

UNITY NEWSLETTER



March 2021 **Volume 45; Issue 3**

A.A. Oldtimers...On the Third Step

A.A. Grapevine, January 1945. Vol. 1 No. 8

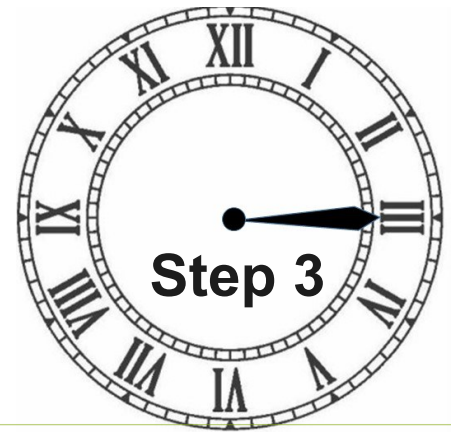
“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.”

I was co-chairman of the Loop group a few months ago and the subject of religious experience was brought up. I answered this in my stumbling way by saying that each of us could have such an experience only when we ‘got on center with ourselves’; if that were not clear we could express it thus: when we fully realized for the first time in our lives the essential dignity of ourselves as human beings. I also said that this realization could be achieved through return to the formal religion we once practiced but never knew, or by honest thought along our rough-hewn way.

I have lately come to think that the 3rd step on our guide post to the good life is the meat and drink of the twenty-four hour program. Without a complete, whole-hearted ‘surrender’ at the start of each day, much of the good that we think, or do, is lost to us. I must confess that in my own daily application of the program I had begun to slip on this point—if indeed I had ever really practiced it. But the tide of events swelled over me recently to wash this bad thinking away. Unsatisfactory events, however, do not seem to be without compensation. Out of this turmoil and confusion in my business affairs has come a deeper understanding, a peace and serenity, a clarity of outlook I never knew before.

I sometimes wonder how many of us, after early, diligent application to A.A., coast along without getting wet solely because of a thoroughly house-broken habit as far as alcohol is concerned. I have always thought that the man who is thoroughly sickened of the stuff, when he learns of A.A., has the best chance to pick up and go; but it seems to me that there is danger ahead for such a man sometime later, just because he won his ‘strength’ too easily at the start.

Walter L., Chicago, Illinois



“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.”

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**East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous
Presents
2021 Monthly Online Zoom Step Meetings**



Second Saturday of the Month from 10:00am to 11:00am ET
(limited to first 100 attendees)

STEP 1, January 9th Speaker: Gerry C. - Dundee, Scotland

STEP 2, February 13th Speaker: Mike D. – Brooklyn, NY

STEP 3, March 13th Speaker: Penny P. – Livermore, California

Zoom ID: 881 6025 4458

For More Information Contact the ETLAA Office Manager at 865-522-9667



EAST TENNESSEE INTERGROUP

New Website! New Online Store! New Office Hours!

<https://www.etiaa.org/>



**Our new
website
has
launched**

We have updated our website! Check it out! All online meetings are available with links by searching the site, on the app, or on the meeting PDF.

We now have an online store! It's still a work in progress but you can now shop online and have stuff shipped or ready for porch pickup at the Intergroup Office.

We have new hours! Please let us know if you'd like to do service work at the office. Shifts are 2 to 5 hours Monday- Saturday and can be weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or on call. Requirements are 1 year sobriety, a sponsor, and completion of the 12 Steps.

Monday 11a-4p

Tuesday 11a-4p

Wednesday 9a-4p

Thursday 11a-4p

Friday 11a-7p

Saturday 11a-4p



East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous – Gratitude With Service form

Return to: ETIAA; 9217 Park West Blvd #B3; Knoxville, TN 37923

865-522-9667

Manager@etiaa.org

www.etiaa.org

Date: _____ *First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ *Phone _____

*City _____ *State _____ *ZIP _____ Sex _____

E-mail address _____ Alternative Phone _____

* Required for listing in 12th Step List

ETIAA UNITY Newsletter Subscription / Renewal (Free subscription for email issues; \$12/year for mailed issues)

Volunteer Service Options

Check only those you are willing to commit time to:

12th Step List Volunteer

Weeknights

Weekends

Weekdays

Phones Night & Weekend

Weeknights

Weekends

Committees of Interest

Check only those you are willing to serve on:

Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community

Intergroup Representative

Office Worker

Archives

Outreach

Spanish Liaison

Step Three: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.”

PRACTICING Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is a key, and the decision to swing the door open. There is only one key, and it is called willingness. Once unlocked by willingness, the door opens almost of itself, and looking through it, we shall see a pathway beside which is an inscription. It reads: “This is the way to a faith that works.” In the first two Steps we were engaged in reflection. We saw that we were powerless over alcohol, but we also perceived that faith of some kind, if only in A.A. itself, is possible to anyone. These conclusions did not require action; they required only acceptance.

Like all the remaining Steps, Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God—or, if you like, a Higher Power—into our lives.

Third Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of Life. May I do Thy will always.



