The ILESSENGER

Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

\$ 1.00

Toys & Resentments

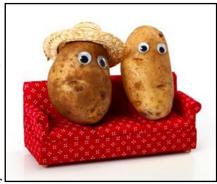
JUNE 2018

A feud over Mr. Potato Head brewed at work until he realized that his sobriety came first

Recently, I passed the one-year mile marker on my road to recovery from alcohol. In early sobriety, I committed to myself to not make any major changes during the first year. This included relationships, careers and geographical changes. I didn't question the wisdom of the old-timers. I knew I had only one "first" time and thought I owed it to myself to try.

I had started a new job just prior to my last drunk. Several times in this job I found myself riddled with anxiety and wished I could quit. In retrospect, it was always minor. As with many sales jobs, competition is a vital part, as well as sales incentives. A few months into my sobriety, an incentive was introduced involving Mr. Potato Head. For each product sold, the salesperson would get a piece of Mr. Potato Head. You then took your arm, or lips, or whatever, retrieved the toy from whoever had him, and added your body part.

He was yours until someone else sold another product. There was an added bonus if you were in possession of Mr. Potato Head when the vendor rep called: you would get \$25 gift check. One day, I was very proud to be the current holder of



a potato with a pair of eyes.

I was proud and happy, until a coworker came to me "looking for the tater" with news he had sold something. I explained to him he was suppose to have an ear, or glasses, or some other vital part of a potato, and then he could have Mr. Potato Head. He took him anyway! He

said the manager had told him to get him and then get his body part. And wouldn't you know it! Not even five minutes later, the announcement came over the PA system, "Whoever has Mr. Potato Head, please pick up line 2. The vendor rep is waiting to speak with you."

Being an alcoholic in early sobriety, my mind raced. I thought about how all of the people I worked with were out to get me and none of them wanted me to succeed. I was new, and an outsider, and was just filling a spot until someone they really wanted was available. I thought about all of the sales they were secretly stealing from me. I was certain they were saying bad things behind my back. Most importantly, they were trying to keep me from my \$25 bonus.

It didn't take too long for me to realize that I was fairly safe in my job. Everyday I suited up and showed up. I didn't come to work late or back from lunch late. I had good sales numbers. And I realized how insane my thinking had been. And, more importantly, even if someone was trying to keep me from \$25, my sanity was worth far more than \$25.

I tried to call my sponsor. He was in a meeting. I tried to call someone else in the program. It went straight to voicemail. I could have left a message and either one would have called me back as soon as they had gotten the message. Instead, I called a new guy in AA who had less time than I did. Not to talk about me, but to talk about him.

Getting out of my head to help another alcoholic then and now has been the best medicine for my alcoholic thinking. I have also realized that HP is taking care of me. He will see to my finances so I don't have to be anxious. If I had quit AA during my first year of sobriety, I could have missed out on the lesson learned from a potato.

-- Greg P.—Charlottesville, Virginia Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine Web-Exclusive Oct 2011

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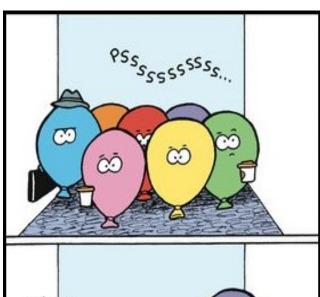
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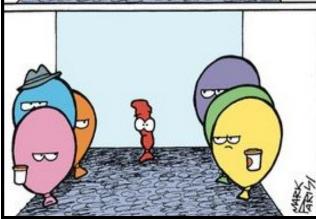
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"The rewards of asking for help increased humility, connection, and trust are well worth the effort."

A Family Trip Remembered

A sober man looks back at an early intervention by his mother during his teenage years

She cornered me in a campground in Utah. This was during the middle of a two-week family trip. I had decided to not drink or do anything else during those two weeks in order to prove that I did not have a problem with alcohol. I was sixteen at the time and it was my mom who had cornered me.



During that time of my life I made a point of avoiding any time alone with my mom, though that is difficult during a family vacation in a large RV. My mom had just enough Al-Anon under her belt to be dangerous, or at least

dangerous to my plans to continue drinking. When she had me cornered in that campground and it was just the two of us, she let me know that she knew what I had been doing.

