The ILESSENGER

Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

\$ 1.00

THE BEDROCK OF AA

JUNE 2020

A member wonders if the Traditions are given short shrift

I began my recovery journey in Cleveland a few 24 hours ago. Back then, we had meetings in which members read and discussed the Steps and Traditions. To me, it seems today that the Traditions have become some kind of dinosaur that we feel obliged to mention. Group Conscious meetings vote to agree to read just "the Tradition of the month." Is this because we are so pressed for time or because the Traditions are not that important?

The Traditions are the glue that hold our program together. They are to group recovery and conduct as the Steps are to individual recovery and conduct. Without the Traditions, we would rapidly devolve into a chaotic mess of individual wills and egos.

I saw an example of this recently at a meeting. Someone asked permission of a group secretary to "suspend" the Traditions in order for an announcement to be made asking support for a local sober club.

I was dumbfounded. And because the individual is an old-timer, he was given the floor. We have no rock stars in AA. Because she was new, perhaps the secretary felt blindsided or didn't know how to handle the situation. As a guest at the meeting, I held my comments. However, in retrospect, I know that I did not do service to anyone that day—not to

that individual, not to the rest of the meeting, not to myself, and certainly not to the Traditions.

I have since learned that the appropriate response would have been for Tradition Six to be cited with a gentle reminder that anyone is free to talk to individuals about outside matters after a meeting.

The next week at my home group, a flyer was read announcing a sober club with no reference to a specific meeting. In the Group Conscious meeting that was scheduled after the meeting, I brought this up and read the long form of Tradition Six. I felt people did not understand or care about the issue.

Using the Traditions as a guideline in our conduct in groups is one way we can "practice these principles in all our affairs." I appreciate that my sponsors gave me a sense of the importance of the Traditions to my personal recovery as well as to the survival of the AA. The Traditions were put in place to insure that the AA would transcend individual egos and personality clashes. If we keep the Traditions in the forefront of our learning and growing as recovering alcoholics, perhaps they will become less of an endangered species and remain the vital glue that binds us together.

Deb—Reprinted with permission Grapevine.org

Central Office—417 Welshwood Dr., # 207, Nashville, TN 37211, Mon-Fri, due to Covid19 we are closed, please call (615) 832-1136 for updates. Hot Line (615) 831-1050, (800) 559-2252 (outside local area), Business—(615) 832-1136, Fax—(615) 834-5982, Articles for The Messenger—<u>blamethemessenger@gmail.com</u>- email—<u>mtcoaa@aol.com</u>, Website— <u>www.aanashville.org</u>

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Mr. Potato Head

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

(Continued on page 4)

Recovery Tattoo of the Month

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

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

an

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

incentive

owed it to myself to try.

sobriety.





CAN YOU FIND THE WORDS BELOW THAT COME FROM STEP SIX IN THE 12x12?

ENTIRELY	READY	REMOVE	WAY	SPIRITUALLY	THEREFORE
DEFECTS	CHARACTER	SEPARATES	ENTITLED	CALLED	SINCERELY
WITHOUT	ANY	RESERVATIONS	TRYING	GROW	IMAGE
WHATEVER	INDEED	LONG	LIKENESS	DISPUTED	QUESTION

CWXKOEGQRGMNPRGE

Mr. Potato Head

(Continued from page 2)

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, VA Reprinted with permission: aa.org

Chairperson	Garrett D	615.957.7674
Central Office Manager	Charles C	615.973.9898
Central Office Bookkeeper	Bill M	615.512.5710
Vice Chairperson	Joe C	615.491.1824
Secretary	Lindsey T	615.260.6295
Treasurer	Butler M	225.226.5457
Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community	Steve M	865.567.6734
Accessibility Committee	Jennifer S	615.717.7682
Corrections	Stephen T	615.926.9467
Treatment Facilities	Darin M	615.423.2620
Events Chair		
Archives	Don M	615.708.7957
Sobriety Dinner		
Newsletter	Pat P	615.574.4412

1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MO.

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

2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MO.

Intergroup Meeting When: 6:00pm – 7:00pm Where: Central Office 417 Welshwood

STEERING COMMITTEE

When: Monday Apr—27th 6:00pm – 7:00pm Where: Central Office 417 Welshwood

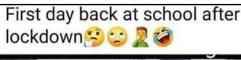
1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MO.