Tradition Three (long form):

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Tradition Three Checklist:

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?



Concept III and Checklist: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. — the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?
- Do we trust our trusted servants —G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

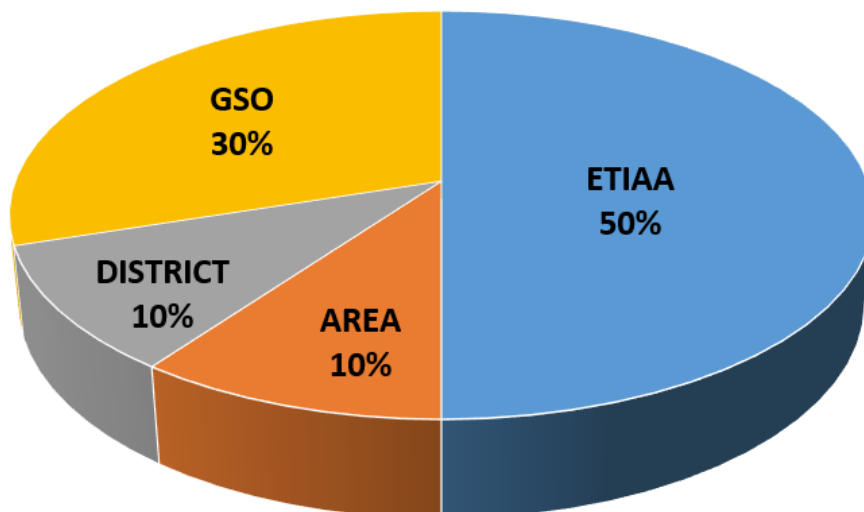
7TH TRADITION SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS

How can groups participate?

To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (for example, rent, refreshments, AA literature, Grapevine literature, local meeting lists, GSR travel expenses to attend service functions) and a "prudent reserve" has been set aside to cover any emergency contingencies that might arise, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following AA service entities.

- The local district, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies and serving as a link between the area delegates and the GSRs.
- The area committee, which coordinates vital AA activities over a broad geographic area, sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference, holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship, and provides information at all levels of service.
- The local intergroup or central office, which may provide phone service for Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries, coordination of group activities, AA literature sales, institutions work, public information, and cooperation with the professional community activities.
- AA's General Service Office, which functions as a storehouse of AA information, communicating with members and groups around the world, publishes AA literature, and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in AA.

[Self-Support—Where Money and Spirituality Mix. Go to: www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-3_selfsupport.pdf]



Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Contribution Addresses

ETIAA East Tennessee Intergroup of AA
9217 Park West Blvd #B3
Knoxville, TN 37923
865-522-9667 www.etiaa.org

New ways to donate:

Paypal Manager@etiaa.org or 865-320-8649

Zelle Manager@etiaa.org or 865-320-8649

Venmo @ETIAA

General Service Office
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163
www.aa.org

The GSO prefers online contributions

Area 64 Assembly
2500 Murfreesboro Pike
Suite 105 Box 235
Nashville, TN 37217
www.area64assembly.org

District 1 Treasurer
Richard Ellis
1302 Chestnut St.
Kingsport, TN 376604

District 2 Treasurer
PO BOX 1872
Johnson City, TN 37605

District 3 Treasurer
John H.
1466 Darbee Dr.
Morristown, TN 37814

District 4 Treasurer
PO Box 264
Alcoa, TN 37701

District 6 Treasurer
Richard B.
105 Mariner Point
Clinton, TN 37716

NEW ADDRESS

AA District 50/51 Treasurer
9217 Park West Blvd
Suite B-3 (ETIAA)
Knoxville, TN 37923

Please mail all District5051 donations to the Intergroup Office. Please specify on the check AND on the outside of the envelope that it is for district 50/51. Electronic donations can be made with Venmo at: @Sandra—Brown-289

Please be sure to include your Group Name and Number.

