

The **MESSENGER**

Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

**JUNE
2015**

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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 on-line at
www.aanashville.org.

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

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**

Party Girl - She discovered that she could have fun sober

I was a separated, 22-year-old newlywed when I left my hometown and moved to Tucson, Ariz., looking for a way out of my misery. I was not a nice girl. My family, disgusted with my behavior since my separation, made me think the best thing for everyone was for me to move away.

Unaccustomed to taking care of myself, I spent the next five years attaching myself to various men who could support my chaotic, alcoholic lifestyle. The choices I made and the actions I took might have been those of someone with severe emotional disorders. Unfettered promiscuity coupled with uncorked drinking led me to dangerous places no woman should ever find herself. I thought I was having fun.

There were small increments of self-induced abstinence always followed by ever-increasing blackout drinking. I saw myself as a "party girl," working in restaurant bars and frequenting dance clubs and house parties.

On many occasions I drank while I worked, justifying the sips of scotch out of a coffee cup as only a remedy for my hangover or my boredom. One night, drunk at the end of my shift, a co-worker asked me if I thought I had a drinking problem and I answered, "Of course. I'm an alcoholic. So were my grandmother and grandfather." I do not remember this conversation but it was remembered by everyone who sat at the bar that night and it haunted me.

At the age of 27, I felt washed up. I was experiencing terrible hangovers with even my normal drinking. The out-of-control drinking was causing repercussions that I could neither explain nor rectify. I felt I had done nothing with my life. That was how I found myself bound for home.

Because of her father's drinking, my mother was in Al-Anon and guided me to get the help I needed. I suppose it was just a matter of time until I ended up in AA.

There was a small group of newly sober young people in Southern Cal-

ifornia who were the merrymakers of AA. We arrived at AA social functions in crowds, wearing outlandish 80s fashions, including big hair, and we rocked the Round-Ups with our antics and attitudes. We had busy AA schedules that included intense 12 Step work.

My record of accomplishments was not great when I arrived in AA, but I had the opportunity to change this by staying sober. I took my sponsor's suggestions. When I went back to college I achieved a GPA that earned me a spot as commencement speaker. Making amends to the people that I had harmed were lessons that have kept me in good stead in life and in AA. I became a teacher and a wife, a mother and a sponsor...all in good time. Because I got sober young I was able to rewrite my destiny.

*Roxane R., Valley Center, Calif.
Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine
Online Exclusive*

MIRACLE AT THE HALF WAY HOUSE

This time after getting released from jail, he did the next right thing

I was introduced to the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous when I was court-ordered to attend meetings around the age of 15. I did not listen much nor absorb anything from those early meetings.

I guess I just wasn't ready to surrender. I merely went to get my paper signed. The seed was planted, but it took 10 more years for me to hit my rock bottom.

I would get out of jail and go straight to the bar or liquor store. I had no idea that having fun and being sober could even be used in the same sentence. I was ordered to so many different treatment centers and halfway houses.

Finally, as a direct result of my alcoholism, I was given a three-year prison sentence. I thought of trying to get help before I got to my final court date, but I didn't do anything but except drink more.

At sentencing, I admitted that I was alcoholic and needed help. The judge agreed and sent me on my way, telling me to get help while incarcerated.

I signed up for the substance abuse/alcohol treatment program offered. I was put on a waiting list that places the inmates with the least amount of time into the program first. This made me take action, which involved attending AA meetings twice a week. At first I just went to please the judge in case he looked at my attendance record.

After a while I got tired of drinking the nasty homemade booze in jail and never having any commissary money. I started listening at the meetings and asking questions.

It was the beginning of my spiritual journey. My relationship with my higher power continued to grow while I was incarcerated.

One day, out of the blue, I received paperwork from the judge indicating my court date and granting me judicial release. For the first time, I didn't head to the bar after my release. Instead, I went straight to a meeting. I continued listening, asking questions, and found a sponsor and began

(Continued on page 11)

Back in June of 2012, I had the honor of participating in a Woman's Retreat on the Principles of the program. I have been asked to include the principles we put down on paper for each "Step and Tradition" in *The Messenger*, until all have been presented. The Principles set out may come directly from The Big Book or "The Twelve and Twelve", along with our own Principles developed as a reward of this "Program of Recovery". It was a wonderful weekend of Fellowship and the coming together of our new way of life. I hope you find these helpful!

If you would like to add to our list, please send your insights to me.

Editor—Blame The Messenger

blamethemessenger@gmail.com

Step 6

Willingness

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

- ♦ We continued to look at flaws of character we have not relinquished and become willing to quit hanging on to them.
- ♦ We aim for spiritual and moral progress, not by aiming for a 'self-determined' progress, but the perfect object of our HP.
- ♦ We now have the willingness to let go of old behaviors.
- ♦ We strive for progress not perfection.
- ♦ We are better today than yesterday and continue to strive for improvement.

