



SOBER DAZE

January – March 2023

A 12TH District Publication

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"I like to have a martini, two at the very most. After three I'm under the table, after four I'm under my host." ~
Dorothy Parker

Editor Thoughts

That Service Time of Year

New York City this time of year is cold. But in 1935 Bill Wilson was across the city looking for drunks to work with. Fresh off of his spiritual experience on December 11, 1934, Bill began to 'Pay it Forward.'

We are often tempted this time of year to stay at home to work the program. I know because I too am distressed by cold, wet, depression, life in general, etc.

But Bill did realize how precious his gift of sobriety was. Dr. Silkworth had even told him to 'hang on to it.' We have learned over the decades that this means a 12th Step service program. And, especially, this time of year.

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.

View AA Videos at:

http://www.augustaaa.org/public_service_announcement_videos.html
https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios

Read Sober Daze anytime by visiting

http://www.augustaaa.org/sober_daze.html



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.)

January 4, 1941: Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY, to see Stepping Stones and broke in through an unlocked window.

January 8, 1938: New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.

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 30, 1961: Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."

January 1938: Jim Burwell, author of "The Vicious Cycle," a former atheist, gave A.A. "God as we understand Him."

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 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.

March 1, 1941: Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.

1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.

March, 1938: Bill begins writing the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc established to support writing and printing of the book.

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.

A.A. Biography

The Home of Bob and Anne Smith Akron, Ohio

Much of the success of early Alcoholics Anonymous took place at the home of Bob and Anne Smith. This house was the location of Dr. Bob's alcoholic suffering (as well as his family's), the early time Bill and Bob had together, and Dr. Bob's service work until his death.

The home is located at 855 Ardmore Ave, Akron, Ohio. It is a small arts and crafts house. It was built in 1915 with the newlywed couple moving in in 1916 after their 15 year courtship. They lived there together for the next 34 years. This home saw the youthful years of the two children of Bob and Anne. It also saw many drunks living there, the first being Bill Wilson. It is the home where Anne received the telephone call that set the stage for Bill and Dr. Bob to meet in the Seiberling Gatehouse.

It is said that Smitty Smith would often sleep on the back porch roof when a recovering alcoholic was in his room. Often Dr. Bob would conduct 12th-step visits in the room, including the 3rd Step Prayer. It is also here where Anne was chased through the house by a violent drunk with a knife. The house has been restored to its original status, including furniture. It is open for tours and is extremely popular during Founders Day. If you visit, please note the 12 steps leading up to the house from the sidewalk.

Available at Dr. Bob's House is "House Full of Miracles." This is a short documentary of the history of A.A. Of interest is that it was produced by former Georgia Delegate Dick A.

The next Founders Day is June 9-11, 2023. Registration begins on March 1, 2023.

Staying Connected

For a group of drunks who are not organized, we certainly do have a lot of things going on. There is service work and educational activities going on all of the time. These range from activities in your Home Group and going all the way to the A.A. International Convention. Some options for you are:

Home Group: Your home Group has many options for recovery. All Groups have meetings. Some Groups host special events such as alcathons – which is a day-long event dedicated to something like New Year’s Eve.

Districts 12A & 12B: Our District has many ways to stay connected. This Sober Daze newsletter is one option. There are several Central Office service committees: Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC), Treatment Facilities, Archives, Grapevine, Sober Daze, Special Needs, and Correctional Facilities.

Area 16 – Georgia: For statewide activities, the Central Office in Macon is the coordinating office. The Georgia State Service Assembly meets three times a year. There are several service committees – the Grapevine Committee, the Communications Committee, the Archives Committee, the PI/CPC Committee, the Corrections Committee, and the Treatment/Special Needs Committee. Finally, The Georgia Message of A.A. is the state newsletter.

Other A.A. Areas: The primary way to stay connected is to subscribe to or visit the newsletters of difference Areas or Central Offices. The Sober Daze Editor can be contacted for information.

AA General Service Organization: The national office is located in New York. There are many different newsletters available and complement the large number of A.A. publications. Also, support staff for various committee work are available as resources. Affiliated with the A.A. office is The A.A. Grapevine. An English and a Spanish version of this publication are available.

AA International Conference: The A.A. International Conference is held every five years. Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding. The International Convention will take place from July 3 - 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium.

Recover versus Recovery versus Recovered

The longer I am from my last drink, the more I find myself studying the Big Book. My latest research has been into three words used in the Big Book: recover, recovery, and recovered.

Recovered is the fifteenth word of the Forward to the First Edition. This word is followed by additional references mixed in with recovery and recovered.

While a 1938 dictionary would be the best source, the latest Merriam Webster dictionary from the internet is used. This source tells us:

Recover: to get back, regain; to bring back to normal position or condition; to make up for, to find or identify again

Recovery: the act, process, or an instance of recovering; the process of combating a disorder (such as alcoholism) or a real or perceived problem

Recovered: as the past tense of recover, it has the same definitions

Speaking with Old-Timers, the point is made that we are returned to sanity. Again, a past-tense word. Being returned, it would appear that we have gotten back our sanity, regained our sanity, or brought back to a normal condition.

So, we go through the process of recovery to recover and, if we follow the process, stay recovered / sane.

I am reminded of an old story. A man walks into a bar and proceeds to get drunk. Once there, he sees a beautiful woman at the end of the bar and thinks, "She wants me." He walks down to her and proceeds to annoy her. Then, her boyfriend walks up and tells the drunk to leave. The drunk refuses and wants to fight. They go outside and the boyfriend proceeds to pound the drunk, breaking several bones. Finally, he turns the drunk over and says "From now on, when you sit down you'll remember not to annoy women" and proceeds to shot the drunk in both buttocks.