Intergroup Financial / Contributions Report

GROUPS DONATING	Jan 21	Jul 20— Jan 21	GROUPS DONATING	Jan 21	Jul 20— Jan 21
1ST THINGS 1ST KNOXVILLE 719412	1,154.73	2,654.73	MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S 112569	150.00	150.00
4-WAY GROUP	50.00	150.00	MORRISTOWN GROUP	0.00	100.00
4TH DIMENSION	135.00	543.25	NEW BEGINNING- LOUDON	0.00	50.00
BACK TO BASICS- OAK RIDGE	0.00	300.00	NEW PATH	0.00	50.00
BIG BOOK RECOVERY	25.00	170.00	NORRIS CLINTON GROUP	100.00	150.00
BLOUNT COUNTY GROUP	0.00	250.00	NORTH GATLINBURG 157790	0.00	146.75
BREAKFAST BUNCH GREENEVILLE	0.00	110.00	Paypal	0.00	8.00
COLONIAL GROUP	75.00	275.00	PHOENIX GROUP	496.00	1,408.00
COLONIAL HEIGHTS 99658/120932	0.00	105.00	PRIMARY PURPOSE- OAK RIDGE	0.00	250.00
CONCORD GROUP	110.50	110.50	ROANE COUNTY UNITY 112631	0.00	100.00
CONTRIBUTION JAR	11.48	65.45	SAT. MORNING BIG BOOK STUDY	0.00	939.05
COOKIE GROUP	0.00	360.00	SEEKERS JONESBOROUGH 66383	0.00	20.00
COVER TO COVER	0.00	120.00	SERENITY IMPROVEMENT	0.00	600.00
DANDRIDGE UNITY 638213	0.00	86.00	SERENITY SISTERS 630722	0.00	1,620.79
DISTRICT 50/51	0.00	0.00	SEYMOUR SHARING	296.89	716.89
DOWN BY THE RIVER 101834	0.00	400.00	SOBER PRIDE	0.00	655.03
FOUNTAIN CITY SERENITY	128.50	296.58	SOBRIETY SOCIETY- SO-SO 709581	350.00	550.00
FREE AT LAST 712012	0.00	36.00	SPIRITUAL PROGRESS	0.00	100.00
GROUP WITH NO NAME	0.00	550.00	STEPS FORWARD	0.00	165.00
HAPPY HOUR	0.00	1,373.00	SUNDAYS AT 7-KNOXVILLE	0.00	130.00
HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE	0.00	50.00	TCYPAA	20.00	60.00
HIGH NOON ROGERSVILLE 713957	0.00	30.00	TELLICO VILLAGE	0.00	150.00
HIGH NOONERS-P40	0.00	400.00	TENNESSEE GROUP 723519	388.30	591.20
Individual	185.85	4,041.74	TRI-STATE GROUP-HARROGATE	0.00	200.00
KEEP LEANING FORWARD	9.00	115.00	TURNIP PATCH	0.00	126.03
KODAK HWY 66	0.00	150.00	UNKNOWN GROUP	35.00	223.82
LAFOLLETTE-THERE IS HOPE	20.00	140.00	Venmo	0.00	39.00
LUNCH BUNCH- GREENEVILLE	56.00	274.23	WEST KNOXVILLE GROUP	0.00	102.30
MEMORIAL RECOVERY 112566	0.00	50.00	TOTALS	3,797.25	22,608.34

East Tennessee Intergroup of AA fiscal year is July 1 -June 30

DONATIONS TO DISTRICT 50/51

Mail all District 50/51 donations to the Intergroup Office. Please make sure you are specifying on the check AND on the outside of the envelope that is for District. 50/51.

District 50/51; C/O. East TN Intergroup; 9217 Park West Boulevard #B3; Knoxville, TN 37923

Make checks out to District5051. This will help the office staff maintain separation between Intergroup and District donations.

Also, donations can accepted electronically with Venmo at: @Sandra—Brown-289

Unity Newsletter

is a monthly publication of East Tennessee Intergroup about, by and for members of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Opinions herein are not to be attributed to AA. Except when indicated, this publication does not imply endorsement by either AA or the Newsletter. Delegates to the General Service Conference on April 24, 1972 agreed that the use of full names and addresses could improve communication within the Fellowship. Consequently, we may use full names for AA service members. To ensure anonymity, it is requested that the Newsletter be kept within the Fellowship.

Fellowship.

Submissions

Is your group celebrating Birthdays/Anniversaries? Are you? Do you have AA-related questions or myths that Intergroup of East Tennessee Alcoholics Anonymous (ETIAA) can answer for you? Is there an "In Memory" group member to be recognized?

We encourage all appropriate submissions by sending them to: Newsletter Coordinator, manager@etiaa.org

Around East Tennessee

AA Birthdays:

Seymour Sharing Group:

Rebekah R.	11 years	2/17/2010
Frankie R .	11 years	2/14/2010

Monday Night Men's Group; Erin Presbyterian Church:

Andrew K.	3 years	
Scott B.	21 years	
John L.	27 years	

No group name given:

Johnnie S.	22 years	
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Please use the following format: **first full name; last name initial; birthday month; number of years sober.**



February 2021 Intergroup Meeting Minutes

Open with Serenity Prayer and monthly Tradition at 6:30.

Present via Zoom: - Tami D, Rebekah R., Fawn L., Heather B., Dave W., Greg S., Robert G., Marian G., Susi M., Kellie M., Beth C., Chris K., Bruce H., Tim C., Dave R., Angela L., J.T. H., SuZanne A., De.

Groups Represented: First Things First, Prime Time, Happy Destiny II, Primary Purpose, 4th Dimension, TN Group, Serenity Group.

Previous minutes were accepted with modification to change the revision for Susi M. motion by Fawn L., seconded by Dave R., all in favor.

Manager's Report – Rebekah R.

