\$ 1.00 NOV 2020

Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

BRING YOUR SPONSOR · BRING YOUR SPONSEES **BRING YOUR FAMILY**

Al-anons Welcome!



Middle Tennesee Central Office



Saturday
November 21st



(Cst)

LUNCHEON 2020

(w/o the lunch)

Literature Give Aways Literature Specials

10am - Welcome!

THE SPEAKERS

10:10am to 11:00am

11:15am to 12:30pm

1:00pm to 1:50pm

2:10pm to 3:00pm

STEPS 1, 2, 3

STEPS 4.5.6 & 7 **STEPS** 8 & 9

STEPS 10.11 & 12

KRISTA M Dallas

CLIF G Oklahoma City,

MIKE A Nashville

SHANNON C Nashville

A Supportive Event

PAYPAL: midtn@bellsouth.net

VENMO: MCTOAA Nashville @mtcoaa

ZOOM ID# 929 542 2779 PASSCODE: 929542

12:30 TO 1:00PM LUNCH-LITERATURE **GIVEAWA**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please Contact Central Office @ 615-831-1050 / mtcoaa@aol.com

Central Office—417 Welshwood Dr., # 207, Nashville, TN 37211, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, Sat, 9am-1pm,

Hot Line (615) 831-1050, (800) 559-2252 (outside local area), Business—(615) 832-1136, Fax—(615) 834-5982, Articles for The Messenger—blamethemessenger@gmail.com- email—mtcoaa@aol.com, Website- www.aanashville.org

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Me: Alexa, what's the weather going to be this weekend?

Alexa: Why? Where do you think you're going?



BRIEF GUIDE FOR INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES

How it Works

The Intergroup Representative (IGR) is elected by his/her Homegroup. The IGR attends the monthly Intergroup Business Meeting currently held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. This participation will allow for a two-way flow of information between the Central Office and the groups it serves. The IGR also attends their Homegroups' business meeting asking for suggestions and input on issues presented.

The IGR is the groups' link to those elected to maintain and operate the Central Office, better known as the Middle Tennessee Intergroup Steering Committee. The Middle Tennessee Intergroup Steering Committee is comprised of A.A. members elected by the Intergroup Representatives at the November Intergroup Elections Meeting held biannually (every other year) who function in the capacity of a board of directors. The primary purpose of INTERGROUP shall be the administration and coordination of A.A. activities common to the various groups comprising its membership. The activities include: Furthering the A.A. program in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and maintaining a Central Office for A.A.

As an IGR, you can do many things to serve your group and Alcoholics Anonymous

Attend the once a month Middle Tennessee Intergroup Business Meetings. Encourage your Homegroup to elect an Alternate Intergroup Representative who can attend the monthly meeting in your absence and become familiar enough to stand for the next panel.

Keep your Homegroup informed. Take notes at the Middle Tennessee Intergroup Business Meeting and provide a written report for your Homegroup. Coordinate time with your Homegroup secretary for a few minutes during the Homegroups' Business Meeting to provide an objective report of what occurred at the last Middle Tennessee Intergroup Business Meeting. The goal is to obtain your Group Conscience on the various issues and relay that information during the next Middle Tennessee Intergroup Business Meeting.

Know the By Laws of Middle Tennessee Intergroup. Middle Tennessee Intergroup operates under a set of guidelines called the By Laws. There is a copy of the By Laws on the website. You should read it and be familiar with its provisions.

Sign up volunteers. Recruit members of your group for service on Middle Tennessee Intergroup committees, as a Central Office volunteer, or on a committee.

Keep your group's records current. Make sure that your Homegroup's information is correct on the hard-copy meeting schedule, and the website at *aanashville.org*. Confirm the Central Office has the name, address, phone and email of your groups primary contact and group treasurer. In addition, we ask that your group primary contact or IGR notify the Middle Tennessee Central Office regarding any changes to your meeting.

Help keep Alcoholics Anonymous solvent. Advise the group treasurer of where the 7th Tradition funds should go after the group's expenses are met

It is also important that your group have a primary contact, kept updated with the Middle Tennessee Central Office.

anonymous

Gratitude Month - It's here! How will your group celebrate this November?

What's Gratitude Month, anyway?

