

Míddle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

A P R 2023 M E S S E N G E R

MESSENGER DESIGNATED DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Suggested donations are \$1.00 an issue which hasn't gone up in years (or any amount you would like to specify).

Central Office-

417 Welshwood Dr., # 207,

Nashville, TN 37211,

Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm,

Business-(615) 832-1136

Fax-(615) 834-5982,

Hot Line (615) 831-1050,

(800) 559-2252

(outside local area),

Articles for

The Messenger—

mtcoaa@aol.com

or

blamethemessenger@ gmail.com

Websitewww.aanashville.org

Tradition Four

An groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is apparamount.

Tradition Four is a specific application of general principles already outlined in Traditions One and Two. Tradition One states : "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." Tradition Two states: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience."

With these concepts in mind, let us look more closely at Tradition Four. The first sentence guarantees each AA group local autonomy. With respect to its own affairs, the group may make any decisions, adopt any attitudes that it likes. No overall or intergroup authority should challenge this primary privilege. We feel this ought to be so, even though the group might sometimes act with complete indifference to our Tradition. For example, an AA group could, if it wished, hire a paid preacher and support him out of the proceeds of a group nightclub. Though such an absurd procedure would be

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

On the Cover TRADITION FOUR

> STEERING COMMITTEE Page 3

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS Page 4

INTERGROUP OFFICERS LISTING Page 4

> EVENTS Page 6

GENERAL INFORMATION Page 7

BIRTHDAYS Page 7

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS INVENTORY Page 8

AA SERVICE WORK Page 9

> FINANCIALS Page 10

CONTRIBUTIONS Page 11



Tradition Four

(Continued from page 1)

miles outside our Tradition, the group's "right to be wrong" would be held inviolate. We are sure that each group can be granted, and safely granted, these most extreme privileges. We know that our familiar process of trial and error would summarily eliminate both the preacher and the nightclub. These severe growing pains which invariably follow any radical departure from AA Tradition can be absolutely relied upon to bring an erring group back into line. An AA group need not be coerced by any human government over and above its own members. Their own experience, plus AA opinion in surrounding groups, plus God's prompting in their group conscience would be sufficient. Much travail has already taught us this. Hence we may confidently say to each group, "You should be responsible to no other authority than your own conscience."

Yet please note one important qualification. It will be seen that such extreme liberty of thought and action applies only to the group's own affairs. Rightly enough, this Tradition goes on to say, "But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, these groups ought to be consulted." Obviously, if any individual, group, or regional committee could take an action that might seriously affect the welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole or seriously disturb

surrounding groups, that would not be liberty at all. It would be sheer license; it would be anarchy, not democracy.

AAs Therefore, we have universally adopted the principle of consultation. This means that if a single AA group wishes to take an action that might affect surrounding groups, it consults them. Or, it confers with the intergroup committee for the area, if there be one. Likewise, if a group or regional committee wishes to take any action that might affect AA as a whole, it consults the trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation, who are, in effect, our overall general service committee. For instance, no group or inter group could feel free to initiate, without consultation, any publicity that might affect AA as a whole. Nor could it assume to represent the whole of Alcoholics Anonymous by printing and distributing anything purporting to be AA standard literature. This same principle would naturally apply to all similar situations. Though there is no formal compulsion do so. all to undertakings of this general character are customarily checked with our AA general Headquarters.

This idea is clearly summarized in the last sentence of Tradition Four, which observes, "On such issues our common welfare is paramount." *Bill W.—March 1948 Reprinted with permission—The A.A.*

Grapevine, Inc.,

MANAGER'S REPORT

JANUARY 23, 2023

First, thanks to all of you serving on Intergroup. Your Middle Tennessee Central Office had a fantastic 2022. AA members, meetings and Groups supported the Central Office, and we congratulate one another.

We finished 2022 with over \$12,000 profit, highlighted by total contributions of \$101,746 with \$82,593 from groups and individual donations of \$19,153.

To give back to the fellowship, to help the newcomer and to carry our message, BIG BOOK prices are being greatly reduced in the year 2023 as follow:

| \$9.50 BIG BOOKS HARD COVER are now | \$8.50 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| \$10.30BIG BOOKS LARGE PRINT are now | \$8.50 |
| \$9.10 BIG BOOKS SOFT COVER are now | \$8.00 |
| | * • • • |

\$5.00 BIG BOOKS POCKET EDITION now \$4.50

In addition,

.25cent DESIRE CHIPS are now \$0.00 (limit 25 monthly)

We currently sell almost 6,000 desire chips a year at a cost of \$1,320. We anticipate distributing more, a nice way to make sure we greet and welcome new comers and "returners".

