

12th District Central Office
113 Camilla Ave- Martinez
Augusta, GA 30907-3406



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SOBER DAZE

January - March 2017 A 12TH District Publication

Words of Wisdom and Gratitude

On Thanksgiving Day many people in the United States dive into the feast, gorging themselves into a coma, without a thought about what it means to be truly thankful. It is easy to concentrate on the festivities and forget about the true meaning of gratitude. I think that as people who have a deadly disease, and just by the grace of God have found a better way of life, we need to be more conscious of being grateful. Of course I am forever grateful to God for giving me the clarity of mind to act on the knowledge that I was an alcoholic who needed help. But, I owe my biggest debt of gratitude to the AA wisdom imparted to me, intended or not, by members of AA. When I go to meetings I often hear amazing insight from not only old timers but newcomers as well. When life becomes life, and I am consumed with worry or sadness, I still remember early sobriety in NJ where an old-timer named Jim (Truck Driver Jim) used to always say, "We have to maintain an attitude of gratitude." That stuck with me and I still say it. Billy often said, "We have only 3 choices if we keep on drinking: jail, hospital, or institution." Tom always began his shares with, "My name is Tom, and I'm comfortable today because of this program." We always referred to him as "Comfortable Tom."

I am so grateful to those people I encountered in early sobriety because even if they didn't know it, I always learned something. In the Midday group, Paul (40 years of sobriety) often says, "Be careful what you say because you are a walking Big Book". That is the beauty of this program: I think if you have an honest desire to stop drinking, and stay sober, it is not so hard when you become willing and open your mind. For me, listening carefully to sharing in the meetings is paramount. You never know what gems you will hear and people do not know what an impact they may have on others. Someone may be struggling to stay sober that day, and your words of encouragement or words of caution from a person just coming back for a white chip, may be the tipping point that keeps that person from picking up that first disastrous drink. When I remember to "maintain and attitude of gratitude" the quality of my life increases exponentially and I am not just dry, but sober.

Marilyn B (Editor)

God, Santa Claus, and Faith – by Wayne G.

In a recent meeting of my home group, the topic was brought up, “What do you do when you have a *Red Sea Challenge*?” The term, taken from the Old Testament, is used to describe life’s situations when one is surrounded by threats.

One member shared that she did not believe in God or Santa Claus. She did, however, have absolute faith in AA and had been in recovery for more than 22 years. Of course, during those 22 years, she had 22 years of life, including a few of her own *Red Sea Challenges*.

Another member talked about his faith in God and how that had guided him through his more than two decades of life and *Red Sea Challenges*, including the recent death of his son from an accidental drug overdose.

For more than 40 years, I was a daily drinker. For many of those years, I knew I was an alcoholic, which was okay with me. I could handle anything that came along and I didn’t need help from anyone. I was wrong.

In the spring of 2002, I received a call from the local Emergency Room. My 20-year old daughter was there in bad shape. She had been doing drugs with a couple of friends and one had injected her with a drug that caused an instant embolus and she was shortly put into cardiac arrest. These two friends were loaded, so instead of calling 911, they put her in a car and took her to the ER. They carried her in and set her in a chair in the waiting room. They then told a hospital employee that they had “found her” and that she probably “needed some help.” They then left my daughter there without giving any of potentially lifesaving information they both knew.

When we got to the hospital, my wife and I were told that Kimberly had been placed on life support and there was no hope for recovery. Four days later, we made the impossible decision to take our beloved daughter off life support. She was pronounced dead a few minutes later.

Trapped in my own alcoholism, I didn’t even know my daughter was a drug addict.

Three days after Kim’s funeral, I found myself staring into the mirror. I had a decision to make. I was either going to kill myself by drinking or I was going to turn my life around. I had two other kids, a wife, a home and a life. For reasons still unclear, I went to my first AA meeting that day.

For many months, those people in AA let me cry, laugh, sob, talk, be quiet, anything I needed to deal with my grief. No one ever criticized or told me how I should be acting. What I didn’t know but soon found out, those experienced members of AA knew how to let me accept the unacceptable. They taught me how to “live life on life’s terms.” They promised me that I would find a way to let Kim’s death help others. In face, they made 12 Promises to me if only I would work the 12 Steps of AA. So, a week after the 15th anniversary of my daughter’s death, my sponsor presented me with my 15 year chip in front of my home group.