In November, we set aside time to express thanks to the fellowship. Gratitude month dates back to the 1940s when the General Service Board hosted gatherings to express personal gratitude for sobriety and appreciation to our professional friends for their articles, books, radio and T.V. interviews relating to A.A. over the past year.

In many Areas, Gratitude Month is traditionally practiced by passing the Seventh Tradition basket a second time, with the entirety of the collection from the second basket being contributed to Central Office.

However, groups around the country and around the world each have their own customs for celebrating Gratitude Month, including holding Tradition discussion meetings in place of the regular format, or by making "gratitude" the discussion topic during the month.

You may have heard that our General Service Office in NY has drawn down from their prudent reserve this year, largely due to a decrease in revenue from literature sales (thank you covid). Your group may want to consider supporting GSO with Gratitude Month collections this year as they build their prudent reserve back up.

Groups are encouraged to come up with their own imaginative ways to foster an attitude of gratitude among the fellowship.

Box 459, the GSO's newsletter, put it so well: "How about trying something new, something your group has never done before, which will make the members' gratitude more tangible and real?"

Here in the Nashville Area we've always been good about finding new and inventive ways to do things, so let's be creative!

anonymous

GRATITUDE

What can one say about gratitude? For one thing it is that make it possible for the newcomer to be helped, to me a way of showing that no matter what your higher power sends your way, there is something good in it. You might not see it right away, but time will tell.

One thing is that during this Covid-19 pandemic, I can't see where anyone could be grateful for all of the deaths. Also, the lasting health problems that many survivors might have to deal with. So, with that said, I try to find reasons to be grateful every day. Right now, I can be grateful that neither myself nor my family has contracted the virus. I can be grateful that even though I have not been able to get to in person meetings, I am still sober and am keeping up with my Program. I am grateful for systems in place

even if it is in a different way than normal.

I am fortunate that I am retired and don't have to go out to work, or work from home. The quarantine has given me more time at home, and I have been able to catch up on reading and found some new AA literature to read. It took me back to some of the literature I read a long time ago. I am looking at this time as a benefit to my Program because I am thinking some new thoughts because of new reading.

Most of all, it has helped me to realize that of all of the things I have to be grateful for since getting sober the thing that I am most grateful for is the fact that I (Continued on page 4)

GRATITUDE

(Continued from page 3)

have a life now. I realize that I have to thank my Higher Power for my sobriety and I have to do my part, but there is also life, family, hobbies that I have because of my sobriety and I can never take that for granted. We learn in our Program that what comes with that gratitude is the spirit of giving away what has been given to us.

Without the people in the Program and our fellowship and learning together I would be just another person reading books and going about my life as though I was all that mattered. As long as things go right for me, I can just be alone and happy with my family and my blessings. But that becomes an empty life. Sooner or later there is no more growth, and I would become complacent.

Another exercise that I did during this time to myself was to go back over my life before sobriety and look at all of the blessings that I had before that I did not see or care about. Now I can see that my life was not all bad. I can appreciate the good that was in my life. The people who helped me when I was ungrateful and

even rejected their help. It was a blessing that I did not see before. By the time I came into the Program, I was completely broken and had untreated mental illness and did nothing but exist. I don't want my new life to be one of just existing, even though I now have happiness and wellbeing. I feel like I need to contribute to society in order to grow. The new people that I meet help me to stay fresh and remember where I came from. I get satisfaction knowing

Judy K, Hudson Tuesday Night Clockwatchers



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 Oct—26th 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

Z-fects of Character

I find that I'm getting distracted looking at the computer screen.

And really...do I have to make that sandwich onscreen during the meeting?

Ever since the COVID lockdown in March, I've been attending virtual AA meetings. And I'm starting to develop what I call Z-fects.

One big Z-fect is being preoccupied with other matters during my virtual meetings. Nothing will harm me more than having one foot in AA and one foot out. I find that I'm getting really distracted looking at the computer screen. And though I can listen to a virtual meeting even while driving, it doesn't necessarily replace attending another meeting at another time, one I can give my full attention.

I have to say, it is nice visiting AA meetings all around the country and all over the world. But have I tried to actually reach out and meet the members in my own neighborhood or district or support their AA meeting?

