



SOBER DAZE

JULY – AUGUST- SEPTEMBER-2025

A 12TH District Publication

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EDITOR THOUGHTS

It's summer once again. The yellow pollen that blanketed everything has vanished with the spring rains. The weepy eyes, runny noses, coughs and sneezes have subsided and the flowers are in bloom. What an amazing world we live in. I positioned bird feeders strategically outside my windows so that wherever I sit I can see the birds feeding, and sometimes squabbling for position on the feeders. Mother Nature with its fall storms, winter freezes, and rainy spring has once again opened our hearts to the magic of summer. It's all about seasons and stages and recovery. The things we do in our lives, in our journey. Now I never claimed to be a writer and my writing may not be grammatically correct but the message will be understood. We have our seasons which intertwine with our serenity. Some days are damp and weepy and some days are joyful and free and sometimes every day is summer. The gifts of AA are many, so very many. The promises of happiness, joyfulness, and freedom from addiction are very real. We just need to do and practice what we learn through our step work. Not every day will be summer, there are other days also, but rest assured, summer will always come back to us if we do the next right thing.

This publication is for everyone to read and contribute too. I will always do my best to publish what I am given, sometimes I won't be able to put everything into print but please know that everything that you send me is gently put into a folder and given the respect it deserves. I am always looking for stories of hope born of pain. Pain is a tremendous teacher and motivator, without it some of us would not be here. Share your stories, they are all powerful.

Marie G. (editor)

Read Sober Daze anytime:

<http://www.augustaaa.org/soberdaze>

View A.A. Videos at:

<http://www.augustaaa.org> Click on PSA Videos

<https://www.aa.org> Click on Resources

ARCHIVES

“Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning; it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. As it does go on, we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life – the one that did not work – for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever.”

Bill E, A.A. Co-Founder

This committee gathers, displays, and stores historical information, which relates to A.A. and our recovering community. Drop in at the District Office to view the current historical collection. We recognize and give thanks to this committee which has worked hard and has amassed a great amount of historical information. Thank you to George and his committee of 5.

Contact the Archives Committee to learn more about our District 12 history, how to make contributions, or how to volunteer go to:

www.augustaaa.org and click on the committee tab.

Area 16 (Georgia) Archives: www.aageorgia.org/archives

Like any other A.A. service, the primary purpose of those involved in archival work is to carry the message of Alcoholic Anonymous. Archives service work is more than mere custodial activity; it is the means by which we collect, preserve and share the rich and meaningful heritage of our Fellowship. It is by the collection and sharing of these important historical elements that our collective gratitude for Alcoholics Anonymous is deepened.

Akron Archives: www.akronaa.org/archives

The mission of the Akron Archives:

- To preserve the A.A. message and carry it to other alcoholics.
- To preserve the history of our fellowship to prevent distortion.
- To cooperate with and support other A.A. archives and archivists working within A.A.’s service structure and the 12 Traditions.

New York (GSO) Archives: www.aa.org/gso-archives

The mission of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office Archives:

- Document permanently the work of Alcoholics Anonymous
- Make the history of the organization accessible to A.A. members and other researchers
- Provide a context for understanding A.A. progression, principles and traditions.

WHO'S WHO IN THE 12TH

Meet Charlie Jenness, a member of the Evans Group with 27 continuous years of sobriety. His first drink was when he was 14 and his last drink was at 53. 49 years of alcoholic bliss. When he asked his wife, "why didn't you kick me to the curb?" She said, "the next one (husband) might be worse so I might as well stick with you. Lois W. (Bill Wilson's wife) had told Bill "You're not attractive when you're drunk."

