

# *The* **MESSENGER**

## *Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup*

**AUGUST  
2012**

### **Tradition 8: SOBRIETY IS the PAYOFF**

*The Messenger* is available at an annual subscription price of \$12.00. A limited number of free subscriptions are available upon request by writing or calling the Central Office.

It is also available online at [www.aanashville.org](http://www.aanashville.org). If you read *The Messenger* online, a contribution to The Middle Tennessee Central Office would help and be appreciated.

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FOR THE MESSENGER.**

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Did I read that right? "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional"? How on earth could any outfit as big as AA operate on a basis other than professional? How could its members get anything done? How could they hold themselves together? How could they stay in business?

All very mysterious.

To compound the mystery, the Tradition goes on to say that AA "service centers may employ special workers." But if AA is not run professionally, what level of competence can be expected of the staffs working at those centers?

Long before I started asking those perhaps typical questions, I was asking other, more pressing questions. As in so many areas of my recovery, I only half understood things, and one piece of misinformation I had was that AA members did not receive pay for any form of service within an AA framework. With that in mind, I was baffled and resentful when I learned that AA members who made coffee in some of the local groups were being paid. Since I was involved in a coffee detail, too, how come they were getting money and I was not?

Another sore point concerned an AA member who worked for pay at a local clubhouse. I was quite put out, for it seemed to me that he was being paid to stay sober. What about me? I was staying sober too. Why wasn't I getting paid?

When I had stewed long enough, I asked an older, wiser AA member. He pointed out that making coffee at some of the larger groups was so time-consuming that the groups were better served by paying coffee makers. They

might be AA members, yes, but they were not being paid to stay sober; they were paid to make coffee. As for the custodian at the clubhouse, he was not paid to stay sober; he was paid to keep the club running smoothly.

Later on, I began to ask how volunteers could possibly take care of the wide variety of jobs essential to the operation of service centers around the world, including our own GSO (the AA General Service Office of the United States and Canada). For instance, the correspondence alone—how could they handle it all? I learned that, because of the sheer volume of work, both local and worldwide, there had to be salaried jobs. And who was better qualified to fill those jobs than our own fellow AAs? Thanks to this Tradition, the line was clearly drawn between Twelfth Step work, which is never done for pay, and professional or salaried work. The Tradition plainly shows us that our service center employees are not being paid to stay sober; they are paid for their special skills.

Another thing that used to confuse me was the matter of AAs who are employed in the field of alcoholism. I was made acutely aware of the confusion when a newcomer I was sponsoring asked me how much money "AA counselors" were paid when they spoke at AA meetings. There are no "AA counselors." But AA members can create such an image if they forget themselves and, on an AA group podium, speak in their professional capacities as workers in the alcoholism field.

The question of whether it was proper for AA members to enter that field as paid

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Tradition 8: SOBRIETY IS the Payoff (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

workers was one that kept our early membership in a state of unrest. The outcry was that AA knowledge was being sold and the perpetrators would surely succumb to the temptation to use the AA name for further financial gain. The quite genuine consternation was not over money-making itself. What worried AAs was the real possibility that commercializing (professionalizing) this spiritual recovery program would ruin it, and all those recovering in AA would once more be consigned to death.

Only with time and experience did we come to see that our fears were unfounded. Alcoholism counselors who were also AA members showed that they could quite effectively carry the AA message of recovery and hope without receiving pay for Twelfth Step work.

Carrying the message is at the heart of our recovery program, and one very attractive way of doing it is via the telephones at central offices and answering services. I used to think that the people who worked the phones were considered part-time staff and paid accordingly. Since I was always in need of extra money, I signed up at our local intergroup, only to learn that AA members do that work on a strictly volunteer basis. Like any other form of Twelfth Step work, it is done to help assure another day of sobriety for ourselves.

There was no pay, but I was afforded one of my first glimpses of the wisdom of Tradition Eight. I realized that I didn't have to feel resentment in case I was getting paid less than the woman at the phone behind me. Nor did I have to

compete with the guy across from me in order to get more than he might be getting. None of us was being paid anything in cash--only in sobriety.

Further Tradition Eight wisdom came to me slowly, a glimpse at a time, as more of my questions were answered. What about AA members who speak at AA meetings or bring meetings into institutions--do they get paid? What about AA speakers at Regional Forums or workshops or conventions--do they get paid? How about AA speakers who fill commitments at non-AA meetings, such as high schools, parent-teacher groups, or classes of premed college students--how much do those speakers get?

I remember sitting in a coffee shop shortly after coming into AA in 1960. I was with some affluent-looking men who were talking about "getting on the speakers' circuit" and acquiring "some of that good money." I did not understand that they were talking about their business lives, and I assumed that there was money to be made by becoming an AA speaker. That was for me! But I had another surprise in store when I started speaking at local AA groups and at AA meetings in institutions. No money!

There was still no money when I began to speak as an AA member before non-AA groups. The Public Information Committee of our local intergroup impressed on me the importance of maintaining our amateur standing. Many non-AAs find it difficult to believe that we would visit their classrooms or agencies as volunteers, on a nonprofessional basis. I can't say that I blame them for their skepticism. I would not have believed it once myself.

