



# SOBER DAZE

January-March 2020

A 12TH District Publication

## **Inside**

**Editor Thoughts**

Page 1

**Important Dates in**

**AA History**

Page 2

**AA Biography**

Pages 3-4

**Thoughts of an  
Old-Timer**

Page 5

**Group Celebrations**

Page 6

**Birthdays**

Page 7

**Events/Service/  
Central Office**

Page 8

**Poetry & Top Ten  
List**

Page 9

**Pamphlet &  
District Committee**

Page 10

**Faithful Fivers**

**Page 11**

*“There is no bad  
whiskey. There are only  
some whiskeys that  
aren’t as good as  
others.”~ Raymond  
Chandler*

## **Editor Thoughts**

### **Important New Years Resolutions**

Wanting to do the next right thing? Consider these:

#### **1. Thank You to Our Central Office Volunteers**

Our Central Office Volunteers keep our office open more than most offices across the nation. Think 44 hours per week! Please thank Bill R, Paul L, Sylvester H, Chico L, Brandy S, James J, Frank W, Scott B, Jimmy H, Ruth M, Sam M, Karen, George C, and Sara R. for giving of themselves.

#### **2. Faithful Fivers**

The Faithful Fivers are supporting the continued operation of the Central Office and publication of the Sober Daze.

#### **3. Committee Service**

The members and Chairs of the Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC), Treatment Facilities, Archives, Grapevine, Sober Daze, Special Needs, and Correctional Facilities Committees are putting in lots of hours of service work.

#### **4. District Service**

Our District Service Members and Group Service Representatives work hard to keep AA active in the CSRA and that our voice is heard to all of Georgia.

#### **5. Group Service**

Without our Groups, AA cannot continue. Thank you to our Greeters, Coffee Makes, Secretaries and everyone else working in our Groups.

#### **6. Stay Sober**

Without your sobriety, everyone listed above is missing an important part of their sobriety! Be of maximum usefulness!

-  
**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)



### Important Dates in A.A. History

(Details from [http://www.a-1associates.com/aa/HISTORY\\_PAGE/dates.htm](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.)

- Jan. 1929:** Bill W. wrote third promise in Bible to quit drinking.
- Jan 1944:** Onset of Bill's 11 years of depression.
- Jan 1951:** AA Grapevine publishes memorial issue for Dr Bob.
- Jan. 1958:** Jack Alexander told Bill Wilson the Oxford Group would be in his Saturday Evening Post article on A.A.
- Jan. 4, 1941:** Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY, to see Stepping Stones and broke in through an unlocked window.
- Jan. 10, 1940:** 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.
- Jan. 15, 1941:** Bill Wilson asked Ruth Hock to get him "spook book, "The Unobstructed Universe."
- Jan. 24, 1918:** Bill marries Lois Burnham in the Swedenborgen Church in Brooklyn Heights.
- Jan. 24, 1971:** Bill W dies at Miami Beach, FL.
- Jan. 26, 1971:** *New York Times* published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.
- Jan 1939:** 400 copies of manuscript of Big Book circulated for comment, evaluation and sale.
- Feb. 1908:** Bill Wilson made boomerang.
- Feb. 1939:** Dr Howard of Montclair, NJ suggests swapping "you musts" for "we ought" in the Big Book.
- Feb. 12, 1945:** WW II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.
- Feb. 18, 1943:** AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.
- Feb. 22, 1842:** Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield.
- Mar. 1940:** Mort J. came to LA from Denver; started custom of reading Chapter 5 of the Big Book at the Cecil group.
- Mar. 1, 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.
- Mar. 23, 1941:** Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.

### **Ruth Hocks Recollections**

Found on [www.Silkworth.net](http://www.Silkworth.net), this extraction is from a November 10, 1955 letter from Ruth Hocks to Bill Wilson.

Dear Bill:

As I remember it you had been sober just a little over a year when I first met you.

I think I went to work for Honor Dealers in about January of 1936. I walked into the Honor Dealers office and started to work immediately that morning. You arrived shortly thereafter, Bill, bringing with you an aura of quiet warm friendliness – of slow deliberate decisions – and at least I thought at the time, not much interest really in the service station business.

