

Mountain Doins

October
2014

(828) 254-8539

Office Hours
Mon-Fri 10:00am-1:00pm

info@ncmco.net

Serving AA in Western North Carolina's Districts 70, 71, and 80 since 1974

October Anniversaries

Acceptance Group

Tom W. 10/08/2007 7 yrs
Joy G. 10/12/1983 31 yrs
Dan G. 10/23/1983 31 yrs
Jame C. 10/27/2013 1 yr

AVL Big Book Step Study Grp

Kager B. 10/02/2012 2 yrs
Joyce B. 10/11/1978 36 yrs
Rosanne G. 10/15/2005 9 yrs
Doré D'A. 10/15/1976 38 yrs

AVL Women's Big Book Step Study Grp

Linda K. 10/08/1988 26 yrs
Rosanne G. 10/15/2005 9 yrs

Brevard Serenity Group

Ben D. 10/11/1993 21 yrs
Cathy B. 10/27/2005 9 yrs
Elise B. 10/22/1980 34 yrs

Candler K.I.S.S

Duke B. 10/1/2011 3 yrs
Harlie B. 10/06/1976 38 yrs
Rick A. 10/10/2011 3 yrs
Lori 10/18/2008 6 yrs
Sally G. 10/19/2010 4 yrs
Stan J. 10/20/2010 4 yrs

Conscious Contact

Watson 10/1986 28 yrs

Cumberland Group

Kager B. 10/02/2012 2 yrs
Derek M. 10/14/2013 1 yr
Isara 10/28/1999 15 yrs

Fellowship Group

Stevie S. 10/18/1982 32 yrs
Katy D. 10/31/1982 32 yrs

Grace Group

Collins B. 10/05/2013 1 yr
Linda C. 10/05/2004 10 yrs
Gregg V. 10/08/1992 22 yrs
Esaias J. 10/09/1992 22 yrs
Robbin R. 10/10/1984 30 yrs
Susan M. 10/10/2001 13 yrs
Amber C. 10/11/2010 4 yrs
Paul C. 10/13/2013 1 yr
Charles B. 10/18/2002 12 yrs
Barbara W. 10/19/2009 5 yrs
Justin B. 10/19/2011 3 yrs

Michael F. 10/21/2004 10 yrs
Dennis R. 10/25/2008 6 yrs
Joan M. 10/25/2010 4 yrs
Rich C. 10/25/2012 2 yrs
Elani M. 10/26/2012 2 yrs
Erik P. 10/26/2009 5 yrs
Jon L. 10/28/2011 3 yrs
Liz N. 10/29/2013 1 yr
Kathy D. 10/31/1982 32 yrs
Ronnie J. 10/31/1985 29 yrs

Hendersonville Group

John S. 10/07/2001 13 yrs
Debbie M. 10/10/2003 11 yrs
Ellie C. 10/17/2006 8 yrs
Bette S. 10/19/1999 15 yrs
Stan S. 10/20/1986 28 yrs
George N. 10/26/2010 4 yrs
Hugh A. 10/27/2012 2 yrs

Last Chance Grp - 1st Step Farm

Bobby Rae N. 10/01/2013 1 yr

Leicester Group

Joshua R. 10/07/2011 3 yrs

Mars Hill Group

Cindy F. 10/01/2013 1 yr
Don B. 10/17/1982 32 yrs

Mid-Day Group

Holly B. 10/08/1012 2 yrs
Sue P. 10/13/2011 3 yrs
Bob H. 10/15/2000 14 yrs
Roger B. 10/20/2012 2 yrs
Debbie K. 10/20/2005 9 yrs
Kelly S. 10/23/1988 26 yrs
James 10/25/2006 8 yrs