She begged me to stop drinking and everything else. I was not ready to admit that I had a problem. I was doing okay and I certainly didn't have a problem with alcohol, or so I thought at the time. That I was not about to go to prison was part of my defense. I can thank my brother, who was 18 years old at that time for setting that bar so low.

My mom started crying. Looking back, I now have a lot of sympathy for my mom then: one son in jail, waiting to hear how long he was going to prison for, and me, her youngest son, also being lost to her to alcohol. At that time, however, the tears were just a signal for me to get away. All I could feel was my own discontent, all I could think about was me, and all I wanted was a drink

By the time we got back home, I had made it through that two weeks with just one beer—but one beer doesn't count. does it? I decided I had proven that I did not have a problem with alcohol. Within a few hours of being back, I was off with my drinking buddies doing shots of tequila.

It took some more drinking for me to hit my bottom. I drank my way out of college and out of a job. I ended up in an outpatient treatment program. Because I was seventeen, they required my parents to go through the program as well. Perhaps the first thing I was grateful for in sobriety was that they went in a week after me. The treatment center gave me an introduction to alcoholism as a disease, introduced me to

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Office Confidential

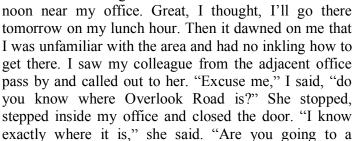
Her first day on a new job and she needed a meeting bad. Not a good day to be "outed"

In early 1992, after working for the same government agency for over 20 years, I began a new career. Needless to say, I was very nervous in a new agency, in an entirely new city. Change was difficult for me.

On that first day of my new job, I found a deli across the street where I could buy lunch. As I stood on line waiting to order, I looked around and all I saw were shelves stacked with alcohol. I was surprised that seeing those bottles upset me so, since I had five years of sobriety. I immediately decided I needed to increase my meeting attendance to deal with this change. I reached

for my meeting book in my desk drawer to find a nearby AA meeting. I still believe that the meeting book is the most necessary book in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I flipped through the book and found a women's meeting at



meeting?" I was flabbergasted. How did she know? I was shocked. This nice-looking, well-dressed woman with the faint fragrance of perfume was standing in my office telling me she was in the program? She then told me that there was only one building on Overlook Road, the temple where AA meetings were held. Once again, God was there for me.

After getting to know her better, we discovered that in addition to having the same name, we were the same age, and had the same sobriety date: April 22. I got sober in 1987, and she a year later. Throughout my years of working with her, we became dear friends and always marveled how we never went "off the AA beam" on the same day. We were always there for each other, offering a shoulder, a suggestion, or just to listen on those down days we would experience from time to time.

"You have to give it away to keep it," is a saying we both learned early in sobriety. We began a tradition: I passed my medallion to her the day of my anniversary, and we celebrated by going out to lunch or dinner. When I handed her my medallion, I would tell her what kind of a year I had and how my sobriety had helped me grow. Some years when we were too busy to celebrate with a meal together, we'd go across the street to the park for 10 minutes, sit on a bench, and continue our tradition.

The "God-incidence" of meeting my friend was so life-changing for me. Because of her generosity, she offered her winter home in southwest Florida in May 1993, so my husband and I could celebrate our first wedding anniversary. We fell so in love with the area that we

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the Twelve Steps, and urged me to go to AA meetings on the weekends.

I started going to meetings on the weekends and continued to go to meetings after I got out of treatment. My obsession with alcohol and the desire to drink stayed with me for some months but slowly it got easier not to drink, one day at a time. I worked the Steps knowing that if something didn't change, I was going to drink, and if I drank again, I was going to get drunk.

My relationship with my parents was not fixed in treatment. Instead, it took time for me to see to the error in my claim about my drinking that "I'm not hurting anyone." It took time for them to trust me again. I learned to jettison my expectations for them to be a certain way or for them to do certain things that I

wanted. I had a sponsor work with me on focusing on what I was bringing to my relationship with my parents rather than on what I was getting out of that relationship. At first it was not easy nor was it always smooth. In time, I was able to accept their love and love them in return.