It seems to me that there is more to professionalism than just the question of pay. There is such a thing as a professional's attitude, whatever the profession may be. It is an attitude that takes pride in a job well done. With me, however, the attitude sometimes strays out of the working area and tells me that I am entitled to rewards of prestige and recognition for being sober and for doing Twelfth Step work. And that is when I am in error with AA and in trouble with myself. When I look for special treatment because of my service activities, I am acting contrary to the spirit of the Traditions.

The Eighth Tradition reminds me that my AA membership does not automatically make me all-knowledgeable in the field of alcoholism. The Tradition encourages me to keep in touch with my local AA service centers and to learn as much as I can about them. It is an equally good idea, in my opinion, to ask about nearby rehab programs for alcoholics. AA's choice of non-professionalism as its way of life does not mean that we cannot cooperate with programs that are conducted by professionals.

Finally, a really curious sidelight was thrown on the subject once by a drinking drunk I was twelfth-stepping. He would not, or could not get honest with himself and tried to laugh off his powerlessness by clever remarks. "You're an alcoholic," he said once, "but me--I am a professional drunk."

What price professionalism?

W.H. - New York, New York  
Reprinted with permission AAGrapevine -  
August 2008

***"The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unrelenting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails."***

My wife took me to my first AA meeting. I was in no shape to drive myself. It was a sunny Saturday morning in May, and since she had to drive me home, I asked her to join me. There were about 10 people in attendance that morning. Later, I discovered that they had changed the meeting format to a First Step meeting for the benefit of me, the newcomer. The first two gentlemen and one woman who shared, astoundingly, were all named "Bob."

So as not to confuse us any further, the woman went on to explain that this was a closed meeting of AA and that in the future I should check out which meetings were open meetings if I wanted to bring my wife. They allowed us to stay, recognizing the fact that I was not aware of the anonymity principle of AA.

Like many first-time meeting makers, I don't recall much of what was said that morning. My poor brain was not that receptive to the message. But at the end of the meeting, after they finished with the warm welcomes and the "keep coming backs" in the basement, we all climbed the stairs of the old church to the parking lot.

When we reached the parking lot, a gentleman approached us and stuck out a little gray booklet. He said, "Here; this is for you. This is what they call a 'Where and When.'" He then proceeded to open it and inform me what meetings he thought would be good for me to check out in the neighborhood.

Following that, he turned to the back and showed me the names and phone numbers that he and the other six gentlemen had written on the last page for me. "That's me, Jim H., on the top line, and that's my phone number. If you feel like drinking tonight you can give me a call no matter what time it is."

I looked at him with a furrowed brow and replied, "You mean to tell me that if I feel like taking a drink tonight at three in the morning you will answer the phone and talk me through the craving? You don't know me from Adam--why would you do that for a complete stranger?"

Jim said, "That's what we do in this Fellowship of AA." Then with a nice smile and quiet demeanor, he walked to his car and left.

I did not drink that night, but I could have used a friend to talk to. My well-meaning wife stayed up as long as she could with me those first nightmarish, terrifying nights of no sleep and no peace. I certainly should have called Jim, but I didn't. I was too embarrassed. Like many newcomers, I did not want to inconvenience anyone. I am not sure how I made it through that night terror-riddled first week. Thank you, Higher Power.

I was court-mandated to do a three-month lock-down

rehab, followed by a year of outpatient treatment. I did my mandatory three meetings per week to satisfy the judge. AA started to take root, but I began doing evening meetings and did not make it back to that Saturday morning meeting. Twenty-four hours turned into months and then years. I ran into some of those AAs I met at my first meeting, but never saw Jim again as the years slipped by.

Eight years later, I was at my home group meeting, our usual Wednesday evening in the bank's basement. (How many banks do you know that give a key to a bunch of drunks?) Just before the ringing of the bell to start the meeting, in walked Jim H. My memories flooded back to that first meeting, eight years before. After the reading from Grapevine concluded, people began sharing about the story. Just like that very first meeting on that Saturday morning in May, I had no idea what was just read. All I could think was, here is the guy who extended the hand of AA to me on my very first day in the Fellowship. When it came time for me to share, I told the group that I wished to extend my heartfelt gratitude to this gentleman. I said to him, "I'm sure you don't remember me, but I sure remember you." He concurred that he did not remember me, having seen me only once. We shared some pleasant conversation after the meeting and then went our separate ways.

Two weeks later, he came back. Toward the end of the meeting, I shared my thoughts about the story we'd read. The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer and then Jim came over to speak to me. He asked, "Have you been sober these eight years since I gave you that 'Where and When'?" I replied that I had. He said, "I have not been able to stay sober for more than a year or so since then. Things have not gone that well for me. I was wondering if you would sponsor me."

My mouth hit the floor. I was temporarily speechless. I finally responded, "You want me to be your sponsor?" He nodded. "I just got sober again a few weeks ago, and my previous sponsor thought that I needed some new direction. I like what you have, and wondered if you could help me."

Never in a million years could I have imagined such a scenario as the one that played out that evening. Now, as I reminisce about the year-and-a-half that we have shared together, it makes perfect sense. Where else but in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous could my Higher Power give me back the beautiful gift of helping the gentleman who was there when I needed the hand of AA? I do not know anyone who works harder at being of service to his fellow alcoholics. Jim remains an inspiration to me.