Tradition 6

We have more than enough to do without minding other people's business.

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

- ♦ We cannot be all things to all people, nor should we try—no endorsing.
- ♦ We can seldom keep this gift unless we give it away—by carrying the message to those who don't know there is a way out.
- ♦ We humbly admit we are alcoholic, but we do not identify another person as alcoholic.
- ♦ We don't use the program to gain financially or for recognition in the media, thereby keeping us humble.

My biggest handicap getting sober later in life was twofold. One, I act like I know everything and two, I can't say those three words that old men hate: "I don't know." Now, add to this double debit the disease of alcoholism and you've got a hardboiled egghead too smart for his own sobriety.

A Hardboiled Egghead—An AA member talks about what it was like getting sober at 60

The dictionary defines an egghead as someone who is very intelligent, bookish, and intellectual. I was intelligent alright! I had my college degree. But, my wonderful intelligence was the stupid kind—it wouldn't let anything in. You can actually know too much to get sober. It obstructs the "language of the heart."

I was 60 years old when I put this body in a treatment center to protect me from myself. I didn't know it at the time but this act was a fleeting moment of humility allied with surrender, a very rare and precious trait for this old man—probably a first. It was a good move, looking back. My body was wearing out, my blood pressure was uncontrollable. I could no longer work at my trade, and my mind was creating its own reality, a dark one.

I can laugh about it, now that I'm seven years older and happily wrapping up my life sober in the fellowship of A.A. It was no laughing matter the day I hit bottom. I knew inside me that I knew nothing and it terrified me. The comforting delusion of control was crushed. I was an old man who had to start all over again or die.

Another characteristic of becoming an old man is the compulsion to isolate. Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women. To achieve sobriety I would have to not only become a member of a community but put its common welfare ahead of my own. This I believed I would never do. I adored being alone. Isolation mixed with alcohol was my home in a hostile new world that had left this old man behind.

I have come to believe, in my case, that it took age with its physical demise added to my spiritual demise to bring me to the bottom. My physical deterioration was much more evident to those who loved me and therefore very humiliating and painful. I could hide the spiritual bankruptcy—that aching emptiness inside. Evidently, 60 years—40 of which included daily drinking—was just right.

The highest hurdle I had to face was my lack of desire to stop drinking. Maybe it wasn't so much the lack of desire as it was a lack of courage to stop. Deep down somewhere in me must have been a spark of desire. I had been drinking for so

(Continued on page 10)

HONESTY

Life wasn't going well for me when I showed up on the Scene,
but I was ready for the change, whatever that would mean,
The life I'd lead was scandalous, I think you get the gist,
and to get rigorously honest, was the first thing on my list.
When practicing this principle I was brutal from the start,
but that sometimes caused reactions, and it wasn't very smart.

My wife asked me a question, while trying on some jeans
Did they make her look extended?, Well, you know what I mean.
That put me in a quandary and I knew I had to lie,
If life has to be that rigorous, well, I guess I'm gonna die.
I told a friend about it and he said "you got it right."
Kindness trumps the *rigorous* clause, and you gotta keep it light.
He gave a definition and for our

purpose, I believe

Kind honesty is *Devoid of all motives to deceive.*

It gives a little wiggle room and, I think God wouldn't mind

if self-righteousness takes a little hit, *if only to be kind.*

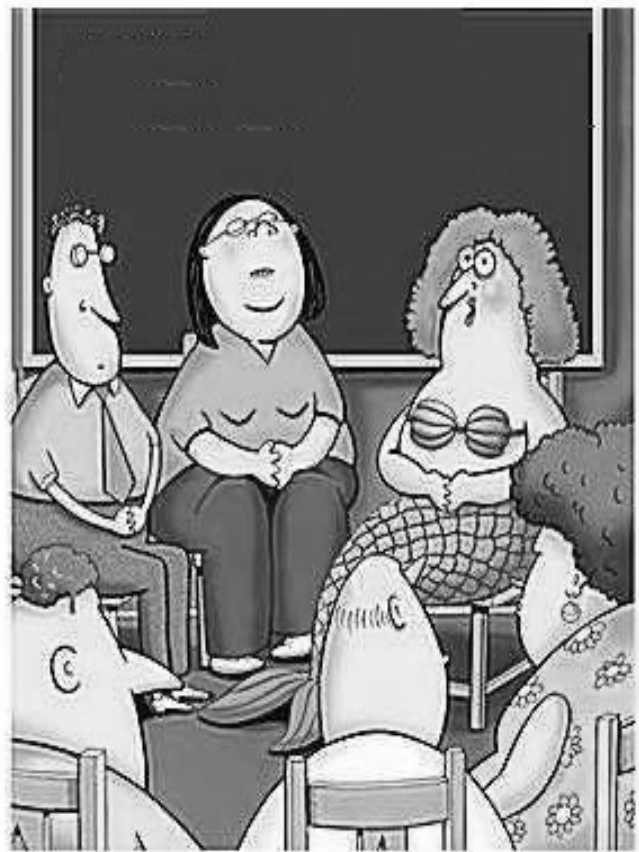
I've learned there are few absolutes, and my conscience is my guide

and I must put self-honesty first, when, *these things I must decide.*

Rick R.—CA

Reprinted Harbor Light

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



"No matter how hard I tried to quit,
I kept drinking like a fish."

