

# MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

Central Office Newsletter

JULY 2002



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## Willingness, Honesty, and Open-Mindedness

Though it was not our intention to create such an impression, many alcoholics have nevertheless concluded that in order to recover they must acquire an immediate and overwhelming "God-consciousness" followed at once by a vast change in feeling and outlook.

Among our rapidly growing membership of thousands of alcoholics such transformations, though frequent, are by no means the rule. Most of our experiences are what psychologist William James calls the "educational variety" because they develop slowly over a period of time. . . . He finally realizes that he has undergone a profound alteration in his reaction to life; that such a change could hardly have been brought about by himself alone. . . . With few exceptions our members find that they have tapped an unsuspected inner resource which they may presently identify with their own conception of "A Power greater than themselves."

Most of us think this awareness of a Power greater than ourselves the essence of spiritual experience. Our more religious members call it "God-consciousness."

Most emphatically we wish to say that any alcoholic capable of honestly facing his problems in the light of our experience can recover provided he does not close his mind to all spiritual concepts. He can only be defeated by an attitude of intolerance or beligerent denial.

We find that no one need have difficulty with the spiritual side of the program. Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness are the essentials of recovery. But these are indispensable.

—Excerpted from *The Grapevine*, Nov. 1952

## 55th N.C.

### State Convention

July 18th - 21st, 2002

Hilton North Raleigh

3415 Wake Forest Road

Raleigh, N.C. 27609

Marathon meetings throughout the Convention

Saturday Night Dance with live band

#### Conference Registration

\$12 per person before June 14

\$15 per person June 14 and after

Alateens must register - No Charge

(No refunds after June 15)

#### Hotel Registration

\$66 for up to four people

#### For further information contact:

Wallace B. - (919) 776-5870

George M. - (919) 779-5088

Dale H. - (919) 852-1389

*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

**New Meetings: The Sylva Group** has begun new meetings on Fridays at 8 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 18 Jackson, Sylva. The meetings are Step Study.

**New Meetings: A.A. meetings** are beginning at the **Transylvania County Jail in Brevard**. If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions, please call either Barbara E., at (828) 884-7197, or Liz C., at (828) 862-8697. Volunteers, both men and women, are needed with at least one year of sobriety, who would be available either on a regular basis or as a substitute. The volunteer must fill out a form in advance in order to be screened by jail personnel. This is a new opportunity for Twelfth Step work here in Transylvania County. We look forward to your call. Thank you.

### Readers' Forum

## Live Letters

### Cross Talking Controversy

One thing I used to enjoy when I first came into A.A. was the way everyone listened or remained quiet while someone else was talking. It was a very gratify-



ing experience for me to learn that here was a group of people who would patiently listen to what each other had to say and then respond when invited to by the chairperson.

Unfortunately, this is no longer true in some of the groups I attend—especially among some of the old-timers. Cross talk we call it—talking across the room. Often one old-timer wants to give a newcomer advice, or wants to contradict what has just been said. It is rude and boring. And, I contend, out of order. I've even seen people get up and leave the meeting when cross talking persists.

It's the chairperson's job to put a stop to this behavior. Everyone should be free to share without interruption or receiving across-the-room advice. But some chairpersons are just too polite or perhaps nervous to call on the cross-talker to be quiet.

Perhaps it's something that should be included in the Preamble. Something like: "When anyone is called upon to speak, we ask that he or she not be interrupted by across-the-room talk or given comments by someone else who has not at that point been asked to speak." —JR

## 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 4-29-02—5-31-02

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Answering Service Calls              | 297 |
| General Information                  | 0   |
| A.A. Help                            | 6   |
| Family Help (Al-Anon)                | 21  |
| Meeting Information                  | 116 |
| Central Office Business              | 28  |
| Medical Help (Hospital, Detox, etc.) | 5   |
| P.I. Calls                           | 1   |
| Others                               | 0   |
| Visitors                             | 102 |

