



# SOBER DAZE

January—March 2019

A 12TH District Publication

Editor Introduction / Thoughts

## **Inside**

Page 1

**Editor Thoughts**

Page 2

**Promises by the Step**

Page 3

**The Steps of AA**

Pages 4

**AA History**

Page 5

**AA Concepts**

Page 6-7

**Birthdays**

Page 8

**Events/Service**

Page 9

**Poetry & Top Ten List**

Page 10

**Pamphlets & District Committee**

Page 11

**Faithful Fivers**

*“You can learn a lot about a woman by getting smashed with her.”*

## **WE RANK LAST!!!! WE RANK LAST!!!**

Usually people do not celebrate being last in anything. For instance, the Big Books talks a lot about how we will do about anything to drink like others. And, of course, Bill Wilson spoke about his ever-lasting desire to excel.

So why celebrate being last in anything?

The Big Books at the Central Office sell for \$7.50 each. AA World Services sells them for 9.50 each. A discount of \$2.00 on a \$9.50 book is a lot. Looking around the country, only eleven districts sell books for less than World Services. The next closest to us is the AA District located around Eau Claire, Wisconsin—with a sales price of \$8.00.

How is it possible to sell the Big Book at a loss for so long? **YOU!** Purchases of AA materials at the Central Office, purchases of ‘drunk junk,’ Group Contributions to the Central Office, Faithful Fives = all these are ways to keep the price of a Big Book affordable.

I remember early on in AA when I could only afford peanut butter and Ramen noodles. Then, \$7.50 was a lot of meals. But it is a lot less than \$9.50. I was given my first Big Book, but the expectation was that I would quickly buy one to give to another new AA. Paying in loose change did work.

So, as we have just completed the Holidays, gratitude does seem to be appropriate. Let’s all be grateful that we can chip in this way to bring the message of hope to suffering alcoholics.

**-David J. (Editor)**

If you have a topic, story, article, or ideas for Sober Daze , please send it in. This is a We program and we have a lot of recovery between us.

**Read Sober Daze anytime by visiting**  
[http://www.augustaaa.org/sober\\_daze.html](http://www.augustaaa.org/sober_daze.html)

**View AA Videos at:**  
[http://www.augustaaa.org/public\\_service\\_announcement\\_videos.html](http://www.augustaaa.org/public_service_announcement_videos.html)  
[https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/videos-and-audios](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios)

## Promises by the Step

Everyone knows the Ninth Step Promises—we read them at every meeting. But I have been taught that **every step** has Promises. Being alcoholics, if we did not have Immediate results, we might not go through with the deal. For 2019, we will be looking at the Promises of each Step.

### Step 1 Promise

Pg. 42: That was not easy. But the moment I made up my mind to go through with the process, I had the curious feeling that my alcoholic condition was relieved, as in fact it proved to be..

*(Editor: I had a Spiritual Experience, and when I made up my mind, my condition was relieved immediately)*

### Step 2 Promise

Pg. 50: In the face of collapse and despair, in the face of the total failure of their human resources, they found that a new power, peace, happiness, and sense of direction flowed into them. This happened soon after they whole- heartedly met a few simple requirements.

*(Editor: My First Step Meeting led me to Step 2 because of the stories told by those in the room. I had been to AA meetings earlier, so I was familiar with the 'requirements')*

### Step 3 Promise

Pg. 63: When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed. We had a new Employer. Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs. More and more we became interested in seeing what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow or the hereafter. We were reborn

*(Editor: Having been beat down completely by this disease, I really had no other choice. I heard a Speaker say that his first Sponsor told him that if he turned his will and life over to the care of a door knob, a miracle would happen. The Speaker said, 'O.K., so what's the miracle?' "Your life is no longer in the hands of an idiot!" was the response)*

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services and the General Service Office have established a YouTube Channel to help broaden the availability of AA videos. The site can be found at:

[www.youtube.com/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc](http://www.youtube.com/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc)

## The Steps of AA

Found at: [http://www.silkworth.net/downloads/pdf/22%20big\\_book\\_step\\_index.pdf](http://www.silkworth.net/downloads/pdf/22%20big_book_step_index.pdf)

