



# SOBER DAZE

January—March 2021

A 12TH District Publication

## **Inside**

- Editor Thoughts**  
Page 1
- Important Dates in AA History**  
Page 2
- AA Biography**  
Pages 3
- Sponsorship Advice**  
Page 4
- Central Office**  
Page 5
- Group Meetings**  
Page 6
- Events/Service/ Central Office**  
Page 7
- Birthdays**  
Page 8
- Poetry & Top Ten List**  
Page 9
- Pamphlet & District Committee**  
Page 10
- Faithful Fivers**  
Page 11

**Alcohol:  
Temporary Fun  
with Permanent  
Consequences**

## **Editor Thoughts**

### **Bill's Early Days**

We know that Bill Wilson had his Spiritual Experience in mid-December 1934. He left for Akron in April 1935. What happened in the interim?

Ebby came to see Bill again (working with others), Bill and Lois attended Oxford Group meetings (spiritual growth), and Bill spent many hours at Calvary Mission and Town Hospital talking with alcoholics (working with others).

But no one stayed sober. The trouble was not the alcoholics, but Bill himself. It was Dr. Silkworth who met with Bill to 'straighten him out.' The problem, you see, was that Bill was preaching at alcoholics, instead of talking with them.

In May, 1935, Bill began to talk with Dr. Bob.

Aren't we grateful that Bill Wilson, fresh from a spiritual experience, was still humble enough to learn? Perhaps, as a New Year's Resolution we might all ask to be Open-Minded and Teachable.

-  
**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.)

- January 1, 1948:** First A.A. meeting was held in Japan, (English speaking.)
- January 4, 1941:** Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY, to see Stepping Stones and broke in through an unlocked window.
- January 10, 1940:** 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.
- January 23, 1961:** Bill W. sent an appreciation letter, which he considered long-overdue, to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.
- January 26, 1971:** *New York Times* published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.
- January 30, 1961:** Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."
- February 1, 1942:** Ruth Hock, AA's 1st paid secretary, resigns to get married
- February 2, 1942:** Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. She had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help
- February 8, 1940:** Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other AA's asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr., for money at the Union Club, NY. They got \$2,000.
- February 12, 1945:** World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.
- February 18, 1943:** AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.
- February 21, 1939:** 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment. This was the "multilith" Big Book.
- February 22, 1842:** Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.
- February 23, 1959:** AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.
- February 1908:** Bill Wilson made boomerang.
- February 1938:** Rockefeller gave \$5,000 to AA. (which was later repaid)
- February 1940:** 1st AA clubhouse opened at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, NYC.
- March 1, 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.
- March 23, 1941:** Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.
- March 1940:** Mort J. came to LA from Denver; started custom of reading Chapter 5 Big Book at Cecil group.
- March 1941:** 1st Prison AA Group formed at San Quentin.
- March 1946:** The Jefferson Barracks AA Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought

to be the first ever in a military installation.

**SPIRITUS CONTRA SPIRITUM – CARL JUNG’S LETTER TO BILL WILSON**

“Spiritus contra spiritum” literally translates to “spirit against spirit”. Loosely translated, it refers to “a spiritual experience to counter addiction to the spirits (alcoholism).” Spiritus in Latin means both alcoholic beverages, i.e., spirits, and the highest religious experience. In relating this simple phrase, Jung confirmed for Bill that the A.A. program aimed at spiritual development and a spiritual awakening, as treatment for alcoholism, was the correct direction. On January 23, 1961, Bill sent a letter of appreciation to Dr. Jung thanking him for his contribution to A.A.’s solution for alcoholism through his work with Rowland H. This letter, dated January 30, 1961, was Dr. Jung’s immediate reply.

**Dear Mr. Wilson,**

**Your letter has been very welcome indeed.**

**I had no news from Rowland H. anymore and often wondered what has been his fate. Our conversation which he has adequately reported to you had an aspect of which he did not know. The reason that I could not tell him everything was that those days I had to be exceedingly careful of what I said. I had found out that I was misunderstood in every possible way. Thus I was very careful when I talked to Rowland H. But what I really thought about was the result of many experiences with men of his kind.**

**His craving for alcohol was the equivalent, on a low level, of the spiritual thirst of our being for wholeness, expressed in medieval language: the union with God.\***

**How could one formulate such an insight in a language that is not misunderstood in our days?**

**The only right and legitimate way to such an experience is that it happens to you in reality and it can only happen to you when you walk on a path which leads you to higher understanding. You might be led to that goal by an act of grace or through a personal and honest contact with friends, or through a higher education of the mind beyond the confines of mere rationalism. I see from your letter that Rowland H. has chosen the second way, which was, under the circumstances, obviously the best one.**

**I am strongly convinced that the evil principle prevailing in this world leads the unrecognized spiritual need into perdition, if it is not counteracted either by real religious insight or by the protective wall of human community. An ordinary man, not protected by an action from above and isolated in society, cannot resist the power of evil, which is called very aptly the Devil. But the use of such words arouses so many mistakes that one can only keep aloof from them as much as possible.**