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: Monday (this has changed due to conference room conflict)

July 27th 5:45pm – 6:45pm

Where: Central Office
417 Welshwood

Step Six

J U C G C O C T I N E Z J B U Q L J T K C A Q P C
 Y Y Z T Z F W T G V D C V C A P M W I L L I N G Z
 G N B M Z F V Y E P A F I F D Y Z V O N I F L T V
 F N Z P M W Y R W O V Z N G E P P N B O N K U B O
 L O A V E X Y H ? P B L M Y T T Q J E W G H E Z W
 T B L R I Z L N H E H S I E T M B O I A H T U K C
 R K T U R M B E Y M L N R Z I Q K M N W M I R L B
 N Z A Q I K C U U E D B Y J M A E R G H F N C I X
 A I K W R E M O V E L L A Y D S A A S G G R I H D
 V S E J F U J Y S E X Q I N A K W G C N J K O V Y
 F S Q Q J Z R P R A W U B H O S N X C H Y O X M I
 U E P M T Q E G Q I A J Z M Y I S Q P R C L P E V
 D N N Y J N P F J K E W U U H X T H L X G M S M S
 Z G Y A S Z B P M Q F H S T G K S C B F Q K W P S
 I N G A A A W M N X M S V U A K G X E I O A R H T
 V I B A Z G W O B X Y O G M L Y W H R J V A K A I
 S L L K L Q I C T E L M I K O S D V E J B E E S L
 E L E E E K O N Z O Z E W H R A E A M Q O O E I L
 W I Z T X L P N E I X T T U T Y Q K E G A B K Z T
 G W K P N W V Y E Z Z H I Y W P P X B R R F A E R
 R W N N G T Q Z K ? W I L L K M C H D N L A N D K
 P D O Q E T J Y D X B N R P N Y W B D K B L J O B
 Q C W H W Q F C C W Q G J I N V E C Z B A L V V T
 S M X Q V D K I N M Q L I O O D A J E M K P O P F
 M G N V B Z B R Q Y Y N F G A Y M H W I O V C O S

Find the CAPITALIZED words below.

We have EMPHASIZED WILLINGNESS as BEING INDESPENSABLE. Are we now READY to let God REMOVE FROM us all the THINGS WHICH we have ADMITTED are OBJECTIONABLE? Can he now TAKE them ALL-EVERY ONE? If we STILL CLING to SOMETHING we WILL NOT LET go, we ASK God to help us be WILLING.

HEAVEN'S FUTURE



A drunk goes to a football game and finds his place in the bleachers. After a while, someone far behind him yells, "Hey, George."

The drunk gets up and scans the crowd behind him. Not seeing anyone he recognizes, he sits down.

Some time later, someone yells again, "Hey, George."

The drunk gets up again and looks around. Seeing no one he knows, he sits down.

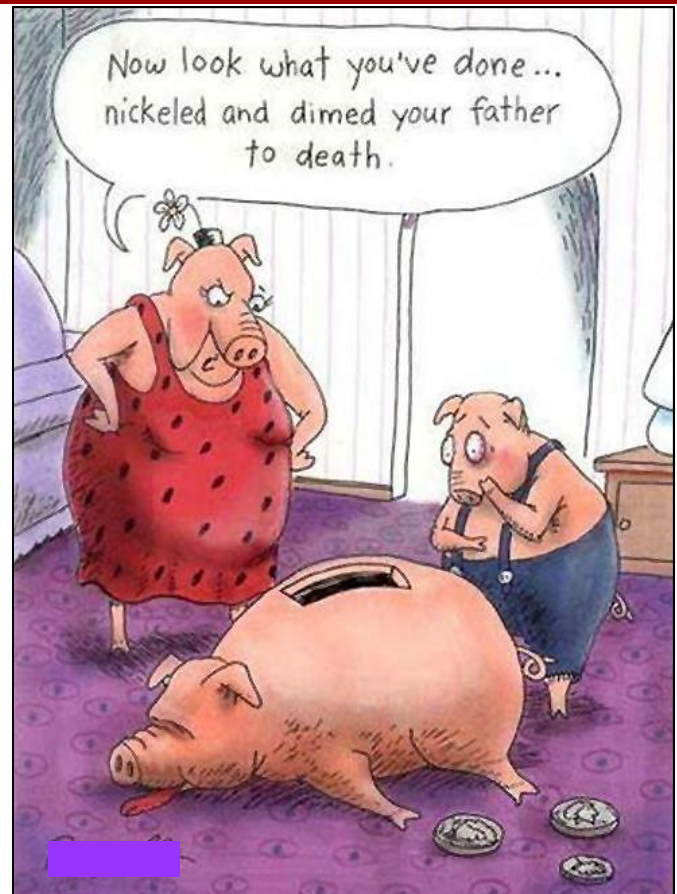
A third time someone yells, "Hey, George." Finally, the drunk gets up, turns around and yells back, "Knock it off! My name's not George."

