

The **MESSENGER**

Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

**JANUARY
2015**

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The Messenger

is available at an annual subscription price of **\$1,200.00***. A limited number of free subscriptions are available upon request by writing or calling the Central Office.

It is also available on-line at
www.aanashville.org.

**If you read
The Messenger
on-line, a
contribution to
The Middle
Tennessee Central Of-
fice would help and be
appreciated.**

* just kidding it is still only \$12.00 a year—what a deal!

DON'T WE ALL?

I was parked in front of the mall wiping off my car. I had just come from the car wash and was waiting for my wife to get out of work. Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would consider a bum. From the looks of him, he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous but there are other times that you just don't want to be bothered. This was one of those "don't want to be bothered times". "I hope he doesn't ask me for any money", I thought. He didn't. He came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop but he didn't look like he could have enough money to even ride the bus.

After a few minutes he spoke. "That's a very pretty car", he said. He was ragged but he had an air of dignity around him. His scraggly blond beard keeping more than his face warm. I said, "thanks", and continued wiping off my car.

He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came. As the silence between us widened something inside said "ask him if he needs any help". I was sure that he would say "yes" but I held true to the inner voice. "Do you need any help?" I asked. He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall never forget. We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments.

I expected nothing but an outstretched, grimy, hand. He spoke the three words that shook me. "Don't we all?" he said.

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a bum in the street, until those three words hit me like a twelve gauge shotgun. Don't we all? I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare, but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those three little words still ring true. No matter how much you have, no matter how much you have accomplished, you need help too. No matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, you can give help.

Even if it's just a compliment, you can give that. You never know when you may see someone that appears to have it all. They are waiting on you to give them what they don't have. A different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos - that only you, through a torn world can see. Maybe the man was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets. Maybe he was more than that.

Maybe he was sent by a Power that is great and wise, to minister to a soul too comfortable in themselves.

Maybe my Higher Power looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a bum, then said "go minister to that man cleaning the car, that man needs help".

Don't we all?

Anonymous

Last September I went to St Martin for vacation. Though I had looked up the AA meetings as soon as I arrived, I was nervous because I would be celebrating my first six months of sobriety far from my home group. The first meeting I attended on the island was held at a Red Cross building. Since I had not rented a car, I took one of the local shuttles and arrived very early. A man who worked there told me that the meeting would be held outside behind the building, which faced the water on the bay, and that the view was beautiful.

While I waited for the meeting to start, I had time to reflect on my last six months and how happy I was to finally be sober. Although I'd been to St. Martin many times, this was my first vacation without alcohol. It was a small speaker meeting with several wonderful people from all over the world. Every night someone in AA was kind enough to bring me back to the place where I was staying. On my second meeting there, the chair looked at me and said, "How about speaking?" I told him I had never qualified before. To which he replied, "This would be a great place to start." So there I was at this beautiful meeting, overlooking the sea, telling my story for the first time.

I enjoyed the meetings and people very much and was told they also had morning meetings on the island. So the next morning I traveled a little further to a different location. This meeting met in a restaurant that, although closed, was also on the beach and open just for us.

After the meeting two fellow AA members asked me to join them for coffee. I had brought my laptop with me to St. Martin so I could communicate with people back home in Connecticut, unfortunately, I was

unable to connect to the Internet. One of them tried to assist me with my computer. It was a little more complicated than we anticipated and he suggested we leave it with a friend of his who owns a business that repairs computers. He said he would deliver it to me after it was repaired, and then he took me back to my place.

When I got to my room I thought, here I was, far away on an island, with people I had just met, and yet I never thought twice about leaving my computer with them. Several hours later, I received a call from the front desk: my friend was there to drop off my computer, which was now fixed. I thought, we have this special bond, no matter where we are in the world.

The next morning, while waiting for the shuttle to take me to my morning meeting, one of the women I had met earlier saw me and stopped to ask if I was on my way to a meeting. I replied yes, and she offered me a ride. When we got there, I realized we would be the only ones at this meeting. I had never run into this situation before, but she assured me we still could proceed to have our meeting. We found that we had a lot in common. Although I've never been to an AA meeting where I did not hear something I needed to hear, this particular one was so very special. When she drove me back to my place, I gave her a big hug because I would be flying back home soon. I wasn't sure I would ever see her again, but we had shared something so important to us: our sobriety and how wonderful our lives now were because of AA.

Barb R., Connecticut January 2015

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A blonde goes on a hot date and ends up making out with the guy in his car. The guy asks if she would like to go in the backseat.

"No!" yells the blonde.

Things get even hotter, and the guy asks again.

"For the last time, no!" says the blonde. Frustrated, the guy asks, "Well, why the hell not?"

The blonde says, "Because I wanna stay up here with you!"



ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

A nice way to start the day

I am an alcoholic who has been sober and recovering for just over eight months now. What an incredible ride it has been. From the moment I pulled open the doors to my very first meeting, I felt something different, something good was going to happen. Those doors, which at the time I believed to be the heaviest ever made, allowed me to walk into a new way of life. I don't remember what exactly was said, nor do I remember any one person in particular, but I do remember the incredible feeling of positive power in that room. It certainly struck me hard enough to make me come back the next day, and I did. I chased that feeling from room to room, the same way I chased the seemingly wonderful effects of my first drunk. Every drunk got progressively worse. To my surprise, I found that same great feeling that I had in my first meeting in every room I went to. Sometimes more powerfully than others, sometimes the same, but never less.

