



SOBER DAZE

April—June

A 12TH District Publication

Editor Introduction / Thoughts

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"I drink to make other people more Interesting."~ Ernest Hemingway

Pay It Forward

One of my favorite movies is "Pay it Forward." This movie was mentioned in the December 2018 issue of "The Courier." It mentions Gratitude being a verb, not a noun. The guiding quote from Bill W. is "Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given you."

I have a lot of things to be grateful about, but how do I show my gratitude? Do I talk about things that have happened, or do I look for new opportunities for service? I have been taught that a Gratitude List is an important tool to keep a conscious contact. "A Grateful Alcoholic Never Drinks."

But the future is coming at me every second. How do I prepare for the unknown? It seems that The Promises hold the answer. There is a reference to how we will "gain interest in our fellows." By interacting with others, I gain wisdom of how to deal with new situations.

Reading AA literature, listening at meetings, service work at a detox or prison, staffing the Central Office, attending conferences and workshops—all give me new insights into how to deal with new situations.

You will remember that "Pay It Forward" has a tragedy at the end. But, it is the actions of many after the tragedy that shows their gratitude. Our challenge is to be grateful, through our actions, in every situation.

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

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



2019 Winter Workshop

I would like to thank everyone who came out to this year's winter workshop! This year's theme was "How it Works" with speakers addressing the Steps, Tradition 5, Sponsorship and Service. Many thanks to Christy P for recruiting the speakers — they were AWESOME! Cliff R spoke on Steps 1, 2, & 3; Rosemary on Steps 4 & 5; Sharron W on Steps 6 & 7; Louisa on Steps 8 & 9; Patrick G on Steps 10 & 11; Keylor G on Step 12 and Tradition 5; George C covered sponsorship and it's history; Dan W. spoke on service work; and Denney B summarized the service structure of AA.

We had 135 people sign in at the registration table ranging from a couple days to 38 years of sobriety. From a fiscal standpoint, the raffle totaled up to \$487! \$100 went to the 1st Baptist Church of Evans, \$244 went to the winner of the raffle and \$143 went to the

District. Many thanks to the groups who donated to help cover the cost of supplies, etc.: \$50 from Gratitude, \$25 from Hill Group, \$20 from Last Call, and \$25 from No Nipping Nooners. Thanks to the Central Office for supplying items for the door prizes. I would like to especially thank Evans Group for hosting and the RTF and Grace House for helping with set-up, bringing food, and helping with clean-up.

Thanks also go to the Winter Workshop committee, through your hard work and organization skills, y'all made my first assignment as incoming DCM go much more smoothly, and, for that I am grateful. I am also very grateful to all in District 12a for allowing me to serve. Namaste. Kim J, DCM 12a.

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

Important Dates in A.A. History

(Details taken from http://www.a-1associates.com/aa/HISTORY_PAGE/dates.htm and was collected and assembled by Nancy O. of Virginia. This is a Maryland AA History web site.)

April 1, 1939 - *Alcoholics Anonymous* AA's Big Book was published.

April 7, 1941 - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

April 10, 1939 - The first ten copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

April 16, 1940 - A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

April 30, 1989 - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.

May 4, 1946 - Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 11, 1939: First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G's house in Cleveland. (some sources say the 18th)

May 16, 1941 - Ruth Hock learned that Joe W. (credited with coming up with the name Alcoholics Anonymous) had a "wet brain."

May 19, 2000 - Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," was retitled "Acceptance Was the Answer," in the 4th edition.

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.

June 10, 1935 - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 13, 1945 - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 21, 1944 - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 30, 1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

The Twelve Traditions

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On April of 1946, Bill W. wrote an article for the Grapevine entitled “Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition,” an early presentation of what would become known simply as The Twelve Traditions. With his usual foresight, Bill had looked around the program some ten years after he and Dr. Bob met in Akron in 1935, and realized that, as A.A. grew, it was important to preserve its unity and singleness of purpose. During the 1940s, Bill received hundreds of letters from the A.A. groups that were springing up all over the country, letters asking him sometimes contentious questions about group autonomy, anonymity issues, A.A. endorsement of outside enterprises, and the like.

