



SOBER DAZE

July—September 2020

A 12TH District Publication

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*"If you drink, don't
drive. Don't even putt."*

~ Dean Martin

Editor Thoughts: Lighthouses in the Storm

With everything going on I am reminded of a YouTube video showing lighthouses off the French Coast during violent storms. They stand because they rest on a firm foundation and have been built well.

Given where we are, the June 15th Grapevine Daily Quote says a lot: "The history of AA shows that whenever a great need arises, that need is always met. In this respect, I'm quite sure that our history will go on repeating itself." Bill W., April 1958.

I'm also reminded that the Library of Congress has had a "Books That Shaped America" Exhibition. Looking over the list, I find 'Alcoholics Anonymous' and the recognition that millions have turned to the program to recover from alcoholism.

There is a lot of stress in our world at this time. So, what to do? Keeping our habits that got us here comes to mind. I find myself tempted to skip a meeting, I find myself tempted to skip a dollar in the basket to buy supplies, I find myself tempted to drop some service work because I cannot get into a prison at this time.

But those lighthouses off the French Coast do not stay standing without regular maintenance. We might not be able to do regular maintenance in a storm, but, with the first ray of sunshine, work must begin.— **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/](http://www.augustaaa.org/public_service_announcement_videos.html)

[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.)

July 2-3, 1955	Bill W. turns “the fellowship over to the fellowship” at 4:00 P.M. at the 20th Anniversary of A.A. at the St. Louis Convention
July 3, 1935	Bill D. leaves his Akron hospital sober, becoming AA #3
July 4, 1999	He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth
July 14, 1939	Blythewood Sanitarium Dr. Harry Tiebout gives a Big Book to Marty M. who promptly throws it back at him.
July 14, 1979	Dr. Ernest Kurtz publishes NOT-GOD, history of AA
July 23, 1940	Philadelphia AA’s send 10% of the Kitty to the Alcoholic Foundation, setting the precedent.
August 1934	Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.
August 3, 1954	Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hospital after 50th detox
August 11, 1938	Akron and New York members begin writing stories for the Big Book
August 16, 1939	Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia admit first alcoholic to St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio
September 11, 2001	30 Vesey St, New York, the location of AA’s first office is Destroyed during the World Trade Center attack
September 13, 1937	Florence R., first female in AA in New York
September 13, 1941	WHJP in Jacksonville, Florida airs ‘Spotlight on AA’
September 21, 1938	Bill W. and Hank P. form Works Publishing Co.
September 30, 1939	Article in <i>Liberty</i> magazine, “Alcoholics and God” by Morris Markey

AA Biography

John D. Rockefeller played an important role in A.A. Rather than give his entire biography, a look at his A.A. dinner is taken.

On February 8th, 1940, John D. Rockefeller gave a dinner for AA at Manhattan's exclusive Union Club. "Bill was elated, he again started to think in millions. He assumed...that Mr. Rockefeller had changed his mind and had decided to give AA money." (Pass It On, p. 232)

Four hundred of New York's "prominent and wealthy" were invited. Former ad man, and star of the Gabriel Heatter broadcast, Morgan R. provided the evening's finest line. The impeccably dressed former tosspot was asked by a gray-haired banker who was his tablemate, "Mr. R., what institution are you with?" Morgan grinned and replied, "Well, sir, I am not with any institution at the moment. Nine months ago, however, I was a patient in the Greystone Asylum." (Pass It On, p. 233)

Bill was crowd-watching, and could tell that the 75 or so of New York's elite who had come were "deeply impressed with what they were hearing... It was evident we had captured their sympathetic interest. Great influence and great wealth were soon to be at our disposal." (Pass It On, p. 233)

The words of the substitute host, Nelson Rockefeller, were devastating. "It is our belief that Alcoholics Anonymous should be self-supporting so far as money is concerned. It needs only our goodwill.' ...after cordial handshakes and good-byes all around, the whole billion dollars of them walked out the door." (Pass It On, p. 233) There are more reliable reports that Nelson, in fact, said nothing beyond that he was not empowered to speak on behalf of his absent uncle.

In spite of a few bizarre headlines, the Rockefeller endorsement provoked some credibility – enhancing write-ups, and an increasing portion of the public came to know, at least in a general way, what Alcoholics Anonymous was.

<https://aabeyondbelief.org/2018/05/06/selling-aa-early-publicity/>

Our Group

As some of us begin to attend in-person meetings again, it might be useful to think about a fresh start. The following questions, compiled from A.A. shared experience, may be useful in arriving at an informed group conscience. Many of us have been attending virtual meetings from around the country and these experiences can help us to improve our Home Group.

1. What is the basic purpose of our group?
2. What more can our group do to carry the message?
3. Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs?
4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group do to retain members?
5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?
6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?
7. Does our group emphasize to all members the value of keeping up with the kitchen, set-up, clean-up and other housekeeping chores that are essential for our Twelfth Step efforts?
8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?
9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?
11. Does our group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of A.A.—as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?
12. What has our group done lately to bring the A.A. message to the attention of professionals in the community—the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

A General Service Office Pamphlet: The A.A. Group – Where It All Begins

Traditions Checklist

It appears that more Groups are beginning to have physical meetings again. Which means we are going to be interacting quite a bit more. As we get back into the habit of working together, we might wish to think about some of our guiding Traditions.

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

- Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
- Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
- Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
- In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

- Do I ever cop out by saying, “I’m not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn’t apply to me”?
- Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
- Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
- Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
- Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
- Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

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-	Morning After	6/7/2014	
First Step	3/25/1974	day	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!

Early Bird Group

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

Group
Sobriety 117,448
Member
Sobriety

Elisha C.	7/12/2014	2178
Steve R.	7/26/2014	2164
Philip P.	8/14/2015	1780
Charles G.	8/23/1988	11632
Asa K.	9/3/2015	1760
Jennie C.	9/5/2015	1758
Reggie M.	9/13/2018	654

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!

