



SOBER DAZE

April—June 2021

A 12TH District Publication

Inside
Editor Thoughts
 Page 1
Important Dates in
AA History
 Page 2
AA Biography
 Pages 3
Special
Recognition
 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

*Vodka mixes well
with everything
except decisions.*

Editor Thoughts

You Don't Know Where You Are Unless You Remember Where You Began

I have found that the life of a recovered alcoholic is a very good life. So much so that I forget exactly why I am a recovered alcoholic.

So much of A.A. is designed to keep the memories of our past drinking life fresh in our mind. Without constant reminding, I am quite capable of entering that "I have this thing beat" zone. I remember the SLIP acronym—
Sobriety Loses Its Priority.

District 12 (and, in fact, Area 16 Georgia) recently lost a servant leader—Ben Davis. Being transparent, Ben was my Grand Sponsor. But any and all could see his service work. But, so often, we don't realize the effort that went into service work because the results are just there.

Take a few minutes to read Page 4, especially if you are new to the Augusta area. We all see a fantastic building, but very few know of the dirt in which the seeds of that address were planted.

To keep those oh so important characteristics of humility and gratitude, remember: **You Don't Know Where You Are Unless You Remember Know Where You Began**

-
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_anouncement_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 and was collected & assembled by Nancy O. of Virginia. This is a Maryland AA History site.)

April 1, 1939 - *Alcoholics Anonymous* AA's Big Book was published.

April 11, 1939 - Marty Mann attended her first meeting at the home of Bill and Lois Wilson in Brooklyn.

April 23, 1940 - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

April 24, 1940: The first AA pamphlet, "AA", was published.

April 26, 1939 - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

May 4, 1946 - Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 6, 1939: Clarence Snyder 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 12, 1935 - Mothers' Day - Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling. Bill is 153 days sober.

May 16, 1941 - Ruth Hock learned that Joe W. (credited with coming up with the name Alcoholics Anonymous) had a "wet brain."

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.

June 7, 1939 - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

June 10, 1935 - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA.

June 19, 1942 - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

June 26, 1935 - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28, 1935 - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital. Bill W. has 200 days sober and Dr. Bob has 18 days sober.

June 30, 1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

A.A. Biography

The Big Book Promises state “We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.” I am not there yet, I still need to ask for advice. If you find yourself in a situation where personal, Group or District advice might be needed, you may wish to talk to one of our Georgia Trusted Servants.

PAST GEORGIA DELEGATES (* Deceased)

* 1952-1953 Neely Daniel	* 1954-1955 Monty Moncreff
* 1956-1957 Jim O'Brien	* 1958-1959 Louis Mulherin
* 1960-1961 Clarence Roberts	* 1962-1963 Gene Coker
* 1964-1965 Helfin Daniel	* 1966-1967 Virgil Warren
* 1968-1969 Joe Clements	* 1970-1971 Bob Ross
* 1972-1973 John Deal	* 1974-1975 Robert Fowler
* 1976-1977 Allen Royston	* 1978-1979 Keith Strickland
* 1980-1981 Joe Phelan	* 1982-1983 John Langston
* 1984-1985 Frank Rice	* 1986-1987 Jerome Waller
* 1988-1989 Gay Garner	* 1990-1991 Sam Sibley
* 1992 - April 1993 Bo Welch 36	
1993-1995 Randy S., Panel43-44delegate@aageorgia.org	
1996-1997 Joycie W., Panel46delegate@aageorgia.org	
* 1998-1999 Jerry Honeycutt	* 2000-2001 C Brookins Beck
* 2002-2003 John DeLoach	
2004-2005 Dick A., Panel54delegate@aageorgia.org	
2006-2007 David S.,	
2008-2009 David M., Panel58delegate@aageorgia.org	
2010-2011 Patty L., Panel60delegate@aageorgia.org	
2012-2013 Tom H., Panel62delegate@aageorgia.org	
2014-2015 Rebecca T., Panel64delegate@aageorgia.org	
2016-2017 Ernie M., office_chair@aageorgia.org	
2018-2019 Rick McN., chairperson@aageorgia.org	
2020-2021 Debi K., delegate@aageorgia.org	

Benjamin Sanders Davis

Some called him: Benjamin, Ben-Jammin', Big Ben, Uncle Ben, Gentle Ben, or Ben, Ben was an even number kind of guy. He was born on March 6, 1935, 96 days before AA was founded (June 10, 1935). His sobriety date is September 22, 1981, He passed away on the 8th of January. His Celebration of Life was on January 12th and his final resting place was on the 14th of January, He aligned himself with 36 spiritual principles.