GREGG R. - Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Reprinted with permission AA Grapevine August 2010

## From the desk of Charles C.

I sit here July 24, 2012, four years after my hiring as a "special worker" here at the Middle Tennessee Central Office. I met many of you at the Sobriety Dinner in August, 2008 and started officially on September 15<sup>th</sup>. I also had a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday the same day.

On my December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1987 sobriety date, I really did not believe that "the most satisfying years of my life would lie ahead". I believe this is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Step promises. These last four years have been some of the best years of my life. As always, the years have not been free of difficulty, even heartbreak, but they have been full of satisfaction. I can humbly say that I even participated in some of the positive changes. Not a day goes by however, that I don't have to work the 10<sup>th</sup> Step, hopefully promptly. I can admit some of my mistakes today; that is a psychic change. Thanks for your kindness regarding my mistakes and shortcomings while managing your Central Office. I am less sensitive than I was four years ago, realizing I have thousands of alcoholics to whom I am accountable. We are all in this together.

Thanks for your understanding when The Messenger was late last month. We have again restructured our production staff, and thanks to all now on board and thanks to those who have been.

We sold over \$3,000 of literature at the 2012 Music City Roundup, and I met some more new folks. This is not an official Alcoholics Anonymous event but the Roundup committee and helpers do a great job carrying the A.A. message and the message of family recovery. I'll always claim that the best stand-up comics in the world speak at these functions. They are also the most sincerely serious speakers. We laugh and cry at the same time more than most folks, don't we?

### The date for our Sobriety Dinner is set for November 30, 2012.

This is eight days after Thanksgiving and we have lots of gratitude to share. There is discussion around the ticket price, which has been \$10.00 since 1997, I am told. The dinner brings 300 plus folks together to honor sobriety and share our stories. We have asked Intergroup Reps to give us feedback on this issue. We welcome your calls or emails. The Central Office number is 615-831-1050 or 832-1136. The email is [mtcoaa@aol.com](mailto:mtcoaa@aol.com).

We still need your stories for The Messenger. Please send them to the Central Office or [blamethemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:blamethemessenger@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for your participation and thanks to all for what you do every day.



### Central Office Needs:

#### THE MESSENGER:

- ♦ Cash contributions for help from all you online readers
- ♦ Subscriptions are \$12/year—please contribute even if you read it online
- ♦ Letters, articles, and jokes  
(send to [blamethemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:blamethemessenger@gmail.com))
- ♦ Birthdays need to be submitted by 10th of the month prior to publication of the birthday month

#### VOLUNTEERS:

- ♦ Needed to train others and be trained
- ♦ Needed for Mon, Wed and Sat. afternoons

#### COMMITTEES:

- ♦ Need volunteers to help in many areas (especially the Annual Dinner)
- ♦ Corrections needs contributions in order to purchase Big Books for use in the area

### Central Office Notes:

#### FINANCES:

- ♦ Almost at goal for group contributions
- ♦ A reminder to everyone that individual contributions are \$3,000 annually (and they are tax-deductable)

#### SPECIAL NEEDS:

- ♦ Central Office has Braille Books available

#### WEBSITE:

- ♦ **Paypal is available for your donations!**
- ♦ Meeting Schedules are at your fingertips



I RECENTLY had an experience in AA that I know is not unique, but I wish it upon no one. For a time I was raising my hand to volunteer at my home group; I was active, serving on two different committees and a sub-committee; and I sponsored a handful of guys. If you looked at my life from the outside you would say that I was "doing the deal." I thought I was on top of the world. I was in a happy marriage with a new baby and, despite a downturn of my industry, I was employed. In spite of that, there was an uneasy feeling in my gut, a feeling that I'd been aware of many times before AA and in early sobriety, but that I hadn't felt in close to four years.

I went through the magic equation of Steps Ten and Eleven to search for the cause of the problem, only to find that I was drawing a blank. What was I to do? The thought that I wasn't involved enough in service entered my mind. That's the ticket, I thought. I need another commitment. After all, in early sobriety, any time I got involved more I felt better. When I told my wife that I needed to do more service, she looked at me like I was crazy. She must not understand, I thought.

So there I sat between a rock and a hard place. The Big Book calls it the turning point. I was four years sober and dying of alcoholism in the rooms of AA. Fear began to dominate my life. I couldn't speak of this in AA--or so I thought. After all, I was "Johnny AA." I was not supposed to feel the way I did. My life looked great on the outside. What was I going to do?

Here is where my story takes a turn I never thought could happen. I began to journey back through the Steps. As I went through "The Doctor's Opinion" and the first 57 pages, things began to make sense. When I got to "There is a Solution" and read how Rowland H. was crushed by the fact that his religious convictions did not spell the necessary spiritual experience, a light turned on for me: My AA convictions did not spell the necessary spiritual experience.

I came across this realization again in "We Agnostics." "If a mere code of morals or better philosophy were sufficient to overcome alcoholism, many of us would have recovered a long time ago." I had been treating AA as that very thing--a better philosophy for life. The result was that I had begun to suffer from untreated alcoholism. See, I had thought AA was this magic formula. Go to meetings, get involved, read the book and help others. While all those things are vital to access a spiritual experience, those things are not the spiritual experience. Lack of power is my dilemma. AA is a path to power, not the power.

I took an infinite God and restricted him to an  $A+B=C$  formula. In essence, I'd made God finite and I got finite results. What a lonely feeling.