In those 15 years, I lost jobs, had heart surgery, helped my sons move into adulthood, retired from work, sponsored a few other men and even saw my golf handicap increase due to the fact that I seem to be getting. In short, in the last 15 years, I’ve had 15 years of life. And every moment of every day, Red Sea Challenge or miraculous joy, AA has been with me. I have even returned to Church, and my wife and I attend every Sunday. I even go to Sunday School. Trust me when I tell you, before 2002, that was not an

Faithful Fivers

Charles A	Georgia A	Mony M
Jim & Billie B	Jimmy H/Tammra N	Linda S
Cathy C	David J	Last Call Group
Bruce/Kathy D	Pat J	Gene/Judy T
Ted/Michael E	Traylor J	Kathy M
Carson E	Rosemary M	Frank W
Lisa K	Tony B	Edith E
Rosanne G	Moselle P	Kathryn Z
Cleveland J	Ronnie P	Lisa S

Enroll in the Faithful Fivers

“Faithful Fivers” are A.A. members who, in gratitude, contribute five dollars a month toward supporting the 12th District Central Office. With this support, the Central Office pays for the printing of this publication and, when you enroll, will make sure it is delivered to your home when the issue comes out.

Payment Plan

I agree to pledge, and here is my donation of \$_____ for _____ months.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Sub. Date:** _____

Make checks payable to:
12th District Central Office
113 Camilla Ave.-Martinez
Augusta, GA 30907
(706) 860-8331

Thank you for your support!!

My Visits to the Augusta AA Central Office

My first visit to the Central Office on Camilla Avenue was about January 2005 because I had back trouble. My wife was on my back about my drinking.

I looked up the address and went after work to see if they had any study materials about drinking. When I first pulled up to park there were people outside – so I left. I did not want any more people to know I was there than was absolutely necessary.

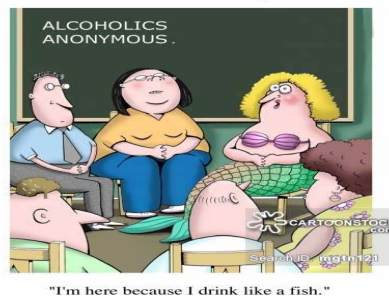
I went back later and no one was outside. I went in to see what materials were there. After checking out the bookshelf I decided to buy one of everything. I left with a stack of books about a foot high. Knowing what was going on about drinking would help me handle the situation.

I decided to start reading “Living Sober” because it was the smallest book. I would make certain I read it on the couch in front of my wife. She would be drinking a glass of wine and watching TV. If she dozed off, I would go mix a stiff drink, continue to read “Living Sober,” and proceed to get drunk. I would soon grow bored with “Living Sober.” Because they didn’t work I later donated all the books to the library when I was getting kicked out of the house.

My visits to the Central Office are much different now. I look forward to seeing people there. I visit in the daylight! I help out as much as I can.

One recent visit on a Wednesday found me talking to Rob E. about things. A lady drove up and asked if we had seen her son. He had gone back out and she was hoping he had come to the Central Office or the Happy Hour Group to try to get sober. We checked, but did not see her son. She did leave knowing we would do everything we could.

It is interesting that when we are in our cups we don’t appreciate a fully staffed office but those around us see so clearly what the Central Office does.



option. Remember, I didn’t need anyone for anything.

So, here I am—15 years older, 15 years wiser, thanks to the AA program. With the help of God, my home group, my sponsor, and every AA member, I have been given this new life. And so you know, I do believe in God and a few other personal things.

Santa is just icing on the cake.

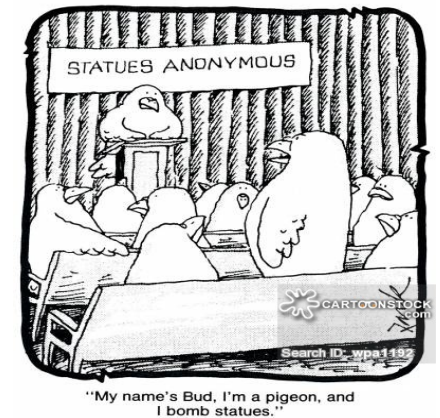
Yours in Recovery

Wayne G.

A New Dimension

There was a time when many of us believed that alcohol was the only thing that made life bearable. We could not even dream of a life without drinking. Today, through the AA program, we do not feel that we have been deprived of anything. Rather, we have been freed and find that a new dimension has been added to our lives. We have new friends, new horizons, and new attitudes. After years of despair and frustration, many of us feel that we have really begun to live for the first time. We enjoy sharing that new life with anyone who is still suffering from alcoholism, as we once suffered, and who seeks a way out of the darkness and into the light.