Charlie had a dental practice while living in Minnesota that was in trouble because of his drinking and, as a result he attended an Intensive Outpatient Program. Getting sober was "devastating". He had to admit his alcoholism and look at the consequences. He relapsed and his drinking continued and he eventually had to close his practice. He continued to drink and attended another outpatient program. After completion he decided to join the US Army with a need for "gainful employment.". The Army sent him to Germany for 3 years and for 3 years Charlie stayed sober. He attended A.A. meetings, was the English speaking A.A. Rep for continental Europe. His active involvement in A.A. service work helped to keep him sober...it works.

When his deployment in Germany was completed, he was sent to Ft. Gordon. He decided to enter a Residency in a dental specialty program. He relapsed and wasn't able to complete the program and as a result was sent to RTF, an addiction treatment program at Fort Gordon, now Ft Eisenhower. This is where he met his first and only sponsor, Gene. When he asked Gene to sponsor him, he was told, "I'll be your sponsor if you'll do the work, but I'll always be your friend".

Today Charlie says that he has a good life and is grateful that he didn't lose everything. The important question for Charlie is "do I want to live or die?" He chooses life. He is grateful for his family and his freedom from alcohol. "My life got better." When a desire to drink comes he thinks it through. His family are the people in the rooms who helped him get sober. "My God tells me to help other alcoholics which is what I do". Charlie has been with the Central Office in a number of roles. Initially he was a Board Member, one of four, and when Pat Fuller retired, he became the Office Manager. It was more than a one-person job so he and Jimmi got together and created today's partnership. Jimmi is now the Office Manager and Charlie is the Treasurer.

Charlie's advice to the newcomer? "Don't leave before the miracle happens because I left many times only to experience misery. Being able to wake up sober and knowing that I didn't have to drink is a miracle."

Thank you, Charlie, for your service to A.A. and your country.

CENTRAL OFFICE

12th District Central Office is located at 113 Camilla Ave in Martinez in the Westside Club building. The Westside Club are our landlords; they do not operate the Central Office. The office sells Conference and Non-Conference literature, Chips and Medallions. It maintains a website (augustaaa.org), 24 hr. Answering Service, quarterly News Letter (Sober Daze). The Office is run by volunteers. There are no paid Employees.

12th District Central Office has been in operation for more than 30 years. Over the years the office started to show its age. Roof leaked, windows leaked, bathroom a mess, electrical problems, old carpet, in need of paint. Old and outdated business machines. Worn out furniture. Below are some of the problem solutions done in the last 10 to 12 years.

Wrote a new website (augustaaa.org.)

Remodel of bathroom

Replace all light fixtures with LED

Replace carpet with tile floor

Painted entire Office

Purchase 2 new computers and 2 new printers

New chairs for front office

New window treatment for front office

New roof (paid by Westside Club insurance)

New windows and siding (Office paid 1/3 of cost for entire building).

All of this was done because of the generous donations from Groups and individuals and all of the volunteers who are paid not in cash but in Sobriety. The Office is sound financially and hopes to serve the Augusta/Aiken area for another 30 years.

EVENTS/GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

Grovetown Fellowship Group 3rd Anniversary

Quest Church 5001 Gateway Blvd, Grovetown**July 29th**

Food @6:30 Speaker @ 7pm, Courtney D. from the Hill Group

International Convention 2025

Vancouver, Canada “Language of the Heart”

Make plans to attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 3-6 2025. This convention take place every 5 years and marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. For more information contact: www.aa.org. Over 30 thousand have made reservations. Hope you can make it to this spectacular event.

72nd Annual 2025 Georgia Prepaid Convention

Working Together, Increasing Trust

When:

October 17th, 18th, & 19th

Where:

Columbus, GA – Convention & Trade Center - -801 Front Ave

Pay in Advance Activities:

Saturday morning golf tournament \$25

Saturday night Fellowship Dinner \$25 – The Pearl

For more information: www.augustaaa.org

GRAPEVINE DAILY QUOTE, JUNE 2, 2025

“A little voice deep inside me said, ‘Hello, I am here.’ It was a small voice, and sounded as if it were buried underneath the cushions of my couch. It was my soul... I had forgotten it.”