- Welcome new IGRs – Rebekah welcomed new reps to the meeting
- Remind – Rebekah again asked for anyone wanting to be added to the Remind App for staying up-to-date with announcements and updates to add their contact information in the Zoom chat box.
- Online Store – Rebekah reported there have been 5 orders to date.
- Pricing Update – pricing is on track versus last year's numbers.
- Meeting Changes Update – Barb is currently in training to assume this responsibility.
- Website – updates to the new website are going well. Sterling trained Rebekah on how to make changes to the new website.
- New Book – Rebekah reported she has ordered 20 copies of a new book titled 'Visual History of AA' which was to go on sale 02/14/21. However, the order from GSO has not yet arrived.
- Masks – Rebekah stated there are now masks for sale at the Intergroup office. The masks have AA slogans on them.
- Motion to accept Managers report from Tim C. Seconded by Fawn L. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Fawn L.

- Profit and Loss – January net income \$2546.07. Year to date net income \$8193.09. Contributions slightly down for January. All accounts healthy.
- Rebekah advised there is a payment out to GSO in the amount of \$2,000 that has not been cashed. She is to reach out to GSO to resolve.
- Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Marian G., seconded by Kelley M., all in favor.

Hotline – Susi M.

Due to changes in the office hours, the hours for some Hotline workers also changed. Susi reported there were no issues with implementing the new Hotline hours and the current Hotline workers were able to accommodate the changes.

February 2021 Intergroup Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

Service Workers – Greg S.

- Greg reported there are 4 new office volunteers.
- With the new office hours they are still working on the schedule.
- Still need more volunteers in order for the office to be fully staffed.

Archives – open

Website – open

- Rebekah reported Sterling has reassumed this position.

Accessibilities – Carole W. – not present

Spanish Liaison – still open

CPC/PI – open

Treatment – Beth C.

- Beth stated nothing new to report
- Corrections – Marian G.
- Marian advised nothing new to report.

Outreach - open

Events – SuZanne A. – not present

- SuZanne reported the Step 2 workshop was a success, however there was limited attendance. She requested the Intergroup attendees support the upcoming workshops and help with getting the workshop information out to the groups.

Mobile Intergroup – open

Old Business:

- New Office Hours have been implemented. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 11-4. Wednesday 9-4. Friday 11—7 and Saturday 9-1.

New Business:

Motion to adjourn by Rebekah R. and seconded by Kellie M. at 7:36 pm. All in favor.

Next meeting to be held Monday March 15th at 6:30 pm.

District 50/51 Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2020

Virtually Attending: Jacque H., Angela L., Katie C., Andrew, Jeff J., David T., Sandra B., Trey M., Rick B., David C.

please note this meeting was a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform

The meeting was opened at 6:34 p.m. by Jacque with a moment of silence followed by The Serenity Prayer.

Introductions were made around the “room”.

A motion was made (Sandra B) to accept the minutes from last month as written. The motion was seconded (Andrew) and passed unanimously.

Jacque District 50

1st Quarter Assembly will be virtual starting on 1/9/21. There us a spot open on the public information committee if anyone is interested please contact Jacque.

Jacque can be reached at sweetiepie5267@gmail.com and/or 865-296-4501.

Angela District 51: NO REPORT

Angela can be reached agl8137@tds.net and/or 865-924-3055.

Treasurer’s Report – Sandra B.

Balance as of 1/4/2021 is \$3,495.05.

A motion was made (Katie C) to accept the treasurer’s report as given. Motion was seconded (Jeff J) and passed unanimously.

PLEASE SEND DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERGROUP OFFICE (and label mail properly).
District 50/51 c/o East TN Intergroup 9217 Parkwest Blvd #B3 Knoxville, TN 37923.

CPC/PI – Trey M.

1st Quarter CPC/PI meeting this Friday 1/8/21. Next committee meeting 1/27 at 5:30.

Treatment Report – OPEN: Position vacant – committee to elect new chair on 1/7/21

Corrections Report – OPEN

Position vacant – need to determine next committee meeting.

Continued on p. 11

District 50/51 Meeting Minutes, continued:

Grapevine Report – Sandra B

Renewal for Grapevine subscription completed – 3 subscriptions. Sandra can be reached at: sgbrown0418@comcast.net

Bridging the Gap Report – David T - ABSENT: NO REPORT

David can be reached at: BTG5150@gmail.com or 865-272-9526

Events – Erica/Sandy H - ABSENT

Archives Report – OPEN

The position of Archives chair is open. Please see Angela or Jacque if you are interested. Job entails retrieving group history forms. Talk to our archivist in Murfreesboro and compare to current meeting list. If there is a group that has old photos or tapes you may be responsible to sending to Murfreesboro for preservation.

Group News:

TN Group hosting COVID sober birthdays on 1/7/21

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

General discussion about changing frequency of District 50/51 meetings. No motions made, no change.

Motion to adjourn (Sandra B), seconded (Jeff J). Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 1, 2020 AT 6:30PM VIA ZOOM.

Here is the link and meeting ID for the monthly District 50/51 meeting.

NEXT MONTH (MARCH 2021) WE WILL NEED A PASSWORD!!! Please contact Angela L or Jacque H for information.