The drunk is eventually taken to the hospital and recovers. He leaves the hospital a recovered gunshot victim.

But if he returns to the bar

Group Meetings 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 | | Live and Let Live Group | | |
| Back to Basics | | | Lumpkin Road | 12/6/2014 | |
| Downtown Club | 8/31/2009 | | Martinez | 7/31/1980 | |
| Early Bird Group | 1/1/2015 | | Men's Group | 7/31/1980 | |
| Evans | 2/3/1995 | Every Thursday | Mid Day Group | 6/1/2001 | |
| First Step | 3/25/1974 | | National Hills | 11/18/1985 | |
| Forest Hills | 9/6/1963 | | New Beginning | 12/17/1982 | Celebrant Chooses |
| Gratitude Group | 1/16/2006 | Last Friday @ Noon | New Perceptions | 3/ /2002 | Last Friday: Chips @ 7:45, Meeting @ 8:00 |
| Grovetown Fellowship | | | No Nipping Nooners | 12/13/1989 | Celebrant Chooses |
| Happy Hour | 8/31/1988 | First Saturday at 8:00 P.M. | Path to Freedom | 3/ /2002 | Last Friday: Chips @ 7:45, Meeting @ 8:00 |
| Harlem | 10/1/1989 | | S.H.E. Group | 1/ /1989 | |
| Hephzibah | 12/1/1989 | Last Friday @ Noon | Southside | 5/26/1972 | |
| Hill | 12/27/1966 | First Saturday at 8:00 P.M. | Sunlight of the Spirit | 7/12/2009 | |
| In Step | 2/5/1991 | | Thomson Group | 9/6/1949 | Last Saturday: 7:00 Eating / 8:00 Mtg |
| Just for Today | 12/1/1989 | | Too Sleepy to Drink | 4/1/2008 | |
| Last Call Group | 3/6/2002 | | Warrenton | | |
| Leah Group | 8/25/2009 | | Washington | 5/1/1982 | Person Picks: 6:00 Eating / 7:00 Meeting |
| Liberty Street Group | 12/6/2014 | | West Town AA | 4/1/2008 | |

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. Upcoming Anniversaries are listed below.

| Evans Group | | Thomson Group | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Name | Sobriety Date | Name | Sobriety Date |
| Bethann H | 01/10/21 | Walter N | 3/12/2020 |
| Colby P | 01/31/13 | Brad R | 3/20/2022 |
| Jan E | 01/24/22 | | |
| John H | 01/29/22 | | |
| John M | 01/29/09 | | |
| Larry G | 01/28/02 | | |
| Trisha W | 01/26/22 | | |
| Annabelle S | 02/27/22 | | |
| Gerry M | 02/03/86 | | |
| Nathan B | 02/26/17 | | |
| Scott E | 02/06/22 | | |
| Chantell G | 03/07/22 | | |
| Donna T | 03/09/80 | | |
| Heather L | 03/30/14 | | |
| Kevin R | 03/25/22 | | |

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Service Commit
our Service

860-8331.
ire to be of service, one of
0-8331 for details.

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.)

Relapse

| | |
|--|---|
| Oh, what a waste I just wanted a taste But then there were dragons to chase. | Hope it won't be too long til I feel like I'm strong And get back all the things that I lack. |
| Good times took a toll I lost self-control And ended up catching a case | So I hope and I pray That I'll do what I say And finally make a new start. |
| Oh, what to do now? I believe that somehow Some angel or God has my back. | For God who knows all Keeps on breaking my fall Although I keep breaking His heart. |

Jessica June, Desert Lifeline, October 2022.

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 Ten List – When Girls Drink Too Much

The Big Books says that men and women are physically and mentally different. So, only a few select few may identify with the list below. Thanks to the Desert Lifeline, December 2022 edition as the source for this list.

10. We wake up hung over in the morning and say, “I’m never doing that again!”
9. We take our shoes off because it’s their fault we can’t walk in a straight line.
8. We lose our shoes.
7. We’ve found a deeper spiritual side to the geek sitting next to us.
6. So we go home with him.
5. We start crying and telling everyone we see that we love them soooooooooo much!
4. We fail to notice that the toilet lid is down when we sit on it.
3. We suddenly decide that we want to kick someone’s butt and believe that we can do it.
2. We believe that dancing with our arms overhead and wiggling our butt while yelling “Woo-Hoo!” is truly the sexiest dance move around.
1. We have absolutely no idea where our purse is.

Special Needs

This committee is here to assist AA's with special needs. This is described as persons who are blind or visually impaired; deaf or hard of hearing; chronically ill or home bound, and those who are developmentally disabled. For instance, Braille copies of the Big Book are available.

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

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-54 Is there a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?

Did you drink at work? I did.

This pamphlet is of interest to employers, human resources professionals and union officials. This leaflet gives a concise description of the help A.A. can offer to the alcoholic employee.

There are many A.A. members who have shared their sobriety with trusted co-workers so that they might be a resource to the business. This pamphlet is an important first step for raising awareness on the job site.

General Service Conference-approved.

Faithful Fivers

Thank you for supporting the Central Office!

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Denney B | Kathryn Z | Rosanne G |
| Jim & Billie B | Jimmy & Tammra H | Linda S |
| Cathy C | David J | Last Call Group |
| Bruce/Kathy D | Pat J | Gene/Judy T |
| David W | Rosemary M | Sara R |
| Cleveland J | Tony B | Frank W |
| Traylor J | Lisa S | Blake J |
| Katy & Fred I | Ellen W | Ranscine R |
| Dan W | Joe C | Margie S |
| Neil T | Gratitude Group | Fellowship Group |
| AVAILABLE!! | 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**