I faced the same proposition at nearly five years of sobriety that I did at six months of sobriety. "God either is or he isn't. What was my choice to be?"

Today here I sit at a new beginning. I am on a new journey with a new God of my understanding. The opportunities, I believe, are truly infinite. I will do my best to not turn AA into something it is not--a religion. I can get wrapped up in the principles and rituals of AA and forget the only thing that truly keeps me sober and sane: God. My life depends on a constant contact with him and an infinitely growing relationship.

JASON E. - Greendale, Wis.  
Reprinted with permission AAGrapevine - April 2010

### **A Really Bad Day**

There was this guy at a bar, just looking at his drink. He stays like that for half of an hour.

Then, this big trouble-making truck driver steps next to him, takes the drink from the guy, and just drinks it all down. The poor man starts crying. The truck driver says, "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand to see a man cry."

"No, it's not that. This day is the worst of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I go late to my office. My boss, outraged, fires me. When I leave the building and go to my car, I found out it was stolen. The police said that they can do nothing. I get a cab to return home, and when I get out, I remember I left my wallet and credit cards there. The cab driver just drives away."

"I go home, and when I get there, I find my wife in bed with the gardener. I leave home, and come to this bar. And just when I was about to put an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison."



## A NICE IDEA, BUT NOT A GOOD ONE

Like many others nowadays, I came to AA by way of a treatment center. Besides introducing me to this lifesaving Fellowship, the center gave me many other things for which I am truly grateful. Most of all, it gave me the opportunity to spend my first weeks of recovery with a group of people who were learning--just as I was--to give and receive unconditional love and the caring and support that go with that love. It was a great and heartwarming experience!

It was easy, in this atmosphere of genuine love and caring, for former prejudices to melt away. Alcoholics and addicts learned to see one another as people, and out of that came love for a fellow sufferer regardless of his or her "drug of choice." The "alkie" ceased to look with scorn upon the "junkie" and vice versa.

"Addiction is addiction," I thought, "and recovery is recovery, whether it involves alcohol or other drugs. Why must there be different twelve step fellowships? Aren't we all really the same? Why should I, a thoroughbred alcoholic, be deprived of the company of addicts I've come to love because of what the literature says?" These questions caused me a great deal of anguish during my early days of recovery. "Should I," I wondered, "work to change AA so that others will feel comfortable? Should I maybe even work to merge the fellowships into one?"

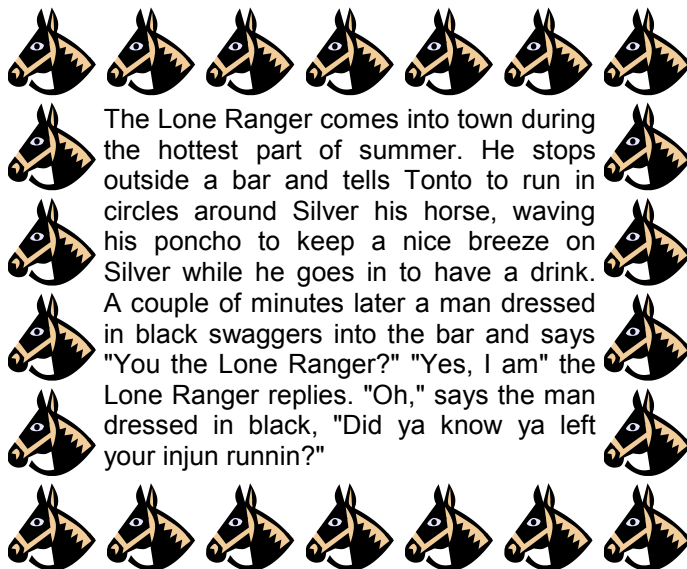
Today, with slightly more than two years sobriety, I feel reasonably sure that I could stay sober by attending meetings of a kindred twelve-step fellowship, and could get the things there that I need to help improve the quality of my life. Why, then, do I attend *only* meetings of AA and cling so steadfastly to AA tenets? The answer is simple: because of the newcomer. The newcomer with a desire to stop drinking is the very lifeline of AA, just as an addict with the desire to stop using is the lifeline of another fellowship.

Newcomers have a lot of accepting to do. They are confused, frightened, and alone. They need the understanding which at that precise moment *only* another alcoholic can give. It's important, at this very crucial point in their lives, that both addicts and alcoholics receive what they need. I believe they will receive it only through the continued success of strong but separate fellowships. The one I belong to is

*(Continued on page 8)*



Cindy didn't come home last night, I'm afraid she may be hitting the sauce.