You will remember with me, I know, that in those days and for several years to come, we talked about "drunks" and not "alcoholic" — and therefore I use those terms here. The activity of Honor Dealers, as I remember it, was never of paramount importance it seemed to me after I began to know most of your original men, that it was only a means to an end – that end being to help a bunch of nameless drunks.

Well – the activities of Honor Dealers slowly but surely declined and there was more and more correspondence with drunks and more of them showing up in the office. In those days it was part of the procedure, if the prospect was willing to go along, to kneel and pray together – all of you who happened to be there. To me, drunkenness and prayer were both very private activities and I sure did consider all of you a very revolutionary lot – but such likable and interesting revolutionaries!

During that first year at least I don't think I ever attended a meeting, but through your dictation, Bill, through all I heard at the office and through the letters I was answering myself in your behalf I began to absorb an understanding of what it was all about and what you were trying to do and I became aware that the possibilities of writing a book were being discussed. Many of you thought it was an absolute necessity because even then the original idea was often distorted in the hundreds of word of mouth discussions. Its original basic simplicity was often completely confused beyond comprehension and besides it was becoming more and more impossible to fully expound the idea satisfactorily in letter after letter to various inquirers. Also, especially to the advertising type of man, the spread of the idea was going much too slowly and would become a sensation overnight if only put out in book form!!

As I look at it today the basic idea of each chapter of the book and the twelve steps is still essentially today what you scribbled on the original yellow sheets. Of course there were thousands of small changes and re-writes — constant cutting or adding or editing but there are only two major changes made that I remember, both fought out in the office when you and Hank and Fitz and I were present.

The first had to do with how much God was going to be included in the book itself and the 12 steps. Fitz was for going all the way with God, you were in the middle, Hank was for very little and I trying to reflect the reaction of the nonalcoholic was for very little too. The result of this was the phrase "God as you understand Him," which I don't think ever had much of a negative reaction anywhere. We were unanimous that day and you got a green light everywhere you showed that typewritten copy including Doc S. and the Akron contingent where a copy of everything was sent for O.K. or criticism.

The only other major change I remember during the actual writing of the book was that originally it was directly written to the prospective alcoholic, that is — "You were wrong — — "You must — "You should" and after a big hassle, this was changed to read — "We were wrong — "We must — "We should — etc."

During all this time, of course, there was plenty of discussion about a name for the book and there were probably hundreds of suggestions about a name for the book and there were probably hundreds of suggestions. However, I remember very few – "One Hundred Men" – "The Empty Glass" – "The Dry Way" – "The Dry Life" – "Dry Frontiers" – "The Way Out" – This last was by far the most popular. Alcoholics Anonymous had been suggested and was used a lot among ourselves as a very amusing description of the group itself but I don't believe it was seriously considered as a name for the book.

I remember that during an appointment with Tom Uzzell, we discussed the various name possibilities and he [handwritten insert: Tom Uzzell] immediately – very firmly and very enthusiastically – stated that "Alcoholics Anonymous" was a dead wringer both from the sales point of view because it was "catchy" and because it really did describe the group to perfection. The more this name was studied from this point of view the more everybody agreed and so it was decided. "Alcoholics Anonymous".

The financing of the book is quite difficult for me to remember. Hank (I think) then came up with the idea of selling stock to finance the writing of the book and to publish it. Thus – Works Publishing Co. was born – and the book stock idea set up and forms printed. The paradox of this is the fact that if enough stock had been sold and the book carried through to a conclusion on this basis, the stockholders would have had a fine return indeed for their original investment. However all things happen for the best and this kind of private profit would probably have been a perpetual thorn in the A.A. side.

Naturally, when the book was finally rolling off the press the feeling was that our troubles were over which turned out to be far from the case. It was agreed that the book needed to be advertised and a date was finagled for a member of A.A. on "We The People."

The Liberty Magazine article was published and for the first time we began to find a stirred up interest in the form of [letters]. Each letter was answered individually and although the book was mentioned we tried to get across the fact that it was not necessary to purchase the book and in each case the individual was referred to whatever group or individual A.A. closest to him or her since at that time I imagine there were no more than 500 A.A. members, if that, scattered from coast to coast and the great majority of those in the Middle West and East it was often difficult to get any closer to the individual than several hundred miles.