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

2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MO

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







Coronavirus throat spray



Jim and Bob were sitting beside a large beer truck at a red light on an extremely hot summer day. On the side of the truck was a picture of a thirst quenching, cold looking, bottle of beer.

Jim looked at Bob and said, "Wow, wouldn't you love to have one of those?"

"You bet," replied Bob, "But where would we hide a whole truck?"

A new employee stood before the paper shredder looking confused. Chuck stumbled by and asked, "Need some help?"

"Yes" she replied, "how does this thing work?"

"Simple," Chuck replied. He took her papers and fed them into the shredder. "There you are" he said.

She asked, "But where do the copies come out?



The Alcoholics Anonymous Message Carries On Amid Coronavirus (COVID-19) (from aa.org)



May 11, 2020

A.A. in the digital age has certainly taken on a new meaning in these challenging times. Alcoholics Anonymous is not a place or an event; it exists in the hearts, minds and help freely offered by its members.

Most recently, Coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected many A.A. groups that normally would meet inperson. The General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous U.S./Canada, which functions as a repository for A.A. members and groups who are looking for shared experience from the A.A. Fellowship, has some general experience to share regarding this issue.

Some A.A. members have shared that meeting online has been an adjustment and has at times had its challenges. Adhering to state/provincial and federal guidelines, many A.A. members have switched from "in-person" meetings to digital meetings, on platforms such as *Zoom, Google Hangouts, Conference Calls, GoToMeeting and What's App*, allowing the group to continue to focus on A.A.'s primary purpose: to carry its message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers.

In a sense, however, this current experience is not necessarily new for A.A. From its earliest beginnings, the A.A. founders recognized the need to reach beyond the face-to-face transmission of the A.A. message, giving rise to the development of A.A.'s basic text, the book Alcoholics Anonymous. This book and other A.A. materials which are widely available on multiple platforms - digital, audio and video – has literally circled the globe and opened the door to recovery for thousands of alcoholics looking for help. Even prior to this pandemic many A.A. members around the world – whether homebound, living in remote areas, or service members stationed in far-flung places – have counted on participating in A.A. remotely through A.A. literature, phone calls with other members, correspondence by letter or email and meetings online.

While many A.A. members are for the first time

reporting the shift from in-person meetings to digital platforms, for many alcoholics around the world, remote connections and digital platforms are how they initially encountered and maintain their recovery in A.A. even prior to the pandemic.

Many A.A. groups have shared with G.S.O. that they are now finding great connection in digital meetings and want to offer that same experience to anyone who has yet to attend their first meeting.

There are a number of other A.A. resources as well and those seeking help with a drinking problem can get local A.A. information through G.S.O.'s website https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/find-aa-resources or download G.S.O.'s free of charge A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide App.

Another resource is AA Grapevine, the publisher of the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Its purpose is to provide A.A. member sharing through its magazines (in English and Spanish), websites, audios, and e-books. Members share on topics related to recovery, including recovery on digital platforms. Often referred to as A.A.'s "meeting in print," AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current A.A. experience. For more information visit: https://www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help

For information on the A.A. Online Intergroup https://www.aa-intergroup.org/

Understanding Anonymity: https://www.aa.org/pages/en-US/understanding-anonymity

Note: G.S.O. is not an authoritative body over A.A. groups, nor does it initiate rules or directives, as each A.A. group and entity is autonomous and decisions are made through an individual group conscience. Providing guidance on health issues is outside the scope of the A.A. sharing that G.S.O. offers.

What Is A.A.?

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of people who have had a drinking problem. It is non-professional, self-supporting, all gender, multiracial and apolitical. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. For additional information visit the Press/Media page at www.aa.org.

Over the years we have all heard "How it works" read in meetings. On Page 60 it says - No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these *principles*.