Serenity Sisters - Waynesville

Marsha S. 10/05/1975 39 yrs
Linda McG. 10/17/1976 38 yrs

There Is A Solution

Joyce B. 10/11/1978 36 yrs
Brian C. 10/20/2003 11 yrs

Traditional Group

Maurice H. 10/27/1977 37 yrs

Women of Grace

Kate G. 10/07/1978 36 yrs
Sandy F. 10/20/2012 2 yrs
Lee R. 10/30/1978 36 yrs

Send November news and
anniversaries for the
newsletter by October 15



North Carolina Mountain Central Office August 2014/YTD P&L - Accrual Basis



Suggestions for
Group Donations to the
A.A. Service Structure*

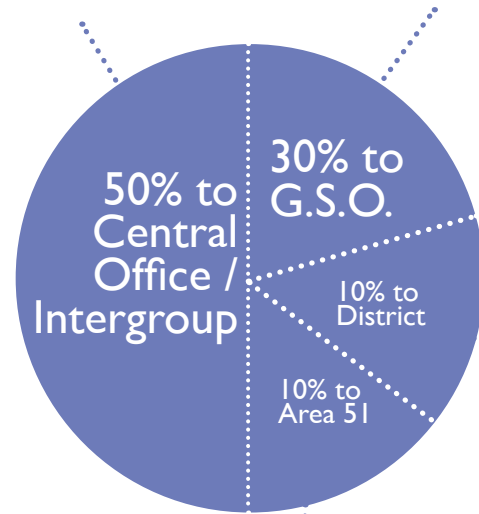
* from the pamphlet

[The A.A. Group Treasurer](#)

	Aug 14	Jan - Aug 14
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Bank Service Charge repayment	0.00	7.00
Contributions		
Group Contributions	1,562.31	19,131.85
Individual Contributions	20.53	306.24
Subscriptions	12.00	54.00
Total Contributions	1,594.84	19,492.09
Interest on Money Market	0.60	4.70
Sales Income		
Literature & merchandise	3,327.98	21,093.20
Shipping	25.72	278.09
Total Sales Income	3,353.70	21,371.29
Total Income	4,949.14	40,875.08
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods		
Discount	-8.40	-76.44
Freight	66.55	411.70
Literature & merchandise	2,652.80	16,518.89
Total Cost of Goods	2,710.95	16,854.15
Total COGS	2,710.95	16,854.15
Gross Profit	2,238.19	24,020.93
Expense		
Bank Service Charges	0.00	36.80
Copier Rental	222.98	1,322.79
Editor	120.00	960.00
Fees - Accounting Consultants	0.00	157.50
Office Assistance	0.00	141.75
Office Expense	0.00	25.00
Office Supplies	26.59	449.80
Payroll Expenses	1,050.86	8,879.52
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.25
Rent	485.00	3,838.00
Sales Tax Paid to Vendors	19.38	125.63
Shipping to Groups	25.72	287.66
Stamps/Postage	74.62	583.05
Telephone & Internet		
Answering Service	88.00	1,564.33
Foreign Directory Listing	0.00	-37.61
Office Telephone/Internet	123.84	1,437.11
Total Telephone & Internet	211.84	2,963.83
Total Expense	2,236.99	19,771.58
Net Ordinary Income	1.20	4,249.35
Net Income	1.20	4,249.35