When the Saturday Evening Post article hit the stands we really began to be flooded with mail and meanwhile the book sales had been steadily increasing from two or three a week until I think they hit an average of about 25 a week and we began to be able to meet office expenses.

One of our travelling members stopped in for a visit and his letter to us was an eye opener indeed. It seemed that particular group was based on the theory that all alcoholic beverages were very bad for the alcoholic - except beer. This idea was carried out so thoroughly that beer was served at their A.A. meetings with copious readings of the A.A. book. Oh well - the beer itself soon cured that misconception.

This ability to laugh at yourselves to accept the puncturing of your own self importance is one of the basic steps in A.A. I believe — of course it makes every individual more livable and lovable whether alcoholic or not. What little I have been able to absorb made life much simpler for me, I know. I'm going to quit right here, Bill - if it isn't the kind of thing you want - tear it up. If there is anything I can or should add or subtract, let me know.

Always the best to you Bill --- Devotedly, Ruth

## **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. In this issue, we are honored to have Fred I. provide insights. Editor Note: No new forms have been submitted. This will be the last Thoughts of a Long-Timer unless more are submitted.

What is your first name and last initial, Group, and sobriety date? Fred I., Thomson, GA, USA, August 9, 1989

What was AA like when you came in? How is it different? Fundamentals were practiced more rigidly with a very welcoming atmosphere.

What were some early challenges when you came into AA that no longer exists today? Finding access to information about meeting locations and contact persons while traveling.

What was 12th Step work like when you were new? There was more of a dedicated commitment at the local level for meetings and Homegroups.

What special occasions do you recall doing AA service? Help a Newcomer at the SFVAA convention, and seeing him there for the next few years. To know I had some small part in that is amazing

What do you recall of early conferences, assemblies and conventions? I recall the acceptance and friendly attitudes that was everywhere when I first attended the SFVAA convention in California.

What contributions would you say you've made to the Fellowship? I was asked to be involved in the GSSA Archives Committee where I have served for 4 years.

What do you think of AA today? AA is just fine, we get a more diverse crown of people, who could be described as on page 279 descriptions in the Big Book.

Is there anything about AA you would change? NOT a thing. AA is just fine, we are confronted with many different attitudes as society moves ever forward. To me this is why Archives and our history is so vital for our survival.

If there is one thing you could go back and do differently, what would it be? I would be KING OF THE WORLD, hahaha. I am exactly where I am supposed to be at this very moment.

How do you "Keep It Simple"? Do Not interfere in another's spiritual growth and Do Not interfere in my own spiritual growth. One Day At A Time.

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

## 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)

# 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.

## Early Bird Group

Founded	1/1/2015	
Celebrates		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober

Group Sobriety		112,507
Member Sobriety		
Morgan N.	1/13/2019	349
Muriel D.	2/14/1999	7622
Frank B.	2/22/2015	1770
T J H.	2/25/2018	671
Amy L.	3/13/2015	1751
Cheryl H.	3/17/2013	2477

## Evans

Founded	2/3/1995	
Celebrates	Every Thursday	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober

Group Sobriety		244,437
Member Sobriety		
Amanda R	1/3/2019	359
Christopher B	1/25/2019	337
Larry G	01/28/02	6,543
Colby P.	1/31/2013	2,522
Gerry M	02/03/86	12,381
Amber S	3/3/2013	2,491
Erin K	03/13/17	1,020
Pat F	03/21/93	9,778
Jessica S	03/25/13	2,469
Tammy M	3/29/2012	2,830
Heather L	03/30/14	2,099

## Thomson Group

Founded	9/6/1949	
Celebrates	Last Saturday 7:00 Eating 8:00 Mtg	
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober

Group Sobriety		67,642
Member Sobriety		
Kenny S.	1/7/2016	1,451
Robby W.	1/23/2018	704
Joey A.	3/25/2007	4,661

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

January 12	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
January 15	Deadline-Grapevine AA's 85 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Stories
January 17-19	GSSA, Macon
January 25	Training -Corrections Volunteers Badge, Macon
February 9	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
February 15	Deadline for Grapevine Sober and Out Stories
February 22	District 12 A&B Winter Workshop
February 28-29	Gwinnett Unity Weekend
March 8	District Business Meeting, 2:00 P.M.
March 15	Deadline for Grapevine Young and Sober Stories
March 20-22	Atlanta Men's Workshop

### **Service Opportunity at Serenity Behavioral Health Center Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M.— Please arrive by 5:50 P.M. to park and sign in**

January— New Perceptions Group	February—The Hill Group
March— Too Sleepy to Drink Group	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.