### BIG BOOK STEP INDEX

- Step 1 We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable. This Step is described on Roman numeral pages 25 – 32 (xxv – xxxii), on pages 1 – 44:1, and 52:2.
- Step 2 Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. This Step is described in parts of chapters 1, 2, 3, and all of chapter 4.
- Step 3 Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. This Step is described on pages 60:3 – 64:0. The directions for taking Step 3 are on pages 60:4, 62:3, and 63:2 – 64:0. The results of taking Step 3 are given on page 63:1 and the last line of 63:3.
- Step 4 Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. This Step is described on pages 63:4 – 71 and directions for taking this Step are given throughout. The results of taking Step 4 are given on page 70:3.
- Step 5 Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. This Step is described on pages 72 – 75. The directions for taking Steps 5 are on page 75:1, the first sentence of 75:2, and 75:3. The results of taking Step 5 are on page 75:2 after the first sentence.
- Step 6 Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. This Step is described on page 76:1. The directions for taking Step 6 are also there.
- Step 7 Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. This Step is described on page 76:2. The directions for taking Step 7 are also there.
- Step 8 Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all. This Step is described on page 76:3. The directions for taking Step 8 are also there.
- Step 9 Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. This Step is described on pages 76:4 – 84:1 and the directions for completing Step 9 are given throughout. The results of taking Step 9 are on page 83:4 – 84:1.
- Step 10 Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it. This Step is described on pages 84:1 – 85:2. The directions for taking Step 10 are on page 84:2, the first line of 84:3, and 85:1. The results of taking Step 10 are on page 84:3 – 85:0.
- Step 11 Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His Will for us and the power to carry that out. This Step is described on pages 85:3 – 88:3. The directions for taking Step 11 are on pages 86:1 – 88:0. The results of taking Step 11 are found on page 88 lines 2 – 8.
- Step 12 Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all of our affairs. This Step is described on pages 89 – 150. Many tips on how to carry our message of recover to another alcoholic are found throughout chapter 7, and many tips on how to carry our message and practice these principles in all of our affairs are found throughout chapters 8 – 10.

## Important Dates in A.A. History

(Details taken from [http://www.a-associates.com/aa/HISTORY\\_PAGE/dates.htm](http://www.a-associates.com/aa/HISTORY_PAGE/dates.htm) and was collected and assembled by Nancy O. of Virginia. This is a Maryland AA History web site.)

- January 1, 1948: First A.A. meeting held in Japan, (English speaking.)
- January 2, 1889: Bridget Della Mary Gavin (Sister Ignatia) was born in Ireland.
- January 3, 1939: First sale of Works Publishing Co. stock was recorded.
- January 7, 1984: "Pass it On" was published on this date.
- January 10, 1940: First AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.
- January 23, 1961: Bill W. sent an appreciation letter, which he considered long-overdue, to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.
- January 24, 1918: Bill Wilson and Lois Burnham were married, days before he was sent to Europe in WW I.
- January 26, 1971: *New York Times* published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.
- January 30, 1961: Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."
- February 1, 1942: Ruth Hock, AA's 1st paid secretary, resigns to get married
- February 8, 1940: Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other AA's asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr., for money at the Union Club, N.Y. They got \$2,000.
- February 12, 1945: World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.
- February 18, 1943: AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.
- February 22, 1842: Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.
- February 23, 1959: AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.
- February, 1908: Bill Wilson made boomerang.
- March 1, 1941: Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.
- March 21, 1966: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.
- March 22, 1951: Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.
- March 22, 1984: Clarence Snyder, founder of Cleveland AA and author of "Home Brewmeister," died at 81, 46 years sober.
- March 23, 1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.
- March 1940: Mort J. came to LA from Denver; started custom of reading Chapter 5 Big Book at Cecil group.
- March 1946: The Jefferson Barracks AA Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought to be the first ever in a military installation.

## **THE 12 CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE**

Copyright © The Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

*\*As adopted by the 12th annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous on April 26, 1962*

### **The Twelve Concepts (Short Form)**

- I.** Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.
- II.** The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
- III.** To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional “Right of Decision”.
- IV.** At all reasonable levels, we ought to maintain traditional “Right of Participation”, allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V.** Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI.** The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII.** The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII.** The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX.** Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X.** Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI.** The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII.** The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

The short form of the Concepts are provided as an educational opportunity.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

As of the publication date, the participating Groups have  
1,357,821 days of Sobriety!