Evans

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

Group
Sobriety 234,147
Member
Sobriety

Tina D	7/6/1987	12,046
Annmarie K	07/11/16	1,448
Linda D	07/14/07	4,733
Neil T	07/23/02	6,550
Starr S	07/25/15	1,800
Katie B.	7/27/2017	1,067
Amber A.	8/1/2019	332
Tasha E	08/03/00	7,269
Wendy M	8/4/2009	3,981
Betsy S	08/04/16	1,424
Stephanie V	08/04/17	1,059
Marcie H	08/14/18	684
Amanda J	08/15/15	1,779
Meghan C	08/22/14	2137
Paul L	08/25/74	16,744
Ana M	9/1/2015	1,762
Katie I	09/05/95	9,063
Hope S	09/21/18	646
Marilyn B	09/22/96	8,680
Curt M	09/29/15	1,734

Gratitude Group

Founded	4/1/2006
Celebrates	Last Friday at Noon
Name	Sobriety Date Days Sober

Group So-
briety 194,011
Member Sobriety

Terisa H.	7/1/2012	2,919
Sylvester H.	8/6/2012	2,883
Tabitha S.	8/24/2019	309
Paul L.	8/25/1974	16,744
Debbie D.	9/8/2005	5,407
Billy B.	9/17/2019	285
Glenn L.	9/24/1987	11,966
Elizabeth C.	9/25/2016	1,372

Thomson Group

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

Group
Sobriety 44,291
Member Sobriety

Jimmy C.	7/3/2019	361
Trish J.	7/19/2013	2,536
Dottie T.	8/4/2017	1,059
Chuck B.	8/4/2017	1,059
Vanessa	8/10/2018	688
Michael B.	9/7/2017	1,025
Rodney M.	9/10/1999	7,597

Events of Interest to District 12
(subject to change due to health safety reasons)

July 12	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
August 9	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
September 3	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
September 10-13	Sober Bash
September 18-20	GSSA in Macon
September 26	Thomson Group Celebrates 71 Active Years
October 12	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
October 15-18	Georgia's 67 th Pre-Paid Convention, at Pine Mountain

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

Due to COVID-19, please contact Katie I at 440-453-8948 for entry restrictions.

**Founders Day Celebration
2021**

Founders Day 2020 had to be cancelled. However, planning for 2021 is under way! The funding goal for 2021 is \$1,300 (including a \$300 Prudent Reserve). Helping now will make 2021 a great deal easier to plan. *Your Group or Individual support is requested for the \$396 still needed. Small contributions today helps make easy planning in 2021.*

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>
Answering Service Calls	1,581	132	416
AA Calls to Central Office	689	57	183
Al-Anon Calls to Office	30	3	5
Other Calls to Office	108	9	19
Visitors to the Office	1,460	122	187
Total Contacts	3,868	322	810
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$8,935.94	\$744.66	\$1,262.49
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$7,421.79	\$618.48	\$922.94
Total Sales	\$16,357.73	\$1,363.14	\$2,185.43
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	55,422	4,619	14,691
Search Hits	213,516	17,793	49,457

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.)

Learning to Quiet my Mind

I hear the murmur in my mind telling me all that is wrong,
With me, with them, with everything in my world.

The murmur speaks of what can go wrong, what will go wrong.
What complications can arise. What disasters can unfold.

Slowly I learn to quiet the murmur, to turn it away.
To accept what can happened, to accept what has happened, to let it go.

I learn to stop listening to the murmur.
I learn to quiet my mind.

Fran H., in The Suffolk Intergroup Bulletin, August 2019.

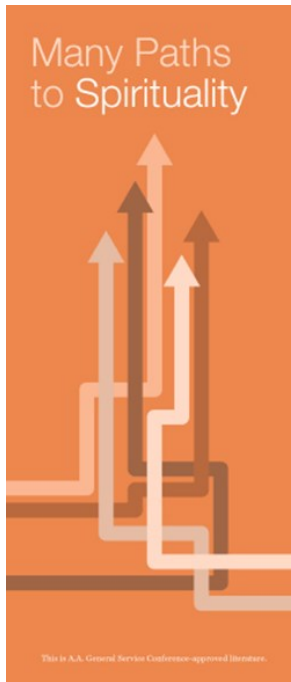
Top 10 List— Daughter Programs of Alcoholics Anonymous

The successes of Alcoholics Anonymous are evident every day we stay sober. The simplicity of the 12-Steps has led to others with addictions to utilize the 12 Steps to pursue their recoveries. Below are 12-Step programs with significant membership and when they were formed.

10. Heroin Anonymous, 2004
9. Crystal Meth Anonymous, September 16, 1994
8. Marijuana Anonymous, June 1989
7. Food Addicts Anonymous, 1987
6. Cocaine Anonymous 1982
5. Nicotine Anonymous, February 1982
4. Sex Addicts Anonymous, 1977
3. Debtors Anonymous, April 1976
2. Gamblers Anonymous—September 13, 1957
1. Narcotics Anonymous—July, 1953

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-84 - Many Paths to Spirituality

God, Higher Power, Agnostics—What is it with A.A. and Religion? A.A. is not a religious organization. It is quite unique in that A.A. allows us to “choose God as we understand him.” This option allows individual members to range from Atheist, to Agnostic, to Spiritual, to Religious.

To quote from the pamphlet: “In A.A. we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of A.A., so long as he or she so declares.” —Bill W. (A.A. Grapevine, July 1965)

Treatment Facilities

This committee takes meetings into rehabilitation 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!

Contact at: 12thdistrictcentraloffice@comcast.net

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