It hasn't been easy. My emotional bottom came in sobriety. Everything seemed to be going wrong, with one tragic occurrence after another. My life was suffering emotionally, professionally, and spiritually. I was mired in depression. It was awful. I lost weight and was slowly losing my mind. I actually had to sit and feel all of those feelings I worked so hard to drown out with alcohol. I knew that I couldn't drink anymore. It would only make things worse. I just had to deal with those things called feelings. I guess I always had them, I just never felt them before. Too drunk to. Waking every morning, I would ask myself, What else could possibly go wrong today? I knew something would go wrong. Who knew what, but something would. Nice way to start the day, huh?

So, I made the decision to keep coming to the rooms. It was the only thing going right for me. I felt great when I was in a meeting. The "committee" in my head took a break when I was there. I laughed, smiled, and listened. Little by little, I got it. Then, one day, nothing went right, but nothing went wrong. It just went. I went with it. Then another day. Then another, but this time I smiled and even chuckled. The next one, I laughed. It seemed that the good feelings from the meetings were starting to carry over to the rest of my day. My days were actually getting better.

I was starting to feel joy. I was smiling on the inside. Gratitude, dare I say, was beginning to creep into my vocabulary. I shared those feeling with new comers. I felt better. I started working the Steps and felt better still. Sobriety, I realized, is also progressive.

Now, months later, I have a great deal of respect and gratitude for my disease. Without it, I would never have found this new way of life. I have become happy, joyous, and free. Don't get me wrong: my life isn't perfect. There are many situations that I'm working to resolve, but I don't pick up a drink a day at a time. Not picking up a drink creates infinite possibilities for me. What are those possibilities? I don't know, but I do know that when I wake up in the morning I pray for what I need to get through the day sober. I also smile and say to myself, Who knows? This could be the greatest day of my life!

Nice way to start the day, huh?

Gee—New York, NY 1/2006

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Dumb Drunk

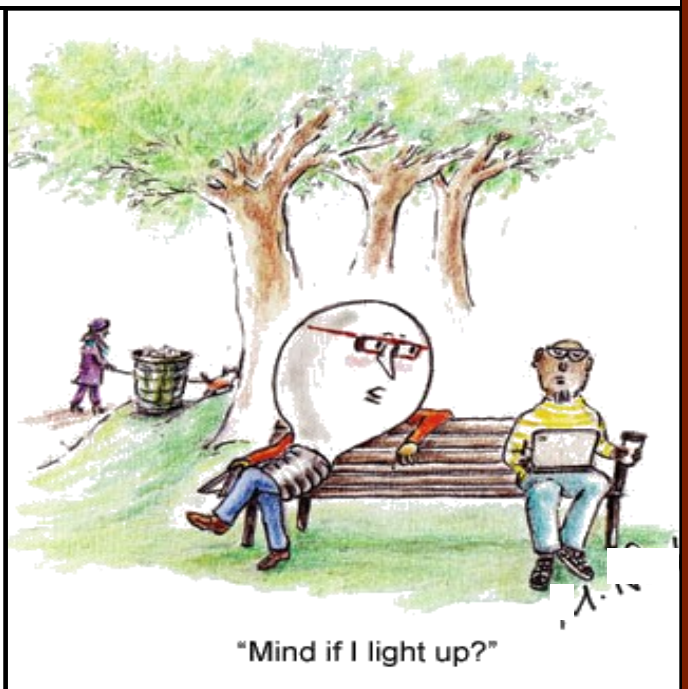
A guy walks into a bar and orders a whiskey. Just before he takes a sip of his whiskey, a guy runs in and says, "Bill, your house burnt down!"

So he runs outside, but then he thinks, "I don't have a house," so he goes back into the bar and takes a sip of his whiskey.

Another guy runs in and says, "Bill! Your dad died!"

He runs out of the bar, gets in his car and rides a little ways, but then thinks, "I don't have a dad," so he goes back into the bar and drinks almost all of his whiskey. Then another guy runs in and says, "Bill! You won the lottery!"

So he runs out, gets in his car and rides all the way to the bank, but then he thinks, "My name's not Bill."



Mental Obsession

(The Great *Unreality* Deep Within)

Someone wrote that an alcoholic cannot drink on the truth — only on a lie. The Big Book tells us that alcoholics have found a ***Great Reality deep down within*** (p. 55). Reality infers truth! Historically, Such ***Reality*** protected Dr. Bob from his ever-lurking *hooker of scotch* for two and a_half years . . . but, when I was new in AA, and still making an assessment of the Twelve Steps, I discovered many inconvenient-truths of which my ego was fain to admit, let alone allow change. Actually, I was living in a ***great un-reality deep within***, which would not allow me to recognize the truth in the matter of drink — I was irretrievably imprisoned in a lie. As Dr. Silkworth explained: “*I could not differentiate the true from the false in the matter of drink*”.(xxviii)

So, there I was; faced with the dilemma of being rid of my long-lived, truth-resisting, ego-self, or getting drunk. Yes, I was willing . . . but how to be rid of my false ego-self that for so many years served as my only defense against a threatening world?

Although I had been attending meetings regularly, the obsession to drink had not diminished one iota. One of my favorite authors stated that most people spend the first part of their lives developing a protective ego-self, but some lucky ones spend the last of their time on earth getting rid of it.



