

# MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

## Central Office Newsletter

### MAY 2002



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

## N.C. Mountain Central Office March Meeting Minutes

The North Carolina Mountain Central Office held a regular board meeting on March 4, 2002, at Maggie Valley United Methodist Church following the District 80 "Eating Meeting." Participants were: Marshall D., Chairman (Hendersonville Group); Barbara E., Secretary (Day By Day Group); Gerd S., Treasurer (Asheville Grace Group); Bob V., Central Officer Manager (Back To Basics Group). Central Office Representatives who attended were: Norma H., (Hendersonville Group); Carolyn D. (Traditional Group), Eddie S. (Midday Group), Rod B. (Acceptance Group), and Don B. (Mars Hill Group).

Marshall D. opened the meeting at 4:30 P.M. with the Serenity Prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were read by Barbara E. and approved as read. Gerd S. gave the treasurer's report which was accepted as submitted.

**Unfinished Business:** Bob V. noted that upcoming bills for taxes and the copy machine service contract will amount to about \$900, and that current funds are sufficient to pay these bills. Central Office has also had a rent increase from \$130 to \$144 per month. There is an additional \$20 rent to cover cost for holding the C.O. meeting. This amount is paid to the group hosting the meeting. Improvements to the Central Office are underway. Bob V. has purchased and hung a new blind for the window. Volunteers are needed to wash down the paneled wall and to paint the remaining three walls. After the walls are done, the floor covering will be replaced.

**New Business:** A motion was made to create a new board position, that of District 80 delegate, in order to provide consistent participation and representation from District 80. the motion was passed and Jerry D., of the Otto Group, was approved as the District 80 Representative..

It was announced that Central Office has received a new fourth Edition of the Big Book in Braille. The book is available for loan to any A.A. group or member.

The meeting closed at 5:00 PM with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara E., Secretary.

## 4th Edition B.B. Title Change

We have been asked why there was a title change from "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict" in the Third edition to "Acceptance Was the Answer" in the Fourth edition. As reported to the 2000 Conference Literature Committee, by the trustees' Literature Committee, the 1998/1999 Subcommittee on the Fourth Edition of the Big Book had asked the G.S.O. Publications Department to recommend a new title for this story to better reflect the spiritual content contained in the text.

—Extracted from Box 4-5-9

### Carrying The Message

#### A Correctional Facilities and Treatment Centers Workshop.

The District 70 CFC Committee will be conducting a Correctional Facilities/Treatment Center workshop on June 1, 2002, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Blue Ridge Center (same location as holiday alcohon). We welcome all current volunteers in addition to anyone who is interested in learning more about this important service work to the A.A. community. Program agenda will include panel discussions and a guest speaker. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the workshop, call Frank H. at 250-0990 or Judy/Ralph M. at 298-7031.

*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.





# Fellowship News

Meeting Time correction: **The Upward Group** (East Flat Rock) meeting on Fridays was published in the April *Mountain Doin's* as being held at 8 PM. This was incorrect. The meetings are held at 6 PM.

Meeting changes: **The Cashiers Valley Group** has changed its Friday 8 PM meetings to Thursday at 8 PM. In addition a new meeting has been formed at the same location to be held on Saturdays at noon. The meetings of the Thursday Group are Open, Discussion. The Saturday noon meetings are Step Study

Meeting time change: **The Cullowhee Valley Group** is changing its meeting times on May 2 from Wednesday 8 PM to Thursday 8 PM.

## Readers' Forum

### Live Letters

#### A.A. For the Older Alcoholic

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. has just published a new pamphlet titled: "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late."

This is a great new pamphlet with brief stories written by members of A.A. who came to grips with



*"Everything's going well  
except my job and my marriage."*

their alcoholism around the age of sixty or older. It is especially interesting for many of us who go to meetings in the Asheville area because one story in the new pamphlet is written by our own Faye M. who is a member of the Asheville Acceptance Group.

Way to Go, Faye!

—JM

#### True Involvement

How many times have I heard someone at a meeting advise another: "Don't worry. Just come to meetings and you'll be O.K." Well, we all know that's not correct. "Don't drink, come to meetings, get a sponsor, work the steps." That's better, but still not enough to gain sobriety. It lacks true involvement.

I thank my Higher Power that there were some who cared about me from my very first meeting. One of them insisted on buying me a Big Book and begged me to read it—a little at a time, day after day. And, most important, to follow the "suggestions" as they were presented in the book. In addition, I was told to always try to help the still suffering alcoholic in any way I can.

