



SOBER DAZE

July—September 2021

A 12TH District Publication

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*“Lips that touch
liquor touch other
lips quicker...”*

Editor Thoughts

Fighting for Freedom

If we are ‘granted a daily reprieve’ it would appear that maintaining our sobriety is an every day effort.. Coming off of D-Day and looking at Independence Day, we have had battle images recently.

But as those who have been in battle will tell you, both heroic efforts and attention to the small things are important. Some recent little sayings come to mind:

“He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth.”

“Don’t pick up a fifth on the third for the fourth.”

As we look through this issue, we are reminded that all of our little efforts help all of us to remain sober. We have been isolated from each other for over year—it is time to start practicing all those little efforts that make our Groups safe places for recover.

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 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

July 3-5, 1970 - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

July 5, 1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada; **1990** - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

July 7, 1940 - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

July 14, 1939 - Blythewood Sanitarium Dr Harry Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty Mann who promptly throws it back at him.

July 14, 1979 - Dr. Ernest Kurtz publishes NOT-GOD, History of AA

July 15, 1938 - 1st documented use name Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A. archives letter Bill to Willard Richardson.

July 1939 - Warren C. joined A.A. Cleveland, caused debate because he was not hospitalized.

July 1944 - Bob writes article for Grapevine "On Cultivating Tolerance".

July 1962 - 'Victor E' cartoon first appeared in Grapevine. (some say May 1962).

August 1, 1946 - Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address

August 8, 1879 - Dr Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

August 11, 1938 - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book

August 16, 1939 - Dr Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

August 1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

September 30, 1939 - Morris Markey runs story on AA, 'Alcoholics and God' in Liberty Magazine

A.A. Biography

Jack Alexander

The March 1, 1941 story “Alcoholics Anonymous” by Jack Alexander is an important part of A.A. history. Let us look a little closer at the chain of events.

First, in 1939, the owner of The Saturday Evening Post, Judge Curtis Bok, learned of A.A. from two friends. He was interested in having the Post tell the story of the organization and called upon his ‘hard-nosed’ and well-known journalist Jack Alexander, to do so. Bill W., eager to publicize the A.A. message, met with Alexander. He gave Alexander access to records, a tour of significant A.A. sights, and set up interviews with both nonalcoholic trustees of the General Service Board and A.A.s.

During his research, Jack did meet several newspapermen. Being a newspaperman, he could really talk to these men. His turning point was in St. Louis, his hometown. There he met a number of old friends who were A.A.s, ‘Once rollicking rumpots, they were now sober. It didn't seem possible, but there it was.’

Following the March 1, 1941 release of the article, inquiries began to flood in. On March 12, 1941, Ruth Hock, first non-alcoholic secretary of A.A., wrote to Dr. Bob, A.A. co-founder, to update him on what was going on in New York. She said that the office had become swamped, 918 inquiries in 12 days as a direct response to the article. The offices of The Saturday Evening Post also received many inquiries as well. This included the branch offices of the magazine.

Eight years after the release of the wildly successful 1941 Saturday Evening Post article Bill W. wrote to Jack Alexander with a request for another article. After discussions, “The Drunkard’s Best Friend” was published in the April 1, 1950 issue of The Saturday Evening Post.

The Alcoholics Anonymous Board had non-alcoholic members for stability reasons and for their ability to interact with the ‘outside world.’ In a November 1951 AA Grapevine article, Jack Alexander was introduced as a non-alcoholic Trustee.

Jack Alexander died at his home in St. Petersburg, Florida at 73 after retiring from The Saturday Evening Post in 1964 as senior editor.

12th District Central Office

Doing the Impossible

Several years ago I was in Chicago for a meeting for all AA Central Offices in North America. While there I was talking to the Manager of the Los Angeles Central Office. She said she had never heard of the Augusta (12th District) Central Office and could I tell her what we did there. I told her we have a book store, a website, 24 hour answering service and a quarterly newsletter. She asked how many groups support us and I told her there are about 40 groups in the Augusta area. She then said “That is Impossible”. I asked her to explain and she said 40 groups are not enough to financially support what the office does.

I told her we have been doing the impossible for more than 30 years. She asked how we can do that. She asked if we charge high prices for our books. I told her prices are the lowest anywhere and that for Conference Approved literature we charge less than we buy it for. We are able to do what we do because no one is paid for working, including the Manager and the Board members. She said are you aware that if you paid even one salary you would go broke. I told her we understood that but we have a wonderful group of volunteers who are paid not with money but with Sobriety which is priceless.

She said that is amazing and we should keep on with what we are doing. Here are the volunteers that do the impossible.

Office Manager – Jimmy H.
Board Members – Glenn L., Denney B., Charlie J., Traylor J.,
Sober Daze Editor- David J.
Volunteers – George C., James J., Paul L., Frank W., Sylvester H., Scott B., John G., Traylor J., Bill R., Ruth M., Chico L., Sara R.

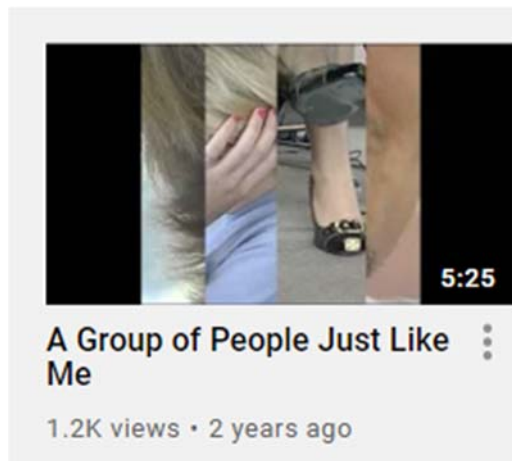
`Charlie J.