Here's another Z-fect I have: When I'm in a live meeting and I start texting endlessly, someone eventually will let me know. "Pay attention," they'll say. But in a virtual meeting, I can hold my phone under the screen, and no one is the wiser. The same goes for having my earplugs in, my computer on mute and indulging in a phone conversation while someone is sharing. And really...do I have to make that sandwich onscreen during the meeting? Or how about waking up at the last minute and pressing the "on" button and not worrying about "attraction rather than promotion"? Ha-ha. I could at least have the courtesy to turn the video off until I'm out of my pajamas.

And then there's our children. We all love them, but while sharing, everyone in the meeting doesn't need to hear them. The same goes for our animals.

I have heard about as much as anyone on how to write a Fourth Step. And I've learned about my defects endlessly. I've learned a lot about pride, ego, control and just about every idea about God there is. But as our cofounders Dr. Bob and Bill learned early on, they were not going to keep each other sober; they needed to find another drunk. Another Z-fect is my lack of urgency lately in finding another drunk to work with.

These Steps are great to discuss, but where's Step Twelve fitting in for me? Alcohol got me here. Not discussing it can get me thirsty. Keep it simple!

MANUEL P. | ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine.org

I WENT LINE DANCING
LAST NIGHT.
WELL, IT WAS
A ROADSIDE
SOBRIETY TEST...
SAME THING.

One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part where Chicken Little warns the farmer. She read, "...and Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, "The sky is falling!" The teacher then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?" One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said: "Holy Sh"t! A talking chicken!" The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

Concept XI

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

In this, the second longest of the Concepts, Bill explains in great detail the composition, functions and relationships of the standing committees of the General Service Board, its subsidiary operating boards, the General Service Office and AA Grapevine — as they existed in 1962. As A.A. has grown and changed, many of the descriptions would be different today, and some of the issues that are addressed are no longer relevant. Nevertheless, the full text is valuable as an historical document, and many of the principles still apply, as summarized below.

Underlying the service structure we have been discussing, there is another, internal structure of service consisting of the nontrustee members of the trustees' committees; the nontrustee directors of the two operating boards, and the executives and staff members. "Members of this group," declares Bill, "not only *support* the leadership of the trustees: they *share* leadership with them."

The following are "several principles... which" apply to A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc.:

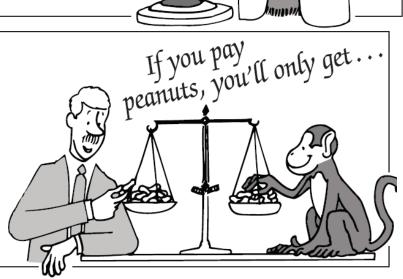
1. The status of executives

No active service can function well unless it has sustained and competent executive direction. This must always head up in *one person*, supported by such assistants as are needed. That person has to have ample freedom and authority to do the job, and should not be interfered with so long as the work is done well.



2. Paid workers, how compensated

Each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world.... Cheap help is apt to feel insecure and inefficient; it is very costly in the long run. This is neither good spirituality nor good business. Assuming service money is available, we should therefore compensate our workers well.





It's like musical hats!

3. Rotation among paid staff workers

At A.A.'s General Service Office, most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job in the place — excepting for office management.

Remember our worker in Concept IV.

4. Full "Participation" of paid workers is highly important

We have already discussed the necessity of giving key paid personnel a voting representation on our committees and corporate boards. They should enjoy a status suitable to their responsibility, just as our volunteers do.



ANY LENGTHS

Ashton M	11.25.19
Billie W	11.02.19
Collin D	11.14.19
Henny	11.29.19
Josh J	11.09.18

BACK ROOM

Chuck P	11.30.86
Kelly P	11.30.06
Logan F	11.11.19
Matt B	11.24.19
Sarah D	11.07.19

SHADE TREE

Christi C	11.19
Danny C	11.15
Eric L	11.19
Eric N	11.19
Evan M	11.03
Kayleigh K	11.19
Kelly L	11.19
Kevin F	11.93
Linda H	11.19
Lisa D	11.18
Mark B	11.18
Matthew S	11.19
Michael K	11.19
Michael T	11.90
Rodney K	11.19
Robin H	11.19
Tim H	11.99

WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION

Debbie H	11.24.04
Sandi Z	11.18.83
Sarah I	11.16.19

WOMEN'S SPEAKER

Bethany R	11.26.14
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Can you find the words below from the article on page 3—Gratitude Month—It's Here!?