"Doctor, Doctor! I feel like a pair of curtains!"
"Well, pull yourself together."

"Doctor, Doctor! My little boy has just swallowed a roll of film!"
"Hmmm... Let's hope nothing develops."

"Doctor, Doctor! I feel like a deck of cards!"
"I'll deal with you in a minute."

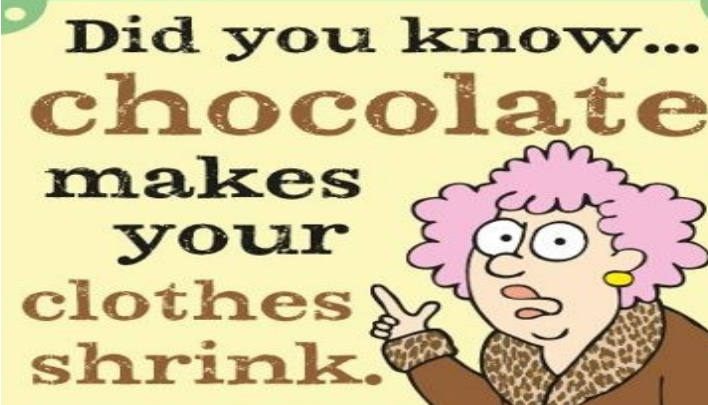
"Doctor, Doctor! My son has swallowed my pen, what should I do?"
"Use a pencil 'till I get there."



A **drunk was picked up** and landed in jail. The next morning she woke up and asked the policeman on duty, "What am I here for?" The policeman said, "For drinking." "That's great!" the gal exclaimed. "When do we start?"

Lorraine W., Wakefield, Minnesota, January 1998

Late one evening, a **boozed-up character** entered a large department store. He was about to step on the escalator when he saw a sign reading "Dogs must be carried on this escalator." Dejectedly, he looked around and then muttered, "Where the devil am I going to find a dog at this hour?"



DRUNKS IN THE PARK

3rd Annual Family Picnic

Saturday, June 20, 2015

2p—6p

Pinkerton Park
405 Murfreesboro Rd—Franklin, TN 37064

Join us for a family-friendly picnic.

Games, Corn Hole, Face Painting

Food will be provided.—

Bring an instrument

Questions?

drunksinthepark@gmail.com



Hendersonville Big Book Group
Summer Speakers
and potluck picnics

June 21
July 19
August 23

5:30 for fellowship, food and fun
Speaker at 7:00

Bluegrass Baptist Church Pavilion
(will be indoors if bad weather)
235 Indian Lake rd
Hendersonville Tn 37075

**POTLUCK DINNER****DISTRICT 34 ANNUAL PICNIC**

Date : 08-29-2015

Time : 11:00am - 3:00pm

MOSS WRIGHT PARK**SHELTER 3 (NEXT TO THE PLAYGROUND)****745 CALDWELL DR • GOODLETTSVILLE, TN 37072****JOIN US! BRING YOUR FAMILY!**

Meat and drinks provided by District.
Please bring a side or dessert to share.

CAKE WALK**SILENT AUCTION****GRAPEVINE DRIVE**

SPEAKER: MARY ANN E.
AREA 64 DELEGATE



CONTACTS:
MARY M 615.9730840 martymart298@gmail.com
HEATHER L 615.804.7933 heatherloveland@bellsouth.net

AREA 64 TRADITIONAL
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTO

When: Sat July 4th, 5pm, Photo at 5:15 pm

Where: Georgia Dome, Across the street on the East Side is International Plaza. There is a statue and Open Area, meet near this statue. (You may hear us before you see us.)

TN FLAGS—Show your support and love for the great state of TN and buy yourself a medium size flag to wave around town.

(They can be purchased under \$5 at Greyline Tours, some retailers or Souvenir shops.) Helps you find your peeps as well.



SONG—We always sing Rocky Top!!! There are usually 50,000 -80,000 folks who attend the International Convention, this one is the closest yet, so share the info and the love of TN.