I was forty-three years old and sober about six months when a new sponsor explained that self could not rid self of self with self, so I obviously needed *a power greater than myself*. He then taught me how to give up on my false self by living the AA program of action. A few months later, I experienced the release I had so earnestly prayed for! The obsession had been lifted! Then began a lifetime process of remaining “absent” of that ***great unreality deep within***. My second part of life has blissfully begun. Thank you God ~

Bob S. Richmond, IN
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CENTRAL OFFICE OFFICERS	NAME	PHONE #
Chairperson	Michael A	615.497.6617
Central Office Manager	Charles C	615.973.9898
Central Office Bookkeeper	David W	615.973.9962
Vice Chairperson	Cathy M	615.500.0863
Secretary	Whitney J	615.533.2308
Treasurer	Chris K	615.689.2706
Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community	Paul S	615.556.3357
Corrections	Charlie B	615.554.9085
Treatment Facilities	George S	615-636-6798
Archives	Everett C	615.226.4880
Sobriety Dinner	Cathy M	615.500.0863



FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

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

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

Intergroup Meeting
When: 5:45pm – 6:45pm
Where: Central Office
417 Welshwood

STEERING COMMITTEE

When: Thursday
January 22nd
5:45pm – 6:45pm
Where: Central Office
417 Welshwood

Where I got sober, there was a speaker every Sunday Morning—the turnout was always “packed with standing room only”. It really helped me hearing—What it had been like—What happened—What they were like now. This was comforting, knowing I was working a program that would allow me to “be what they were like now”. So, I have included the Speaker Meetings listed on our aanashville.org website. Do you find this Speaker Meetings Listing beneficial? Do you have a story to add? I would love to include your comments in future edition of The Messenger. Just send your comments to: blamethemessenger@gmail.com

City	Zip Code	Day↓	Time	Type	Group	Location	Location
Shelbyville	37160	Thu	7:30 PM	<u>OS/NS</u>	<u>SHELBYVILLE GROUP</u>	First Presbyterian Church	600 N Britten
Nashville	37211	Thu	8:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	
Old Hickory	37138	Thu	8:00 PM	<u>OD/OS</u>	<u>805 GROUP OF OHV</u>	Old Hickory United Methodist Church	1216 Hadley Ave
Paris	38242	Thu	8:00 PM	<u>OS/NS</u>	<u>PARIS SERENITY GROUP</u>	302 S. Poplar St	(Little House)
Lebanon	37087	Tue	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>WILSON COUNTY FRIENDSHIP GRP</u>	206 South College St.	
Nashville	37211	Tue	8:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	
Nashville	37211	Wed	6:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	
Nashville	37203	Fri	5:00 PM	<u>OD+OS</u>	<u>FIVE & FIVE GROUP</u>	Friendship House	202 23rd Ave N
Nashville	37211	Fri	6:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	
Murfreesboro	37130	Fri	7:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>THE CAMELS GROUP</u>	Bradyville Church of Christ	1265 Bradyville Pike
Brentwood	37027	Fri	7:30 PM	<u>CS/CD/MEN</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHT PRIMETIME</u>	Brentwood United Methodist Church	309 Franklin Rd
Nashville	37205	Fri	7:30 PM	<u>WMN/CS</u>	<u>WOMEN'S SPEAKER GROUP</u>	Concordia Lutheran Church	3501 Central Ave
Lebanon	37087	Fri	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>NEW LIFE GROUP</u>	206 S College St	
Nashville	37216	Fri	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>P.O.P. GROUP</u>	Brush Hill Cumberland Presby Church	3705 Brush Hill Rd
Smyrna	37167	Fri	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>SMYRNA GRATITUDE GROUP</u>	Smyrna Air Base	298 Fitzhugh Blvd@ 10 Ave
Nashville	37221	Sat	10:00 AM	<u>OS/OD</u>	<u>KEEP IT SIMPLE</u>	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	525 Sneed Road, Bellevue
Nashville	37203	Sat	5:00 PM	<u>OS/BD</u>	<u>FIVE & FIVE GROUP</u>	Friendship House	202 23rd Ave N
Lebanon	37087	Sat	6:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>THE SOBRIETY FIRST GROUP</u>	Our House	115 N. Greenwood
Tulahoma	37388	Sat	6:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE</u>	Serenity House	313 N. Collins Street
Franklin	37064	Sat	7:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>CAME TO BELIEVE</u>	First Presbyterian Church	The Legends Ln
Cookeville	38501	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OD/OS</u>	<u>WEEKEND RECOVERY GROUP</u>	The 1224 House	1224 W Broad St (Hwy 70 N)
Dickson	37055	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>DICKSON GROUP</u>	DAFA House	110 S Main St
Hendersonville	37075	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>NEW LIFE GROUP</u>	Good Shepherd Methodist Church	525 New Shackle Island Road
Murfreesboro	37130	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>MURFREESBORO GROUP</u>	801 N. Maney Ave.	
Nashville	37205	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>HILLWOOD FAMILY MEETING</u>	Brookmeade Congregational Church	700 Bresslyn Road
Nashville	37203	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>CENTENNIAL GROUP</u>	Friendship House	202 23rd Ave N
Nashville	37211	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	
Old Hickory	37138	Sat	8:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>805 GROUP OF OHV</u>	Old Hickory United Methodist Church	1216 Hadley Ave
Clarksville	37040	Sun	2:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY</u>	First Christian Church	516 Madison Street
Nashville	37214	Sun	2:00 PM	<u>OD/OS-3RD SUNDAY</u>	<u>SHADE TREE GROUP</u>	Andrew Price Memorial Methodist Church	2846 Lebanon Pike
Nashville	37211	Sun	6:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	
Nashville	37221	Sun	6:00 PM	<u>OS</u>	<u>KEEP IT SIMPLE</u>	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	525 Sneed Road, Bellevue
Nashville	37211	Sun	8:00 PM	<u>OD/OS</u>	<u>WOODBINE GROUP</u>	The Last Stop Club	2122 Utopia
Nashville	37205	Sun	8:00 PM	<u>OS & OD</u>	<u>COMMUNICATIONS GROUP</u>	Concordia Lutheran Church	3501 Central Ave
Nashville	37203	Sun	8:00 PM	<u>CS/DN/MEN</u>	<u>SUNDAY NIGHT MENS GROUP</u>	Friendship House	203 23rd Ave N
Nashville	37211	Sun	8:00 PM	<u>SP/OS</u>	<u>VOLVER A NACER (SPANISH)</u>	421 Elysian Fields Rd	