**These are the reasons why I could not give a full and sufficient explanation to Rowland H., but I am risking it with you because I conclude from your very decent and honest letter that you have acquired a point of view above the misleading platitudes one usually hears about alcoholism.**

**You see, “alcohol” in Latin is “spiritus” and you use the same word for the highest religious experience as well as for the most depraving poison. The helpful formula therefore is: spiritus contra spiritum.**

**Thanking you again for your kind letter**

**I remain, Yours sincerely  
C. G. Jung**

**\*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.” (Psalms 42:1)**

## **How to do the Sponsor / Sponsee Part of Recovery “The 2” By Dan W.**

Above all, a Sponsor is a mentor. They share a common interest with their Sponsee because they have had similar experiences with the disease of alcoholism. That is the Sponsor’s credentials, their past experience. It’s what creates a bond between ‘the 2.’ A Sponsor / Sponsee relationship is built on mutual trust and respect. Hence, our Anonymity. If a Sponsee can’t trust the Sponsor, how are they going to be able to share the problems and solutions of alcoholism?

Sharing is best accomplished by meeting and talking. When they cannot, the next best option is a telephone call. It is common practice for new Sponsees to call their Sponsors on a daily basis.

A Sponsor is also the Sponsee’s guide while working through the Steps and Traditions—the program of recovery. Even though we can not force anyone to do/work the Steps, we are available for when the time comes. Some Newcomers will be ready at once. Others will take a much longer time to commit.

At least with daily conversations ‘the 2’ will always be discussing the very first Step ‘ “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives were unmanageable.’ I first learned of unmanageability while at the Residential Treatment Facility. Talking to my Sponsor about the daily curveballs (issues) life sent me, he was able to point out to me the unmanageability of my life.

Talking to my Sponsor after the meetings was of great value. Having that same person to talk to, in person and over the phone, on a daily basis was the greatest gift he could give me. As far as how to do the A.A. Sponsor / Sponsee part of recovery.....

Spend time one-on-one whenever possible. When it is not possible, **call your Sponsor on a daily basis.**

## **Commitment During Tough Times—Part Two**

Districts 12A & 12B are still dealing with the same health issues that arose during 2020. However, there are signs of progress. Looking at our District Meeting schedule, there are 46 Groups listed in the area. There are 39 Groups that have returned to partially returned to in-person meetings.

The Augusta Central Office Meeting Schedule shows 159 meetings every week. These begin at 7:00 A.M. and continue through the day with the last being at 8:30 P.M.

It is taking a lot of volunteer effort to do things like arrange for Zoom accounts to host virtual meetings, to finding and buying masks and hand sanitizer Group meetings, to taking extra time to talk to those who may be quarantined.

Our District recently had a member killed in an automobile accident. While we deal with this new health issue let us not forget that alcoholism never stops. It is a progressive disease that grows stronger every day.

### **For the special medicine we need:**

- 1. Our District 12 Central Office is open with literature that we need.**
- 2. Our Central Office Volunteers are in the office if you need to talk.**
- 3. Service opportunities abound with Bridge the Gap and also Corrections Correspondence.**
- 4. There remains the need for Twelfth Step Calls.**
- 5. If you can drive or peddle a bicycle quickly, you can make 35 physical meetings during the week around Augusta—five a day.**
- 6. In between physical meetings, we have learned how to attend A.A. meetings around the world—in the language you prefer any time of the day.**

These opportunities to get the medicine we need to stay well depends upon two types of commitments. First, the commitment of an A.A. member to do extra work to make an opportunity available. Second, our own commitment to take advantage of the opportunity.

# 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 Thursday	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
Good Shephard Group	6/30/2016		New Perceptions	3/ /2002	Last Friday: Chips @ 7:45, Meeting @
Gratitude Group	1/16/2006	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		
In Step	2/5/1991		Thomson Group	9/6/1949	Last Saturday: 7:00 Eating / 8:00 Mtg
Just for Today			Too Sleepy to Drink	4/1/2008	
Keep it Simple	1/23/2012		Warrenton		
Last Call Group	3/6/2002		Washington	5/1/1982	Person Picks: 6:00 Eating / 7:00 Meeting

### 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)

## Events of Interest to District 12

January 10	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
January 15	Deadline for AA Grapevine Prison Issue
January 15-17	GSSA Service Assembly, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Dublin
February 14	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
February 15	Deadline for AA Grapevine Sober Seniors Issue
March 12-14	Little River Round-up, Albany
March 14	District Business Meeting at 2:00 P.M.
March 15	Deadline for AA Grapevine Young and Sober Stories
March 19-21	Atlanta Men's Workshop @ Rock Eagle
April 11	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
April 15	Deadline for AA Grapevine Cooperation with Professionals Issue