<b>Evans</b>			<b>Gratitude Group</b>			<b>Happy Hour</b>		
Founded	2/3/1995		Founded	4/1/2006		Founded	8/31/1988	
Celebrates	Every Thursday		Celebrates	Last Friday at Noon		Celebrates	First Saturday at 8:00 P.M.	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Amanda R	1/16/2018	341	Ken M.	1/5/2016	1,083	Stevie L.	1/6/2016	1082
Charlene G	01/21/12	2,528	John Y.	1/5/2017	717	Matt S.	1/16/2017	706
Larry G	01/28/02	6,173	Chris D.	1/6/2017	716	Jennifer D	3/24/2018	274
Colby P.	1/31/2013	2,152	Linda S.	1/9/2002	6,192			
Gerry M	02/03/86	12,011	Paul C. II	1/18/2016	1,070			
Dusty H	2/12/2018	314	Sue D.	1/18/2016	1,070			
Erin K	03/13/17	650	Michael G.	1/21/2017	701	<b>Hill</b>		
Pat F	03/21/93	9,408	Ginnie F.	1/28/2009	3,616	Founded	12/27/1966	
Jessica S	03/25/13	2,099	Laura D.	2/2/2017	689	Celebrates		
Heather L	03/30/14	1,729	Mark W.	2/3/2009	3,610			
			Wayne D.	2/10/2017	681			
			Vic D.	2/10/2017	681			
			Kevin McD.	2/11/2017	680			
<b>First Step</b>			Sharon W.	2/12/1985	12,367			
Founded	3/25/1974		Carleen C.	3/3/2015	1,391			
Celebrates			Donna T.	3/9/1980	14,168			
			Colby D.	3/9/2014	1,750			
			Rick M.	3/12/2015	1,382			
			Bob G.	3/14/2016	1,014			
			Chuck M.	3/17/1990	10,508			
			Jon P.	3/18/2017	645			
			Wendy S.	3/18/2017	645			
			Michael S.	3/23/2017	640			
			Sue D.	3/26/2014	1,733			
			Larry M.	3/28/1994	9,036			
			Rob A.	3/31/2009	3,554			
			Jacquelin G.	3/31/2016	997			

**In Step**

Founded 2/5/1991  
Celebrates

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
David B.	2/3/1994	9,089
Sam M.	3/6/2016	1,022
Duane "D" T.	3/22/2012	2,467

**Liberty Street Group**

Founded 12/6/2014  
Celebrates

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Johnny G	1/8/1969	18,246
Greg H.	1/13/2012	2,536
John M.	3/20/2016	1,008

**Martinez**

Founded 7/31/1980  
Celebrates

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Ashley K.	1/5/2017	717
Annqunette M.	2/6/2015	1,416
Chuck L.	2/21/1992	9,802
Don B.	3/3/1986	11,983
Karen F.	3/11/1997	7,957

**New Beginning**

Founded 12/17/1982  
Celebrates

Celebrant Chooses

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Frank W	1/9/2005	5,096
Wyman B	3/1/2014	1,758

**No Nipping Nooners**

Founded 12/13/1989  
Celebrates

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Cynthia E.	1/3/2016	1,085
Alicia J.	1/4/2017	718
Kay M.	1/11/2010	3,268
Courtney P.	1/25/2012	2,524
Chris B.	1/21/2013	2,162
Jennifer McK	1/27/2016	1,061
Sara R.	2/9/2009	3,604
Johann F.	2/20/2015	1,402
Byron F.	2/25/2017	666
Jammy T.	2/26/1987	11,623
Jenn W.	3/9/2015	1,385
Samuel McD.	3/16/2016	1,012
John G.	3/23/2016	1,005
Joshua B.	3/26/2014	1,733

**Thomson Group**

Founded 9/6/1949  
Celebrates Last Saturday  
7:00 Eating  
8:00 Mtg

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Kenny S.	1/7/2016	1,081
Robby W.	1/23/2018	334
Joey A.	3/25/2007	4,291

Central Office Volunteer Opportunities are Available in the Central Office. Just call the Central Office at 706-860-8331.

The Central Office is a great spot to meet really Interesting people!

Service Committees need great people as well. If you have a special burning desire to be of service, one of our Service Committees has experiences just waiting

**Too Sleepy to Drink**

Founded 4/1/2008  
Celebrates

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Richard C.	1/1/1994	9,122
David B.	1/1/2011	2,913
Elizabeth L.	1/3/2018	354
Kay M.	1/11/2010	3,268
Jon L.	1/30/2012	2,519
Justin H.	2/3/2015	1,419
Melvin F.	2/9/1978	14,927
Donnie C.	2/21/2014	1,766
Phil G.	3/1/2015	1,393
Amy L.	3/3/2015	1,391

**Washington**

Founded 5/1/1982  
Celebrates Person Picks  
6:00 Eating  
7:00 Mtg

Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Tangie A.	2/6/2017	685

## Events of Interest to District 12

January 13	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
January 18-20	GSSA, Macon
January 26	State Corrections Training, Macon
February Saturday TBD	District Winter Workshop, Evans Baptist Church
February 10	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
March 10	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
April 14	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
May 12	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
May 17-19	GSSA, Macon
May 25	State Corrections Training, Macon
June 9	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
June 10, 1935	Dr. Bob's Last Drink / Birth of A.A.
July 14	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.

### Service Opportunity at Serenity Behavioral Health Center Wednesdays at 600 P.M.

<b>January—Group Volunteers Needed</b>	February—The Hill Group
<b>March—Group Volunteers Needed</b>	April—Forest Hills Group
May—New Perceptions Group	June—Martinez Group
July—National Hills Group	August—Gratitude Group
September—Thomson Group	October—Evans Group
November—New Perceptions Group	December—National Hills Group

Please contact Katie I at 440-453-8948 for questions and to volunteer.