<https://zoom.us/j/129330698>

Meeting ID: 129 330 698



District 4

will meet via Zoom Sunday, February 7, 2021, 2:00PM – 3:00PM EST:

Zoom Meeting ID: 894 2575 2021

Passcode: 072965

District 50/51 Meeting Minutes: February 1, 2020

Virtually Attending: Jacque H, Robin G, Katie C, Maureen M, Clara M, David T, Sandra B, Trey M, Rick B, David C, Michelle C, Erica J, Sandy H. *please note this meeting was a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform*

The meeting was opened at 6:33 p.m. by Jacque with a moment of silence followed by The Serenity Prayer. Introductions were made around the "room".

A motion was made (Sandra B) to accept the minutes from last month as written. The motion was seconded (David C) and passed unanimously.

Jacque District 50

Pre-Conference report coming up, we can join with a few other districts if needed. Area 64 would like to be copied on all communication (Heather Loveland).

Area 64 Manual is now available.

3rd Quarter Assembly will be August 20, 2021.

Jacque can be reached at sweetiepie5267@gmail.com and/or 865-296-4501.

Angela District 51 (ABSENT): NO REPORT.

Angela can be reached aql8137@tds.net and/or 865-924-3055.

TCYPPA UPDATE Clara M: 2021 TYCYPPA will be 7/23-7/25 at Big Ridge Lodge and can accommodate up to 120 people and will be \$80/person and include 5 meals plus lodging.

Treasurer's Report – Sandra B.

Balance as of 2/1/2021 is \$5,166.95. Please note there is a correction to last month's balance = \$3,395.00.

Venmo account is @Sandra-Brown-289.

A motion was made (Erica J) to accept the treasurer's report as given. Motion was seconded (David T) and passed unanimously.

PLEASE SEND DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERGROUP OFFICE (and label mail properly). District 50/51 c/o East TN Intergroup 9217 Parkwest Blvd #B3 Knoxville, TN 37923.

CPC/PI – Trey M. NO REPORT.

Treatment Report – Robin G.

Robin will serve as temporary chair.

Treatment committee needs expansion to halfway houses.

Treatment Committee will meet 2nd Thursday @ 7:00 P.M. (2/11/21).

Corrections Report – OPEN.

Position vacant – need to determine next committee meeting.

Grapevine Report – Sandra B.

Sandra will coordinate with Katie to deliver Grapevines to KCJ and KCSO. Please let treatment centers know there are Grapevines available.

Sandra can be reached at: sgbrown0418@comcast.net

Continued on p. 13

District 50/51 Meeting Minutes, continued:

Bridging the Gap Report – David T

Two referrals in last several months.

David can be reached at: BTG5150@gmail.com or 865-272-9526

Events – Erica J/Sandy H

Looking to have an August fundraiser.

Need a secretary for Events Committee.

Next committee meeting will be 3/1/21 at 5:30 on Zoom.

Archives Report – OPEN

The position of Archives chair is open. Please see Angela or Jacque if you are interested.

Job entails retrieving group history forms. Talk to our archivist in Murfreesboro and compare to current meeting list. If there is a group that has old photos or tapes you may be responsible to sending to Murfreesboro for preservation.

Group News:

North Station & Serenity moving from Go to Meeting to Zoom (Michelle).

First Things First has a strong Zoom presence and is everyday at 7:30.

OLD BUSINESS: -NONE-

NEW BUSINESS:

General discussion about Pre-Conference Report – Scheduled for 2/28 at 10:00 A.M. and will take 3-4 hours.

Motion to adjourn (David C), seconded (Robin G).

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 1, 2020 AT 6:30PM VIA ZOOM.

Here is the link and meeting ID for the monthly District 50/51 meeting.

NEXT MONTH (MARCH 2021) WE WILL NEED A PASSWORD!!! Please contact Angela L or Jacque H for information.

<https://zoom.us/j/129330698> Meeting ID: 129 330 698

Intergroup Meeting Minutes: January 2021

Open with Serenity Prayer and monthly Tradition at 6:30.

Present via Zoom: - Tami D, Rebekah R., Fawn L., Heather B., Brad T., Dave., Greg S., Robert G., Carole W., Wesley, Marian G., Nancy, Susi M., Kellie M., Beth C., Rhonda, Al L., Chris K.

Groups Represented: First Things First, Cookie Group, Prime Time, So-So, Happy Destiny II, Primary Purpose, Morristown Group, 4th Dimension, 4-Way Group, TN Group.

Previous minutes were accepted with modification to change the name "Maggie" to actual name of Carole W. (Carole displayed the name Maggie on Zoom), motion by Carole W., seconded by Nancy, all in favor.

Manager's Report – Rebekah R.

Welcome new IGRs – Rebekah welcomed new reps to the meeting

Remind – Rebekah again asked for anyone wanting to be added to the Remind App for staying up-to-date with announcements and updates to add their contact information in the Zoom chat box.

Annie B – Rebekah reported Annie B passed away. She has left a big hole at the Intergroup office as she volunteered for many shifts and responsibilities. Per her husband, services to be held at a later date.