Alcoholism is one of the major American health problems. It has been estimated that millions of men and women continue to suffer, perhaps unnecessarily, from this progressive illness. As members of AA, we welcome the opportunity to share our experience in arresting this illness with anyone who seeks help. We appreciate that nothing we can say will have any real meaning until the alcoholic personally is ready to admit, as we once did, “Alcohol has me licked, and I want help.”



Website Development

Many of us have heard that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. When I began my service with Central Office, I was content with the status quo. Because our technology is continually changing, I proposed a website upgrade/change and presented it to the Board of Directors. It was a unanimous decision to approve my proposal. Hence, we have a new look to our website.

We are constantly looking for suggestions to help improve the functionality and provide better service for those needing help. One suggestion came from the Spanish Group at North Augusta for a Spanish version of the website. This is in the process of being developed now. We are constantly ensuring that the website meets with copyright issues and accessibility standards.

From April 2016 through November 2016, we've had 25,789 visits. This means that on average, there are over 3,223 visitors to our website every month. Those statistics indicate that we are carrying the message to AA members and non-AA members alike.

Central Office operates primarily through group contributions and with continued support from the groups, we can provide help to those still suffering. Although some groups meet in South Carolina, we still provide a service for those groups with literature, telephone service, and meeting schedules for the CSRA.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Scott B.— Central Office Volunteer and Webmaster.

AA History

THE WILSON HOUSE

The birthplace of WILLIAM GRIFFITH WILSON on Village Street, East Dorset, Vermont, was a vacant lot in 1846. Five years later the Barrows House opened as a hotel. When Bill Wilson was born there in 1895, his Grandmother Wilson owned the hotel, which had been in her family since it was built by her father. When she married Bill's grandfather, the hotel became **The Wilson House**.

Tips for Sobriety and Serenity – Next 10 Tips for Jan through March 2017

51. Try to heal yourself by helping others
52. Share your experience, strength, and hope
53. Find the courage to change yourself
54. Find the serenity to accept others
55. Try to turn your life and will over to a Higher Power
56. Be willing
57. Come with me to a meeting
58. Admit you are powerless over alcohol
59. Come to believe in a power greater than yourself
60. Take a searching and fearless moral inventory

AA Quotes

“I simply had to believe in a Spirit of the Universe, who knew neither time nor limitation.”

— [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

“Avoid then, the deliberate manufacture of misery, but if trouble comes, cheerfully capitalize it as an opportunity to demonstrate His omnipotence.”

— [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

“I've been benefited from a dictionary definition I found that reads: "Rationalization is giving a socially acceptable reason for socially unacceptable behavior, and socially unacceptable behavior is a form of insanity.”

— [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

“Identifying, they said, was trying to see how I was like the people I was with. Comparing, they told me, was looking for differences, usually seeing how I was better than others.”

— [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

“To this day, I am amazed at how many of my problems - most of which had nothing to do with drinking, I believed - have become manageable or have simply disappeared since I quit drinking.”

— [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

NEW BEGINNING

First Name Sobriety Date

Frank W	1/9/2005
Thom B	1/13/2002
Mynette B	3/6/1996

NO NIPPING NOONERS

First Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	

Too SLEEPY to DRINK

First Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	

SOUTHSIDE

Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	

WASHINGTON

First Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	

NEW PERCEPTIONS

First Name Sobriety Date

Johan J.	1/13/2012
Mary K.	1/5/2013
Stacey R.	1/28/2016
Ann Marie F	1/13/2016
Tammy Lee M.	3/29/2012

SUNLIGHT of THE SPIRIT

First Name Sobriety Date

No info	
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THOMSON

First Name Sobriety Date

Jason H	2/15/2014
Chuck B	3/2/2009

About the Birthday List—Note from Editor

I make every effort to include everyone's AA Birthdays in every SDs issue as accurately as possible. Unfortunately I can only print what I have. I am asking that I receive the Quarterly Birthdays one month after the issue comes out. For example: This issue comes out January 1st, so I WILL NEED THE QUARTERLY BIRTHDAYS FOR THE APRIL ISSUE BY FEBRUARY 1ST. In the past I printed out old information and will stop doing this because it is not accurate. If I do not receive a birthday list for the next 3 months by the due date, your group will not be included in Sober Daze. You can send your Quarterly lists to the Central Office.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Highlights of 2017 Events to Look Forward To

For more information, refer to aageorgia.org (Area 16 Website)

Every year they come—your area and state (or out-of-state) AA events that really get you fired up for sobriety, making you fall in love with the program all over again. Submit your articles, jokes, or favorite upcoming event. Get published in Sober Daze.

