



SOBER DAZE

April— June 2020

A 12TH District Publication

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*"A drunk man's
words are a sober
man's thoughts."*

~ Steve Fergosi

Editor Thoughts

Gratitude in Trying Times

One defect of character I have is having a pessimistic attitude. This came to light yesterday during the telephone based DCM Pre-Conference Meeting that was held by video conference. The meeting was difficult due to technical difficulties, the process itself and the extra time that it took.

But God showed up during the bathroom break with a Gratitude delivery. You see, two participants were recovering from COVID-19 with one still in home quarantine. Another participant spoke of her daughter with the virus. Then another participant reminded us of Gratitude by noting our medical technology, our optimistic spirit, and our love of one another.

This issue is a bit late due to the current situation, but God did use the time to remind me that Gratitude is always an option.

... And Special Thanks.

The District 12 Winter Workshop took place on February 22nd with over 100 in attendance. Special thanks to Jay K and Bruce D for speaking on Recover, Andrew K and Jesse B on Unity, and Traylor J and Linda S on Service. Max, Paul, and Bruce provided Ask-It Basket answers. The highlight was Paul L with 45 years presenting Terrell with 4 days, a signed Big Book.

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



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.)

- April 3, 1960** Friar Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W.'s "spiritual sponsor."
- 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 11, 1938** The Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.
- April 11, 1941** Bill and Lois finally found a home, Stepping Stones in New Bedford.
- April 22, 1940** Bill and Hank transfer their Works Publishing stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.
- April 24, 1940** The first A.A. pamphlet "AA", was published
- April 30, 1989** Film "My Name is Bill W.", a Hallmark presentation, was broadcast on ABC TV.
- May 4, 1940** Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.
- May 6, 1939** Clarence S. of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his Sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an "AA" meeting in Cleveland.
- May 11, 1935** Bill W. called Rev. Walter Tunks from the Mayflower Hotel, and was referred to Henrietta Seiberling who set up a meeting with Dr. Bob.
- May 12, 1935** Mother's Day, Bill and Dr. Bob met for the first time, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.
- May 16, 1941** Ruth Hock learned that the man credited with coming up with the name "Alcoholics Anonymous" has a "wet" brain.
- May 18, 1939** The first Group to call itself A.A. meets in Cleveland, Ohio
- May 31, 1938** Bill W and other AAs begin to write the Big Book.
- June 7, 1939** Bill and Lois had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.
- June 18, 1940** One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA Clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, New York City
- June 19, 1942** Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There were ewer suicides in my files," he commented.
- June 21, 1944** The first issue of the AA Grapevine was published.
- June 25, 1939** The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is 'more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon.'
- June 28, 1935** Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.
- June 30, 1941** Ruth Hock showed Bill W. the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by A.A.

Big Book Details

(adapted from the Southern Maryland Intergroup Newsletter)

* The Big Book is actually a nickname. It was used to describe the book (the first printing) because of the thickness of the paper used. The name “Big Book” is referenced only once in the “forward to the second edition” but it acknowledged it only as a nickname.

* In April 1939, 4,730 copies of the 1st Edition of “Alcoholics Anonymous” were published. The price was \$3.50. It was a very expensive book for its time, the equivalent being \$58 a copy today.

* There is a myth that there are no “musts” in AA. Only “suggestions”. Glance at pages 14, 44, 73, 74, 79 and 85. These pages are littered with “musts”. Actually there are 123 incidences of the work “must” in total.

* Another myth is that the first 164 pages have not been changed. The wording of the twelfth step was changed in 1941. The term “spiritual experience” was changed to “spiritual awakening.”

* In 1947, in the 11th printing of the 1st edition, the term “ex-alcoholic” was replaced by the terms “ex-problem drinker” or “non-drinker”.

* Dr. Bob’s wife Anne was asked to write the chapter “portraying the wife of an alcoholic” but she declined. Bill W. ended up writing the chapter “To Wives” himself.

* Hank P. whose story is “The Unbeliever” is credited with writing Chapter 10 “To Employers”. Hank P. also helped with publishing the Big Book. Unfortunately he returned to drinking in April 1940.

* Page 26, 1st paragraph—”The certain American businessman” is Rowland Hazard of the Oxford Group. He never joined AA but never drank again and died sober at this desk at work.

* Page 35—2nd paragraph—”Jim the Car Salesman” He is Ralph F. author of “Another Prodigal Story” in the First Edition Big Book.

* Page 50, 3rd paragraph—”American Statesman’ Alfred E. Smith, four time governor of New York and was unsuccessfully the first Roman Catholic presidential candidate.

Smitty Smith

(extracted from <http://www.barefootsworld.org/aasmitty.html>)

It should be noted that Dr. Bob and Anne Smith had two children—Sue and Smitty. They both played an important role in the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous. Let's look at each.