2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 2 - 5, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia



The 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2 - 5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 80th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Georgia Dome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the Georgia World Congress Center and local hotels.

We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and Atlanta, our host city, will be provided.

This Web site will be updated as more information becomes available. Also, watch for articles in *Box 4-5-9* that is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and is also posted on the Web site.

Convention registration and housing reservations will open in fall 2014. All necessary information will be included in the registration packet which will be available in September 2014. This packet will list numbers to call for answers to specific questions about housing, the program, etc. The information will be mailed to A.A. groups, offices and contacts around the world and posted on the Web site.

www.aa.org

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

REGISTRATION PACKAGES
ARE NOW AVAILABLE
AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Tomorrow Never Comes

She made and broke the same daily resolution to stop drinking for years until she came into AA.

Realizing that I was an alcoholic was not difficult, admitting it was another matter. I knew that my drinking was not like most of my friends. Before heading into the theater one night my friend announced she was going to leave her drink in the coat room and asked what I had done with mine.

(Continued on page 7)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2015 International Convention
of Alcoholics Anonymous
July 2-5, 2015 - Atlanta, Georgia



VOLUNTEER KICK-OFF MEETING
Saturday, January 10, 2015
1 to 4pm

at Georgia World Congress Center

285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

This is the first big event in preparation to host an amazing convention that will welcome AA's from all over the world. We will need around **4,000 volunteers** to serve **over 50,000 attendees!**

Plan to attend and **bring friends and sponsees** with you! Learn about all of the opportunities and service roles that will be essential to make this convention work. We'll gather some information, sign up for service, enjoy some **entertainment**, and kick-off this amazing **celebration of recovery** the right way!

Volunteers **MUST** be registered attendees. You can register anytime before the convention. Registration is \$100 through May 12. After May 12, registration is \$110. Registration and convention/hotel information is available at aa.org.

More volunteer information is available at www.aageorgia.org/international.html

"an experience you must not miss"

Bubba dies in a fire and his body is pretty badly burned. The morgue sends for his two best friends, Daryl and Gomer, to identify the body.

Daryl arrives first, and when the mortician pulls back the sheet, Daryl says, "Yup, his face is burnt up pretty bad. You better roll him over."

The mortician rolls him over, and Daryl says, "Nope, ain't Bubba."

The mortician thinks this is strange. Then he brings Gomer in to identify the body. Gomer takes a look at the face and says, "Yup, he's pretty well burnt up. Roll him over."

The mortician rolls him over and Gomer says, "No, it ain't Bubba."

The mortician asks, "How can you tell?"

Gomer said, "Well, Bubba had two a**holes."

"What? He had two a**holes?!" exclaims the mortician.

"Yup, every time we went to town, folks would say, 'Here comes Bubba with them two a**holes.'"

