



SOBER DAZE

October-December, 2019

A 12TH District Publication

Editor Introduction / Thoughts

Service to Others

There's no higher purpose than service to others. — 'Socrates' in "Peaceful Warrior"

What does service mean to me? Within the group, service is making coffee, helping to set up or clean up, chairing, taking part in the business meetings, taking a service position such as GSR, secretary, treasurer, etc. It can also be service within the District: attending district meetings, servicing as DCM, secretary, treasurer, committee chair, representing my homegroup as GSR, helping with district functions such as the Winter Workshop and Cluster Forums, or even helping with area functions such as the Pre-Paid Convention. It can also be as simple as working with another alcoholic: as sponsor, sponsee, going on a 12-step call, sharing at meetings, talking with a newcomer, or just simply being there. One thing I've learned about service, besides putting principles over personalities: it's not about exerting your voice, but those of the members, groups, districts you're representing. You're merely a communication vessel, a facilitator, but you are also serving an important role.

AA Service Structure is represented by an upside down pyramid, with fellowship on top. There are service positions at the group, district, and state levels (GSR, DCM, any of the committees—Corrections, Treatment and Accessibility, Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community, Grapevine, Archives, Communication) that all serve to keep each level of Alcoholics Anonymous connected in our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. (continued on page 3)

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
https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios



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*"I cook with wine,
sometimes I even
add it to the food."*

~ W.C. Fields

Important Dates in A.A. History

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

Oct 1936 - Bill C, a Canadian alkie staying at Bill's house, commits suicide using a gas stove.

Oct 20, 1928 - Bill wrote promise to Lois in family Bible to quit drinking. By Thanksgiving added second promise.

Nov 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.

Nov 11, 1934 - Armistice Day; Bill started drinking after dry spell, beginning of Bill's last drunk.

Nov 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go to work at Towns Hospital, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement.

Nov 28, 1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)

Dec 1955 - 'Man on the Bed' painting by Robert M. first appeared in Grapevine. Painting originally called 'Came to Believe'

Dec 6, 1939 - Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000.

Dec 11, 1934 - Bill admitted to Towns Hosp 4th/last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

Dec 12, 1934 - Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital.

Dec 13 or 14, 1934 - Ebby visited Bill at hospital, brought William James's book, "Varieties of Religious Experience".

(continued from page 1)

The positions also help with the flow of communication between the groups, districts, areas (state), and GSO. Your voice matters, as does your group's, district's, and area's. The group members vote at their group business meetings; the GSRs only facilitate and carry the Group Conscience to the District and Area levels where they vote. The DCMs facilitate at the District and Area levels; they only vote at the DCM meeting with the Delegate and the Office Committee. The delegate does not vote at the Area Level, but represents our collective group conscience at the GSO level. The Delegate, DCM, GSRs all function to provide information back to the Group level.

I've been told and have heard around the rooms that if someone asks you to do something within AA (in terms of service work), you don't say no. You suit up and show up. This is how I first got involved with service at the group level. My home group decided that I would make a good GSR and voted me in...then told me about it. I tried to use the excuse that I had no idea what that entailed. They simply told me not to worry about it, they would be there to help me along the way....and they were. I went to the district meetings and to the Georgia State Service Assemblies and learned a lot— about the traditions, the functioning of AA as a whole, the various committees whose focus is carrying the message. I also learned how to put principles over personalities and this has helped me beyond measure both in AA and in all other areas of my life.

I learned to trust the process and have allowed others within AA to lead me to my next service position. And this is where Jim T. enters the picture. He approached me at a meeting saying that he needed some women to take a meeting to the new women's prison up in Hartwell. I was reluctant since I'd never been to jail or prison and had no clue. He reminded me that they knew plenty about being in prison; what they did not know about was how to get sober and stay sober. That was nearly 7 years ago! I actually felt comfortable there; the ladies all had so very many varying backgrounds and life ordeals that they had to endure, many of which contributed to them drinking/using and getting imprisoned. It's been increasingly rewarding. Only in this past year have I not been as actively volunteering there due to my work schedule. I still go when I am able.

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.” — BB p. 89.