Robert "Bob" "Smitty" Ripley Smith II was born on June 5, 1918 and died April 22, 2004. He was 85 when he died and was the last eyewitness of the start of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Smitty was the son born to Anne and Bob. Smitty and Sue were at the Seiberling Estate Gate House on Mother's Day in 1935 when Bill W. and Dr. Bob first met. In fact, Smitty was 16 at the time and drove Dr. Bob to the meeting. Later, Smitty joined Al-Anon, a recovery program for the spouses, family, friends and other loved ones of alcoholics, when his wife Betty began attending AA meetings in Nocona, Texas. Smitty would tell people that if anyone should have known about alcoholism, he should have, but said he really didn't have a clue, until after Betty started in AA and he in Al-Anon.

Bob Smith would share his memories of AA's pioneering days at conferences, recalling how his parents and Bill Wilson allowed recovering drunks to stay in their Akron home at 855 Ardmore Avenue, often coming home to find a drunk in his bed, his home filled with alcoholics. Bob Smith's childhood home is visited annually by thousands who wish to see where the program of recovery had its origins.

Smitty spent his working life in Texas as an oil producer. He served as a pilot in World War II, flying the B-24 Liberator on 35 submarine hunting missions out of Africa. After the war, he worked as a commercial pilot and later in the oil industry, settling in Nocona, Texas, about 20 miles from the Oklahoma border. He was elected to the City Council from 1984 to 1991 and was mayor of the town of 3,000 from 1991 to 1993. But he spent the last three decades of his life focused on sharing the gift his father helped bring into the world, AA.

In his book "Children of the Healer" (Copyright 1992, Parkside Publishing Company), co-authored with his late sister, Sue Smith Windows, Smitty's thoughts written on the dedication page seem a fitting epitaph, **"For the loving God who allowed me to lead a very exciting life and also loved me through my many mistakes and who allows me to be of service. For the constant love and understanding of four good kids and a steadfast wife. I am truly grateful. For my loving parents who tried to instill in me values by their tireless example. For the many friends I have met and know as a result of 12 step programs. You have taught me a way of life in these programs that I never would have figured out by myself. I am truly grateful."**

Sue Smith Windows

Sue was the adopted daughter of Dr. Bob and Anne Smith. She was born on February 15, 1918 and dies February 9, 2002 at 83 years old. She was the next to last person who experienced the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"She called herself the first Alateen," Gail L., Akron AA Archivist said. "Both she and her brother would give up their bedrooms when they would get a new man, and they would bring him into the house." The Smiths always welcomed strangers into the home to care for them, Gail L. said.

Sue would marry Ernie G, some times known as AA #4. It was a marriage that Bib Smith did not condone. Perhaps because Ernie G. was drinking. He was drunk when he married Sue in September of 1941. Her parents did not attend. Sue said she never told them she was married and believed they had heard about it or read it in the papers.

Sue and Ernie had two children, a son (Mickey) and a daughter (Bonna). Ernie and Sue divorced about 1965 and he remarried. On June 11, 1969, Bonna shot herself, after first killing her six-year old daughter. She was 23 at the time of her death. Sue claims that Bonna was an alcoholic and was also using "diet pills."

Sue wrote, "Ernie never got over it. Bonna died June 11, 1969, and he died two years later to the day, June 11, 1971." Later Sue married her childhood sweetheart, Ray Windows. Ray died August 3, 1989.

Photograph of young Smitty



Photograph of Sue Smith Windows



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	No Nipping Nooners	12/13/1989	
Happy Hour	8/31/1988	First Saturday at 8:00 P.M.	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	

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

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

(If your Group wishes to recognize your member sobriety anniversaries, please submit updated information by June 15, 2029).