	APPRECIATION ARTICLES					ATTITUDE							BASKET EXPRESS																								
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Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association

Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1

For the Month and Year Ended September, 2020

	\$	September 2020		YTD 2020					
		-	Budget			Budget			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
Income									
Net Literature Sales	2,801.77	2,783.00	18.77	16,288.30	25,047.00	(8,758.70)			
Group Donations	7,518.33	6,939.00	579.33	55,087.74	62,451.00	(7,363.26)			
Individual Donations	1,907.32	525.00	1,382.32	16,311.76	4,725.00	11,586.76			
Messenger Donations	-	12.00	(12.00)	24.00	108.00	(84.00)			
Website Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Special Events	-	708.00	(708.00)	-	6,372.00	(6,372.00)			
Interest	9.07	184.00	(174.93)	2,511.26	1,656.00	855.26			
Total Income	12,236.49	11,151.00	1,085.49	90,223.06	100,359.00	(10,135.94)			
Expenses									
Casual Labor	200.00	242.00	(42.00)	1,925.00	2,178.00	(253.00)			
Payroll	6,047.00	6,047.00	-	54,423.00	54,423.00	-			
Legal & Professional	350.00	350.00	-	3,150.00	3,150.00	-			
Rent	946.00	1,046.00	(100.00)	8,664.00	9,414.00	(750.00)			
Printing	-	50.00	(50.00)	-	450.00	(450.00)			
Payroll Taxes	462.00	463.00	(1.00)	3,819.78	4,167.00	(347.22)			
Repairs & Maintenance	-	25.00	(25.00)	-	225.00	(225.00)			
Equipment Rental	98.75	116.00	(17.25)	886.02	1,044.00	(157.98)			
Telephone & Fax	483.48	475.00	8.48	4,141.82	4,275.00	(133.18)			
Answering Service	181.70	216.00	(34.30)	1,953.80	1,944.00	9.80			
Postage	44.69	137.00	(92.31)	862.25	1,233.00	(370.75)			
Office Supplies	50.00	208.00	(158.00)	754.62	1,872.00	(1,117.38)			
Bank Service Charges	40.00	40.00	-	375.00	360.00	15.00			
Credit Card Service Charge	50.62	-	50.62	280.24	-	280.24			
Computer & Technology	1,092.86	416.00	676.86	5,198.41	3,744.00	1,454.41			
Intergroup Expense	-	150.00	(150.00)	346.98	1,350.00	(1,003.02)			
Insurance	-	200.00	(200.00)	-	1,800.00	(1,800.00)			
Special Events	-	375.00	(375.00)	1,298.00	3,375.00	(2,077.00)			
Travel	-	583.00	(583.00)	-	5,247.00	(5,247.00)			
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	358.18	-	358.18			
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Over/Under	<u> </u>	12.00	(12.00)	313.44	108.00	205.44			
Total Expenses	10,047.10	11,151.00	(1,103.90)	88,750.54	100,359.00	(11,608.46)			
Net Income	2,189.39		2,189.39	1,472.52		1,472.52			

Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

So in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person got the answer right to "Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?" This will be the first year we're not going to Hawaii because of Covid-19.

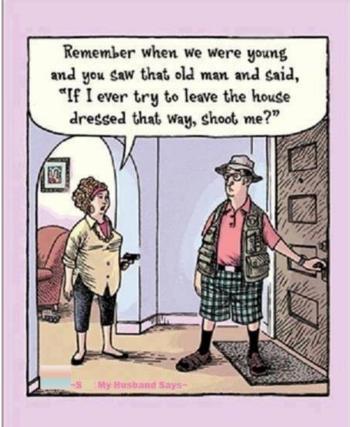
Normally we don't go because we can't afford it.