From experience in early sobriety, I would always ask, What are these principles? People would just answer with "the steps". For me and others this was overwhelming, then I found someone who gave me these simple one word principles. You may have other "principles" for these steps, traditions, or concepts, these are only suggestions. Something we also hear in the rooms:

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Principles for the Twelve Steps

- 1. Honesty (some say acceptance and surrender)
- 2. Hope
- 3. Faith (some say open-mindedness)
- 4. Courage (some say is action)
- Integrity
- 6. Willingness (some say patience)
- 7. Humility (some say tolerance)
- 8. Brotherly Love (some say forgiveness)
- 9. Justice (some say is discipline)
- 10. Perseverance
- 11. Spirituality (some say awareness or unselfishness)

Principles for the Twelve Traditions

- 1. Unity
- 2. Group Conscience
- 3. Recovery
- 4. Autonomy
- 5. Primary Purpose
- 6. Singleness of Purpose
- 7. Responsibility
- 8. Service
- 9. Spiritual Simplicity
- 10. Humility
- 11. Attraction

Principles for the Twelve Concepts

- 1. Responsibility ultimate authority of AA is the groups
- 2. Reliance GSC is the active voice of AA
- 3. Trust Right of Decision
- 4. Participation Right of Participation
- 5. Democracy Right of Appeal
- 6. Accountability Chief initiative is to be guardians of Traditions
- 7. Balance balance of power traditions and AA purse
- 8. Consistency custodial oversight and administration of AA
- 9. Vision trusted leadership by example
- 10 Clarity responsibility matched by authority
- 11. Respect rotation and participation
- 12. Spirituality Spirit of AA tradition through 6 warranties:
 - 1. Never become seat of perilous wealth or power
 - 2. Prudent financial principle
 - 3. Never shall one be placed in unqualified authority over any others
 - 4. Decisions by substantial unanimity
 - 5. Actions shall never be personally punitive or incitement to public controversy
 - 6. Conference never to perform any acts of government should remain democratic in thought and actions.

Anonymous Just Love Audio.com

Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1 For the Month and Year Ended April, 2020

	April 2020		YTD 2020			
			Budget			Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income						
Net Literature Sales	334.39	2,783.00	(2,448.61)	8,415.56	11,132.00	(2,716.44)
Group Donations	4,004.47	6,939.00	(2,934.53)	26,507.38	27,756.00	(1,248.62)
Individual Donations	1,864.04	525.00	1,339.04	2,850.99	2,100.00	750.99
Messenger Donations	-	12.00	(12.00)	12.00	48.00	(36.00)
Website Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Events	-	708.00	(708.00)	-	2,832.00	(2,832.00)
Interest	8.79	184.00	(175.21)	2,277.89	736.00	1,541.89
Total Income	6,211.69	11,151.00	(4,939.31)	40,063.82	44,604.00	(4,540.18)
Expenses						
Casual Labor	200.00	242.00	(42.00)	925.00	968.00	(43.00)
Payroll	6,047.00	6,047.00	-	24,188.00	24,188.00	-
Legal & Professional	350.00	350.00	-	1,400.00	1,400.00	-
Rent	946.00	1,046.00	(100.00)	3,934.00	4,184.00	(250.00)
Printing	-	50.00	(50.00)	-	200.00	(200.00)
Payroll Taxes	463.78	463.00	0.78	1,387.78	1,852.00	(464.22)
Repairs & Maintenance	-	25.00	(25.00)	-	100.00	(100.00)
Equipment Rental	93.64	116.00	(22.36)	387.44	464.00	(76.56)
Telephone & Fax	447.38	475.00	(27.62)	1,813.97	1,900.00	(86.03)
Answering Service	162.00	216.00	(54.00)	694.81	864.00	(169.19)
Postage	133.53	137.00	(3.47)	584.01	548.00	36.01
Office Supplies	110.60	208.00	(97.40)	382.59	832.00	(449.41)
Bank Service Charges	40.00	40.00	-	160.00	160.00	-
Credit Card Service Charge	31.75	-	31.75	49.53	-	49.53
Computer & Technology	76.48	416.00	(339.52)	2,232.14	1,664.00	568.14
Intergroup Expense	-	150.00	(150.00)	346.98	600.00	(253.02)
Insurance	-	200.00	(200.00)	1,298.00	800.00	498.00
Special Events	-	375.00	(375.00)	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
Travel	-	583.00	(583.00)	-	2,332.00	(2,332.00)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	12.00	(12.00)	-	48.00	(48.00)
Over/Under	0.27		0.27	29.82		29.82
Total Expenses	9,102.43	11,151.00	(2,048.57)	39,814.07	44,604.00	(4,789.93)
Net Income	(2,890.74)		(2,890.74)	249.75	_	249.75