Tomorrow Never Comes (con't)	MEETING CHANGES																																																																								
<p><i>(Continued from page 6)</i></p> <p>"I left it on the table" I quickly replied, too embarrassed to tell her I had chugged it. Later in the evening, I secretly drank shots of whisky when the wine with dinner wasn't enough.</p> <p>Every night, I made my to-do list for the next day. It always included: lose 5 pounds, read more, quit drinking, call my mother. The next morning I would head to the gym, sweat the alcohol out of my system, and by late afternoon, I would feel good enough to drink again. Later before passing out, I would write in my journal the same resolutions. I had a secret code for what I drank each day. A good day was only 2 S (2 shots) and 3 W (3 glasses of wine).</p> <p>Finally, I got sick and tired of feeling sick and tired and found my way to an AA meeting. Although I knew it was where I belonged, I still wasn't convinced that I was powerless. Then, one day I was cleaning out my closet and found the journal with the endless pages of the same to-do list. After reading the journal it was very clear to me that not only was I a very sick person, but I was powerless over alcohol. I could not control it. I woke up every morning with the best intentions not to drink and went to bed vowing it would be different tomorrow.</p> <p>Tomorrow never came. Not until I became willing to accept that I was powerless over alcohol did my life begin to change. I learned that I was not a bad person trying to be good, but a sick person trying to get better. Being free to admit that I was an alcoholic gave me back my life.</p> <p>Today, I have a wonderful relationship with my three sons and husband, friends that love me, and a higher power that guides me through my day. I start my day admitting that I am an alcoholic; I turn my life over to God and I end my day thanking my higher for keeping me sober. I no longer live my life hoping that tomorrow will be better. My life is right now. Now before going to bed I write: lose five pounds, call three alcoholics, go to a meeting, and oh yeah...call my mother.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Deb L., Sarasota, Fla Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine.org</p>	<tr><td colspan="2">NEW</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Made A Decision - Parkway Baptist 505 Cuniff Pkwy M-8p 37072 OD</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">3 Fingers - Cumberland Heights IOP Bldg 745 S Church St 37130 Suite 505 Murfreesboro 5:30 p 1st Sat</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37205 F.L.O. - Thu 7pm CD/WMN/GAY</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">S.O.S. - Belle Meade United Meth - 121 Davidson Rd F- 9a 37205 OD/Lit/Wmn</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Every Sat Nite at 7 OD - House of Blessing Church 900 37206 Gallatin, Nashville</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">WANGL -BBStudy 6:30p Monday Quaker House 530 26th Ave 37209 N.</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Steel Magnolias Wmn Last Stop 2122 Utopia TH - 6:30p 37211 CD/LIT/WMN</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">MOVED</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Winners Coleman Memorial United Methodist 322 N. Mili- 38464 tary Ave, Lawrenceburg M & Tu 7p CD - Sa 7p OD</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">CANCELLED</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37027 Free Thinkers</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Robertson County - Tu 8pm downtowners- W Noon 208B - Th 37172 7p 208B</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37174 RUSSH Hour - Sunday 7:01 Young People</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37207 Seven Dips Tu 11a & Tu 7p</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Young Timers Wed 8p</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Last Call - all meeting except Wed 10:30 OD cancelled</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37334 Fayetteville Group - W & Sa cancelled</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">38401 Columbia Group - all noon meetings cancelled</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">38558 Fairfield Glade - Tues & Sat Cancelled</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">38562 Old Time AA - 8p Fri</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">38565 Grimsley - 5:30 p Tue</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">CHANGES</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37115 Search for Serenity - Tu OD/Beg - W OD/BB aln-F OD/GV aln Twisted Pickles moved to Spring Hill Pres Ch 5344 Main St</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37174 Spring Hill</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">RUSSH Hour - Speaker meeting is 1st Thurs - Sun 5:30 is Lit 37174 Wrkshp</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37205 SOS - Meeting on Fri - 9:30 not 9:00</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Eastside Men's Stag Woodland Pres Ch. 211 N. 11th St 37206 Thurs - 7p Men (not Wed)</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Come as You Are</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 The Spiritual Giants</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Young Guns</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Last Call Group</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Unity Group</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Saturday Eye Opener Group</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">37210 Peachtree Group</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Serenity Cellar West End Baptist Church 200 Morgan Ave 37334 Fayetteville Tu - 7p CD - Sa - 9a OD</td></tr>	NEW		Made A Decision - Parkway Baptist 505 Cuniff Pkwy M-8p 37072 OD		3 Fingers - Cumberland Heights IOP Bldg 745 S Church St 37130 Suite 505 Murfreesboro 5:30 p 1st Sat		37205 F.L.O. - Thu 7pm CD/WMN/GAY		S.O.S. - Belle Meade United Meth - 121 Davidson Rd F- 9a 37205 OD/Lit/Wmn		Every Sat Nite at 7 OD - House of Blessing Church 900 37206 Gallatin, Nashville		WANGL -BBStudy 6:30p Monday Quaker House 530 26th Ave 37209 N.		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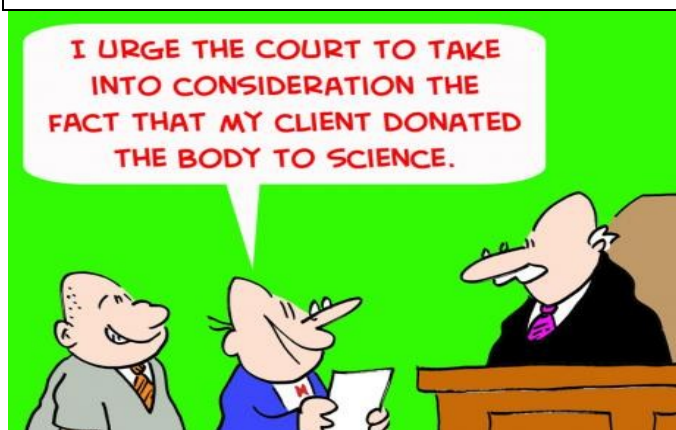
Tolerance: A two-way street

The First Tradition has been called our unity statement. Unity is imperative if AA will survive for the next suffering alcoholic who comes through the door. But too often the word "unity" is misunderstood. Often we interpret it as "coming together in a common place"; or, "superficial friendliness and jovial glad-handing"; or even, "public displays of affection (such as hugging)." In truth, while such public expressions may accompany unity, it goes much deeper than these surface levels.

Yes, we share a common malady--our alcoholism--but anyone who has ever frequented the bar life can tell you that commonality in our illness alone produces little unity.

The Big Book says, "Love and tolerance of others is our code." In truth, this is the basis of real unity. Genuine love can come only from the source of love, which we call our Higher Power; tolerance, in turn, is the expression of this love toward our fellows. Tolerance is easy to practice toward those of our fellows with whom we share more than one commonality. For example, it's natural to tolerate people with whom we share a socio-economic status, interests and hobbies, education or (perceived) intellectual level; but what about those of divergent religious, political, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds? Can we be tolerant of them as well?