Apex, North Carolina, March 2006, “A Soul Checks In,” AA Grapevine

GROUP BIRTHDAYS

Grovetown Fellowship Birthdays celebrated on last Tuesday of the month

September Michael H. 13 yrs
Katie I. 30yrs

Gratitude: Birthday celebrations are on the last Friday of the month @ 12pm

July	Linda D.	18 years	September	Debbie D.	20yrs
	Allyson S.	2 years		Glenn L.	38 yrs
	Helen C	5 years			
	Michael S.	6 years			
	Terisa H.	13 years			
	Pat K.	4 years			

August Sylvester H. 13 years
Paul Lemmon 52 years

Martinez Group Speaker/Birthdays last Friday of the month @ 8pm

July Tina D.

Midday Group Meets 12pm Monday through Saturday

August Devin L. 1 year
Nick T. 7 years

September Marilyn 22 years
Charles G. 22 years

New Perceptions Birthday celebrations are on the last Friday of the month @ 7pm

July	Andrea L.	6yrs	September	Brad M.	22yrs
	Corey L.	2 yrs		Lynn B.	43yrs
August	Chuck B.	7yrs		Dennis D.	33yrs
	Nate H.	1yr		Lachisa S.	1yr
	Brian P.	2yrs		Charlie G.	1yr
	David C.	18yrs			
	Henry W	1yr			

FIND THE “QUOTES”

This is a game! You will find these quotes are in the “Big Book” and the Twelve & Twelve. Each quote will correspond to the steps attached to the months in the quarter. For instance, July, August, and September correspond with steps 7, 8, & 9. When you find the quote, email me the book and page # along with the quote’s meaning. Test your skills and play along...all that respond will receive recognition in the next Sober Daze edition.

Congrats to the following members for finding the quotes:

Nicoll G. from the Evans Group: Books and pages were correct.

These passages illustrate the spiritual transformation that occurs through working the steps. They show how pride and fear can block us from growth, but with honesty, willingness, and humility, we gain peace, freedom, and connection with God and others. Even as we heal and grow, we must remain vigilant—recognizing that self-centered desires will continue to surface. Yet, through grace and continued willingness, we are empowered to face ourselves, others, and life with courage and serenity.

Annquette M. from Grovetown Sober Sunday Group. Books and pages were correct.

Fear is an evil and corroding thread that blocks our vision of peace and tranquility. With the 5th step and exposed emotions, we can feel the presence of God. Prayer for me has always started with “God help me to be willing.”

“Grant me strength as I go from here to do your bidding.”

“It brought a measure of humility, which we soon discovered to be a healer of pain.”

“Remember it was agreed in the beginning we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol.”

“It is an attitude which can only be changed by a deep and honest search of our motives and actions.”

“Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us.”

“Let’s not talk of prudence while practicing evasion.”

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STEPS & PRINCIPLES

7th Step

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Humility

...one crippling handicap had been our lack of humility”

8th Step

Brotherly Love

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”

“Learning how to live in the greatens peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and women of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure.”

9th Step

Justice

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

“While we may be quite willing to reveal the very worst, we must be sure to remember that we can not buy our own peace of mind at the expense of others.”

Humility

Humility involves acknowledging that we are not self-sufficient and rely on something greater than ourselves, whether it’s God, a higher power, or the inter connectedness of all things.

Brotherly Love

A spiritual principle that emphasizes the importance of caring for and loving one another...fostering unity, compassion, and mutual respect.

Justice

“...fairness, equity, and the recognition of inherent human dignity.”

“...those who have been wronged are helped to heal and those who have done wrong are given an opportunity to make amends.”

MEMBER STORIES

From Desperation to Purpose: A Journey of Strength and Hope

For nearly 20 years, addiction shaped the direction of my life. I first attempted sobriety at 25—not because I was ready, but because the court mandated rehab and accountability court brought me to the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. I heard all the sayings: “*Keep coming back,*” and “*If you stick around long enough, you’ll catch alcoholism.*” And I did keep coming back—on and off—for nine years. But I was still stubborn, and convinced I could outthink what I now understand to be a spiritual disease.