NCMCO
70 Woodfin Pl
Ste 206
Asheville NC 28801

General Service Office
Grand Central Station
PO Box 459
New York NY 10164-0423

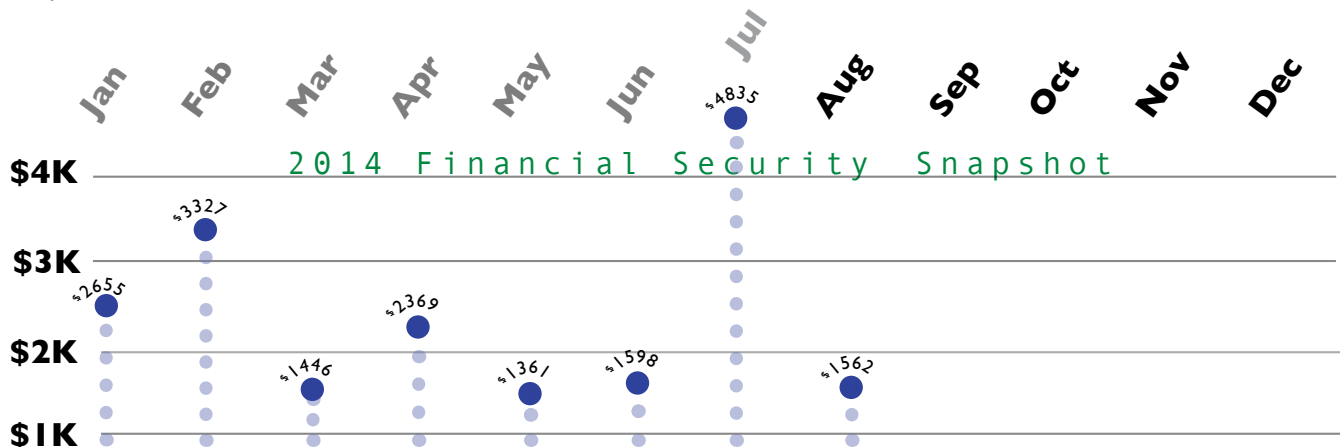


**Area 51 NCG-
SC Treasurer**
PO Box 657
Wilmington NC
28402

- **District 70 Treasurer**
PO Box 8574
Asheville NC 28814-8574
- **District 71 Treasurer**
K.G. Stewart
301 Forest Ave
Landrum SC 29356-9441
- **District 80 Treasurer**
85 Mimosa Ln
Franklin NC 28734

Cash on Hand as of 8/31/14

Money Market (Prudent Reserve)	\$7,024.61
Operating Account (Checking)	\$5,259.26
Rent Deposit	\$400.00
Petty Cash	\$50.00



Group Contributions • August 2014 & YTD

Acceptance Grp		\$743.10		Mid Day Grp (Hendersonville)	\$215.00	\$685.00
Anonymous	\$100.38	\$639.75		Mill Spring Grp 656-821		\$12.50
Around the Room Grp		\$0.00		Moment of Clarity Grp		\$2.25
Asheville BBSS Grp 637-843		\$112.21		Monday Night Open Meeting	\$60.00	\$314.52
AVL Women's BBSS Grp		\$50.00		Mountain View (Highlands)		\$326.56
At Wit's End Grp		\$0.00		Murphy Big Book Grp		\$20.00
Back to Basics (Marion)		\$0.00		New Beginnings		\$0.00
Back to Basics (W'VL)	\$20.00	\$170.47		New Freedom Grp		\$40.00
Big Town Grp 671-200		\$243.11		New Life Literature		\$0.00
Black Mountain Grp 117-117		\$200.04		Pisgah Grp		\$1.00
Brevard Sylvan Valley Grp		\$0.00		Plan B Group 670-567		\$100.00
Bryson City Group 110-467		\$0.00		Recovery by the River		\$371.00
But for the Grace of God Grp		\$150.00		Reflections Grp 711-861		\$40.00
BYOC Bring Yr Own Coffee	\$66.00	\$247.00		Roundtable Grp		\$0.00
Came to Believe Grp 611-288		\$20.00		Rule 62 Group		\$150.00
Candler Kiss Grp 163-148	\$110.00	\$295.00		Saluda Back to Basics Grp		\$75.00
Cashiers Valley Grp 122-589		\$653.23		Sat. Morning Men's Meeting	\$45.00	\$165.00
Cedar Mountain Grp		\$125.00		Second Chance Grp		\$0.00
Columbus Group 150-908	\$100.00	\$150.00		Serenity Group - Sylva		\$0.00
Conscious Contact (AVL)	\$496.93	\$1,925.53		Serenity Seekers - Marion		\$35.00
Cumberland Grp 122-472		\$60.00		Serenity Service 110-498	\$75.00	\$500.00
Chunn's Cove Men's Group		\$250.00		Skyland Group 693-372	\$63.00	\$223.00
Daily Decisions Grp 643-869		\$531.80		Sunshine AA Grp		\$0.00
Daily Reflections - Blk Mtn		\$28.45		Surrender Group - Blk Mtn		\$200.00
Day by Day Grp 159-058		\$1,578.12		Sylvan Valley AA Grp		\$50.00
District 70		\$624.21		The Principles Grp 127-575		\$119.59
District 71		\$100.00		Total Surrender Grp		\$500.00
Downtown Serenity Grp		\$349.35		Tryon 12 & 12 690-877		\$75.00
Early Birds		\$526.98		Tryon Monday Grp		\$105.00
Fellowship Grp (Fletcher)		\$75.00		Tryon Tuesday Group		\$150.00
Fireside Grp	\$141.00	\$416.00		Warren Wilson Grp		\$0.00
Fletcher Grp 110-465		\$0.00		Waynesville Grace Grp		\$1,310.00
Good Livers Grp		\$205.00		We Think Not Grp		\$37.50
Grace Grp of AVL 161-970		\$1,677.45		West Asheville Grp 110-501		\$0.00
Grace of God Grp of HVL		\$0.00		Women of Courage		\$176.20
Hand-in-Hand Grp		\$0.00		Women of Grace		\$88.00
Happy Hour Grp		\$162.87		Young Peoples Grp 645-646		\$126.24
Happy, Joyous & Free Grp	\$20.00	\$20.00		4th Dimension		\$0.00
Hendersonville Grp		\$0.00		11-11-11 Grp		\$39.95
High Noon Group 689-080		\$30.00		Total Group Contributions	\$1,562.31	\$19,131.85
Hot Springs Meeting		\$0.00		Individual Contributions		
Joy of Living - Brevard		\$75.00		Anonymous	\$10.53	\$76.24
Kanuga Grp		\$0.00		In Memory of B.G.	\$10.00	\$80.00
Lambda Grp 617-035		\$260.50		Monica G.		\$150.00
Ledger Group - 654-832		\$1.37		Total Individual Contributions	\$20.53	\$306.24
Leicester Grp 143-417	\$50.00	\$150.00		Mountain Doin's Subscriptions	\$12.00	\$54.00
Library Grp		\$72.00		Grand Total	\$1,594.84	\$19,492.09
Marion AA Group 110-621		\$100.00				
Mars Hill Group		\$0.00				
Marshall Group		\$75.00				