(Continued on page 10)



GROUP/MEETING	Dist	Nov	YTD
24 HOUR	32		600
60 MINUTES			50
ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS	0		614
ANY LENGTHS	13		75
AUBURN TOWN AA			50
BACK ROOM	35		4,694
BACK TO THE BIG BOOK	12		172
BAR NONE			100
BELLEVUE	35		100
BELLEVUE WINNERS & BEGNRS	35		100
BILL WILSON LITERARY SOCIETY	31		134
BRADFORD BEGINNERS			199
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON	33		860
BY THE BOOK (LEBANON)	13		15
BY THE BOOK -DICKSON	15		332
CAME TO BELIEVE	33	25	100
CAMELS			125
CELEBRATE SERENITY			600
CHICKEN PLUCKERS MENS	33		240
Clarksville AA (6&8)	14		50
COLUMBIA	40	20	220
COMFORT ZONE			502
COOL SPRINGS NEWCOMERS		303	383
CROSSVILLE NON-SMOKING STEP	9		40
DAVIDSON RD MEETING	30		5,250
DAVIDSON ROAD WOMEN'S MTG			470
DICKSON AA	15		390
DONELSON YET	31		100
DOWNTOWN LUNCH	32		649
DRUNKS IN THE PARK	33	347	2,413
EAST NASHVILLE 86'ers	34		185
EAST NASHVILLE WOMENS MTG	31		224
EAST SIDE SATURDAY MEETING			2,150
EASY DOES IT (Mt Juliet)	31		500
EVERY NIGHT AT 6	32		218
FAIRFIELD GLADE	9	43	208
FAIRVIEW	33		14
FAYETTEVILLE	40		80
FIRST THINGS FIRST	34		700
FIVE & FIVE	30		823
FRANKLIN 4TH BB STUDY	33	50	200
FRANKLIN	33		1,400
FRANKLIN MENS	33		1,000
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S	33		200

GROUP/MEETING	Dist	Nov	YTD	GROUP/MEETING	Dist	Nov	YTD
FREE TO BE	31	177	900	PEACHTREE			45
G.O.D. (OF DRUNKS)	40		160	PORTLAND UNITY	13	20	60
Gallatin AA (GAA)			25	PRIMARY PURPOSE	34		338
GLADEVILLE GRATITUDE	13		113	PULASKI	40	5	50
GOODLETTSVILLE A.A.	34		267	REBOS (SOBER)	34		180
GRATEFUL ALIVE	33	29	335	RIDGETOP BASICS	34		115
GRATITUDE	11		275	ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY	14		55
HAPPY HOUR -LEWISBURG	40		50	SAFE HARBOR (D14)	14		50
HAPPY HOUR- COOKEVILLE	9		150	SANGO SOLUTIONS			20
HARDING ROAD	30		450	SAT LIVING BY THE PRINT	30		375
HENDERSONVILLE BIG BOOK	34		50	SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE MTG	11	60	330
HERMITAGE	31		300	SEARCH FOR SERENITY	34		233
HIGH NOON	34		723	SEEKING SANITY	31		1,442
HIGHER POWERED	32		133	SERENITY (12)	12	50	400
HILLSBORO ROAD	32		1,000	SHADE TREE	31		4,030
IBI-UBU	13		250	SHELBYVILLE	11		200
JOELTON MEETING	34		150	SMITH COUNTY FRIENDSHIP	13	200	300
KEEP IT SIMPLE BELLEVUE (d35)	33		390	SMYRNA GRATITUDE	12	100	1,131
KEY TO SOBRIETY	31		140	SPRING HALL FALL EVENT		287	287
KICKOFF ISN'T UNTIL NOON	33		175	TCYPAA	32	7	16
LADIES NIGHT OUT	34		100	TEMPLE HILLS	33		250
LATE LUNCH BUNCH	33		1,950	THE BASEMENT BUNCH/ MURFREESBORO	12		300
LAWRENCEBURG	41		100	THE STRAGGLERS	33		182
LET IT HAPPEN	35		150	THE UNITED	13		125
LIFE SAVERS	30		200	THE WAY OUT	33		100
LIVE AND LET LIVE	9		25	TRINITY	11		100
LIVING IN THE NOW, PRIMETIMERS	33		86	TRUDGING THE ROAD	33		75
MADE A DECISION			115	TURNING POINT	33	2	478
MCMINNVILLE	12		100	WANGL	30		187
MIDDAY BREAK	32		1,009	WAVERLY	15		30
MONDAY NIGHT PRIME TIME	33		20	WAVERLY-BELMONT	32		100
MT JULIET FELLOWSHIP	31		750	WEDNESDAY STUDY	11		20
MURFREESBORO	12	15	135	WEEKENDERS	34		50
MUSTARD SEED	32		450	WEST NASHVILLE	35	45	98
NEEDED MEETING CLOSED	35		216	WESTMINSTER	30	58	789
NEW ATTITUDES			43	WHITE HOUSE	34		80
NEW BEGINNINGS(Dist 12)	12	20	200	WILSON COUNTY FRIENDSHIP	13		25
NIPPERS CORNER MEETING	32		73	WINNERS AND BEGINNERS	35		50
NO NAME YET			40	WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION	11	35	135
NORTHSIDE , CLARKSVILLE	14		375	WOMEN'S FREEDOM MEETING	30		304
ONE DAY AT A TIME	31		900	WOMENS SPEAKER MEETING	30		300
ONE STEP CLOSER	33		698	WOODBINE	32		25
OUT TO BREAKFAST	30		215	YOUNG GUNS	32		52
PAY DAY	15		125	Grand total:		1,898	55,150