These letters, which described what Bill would call a “welter of exciting and fearsome experience,” played a key role in helping him formulate the Twelve Traditions. Published one by one in the Grapevine, from December 1947 to November 1948, and adopted at the First International Convention in Cleveland, the Traditions provided guidelines (not rules) that would help A.A. groups then and in the future conduct themselves in their relationship with the outside world and with Alcoholics Anonymous itself. “I offer these suggestions,” Bill wrote in that first April 1946 article, “neither as one man’s dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past.”

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There is quite a bit of discussion as to how much the history of The Washingtonians played in the development of the Twelve Traditions. It is reported that in the early 1940s Bill was sent a book on the history of The Washingtonians and was surprised about the similarities of the two groups.

It is interesting to note that an AA truism is “The Twelve Steps get us sober and The Twelve Traditions keep us from killing each other.”



Today, A.A. groups continue to use the Traditions to strive towards that group ideal as they carry their message of hope to still-suffering alcoholics around the world.

We Surrender to Win

Have you ever heard this at a Meeting and wondered where this came from? There is so much in AA that seems so contradictory. But, by studying our history and literature, it is easy to see Experience that came from living the AA Steps and Traditions. "Experience, Strength & Hope" is an AA book that has former stories from the Big Book that were taken out to allow for more contemporary stories. The 'Professor and the Paradox' is a favorite in that it talks about all those strange things that a newcomer hears and tries to understand.

We **SURRENDER TO WIN**. On the face of it, *surrendering* certainly does not seem like *winning*. But it is in AA Only after we have come to the end of our rope, hit a stone wall in some aspect of our lives beyond which we can go no further; only when we hit "bottom" in despair and surrender, can we accomplish sobriety which we could never accomplish before. We must, and we do, surrender in order to win.

We **GIVE AWAY TO KEEP**. That seems absurd and untrue. How can you keep anything if you give it away? But in order to keep whatever it is we get in AA, we must go about giving it away to others, for no fees or rewards of any kind. When we cannot afford to give away what we have received so freely in AA, we had better get ready for our next "drunk." It will happen every time. We've got to continue to give it away in order to keep it.

We **SUFFER TO GET WELL**. There is no way to escape the terrible suffering of remorse and regret and shame and embarrassment which starts us on the road to getting well from our affliction. There is no new way to shake out a hangover. It's painful. And for us, necessarily so. ... We suffer to get well.

We **DIE TO LIVE**. That is a beautiful paradox straight out of the Biblical idea of being "born again" or "losing one's life to find it." When we work at our Twelve Steps, the old life of guzzling and fuzzy thinking, and all that goes with it, gradually dies, and we acquire a different and a better way of life. As our shortcomings are removed, one life of us dies, and another life of us lives. We in AA die to live.

(THE PROFESSOR AND THE PARADOX) Story
Alcoholics Anonymous, 2nd Edition
Experience, Strength & Hope, pgs 155-156
(edited for space constraints)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

As of the production date, the participating Groups have
1,391,892 days of Sobriety!

Evans		
Founded	2/3/1995	
Celebrates	Every Thursday	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		201,128
Wayne F	04/06/93	9,486
Julia B	04/20/14	1,802
Sara L	04/24/17	702
Joseph K	5/6/2015	1,421
Joey Q	5/7/18	324
Jessica K	05/15/15	1,412
M.K. E	5/22/2018	309
Dale M.	5/26/2018	305
Vicky M	06/02/17	663
Eileen L	06/08/87	11,615
Michelle H	06/18/17	647
Julie A	6/27/2018	273
Jeremy L.	6/29/2017	636

First Step		
Founded	3/25/1974	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		77,868
Rosemary	4/15/1987	11,669
Joseph H	4/19/1982	13,491
Charles M	4/28/2002	6,177
Joe L	6/20/2016	1,010

Gratitude Group		
Founded	4/1/2006	
Celebrates	Last Friday at Noon	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		264,845
Jenny K.	4/1/2016	1,090
Rex W.	4/1/2017	725
Josh G.	4/3/2016	1,088
Bryan L.	4/4/2016	1,087
Gary M.	4/10/2016	1,081
Joseph S.	4/11/2012	2,541
Maria S.	4/17/2013	2,170
Kim McM	4/26/2005	5,083
Vince A.	4/29/2017	697
Debbie H.	5/1/2015	1,426
Stephen L.	5/3/2017	693
Charlie H.	5/10/1986	12,009
Bob C.	5/11/2017	685
Billy D.	5/11/2017	685
Kelly C.	5/15/2017	681
Stacie H	5/16/2013	2,141
David McN.	5/17/2017	679
Bryan G	5/23/2016	1,038
Theresa Z.	5/30/2016	1,031
Shelli C.	6/1/2016	1,029
Becca L	6/3/2016	1,027
Angie S.	6/11/2014	1,750
Vicky M.	6/11/2017	654
Angie C.	6/19/2016	1,011
Steve D.	6/24/2009	3,563
Tabitha W.	6/29/2017	636