*Thank you, Groups, for your
support of Central Office!*

Need to Order Group Supplies After Office Hours?

- call (828) 254-8539 during business hours
Monday-Friday, 10:00am-1:00pm
- email info@ncmco.net your purchase list

We'll be only too happy to arrange for after-hours pickup (by you!) or shipping. This service is available for groups with no outstanding charge balances.

Cash or check only; no credit cards



North Carolina Mountain Central Office News

Attention All Groups & CORs

The next COR meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on **Thursday, Oct 9**, at Waynesville Grace Episcopal Ch, corner of Haywood & Miller (back entrance). More info: (828) 254-8539 or info@ncmco.net.

2014 Board Officers and Members

Chair (2014-15) - Dani B.
Alternate Chair (2014-15) Dawn L.
Treasurer (2013-14) - Mike M.
Secretary (2014-15) - Tom M.
District 70 Trustee - Danny S.
District 71 Trustee - Gene S.
District 80 Trustee - Doug V.
Step 12 Call List Coord. - Helen M.
Newsletter Editor - Suzanne T.

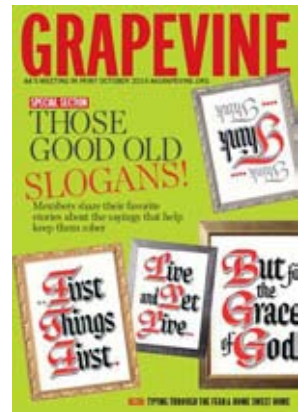
Get your free free free interactive *Mountain Doin's*.

Email us at info@ncmco.net

Subject line: **Subscribe Me**

Grapevine News

In the 1940s and '50s, *Grapevine* ran some wonderful articles about our beloved slogans, such as "Easy Does It," "Live and Let Live" and "First Things First." These are not the only slogans AAs hold dear to their hearts. Go into any old-school meeting and you might see slogans hanging all over the walls. In this month's special section we feature stories by members about their favorite AA sayings and how they help keep them sober "One Day at a Time."



Rallying Cry

For more than 41 years, a California teacher has found the slogans to be some of his most powerful allies

French Dis-connection

Far from home and suddenly sponsorless, he learned the meaning of Don't Drink No Matter What

Related: Waiting for her Miracle

Bumper to Bumper

It took a speeding episode of road rage at work for this builder to get the picture

Related: Exhibit A

Ready, Set, Go

At four years sober, she's learned to apply the slogans that helped save her life to a sport that gives her joy

For more stories, go to aagrapevine.org. Single monthly copies of *Grapevine* and bi-monthly copies of *La Viña* available for purchase at Central Office.

Call & Visitor Log • August 2014

AA Crisis - 2
General Info - 11
Family Help - 2
Meeting Info - 44
Central Office Business - 40
12-Step Calls - 1
Medical/Detox - 0
Visitors - 82
Answering Svc (Operator-Asst) - 12

Meeting Updates

Districts 70 • 71 • 80

New Meeting

Columbus. There Is A Solution. Tuesday 6:30pm, Columbus United Methodist Ch, 76 Peak St., Columbus (C,BBSS) 90-minute meeting

Meeting Change

Fairview. Dry Dock Group. Monday & Thursday; time was 5:30pm; new time 6:00pm. Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 801 Charlotte Hwy. (C,D)

Discontinued Meetings

Asheville. Moment of Clarity Group. Saturday, 7:00pm. Warren Wilson College. Still meeting on Tuesday, 7:00pm. (O,D) 701 Warren Wilson Rd. Meeting is in Chapel on campus.)