I've been sober over twenty-six years now, but recently I've been thinking a lot about that confrontation back in that campground in Utah. My mother passed away a little over a month ago. I am so grateful to AA for giving me the tools to develop a good relationship with my mom. Now I remember many years of laughter and love with my mom as well as the tough times. I'll miss my mom but she will live on in my thoughts and in my heart.

-- Andrew W.—Missoula, Montana Sept 2011 Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine Web-Exclusive

Office Confidential

(Continued from page 3)

purchased a small condo where we vacationed for years, making new friends at each meeting we attended during our vacations. With the encouragement of those new friends, we packed up and moved to southwest Florida in 2004. Our new life there is like living in our own Shangri-La.

I continue to pass my medallion to my dear friend every April 22 by mail, with a note about my sober life during the past year. We keep in touch, and I visit her when I go north to see my family. I miss my friend dearly, but know that we are together in spirit daily.

Whenever I am at the jumping off point, God steps in to rescue me. I have experienced many "God-incidences" over the years, in all areas of my life. I know I'm never alone and, if I just let go, my God steps in and shows me the way. Finding my lifelong cherished friend was no mere coincidence.

-- Patty G - Naples, Florida Reprinted with Permission: AAGrapevine April 2015 Bored sitting at home alone every day, drinking, a woman alcoholic decided t take up horse back riding. One day while staggering down the road, she spotted a horse all saddled up and ready to go. Deciding to give it a try, she jumped right on the thing. It was going well for a moment, but then the horse started to gallop. Soon she was sliding off the side of the The next thing she knew, she was beast. hanging upside down around his neck. Realizing she was about to be trampled, she decided to fling herself off to the side. But as she did, her foot got caught in the stirrup. As she bounded along, her head was being pounded against the ground, she started to pass out, thinking this was the bitter end. However, to her good fortune, the Walmart manager came over and unplugged the carousel.

CENTRAL OFFICE OFFICERS	NAME	PHONE #
Chairperson	Travis O	615.642.1027
Central Office Manager	Charles C	615.973.9898
Central Office Bookkeeper	Donna C	615.8321136
Vice Chairperson	Garrett D	615.957.7674
Secretary	Joe C	615.491.1824
Treasurer	Mark M	615.804.8128
Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community	Al C	615.587.1616
Accessibility Committee	Darin M	615.423.2620
Corrections	Charlie B	615.554.9085
Treatment Facilities	Stephen T	615.926.9467
Events Chair (Interim)	Charlie B	615.554.0501
Archives	Butler M	225.226.5457
Sobriety Dinner	Lee Ann	615.424.3875

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 Jul 23rd 5:45pm – 6:45pm Where: Central Office 417 Welshwood

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

District 32 Meeting When: 6:30pm Where: Last Stop Club 2122 Utopia

SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

District 34 Meeting When: 10am Where: 200 E. Cedar St Goodlettsville

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V	Ι	U	C	G	Y	Z	E	O	В	G	N	Q	U	S	W	Y	U	E	U	Y	В	A	K	D	O	T	X	F	M
U	E	E	Z	Y	P	O	Y	Y	I	S	G	P	M	X	S	Н	Z	Q	J	P	G	C	X	Н	S	В	G	M	V
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STEP 6—

Can you find the hidden words and the page they come from in the 12×12 ?

SELF-RIGHTEOUS	ANGER	VERY	ENJOYABLE	PERVERSE	WAY
ACTUALLY	TAKE	SATISFACTION	FROM	FACT	PEOPLE
ANNOY	COMFORTABLE	FEELING	SUPERIORITY	GOSSIP	BARBED
ANGER	POLITE	FORM	MURDER	CHARACTER	ASSASSINATION
SATISFACTIONS	CRITICIZE	TRYING	PROCLAIM	RIGHTEOUSNESS	