	MEETINGS ADDED	
CHANGES TO MEETINGS	37042 Northside - Tue & Fri 8p CD/Aln	
37040 Clark Street—no Thurs 5p	37083 Lafayette New Hope—Sun 4p OD	
37091 Happy Hour—no Sat 5:30	37091 Happy Hour—Wed 5:30p OD	
McMinnville Serenity last Fri- Pamphlet	37110 McMinnville Serenity Sun 5p OD/LIT	
Study	_ 37174 Spring Hill Nooner—Sat Noon OD/LIT/ +ALN & Wed Noon OD/LIT	
Search for Serenity—Mon Noon now OD/		
+ALN—Thur Noon now OD	37203 Many Paths - Thurs Noon OD	
37174 Spring Hill RUTS Tues & Thurs now 1:30p OD	37203 Smart Feet Friendship House—Mon 7:30am OD/LIT	
37203 Just for Today Now 6p	37209 Women in Recovery - Fri 8p OD/Wmn/Lit	
37214 Young & Sober - cancel Fri 7p	37216 East Nashville's 86ers Sat Noon OD	
	38501 How it Works - Mon, Tue, Thurs now 7p	

NEW GROUPS / MEETINGS

Gratitude & Hope—Ch of
37069 Resurrection 1216 Sneed Rd W Mon
7p OD

What's the Point—Ch Comm Ch 37069 1215 Hillsboro Rd Thurs 7p OD/ Men/Lit

37203 No Defense 202 23rd Ave Sun—8p OD/Men

MOVES

Sober on Sunday—Franklin 1st Un 37064 Meth Ch 120 Aldersgate Way

Robertson County - United Way
Office 100 5th Ave West Springfield

Harding Rd - St Georges Epis Ch Hampton Hall 4715 Harding Rd

CANCELLED GROUPS

37014 Downtown Triune Group

37029 Discovery Group

37064 Sober on Sundays

37087 Back to Basics - Lebanon

37110 Bar None

37115 WTF - Serenity House

37115 Women's Serenity Recovery

37150 The Meeting Place

37216 Weekenders

37334 Serenity Cellar

Do you know that awesome feeling when you get into bed, fall right asleep, stay asleep all night and wake up feeling refreshed and ready to take on the day?

Yeah, me neither!



Kinda starting to understand why pets try to run out of the house when the front door opens

GROUP/MEETING APR YTD 24 HOUR **3 LEGACIES** 86'ers 227 ALGOOD 12 STEPS TO FREE-DOM **ANONYMOUS** 97 ANY LENGTHS AREA 64 **AWOL** 40 40 BACK TO THE BIG BOOK 50 806 **BACKROOM** 1,666 BASEMENT BUNCH, COLUMBIA 46 BASEMENT BUNCH, MURF **BRENTWOOD FULL MOON** 556 35 75 BY THE BOOK, LEBANON **CAME TO BELIEVE CELEBRATE SERENITY** 213 **CAMELS** 7 **CENTERVILLE** CHICKEN PLUCKERS 71 100 **CLARK STREET COLUMBIA** 60 **COMFORT ZONE COMMUNICATIONS COOL SPRINGS NEWCOMERS** CROSSVILLE AA **CROSSVILLE MON NIGHT CROSSVILLE NONSMOKING** 26 **CROSSVILLE STEP** _ **DAVIDSON RD** 3,200 **DEKALB DICKSON DISTRICT 9** 150 **DOUBLE DIPPERS (CROSSVLE)** DOWNTOWN LUNCH 50 DROP THE ROCK DRUNKS IN THE PARK 1,350 **EAST HICKMAN** EAST NASHVILLE 86'ERS EAST SIDE MEN'S 238 **EAST SIDE SATURDAY** 587 EASY DOES IT 250 EASY DOES IT MT. JULIET **ESTILL SPRINGS BIG BOOK EVERY WOMAN HAS A STORY** 112 **FAIRFIELD GLADE** 51

