mountain Group passed away after thirty-four years of sobriety. John was Manager of the General Service Office and was also Treasurer of N.C. Mountain Central Office.

In Memoriam



**Arden Fellowship Group**

Elyse	1-9-94	7 years
Sue C.	1-24-81	20 years
Greg S.	1-28-79	22 years

**Black Mountain Group**

Jack B.	1-12-96	5 years
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**Brevard Group**

Dot P.	1-21-82	19 years
Don H.	1-5-92	9 years
Bob M.	1-24-93	8 years

**Cumberland Group**

Chris. S.	1-19-91	10 years
McRae H.	1-9-96	5 years

**Edneyville Sunday Group**

Bobbie S.	1-21-87	14 years
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**Grace Group (Asheville)**

Jane H.	1-03-79	22 years
Brenda	1-3-00	1 year
Karl K.	1-7-98	3 years

Sharon C.	1-12-00	1 year
Liz N.	1-12-99	2 years
Andi P.	1-14-99	2 years
Chris C.	1-25-95	6 years
Linda T.	1-28-00	1 year

**Grace Group (Waynesville)**

Rick C.	1-29-87	14 years
Doris H.	1-13-89	12 years

**Happy Hour Group**

Jim R.	1-7-94	7 years
Jerry M.	1-4-90	11 years

**Hendersonville Group**

Tom R.	1-30-75	26 years
Jason B.	1-10-00	1 year

**Maggie Group**

Mike S.	?-?-95	6 years
Bill	?-?-96	5 years

**Maple Grove Group (Waynesville)**

Carol T.	1-6-80	21 years
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**Midday Group**

Eddie S.	1-13-99	2 years
Ed. F.	1-23-85	16 years
Joe S.	1-19-78	23 years

**Thursday Afternoon Women's Group**

Martha K.	1-5-77	24 years
Janet W.	1-6-86	15 years
Kay C.	1-25-72	29 years

## The A.A. Program Is Spiritual, Not Religious

From time to time, letters come into the General Service Office asking for clarification of the statement in our Preamble that A.A. is not allied with any sect or denomination. If this is so, they ask, "Why does the word 'God' appear frequently in our Steps and Traditions? Why do so many meetings close with the Lord's Prayer or the Serenity Prayer?"

Co-founder Bill W. often and clearly said that it would be unwise for A.A. to have allegiance to any one religious sect. The Fellowship's usefulness is worldwide, he believed, and contains spiritual principles that members of any and every religion can accept.

In *A.A. Comes of Age*, Bill tells the story of a Buddhist monk who, after looking over the Twelve Steps, said, "These are fine! But since we Buddhists don't understand God as you do, it might be more acceptable to insert the word "good: for God." Bill had no objection: "To some," he observed, "such a substitution might seem like a watering down of A.A.'s

message. But we must remember that the Steps are suggestions only. A belief in them as they stand is not a requirement for membership among us. This liberty has made A.A. available for membership to thousands who never would have tried at all had we insisted on applying the Steps exactly as written."

Responding to a member who questioned the practice of closing meetings with the Lord's Prayer, Bill wrote, in 1959, "This prayer is of such widespread use and recognition that the argument of its Christian origin seems a little far-fetched." He noted that in the Fellowship's early days, "there was no literature. In fact, we didn't even have a name." Thus, the early groups leaned heavily on Bible reading for inspiration and guidance. Meetings probably closed with the Lord's Prayer because, Bill concluded "it did not put speakers to the task, embarrassing to many, of composing prayers of their own." Today, the custom persists in the U.S. and Canada, but only with the sanction of the individual group conscience. The same is true of the Serenity Prayer.

Excerpted from *Box 4-5-9*





## Treasurer's Report

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

### Group Contributions

Acceptance Group	\$350.00
AWOL Group	\$14.00
Bethel Up the River group	\$40.00
Blue Ridge Group	\$100.00
Brevard Group	\$50.00
Conscious Contact Group	\$184.00
Etowah Group	\$25.00
Grace Group	\$367.00
Hendersonville Group	\$107.40
Just For Today Group	\$60.00
Maggie group	\$50.00
Middy Group	\$90.00

Serenity Group, Brevard	\$150.00
Traditional Group	\$250.00
<b>Total Group Contributions</b>	<b>\$1837.40</b>
<b>Individual Contributions</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$1937.40</b>

### Financial Position as of November 1, 2000

Bank Balance	
Deposits 11/14, 11/28, 11/30	\$2628.65
Cash on Hand	\$27.26
Accounts Receivable	\$770.99
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3426.90</b>
Outstanding checks	-\$2180.55
Reserve for Tax Liability	-\$91.81
Reserve for Copy Machine	-\$200.00
Reserve for Correctional Facilities	-\$15.40
Reserve for CPC/PI use	-\$78.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1492.50</b>

\*To help the Central Office maintain a healthy cash flow, we request that groups pay their bill for materials every two weeks. Thank you for your help.

## Bill W. Explains How the Big Book Came to be Written

"When Dr. Bob and I realized on that fall day in 1937 that some two score of us had recovered from alcoholism, we at once asked ourselves, 'How can this experience be shared? How can the word be spread?' Dr. Bob had recovered two and a half years before, and I had been sober three years . . . Word of mouth communication with the few alcoholics we could contact by our then-current methods would be not only slow but dangerous; dangerous because the recovery message in which we now had such high confidence might soon be garbled and twisted beyond recognition. Clearly our budding society and its message would have to be publicized.