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1 age 8		
GROUP/MEETING	APR	YTD
86'ers	272	484
ANONYMOUS	38	152
ANY LENGTHS	120	300
AWOL LIT STUDY		24
BACK TO THE BIG BOOK		40
BACKROOM		1,110
BASEMENT BUNCH	26	93
CLARKSTREET	200	320
COLUMBIA	20	65
COLUMBIA BASEMENT BUNCH		4
COMFORT ZONE	600	600
COMMUNICATIONS		347
COOL SPRINGS NEWCOMERS		100
CROSSVILLE NOONERS		100
CROSSVILLE SISTERS IN SOBRIETY		68
DAVIDSON RD		2,300
DICKSON AA		180
DISTRICT 9		150
DONELSON YET		100
DOWNTOWN LUNCH BUNCH	130	130
DROP THE ROCK	130	50
EAST HICKMAN	48	48
	40	
EAST SIDE MEN'S STAG	200	500
EAST SIDE SATURDAY	386	739
EASY DOES IT		250
EVERY WOMAN HAS A STORY	70	50
FAIRFIELD GLADE	72	142
FAIRVIEW		300
FAYETTEVILLE		20
FELLOWSHIP		175
FIRST THINGS FIRST		146
FIVE & FIVE		264
FRANKLIN		861
FRANKLIN FELLOWSHIP	200	200
FRANKLIN 4TH ED BB STUDY	300	300
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S		119
FREE TO BE	133	285
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE		10
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE, GAINSBORO		40
FRIDAY NIGHT PRIMETIME		25
GOODLETTSVILLE		350
HAPPY HOUR - LEWISBURG		5
HARDING RD	225	450
HIGH NOON		466
HOPE PARK LIT STUDY	39	39
IT'S A GEAT DAY	39	39
KEEP IT SIMPLE BELLEVUE	188	340
KEY TO SOBRIETY		400
LATE LUNCH BUNCH	800	1,400
LET IT HAPPEN		91
LIVE & LET LIVE		25
LIVING BY THE PRINT		100
LIVINGSTON 12x12	25	50
MADISON STREET	20	50
MIDDAY BREAK		105
		100
MT. JULIET FELLOWHIP	15	60
MURFREESBORO MUSIC BOW	15	25
MUSIC ROW		
MUSTARD SEED		250
NEW BEGINNINGS		150

GROUP/MEETING	APR	YTD
NEW BEGINNINGS WOMEN		160
NEW DAY		20
NEW LIFE H-VILLE		122
NIPPER'S CORNER	4	66
NORTHSIDE , CLARKSVILLE	50	100
ONE DAY AT A TIME		345
OUT TO BREAKFAST		106
PAY DAY	120	120
PORTLAND UNITY		2
PRIMARY PURPOSE	152	275
PULASKI	5	20
REBOS	504	504
RIGHT DIRECTION	150	400
RUTS		500
SAFE HARBOR	100	100
SAFE PLACE		122
SANGO		40
SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE		30
SEARCH FOR SERENITY		120
SEEKING SANITY	355	874
SERENITY M'BORO		70
SHADE TREE		1,594
SIMPLY SUNDAY		420
SISTERS IN SOBRIETY		120
SMYRNA GRATITUDE		1,411
SPRING HILL		20
STRAGGLERS		500
ТСҮРАА		218
THREE LEGACIES		15
TRUDGING THE ROAD	150	150
TURNING POINT	123	219
UNITED		200
WEST NASHVILLE		24
WESTMINSTER		500
WINNERS & BEGINNERS		81
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION		100
WOMEN'S FREEDOM		250
WOMEN'S OPEN DOOR		268
WOMEN'S WAY		80
YET		100
TOTALS TO DAT	F 5.589	26.052