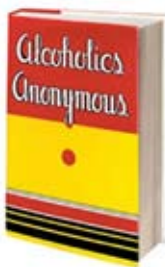
Asheville. West Asheville Eleventh Step Meeting. Monday, 6:00pm. West Asheville Presbyterian Church.

Waynesville. 12&12 meeting. Wednesday 1:30pm. Waynesville Triangle Club, 142 Miller St.

Meeting Space Available

1st Christian Church, 470 Enka Lake Rd, Candler, across from Enka High School. Available all days except Sunday morning & afternoon. Handicap accessible. For the church's contact information call Pam at Central Office (828) 254-8539.

"One Day At A Time."



A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. The book is \$12.

The official publication date of the first printing of our Big Book, as noted by the United States Copyright Office, was April 10, 1939. There were 4,730 books printed, with red cloth binding, wide columns, thick paper

(which was why it was called the Big Book in the first place), and a red, yellow, black and white dust jacket, which came to be known as the "circus cover."

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of this historic printing, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition, a faithful replica of the original. To order, contact Central Office (828) 254-8539.



2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

July 2-5 • Atlanta, Georgia

The pre-registration period is

September 3, 2014-May 15, 2015

Register by Web • Mail • Fax

Register online at www.aa.org; look for the International Convention registration link at the top of the home page! Or fill out and mail or fax the registration form with full payment to:

Fax: (508) 743-3605 (credit card only)

Mail (check, money order or credit card):

2015 International Convention

c/o Convention Data Services

107 Waterhouse Road

Bourne, MA 02532

Registration forms and Convention-related information are also available at Central Office.

North Carolina Mountain Central Office

Est. 1974



2014 marks our
40th year as your
"special service center"
(per Tradition Eight).

NCMCO serves the
three districts of Alcoholics
Anonymous in Western North
Carolina: 70, 71, and 80.

The Service Express

NC Mountain Central Office needs volunteers Mon–Fri, 10 am–1 pm. If you are a sober member of A.A., interested in enhancing your sobriety through service work, and are good on the phone, please call (828) 254-8539, write info@ncmco.net, or visit www.aaNCMCO.org.

All District Committee Coordinators, please send updates on committee meeting times, recent activity, and upcoming service opportunities! The November newsletter deadline is **October 15**.

District 70 ashevilleaa.org

Contact any District 70 trusted servant through the website www.ashevilleaa.org (click the Contacts link at the top of the home page).

GSR District Meeting is **Sunday, October 12**, 2:30 pm, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish House, 219 Chunns Cove Rd, Asheville

Bridging the Gap (with treatment facilities) Contact the TFC Chair at ashevilleaa.org; the BTG Chair or Co-Coordinator, at bridgingthegap.asheville@gmail.com or attend the Service Committees Meeting (see next listing, below). www.btgww.org.

Service Committees meet the last Tuesdays of odd-numbered months. **Next meeting: Tuesday, September 30**, 6:00 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St, Asheville

District contributions mail to: District 70 Treasurer, PO Box 8574, Asheville, NC 28814-8574

District 71

GSR District Meeting will be **Saturday, November 8**, 1:00 pm, at 1620 Willow Rd, opp. Valley Hill Fire Dept., Hendersonville. District meetings are held the 2nd Saturday every other month; next one will be Jan 10. **DCM:** David L. hiwattuser1@gmail.com; **Alt DCM:** Annette K., netsyl162@yahoo.com.

Mail district contributions to: K. G. Stewart, 301 Forest Ave, Landrum SC 29356-9441

Correctional Facilities Committee meets the 1st Saturday of even-numbered months. Next meeting is 9:30am, **Saturday, October 4**, 1620 Willow Road, Hendersonville (where the Hendersonville Group meets). All are welcome.

District 80 aawnc80.org

Registrar: lostmdboy@yahoo.com

GSR District Meeting will be **Sunday, Oct 26**, 1:30PM, Jackson County Resource Ctr, 1528 Webster Rd, Route 116, Webster. Elections for Alt DCM, Treasurer & Secretary positions. District business to be discussed. Call (828) 837-4440 or write aacom28906@verizon.net.