Ben was not a church going type or religious as the world recognizes. However, he did things religiously, He had a Higher Power, and he called him God. Ben talked to God all the time, Ben did not do God's job, but he did God's work. Did he have any liabilities? Yes, but he kept his at bay by practicing virtues. He practiced spiritual principles and the greatest of these was his charitable heart.... his giving,... his love. Not only did he help people by taking them through the twelve steps of recovery.

He did things that a lot of people do not know about. In 1988, he purchased a rundown auto shop with a dirt floor and turned it into a place where God was talked about and people could recover from a hopeless state of mind and body. So, on a conservative estimation, he touched the lives of 1,138,800 people cumulatively, one day at a time, He did these things with humility, anonymity (he never took credit for any of it), and love.

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others; it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth! It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

It is our job to make sure his legacy is carried forward.

Ben loved to travel and watch the leaves change...the digital leaves as a matter of fact! He has got more miles than Marco Polo, Magellan, DeSoto, and Admiral Byrd combined, and he never met a stranger, Ben knew that what he tapped into in 1981 was not a GET program, but a GIVE program, and he gave generously with love.

It is my hope that when Ben checks in the Big Guy's place, they don't ask him questions like: "what time did you get here? How did you get here?" He may reply with something like, "Well in 1982, I was driving a 1981 dodge van, VIN# 784GA23970B22H81P. The vehicle had approximately 287,992.4 miles, and there was an eastwardly wind blowing in from the southwest." Twenty minutes later," ... and THAT'S how you make a Swiss watch," But no matter what he says when he meets the Boss, the Boss will tell him, "job well done my good and faithful servant, WELCOME HOME!"

-George C., 1/12/2021

Commitment During Tough Times—Part Three

Districts 12A & 12B are, like other places, seeing some light at the end of the tunnel in regards to health issues. 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.

As our Districts move back to in-person meetings we also expect to see our ‘Earth People’ partners begin to ask for our help. It is up to us to be able to say ‘Yes.’

How?

For our Groups:

1. If safely able, attend your in-person Home Group meetings.
2. Contribute as you can to replenish 5th Tradition coffers.
3. 12th Step Calls are coming back.
4. Taking Meetings to Serenity will begin again shortly.
5. We need male and female Corrections Bridge the Gap Volunteers in each County.
6. As we move back to in-person meetings, our awareness of Special Needs is higher—special resources are available to the deaf and blind.
- 7/ For our members with remaining health concerns, volunteers are needed for home-bound Meetings.

For the District:

1. Our District Committees need volunteers.
2. Our Central Office needs volunteers.
3. Groups have historically stepped forward to take Meetings to Serenity.
4. Founders Day needs volunteers.
5. Sober Bash needs volunteers.
6. Training is underway for taking Meetings into prisons and jails.
7. The Faithful Fivers still has openings for commitments.

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		Liberty Street Group	12/6/2014	
Awesome AAs			Lumpkin Road		
Back to the Book AM	8/31/2009		Martinez	7/31/1980	
Back to the Book PM	8/31/2009		Men's Group		
Downtown Club			Mid Day Group	6/1/2001	
Early Bird Group	1/1/2015		Morning After	6/7/2014	
Evans	2/3/1995	Every Thursday	National Hills	11/18/1985	
First Step	3/25/1974		New Beginning	12/17/1982	Celebrant Chooses
Forest Hills	9/6/1963		New Perceptions	3/ /2002	Last Friday: Chips @ 7:45, Meeting @ 8:00
Good Shephard Group	6/30/2016		No Nipping Nooners	12/13/1989	
Gratitude Group	1/16/2006	Last Friday @ Noon	Path to Freedom		
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
Leah Group	8/25/2009		West Town AA		