ANONYMITY—Respect our 11th Tradition and everyone's anonymity—do not post this photo to ANY face book, website, or social media. Just don't post it period. Let's have some fun. See you there!!!

MEETING CHANGES		NEW	
MOVES / CHANGES	Smith County Friendship - Carthage United Methodist Church 608 Main Street N	37062	Psychic Change - 112 Hwy 96 N Fairview TN Wed 7:30 OD
			Garden Variety - St Andrew's Lutheran - 908 Murfreesboro Rd Hwy 96 - Tues & Thurs 7:15p OD/Lit/DN
37030	DAFA phone # for Clubhouses and for Dickson Group 615-326-8669	37066	Gallatin AA - Tues Noon OD, Wed 8p OD/Lit, Thurs Noon OD
37055	Psychic Change - 112 Hwy 96 N Fairview TN	37072	Made A Decision - Parkway Bapt 505 Cunniff Pkwy M-8p OD
37062	No Boundaries - 1531 Hunt Club Blvd #300 - Sun 9:30a OD/Meditation	37130	3 Fingers - Cumberland Heights IOP Bldg 745 S Church St Suite 505 Murfreesboro 5:30 p 1st Sat
37066	Gallatin AA - 2nd Sun Eating/Speaker	37130	Haven At Last Wed 7:30p OD/Lit/CDLT
37087	IBI-UBU - Healing Broken Vessels 311 College Street - Sat, Mon, Tues 11am	37205	S.O.S. - Belle Meade Unit Met - 121 Davidson Rd F- 9a Wmn
37115	Search for Serenity - Tu OD/Beg-W OD/BB aln-F OD/GV aln		Every Sat Nite at 6:30p OD - House of Blessing Ch 900 Gal- latin
37122	Key to Sobriety - Wed now 7p OD/Lit/Wmn	37206	WANGL -BBStudy 6:30p Mon Quaker House 530 26th Ave N.
37130	Serenity Group - Thurs is CD only, no Lit study - Sun 8 pm no ALN	37211	Steel Magnolias Wmn Last Stop 2122 Utopia TH - 6:30p CD/LIT/WMN
37130	New Beginnings - Murfreesboro - Tues & Thurs now at 6p	37211	Last Stop Club - Men's OD 6:30p Tues
37135	Right Direction - Southpointe Comm Church 7227 Haley Industrial Rd #1000 Mon 7p OD	37217	Bradford Newcomer Group - 1410 Donelson Pike, Suite A7, Mon 7pm OD Beg
37174	Ruts Group new address UAW Union Hall (Local 1853) 125 Stephen P. Yokich Parkway	37388	Sat Night Alive - Thurs 7p OD
37174	RUSSH Hour - Speaker meeting is 1st Thurs - Sun 5:30 is Lit Workshop	38401	Columbia Group - added Sat 9a OD/WMN
37204	Vine Hill Thurs - now meets at 3pm	38401	Lunch Bunch Tues (OD) 12p & Thus 12p
37205	Everything or nothing - 7p Tues CD/Lit/BB Brookhollow Baptist ch 678 Brookhollow Rd	CANCELLED	
37205	Women's Freedom - now meets at Concordia Lutheran Ch 3501 Central Ave	37013	Just Wednesday - Lighthouse Fellowship Church
37205	SOS - Meeting on Fri - 9:30 not 9:00	37027	Free Thinkers
37205	11th Step Meeting - Belle Meade United Meth - now 10am Sat	37040	Road of Happy Destiny - Wed 7p & Thurs Noon
37205	Women's Speaker - now 7p Fri 90 minute meeting	37055	142 Group
37206	Eastside Men's Stag Woodland Pres Ch. 211 N. 11th St Thurs - 7p Men (not Wed)	37055	Solutions Group
37209	Next Right Thing - Crosspoint Dream Center - 4007 Delaware Ave - Wed 10a WMN/OD	37062	Psychic Change - Sat 7:30p
37209	Cumberland Heights - Crossover is Fri 7pm (not Thurs)	37087	Any Lengths - 8am Sun
37210	Late Nite News - now Sat 10:30p	37087	IBU-UBU - 11a Tues
37221	Bellevue Group - added Sun 5p BBS	37115	Halfway There Meeting
37334	Serenity Cellar West End Baptist Church 200 Morgan Ave Fayetteville Tu - 7p CD - Sa - 9a OD	37115	Three Legacies of Madison
38464	Winners Group new address 221 S. Military Ave Lawrenceburg TN 904.626.3680	37130	Murfreesboro Group - Tues 8p
		37130	Serenity Group - Sun 4p & Sat 10a
			Robertson County - Tu 8pm downtowners- W Noon 208B - Th 7p 208B
		37172	Th 7p 208B
		37174	Spring Hill Twisted Pickles
		37174	RUSSH Hour - Sun 7:01 Young People & Sun 5:3p Lit
		37205	F.L.O. - Thu 7pm CD/WMN/GAY
		37207	Seven Dips
		37210	Young Timers Wed 8p
		37210	Last Call Group
		37212	(L.O.C.A.L.) Library of Conf Approved Literature
		37214	Freedom Hour Meeting
		37217	Love & Laughter - Thurs 6:30p
		37334	Fayetteville Group - W & Sa cancelled
		38401	Columbia Group - all noon meetings cancelled
		38464	Lawrenceburg Group Tues, Fri, & Sat 7pm cancelled
		38562	Old Time AA - 8p Fri
		38565	Grimsley - 5:30 p Tue