### Your 12th District Central Office Activities Our Central Office Volunteers have been busy!

#### Founders Day Celebration 2019

Founders Day has become a big event for District 12. We are approaching the size where advance planning is needed along with money to make this recovery event happen. The funding goal for 2019 is \$1,400 (including a \$300 Prudent Reserve). This would fund the 2019 Founders Day and provide a prudent reserve for setting up 2020.

Your Group or Individual support is needed for the \$373 to establish the prudent reserve.

GOAL:	\$ 1,400
ON HAND:	\$ 1,077
<b>NEEDED:</b>	<b>\$ 323</b>

<u>Central Office Activity</u>	<u>Past 12 Months Total</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Last 3 Months Total</u>
Calls to Answering Service	1,488	124	363
AA Calls to Central Office	685	57	176
Al-Anon Calls to Central Office	33	3	6
Other Calls to Central Office	72	6	16
Visitors to the Central Office	1,588	132	374
Total Central Office Contacts	3,866	322	935
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$11,339.48	\$944.96	\$3,012.90
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$10,501.08	\$875.09	\$2,618.23
Total Central Office Sales	\$21,840.56	\$1,820.05	\$5,631.13
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	51,663	4,697	14,863
Search Hits	179,481	16,316	51,659



### **The Poetry and Literature Section**

Because, as we find on page xxx **“They are often able, intelligent, friendly people.”** (Editors note: I am, but humility keeps me from bragging about it.)

#### ***Not the Poem You May Think***

One night I had a wonderful dream,  
One set of footprints there was seen.  
The footprints of my precious God,  
But mine were not along the shore.

But then some stranger prints appeared,  
And I asked God, “What have we here?”  
Those prints are large, and round, and neat.  
But Lord, they are too big for feet.”

“My child,” He said in somber tones,  
“For miles I carried you along.  
I challenged you to walk in faith,  
But you refused and made me wait.”

“You disobeyed, you would not grow.  
The walk of faith, you would not know.  
So I got tired. I got fed up.  
And there I dropped you on your butt.”

I’ve found in life, there comes a time,  
When one must fight, and one must climb,  
When one must rise and take a stand.  
Or leave their butt prints in the sand.

Thanks to The Desert Lifeline, December 2018, page 12

We all remember talking like that! “But we aren’t a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn’t want it.” pg. 132.

### **Top Ten List—Strangest Things to Drink to Change Your Reality**

Listening to old Speaker Tapes gives insight into some of the strange things we did to get alcohol. Listed below are some of the strange things people drink to change their reality.

10. Liquor, Wine, Beer
9. Hand Sanitizer
8. Listerine
7. Hair Spray (Aqua Net Pump is the best)
6. Mead (fermented honey)
5. Sterno
4. NyQuil
3. Cherry Extract - 95% Alcohol = 190 Proof
2. Fermented Mare’s Milk
1. Water “I don’t drink water. Fish f\*\*k in it.” W.C. Fields  
“I never drink water. I’m afraid it will become habit-forming.” W.C. Fields  
“Scotch needs water like a fish needs a bicycle.” W.C. Fields

## **I Get by with a Little Help from my AA Pamphlet**

Ever wonder about all of those pamphlets at the Central Office? Some details are:



### **Too Young? (P-37)**

Is a relatively new pamphlet created in 2006. It is a cartoon pamphlet designed for teenagers. It speaks directly to those starting drinking before the age of 18.

The twelve questions are specially worded for teenagers.

A section on Getting the Facts goes a long way to bringing truth to the reader.

## **Special Needs Committee**

District 12 does have a Special Needs Committee! This committee is here to assist AA's with special needs. This is described as persons who are blind or visually impaired; deaf or hard of hearing; chronically ill or homebound, and those who are developmentally disabled. On the national level, this committee is known as the Accessibilities Committee.

If you visit the aa.org web site, you will see the 'blue people.' One is in a wheelchair. The typical special need in the Augusta area is homebound and blind. However, we have recently had a deaf member attending a Group. The District is working on how best to address the special needs of members within a very limited District budget as well as limited Group budgets.

# 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	Rosemary M	Sara/John R
Ronnie P	Tony B	Frank W
Carson E	Lisa S	Rob D
Katy & Fred I	Ellen W	Jessica/Courtney S/D
Hill Group	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE
AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE

## 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 making it available to the suffering alcoholic. When you enroll as a supporter, each issue will be delivered to your home.

### Payment Plan

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sobriety Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

***Thank you for your support!!***

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