Online Store – Rebekah presented the group with screen shares of the Online Store she is currently working on. She has volunteers taking pictures of items and is also utilizing pictures from AA.org. She is proposing shipping costs of \$5.00 for all orders totaling up to \$25.00 and shipping costs will increase accordingly. Currently, all orders are taken to post office for mailing but will consider an on-site mailing service in the future. Additionally, there is a curbside pickup option for all orders.

Pricing Update – pricing is on track versus last year's numbers.

Meeting Changes Update – Barb to assume responsibility for making all meeting update changes to the hardcopy meeting list as well as the Meeting Guide App.

Chattanooga 7th Tradition Workshop – Rebekah attended this workshop which covered where your donations go when sent to District and Intergroup.

Mesa Hotline Workshop – Rebekah attended with several other Intergroup offices from across the country.

Open House Update – Nine winners thus far. Have given away t-shirts and 2 GSO books.

New Book – Rebekah reported she has ordered 20 copies of a new book titled 'Visual History of AA' to be on the shelves 02/14/2021.

Treasurer's Report – Fawn L.

Profit and Loss – December net income \$958.02. January 1-15 net income \$868.95. Year to date, as of January 15th net income \$5647.02.

Square sales showing a decrease in comparison to previous years due to March closing of Intergroup office.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Greg S., seconded by Rhonda, all in favor.

Hotline – Susi M.

Hotline Workshop – Susi reported there is a monthly Hotline Workshop via Zoom at 8:15p EST on the 3rd Friday of the month. Susi has the Zoom ID and Passwords for anyone interested.

Susi also reported she has updated the 12 Step Call List and has compiled a list of all Hotline Volunteers and sent this information out to all Hotline volunteers. She has also added a couple more people as back-ups for the Hotline.

Service Workers – Greg S.

Need more people to fulfill obligations and fill in when necessary. As it currently stands, there are 4 open shifts at the Intergroup office that will need to be filled.

Archives – open

Website – open

Intergroup January Meeting Minutes, continued:

Accessibilities – Carole W.

Carole stated she has heard of many groups who follow CDC guidelines for Covid-19 prevention are requesting anyone who doesn't want to follow the guidelines leave the meeting.

Carole stated she read a study showing AA is not diversified.

Spanish Liaison – still open

CPC/PI – Robin G. – not present

Rebekah to remove Robin from this position as she has not attended meetings in several months.

Treatment – Beth C.

Beth stated CenterPoint may be allowing meetings to come back to their facility soon, she will provide updates as she has them. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

Corrections – Marian G.

Marian advised nothing new to report on meetings going back into Correctional Facilities.

Marian was introduced to a woman who recently moved here from California and she would like to get involved in Corrections and/or Treatment when things are back to normal.

Outreach - open

Events – SuZanne A. – not present

SuZanne reported thru Rebekah that the First Step Workshop was a success and had 23 attendees. She would like for Intergroup Reps to print the flyer and make sure homegroups are aware of the ongoing series of step workshops.

Mobile Intergroup – Patrick - not present

Rebekah to remove Patrick from this position as he has not attended meetings in several months.

Old Business:

Recycle bin – Susi reported the recycle bin for waste paper is up and operational at the Intergroup Office.

New Business:

Intergroup Office Hours – Rebekah stated she would like to decrease the schedule currently being utilized at the Intergroup Office for 6 months. The current schedule is Monday – Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-7 and Saturday 9-1. Annie's passing left 4 shifts open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday morning shifts. There was much discussion by many attendees about new proposed hours, impact to Hotline Volunteers and possibly closing on Mondays. After much discussion, Nancy made a motion that

Rebekah R., Greg S., and Fawn L. come up with the new office hours on their own and advise at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Rhonda and all present were in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Fawn L. and seconded by Carole W. at 7:41 pm. All in favor.

Next meeting to be held Monday February 15th at 6:30 pm.

Every Day is Christmas
Bill W. AA Grapevine, December 1952, Vol. 9 No. 7

THE seventeenth Christmas for Alcoholics Anonymous is here. Considering all that has happened since AA's first Christmas in 1935, no words can portray the meaning of Christmas 1952. The only thing of which we're really sure is that we have given of ourselves, and have received gifts that no imagination can fully describe. Guided, we are sure, by an all-generous and wise Providence, AA's message of hope has been carried into nearly every corner of the earth. The Christmas drama of giving and receiving has been re-enacted everywhere and still goes on.

Many of us in AA are of the Christian faith, though not all. We have Jews who look to Jehovah; agnostics who hopefully look to the AA group as their Higher Power; and there are Indians upon our Western plains who regard the Great Spirit as their guide. Now that we have opened tiny beachheads on the shores of Asia, we have no doubt that some of our brothers and sisters there reverence Buddha and others Allah. It is a comforting fact of our life together that none of these differences has ever disturbed us. Indeed, it can be said that they have, in some subtle and mysterious way, bound us even more firmly together. The insurance of that bond is our common kinship in suffering, and our universal release from it by the kind of giving that demands no reward.