GROUP/MEETING	Dist	Apr	YTD	GROUP/MEETING	Dist	Apr	YTD
11TH STEP MTG	30	-	73	LET IT HAPPEN	35	25	25
21st AVENUE	30		38	LEWISBURG UNITY	41	-	21
24 HOUR	32	-	250	MIDDAY BREAK	32	-	356
60 MINUTES	64	60	110	MT JULIET FELLOWSHIP	31	-	100
ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS	0	59	278	MURFREESBORO	12	15	45
BACK ROOM	35	-	528	MUSIC ROW	30		300
BACK TO THE BIG BOOK	12	14	61	MUSTARD SEED	32	-	150
BELLEVUE WINNERS & BEGINNERS	35	-	50	NEW BEGINNINGS(Dist 12)	12	20	60
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON	33	-	485	NO NONSENSE	32	30	41
BY THE BOOK -DICKSON	15	71	160	NORTHSIDE , CLARKSVILLE	14	50	125
CAMELS		15	20	ONE DAY AT A TIME	31	-	800
CELEBRATE SERENITY		200	275	ONE STEP CLOSER	33	-	157
CHICKEN PLUCKERS MEN'S	33	142	142	OUT TO BREAKFAST	30	29	106
CLARKSVILLE	14	-	100	PAY DAY	15	125	125
COLUMBIA	40	20	80	PORTLAND UNITY	13	20	45
COMFORT ZONE	15	150	350	PRIMARY PURPOSE	34	170	275
COOL SPRINGS NEWCOMERS	33	-	150	PULASKI	40	5	20
DAVIDSON ROAD	30	-	2,700	REBOS (SOBER)	34		210
DISTRICT 11	11		120	ROBERTSON COUNTY	14		25
DONELSON YET	31	-	100	SAFE HARBOR (D14)	14	-	100
DOWNTOWN LUNCH BUNCH	32	189	189	SAFE PLACE			73
DRUNKS IN THE PARK	33	-	152	SATURDAY LIVING BY THE PRINT	30		75
EAST NASHVILLE 86'ers	34	-	127	SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE	11	20	20
EAST NASHVILLE MEN'S STAG MTG	34	-	250	SEARCH FOR SERENITY	34	-	120
EAST NASHVILLE WOMENS MTG	31	-	138	SEARCHERS	34	-	200
EAST SIDE SATURDAY MTG		-	450	SEEKING SANITY	31	249	487
FAIRFIELD GLADE	9	-	33	SERENITY (12)	12	50	200
FAIRVIEW	33	-	50	SHADE TREE	31	-	1,980
FAYETTEVILLE	40	-	20	SHELBYVILLE	11		300
FIRST THINGS FIRST	34	300	550	SMYRNA GRATITUDE	12	181	606
FIVE & FIVE	30	-	266	THE THREE LEGACIES	34	-	13
FRANKLIN	33	-	900	THE UNITED	13	100	200
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S	33	200	300	TURNING POINT	33	69	147
FREE TO BE MTG	31		190	WANGL	30	-	150
GRATEFUL ALIVE	33	-	10	WAVERLY	15	68	68
GRATITUDE	11		25	WAVERLY-BELMONT	32	100	100
HAPPY HOUR- COOKEVILLE	9	50	100	WEEKENDERS	34	-	50
HARDING ROAD	30	-	150	WEST NASHVILLE	35	16	53
HIGH NOON	34	-	545	WESTMINSTER	30	-	216
HILLSBORO ROAD	32		250	WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION	11	50	211
HOPE PARK AA LIT STUDY	30	-	129	WOMEN'S FREEDOM MTG	30	-	350
KEEP IT SIMPLE BELLEVUE (d35)	33	-	216	YOUNG TIMERS	32	19	47
LATE LUNCH BUNCH	33	500	1,000				
				Grand total:		3,379	20,861

Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association
Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1
For the Month and the Four Months Ended April 30, 2015