Obviously, these price cuts will reduce our budgeted Net Literature profits of \$32,400, but as contributions continue, this is not a big concern.

Again, THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!

Higher Interest rates are also big news. We have not collected much interest on our prudent reserve CD's in almost 8 years. We added \$10,000 to our current CD for a total of \$85,000, which will result in \$3,500 interest over the next 13 months. The rate was 4.1%, a big boost to our bottom line. There is a total prudent reserve of \$109,993 and \$26,000 in the Transition Fund.

Our Intergroup Committee budget is \$1,800 for 2023. If our Committee chairs attend the Quarterly Assembly, they are given \$150 for expenses. The Intergroup budget is also used for Intergroup activities such as workshops, literature, and booth rentals.

We have open Committee Chair positions for – treatment, - archives, - accessibility. Keeping in mind our RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT – these are "hands' not reaching out, but together we can cover these positions. New Intergroup Orientations need renewal, helping communicate these Committee needs.

Our Office hours are 9-1 Mon-Sat with Volunteers answering phones 1-5 Mon-Fri.

As always, our work together is multiplied, SYNERGY – The interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Uncomfortable--but not dangerous

WHEN I was new in AA, I went through a period of sleeplessness. This was perfectly natural. For years I had passed out, and this at some early hour of the morning when I staggered home from a gin mill. I saw neither the stars nor the morning sun. I was living in the terrible inner world of sick, drunken self-preoccupation. I did not know the time of day, the seasons, the calendar. Time and space, waking and sleeping, eating and working, all were fragmented, distorted and unreal. I had no awareness of other people or what was going on in the world.

Sobering up in AA is waking up to reality and having to face it--before we have achieved any balance or peace of mind. We have the habits of a bottle-fed infant. Sucking on the booze is now denied us, and our stomach is outraged. It squalls loudly and tells all our other organs how badly we

are treating it. They promptly go on strike, so of course we are in for a battle, physiologically. Also, our world outside is a mess. We made it so. We have to face the smoking ruins, not knowing how we will ever rebuild. Not a brick in sight!

This is first-rate insomnia material, and don't I know. My anxiety would start at night, after the AA meeting was over. I did not want to go home alone to my apartment, for it was a mirror-perfect reflection of the last year of my drinking, and of me. A sad untidy place, ugly to behold. I would listen others bid each other a cheerful to goodnight. They were going home willingly and without fear. The stories I heard at meetings began to seem quite false to me. They had no relation to the sober happy people who told them. Nobody else was suffering as I was. Nobody was so confused, sick and alone.

(Continued on page 5)

FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH: District 30 Meeting When: 6:30pm – 7:30pm Zoom ID: 283 536 1220

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH: Intergroup Meeting When: 5:45pm – 6:45pm Where: Central Office 417 Welshwood

STEERING COMMITTEE When: Monday Apr 24th 5:45pm – 6:45pm Where: Central Office 417 Welshwood

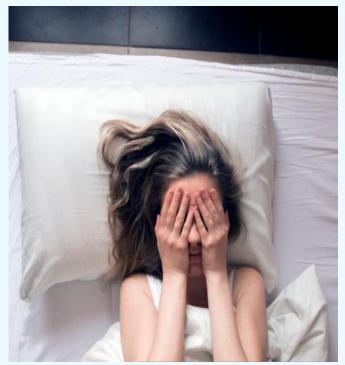
FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH: District 32 Meeting When: 6:30pm Where: Last Stop Club 2122 Utopia

SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH District 34 Meeting When: 10am Where: 200 E. Cedar St Goodlettsville

| CENTRAL OFFICE POSITIONS | OFFICER NAME | PHONE NUMBER |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson | Garrett D | 615.957.7674 |
| Central Office Manager | Charles C | 615.973.9898 |
| Central Office Bookkeeper | Bill M | 615.512.5710 |
| Vice Chairperson | Jason S | |
| Secretary | Lindsey T | 615.260.6295 |
| Treasurer | Karla H | 619.804.5786 |
| Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community | Al C | 615.587.1616 |
| Accessibility Committee | | |
| Corrections | Stephen T | 615.926.9467 |
| Treatment Facilities | Darin M | 615.423.2620 |
| Events Chair | Brian | 615.406.6361 |
| Archives | | |
| Sobriety Dinner | Brian | 615.406.6361 |
| Newsletter Editor | Pat P | 228.254.7053 |
| | | |

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Having thus compounded my self-pity, I would force myself to return to the dreary address where I existed, and that horrid little bed where I now tried to go to sleep.