Winter Workshop 2017, District 12 A & B

**Saturday, Feb 18, 2017
9:00 am—1:30 pm**

Hosted by the Evans Group

**1st Baptist Church of Evans
515 N. Belair Road, Evans, GA**

**(At corner of N. Belair and Washington Road)
Go to http://www.augustaaa.org/aa_events_calendar.html
to obtain flyer**

soberdaze12th@gmail.com The Central Office

113 Camilla Avenue
Augusta, GA 30907

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m./Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
706-860-8331

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

BAKER AVE

Name	Sobriety Date
Joe F	1/5/2004
Patricia R	1/19/2011
Clint P	1/23/2011
Larisa W	1/24/2012
Michael D	1/31/2012
Will K	2/5/2008
Dave B	2/14/1983
Barry A	2/13/2012
Michael R	3/2/1983
Tina M	3/7/2012
Mary D	3/14/2009
Jack M	3/15/1986
Mike Y	3/20/2012
Steve S	3/20/2012
Orice T	3/22/2011
Tommy S	3/29/2012

EVANS

First Name	Sobriety Date
Charlene G	1/21/12
Ginnie	1/28/09
Larry G	1/28/02
Michael E	1/23/80
Rob E	1/2/903
Curtis M	2/14/16
Donna H	2/21/16
Marcie H	2/25/16
Heather E	3/30/14
Jessica S	3/25/13
Pat F	3/21/93
Regan R	3/29/10
Ronald G	3/17/00

FOREST HILLS

First Name	Sobriety Date
Martha R	1/2/1988
Angie T	1/2/2010
Lee C	1/4/2016
John M	1/29/2009
Joan V	2/1/2013
Brandon W	2/9/2015
Jimmy Y	2/11/2012
Amanda C	2/19/2010
Tim G	2/21/2016
Connor W	2/26/2015
Chris H	3/1/2014
Tommy C	3/7/2010
Michael A	3/7/2012
Brian L	3/11/2008
Jean H	3/12/2005
Doug C	3/13/2014
Adam C	3/16/2012
Maggie C	3/20/2011
Harison T	3/20/2014
Todd M	3/26/2015
Regan R	3/29/2010

GRATITUDE

First Name	Sobriety Date
Michael G	1/1/2015
Cope F	1/7/2016
Linda S	1/9/2002
Michelle C	1/23/2015
Mark W	2/3/2008
Lauren P	2/9/2016
Casey M	2/12/2013
Carleen C	3/3/2015
Rick M	3/8/2015
Donna T	3/9/1980
Chuck M	3/17/1990
Sue D	3/26/2014
Larry M	3/28/1994
Rob A	3/31/2008

HAPPY HOUR

First Name	Sobriety Date
Judy W	1/2/1998
Justyn K	1/6/2010
Bill G	1/9/2010
Shelton S	1/25/2005
Mark H	1/25/2011
Jeff S	1/27/2009
Ashley R	2/14/2009
Tina R	3/16/2009
Rob B	3/17/2008
Keith McN	3/27/2006

HEPHZIBAH

First Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	
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HILL

First Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	

IN STEP

First Name Sobriety Date

David B	2/3/1994
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MARTINEZ

First Name Sobriety Date

Chuck L	2/21/1992
Annqunette M.	2/6/2015
Don B	3/3/1986
Bob W	3/24/1995

MID DAY

First Name Sobriety Date

Laura M	1/10/2011
Paul G	1/18/2013
Jack J	1/19/2013
Anne S	1/27/2012
Bob S	1/29/2016
Mike L	2/8/1991
Sara R	2/9/2009
Muriel D	2/14/1999
Al B	2/23/2006
Steve T	2/26/1994
Tim W	2/29/2008
Catherine R	
Beth A	3/4/1984
DougnC	3/13/2016
Gil W	3/16/1988
Missy	3/16/2015
James W	3/16/2015
Les B	3/25/2011
Susan S	3/26/2008

NATIONAL HILLS

First Name Sobriety Date

No current info available	