	April 2015			YTD 2015		
	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance
Income						
Literature Sales	\$ 10,347.20	16,230.00	(5,882.80)	\$ 43,832.08	64,920.00	(21,087.92)
Literature Purchases	(5,064.31)	(11,355.00)	6,290.69	(25,488.32)	(45,420.00)	19,931.68
Freight In	(18.00)	(41.00)	23.00	(142.25)	(164.00)	21.75
Net Literature Sales	5,264.89	4,834.00	430.89	18,201.51	19,336.00	(1,134.49)
Non Profit Income	40.75	-	40.75	51.75	-	51.75
Group Donations	3,609.55	5,166.00	(1,556.45)	21,344.30	20,664.00	680.30
Individual Donations	202.33	366.00	(163.67)	1,292.86	1,464.00	(171.14)
Messenger Donations	12.00	29.00	(17.00)	48.00	116.00	(68.00)
Website Donations	-	-	-	2,727.20	-	2,727.20
Special Events	-	333.00	(333.00)	-	1,332.00	(1,332.00)
Interest	2.27	1.00	1.27	5.39	4.00	1.39
Total Income	9,131.79	10,729.00	(1,597.21)	43,671.01	42,916.00	755.01
Expenses						
Casual Labor	200.00	200.00	-	800.00	800.00	-
Payroll	4,397.92	4,783.00	(385.08)	17,591.68	19,132.00	(1,540.32)
Bad Debts	-	-	-	50.04	-	50.04
Legal & Professional	683.75	200.00	483.75	1,683.75	800.00	883.75
Sales Tax Expense	-	-	-	0.04	-	0.04
Rent	946.00	1,000.00	(54.00)	4,083.50	4,000.00	83.50
Printing	-	333.00	(333.00)	390.00	1,332.00	(942.00)
Payroll Taxes	336.44	320.00	16.44	1,345.76	1,280.00	65.76
Maintenance	50.00	217.00	(167.00)	200.00	868.00	(668.00)
Equipment Rental	148.11	-	148.11	445.11	-	445.11
Telephone & Fax	695.47	541.00	154.47	1,671.28	2,164.00	(492.72)
Answering Service	390.00	233.00	157.00	1,002.00	932.00	70.00
Postage	41.73	200.00	(158.27)	503.08	800.00	(296.92)
Office Supplies	168.03	250.00	(81.97)	919.48	1,000.00	(80.52)
Computer & Technology	-	250.00	(250.00)	270.21	1,000.00	(729.79)
Intergroup Expense	57.25	125.00	(67.75)	120.90	500.00	(379.10)
Insurance	1,244.00	200.00	1,044.00	1,244.00	800.00	444.00
Special Events	-	191.00	(191.00)	-	764.00	(764.00)
Travel	-	333.00	(333.00)	235.16	1,332.00	(1,096.84)
Depreciation	7.92	50.00	(42.08)	31.68	200.00	(168.32)
Total Expenses	9,366.62	9,426.00	(59.38)	32,587.67	37,704.00	(5,116.33)
Net Income	\$ (234.83)	1,303.00	(1,537.83)	\$ 11,083.34	5,212.00	5,871.34

(Continued from page 3)

many years that I had forgotten what life really felt like and so was terrified of reality. I couldn't imagine getting to the end of a single day without the bogus blessing of oblivion. Just thinking about a day without alcohol shook me to the bone. It was my greatest fear in life. I dreaded what would happen to me if I quit drinking.

I knew it would be something worse than death—a living death.

Being an old man was a two-edged sword when it came to getting sober. Both sides were sharp and effective. One side made being old a handicap and the other side made it an asset.

Old age can bring on close-mindedness and physical, as well as mental, disabilities. In my case, the physical disabilities reinforced my close-mindedness and anger at losing control of my life. I had to feel like I knew more than most in order to keep the despair of powerlessness at bay. The resistance this stirred up made it almost impossible for me to take advice or be honest with myself. I believe that I would not have found the willingness to seek help with my alcoholism unless I had the wear and tear of 60 years. This is the other edge of the sword that whittled away at me until the other edge seriously wounded me ego and brought it to its knees.

Trying to get sober in old age was a real adventure. When I finally lost my compulsion to drink, I knew it wasn't my will power. I had tried to stop drinking for decades. There was another power working in my life. I needed no more convincing. My ongoing experience working the 12 Steps supports this belief day after day. Maybe being old made believing in a Higher Power easier. I believe it did for me. Forty years of drinking had put an imposing dent in my self-reliance, replacing it with fear.

The anger towards my traditional religion was burning bright.

When I was younger and full of reactive rebellion. Such a hot flame burned a lot of my resistance up. I think I was simply running out of fuel. Consequences were one part of the surrender equation but old age added the other half. Today I'm grateful to be an old man and not a dead man.

Time's destruction and constraint can soft boil even the most hardboiled old man over time—an old man just like me.