I would lie there in the dark and say to myself, "But I'm sober. I won't wake up with a hangover. They say my mind, my body and my life will all straighten out in time. I won't spend tomorrow throwing up, swearing off for life. This is my only hope."

But gratitude is not achieved overnight, guilt is not shed in a day, fear does not dissolve at a command. Resentments crowded my thinking and, since I had no control over my thinking, the ugly hates and fears would race around a midnight steeplechase track, witches and warlocks riding hippogriffs and hyenas, jumping over heaps of dreadful dead things. I'd turn on the light, reach for a cigarette, read the Twelve Steps. "Came to suspect that this is a bunch of bunk." "Made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the bottle in the hall closet and have one snort, so I can sleep." My heart beat angrily, I shook.

But my sponsor said, "Nobody ever died from lack of sleep. Just lie there. You are resting. Don't fight so hard. Your symptoms are uncomfortable, but not dangerous. The only thing that's dangerous is another drink. The only drink you mustn't take is today. Tonight, that is."

"Well," I'd say to myself. "Just one night. I can live through this. I've lived through years of hell, drunk. I can endure the onset of sobriety. For in this does lie my hope. My sponsor is with me. I don't know where God is, but these people are with me.

"It says to turn your will and your life over to God as you understand Him. Well, that's the program. Stop this compulsive battle with yourself. Turn out the light and lie down."

Turning your will and your life over, to me, means winning the battle by stopping it. I have never been conscious of progress through decisive victory at any given time. My progress in AA has been a slow growth, which seems almost like a by-product of being in AA. I don't remember when I began sleeping normally, but it wasn't too long after I sobered up. A month, perhaps a few weeks. I no longer feel alone and put upon when I go home from a meeting. Oh yes, let's be honest, I do sometimes. But the midnight phantasmagoria no longer grab me as they did. The moment of bleak aloneness is soon over. Every morning and every evening, I not only thank God for my sobriety, but also for learning as much as I have learned about the toxic thinking that can make me sick, mentally and physically, and keep me from sleeping.

I now review all the pleasant things in my life, and enjoy them in retrospect. This is very restful. Gratitude is wonderful for sleep.

> *F.M.*—Manhattan, NY Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine



Corrections Correspondence

—a special kind of A.A. Service

I know how important our Twelfth Step work is and I enjoy writing to men who are locked up. It is one of the tools that I use to keep me sober. I myself found A.A. in prison almost 20 years ago. And it hasn't been necessary for me to return to prison since I was -Outside Correspondent released

We are in need of A.A. members on the "outside" to correspond with A.A. members in correctional facilities across the U.S. and Canada.

Having prison experience is not a prerequisite - sobriety in A.A. is. Inmates are more interested in learning how we got and staved sober through A.A.'s Twelve Steps, rather than hearing about time we may have spent in prison.

Taken from the pamphlet, Corrections Correspondence - a special kind of service. View the full pamphlet - Here

(Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

PODCAST -

A.A. Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour

Tune in to always the about

hear funny, poignant, and inspiring "meeting after meeting" conversation AAGRAPEVINE getting sober and staying

sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

PODCAST

CONTROL & CLICK

HOLD

Free wherever you listen to podcast or at www.grapevine.org/podcast





HOLD CONTROL & CLICK

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

| KEEP IT SIMPLE | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 4.07.13 | |
| 4.08.15 | |
| 4.07.19 | |
| 4.11.15 | |
| 4.28.17 | |
| | |

| NIPPERS CORNER | |
|----------------|---------|
| Austin T | 4.29.21 |
| Bobby H | 4.16.17 |
| Mark M | 4.08.12 |
| Stephen S | 4.18.22 |

| ANY LENGTHS | |
|-------------|---------|
| Angel O | 3.01.22 |
| Ashley P | 3.12.22 |
| Billy B | 3.15.22 |
| Carla D | 3.01.22 |
| | |