Happy Hour		
Founded	8/31/1988	
Celebrates	First Saturday at 8:00 P.M.	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		32,629
Clifton	April 21	
Lauren L.	April 28	
Jenifer L.	May 4	
Gulio	May 12	
Steve W.	6/18/2007	4300
Emily H	6/23/2015	1373
Ryan P.	6/30/2014	1731

Hill		
Founded	12/27/1966	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		92,665
Kau S	5/20/2010	3,233

In Step		
Founded	2/5/1991	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		67,536
Lay B.	4/15/1994	9,112

Last Call Group		
Founded	3/6/2002	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		14,888
Laurie S.	4/19/2009	3,629
Linda G.	5/29/1988	11,259

Liberty Street Group		
Founded	12/6/2014	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		51,408
Dayna S.	4/15/2017	711
Apil G.	6/14/2017	651

Martinez		
Founded	7/31/1980	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		94,772
Lynn C.	4/25/1981	13,850
Ajay S.	5/1/2016	1,060
Bob W.	5/29/1995	8,703
Bill R.	6/2/2000	6,872
Sherri W-L	6/27/1990	10,500

New Beginning		
Founded	12/17/1982	
Celebrates	Celebrant Chooses	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		65,056
David W	6/10/2003	5,769

No Nipping Nooners		
Founded	12/13/1989	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		187,226
Elizabeth P.	4/2/2002	6,203
Bennett J.	4/15/2014	1,807
Cindi G.	4/16/2014	1,806
Taris B.	4/23/2018	338
Hank H.	4/24/2016	1,067
Mark H.	4/29/2016	1,062
Vince A.	4/29/2015	1,428
Christina W.	5/5/2015	1,422
Jaime W.	5/9/2018	322
Stephan	5/10/2016	1,051
Josh F.	5/13/2014	1,779
Josh C.	5/15/2016	1,046
Lay B.	5/15/1994	9,082
George C.	5/15/1998	7,621
Laura B.	5/17/1996	8,349
Holly S.	5/31/2016	1,030
Charles .C.	6/1/2018	299
Joe H.	6/19/2016	1,011
Joe A.	6/20/2017	645
Paul M.	6/21/2012	2,470
Fred J.	6/22/2018	278
Shannon S.	6/28/2018	272

Thomson Group		
Founded	9/6/1949	
Celebrates	Last Saturday 7:00 Eating 8:00 Mtg	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		62,122
Brooke S.	4/24/2017	702
Owen B	4/27/2009	3,621
Seymour C.	4/27/1998	7,639
Thomas B.	5/15/2011	2,873
Robert H.	6/14/2017	651
Ronnie I.	6/16/2009	3,571
Robert H.	6/14/2017	651

Too Sleepy to Drink		
Founded	4/1/2008	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Member Sobriety		143,421
Brenda D.	4/11/2015	1446
Nate W.	4/15/2015	1442
Charlene B.	4/24/1998	7642
Sage	4/25/2015	1432
Vincent H.	5/14/2006	4700
John T.	5/15/2015	1412
Rick R.	5/18/2003	5792
Jo-Jo	5/27/2015	1400
John H.	6/6/2001	6503
Clint P.	6/11/2015	1385

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

Washington		
Founded	5/1/1982	
Celebrates	Person Picks 6:00 Eating 7:00 Mtg	
	Sobriety	Days So-
Name	Date	ber
Member Sobriety		43,176
Martin B.	4/10/2011	2908
Brian I.	4/25/2017	701
Dennis P.	5/2/1987	11652
M.J.	5/3/2016	1058
Holley S.	5/31/2016	1030

Events of Interest to District 12

April 14	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
May 10-12	Georgia Conference of Young People in AA, Marietta
May 12	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
May 17-19	GSSA, Macon
May 25	State Corrections Training, Macon
June 1	6 th Annual Founders Day Picnic, St. John's UMC Property, 9:00 A.M.
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.
August 11	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
August 11	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
September 8	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.