**The driver is safer when  
the roads are dry. The  
roads are safer when the  
driver is dry.**



**Cumberland Group**

David T. 7-21-93 9 years

**Grace Group (Asheville)**

Judy Mc 7-03-94 8 years  
 Paddy M. 7-04-72 30 years  
 Keith 7-04-94 8 years  
 Mallia S. 7-04-95 7 years  
 Maria M. 7-05-99 3 years  
 Frank R. 7-05-99 3 years  
 Carl N. 7-05-99 3 years  
 Barbara B. 7-08-75 27 years  
 Billy G. 7-08-91 11 years  
 Jane H. 7-10-01 1 year  
 Fran R. 7-14-97 5 years

Maureen J. 7-23-99 3 years  
 Richard R. 7-24-88 14 years  
 Robert J. 7-28-96 6 years  
 Joe M. 7-30-96 6 years  
 Bob P. 7-30-01 1 year

**Grace Group (Waynesville)**

Sarah G. 15 years  
 Debbie T. 1 year

**Hendersonville Group**

Dean H. 7-16-01 1 year  
 Rick S. 7-20-00 2 years

**Robbinsville Mountainside Group**

Billy M. 5 years  
 Mike H. 18 years  
 Bill W. 19 years  
 Jolly Jim 20 years

**Thursday Afternoon Women's Group**

Cindy T. 7-7-99 3 years  
 April C. 7-11-89 13 years

## Where Money and Spirituality Mix

When the hat or basket is passed at an A.A. meeting, and A.A. members throw in a buck or two, they're observing the Seventh Tradition by contributing to A.A.'s self-support. Simply put, the Seventh Tradition means that the Fellowships pays its own way: it doesn't solicit or accept contributions from government, corporations, or charitable institutions, and it caps donations from individuals at \$1,000 per year. [Today, this has been increased by the General Service Board to \$2,000 per year—Ed.] It neither lavishly spends nor raises money; it doesn't try to amass capital. In a world where money talks, A.A. has chosen to remain quiet.

The Alcoholic Foundation is now the General Service Board, and through group contributions the Fellowship continues to support it and its related activities; group services, the convening of the General Service Conference and World Service Meeting, and the maintenance of the Archives.

However, while the number of registered groups has risen over the past six years, the percentage of registered groups that contribute to G.S.O. has steadily fallen. So for several years there has been a widening gap between the cost of providing services to A.A. groups and the dollars contributed by the groups—a shortfall which for many years has been met through

literature sales.

As Bill W. once put it, "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."

So self-support isn't just a matter of dollars and cents; it's also about a willingness to participate. Making a contribution is an act that affirms the importance of unity, responsibility, and commitment to "our common welfare." —excerpts from *The Grapevine*, March 98

### District 80 Eatin' Meeting

*Sunday June 23*

Sponsored by  
**Bethel Up the River Group**

at  
**Bethel Baptist Church**  
 Hwy 276S, near junction with Hwy 215

Eating at 2 PM  
 Speaker at 3 PM  
 Covered Dish



# Treasurer's Report

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

## INCOME

### Group Contributions

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Acceptance Group               | \$50.00  |
| AWOL Group                     | \$15.00  |
| Blue Ridge Group               | \$100.00 |
| Brevard Group                  | \$50.00  |
| But For the Grace of God Group | \$15.00  |
| Common Sense Group             | \$40.00  |
| Conscious Contact Group        | \$300.00 |
| Daily Decisions Group          | \$74.00  |
| Day By Day Group               | \$180.00 |
| Edneyville Group               | \$20.00  |
| Hayesville Lunch Bunch Group   | \$25.00  |
| Happy Hour Group               | \$50.00  |
| Hendersonville Group           | \$61.02  |
| Just For Today Group           | \$30.00  |
| Kanuga Group                   | \$100.00 |
| Leicester Group                | \$25.00  |
| Midday Group                   | \$25.00  |
| Mt. View Group                 | \$40.00  |
| Serenity Group (Brevard)       | \$99.32  |