## MEETING CHANGES

**NEW****37046**

**Limitless Lode**  
College Grove UMC  
8568 Horton Hwy  
Tues 7pm

**37203**

**WANGL**  
OutCentral  
Cultural  
Community Center  
1709 Church St.  
Fri 6:30pm

**37115**

**SERENITY HOUSE**  
102 Harris St.  
Madison  
12 x 12 Wed 8pm

**37067**

**Cool Springs  
Newcomers**  
Bradford Hlth Services  
1897 General George  
Patton Dr., Franklin  
Wed 7pm CD/Beg.

**37209**

**Made A Decision**  
Holy Trinity  
6727 Charlotte Pike  
Tues - OD/Gay

**38562**

**Old Time AA**  
First UMC  
Gainesboro  
302 S. Main St.  
Fri 8pm OD

**37388**

**Drop the Rock**  
106 N. Anderson St.,  
Tullahoma  
Sat 8:30am Men/Lit

**37076**

**Hermitage Women's  
Group**  
Hermitage UMC  
205 Belinda Dr.  
Mon Noon OD

**37115**

**Women's Serenity**  
Now Meets  
Mon 5:30pm OD

**37129**

**Serenity Group**  
435 S. Molloy Ln.  
Murfreesboro  
Sat 2:30 OD/Gay

**37027**

**Brentwood BB Study**  
Sun 7pm  
Now 60min

**37080**

**Joelton Mtg.**  
Thur 7pm OD

**37148**

**Portland Unity**  
Fri 6:30pm

**37221**

**Keep It Simple**  
Holy Trinity Lutheran  
Church  
Sneed Rd. Nashville  
Mon 8pm 12x12 CD

**37013**

**Lighthouse Fellowship  
Church**  
5100 Blue Hole  
Antioch  
Wed 6pm OD

**37072**

**Ladies Night Out**  
Cedar and Church  
Goodlettsville  
Tues 6pm

**37086**

**LaVergne Solutions  
Group**  
Right Road  
Ministries  
188 Old Nashville Hwy  
LaVergne  
Tues - Fri 5pm OD

**37174**

**New Women's AA  
Meeting**  
*Beginning May 6th*  
Grace Episcopal  
Church/Community  
Hall  
Corner of Main St  
(Hwy 31) and Beechcroft  
Rd, Springhill  
6:30 - 7:30

**37129**

**Murfreesboro Group**  
Grapevine Mtg  
801 N. Maney Ave.  
Sun 8pm

**Moved****37064**

**Garden Variety**  
St. Andrew Lutheran  
Church  
908 M'boro Rd. Tues/  
Thurs 7:15

**37027**

**Brentwood Full Moon**  
Otter Creek Church  
409 Franklin Rd

**37034**

**Chapel Hill New Life**  
Community Baptist  
Church  
5216 Nashville Hwy.

**37087**

**Lebanon By the Book**  
Mon changed to  
6:30  
Tues changed to 6:30  
Fri changed to 7:00

**Cancelled****37172****Ex-Offenders****38501**

**Cookeville Weekend  
Recovery**  
Thurs 6pm

**38570**

**Livingston**  
Tues & Fri

**38556**

**Jamestown**  
Tues 7pm

**37217**

**Love & Laughter**  
Thurs 8:15

**37015**

**OISVAL Valley View**  
Ashland City  
Fri 8pm

**37027**

**Turning Point**  
Brentwood UM Annex  
Al-Anon  
Tues 7pm

**37212**

**Natchez Trace**  
Wed 11am

**37066****Search for Serenity****37211**

**Young Timers**  
Sunday 8pm

**42223****The Power of Now**

### FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

**District 32 Meeting****When:** 6:30pm – 7:30pm

**Where:** Central Office  
Conference Room  
176 Thompson Lane

**District 35 Meeting****When:** 6:30pm – 7:30pm**Where:** 5925 O'Brien Ave

### SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

**Intergroup Meeting (Central Office)****When:** 5:45pm – 6:45pm

**Where:** Central Office  
Conference Room  
176 Thompson Lane



**Serenity House**

**EAT'N, SPEAKER  
MEET'N**

**Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Eat'n @ 6:30pm**

**Meet'n @ 8:00pm**

**Speaker Guest-John G.**

**Bring your favorite  
Chicken dish to share.**

**John G. has been a dear friend  
of Bill W. and his contributions  
to the program over the years  
are too many to count! We are  
honored to be able to have him  
with us, and to share his ex-  
perience, strength and hope  
with friends.**

102 Harris Street, Madison,  
TN  
615-868-1209



Uncle Pete fell in a whiskey vat last week.

Some man tried to pull him out but he fought him off and drowned.

We had him cremated and he burned for three days.

(Continued from page 6)

the one I belong in, and that one is Alcoholics Anonymous.

AA is for anyone with a desire to stop drinking. Such persons may also have used other drugs and have had or continue to have other living problems. But an AA meeting is not the forum for discussing any problem not related to alcohol. No matter how much we love a person with another problem, the principle must come before the personality. We can shun that principle, but everyone will lose in the process. The person with the other problem will not receive meaningful feedback from people who cannot relate to the problem; the newcomer will be thoroughly confused; the rest of us will be deprived of what we came for.

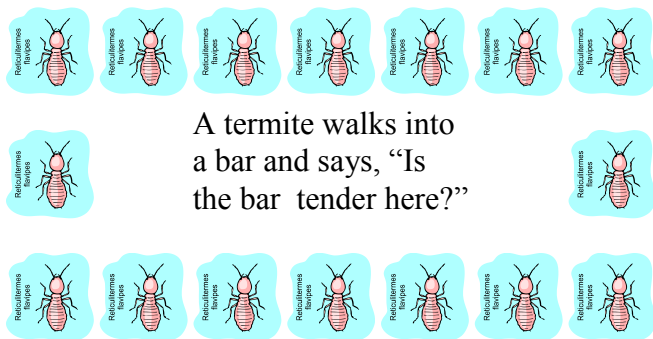
And one thing we came for is to "keep what we have

by giving it away." We need to give away the plain, simple message that brought the newcomer to AA rather than to another fellowship: what to do about the problem of alcohol--nothing more; certainly nothing less!