During those years, I witnessed something in the rooms that stuck with me: a genuine sense of peace and happiness in people who had truly surrendered. But I wasn’t ready. Eventually, I relapsed—and stayed out for two more years. It was during that time that I experienced what the Big Book calls “*incomprehensible demoralization.*” I returned to AA beaten down and fully aware that I had been running entirely on self-will. I had known God in my head, but not in my heart.

This time was different. I was done pretending. I got a sponsor and worked the Steps with honesty and willingness. I finally understood that no one could help me unless I was willing to be raw and real about where I was and how I felt. I got involved in service, started sponsoring other women, and experienced the joy of watching others grow. I learned how to form healthy relationships—starting with a relationship with myself and with a Higher Power of my understanding.

I stopped living for me and started living to be of service. I reconnected with the community, met people with compassion in my heart, and developed a true desire to help others. I got out of myself.

Life has a beautiful way of coming full circle. I reconnected with someone I knew from high school—he’s now my husband. I rebuilt broken family ties, including my relationship with my daughter, which is now one of the most cherished parts of my life.

Today, I live a life I never believed was possible. It’s not perfect—but it’s real, and it’s filled with purpose. I’m living proof that no matter how far down the scale we have gone, we can see how our experience can benefit others.

To anyone still struggling or just starting the journey: Keep coming back. Don’t quit before the miracle happens. Because it will.

Nicoll G. – Evans Group

COMMITTEES

A.A. service committees, composed mainly of representatives or liaisons from area groups, shoulder major responsibility for carrying the A.A. message into the community and around the world. Each of these committees may serve as a resource for the community through our Sixth Tradition of cooperation but not affiliation.

- ARCHIVES:** Visit the Archive Room at the Westside Club.
For more information or to volunteer, contact: George C.
georgecroft67@yahoo.com
- SOBER DAZE:** A quarterly publication with a mission to carry the A.A. message of *recovery, unity, and service* through various articles and information. For more information or to contribute articles/information contact: Marie G.
Soberdaze16@gmail.com
- CORRECTIONS:** Corrections representative takes A.A. meetings into prisons and jails to help alcoholics in custody to recover and prepare for sober, fulfilling lives after release. For more information or to volunteer contact:
- GRAPEVINE:** For more information or to volunteer contact: Stephanie N.
Snobles86@outlook.com
- PI/PCP** Public information dissemination for access to A.A. meetings and information. Community outreach focusing on, without affiliation, professionals in the community. For more information or to volunteer contact:
- TREATMENT:** Members of this committee work to help hospital and treatment center staff better understand A.A. and to take the A.A. tools of recovery to alcoholics in treatment. For more information or to volunteer contact: Carlton N kcwn51@yahoo.com

Faithful Fivers
Thank you for supporting the Central Office and this publication.

Denney B.	Kathryn Z.	Linda S.
Jim & Billie B.	Jimmy & Tamara H.	Last Call Group
Cathy C.	David J.	Gene & Judy T.
Rosemary M.	Sara R.	Chris T.
Tony B.	Frank W.	Traylor J.
Lisa S.	Al K.	Katie & Fred I.
Dan W.	Margie S.	Neil T.
Gratitude Group	Lumpkin Fellowship Grp	Gaylord J.
Keylor H.	Bruce D.	Pat J.

ENROLL IN THE FAITHFUL FIVERS

- “Faithful Fivers” are A.A. members who, in gratitude, contribute \$5/month or \$60/year toward supporting the 12th District Central Office. With this support, the Central Office pays for printing of this publication and making it available to the A.A. members and groups. When you enroll as a supporter, each issue will be delivered to your home.

I agree to pledge, and here is my donation of \$_____ for _____ months.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