### 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.

<b>Founders Day Celebration 2021</b>	<b>12th District Central Office Activities</b>				
<p>Planning for Founders Day 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. <u>Your Group or Individual support is requested for the \$396 still needed. Small contributions today helps make easy planning in 2021.</u></p> <p><b>GOAL:</b> \$ 1,300  <b>ON HAND:</b> \$ 975  <b>NEEDED:</b> \$ 325</p> <p>Please consider a contribution—the sooner we meet our goal, the easier planning will be.</p>				<u>Past 12</u>	<u>Last 3</u>
			<u>Months</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Months</u>
			<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>Central Office Activity</u></b>					
Calls to Answering Service			1,591	133	424
AA Calls to Central Office			628	52	146
AI-Anon Calls to Central Office			32	3	11
Other Calls to Central Office			97	8	23
Visitors to the Central Office			1,289	107	202
Total Central Office Contacts			3,637	303	806
AA Literature/Items Sales			\$8,375.13	\$697.93	\$2,123.57
Other Literature/Items Sales			\$7,298.03	\$608.17	\$2,223.10
Total Central Office Sales			\$15,673.16	\$1,306.10	\$4,346.67
<b><u>Web Site Activity</u></b>					
Web Site Visits			55,213	4,601	13,888
Search Hits			204,177	17,015	48,839

# Announcement on Anniversaries

The Editor has worked, since assuming the position, to highlight sobriety celebrations in District 12. This takes assistance from District 12 Groups to provide sobriety date information. Groups have been asked regularly for the past several months to provide sobriety date information. As this information is not available, listing of sobriety celebrations will be replaced with a similar emphasis on sobriety.

## Early Celebrations of Birthdays Resulted in People Getting Drunk

Dr. Harry Tiebout was asked to look at the problem of sobriety birthdays leading to another drinking bout and he commented on this phenomenon in an article titled “When the Big “I” Becomes Nobody”, (AAGV, Sept. 65):

“Early on in A.A., I was consulted about a serious problem plaguing the local group. The practice of celebrating a year’s sobriety with a birthday cake had resulted in a certain number of the members getting drunk within a short period after the celebration. It seemed apparent that some could not stand prosperity. I was asked to settle between birthday cakes or no birthday cakes. Characteristically, I begged off, not from shyness but from ignorance. Some three or four years later, A.A. furnished me the answer. The group no longer had such a problem because, as one member said, “We celebrate still, but a year’s sobriety is now a dime a dozen. No one gets much of a kick out of that anymore.”

<https://bigbooksponsorship.org/articles-alcoholism-addiction-12-step-program-recovery/aa-history/history-chipskeytags-medallions-sobriety-birthdays-principles-personalities/>

There is evidence that early on many people in AA carried personal mementos to remind themselves of the importance of their sobriety. Clarence H. Snyder – “*The Home Brewmeister*” had his last drink on February 11, 1938 and he carried a medallion (pictured right) made from a silver dollar and a watch fob up until just before his death on March 22, 1984. It has been dated back into the mid-1940’s, if not before, and the holes represent 46 years of sobriety.



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!



## 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

In the first few weeks without a drink  
When the wolf is at the door,  
And the Sheriff’s at the window  
And you’re sleeping on the floor,

And life looks bleak and hopeless  
From a monetary angle,  
It’s time to *spend*, in certain ways,  
To solve the awful tangle;

That token or that bus fare  
To get you to a meeting,

That dime to use the telephone  
For that necessary greeting,

That nickel for “expenses”  
That makes you feel you matter,  
That dollar for the coffee shop  
For after-meeting c hatter.

All these are wise investments  
For the neophyte to make.  
The “bread,” when cast upon the waters,  
Always comes back cake.

As found on page 82 of ‘Living Sober’

### Top 10 List— Things to Do During a Quarantine

Can’t go to your Home Group? Try the following;

10. Listen to a Speaker Tape
9. Buy a New Big Book for a Prison, Jail, or Treatment Center
8. Read a New A.A. Pamphlet and then Study it
7. Sign up for the Central Office 12th Step Call List
6. Participate in a Foreign Country Zoom Meeting
5. Organize your own A.A. Books and Materials
4. Look through the A.A. Literature Catalog and Order something You are Missing
3. Sign up for Corrections Bridge the Gap and Treatment Center Bridge the Gap so You Can be Available
2. Meditate
1. Pray for God’s Will

## **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-36 - Is A.A. for Me?**

This pamphlet is based on the 12 questions in “Is A.A. for You?” This 32-page pamphlet is an illustrated, easy-to-read version.

The pamphlet has the 12 tough questions followed by a visual prompt and an explanation.

The 12 tough questions a Sponsor might ask with the explanation and visual cue offered by another alcoholic.

## **Sober Daze**

This committee prints the Sober Daze newsletter every quarter. It provides information on a variety of District related topics, events, and recovery needs. AA members are invited to submit articles for publication.

There is always a need to publish event dates so that our District membership can take full advantage of recovery events.

Of special need at this time is information about Group Birthday Meetings.

# Faithful Fivers

Rosemary M	Georgia A	Traylor J
Jim & Billie B	Jimmy H/Tammra N	Linda S
Cathy C	David J	Last Call Group
Bruce/Kathy D	Pat J	Gene/Judy T
Michael E	Rosemary M	Sara/John R
Ronnie P	Tony B	Frank W
Sara R	Lisa S	Gratitude Group
Katie & Fred I	Ellen W	Jessica/Courtney S/D
Hill Group	Kim J	Roseanne G
Neil T	Ranscine R	Cleveland J

## 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**