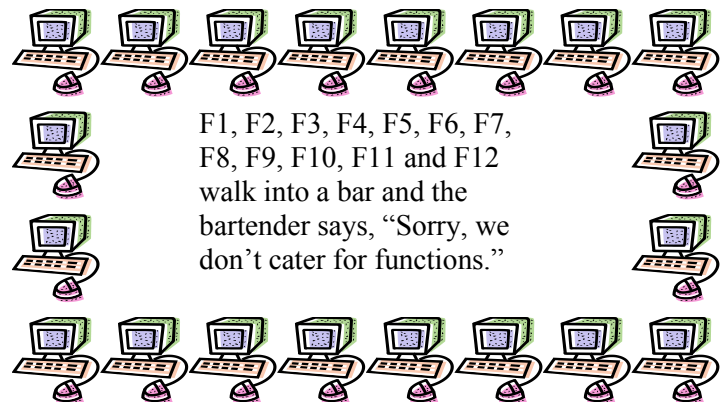
For these and other reasons I have come to accept AA just as it is. My belief that all addictions and recoveries are basically the same goes unspoken at AA meetings. My grand plan to unite all recovering people into one great fellowship was born out of the love I received and gave during my "pink cloud" days at the treatment center. It is an idea intended to be kind, loving, and caring. It is a *nice* idea, but not a *good* one. It is not for the real world.

Jack H. - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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A termite walks into a bar and says, "Is the bar tender here?"



F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11 and F12 walk into a bar and the bartender says, "Sorry, we don't cater for functions."



*He said he drinks so much so he won't have to be thirsty during the night.*



Group	Mo Amt	YTD Amt
21ST AVEUNE		105
24 HOUR		160
ANONYMOUS GROUPS	37	403
ANY LENGTHS		50
BACK DOOR AA		100
BACK ROOM	410	2,730
BACK TO BASICS		25
BELLEVUE		274
WINNERS AND BEGINNERS	15	85
BIKERS IN RECOVERY	41	197
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON		400
BY THE BOOK (LEBANON)		25
BY THE BOOK (DICKSON)		54
CAME TO BELIEVE		25
CELEBRATE SERENITY	123	123
CLARKSVILLE	50	50
CLUB 62 UNITY		12
COLUMBIA	40	120
COMFORT ZONE		400
COMMUNICATIONS		157
COOKEVILLE		50
CROSSVILLE NON-SMK STEP		71
DAILY REPRIEVE		146
DAVIDSON RD	400	2,300
DAVIDSON RD WOMEN'S		241
DONELSON YET		100
DOWNTOWN LUNCH	68	171
DROP THE ROCK	50	50
DRUNKS IN THE PARK		243
EAST SIDE SATURDAY		300
EASY DOES IT		130
EVERY NIGHT AT 6	16	282
FAIRFIELD GLADE		54
FAYETTEVILLE		40
FIRST THINGS FIRST	259	503
FIVE & FIVE	321	794
FRANKLIN		610
FRANKLIN WOMEN'S	100	100

Group	Mo Amt	YTD Amt
FREE TO BE		131
G.O.D. (GRP OF DRUNKS)		50
GOODLETTSVILLE A.A.		200
GRATEFUL ALIVE		116
GRATITUDE		113
HAPPY HOUR	10	115
HARDING ROAD		400
HIGH NOON		475
HILLSBORO ROAD		673
HUT	10	10
IBI-UBU		125
KEEP IT SIMPLE BELLEVUE	43	502
KEY TO SOBRIETY		86
KICKOFF'S NOT TILL NOON		103
LAMBDA		150
LAST CALL	25	25
LATE LUNCH BUNCH		1,462
LAVERGNE SOLUTIONS		175
LAWRENCEBURG	40	40
LET IT HAPPEN		50
LINDEN		100
LIVING BY THE PRINT		200
MCMINNVILLE		100
MID-DAY BREAK		608
MT JULIET FELLOWSHIP		125
MUSIC ROW		150
MUSTARD SEED	50	300
NATCHEZ TRACE MEETING		220
NEEDED MEETING CLOSED		144
NIPPERS CORNER MEETING		28
NORTH BORO		50
NORTHSIDE, CLARKSVILLE		150
OUT TO BREAKFAST		60
OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH		200
P.O.P.	200	200
PORTLAND UNITY	25	50
PRIMARY PURPOSE		133
PULASKI	5	20

Group	Mo Amt	YTD Amt
RAY OF HOPE	200	200
REBOS (SOBER)		233
RIDGETOP BASICS	134	134
ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY	20	20
ROBERT E. LEE WOMEN'S		100
SANGO SOLUTIONS	10	35
SAT NIGHT ALIVE MEETING	30	180
SEARCH FOR SERENITY		120
SEEKING SANITY		716
SERENITY	50	300
SHADE TREE		1,022
SISTERS OF FAITH	75	75
SMOKE FREE-Sobriety 1st	16	142
SMYRNA GRATITUDE	100	600
SUNDAY NIGHT BUNCH		300
TEMPLE HILLS		125
THE BASEMENT BUNCH		150
THE STRAGGLERS	25	25
THE UNITED		200
THE WAY OUT		950
TRUDGING THE ROAD		100
TURNING POINT		462
VALLEYVIEW ASHLAND CITY	160	160
WANGL		54
WAVERLY		60
WEEKENDERS	100	100
WEST NASHVILLE	104	210
WESTMINSTER		184
WHITE HOUSE	160	160
WINNERS AND BEGINNERS		95
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION	50	150
WOODBURY		570
YOUNG GUNS		92
YOUNG TIMERS		33
	Mo Amt	YTD Amt
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	3,571.	27,573.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CENTRAL OFFICE  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES ACTUAL AND BUDGETED  
FOR THE MONTH AND SIX MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2012