MIDDLE TENNESSEE INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES ACTUAL AND BUDGETED-SCHEDULE 1
FOR THE MONTH AND ELEVEN MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR TO DATE		
	Actual	Budget	Budget-Var	Actual	Budget	Budget-Var
INCOME						
LITERATURE SALES	\$ 7,550.15	11,363.33	(3,813.18)	\$ 152,315.25	124,996.63	27,318.62
LITERATURE PURCHASES	(4,860.18)	(9,333.33)	3,473.15	(107,108.94)	(91,666.63)	(15,442.31)
FREIGHT IN	(38.00)	0.00	(38.00)	(385.83)	0.00	(385.83)
NET LITERATURE SALES	2,651.97	3,030.00	(378.03)	44,820.48	33,330.00	11,490.48
COFFEE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
GROUP	1,928.00	5,069.67	(3,141.67)	55,361.01	55,766.37	(405.36)
INDIVIDUAL	700.60	516.67	183.93	3,533.06	5,683.37	(2,150.31)
MESSANGER	24.00	91.67	(67.67)	400.00	1,008.37	(608.37)
SPECIAL EVENTS	6,032.00	416.67	5,615.33	6,032.00	4,583.37	1,448.63
INTEREST	0.78	17.50	(16.72)	17.31	192.50	(175.19)
TOTAL INCOME	11,337.35	9,142.18	2,195.17	110,163.87	100,563.98	9,599.89
EXPENSES						
CASUAL LABOR	200.00	200.00	0.00	2,150.00	2,200.00	(50.00)
PAYROLL	2,612.58	4,453.09	(1,840.51)	48,211.92	48,983.99	(772.07)
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	0.00	800.00	(800.00)
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL	0.00	216.67	(216.67)	1,882.18	2,383.37	(501.19)
SALES TAX EXPENSE	0.72	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
RENT	946.00	1,137.33	(191.33)	11,587.67	12,510.63	(922.96)
PRINTING	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	2,109.48	4,400.00	(2,290.52)
PAYROLL TAXES	199.87	339.75	(139.88)	3,367.72	3,737.25	(369.53)
MAINTENANCE	99.00	83.33	15.67	1,028.69	916.63	112.06
TELEPHONE & FAX	395.84	722.25	(326.41)	5,102.60	7,944.75	(2,842.15)
COMMUNICATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANSWERING SERVICE	195.00	253.33	(58.33)	2,423.00	2,786.63	(363.63)
POSTAGE	61.34	200.00	(138.66)	1,849.43	2,200.00	(350.57)
OFFICE SUPPLIES	296.48	208.33	88.15	3,162.47	2,291.63	870.84
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	(10.00)	0.00	(10.00)
MOVING EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,965.48	0.00	1,965.48
COMPUTER PROJECT	26.19	200.00	(173.81)	700.75	2,200.00	(1,499.25)
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INTERGROUP EXPENSE	0.00	62.50	(62.50)	932.31	687.50	244.81
INSURANCE	0.00	200.00	(200.00)	1,752.00	2,200.00	(448.00)
SPECIAL EVENTS / FUNCTION	2,481.59	166.67	2,314.92	2,481.59	1,833.37	648.22
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	916.63	(916.63)
CUSTODIAL	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.00	550.00	(450.00)
TRAVEL	0.00	665.57	(665.57)	2,716.51	2,821.37	(104.86)
DEPRECIATION	25.08	0.00	25.08	596.43	0.00	596.43
OVER/UNDER	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.28	0.00	7.28
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,589.69	10,042.15	(2,452.46)	94,117.51	102,363.75	(8,246.24)
NET INCOME	\$ 3,747.66	(899.97)	4,647.63	\$ 16,046.36	(1,799.77)	17,846.13

T o l e r a n c e : (c o n ' t)

(Continued from page 8)

Since its beginning, AA has tried to foster a climate of acceptance of everyone who has a desire to stop drinking, regardless of background. The short form of our Third Tradition reminds us: "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." In its zeal to accomplish this end, it even added the words "as we understood him" to the word "God" in the Third Step, allowing each person to choose his own conception of God in the hope that this word need be a barrier to none who wish to practice our program of recovery. Thereafter, Christians, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus, even agnostics and atheists--at last permitted to seek their own conception of a Higher Power--were able to find recovery from our common illness. This tolerance was key to AA's success and survival.

But tolerance is a two-way street. Living in the Ozarks (firmly located in "The Bible Belt"), I experience frequent examples of low-key "evangelizing" in my AA meetings. This is a subtle form of intolerance that is usually tolerated by other members so

long as it doesn't get too far over the line. But occasionally, newcomers, who are not yet aware of the bounds of religious decorum in meetings, do cross that nebulous line, angering those of an agnostic tendency. I recently found myself in just such a meeting.

A young newcomer, returning from morning mass still attired in his white shirt and tie, attended the 10 A.M. meeting of my home group. The meeting included a young lady--also a newcomer, who declares herself an avowed atheist--and an older man who refers to himself as a Wiccan. As the meeting progressed, an elderly old-timer boldly declared his faith in Jesus Christ. Feeling thus emboldened by the comments of the old-timer, the young male newcomer then whipped out a pocket Bible and proceeded to read. As if on the sound of "charge," half the group bolted upright and stormed from the meeting, leaving the young man puzzled. I myself felt embarrassed and ashamed.