So, by whatever name we may call it, the spirit of Christmas is in us all. How best to give and how to receive with ever more gratitude is our common aim. We'd like to practice the spirit of Christmas the year around. Therefore, we shall especially ask ourselves at this season: "What more can we find in order that we shall have more to give?" Since personal example is one of the great energies by which AA spreads, let's have a quick look at the life of a man who became able to practice the spirit of Christmas every day in the year.

He was born in Italy centuries ago. The age in which he lived was almost as confused and baffling as our own. His first attempt at living was just like ours. He ran away from life as fast as he could, and by nearly the same means. Few, it was said, could romance more gaily than he, shake the dice with Dame Fortune with more abandon, nor clatter his wine flagon on the table more loudly. He probably had a pretty good time doing it, too, at least for a while. Bit by bit, though, he got fed up. During a long siege of illness he hit bottom, even as we alcoholics do.

One day he said to himself, "Suppose that in all things I try henceforth to do exactly as my Master would have done." This was the vision that gripped him, and he set foot on the new highroad. Some of his friends were amused, and others were deeply concerned. Some said it wasn't practical; others thought he had gone out of his mind. But by living one day at a time, teaching and sharing as he went, with no thought of reward for himself, he started a movement that deeply affected the whole world of his day; it reached into every level of society. He gave all he had, and that inspired others to do likewise. He brought true comfort where there had been none.

And how did he do this? The prayer he so often spoke tells us. Here it is:

"Lord make me a channel of Thy Peace That where there is hatred. . . I may bring love That where there is wrong. . . I may bring the spirit of forgiveness That where there is discord. . . I may bring harmony That where there is error. . . I may bring truth That where there is doubt. . . I may bring faith That where there is despair. . . I may bring hope That where there are shadows. . . I may bring light That where there is sadness. . . I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to Comfort. . . than to be comforted , To understand. . . than to be understood , To love. . . than to be loved .For. . .it is by self-forgetting. . .that one finds , It is by forgiving. . .that one is forgiven It is by dying. . .that one awakens to Eternal Life."

The lesson that Francis leaves us is clear and no example could be brighter.

"Freely ye have received; Freely give" and. . .a Merry Christmas!

Again at the Crossroads Grapevine November 1961

The substance of Bill's remarks at the closing session of AA's 1961 General Service Conference

WE AAs are everywhere developing a keener sense of our history and the meaning of its turning points. Moreover, I believe that we are getting a right sense of our history; something of the utmost importance indeed. The world's past reveals that many societies and nations have fallen victims to fear and pride, or to their aggressive designs. Thus they lost their sense of meaning, purpose and right destiny, and so they disintegrated and vanished. Neither power nor glory nor wealth could in the least guarantee their long-time survival.

There is little on the record of AA's first quarter-century to suggest such a fate for us. In our personal lives, and therefore in our Fellowship itself, we have steadily striven to lay aside all those vainglorious clamors for prestige, power and possessions which had ruined so many of us in the drinking days. With those fearful experiences vividly before us, it is not strange that AA's Twelve Steps continually remind us of the stark need for ego reduction; that our Twelve Traditions warn heavily against the perils of concentrated wealth, the vain pursuit of fame and the ever-present temptation to controversy and attack.

We did not come to such wisdom by reason of our virtues; our better understanding is rooted in our former follies. In the nick of time, and by God's Grace, each of us has been enabled to develop a growing sense of the meaning and purpose of his own life. Because this has been the essence of our individual experience, it is also the essence of our experience as a Fellowship. We have suffered enough to learn something of the love of God and of each other. Thus we have been taught to choose those principles and practices by which we can surely survive and grow. This is the spiritual climate in which we AAs are today privileged to live.

Even our sometimes erratic behavior since sobriety has never changed this all-pervading climate of humility and love. This, we think, is the spiritual condition which has invited into our midst so much wise and Providential guidance. We say this in no conceit; it is an obvious fact of our experience. We only need to ponder the long series of apparently correct choices that we have been enabled to make over the past twenty-six years; choices respecting our principles and right methods of communicating them. Not a single one of these major decisions has yet shown the slightest sign of being a mistake. Up to now AA seems to have taken the right turning at each new crossroad. This could scarcely have been our doing alone. Our Fellowship has afforded a convincing proof of that wise old adage which declares that "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." This being our record, we can surely face the next hour of decision in confident faith.

The fact is that AA does now stand at a new turning point in its affairs. This has to do with the future World Service leadership of AA as a whole. Therefore, we shall have to take a new look at the shape of things to come. At this particular crossroad a crucial decision is required of me. And here it is:

It is my conviction that I should now retire from all active management of AA World Service affairs, and that my leadership in these matters should be fully transferred to the Trustees of AA's General Service Board.