**Total Group Contributions \$1299.34**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Financial Position as of 05-01-02</b> | <b>\$1949.50</b> |
| Cash on Hand                             | \$27.26          |
| Income                                   | \$2782.93        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$4759.69</b> |

## Expenses

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Rent                     | \$144.00         |
| Salary                   | \$600.27         |
| Payroll Tax              |                  |
| Phone S.Bell             | \$58.55          |
| Phone AT&T               | \$127.36         |
| Answering Service        | \$208.50         |
| Printing W & W           | \$12.78          |
| Printing Mountain Doin's | \$12.78          |
| Editor Expense           | \$150.00         |
| Sales Tax                | \$88.43          |
| Books & Chips            | \$1033.57        |
| Postage                  | \$44.38          |
| Postage Mountain Doin's  | \$47.80          |
| Bank Service Charge      | \$0.00           |
| Office Supplies          | \$22.56          |
| Copier Maintenance       |                  |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$2550.98</b> |

**Bank Balance as of 05-31-02 \$2208.71**

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.

## What Does a Sponsor Do?

A Sponsor

- Sees that the newcomer is aware of A.A. literature, in particular the Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the A.A. Grapevine, As Bill Sees It, Living Sober, and suitable pamphlets.
- Is available to the newcomer when the latter has special problems.
- Goes over the Twelve Steps, and emphasizes their importance.
- Urges the newcomer to join in group activities as soon as possible.
- Impresses upon the newcomer the importance of all our Traditions.
- Tries to give the newcomer some picture of the scope of A.A. beyond the group, and directs attention to the history of the Fellowship, the Three Legacies, the service structure, and the worldwide availability of A.A.
- Explains the program to relatives of the alcoholic, if this appears to be useful, and tells them about the Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateens.
- Quickly admits "I don't know" when that is the

case, and helps the newcomer find a good source of information.

- Encourages the newcomer to work with other alcoholics as soon as possible, and sometimes begins by taking the newcomer along on 12 Step calls.

—From Box 4-5-9

## Doing His Will for Us

We see that the sun never sets upon A.A.'s Fellowship, that more than three hundred and fifty thousand of us have now recovered from our malady; that we have everywhere begun to transcend the formidable barriers of race, creed, and nationality. This assurance that so many of us have been able to meet our responsibilities for sobriety and for growth and effectiveness in the troubled world where we live, will surely fill us with the deepest joy and satisfaction.

But as a people who have nearly always learned the hard way, we shall certainly not congratulate ourselves. We should perceive these assets to be God's gifts, which have been in part matched by an increasing willingness on our part to find and do His will for us.

—From As Bill Sees It, page 249



# 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) 779-5088, 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 N.C. State Convention     | July 18-21 |
| 2002 Fall Committe 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



A group of A.A. members sat around the table after the meeting. They were chatting about the program. said one: "I have nothing but praise for A.A."

Said another: "I notice that about you, every time they pass the basket."

x x x

Two alxies met one evening on the street. One noticed that the other was using crutches.

"What happened to you?"

"I was in a car accident about six months ago." explained his pal.

"And you still have to wear crutches?"

"Well, my doctor says I could get along without them. But my lawyer says I can't."

x x x

An alcoholic working in a brewery fell into a huge vat of beer and drowned. When his wife arrived at the scene she told the foreman: "Well, at least it was a quick and painless death."

One of the deceased's old cronies standing nearby muttered, "It was painless all right, but not quite that quick. He got up three times to go to the bathroom."

x x x

"Our friend Joanie must think a lot of her husband. She kisses him every time he comes home."

"Yes, but she kisses him to see if he's been drinking."

x x x

Said husband Harry to his wife: "Hey, Mary, let's have some fun this evening."

Replied Mary: "Okay, and please leave the light on in the hallway if you get home before I do."

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

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Town and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Address correction requested