CORs info@ncmco.net

Quarterly COR meetings rotate around the three districts of the Central Office service area. CORs meet at **6:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the first month of each new quarter**.

Thursday, October 9 - Waynesville Grace Episcopal Ch, corner Haywood & Miller (back entrance) (D80). Coffee and treats will be served; open to all interested A.A. members. NCMCO activities will be discussed. You can find a map on our website www.aaNCMCO.org.

Thursday, January 8 - Hendersonville location TBD (D71)

Area 51 aanorthcarolina.org

Fall 2014 Election Assembly & Committee Meeting **October 17–19**. Hilton North Raleigh, Raleigh NC. Open to all A.A. members.



Special Events

Calendars and fliers of regional and national A.A. events also may be found at www.aanorthcarolina.org.

District 80 Eating Meeting. **Sunday, October 12**; see flyer.

Colorama 2014. **October 24–26**. Lake Junaluska NC. Rates include two nights' room, meals from Friday night through Sunday morning; beverages too! Children 5 and under free. **Registration deadline Oct 10.** www.coloramafall.com. Flyer available at aancmco.org.

Black Mountain Group Anniversary. **Thursday, October 30**; potluck at 6:00pm, speaker at 7:00pm; see flyer.

Halloween Party Luncheon & Open Meeting. **Friday, October 31**. Food & fellowship at 11:00am; open meeting at 12:30. Acceptance Group, St Luke's Episcopal Church Parish House, 219 Chunns Cove Rd, Asheville. Bring your non-AA family & friends for fun & fellowship.



Group Anniversary Celebration
"EATING MEETING"
Thursday, October 30, 2014

— ◆ —
Black Mountain United Methodist Church
101 Church St.

In the Fellowship Hall on State St. side
— ◆ —

"Pot Luck" Bring covered dish or
Just Yourself, all are Welcome

Eat
at
6pm



Speaker:
Will S.
Charlotte, NC
7pm



District 80 Eating Meeting!!!!

***Hosted by Mountain View Group of Highlands
& Cashiers Valley Group.***

Where: ***Highlands Community Building
71 Poplar Street, Highlands NC 28742***

When: ***Sunday, October 12, 2014
Lunch at noon - Speaker at 1:30***

What: ***Meat provided.
Bring a covered dish!***

Speaker: Roy S.



NCMCO Internet Anonymity Policy

The Office, guided by the latest version of “[GSO Guidelines: Internet](#),” shall 1) take reasonable and commonsense precautions and 2) employ discretionary practices that help protect *but do not guarantee* the online anonymity of A.A.s who may communicate and share information with NCMCO; and that NCMCO shall not share or publish any personally identifying information—full name, phone number, personal mailing address, personal email address, or personal website—in a) its correspondence, b) in the *Mountain Doins*’, or 3) on its Web site.



aancmco.org

Serving A.A. Districts 70, 71 & 80

Area Information

Local News & Events

Links to Meeting Lists

Local & State Contacts

*I am responsible. When anyone, an
where reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible!*

© The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

*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.
— A.A. Grapevine. Reprinted with permission.*

“... AA’s Responsibility Declaration [above] ... In just a few simple words ... the essence of the Fellowship – one alcoholic sharing with another ... a fundamental building block for the future of the Fellowship. One hand reaching out for the next – a chain reaction of help, healing, and hope.

“For those who have reached out for help, alone and afraid, and been met with the firm, supportive hand of AA, the Responsibility Declaration is an emblem of the lifeline that saved them. And for those AAs, sober now, who have taken that outstretched hand into their own, the Declaration is but one small installment on the debt each owes to the Fellowship of AA.

“... As we extend the hand of AA, responsibility becomes the bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives can be built.”

—Excerpt from the foreword of the book *I AM RESPONSIBLE: The Hand of AA: Selected Stories from the AA Grapevine* –©AA Grapevine, Inc.

AA Members in WNC are needed for the 12-Step Volunteer Call List

Requirements

One year of continuous sobriety and a willingness to “be there” for the sick and suffering alcoholic—“whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help.”

How it Works

Our Central Office 12-Step Call List Coordinator maintains a confidential list of volunteer AA members -- by first name, last initial, with phone number, town, and hours of availability. When a call for help with drinking is received, the Central Office staff contacts an AA member on the 12-Step Call List. After business hours, the professional answering service does the same. In both cases, the AA member is given the caller’s first name and phone number (*the AA member’s name and number are never given out*).