Our AA “Job Description” Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum service to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most sordid spot on earth on such an errand. Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed.” BB p. 102.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be of service., Respectfully, Kim J., DCM District 12a
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.

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

Biography: "The Unbeliever"

Henry (Hank) P., New Jersey.(OM and 1st edition, p. 194.)

Hank was the first man Bill W. was successful in sobering up after returning from his famous trip to Akron where he met Dr. Bob. Thus, Hank was A.A. #2 in New York prior to resuming drinking about four years later. His original date of sobriety was either October or November 1935.

Hank was a salesman, an agnostic, and a former Standard Oil of New Jersey executive, who had lost his job because of drinking. He wound up at Towns Hospital, where Bill found him in the fall of 1935. The first mention of Hank in the Big Book is on page xxix of The Doctor's Opinion. He is believed to be the man Dr. Silkworth described who seemed to be a case of pathological mental deterioration. When Bill and Lois lost their home on Clinton Street, Brooklyn, it was to Hank P.'s home in New Jersey that they moved for a short time.

He and Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle"), lead the fight against too much talk of God in the 12 steps, which resulted in the compromise "God as we understood Him."

Ruth Hock said the Big Book would not have been written without Bill, and it would not have been published without Hank. And Hank wrote, except for the opening paragraph, the chapter "To Employers."

But Hank became very hostile toward Bill. Problems developed between them over the way Hank was setting up Works Publishing Co., as a for profit corporation, with himself as President. As a result of the feedback from group members, Bill listed himself as the sole author of the Big Book as a means of counter-balancing this.

There were other problems over money, and over Ruth Hock. Hank wanted to divorce his wife, Kathleen, and marry Ruth, and when Ruth decided to go with Bill when he moved the A.A. office out of Honor Dealers, Hank was furious. Bill paid him \$200 for the office furniture (which he claimed he still owned, but which had been purchased from him earlier), in exchange for Hank turning over his stock in Works Publishing, as all the others had done. Hank then went to Cleveland to try to start problems for Bill there.

No one knows exactly when Hank had started drinking again, but in the diary Lois W. kept there are various September 1939 entries that mention that Hank was drunk. He did get back on the program for a short time at some later date but it didn't last. Nevertheless, A.A. owes Hank a debt of gratitude for his many contributions during his all too short period of sobriety.

He died after a long illness at Glenwood Sanitarium in Trenton, New Jersey, on January 18, 1954, at the age of fifty-seven. Lois W. ascribed his death to drinking. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 22 at Blackwell Memorial Home. Rev. A. Kenneth Magner of the First Presbyterian Church performed the service.

Special thanks to Ron R., of Kentucky, for information concerning Hank's death and burial.

<https://www.silkworth.net/pages/aahistory/aabiography/hankp.php>

Thoughts of a Long-Timer

Sober Daze is using the Grapevine 20 questions for old-timers format to gain insights from our District 12A and 12B members with over 10,000 days sober. Our Long-Timer in this Issue is Don B of the Martinez Group.

What was AA like when you came in? How is it different? *The Old-Timers were not nice. "Oh, its O.K. just to keep coming back."*

What was 12th Step work like when you were new? *We were told and not asked to get involved.*

How did your group treat newcomers? Constant slippers? 13th steppers? Members in meetings with multiple addictions? *Welcomed Newcomers. Told Slippers they were going to die. Told them to only discuss alcohol.*

What special occasions do you recall doing AA service? *Faith without works is dead. I have to trust that God's will is all-powerful.*

What do you recall of early conferences, assemblies and conventions? *The early days of Winter Workshop.*

What contributions would you say you've made to the Fellowship? *Stayed sober. Showed that the Principals work.*

What do you think of AA today? *Not enough time spent on the primary purpose.*

After many years, do you still have a sponsor? Do you still sponsor people? What are your thoughts about sponsorship? *Yes. I think Sponsorship is not for everyone.*

Are there ever moments when you lose your faith or your connection to your Higher Power? What do you do when this happens? *No. Balance is everything.*

If there is one thing you could go back and do differently, what would it be? *Nothing.*

Is there something *you* learned from old-timers that you hold dear? *When you share, say what you need to and sit down.*

How long did it take to finish your 9th Step? What was your most memorable amend? *2 1/2 years.*

What would you tell a new member today? *Get a Home Group, Sponsor, and share honestly.*

Come Celebrate with Us!