Page 8

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS INVENTORY

INVENTORY QUESTIONS

- 1. Do I share my concerns I have for the group welfare with other members of my group?
- 2. Do I participate in group business and group conscience meetings wherever I am?
- 3. Am I a good leader, serving my group according to the group conscience and not making decision and rules based on what I personally feel is good for the group?
- 4. Do I encourage my group not to make decisions and carry out actions that may adversely affect other AA groups or AA as a whole?
- 5. Do I encourage my group to cooperate but not affiliate or imply affiliation with outside entities?
- 6. Do I notify the proper people when I observe an anonymity break at the level of press, radio, Internet, meetings, TV, and films?
- 7. Do I support my group by contributing money to help the group pay its expenses, thus enabling it to be self-supporting?
- 8. Do I encourage my group to contribute extra funds to the service entities within AA?
- 9. Do I guide the people I sponsor in carrying the message of recovery as described in the AA literature?
- 10. Do I encourage my group to stick to our primary purpose of recovery from alcoholism?
- 11. When speaking at meetings do I keep to my personal story on alcoholism and my recovery from alcoholism?
- 12. Do I practice placing principles before personalities in everything I do?
- 13. If a non-alcoholic comes to a closed AA meeting, do I lovingly take that person aside and in a gentle and courteous manner explain that Alcoholic Anonymous is for recovery from alcoholism? Do I help in steering that individual to a program of recovery for his or her addiction?
- 14. Do I continue to practice humility in all that I do?

If I can honestly answer yes to these questions, I know that my personal program of recovery from alcoholism is on the right track.

If I must debate any of these questions in my mind, I know there is something in my thinking that is causing turmoil within myself. Most of the time, the solution has been rereading and reapplying the Twelve Traditions to my complicated mind to get my personal program of recovery strong and healthy again. By equally combining the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, I no longer work half a program of recovery.



THE 12 STEPS SAVE ME FROM MYSELF THE 12 TRADITIONS SAVE AA FROM OURSELVES

(October 1989 AA Grapevine) with updates to #6



AA SERVICE WORK

Confession of a Long Timer

I have been in the Fellowship for 37 years...my name is Dave Z., I'm an alcoholic.

I was asked the other day, by my significant other, what my thoughts were about service work. Together we pondered why there has been an ongoing struggle to fill our committees and the commitments AA has made to the community.



When I came to the rooms in 1985, I heard "don't drink and go to meetings" which was all I was capable of at the time. As the years went by I agreed to represent the West End Group, as the Intergroup Representative and GSR. I was also the Treasurer (for life it seemed) and all the while working a demanding swing shift job. Isn't that enough?? ... I thought so.

I was persuaded next to join the Hospital Committee and at they had a full roster then. I was told that even with the always changing work shifts, I was to just do the best I could and this took the pressure off. I couldn't make every commitment, but there were lots of members to cover me. I really benefited from serving on this committee for 2 years.

It helped me come out of my shell, spread hope to those who really needed it and form some relationships with members of the fellowship.

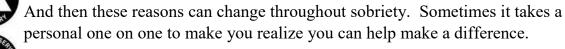
Now the confession: this is the only committee I have served on. Why haven't I jumped on another committee? I've always had a handful of excuses.

We all join committees for different reasons:



It's good for me It's good for others It's good for the fellowship

Survey State





I don't need to join a committee to stay sober today. I need to join a committee to help Alcoholics Anonymous keep reaching the sick and suffering. I am an example that AA works, I've been sober over half my life now.



Again, I can show up to a committee and do my best...God will do the rest...always!































Dave Z. – Area 55 – 02.02.23



Page 10

NEW A.A. MEETING! <u>The McEwen</u> <u>No Matter What Group</u>

Starting Sunday, March 19, 2023

Every Sunday: 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

FORMAT: OPEN DISCUSSION

LOCATION: McEwen First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 75 E. Long St. McEwen TN, 37101

Right off Highway 70 across from the Dairy Queen. The fellowship hall is the yellow building behind the church close to the water tower.

Contact: 931-209-3545 615-617-7596



Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association

Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1

For the Two Months and Year Ended February 28, 2023

| | | February 2023 | | | YTD 2023 | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | | | Budget | | | Budget |
| | | Budget | Variance | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Net Literature Sales | 2,080.34 | 2,700.00 | (619.66) | 4,500.36 | 5,400.00 | (899.64) |
| Group Donations | 6,458.32 | 6,598.00 | (139.68) | 18,828.64 | 13,196.00 | 5,632.64 |
| Individual Donations | 969.53 | 1,480.00 | (510.47) | 3, <mark>652.75</mark> | 2,960.00 | 692.75 |
| Messenger Donations | i- | 5.00 | (5.00) | 35.00 | 10.00 | 25.00 |
| Website Donations | 3 . 3 | | 40 J 20 | | | - |
| Special Events | - | 416.00 | (416.00) | 1 27 | 832.00 | (832.00) |
| Interest | | 10.00 | (10.00) | 2,418.36 | 20.00 | 2,398.36 |
| Total Income | 9,508.19 | 11,209.00 | (1,700.81) | 29,435.11 | 22,418.00 | 7,017.11 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total Expenses | 10,836.18 | 11,209.00 | (372.82) | 22,238.67 | 22,418.00 | (179.33) |
| Net Income | (1,327.99) | • | (1,327.99) | 7,196.44 | | 7,196.44 |