Evans			Forest Hills			No Nipping Nooners		
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober
Group Sobriety		249,005	Group Sobriety		44,892	Group Sobriety		206,548
Will M	4/1/2019	370	Danny M	4/11/1995	9126	Elizabeth P.	4/2/2002	6,578
Wayne F	04/06/93	9,861	Will R	4/28/2019	343	Bennett J.	4/15/2014	2,182
Julia B	04/20/14	2,177	Mitzi M	5/10/2017	1061	Cindi G.	4/16/2014	2,181
Sara L	04/24/17	1,077	Louisa M	5/10/2007	4714	Taris B.	4/23/2018	713
Joseph K	5/6/2015	1,796	Jake M	5/20/2013	2512	Hank H.	4/24/2016	1,442
Joey Q	5/7/18	699	Justin H	5/23/2018	683	Mark H.	4/29/2016	1,437
M.K. E	5/22/2018	684	Paul W	5/25/2012	2872	Vince A.	4/29/2015	1,803
Vicky M	06/02/17	1,038	Roger	5/25/2018	681	Jaime W.	5/9/2018	697
Ethan M	6/6/2019	304	Joan M	5/31/2014	2136	Stephan	5/10/2016	1,426
Eileen L	06/08/87	11,990	Med G	6/1/2006	5057	Josh F.	5/13/2014	2,154
Paula R	6/17/2019	293	Coy H	6/4/2018	671	Lay B.	5/15/1994	9,457
Rose N	6/18/2019	292	Roseanne G	6/12/1987	11986	George C.	5/15/1998	7,996
Michelle H	06/18/17	1,022	Jon L	6/20/2017	1020	Laura B.	5/17/1996	8,724
Stephanie H.	6/20/2019	290	Ryan G	6/23/2018	652	Holly S.	5/31/2016	1,405
Jeremy L.	6/29/2017	1,011	Markus W	6/27/2016	1378	Charles .C.	6/1/2018	674
Martinez			Thomson Group			Bill T.	6/3/2014	2,133
Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Name	Sobriety Date	Days Sober	Joe H.	6/19/2016	1,386
Group Sobriety		62,579	Group Sobriety		39,615	Joe A.	6/20/2017	1,020
Bob W.	5/29/1995	9,078	Seymour C.	4/27/1998	8,014	Paul M.	6/21/2012	2,845
Bill R.	6/2/2000	7,247	Thomas B.	5/15/2011	3,248	Fred J.	6/22/2018	653
Central Office Volunteer Opportunities are Available in the Central Office. Just call the Central Office at 706-860-8331.			Robert H.	6/14/2017	1,026	Matt J	6/27/2018	648
			Ronnie I.	6/16/2009	3,946			
			Robert H.	6/14/2017	1,026			

Events of Interest to District 12

(Tentative Due to Health Restrictions)

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.
June 29	East Central Cluster Forum, Augusta

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

**** Please keep these dates on your Group Calendars as Normal Operations will Resume ****

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 planning will be.

12th District Central Office Activities

	<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	1,566	131	373
AA Calls to Central Office	716	60	124
Al-Anon Calls to Central Office	37	3	9
Other Calls to Central Office	126	11	33
Visitors to the Central Office	1,668	139	310
Total Central Office Contacts	4,113	343	849
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$9,925.88	\$827.16	\$2,967.75
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$9,274.95	\$772.91	\$1,864.05
Total Central Office Sales	\$19,200.83	\$1,600.07	\$4,831.80
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	51,865	4,322	13,221
Search Hits	210,573	17,548	51,678

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.)

Meditation on Gratitude

... Every pain, every strife
I am leaving behind
And I sift through my life
With the sieve of my mind.

And my judgment is swift;
All was perfect, except...
Every day was a gift
That I wouldn't accept.

Every asking for more,
Never getting the gist:
On the final score,
It's a fit—to exist.

Every stink for a smell,
Every screech for a sound,
Every shout, every yell,
Every b..ch, every bastard around.

Every time I bled,
Every poisonous dish,
Every stone for bread,
Every snake for a fish.

Which I didn't perceive
as a gift...
So I sift
With my merciless sieve.

Top 10 List— The Top 10 Selling A.A. Books in 2019

Stuck at home for a while? Visit www.aagrapevine.org and have one of these best sellers delivered to you home!

10. Grapevine Daily Quote Book
9. Emotional Sobriety II
8. Beginners Book
7. Language of the Heart (hard cover)
6. La Sobriete Emotive (go ahead, learn a language while you are cooped up!)
5. Language of the Heart (soft cover) - Note on the list twice!
4. Emotional Sobriety—Note this topic on the list twice!
3. One Big Tent
2. Voices of Women in AA
1. Take Me to Your Sponsor

An A.A. saying is “This to Shall Pass” and our current situation certainly will. This is certainly a great time to prepare to be of service when meetings resume and we find those who need a little support. Or, in the current situation, be available by telephone or virtual meeting to be that hand of A.A.

Special Note: Take Me to Your Sponsor—Humor in a Tough Time

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-11 The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs



In these trying times, many of us are dealing with challenges. Some of us are in intensive care, some of us are home bound in quarantine, and some of us are dealing with grief in losing someone we love.

Dealing with life on life's terms means medications. As always, check with the professional! The experience of A.A. is that you should have a copy of this pamphlet available for your doctor. Also, remember, we do not pretend to be physicians. To quote from the pamphlet description "all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified physician.

For the historians in us, David Aronofsky (deceased) was a dentist who had very powerful messages on this topic. His tapes are very good.

Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)

This committee covers a vast area of concerns in our community including schools, professionals, physicians, lawyers, judges, courts, police departments, clergy, press and other media. In these troubling times, it is so much more important to assure the best communication possible so that we can continue cooperation without affiliating. Our professional friends are stretched thin, so our support of them so they can support our members is essential.

Another concern is that, during these times of isolation, the suffering alcoholic who is already isolated is so much more at risk. Our committee works to spread the word of how someone in need can still stay in touch by meeting, technology or responsible visits.

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
Rosanne G	Lisa S	Gratitude Group
Katie & Fred I	Ellen W	Jessica/Courtney S/D
Hill Group	Kim J	Cleveland J
Neil T	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**