If you are in need for a fun time with great friends, visit with a District Group and celebrate the miracles of recovery.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Founded</u>	<u>Celebrates</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Founded</u>	<u>Celebrates</u>
Alpha Group	2/27/1973		Leah Group	8/25/2009	
Awesome AAs			Liberty Street Group	12/6/2014	
Back to the Book AM	8/31/2009		Lumpkin Road		
Back to the Book PM	8/31/2009		Martinez	7/31/1980	
Downtown Club			Men's Group		
Early Bird Group	1/1/2015		Mid Day Group	6/1/2001	
Evans	2/3/1995	Every Thurs- day	Morning After	6/7/2014	
First Step	3/25/1974		National Hills	11/18/1985	
Forest Hills	9/6/1963		New Beginning	12/17/1982	Celebrant Chooses Last Friday: Chips @ 7:45, Meeting @ 8:00
Good Shephard Group	6/30/2016		New Perceptions	3/ /2002	
Gratitude Group	4/1/2006	Last Friday @ Noon First Saturday at 8:00 P.M.	No Nipping Nooners	12/13/1989	
Happy Hour	8/31/1988		S.H.E. Group	1/ /1989	
Harlem	10/1/1989		Southside	5/26/1972	
Hephzibah	12/1/1989		Sunlight of the Spirit	7/12/2009	
Hill	12/27/1966		The New Group		Last Saturday: 7:00 Eating / 8:00 Mtg
In Step	2/5/1991		Thomson Group	9/6/1949	
Just for Today			Too Sleepy to Drink	4/1/2008	
Keep it Simple	1/23/2012		Warrenton		Person Picks: 6:00 Eating / 7:00 Meeting
Last Call Group	3/6/2002		Washington	5/1/1982	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

The Groups below would like to recognize their members having upcoming birthdays!

(Note: The Editor has modified this section to include Anniversaries kept up to date through Group action. Please submit updated information if your Group wishes to recognize member anniversaries.

Evans			Hill			Liberty Street Group		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Group Sobriety		235,596	Group Sobriety		97,153	Group Sobriety		63,080
Member Sobriety			Member Sobriety			Member Sobriety		
Mark Z	10/01/13	2,190	Tony B	10/1/1989	10,956	Angie D.	10/13/2017	717
John L	10/11/87	11,677	Chrissie	10/26/2017	704	Joel J.	11/4/2016	1,060
Rob D	10/11/06	4,737	George S	11/25/2015	1,405	William G.	11/28/1992	9,802
Michael E.	10/11/1979	14,599	Courtney D	12/22/2014	1,743	Freddy G.	11/29/1988	11,262
Frank W	10/14/97	8,021	Lisa S	12/31/1990	10,500			
Mary R	11/22/2014	1,773						
Charlie J	11/27/98	7,612						
Pattie M	12/9/2017	660						
Ted E	12/09/85	12,348						
Don G	12/20/69	18,181						
Jane W	12/25/18	279						
Happy Hour			In Step			Thomson Group		
Name	Sobriety Date		Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Group Sobriety		34,125	Group Sobriety		69,593	Group Sobriety		65,862
Member Sobriety			Member Sobriety			Member Sobriety		
Vance S.	11/14/2016	1,050	Clarence D.	12/1/1993	9,434	Barbara H	10/19/2008	3,998
			Tamara N.	12/15/1992	9,785	David J.	10/21/2005	5,092
			Tim	12/15/2014	1,750			

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

Events of Interest to District 12

October 13	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
October 15	Deadline for Grapevine My Home Group Stories
October 17-20	Georgia Pre-Paid Convention, Savannah
November 10	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
November 15	Deadline for Grapevine Getting into General Service Stories
December 8	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
December 11, 1934	Bill W.'s Sobriety Date
December 15	Deadline for Grapevine Annual Prison Issue Stories
December 23-Jan 1	Central Office Closed
January 15	Deadline for Grapevine AA's 85 th Birthday Stories

Service Opportunity at Serenity Behavioral Health Center Wednesdays at 6:00 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

Founders Day Celebration 2020

Founders Day 2019 was a great success with 225 attending! It was a wonderful day of fellowship and recovery! The funding goal for 2020 is \$1,300 (including a \$300 Prudent Reserve). This would fund the 2020 Founders Day and provide a prudent reserve for setting up 2021. Your Group or Individual support is requested for the \$700 still needed. Small contributions today helps make easy planning in 2020.