Events of Interest to District 12

April 11	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
April 15	Deadline for AA Grapevine Cooperation with Professionals Issue
May 9	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
May 14-16	GSSA Service Assembly, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Dublin
June 10, 1935	Dr. Bob's Last Drink / Birth of A.A.
June 13	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
June 15	Deadline for Grapevine Remote Communities & Holiday Stories
July 11	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
July 29-Aug 1	45 th Annual Atlanta Round-up
August 8	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
September 12	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.

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

Founders Day Celebration 2021

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. Your Group or Individual support is requested for the \$310 still needed. Small contributions today helps make easy planning in 2021.

GOAL: \$ 1,300
ON HAND: \$ 990
NEEDED: \$ 310

Please consider a contribution—the sooner we meet our goal, the easier planning will be.

12th District Central Office Activities

<u>Central Office Activity</u>	<u>Past 12 Months</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Last 3 Month</u>
Calls to Answering Service	1,632	136	398
AA Calls to Central Office	652	54	173
Al-Anon Calls to Central Office	37	3	9
Other Calls to Central Office	94	8	28
Visitors to the Central Office	837	70	221
Total Central Office Contacts	3,252	271	829
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$7,751.77	\$645.98	\$2,708.78
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$6,572.52	\$547.71	\$1,512.47
Total Central Office Sales	\$14,324.29	\$1,193.69	\$4,221.25
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	56,178	4,682	12,937
Search Hits	193,457	16,121	44,858

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.)

Untitled

After the fact, it’s all over,
I’m still intact, like a four-leaf clover.

Never want to go back to the way it was,
Loss of control and loss of love.

Survived the storm and the chill of losing
My sanity and self, it’s so confusing.

Today is good and I’m starting over again,
With news sets of values, lover and friends.

Memories of the past, don’t think too much,
They don’t last, and they’re out of touch.

I’m relieved and content—the chaos is gone,
So I can move forward, let go and move on.

What’s over is over, I refuse to regret,
It’s something I’m sober, and I don’t forget.

By Nora R., Fearless and Thorough Group, Rancho Mirage, and in the Desert
Lifeline, March 2021.

Top 10 List— SLIP – Sobriety Loses Its Priority

In these trying times, loss of sobriety can slip up on us. Look out for the following lead indicators of a SLIP.

10. Abandoning Daily Routines.
9. Having Unrealistic Expectations.
8. Defensiveness / Denial
7. Reconnecting with Previous People, Places and Things.
6. Romancing Past Drinking Experiences.
5. Quit Praying and Meditating.
4. Stop Talking to Your Sponsor.
3. Stop Attending Meetings.
2. Stopping Step Work.
1. Stop Reading the Big Book

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-24 - A Newcomer Asks

In working with a Newcomer, there are always questions. While each A.A. Group carries its message of recovery, A.A. does have bedrock foundation concepts. 'A Newcomer Asks' gives straightforward, brief answers on 16 points that once, and sometimes still does, puzzle many of us.

Some of the points discussed are:

- What can I do if I am worried about my drinking? .
- What happens if I meet people I know?
- Why do A.A.s keep on going to meetings after they are cured?
- How much does A.A. membership cost?
- Is A.A. a religious organization?
- What advice do you give new members?

Archives

This committee gathers, displays and stores historical information, which relates to AA and our recovering community. If you are one of those people that do not like the exposure but would like to give back a little to the community, please come join us!

There is a display case with historical information at the Camilla Avenue clubhouse. More materials are needed!

For service opportunities, please email: 12thdistrictcentraloffice@comcast.net

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 D	Pat J	Gene/Judy T
Michael E	Cleveland J	Sara/John R
Ronnie P	Tony B	Frank W
Greg G	Lisa S	Gratitude Group
Katie & Fred I	Ellen W	Rosanne G
Hill Group	Kim J	AVAILABLE!!
Neil T	Ranscine R	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**