### **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 \$300 still needed. Small contributions today helps make easy planning in 2020.

**GOAL:** \$ 1,300  
**ON HAND:** \$ 904  
**NEEDED:** \$ **396**

Please consider a contribution—the sooner we meet our goal, the easier

### **12th District Central Office Activities**

	<u>Past 12</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Last 3</u>
<u>Central Office Activity</u>	<u>Months Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Months Total</u>
Calls to Answering Service	1,571	131	378
AA Calls to Central Office	771	64	175
AI-Anon Calls to Central Office	38	3	7
Other Calls to Central Office	121	10	22
Visitors to the Central Office	1,716	143	590
Total Central Office Contacts	4,217	351	1,172
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$9,265.19	\$772.10	\$2,021.32
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$9,816.63	\$818.05	\$2,287.94
Total Central Office Sales	\$19,081.82	\$1,590.15	\$4,309.26
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	51,993	4,333	13,497
Search Hits	213,590	17,799	53,264



### 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.)

#### ALONE NO MORE

Tis lonely as a drunk to live,  
Unable to receive or give,  
Love which is the greatest thing  
To this world that one can bring.

Wanting more to die than live,  
A cry for help I then did give.  
Answered by a loving God,  
Agnostic, I really thought that odd.

Selfish and self-centered me,  
Didn't give a whit for thee,  
Unless of course you were a link  
In getting me to my next drink.

However, that's what got me here.  
Where I gained the hope and lost the fear.  
Where trust was earned, and secrets bared,  
Finding folks for whom I really cared.

Where with self-will was, I taken?  
To a place with hope forsaken  
A dark hole, where I was all alone,  
A place where light had never shown.

And now it isn't me, but we,  
Happy, joyous , and also free.  
In love and service, we are bound,  
Thank God for this life that we have fount!

Blaine H. from the San Diego Central Office Newsletter

#### Top 10 List— The Progression of God

Recovery often brings changes of perception—from worst to first.. Taken from AA Acronyms:

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>10. GOD</b> | Grant Our Desires      |
| <b>9. GOD</b>  | Gulp Our Drugs         |
| <b>8. GOD</b>  | Grant Our Deaths       |
| <b>7. GOD</b>  | Gift of Desperation    |
| <b>6. GOD</b>  | Group of Drunks        |
| <b>5. GOD</b>  | Good Orderly Direction |
| <b>4. GOD</b>  | Get Out Devil!         |
| <b>3. GOD</b>  | Good Others Do         |
| <b>2. GOD</b>  | Go On Dreaming         |
| <b>1. GOD</b>  | Good Ole Dude!         |

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

The Central Office is one of the few in the nation with full-time staffing and a wide variety of AA approved literature.



### **P-40 - Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings**

Have you ever spoken at an A.A. meeting? How about to earth people? They do need to know about A.A.—and your experience, strength and hope is important information for them. For A.A.s asked to speak to organizations outside the Fellowship about A.A., alcoholism, and the alcoholic, it suggests what to say and how to say it.

To quote from the pamphlet: “We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.”

## **Sober Daze**

This committee prints a quarterly publication of articles and events in the 12th District AA community. AA members may submit articles or events for publication to the editor or the Central Office. There is always a need for articles from our members, notices of events of interest to the District, and AA Anniversaries.

The committee works to bring historical and recovery related articles to the District. The Sober Daze also includes links to AA resources.

# Faithful Fivers

Charles A	Georgia A	Denney B
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
Gratitude Group	Lisa S	Rosanne G
Katie & Fred I	Ellen W	Jessica/Courtney S/D
Hill Group	Kim J	Cleveland J
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**