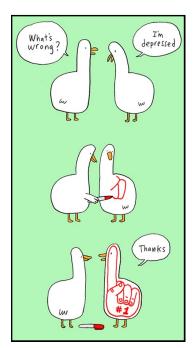
NEW / MOVES / CHANCES / ADDITIONS /	NEW / MOVES / CHANGES / ADDITIONS /				
NEW / MOVES / CHANGES / ADDITIONS /	CANCELLATIONS				
37013 Cancel 60 Minutes - Sun 5p OD	37174 Add RUTS - Thurs 5p OD				
37014 Cancel Downtown Triune Group	Recovery Hill UAW Hall 125				
37015 Move Valley View - Cheatham Recovery	37174 New Stephen P Yokich Pkwy Wed 6:30p				
Every Woman Has A Story -now	OD 2nd Wed LIT Spring Hill BB now Wed Night				
37027 Change CD	37174 Change Parlay OD 7p				
Turning Point - Tues 7p now CD/	37174 Add Spring Hill Sat 6:30pm OD/WMN				
37027 Change ALN	East Side Men's Stag Beg Woodland				
37030 Cancel Smith County Sun & Wed	Pres 211 N 11th at Gartland Ave 37206 New Mon 7p OD/Men/Beg - Last Mon				
37062 Cancel Psychic Change	Anniv downstairs				
37064 Cancel Saint Phillips Meeting	37207 Cancel Place of Hope				
37064 Cancel Franklin 12x12	37207 Cancel Hand In Hand Together We Can - Mt. Carmel				
37066 Add No Boundaries - Wed Meditation	37208 Add Baptist 1032 Monroe St - Fri 7pm				
37066 Cancel United Group - Thur I0am	OD				
	37210 Cancel Wired				
37072 New Legacies - Trinity Fellowship Ch -	37210 Cancel Young Guns				
37076 Move SSS Group now at Hermitage	37211 ChangeUtopia Noon on Thurs Only				
	Solo Por Hoy - 3221 Nolensville				
37076 Add Seeking Sanity - Tue I0am OD	Pike Mon-Sun 7p OD Woodbine - Last Friday of Month is				
37087 Cancel Sobriety First - Mon Sun 8p now OD no longer Men's	- 37211 Change Speaker				
37203 Change meeting	37211 Cancel Every Night at 6 - Sun cancelled				
	37314 411 61 1 7 6 7 65				
37206 Add East Side Comes Alive - Tues 7pm	37214 Cancel Shade Tree Mon 7pm				
Bar None now 7p Monday no Sat	Come Grow with Us Women's Sat				
meeting	_ 37214 Add 10am OD/Wmn/CC				
Any Length Bates Hill Pres 9957	37214 Change Young & Sober - all meeting OD				
37110 New Old Nashville Hwy Thu 5:30pm	Midnight Delight - Earthly Delights 37216 New 4114 Gallatin Pike Midnight Thurs				
37115 Cancel WTF - Serenity House	_ 37216 New 4114 Gallatin Pike Midnight Thurs _ & Fri OD				
M. I. II E. II M E. 20.0D					
37122 Add Mt Juliet Fellowship - Mon 5:30 OD	_ 37217 Cancel Love & Laughter - Tues 6:30pm				
How It Works Toddy Bldg 541 N.	37217 ChangeLove & Laughter - Th 6:45pm OD				
37122 New Mt Juliet Rd Suite 2103 Wed 6pm	37218 Cancel Lions Den				
27127 6 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1	A.W.O.L. Lit Study Cross Point				
37127 Cancel Back to the Big Book Wed 7p 37160 Cancel Primary Purpose Group Shelbyville	_ Church /6/5 US /0 South Tue 6:30				
37160 Cancel Primary Purpose Group Shelbyville Shoulder to Shoulder AP Building					
37160 New 206 Madison Street - Fri Noon OD	37221 Cancel Hope Park Lit Study Wake Up Bellevue Pres Ch 100				
	37221 New Cross Timbers Dr Tues & Thur				
	7am OD				
1980 2010	37232 Cancel Recovery Group - Vanderbilt				
	Recovery First - Craft Memorial				
	38401 New Meth CH 907 Hatcher Lane I lam -				
	M & F OD, I lam W - OD/Lit				
District of the second of the	38501 Add Way Out Group Thurs 6:30p SS Weekend Recovery - all meetings at				
	38501 Change 7pm				
	38555 Add Women In Sobriety - Wed 10:30am				
M M	38555 Cancel Women In Sobriety - Sun Noon				
	30333 Cancel Women in Sobriety - Sun Noon				
	38562 Add Friday Night Live - Sat 7pm CD				

Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association

Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1 For the Four Months and Year Ended April 30, 2018