Each call is unique and there are no set rules or guidelines. We **never go alone on a 12-Step Call** – discuss this important 12-Step work with your sponsor and also see the chapter “Working with Others” in the Big Book.

It is suggested that you share only your experience, strength, and hope with the caller and refrain from giving medical advice or opinions on outside issues.

For more information and to be added to the 12-Step Call List, please contact Pam at Central Office (Asheville) 828-254-8539 Email: info@ncmco.net

To follow are interesting excerpts from the book *I AM RESPONSIBLE: The Hand of AA: Selected Stories from the AA Grapevine* © AA Grapevine, Inc.

Working with Others (page 49)

The impact one alcoholic can have on the life of another is profound. And it doesn’t take any special skills to accomplish – all it takes is the willingness to communicate with another in the language of the heart.

... As Bill W. points out in his essay on Tradition Five from the September 1952 Grapevine, reprinted in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

“The unique ability of each AA to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates AAs all around the globe.”

What you may not realize is that sometimes “long-timers” in AA call for help, too.

Fifth Tradition (pages 37-38)

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

“... Yes my group (made up of individual AAs, including me) has improved a lot in its respect for our Fifth Tradition – in its ways of carrying the message. My own AA history has lengthened considerably since I first caught glimpses of the sobriety-preserving wisdom in the AA way of doing things, summed up in our Traditions. But I have recently discovered something else quite wonderful about the Fifth: It does not say that AAs should help only newcomers.

“I do not agree that the newcomer is the most important member at any meeting. In my opinion, equally important are those old-timers who showed me the way, and any middle-timer who may today be suffering. If newcomers are indeed the lifeblood of AA, old- and middle-timers are its skin and backbone. What a bewildered mess we would be in without them!

“So in your next meeting when that Tradition about carrying the message ‘to the alcoholic who still suffers’ is mentioned, please give a thought, not only to newcomers, but also to the alcoholics older in AA who are sitting there. One of them might be me. I still suffer, sometimes. I still need to hear the message, always.” --- BL, June 1970

Pass It On – But How? (pages 134 & 136)

“It is a paradox that one of the basic tenets of the AA program is that we must give away what we have in order to keep it. In other words, it is necessary to our own sobriety that we share freely with others what we have been so freely given. ‘When we see a man sinking into the mire that is alcoholism, we give him first aid and place what we have at his disposal.’ (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 132). This has not been seen as optional but necessary to the success of an AA members’ program. ‘Though they knew they must help other alcoholics if they would remain sober....’ (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 159).

“The importance of passing it on is simply stated in our Responsibility Declaration: ‘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.’

“The AA Preamble emphasizes the same point, saying we are ‘men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.’ Tradition Five states the ‘our Society has concluded it has but one high mission – to carry the AA message to those who don’t know there’s a way out’ (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, page 151).

“Our whole meeting structure is based on this concept, our literature works toward this end, and good-spirited AA members through the years have contributed to this stream of continuity, with each passing the message on to others and variously helping his fellows along the ‘road of happy destiny.’

“The last words of the Preamble say it clearly: ‘Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.’” — Charlie R., Athens, GA, January 2000

— Excerpts from the book *I AM RESPONSIBLE: The Hand of AA: Selected Stories from the AA Grapevine* © AA Grapevine, Inc.

• • • FROM THE AREA 51 DELEGATE • • •

To Area 51 Trusted Servants:

It is time to submit suggestions for the 2016 General Service Conference Theme.

Please see below for information/guidance on submitting suggested Conference Themes. Encourage participation by your District, GSRs, and local groups. It is an opportunity for participation in the General Service Conference! Email all suggestions to me by December 1, 2014. I will submit all suggestions for consideration by the 2015 Conference Agenda Committee. If you have any questions or comments, please email or call.

In AA gratitude and service,
Homer M. [call Central Ofc for phone number]

Conference Themes, presentations and workshop topics for each General Service Conference are discussed by delegates during the week of the Conference.

Theme, presentation and workshop topics revolve around basic principles of A.A. and can spark thought-provoking discussion at Area and district meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts may incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives A.A. members involved in service the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A. The 2015 Conference Committee on Agenda will consider suggestions for a theme, presentation and workshop topics for 2016.