YOUR GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

an our A (Francis	app	I Imp
GROUP/MEETING	SEP	YTD
12 STEPS TO FREEDOM		90
86'ers		863
ANONYMOUS		97
AWOL		95
BACK TO THE BIG BOOK		125
BACKROOM	1,123	4,571
BASEMENT BUNCH		46
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON		670
BY THE BOOK, LEBANON	235	340
CELEBRATE SERENITY	50	363
CENTERVILLE	172	379
CHICKEN PLUCKERS		276
CLARK STREET		100
COLUMBIA	20	160
COMFORT ZONE		1,000
COMMUNICATIONS		125
COOL SPRINGS NEWCOMERS	100	100
CROSSVILLE NONSMKIN'		26
DAVIDSON RD		3,200
DICKSON	45	45
DISTRICT 9		300
DISTRICT 11		100
DOUBLE DIPPERS		31
DROP THE ROCK		150
DRUNKS IN THE PARK		1,775
EAST SIDE MEN'S STAGE	428	666
EAST SIDE SATURDAY	462	1,680
EASTSIDE SUNLIGHTERS	225	225
EASY DOES IT MT. JULIET		250
EVERY WOMAN HAS A STORY		301
FAIRFIELD GLADE		188
FAYETTEVILLE	25	75
FIRST THINGS FIRST		517
FOURTH DIMENSION	41	41
FRANKLIN		2,800
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S		101
FREE TO BE		401
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE		10
FRIDAY NIGHT PRIME TIME		50
G.O.D.		186
GOODLETTSVILLE		200
HARDING RD	125	375
HERMITAGE	100	100
HOPE PARK LITERATURE		65
HUT		30
IT'S A GREAT DAY		52
JOELTON		50
KEEP IT SIMPLE		397
KEY TO SOBRIETY		650
KICKOFF ISN'T UNTIL NOON		400
		-100

GROUP/MEETING	SEP	YTD
LADIES NIGHT OUT		50
LAFAYETTE NEW HOPE	50	100
LAMBDA	60	304
LAST STOP CLUB		100
LATE LUNCH BUNCH		2,900
LET IT HAPPEN		392
LIVING BY THE PRINCIPLES		535
LIVING BY THE PRINT		600
LIVINGSTON 12x12		25
MID-DAY BREAK		365
MT. JULIET FELLOWSHIP		100
MURFREESBORO	15	135
MUSIC CITY ROW		75
MUSTARD SEED		500
NEW BEGINNINGS		150
NIPPER'S CORNER	101	101
NOON WOMEN'S STEP STUDY		35
NORTHSIDE		150
N.O.W.	88	186
ONE DAY AT A TIME		6
ONE STEP CLOSER		590
OUT OF THE FOG/OUT OF THE BOG	300	1,360
OUT TO BREAKFAST BUNCH		255
PAGE 112		117
PAY DAY		132
PRIMARY PURPOSE		48
PULASKI	5	45
RIGHT DIRECTION		195
ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY	50	50
RUSHH HOUR		614
RUTS	250	500
SAFE HARBOR		100
SAFE PLACE		333
ST. BETHLEHEM		10
SANGO SOLUTIONS		120
SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE		100
SEEKERS, SPARTA	500	1,000
SEEKING SANITY		237
SERENITY	25	150
SERENITY IN THE PARK		186
SHADE TREE	614	3,343
SIMPLY SUNDAY		368
SISTERS IN SOBRIETY		129
SMYRNA GRATITUDE	1,010	4,183
SPRING HILL		90
SPIRITUAL WARFARE		115
SOS HOHENWALD		61
SSS, HERMITAGE		160

GROUP/MEETING	0	YTD
STRAGGLERS		625
THERE IS A SOLUTION		50
TRINITY		500
TURNING POINT		300
UNITED	200	900
UNITY AT 6		60
VALLEY VIEW	400	400
WAKE UP		120
WANGL		320
WAVERLY		90
WEST NASHVILLE		97
WEST NASHVILLE UNITED	100	100
WESTMINSTER		600
WINNERS & BEGINNERS	535	899
WOMEN IN RECOVERY		126
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION	50	300
WOMEN'S FREEDOM		419
WOMEN'S OPEN DOOR		151
WOMEN'S SPEAKER		225
WOODBINE	15	25
GROUP TOTALS TO DATE	7,518	55,088
INDIVIDUALS	1,907	16,312
MESSENGER		24
MEMORIAL, TOM KING		100
COMBINED TOTALS TO DATE	9,425	71,524



- 1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
- 2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
- 3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
- 4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
- 5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
- 6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- 7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
- 8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
- 9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
- 10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- 11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
- 12. Appropriate analogy. "The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now" is like saying The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now."
- 13. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & asking for money.
- 14. The spread of COVID-19 is based on 2 things:
 - 1. How dense the population is.
 - 2. How dense the population is.



Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup Association

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