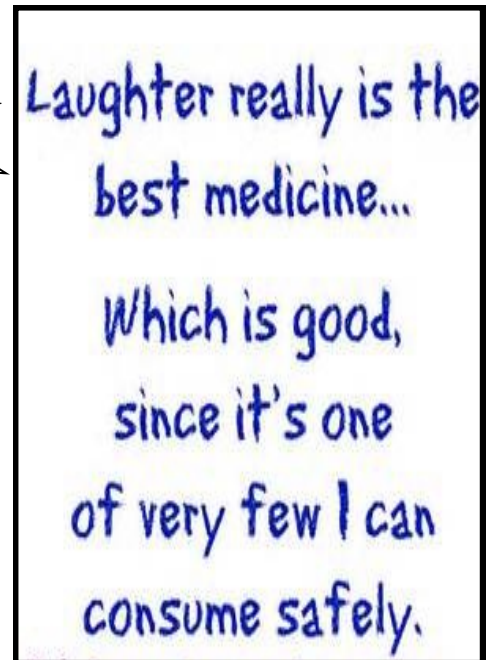
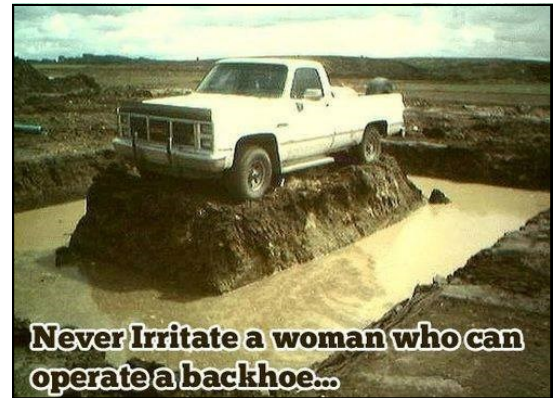
—Ed C., Bowling Green, Ky.

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Michalle B	06.13.10
Missy G	06.27.04
Rita E	06.08.91
Robbie L	06.03.06
Tai A	06.14.08
IBI-UBU	
Elda F	06.02.14
Jayne Z	06.16.10
LOVE AND LAUGHTER	
Barry S	06.03.66
Butch Q	06.03.83
Gary P	06.01.89
JJ	06.02.11
MT JULIET	
Ann C	06.07.86
Frank B	06.24.14
Lynn M	06.09.90
Susie	06.07.89
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Ricky C	06.24.13
SEARCH FOR SERENITY	
Alan J	06.10.91
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Lynn M	06.08.06
John W	06.11.08
Lisa W	06.04.89
Harry M	06.18.09
Clorinda S	06.14.80
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Darrell W	06.15.12
Don K	06.30.11
Ian H	06.04.14
Jack H	06.08.14
Jack H	06.14.91
Jerry G	06.01.13
Jesse C	06.01.12
Johnny B	06.05.12
Karen V	06.17.10
Kristi S	06.21.09
Marilyn S	06.27.03
Mark H	06.12.87
Melissa C	06.17.13
Michael M	06.03.96
Nathan S	06.04.09
Shannon B	06.24.10
Steve S	06.27.03

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Jay R	06.24.13
WOMEN'S SPEAKER	
Trisha O	06.13.12
YET	
Sue P	06.27.94
Angie P	06.20.09



(Continued from page 2)

working the Steps.

I did have a slip but I kept coming back and updated my Step work. By the grace of God, I completed a 90-day inpatient treatment program. I continue to work the 12 steps in my daily life. I stay active in AA by chairing meetings, as well as setting up and cleaning up.

I am very grateful to be involved with my area local AA Corrections Committee. I want to give back in as many ways that I possibly can. At college, I belong to a student organization that focuses on helping ex-offenders get help and even return to school. I enjoy the fellowship and give guys rides to meetings just as others did for me. I bring a meeting to a detox once a month.

The blessings of service are never-ending. I believe that as long as I don't pick up that first drink, things will only continue to get better and better.

Living in a halfway house, I achieved a 4.0 this past summer semester at school. I could never have imagined accomplished this while I was drinking.

I also have a job now and am able to get along with my co-workers. This is made possible by working the 12 steps. Having my family back in my life is the greatest blessing of all.

My probation officer is pleased with how I'm doing and is considering reducing my probation time. None of these things would have been possible with AA and my new relationship with my higher power.

I now hold a job and am able to get along with my co-workers, something I never did without working the 12 steps. Having my family back in my life is the best blessing of all. I will be so ever grateful and continue to make living amends by helping others. My probation officer is happy with my progress and considering letting me off of probation two years early. None of this would be possible without Alcoholics Anonymous and my relationship with my higher power.

Matthew M., Youngstown, Ohio

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