That represented true involvement. And it worked for me.

—JF

## 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 2-25-02—3-29-02

Answering Service Calls	292
General Information	0
A.A. Help	7
Family Help (Al-Anon)	3
Meeting Information	112
Central Office Business	94
Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.)	7
P.I. Calls	0
Others	0
Visitors	76

### Things We Cannot Change

Ralond M. passed away on 3/2/02. He was a valued member of the Asheville Serenity Service Group. His sobriety date was 2/6/76, and he enjoyed 26 years of sobriety.

**In Memoriam**



**Acceptance Group (Asheville)**

Rod B.	5-5-85	17 years
Michael K.	5-15-92	10 years
Pat J.	5-15-83	19 years
Par J.	5-18-01	1 year
Vivian	5-31-79	23 years

**Back To Basics Group**

Bob V.	5-17-80	22 years
Perry B.	?-?-86	16 years

**Brevard Group**

Pat J.	5-15-83	19 years
Isabell L.	5-16-85	17 years
Dana P.	5-18-87	15 years

**Brevard Serenity Group**

Linn B.	5-15-96	6 years
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**Burnsville Group**

Bill A.	5-28-96	6 years
Jerry N.	5-5-86	16 years

**Conscious Contact Group**

Michelle M.	5-31-88	14 years
Linda C.	5-1-80	22 years
Rusty H.	5-2-90	12 years

**Cumberland Group**

Marianne R.	5-3-86	16 years
Lee R.	5-8-92	10 years
Rusty M.	5-10-83	19 years

**Daily Decisions Group**

Michael J.	5-2-00	2 years
Sara Lynn H.	5-10-01	1 year
Elizabeth J.	5-10-95	7 years
Greg S.	5-22-00	2 years

**Fellowship Group**

Buzz H.	5-22-98	4 years
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**Grace Group (Asheville)**

Steven H.	5-1-99	3 years
Michael R.	5-2-87	15 years
Lynn W.	5-6-90	12 years
Lynda K.	5-9-01	1 year
John M.	5-10-01	1 year
Pat J.	5-15-83	19 years
Cari B.	5-23-90	12 years

**Hendersonville Group**

Harold P.	5-24-82	20 years
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**Hendersonville Thur. Aft. Women's Group**

Vee S.	5-20-79	23 years
Lorry F.	5-29-74	28 years

**KISS Group**

Elaine C.	5-7-97	5 years
Charlene L.	5-24-97	5 years

**Maple Grove Group**

Dick B.	5-2-80	22 years
Judy H.	5-8-88	14 years
Clyde M.	5-3-93	9 years
Jimmie T.	5-25-00	2 years

**Midday Group**

Karen T.	5-1-85	17 years
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**Sunshine Group**

Samantha S.	5-9-79	23 years
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**Upward Group**

Vee S.	5-20-79	23 years
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**Infinite Need**

In practice, I have always found it rather difficult to let Allah's superior and flawless will prevail in my life and govern my will. However, when I make humble efforts, serenely accepting His will for me at some moment in my life, I feel absolutely relieved of the load I have carried on my shoulders. The mind does not wander any more, and the heart is full of happiness at every breath I take.

The most wonderful thing I have discovered is that prayer does work. I am beginning to think of Allah as a most loving Creator who is specially interested in me—otherwise, He could not have led me to A.A. nor given me so many chances to come out of slips. He is patient and merciful.

Although a moral inventory and daily inventory reveal myriads of flaws in our makeups, still we, as human beings, cannot unravel all our liabilities in the personality. So at night, when I offer thanks to Him for the day's sobriety, I add a prayer: I ask him to forgive my failings during the day, to help me to improve, and to grant me the wisdom to discover those faults in myself which I cannot lay my finger on.

In short, the need for prayer is infinite!