GOAL: \$ 1,300
 ON HAND: \$ 600
NEEDED: \$ 700

12th District Central Office Activities

<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	1,556	130	414
AA Calls to Central Office	772	64	207
Al-Anon Calls to Central Office	37	3	9
Other Calls to Central Office	115	10	34
Visitors to the Central Office	1,500	125	373
Total Central Office Contacts	3,980	332	1,037
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$10,256.77	\$854.73	\$2,684.38
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$10,146.92	\$845.58	\$2,346.86
Total Central Office Sales	\$20,403.69	\$1,700.31	\$5,031.24
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	54,062	4,505	14,097
Search Hits	212,671	17,723	58,178

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.)

The 12 Days of Christmas

With the first step of AA my HP gave to me A day of Sobriety.	With the seventh step of AA my HP gave to me
With the second step of AA my HP gave to me A wee bit of faith and ...	With the eighth step of AA my HP gave to me Too good a mem'ry
With the third step of AA my HP gave to me Willingness ...	With the ninth step of AA my HP gave to me Shatterproof glasses ...
With the fourth step of AA my HP gave to me Pencil, pen and pad ...	With the tenth step of AA my HP gave to me Spot checks a plenty ...
With the fifth step of AA my HP gave to me Another human being ...	With the eleventh step of AA my HP gave to me The Prayer of St. Francis ...
With the sixth step of AA my HP gave to me Lots of options ...	With the twelfth step of AA my HP gave to me Calls on the hotline

From: The Heartland Intergroup
December 2018 Issue

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 6 List— What’s an AA Group?

6. As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, and they maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, and film.
5. As a group, they have no opinion on outside issues.
4. As a group, they have no outside affiliations.
3. A group’s primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through the Twelve Steps.
2. As a group, they are fully self-supporting.
1. All members of a group are alcoholics, and all alcoholics are eligible for membership.

A shorter list this issue, but I have heard this topic arise lately.

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Holiday Special!!!!!!

With Holidays coming upon us, we face a dangerous time. Some thoughts to get us to the Winter Workshop are:

Twelve Tips for a Sober, Joyous Holiday Season

Holiday parties without alcohol may still be a dreary prospect for new AAs. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober. Here are some tips:

1. Line up extra AA activities--meetings, speaking, phone answering.
2. Entertain AA friends, especially newcomers.
3. Keep AA phone numbers with you at all times--and use them.
4. Find out about special holiday parties, meetings, or other events at groups in your area, and go. If you're shy, take a newer member.
5. Skip drinking occasions you're nervous about. Remember your drinking talent for making excuses? Put it to work for you in sobriety.
6. If you must attend a drinking party, and can't find a fellow AA to come with you, keep some candy handy.
7. You don't have to stay late. Plan for an "important date."
8. Go to church. Any church.
9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on reading, letters, walks.
10. Remember, one day at a time. Don't start now to worry about all those "holiday temptations."
11. If you can't give material gifts this year, you *can* give love.
12. "Having had a . . ." You already know the Twelfth Step!

from the December 1981 AA Grapevine magazine.

Correctional Facilities

The purpose of this committee is to cooperate with all correctional institutions in the Augusta Area, explaining AA's role in assisting the inmates who seek help. The committee helps coordinate AA meetings and other activities in the facilities within the scope and traditions of the fellowship. There is currently no AA meeting at the Augusta State Medical Prison. Department of Corrections training is needed in order to enter that facility. Also, most of the county jails across the region have no AA meeting. These would require permission from the local Sheriff in order to begin a meeting.

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	Kim J	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**