APR 2023 MESSENGER

| GROUP / MEETING | FEB 2023 | YTD |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|
| 86'ers | 333 | 333 |
| AWOL | 64 | 64 |
| BACK TO THE BIG BOOK | | 60 |
| BACKROOM | | 747 |
| BROWN BAG | | 120 |
| BY THE BOOK, DICKSON | 102 | 102 |
| BYRDSTOWN | 40 | 40 |
| CENTERVILLE | | 100 |
| CHICKEN PLUCKERS | | 1,176 |
| CLARK STREET | | 100 |
| COLUMBIA | | 90 |
| COMFORT ZONE | | 450 |
| CROSSVILLE | | 34 |
| DAVIDSON RD | | 1,500 |
| DICKSON | | 75 |
| EAST SIDE MEN'S STAG | | 800 |
| EAST SIDE SATURDAY | | 291 |
| EVERY WOMAN HAS A STORY | 7 | 55 |
| FAYETTEVILLE | | 25 |
| FIVE AND FIVE | | 200 |
| FRANKLIN | 349 | 349 |
| FREE TO BE | | 132 |
| FRIENDS IN RECOVERY | | 225 |
| G.A.A. GALLATIN | | 25 |
| HARDING RD | | 125 |
| HOW IT WORKS, MENS | | 100 |
| KEY TO SOBRIETY | 120 | 120 |
| LADIES NIGHT OUT | 105 | 105 |
| LAMBDA | | 294 |
| LATE LUNCH BUNCH | | 1,100 |
| LIVINGSTON 12x12 | | 25 |
| MEN'S LOG CABIN | 237 | 237 |
| MURFREESBORO | 20 | 35 |
| MUSTARD SEED | 200 | 200 |
| ON AWAKENING | 800 | 800 |
| ONE PURPOSE | 25 | 50 |
| ONE STEP CLOSER | | 313 |
| OUT OF FOG/OUT OF BOG | | 400 |

| GROUP / MEETING | FEB 2023 | YTD |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| OUT TO BREAKFAST | | 251 |
| PAGE 112 | 148 | 148 |
| PAY DAY | 300 | 300 |
| PEACE IN THE PARK | 350 | 350 |
| PORTLAND UNITY | 30 | 30 |
| PRIMARY PURPOSE ROLLING | ; | 176 |
| PULASKI | 30 | 60 |
| RECOVERY ON THE ROW | | 778 |
| ROBERTSON COUNTY | 10 | 20 |
| SAFE PLACE | | 73 |
| ST. A'S | | 130 |
| SANGO SOLUTIONS | | 150 |
| SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE | 20 | 40 |
| SEEKERS | 500 | 500 |
| SERENITY, MURF | 100 | 100 |
| SERENITY IN THE PARK | | 96 |
| SHADE TREE | 1,791 | 1,791 |
| SISTERS IN SOBRIETY CROSSVILLE | | 33 |
| SSS, HERMITAGE | | 364 |
| STRAGGLERS | | 350 |
| THANKFUL CONTEMPLATION | 600 | 600 |
| TURNING POINT | | 733 |
| UNITY AT 6 | 150 | 150 |
| WAKE UP | 33 | 33 |
| WAVERLY | | 60 |
| WEEKENDERS | | 300 |
| WEST NASHVILLE | | 50 |
| WINNERS & BEGINNERS | | 167 |
| GROUP MONTHLY TOTALS | 6,458 | 18,829 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 970 | 3,653 |
| MESSENGER | 35 | 70 |
| COMBINED TOTALS TO | | |
| DATE | 7,463 | 22,551 |

Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup Association

417 Welshwood Drive Suite 207 Nashville, TN 37211

615.832.1136 800.559.2252

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. Postage Paid Nashville, TN Permit No. 517

Middle TN Central Intergroup Association 417 Welshwood Drive, Suite 207 Nashville, TN 37211

ph. 615.832.1136 Ph. 800.559.2252 fax. 615.834.5982 or e-mail address changes to: <u>mtcoaa@aol.com</u>



Time to Change?

New / Renewal Subscription

Address Change

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 office at the address/phone number listed in this issue.

| NAME | |
|-------------|-------|
| ADDRESS | |
| CITY | STATE |
| PHONE | ZIP |
| OLD ADDRESS | |