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

January—Group Volunteers Needed

March— Too Sleepy to Drink

May—New Perceptions Group

July—National Hills Group

September—Thomson Group

November—New Perceptions Group

February—The Hill Group

April—Forest Hills Group

June—Martinez Group

August—Gratitude Group

October—Evans Group

December—National Hills Group

12th District Central Office Activities

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 \$3200 to establish the prudent reserve!

GOAL: \$ 1,400
ON HAND: \$ 1,200
NEEDED: \$ 200

	<u>Past 12</u>		<u>Last 3</u>
	<u>Months</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Months</u>
<u>Central Office Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Total</u>
Calls to Answering Service	1,561	130	360
AA Calls to Central Office	690	58	155
Al-Anon Calls to Central Office	35	3	8
Other Calls to Central Office	84	7	21
Visitors to the Central Office	1,582	132	340
Total Central Office Contacts	3,952	329	884
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$10,863.34	\$905.28	\$2,743.21
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$10,029.31	\$835.78	\$2,125.93
Total Central Office Sales	\$20,892.65	\$1,741.05	\$4,869.14
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	57,035	5,185	14,421
Search Hits	206,959	18,814	55,259

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.)

Investment Counsel, pg 82, Living Sober

In the first few weeks without a drink	That dime to use the telephone
When the wolf is at the door,	For that necessary greeting,
And the sheriff’s at the window	That nickel for “expenses”
And you’re sleeping on the floor,	That makes you feel you matter,
And life looks bleak and hopeless	That dollar for the coffee shop
From a monetary angle,	For after meeting chatter.
It’s time to <i>spend</i> , in certain ways	All these are wise investments
To solve the awful tangle:	For the neophyte to make,
That token or that bus fare	This “bread” when cast upon the waters,
To get you to a meeting,	Always comes back cake.

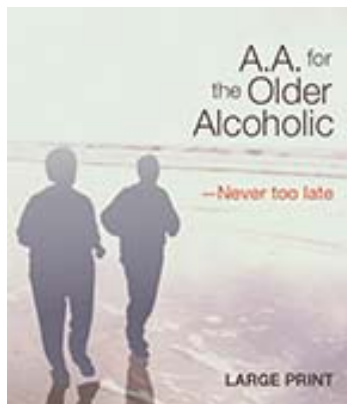
We all remember talking like that! “But we aren’t a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn’t want it.” pg. 132.

Top 10 List—Correction System Stories

10. Jodi J – 37 Felonies with 108 Years to Department of Corrections Volunteer
9. Jason S. - Vehicular Homicide Conviction whose First Share was at the 2015 AA International Convention in Atlanta
8. Jule L. – Felony Convictions to Attorney Arguing Supreme Court Cases
7. Frank C. – Maryland Judge Blown up during Recovery
6. Rick B. – Multiple Convictions to Attorney in Maryland State Attorney’s Office
5. Rev. Ed Mutum – Took a Murderer of His Father into His Home after Release
4. Warden Clinton Duffy – San Quentin Warder who Pursued AA – then Spoke at the First International Convention
3. Tom I. – Double Vehicular Homicides to North Carolina Prison Warden
2. Phil S. – AA Number 5 and the First Court Ordered Attendee
1. Ebby Thatcher – Three Drunken Arrests Leading to Alcoholic Insanity Court Case, Eventually Becomes Bill W.’s Sponsor

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:



A.A. FOR THE OLDER ALCOHOLIC — NEVER TOO LATE (P-22) Includes the stories of 8 men and women who came to A.A. after 60. This is a Large-print publication. It is a revision of “Time to Start Living.”

In 1979, it was recommended by the Conference Literature Committee that: “the pamphlet for the older alcoholic be approved by the Conference with the title *Now It's Time to Start Living* and subtitle "Stories of Those Who Came to AA in Their Later Years". It was renamed “*Time to Start Living*” in 1980, and replaced by *AA For the Older Alcoholic* in 2001.

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Treatment Facilities

“This committee takes meetings into rehab and other facilities established to help people to recover from Alcoholism. The committee designates members of the community to commit to chairing a meeting in one of these facilities. If you would like to give away a little of what you have gotten from AA, please come join us!”

District 12 takes monthly meetings to the Serenity Facility in south Augusta and provides support to the Residential Treatment Facility at Fort Gordon from several different District 12 Groups.

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**