	Actual	CURRENT MONTH	Budget-Var	Actual	YEAR TO DATE	Budget-Var
INCOME						
LITERATURE SALES	\$ 9,897.04	12,434.87	(2,538.93)	\$ 69,331.98	74,609.22	(5,277.24)
COST OF GOODS SOLD						
LITERATURE	8,136.52	8,333.33	(196.81)	51,461.19	49,999.98	1,461.21
FREIGHT	20.16	0.00	20.16	177.86	0.00	177.86
DIRECTORY	156.76	437.50	(280.74)	1,073.43	2,625.00	(1,551.57)
TOTAL COST OF GOODS SOL	8,313.44	8,770.83	(457.39)	52,712.48	52,624.98	87.50
GROSS PROFIT - LITERATUR	1,584.50	3,664.04	(2,079.54)	16,619.50	21,984.24	(5,364.74)
GROUP	3,479.92	4,866.87	(1,186.75)	27,257.80	29,958.77	(2,700.97)
INDIVIDUAL	304.73	291.67	13.06	7,839.63	1,750.02	6,089.61
MESSENGER	168.00	208.33	(40.33)	867.00	1,249.98	(382.98)
SPECIAL EVENTS	0.00	333.33	(333.33)	0.00	1,999.98	(1,999.98)
INTEREST	8.97	16.67	(7.70)	54.91	100.02	(45.11)
TOTAL INCOME	5,546.12	9,180.71	(3,634.59)	52,638.84	57,043.01	(4,404.17)
EXPENSES						
CASUAL LABOR	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	450.00	900.00	(450.00)
PAYROLL	3,861.00	4,121.67	(260.67)	27,468.80	26,609.82	858.98
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL	145.00	155.42	(10.42)	870.00	932.52	(62.52)
SALES TAX EXPENSE	(1.55)	0.00	(1.55)	11.99	0.00	11.99
RENT	2,165.03	2,197.08	(32.05)	13,539.63	13,182.48	357.15
PRINTING	0.00	412.50	(412.50)	1,704.20	2,475.00	(770.80)
PAYROLL TAXES	295.35	313.57	(18.22)	2,024.58	2,025.22	(0.64)
MAINTENANCE	91.00	74.17	16.83	423.35	445.02	(21.67)
TELEPHONE & FAX	474.58	475.00	(0.42)	2,880.06	2,850.00	30.06
COMMUNICATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANSWERING SERVICE	163.50	190.50	(27.00)	981.00	1,143.00	(162.00)
POSTAGE	55.91	100.00	(44.09)	672.68	600.00	72.68
OFFICE SUPPLIES	244.96	166.67	78.29	1,130.55	1,000.02	130.53
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.12	0.00	68.12
COMPUTER PROJECT	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	208.98	499.98	(291.00)
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INTERGROUP EXPENSE	182.86	83.33	99.53	279.65	499.98	(220.33)
INSURANCE	0.00	175.00	(175.00)	1,216.00	1,050.00	166.00
SPECIAL EVENTS / FUNCTIO	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	100.00	1,000.02	(900.02)
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.03	0.00	44.03
TRAVEL	83.08	274.13	(191.05)	321.86	1,644.78	(1,322.92)
DEPRECIATION	54.33	41.67	12.66	271.65	250.02	21.63
OVER/UNDER	(1.81)	0.00	(1.81)	(44.03)	0.00	(44.03)
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,813.24	9,180.71	(1,367.47)	54,623.10	57,107.86	(2,484.76)
NET INCOME	\$ (2,267.12)	0.00	(2,267.12)	\$ (1,984.26)	(64.85)	(1,919.41)