		April 2018		YTD 2018				
			Budget			Budget		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	<u>Variance</u>		
Income			(00 ()		40.400.00	(500.00)		
Net Literature Sales	2,829.40	3,124.17	(294.77)	11,988.05	12,496.68	(508.63)		
Group Donations	5,359.64	6,403.92	(1,044.28)	25,809.82	25,615.68	194.14		
Individual Donations	216.34	433.00	(216.66)	6,728.86	1,732.00	4,996.86		
Messenger Donations	24.00	17.00	7.00	155.91	68.00	87.91		
Website Donations	38.52	-	38.52	427.62	-	427.62		
Special Events	2,761.61	716.16	2,045.45	4,814.27	2,864.64	1,949.63		
Interest	4.80	3.75	1.05	35.28	15.00	20.28		
Total Income	11,234.31	10,698.00	536.31	49,959.81	42,792.00	7,167.81		
Expenses								
Casual Labor	200.00	200.00	-	800.00	800.00	-		
Payroll	5,415.92	5,750.00	(334.08)	21,676.18	23,000.00	(1,323.82)		
Legal & Professional	350.00	350.00	-	1,400.00	1,400.00	-		
Rent	996.75	1,006.00	(9.25)	3,985.50	4,024.00	(38.50)		
Printing	-	50.00	(50.00)	-	200.00	(200.00)		
Payroll Taxes	469.92	440.00	29.92	1,798.16	1,760.00	38.16		
Repairs & Maintenance	-	58.00	(58.00)	-	232.00	(232.00)		
Equipment Rental	60.00	75.00	(15.00)	240.63	300.00	(59.37)		
Telephone & Fax	415.16	475.00	(59.84)	1,654.45	1,900.00	(245.55)		
Answering Service	200.00	217.00	(17.00)	836.00	868.00	(32.00)		
Postage	138.18	225.00	(86.82)	532.67	900.00	(367.33)		
Office Supplies	80.02	233.00	(152.98)	642.34	932.00	(289.66)		
Bank Service Charges	(5.00)	-	(5.00)	-	-			
Computer & Technology	1,048.24	333.00	715.24	1,212.13	1,332.00	(119.87)		
Intergroup Expense	400.00	250.00	150.00	436.99	1,000.00	(563.01)		
Insurance	-	200.00	(200.00)	1,298.00	800.00	498.00		
Special Events	1,106.40	375.00	731.40	2,679.40	1,500.00	1,179.40		
Travel	-	448.00	(448.00)	-	1,792.00	(1,792.00)		
Depreciation	7.92	13.00	(5.08)	31.68	52.00	(20.32)		
Over/Under	0.59	-	0.59	(5.41)	-	(5.41)		
Total Expenses	10,884.10	10,698.00	186.10	39,218.72	42,792.00	(3,573.28)		
Net Income	350.21	-	350.21	10,741.09	-	10,741.09		







Just wait!

ANY LENGTHS

Micah W	06.09.17
Kathy B	06.22.98
John C	06.25.11
Jeremy W	06.29.13
Hayes S	06.26.17
Gary S	06.21.17
Courtney S	06.04.17

BACK ROOM

Amy K	06.04.89
Bob C	06.29.11
Нар Н	06.20.17
Jacob W	06.14.17
Kate E	06.20.15
Rob J	06.23.17
Slayden T	06.04.10
Tim K	06.12.97
Tom U	06.15.86
Tyler F	06.22.17
William H	06.08.17

EASY DOES IT

Lynn M	06.09.90
Susie	06.07.89

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Curtis	06.06.17
Daniel O	06.01.86
Kristyn H	06.17.11
Kristen M	06.15.12
Liz H	06.08.01
Liz W	06.10.13
Pat S	06.04.82

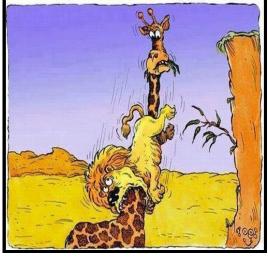
SMYRNA GRATITUDE

Brian E	06.05.14
Charlotte W	06.08.91
Dawn L	06.28.08
Jordan P	06.01.11
Melissa C	06.17.13
Michael M	06.03.96
Michelle C	06.30.17
Nathan S	06.04.09
Shannon S	06.24.10

WOMEN'S SPEAKER

Jennifer S	06.25.11
Jennifer W	06.26.12













Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup Association

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