This is not at all a new concept; it is simply the last step in a plan which has been in development for more than ten years. It was in mind when, in 1948, Dr. Bob and I jointly wrote an article for the Grapevine which was called, "Why Can't We Join AA Too?" It was even more in mind when our first General Service Conference was experimentally assembled in 1951. And when, at St. Louis in 1955, the full authority and responsibility for the maintenance of World Services was transferred to our Conference, my retirement from active service leadership was definitely foreshadowed.

Yet a vestige of my old-time status remains, and this should be explained. Following the St. Louis transference there were a few tasks that still required my full attention. But these are now virtually completed. During the last six years I have, respecting these particular matters, exercised a joint leadership with our Trustees. This sustained activity has no doubt tended to confirm me, in the minds of many AAs, as a continuing fact and symbol of AA leadership world-wide. This is the last remainder of my service leadership.

For this action there are excellent and even compelling reasons. The basic one is the present need to strictly apply AA's Tradition Two to every area of our World Service operation. This means that I should no longer act in service leadership for the group conscience of AA. This must now become fully the function of our

Again at the Crossroads (Cont.)

Trustees, as guided by the Conference Delegates. Consider, too, AA's very healthy tradition of rotating leadership. Everywhere today this is a strictly applied principle--excepting to me. This is a left-over inconsistency that ought to be eliminated by my own retirement to the sidelines, where practically all of AA's old-timers now are.

But this is not all. My continued activity at AA's Headquarters may be covering up unforeseen flaws in our organizational structure. These should be given an opportunity to reveal themselves, if they exist. Moreover, the excellent leadership that we now have among the Trustees and in the Headquarters should be allowed to operate without further collaboration with me. We know that, in the long run, double-headed management is highly unsound. My retirement from active service would cure this defect.

There are also psychological reasons of the deepest import. AA is very much a family, of which we elders have surely been the spiritual parents. Now the parent who quits before his family has arrived at the age of responsibility, has unquestionably forsaken his trust. But the parent who far overstays his time can be extremely damaging, too. If he insists on continuing his parental authority and the protective custody of his wards well after they have reached the age of responsibility, he is simply robbing them of the priceless privilege of facing life on their own. What was perfectly right for their infancy and adolescence becomes strictly no good for their maturity. So the wise parent always changes his status accordingly. Of course he is still one who, if asked, will lend a hand in serious emergencies. But he knows that he simply must let his heirs make and repair most of their own mistakes, live their own lives, and grow up. Tradition Two of the AA program deeply recognizes this universal truth when it declares "There is but one ultimate authority. . . a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience."

Of course I am not suggesting a complete withdrawal; I propose only to change my relationship with AA. For example, I expect to be available at Trustee and Conference meetings. Should marked defects appear in our present service structure, I shall, if asked, be very happy to aid in the work of repair. In short, I expect to be "on tap" but never again "on top," this being precisely the stance that AA hopes all its old-timers will take.

My coming shift to the sidelines will necessarily involve other changes. Save for the possibility of a future visit or two overseas, and my attendance at whatever international conventions there may be, I think that my days of traveling and speaking are over. Practically speaking, it is no longer possible for me to respond to the hundreds of invitations that now come in. It is very clear, too, that continued appearances would increase my prominence in AA at the very time when this should greatly diminish. There is much the same situation respecting my very large correspondence which has grown so far out of hand that I can no longer do it justice.

Nevertheless, one primary channel of communication still stands wide open--my writing for the Grapevine. This I would certainly like to continue. Just now, for example, I'm doing a series of articles entitled "Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs." Maybe these pieces can later be expanded into a full-sized book which would try to deal with the whole problem of living, as seen by us AAs. If it turns out that I can write it, such a volume might be of permanent value.

There is another factor that bears upon my decision. Like every AA member I have a definite responsibility to become a citizen of the world around me; to channel into it the experience of living and working which has been mine in our Fellowship. Therefore, I'm already exploring certain areas of outside activity in which I may be able to make a helpful, and possibly a meaningful, contribution. For the first time, I now feel at liberty to follow the constructive example already set by uncounted numbers of my fellow members. But of course my principal reason for taking this new direction is the deep and confident belief that this will prove to be in the best long-time interest of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It scarce needs be said that I approach this new crossroad for AA and for me with a lump in my throat, and with a heart very full of gratitude for all those unexampled privileges and gifts with which I have so long been blessed.

Bill W.



PRICE CHANGES

Starting 1st November 2020 your local intergroup office is offering reduced pricing on the following items

BRONZE MEDALLIONS - \$1.00

HARD BACK BIG BOOK - \$9.50

PRICE REDUCTION ON GRAPEVINE

PRICE REDUCTION ON GENERAL SERVICE

East Tennessee Intergroup Office
*Some items may increase in price

The New Serenity Prayer

By: Fr. James Martin, SJ

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God.

At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.





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“ I'm writing from my prison cell to thank the Grapevine staff and all those members who contribute to the "Carry the Message" project ”

“ So many [stories] have touched my heart and given me hope ... I don't ever want this subscription to end ”

“ Seeing the warm welcoming spaces being used as A.A. sanctuaries for people in recovery is so heartwarming. This, my friend, is what keeps me going and gives me hope ”

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