Editor’s Note: We are scheduled to conduct our national review to see if your Big Book Prices are still the lowest in North America.

A.A. Video PSAs

Being in a changing world, Alcoholics Anonymous is moving to a digital world. This new page in Sober Daze is an effort to keep up with progress. Please visit YouTube (www.youtube.com) and search for A.A.W.S. You will find videos in English, Spanish, and French.

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. has several thousand subscribers—we need thousands more. There are times when we try to relate, but find we just cannot. At that time, an A.A. video can help to save a life.



One very good video is ‘A Group of People Just Like Me.’ In just over five minutes, the alcoholics participating The subtitles allow the video to be available to those with hearing challenges. The description of the **video is:** Too young to join Alcoholics Anonymous? Hear stories from A.A. members who got sober when they were young, and how young people's meetings helped them to quit drinking and to find a community of sober friends. No one is too young to have a drinking problem. A.A. can help.



A.A. Grapevine also has YouTube videos. Again, we have thousands of subscribers, but we need thousands more. The description of the video shown is: Annie C. “Trying to hear God talk.” - A beautiful talk on discovering God’s will through meditation and the power of being off the grid and in tune with the natural world.

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

July 11	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
August 8	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
September 12	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
September	Sober Bash
September 17-19	GSSA Service Assembly, Oconee Fall Line Tech. College, Dublin
September 25	Thomson Group Celebrates 72 Active Years, Debi K., Speaker
October 8-10	Atlanta Men's Round-up, Rock Eagle
October 10	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
October 15-17	Georgia's 67 th Pre-Paid Convention, at Jekyll Island
November 14	District Business Meeting @ 2:00 P.M.
December 11, 1934	Bill W.'s Sobriety Date

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

Contact Tyrone at 917-860-8773 for questions and to volunteer.

Founders Day Celebration 2022

Planning for Founders Day 2022 is under way! The funding goal for 2022 is \$1,300 (including a \$300 Prudent Reserve). Helping now will make 2022 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: \$ 1,000
NEEDED: **\$ 300**

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	1,608	134	392
AA Calls to Central Office	676	56	207
Al-Anon Calls to Central Office	43	4	11
Other Calls to Central Office	99	8	24
Visitors to the Central Office	946	79	296
Total Central Office Contacts	3,372	281	930
AA Literature/Items Sales	\$9,102.77	\$758.56	\$2,613.49
Other Literature/Items Sales	\$7,669.59	\$639.13	\$2,020.01
Total Central Office Sales	\$16,772.36	\$1,397.70	\$4,633.50
<u>Web Site Activity</u>			
Web Site Visits	50,802	4,234	14,031
Search Hits	191,235	15,936	47,235

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.)

Divine Surrender

Release me from these shackles!
I struggle and I fight
Finally set Free
The Unseen now in sight.

The Things I cannot change?
Acceptance is what I’ve Learned
New Serenity within,
Rebuilt, the bridges burned.

Take what is given
Then give it all away
Redemption in the Spirit
Given, Day by Day.

Muster up the courage
To change the things I can,
Letting go—Divine Surrender
To a Higher Power’s Plan.

Intrinsically, I handle
That which used to baffle
Alas, it is a Miracle
Being freed from my own shackles!

Wisdom is the difference
Between the can and can’t.
For what we sow—we harvest,
From the life we plant.

-Daniel M 10/2019, Desert Lifeline

We all remember talking like that! “But we aren’t a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn’t want it.” pg. 132.

Top 10 List— Things Started Working for Me When ...

(All kind of great things happen when I get out of the way of recovery)

10. My Desperation Outweighed my Denial.
9. My Conscience Outweighed my Ego.
8. My Compassion Outweighed my Resentments.
7. My Giving Outweighed my Taking.
6. My Faith Outweighed my Fear.
5. My Unselfishness Outweighed my Greed.
4. My Service Outweighed my Neglect.
3. My Acceptance Outweighed my Criticism.
2. My Caring Outweighed my Indifference.
1. My Empathy Outweighed my Contempt.

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.



Young People and A.A.

I was young once. The perception of life then is certainly different.

In this pamphlet, ten young A.A.'s—16 to 27—tell how the program works for them.

Stories include a member who joined A.A. at 13 years of age. Not many of us can relate to that. Several began drinking when they were 11—many of us can relate to that.

The Myth—Reality bubbles in the pamphlet are wonderful attention getters and do cut to the chase about the reality of drinking and recovery.

Corrections

The purpose of this committee is to cooperate with all correctional institutions in the Augusta Area, explaining AA's role in assisting the inmates who seek help. The committee helps coordinate AA meetings and other activities in the facilities within the scope and traditions of the fellowship.

It is hoped that this summer our prisons and jails will re-open to A.A. meetings. Your service work is needed to help those incarcerated with no meetings for over a year to once again pursue the full program of A.A.

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

Faithful Fivers

Denney B	Greg G	Rosanne G
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
Traylor J	Lisa S	Cleveland J
Katie & Fred I	Ellen W	Blake J
Hill Group	Gratitude Group	Neil T

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**