After the meeting, I approached the young Bible-reader. I told

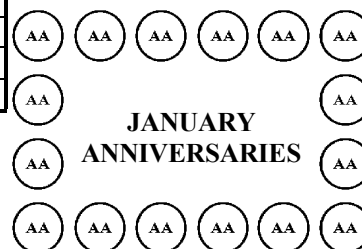
(Continued on page 11)

BACKROOM	
Alexis P	1.10.14
Angela H	1.09.12
Ed S	1.07.99
Eric M	1.28.10
Hunt A	1.21.02
Jason K	1.10.05
Jenny W	1.12.14
Jerry S	1.29.92
Melisa B	1.15.13
Melissa G	1.02.12
Michael M	1.11.76
Mollie J	1.29.08
Rick A	1.20.06
Tim G	1.25.14
Tim H	1.09.95
EASY DOES IT	
David H	1.16.93
David P	1.26.92
Dottie	1.31.04
George M	1.22.11
Jeri M	1.06.64
Kim W	1.07.09
FULL MOON	
Bobby F	1.26.12
David P	1.13.83
Den L	1.19.82
Eric R	1.25.14
Jerry F	1.26.91
Jessica H	1.01.11
Michael A	1.23.07
Richard D	1.17.99
Wendy M	1.21.09
GRATEFUL ALIVE	
Alan S	1.26.11
Curt P	1.23.82
Julie C	1.30.99
Neil B	1.21.11
Pat S	1.12.11
Sam E	1.02.11
Scott E	1.02.89

HENDERSONVILLE BIG BOOK	
Byron D	1.04.13
Mike U	1.06.13
IBI-UBU	
Candis T	1.11.14
Dan R	1.01.11
FULL MOON	
Bobby F	1.26.12
David P	1.13.83
Den L	1.19.82
Eric R	1.25.14
Jerry F	1.26.91
Jessica H	1.01.11
Michael A	1.23.07
Richard D	1.17.99
Wendy M	1.21.09
GRATEFUL ALIVE	
Alan S	1.26.11
Curt P	1.23.82
Julie C	1.30.99
Neil B	1.21.11
Pat S	1.12.11
Sam E	1.02.11
Scott E	1.02.89
HENDERSONVILLE BIG BOOK	
Byron D	1.04.13
Mike U	1.06.13
IBI-UBU	
Candis T	1.11.14
Dan R	1.01.11
KEEP IT SIMPLE	
Bruce D	1.28.05
Cheryl H	1.01.04
Cinde S	1.19.86
Dave F	1.11.05
Doug S	1.01.13
Edward S	1.07.99
Greg T	1.23.07

KEEP IT SIMPLE (con't)	
Ike H	1.19.12
Janet P	1.03.12
John C	1.10.14
Keith D	1.07.13
Lee B	1.21.89
Malaika R	1.28.14
Mike b	1.03.14
Mike M	1.26.10
Patricia S	1.14.10
Patrick O	1.15.11
Ram D	1.10.09
Shawn B	1.02.12
Steve B	1.09.03
LEBANON BY THE BOOK	
Jay D	1.30.78
LOVE & LAUGHTER	
Gabby J	1.05.14
Bob S	1.15.04
Gina M	1.02.02
Ram D	1.11.09
MID-DAY BREAK	
Cindy H	1.05.14
Corey B	1.17.14
Danny R	1.26.92
Hoag J	1.20.11
James C	1.20.14
Latasha H	1.17.14
NIPPERS CORNER	
"B"	1.08.91
Dorothy M	1.12.13
Loren F	1.27.11
Tom W	1.10.93
PORTLAND UNITY	
Dave P	1.25.10
Debra L	1.25.10

PRIMARY PURPOSE	
Jenny H	1.06.08
Micahel E	1.17.76
Shawni G	1.28.13
SHADE TREE	
Barclay R	1.01.90
Brandon P	1.20.13
Jennifer J	1.06.14
Jim E	1.26.94
Krystle D	1.15.13
Lisa MB	1.14.08
Lois B	1.21.09
Lorrie P	1.22.13
Marsha R	1.05.09
Mike K	1.20.12
Mike S	1.08.14
Rick T	1.11.05
Sharon H	1.11.10
Sharon H	1.13.10
Wayne H	1.17.06
Wendy M	1.21.09
WEEKENDERS	
Becky H	1.21.14
Heather B	1.31.13
Tommy M	1.26.90
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION	
Karen M	1.01.89
WOMEN'S SPEAKER	
Becky S	1.17.89
Elizabeth M	1.11.79
Merele F	1.28.86
Nancy K	1.28.13



Tolerance: (con't)

(Continued from page 10)

him that I, myself, though not a church-goer, am also a Bible-reader. However, I said, such readings are not appropriate in an AA meeting, where members of various beliefs attend. I also suggested to the old-timer that perhaps he should go easy on the "J.C." talk. When the Wiccan asserted himself, I also reminded him that Wicca is a religion and not to be promoted in AA.

As I said earlier, tolerance is a two-way street. At the 10 A.M. meeting the following day, virtually the same crowd appeared, except the young Bible-reader. I introduced the topic of "tolerance" for the discussion, and then gently challenged those present about their behavior at the previous day's meeting. I said that tolerance must be practiced both ways--both toward those of

an agnostic tendency and toward believers with an evangelical tendency.

AA's unity does not depend on uniformity or even conformity; it depends on love and tolerance of others with their peculiarities. In AA, I've learned to focus on similarities, not differences. AA is not the place for debates about religious dogma, but when newcomers attend, such slip-ups are inevitable. This is when tolerance is most applicable.

Narrow-minded bigotry has no place in AA. We neither promote nor attack another member's religious beliefs; nor is it our job to try to convert anyone to ours. We in AA are here to save drunks, not souls!

Dave C. Springfield, MO
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