" . . . Above all, we would have to put our methods down on paper. A book of experience could carry our message to distant places we could never visit ourselves. Moreover, such a book could prevent the otherwise inevitable garble and distortion that would start as soon as publicity came. It would not only guide alcoholics to recovery, but also become the basis for telling our story to the world and therefore a guide to our public relations as well. The book alone would take considerable time and some money. Neither Bob nor I had any money; we had only debts.

"Finally, Dr. Bob said: 'Why don't we call the Akron boys together and have a meeting at T. Henry's? Let's try these ideas out on them.'

"At T. Henry's house, eighteen of the Akron alcoholics listened stolidly to our proposals.

"The moment we were through, those alcoholics really did work us over! Many thought we should shun

publicity . . . some turned thumbs down on pamphlets and books . . . a vote had to be taken. By the barest majority the Akron meeting finally decided that we ought to go for it." (from *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*.)

Bill began writing in earnest. Henry P. had a secretary named Ruth Hock, and Bill traveled daily from Brooklyn to New Jersey where Henry's offices were, and Bill dictated to Ruth Hock rough drafts of the chapters of the growing book. As bill read them to the New York group they received "a real mauling." Bill undertook much rewriting.

At the point where the book had reached Chapter 5, it was agreed that it was time to explain how the program of recovery from alcoholism really worked.

It was time to put into writing the Twelve Steps. Six of the steps were already in use, having been adapted from the Oxford Groups, William James, and Dr. Silkworth. These and the addition of six more to make the total of Twelve Steps become a story in themselves and will be published in a future *Mountain Doin's*.

Bill W. continued to write and dictate to Ruth Hock, with much argument among the New York group, and between agnostics, liberals, and conservatives. Then, it was realized that there had to be a case history section. Evidence would have to be produced of how the program worked among the membership. Dr. Bob and the Akron members were very helpful here, for they represented a larger variety of members. The Akronites furnished eighteen stories, and the New York group furnished ten stories.

Eventually, in January, 1939, the book was com-  
*continued on page 5*



Continued from page 4

plete. Copies were run off for study by the then numbers of alcoholics in the program. And they were asked to read it and comment on its suitability for general publication. Also, a title had yet to be decided upon.

Over one hundred titles were considered and the title "Alcoholics Anonymous" was slowly gaining favor. A considerable number voted for "The Way Out." Then the Library of Congress in Washington reported that already twelve books had been published with the title "The Way Out." And eventually it was agreed that "Alcoholics Anonymous" would have to be the title.

Finally, after numerous minor changes to the script, the book was sent for printing. The first printing was for 5,000 copies to be sold at \$3.50 per copy. It was decided to print the book on the thickest paper in the print-shop. The volume proved so bulky that it became known as the "Big Book." The idea was to convince the alcoholic purchaser that he was indeed getting his money's worth.

Adapted from *Alcoholics Anonymous 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.

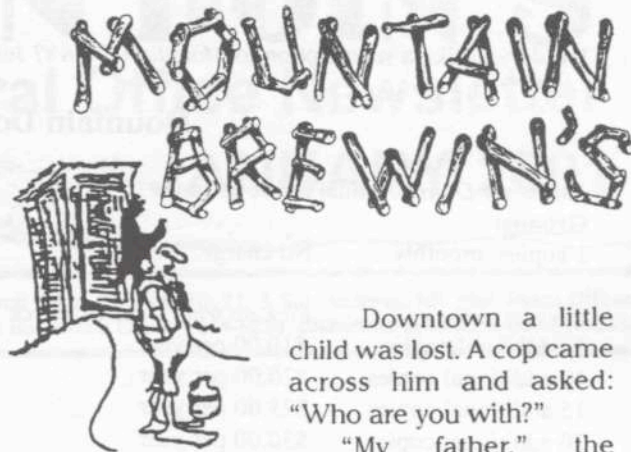
**Mid Winter Conference.** January 16, 17, and 28, 2001. At Hilton North Raleigh, N.C. For hotel reservations call 1-800-445-8667. For general information call (919) 847-5467.

**Oceanfront 25th Anniversary Conference.** February 16, 17, and 18, 2001. At the Cavalier Hotel, Oceanfront at 42nd Street, Virginia, Beach, Virginia. A.A. Meetings, Al-Anon meetings, and Speaker meetings. Early Bird Meeting—for those who wish to arrive early an Early Bird meeting will be held at the hotel. For information call 1-800-446-8199.

### A Force For Unity

The life of each individual and of each group is built around our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We very well know that the [penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death for the individual and dissolution for the group. An even great force for A.A.'s unity is the compelling love that we have for our fellow members and for the principles upon which our lives today are founded.

From *Twelve Concepts for World Service*



Downtown a little child was lost. A cop came across him and asked: "Who are you with?"

"My father," the youngster replied.

"Hm! And what's your father like?" the cop asked.

Replied the child: "Beer and women."

X X X

"How come you look so worried?" said one drunk to another.

"I'm trying to make up my mind about going to a wedding tomorrow."

"Well, who's getting married?"

"I am."

X X X

"Was my husband intoxicated when he came home last night, Mary?"

"I didn't noticed anything, ma'am. He only asked for a mirror to see who he was."

X X X

An elderly alky lady was driving her Volkswagen when the motor spluttered and died. She got out and looked under the hood. Another lady in a Volkswagen stopped and ask if she could help. The owner of the first car looked up from under the hood and exclaimed: "It seems I don't have a motor!" The second woman answered, "Don't worry. I seem to have an extra one in my trunk you can have."

X X X

Wife: "Why do you drink liquor?"

Alky husband: "What would you suggest I do with it?"

X X X

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**107 Park Place Offices**  
**70 Woodfin Place**  
**Asheville NC 28801**

Group or Individual Name \_\_\_\_\_

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