## BACK TO BASICS

Bob M. 08.07.00

## DONELSON YET

Holly D. 08.15.09

**Jim Z. 08.20.88**

Mike H. 08.28.05

## EASY DOES IT

Charlotte 08.01.08

**Ellen 08.31.92**

Jamie 08.18.95

Jim L. 08.03.97

Josh 08.03.11

**Louie 08.11.88**

## FELLOWSHIP

Adolfo G. 08.07.06

Byron S. 08.05.00

**Jim Z. 08.20.88**

Tom B. 08.13.11

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

Angel F. 08.13.09

Anita 08.02.08

Dan S. 08.09.10

Derrick P. 08.17.09

**Eileen G. 08.30.91****Janis M. 08.08.88**

Michelle P. 08.15.03

## HERMITAGE WOMEN'S

Angie R. 08.13.10

Beth S. 08.05.05

Janice M. 08.08.09

Lulu 08.13.08

## KEEP IT SIMPLE

**Beth E. 08.10.80**

Bo W. 08.27.01

Chris C. 08.01.07

Dan B. 08.28.11

Linda F. 08.19.08

Ray V. 08.14.06

Richard W. 08.08.11

Samuel P. 08.22.07

Steve A. 08.22.07

Trevor B. 08.19.08

**Paul F. 08.23.68**

## LATE LUNCH BUNCH

April K. 08.05.10

Debbie C. 08.30.08

Debbie H. 08.11.08

Diana D. 08.29.09

Gail J. 08.28.11

Greg R. 08.22.11

## LATE LUNCH BUNCH (con't)

Kathy M. 08.19.09

Rodney A. 08.01.06

Tom S. 08.05.10

## LIVING IN THE NOW MON NIGHT

Angela 08.27.06

Ashley W. 08.01.07

**Bob O. 08.07.92**

David S. 08.07.06

Felicia J. 08.31.07

George J. 08.15.06

Jason B. 08.06.11

Jeremy R. 08.08.09

Kirk A. 08.16.11

Rachel M. 08.01.09

**Steve C. 08.06.88**

Tommy C. 08.29.05

Tony D. 08.04.06

## MID-DAY BREAK GROUP

Adolfo A. 08.07.06

Becky O. 08.01.05

Brianna C. 08.19.08

Debra S. 08.19.10

Donna L. 08.10.09

Donna M. 08.23.10

Faith H. 08.25.09

Janice B. 08.17.11

JC K. 08.04.10

Linda T. 08.23.09

Mary T. 08.12.10

Peggy T. 08.28.11

Rick M. 08.04.10

Robin O. 08.06.02

Steve W. 08.20.08

Torrie I. 08.19.10

Valerie M. 08.25.10

## NEW FAITH

**Sampson 08.10.89****Walter C. 08.19.87**

## NIPPERS CORNER

Brenda C. 08.29.97

Debbie E. 08.06.98

## OTHER

**Grace W. 08.01.85****Marilyn W. 08.06.80****P.O.P.****Joe C. 08.28.85**

## PORTLAND UNITY

Benny L. 08.20.11

Dirk W. 08.02.??

## PORTLAND UNITY (con't)

Robert P. 08.13.11

## REBOS

David S. 08.21.10

Derrick P. 08.06.11

Jennifer H. 08.22.09

John H. 08.11.07

## SEEKING SANITY

Becky H. 08.17.04

Beth S. 08.02.05

Christy V. 08.10.07

James B. 08.23.10

Janice M. 08.08.09

Jim W. 08.14.05

Karen M. 08.01.09

Linda D. 08.20.04

Lulu F. 08.13.08

Shonda W. 08.10.06

## SERENITY MURFREESBORO

Angie H. 08.22.11

Auston B. 08.30.11

Ben S. 08.14.06

Bill W. 08.23.06

Charles J. 08.26.07

Chester G. 08.05.11

Cindy S. 08.01.10

David C. 08.16.07

Dennis D. 08.27.10

Donna H. 08.20.12

Eddie E. 08.22.08

Gavin D. 08.05.07

Jeremy R. 08.25.08

John B. 08.21.05

John H. 08.18.09

Kendra W. 08.02.03

Linda W. 08.08.07

Michael L. 08.17.98

Pam J. 08.28.94

Partheny S. 08.08.09

Rachel O. 08.10.10

Rebecca S. 08.17.10

Rhonda S. 08.26.07

Roger P. 08.03.10

Ron W. 08.15.10

**Sarah S. 08.22.80**

Steve M. 08.10.10

Terry P. 08.29.11

Tray J. 08.21.11

Veronica B. 08.24.11

Wendi M. 08.23.05

Will V. 08.10.09

William T. 08.02.09

## SHADE TREE

Adam W. 08.29.07

Barbara L. 08.28.05

Becky E. 08.02.09

Becky H. 08.17.04

Beverly P. 08.27.10

Bobby 08.20.08

Chad C. 08.23.05

Charletta G. 08.01.08

Christy V. 08.10.07

Crista F. 08.13.08

David G. 08.05.08

Dawn A. 08.15.08

DeAne K. 08.01.06

Devin P. 08.14.09

Ed R. 08.13.00

Frances P. 08.13.04

Joel H. 08.08.93

Josh L. 08.23.07

Josh W. 08.08.07

Judy P. 08.30.10

Julie H. 08.05.06

**Karen V. 08.09.86**

Kelly C. 08.24.09

Ken 08.12.08

**Ken S. 08.15.90****Linda T. 08.10.86**

Lois M. 08.07.09

Mark D. 08.22.04

Marta B. 08.10.08

Michelle B. 08.21.07

Mike B. 08.01.07

Missy B. 08.28.07

Omar L. 08.27.08

**Patrick B. 08.14.87**

Paul S. 08.01.98

Richard O. 08.15.06

Ryan B. 08.08.01

Scott S. 08.30.08

Susan G. 08.04.05

Terry "Doc" M. 08.14.05

Tom O. 08.16.06

Wesley S. 08.26.05

## SMYRNA GRATITUDE

(John) Dutch H. 08.15.04

Brittanie C. 08.27.11

Cathy Y. 08.04.09

Holly C. 08.04.09

## WEEKENDERS

**Harris S. 08.30.88**

## WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION

Susie W. 08.23.05

# Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup Association

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