YOUR GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

10011 011001		
GROUP/MEETING	APR	YTD
FAYETTEVILLE		25
FELLOWSHIP		
FIRST THINGS FIRST	93	377
FOR LADIES ONLY		
FRANKLIN		850
FRANKLIN FELLOWSHIP		_
FRANKLIN 4TH BB STUDY		_
FRANKLIN MEN'S		_
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S		
FREE TO BE	111	245
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE		10
GALLATIN AA		_
GLADEVILLE GRATITUDE		_
G.O.D.		125
GOODLETTSVILLE		
GRATITUDE		-
GROUP OF DRUNKS		-
HAPPY DESTINY		-
HAPPY HOUR - LEWISBURG		
HARDING RD		250
HENDERSONVILLE BIG BOOK		
HERMITAGE		
HIGH NOON		
HIGHER POWERED		
HOPE PARK		
HOPE PARK LITERATURE		65
HUNT CLUB		
HUT		30
IT'S A GREAT DAY		52
JOELTON		50
KEEP IT SIMPLE		200
KEY TO SOBRIETY		450
KICKOFF ISN'T UNTIL NOON		400
LADIES NIGHT OUT		
LAFAYETTE NEW HOPE		50
LAMBDA		
LATE LUNCH BUNCH		900
LAWRENCEVILLE		
LET IT HAPPEN		258
LIFE SAVERS		-
LIVING BY THE PRINT		200
LIVINGSTON 12x12		25
MADISON STREET		-
MID-DAY BREAK		165
MT. JULIET FELLOWSHIP		50

JUNE 2020 MESSENGER

GROUP/MEETING	APR	YTD
FAYETTEVILLE		25
FELLOWSHIP		-
FIRST THINGS FIRST	93	377
FOR LADIES ONLY		-
FRANKLIN		850
FRANKLIN FELLOWSHIP		-
FRANKLIN 4TH BB STUDY		-
FRANKLIN MEN'S		-
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S		-
FREE TO BE	111	245
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE		10
GALLATIN AA		_
GLADEVILLE GRATITUDE		_
G.O.D.		125
GOODLETTSVILLE		-
GRATITUDE		-
GROUP OF DRUNKS		_
HAPPY DESTINY		_
HAPPY HOUR - LEWISBURG		_
HARDING RD		250
HENDERSONVILLE BIG BOOK		-
HERMITAGE		-
HIGH NOON		-
HIGHER POWERED		-
HOPE PARK		-
HOPE PARK LITERATURE		65
HUNT CLUB		-
HUT		30
IT'S A GREAT DAY		52
JOELTON		50
KEEP IT SIMPLE		200
KEY TO SOBRIETY		450
KICKOFF ISN'T UNTIL NOON		400
LADIES NIGHT OUT		-
LAFAYETTE NEW HOPE		50
LAMBDA		-
LATE LUNCH BUNCH		900
LAWRENCEVILLE		
LET IT HAPPEN		258
LIFE SAVERS		-
LIVING BY THE PRINT		200
LIVINGSTON 12x12		25
MADISON STREET		
MID-DAY BREAK		165
MT. JULIET FELLOWSHIP		50
LAWRENCEVILLE LET IT HAPPEN LIFE SAVERS LIVING BY THE PRINT LIVINGSTON 12x12 MADISON STREET MID-DAY BREAK		- 258 - 200 25 - 165

		<u> </u>
GROUP/MEETING	APR	YTD
SISTERS IN SOBRIETY		129
SMYRNA GRATITUDE	492	1,397
SOBRIETY FIRST LEBANON		-
SPRING HILL		-
SPIRITUAL WARFARE		115
SSS, HERMITAGE		-
STRAGGLERS	150	475
SUNDAY 10AM, CROSSVILLE		-
THERE IS A SOLUTION		-
THREE LEGACIES		-
TRINITY		500
TRUDGING THE ROAD		-
TURNING POINT		-
UNCOMMON WOMEN		-
UNITED	200	500
UNITY AT 6		20
WAKE UP	18	68
WAVERLY	90	90
WED NIGHT 12 STEPS, ALGOOD		-
WEST NASHVILLE		8
WESTMINSTER		600
WHITE HOUSE		-
WINNERS & BEGINNERS		-
WINNERS & BEGINNERS,		
BRENTWOOD		300
WOMAN'S WAY		-
WOMEN IN RECOVERY	126	126
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION	50	250
WOMEN'S FREEDOM		250
WOMEN'S OPEN DOOR		151
WOMEN'S SPEAKER	175	175
WOODBINE		10
GROUP TOTALS TO DATE	4,004	26,508
INDIVIDUALS	1,864	2,750
MESSENGER		12
MEMORIAL, TOM KING		100
COMBINED TOTALS TO DATE	5,869	29,370



Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup Association

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