*Karachi, Pakistan—From Came to Believe, p. 21*

**"Poor Me" and "The Great I-Am" are identical twins. They are both looking for all the attention they can get.** —Anonymous





# Treasurer's Report

*N.C. Mountain Central Office, Inc. Financial Report for the month of March 2002.*

## INCOME

### Group Contributions

Acceptance Group	\$50.00
Back To Basics Group	\$150.00
Brevard Group	\$50.00
But For the Grace of God Group	\$20.00
Burnsville Group	\$25.00
Conscious Contact Group	\$360.00
Cumberland Group	\$133.20
Fellowship Group	\$75.00
Fletcher Group	\$100.00
Happy Hour Group	\$50.00
Hendersonville Group	\$44.11
Just For Today Group	\$28.00
Kanuga Group	\$100.00
Maggie Valley Group	\$40.00
Marion Group	\$25.00
Midday Group	\$100.00
No Nonsense Group	\$55.00
Robbinsville Group	\$25.00
Sunshine Group	\$20.00
Traditional Group	\$315.00
We Don't Wine Group	\$35.00

<b>Total Group Contributions</b>	<b>\$1800.31</b>
<b>Financial Position as of 03-01-02</b>	<b>\$2232.92</b>
Cash on Hand	\$27.26
Income	\$3771.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6031.88</b>

## Expenses

Rent	\$164.00
Salary	\$600.27
Payroll Tax	\$298.35
Phone S.Bell	\$59.77
Phone AT&T	\$103.74
Answering Service	\$193.50
Printing W & W	—
Printing Mountain Doin's	—
Editor Expense	\$150.00
Sales Tax	\$115.57
Books & Chips	\$1626.72
Postage	\$49.82
Postage Mountain Doin's	\$44.02
Bank Service Charge	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$1.05
Copier Maintenance	<u>\$200.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3606.81</b>

**Bank Balance as of 3-31-02** **\$2425.06**

To help Central Office maintain a healthy cash flow we request that groups pay their bills for material every two weeks. Thanks for your help.

## 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 sug-

gestions 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*

*If you want long friendships, develop a short memory*





# 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.

**55th North Carolina State Convention.** July 18-21st, 2002. Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh North Carolina, 27609. Marathon meetings throughout the Convention. Saturday Dance (with live band). For further information contact Wallace B. (919) 776-5870, George M. (919) 770-5088, Dale H. (919) 832-1389.

**SERCYPAA 202** Southeast Regional Conference of Young People in A.A. at Holiday Inn Coliseum, 630 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Date: July 4—July 7, 2002. Dance, Speakers, Workshops, Banquet, Marathon meetings. For information call 803-799-7800. Visit the Web Site at: WWW.SCWEBSTER.COM

## Area 51 Events Schedule

2002 Spring Comm. & Assembly	May 10-12
2002 N.C. State Convention	July 18-21
2002 Fall Committee Mtg.	Sep. 14-15
2002 Fall Committee & Assembly	Nov. 1-3

## Use *Mountain Doin's* as a Tool in Recovery

*Mountain Doin's* is designed as one of the tools that can be used in your recovery. And that means that your own input through letters to the editor, articles, and opinions, can be considered as twelfth-step work and may certainly help many alcoholics who are still suffering.

Central Office information that brings news of events throughout Western North Carolina and conferences, seminars, and other A.A. activities around the nation are listed, as well as news of group meeting changes within our own Districts 70, 71, and 80.

We hope you will look upon *Mountain Doin's* as your newsletter. Every group receives three free copies, and more and more groups are subscribing for extra copies so that more of their members can participate in sharing through the newsletter. Many groups place copies of *Mountain Doin's* on a table and invite members to pick up a copy to take home with them. That way, as we say, it becomes a useful tool in recovery. Try it—share through our letters column your thoughts, hopes, experiences. You could help lots of us by airing your thoughts. **The Editor.**

# MOUNTAIN BREWING'S



It was a hot day out at the picnic, but the judge would only drink hot coffee.

"Drink something to cool yourself off," suggested Alky Tom. "Have you ever tried gin and tonic?"

"No," replied the judge, "but I've tried many men who have."

x x x

Alky Bert: "Excuse me, but would you go out with me tonight?"

Mary: "Oh, I don't go out with perfect strangers."

Alky Bert: "I never said I was perfect!"

x x x

Three hard-of-hearing old boozers decided to go for a walk.

"Windy, isn't it?" said one.

"No, it's Thursday," said the second.

"So am I," said the third. "Let's go and have a glass of Scotch."

x x x

On her deathbed, Barbara the boozer was having a final chat with her husband.

"Bertie, you've been so good to me all these years. I know you've never thought about another woman, but now that I'm going, I want you to marry again as soon as possible. And please give your new wife all my expensive clothes."

"I can't do that, darling," he said. "You're a size sixteen and she's only a ten!"

x x x

"Which is the best way to get to the emergency hospital?"

"That's easy. Just stand out there in the middle of the street."

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