# The Elisabeth Control of the Control

# Míddle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

NOV 2023 MESSENGER

## **Step Eleven**

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscience contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

#### **Tradition Eleven**

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

## **Concept Eleven**

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants.

Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ANNUAL SOBRIETY DINNER	1
BILL W—ON THE 11th TRADITION	2
SELF-SUPPORTING	4
INTERGROUP OFFICERS / TRUSTED SERVANTS	4
WWW.AANASHVILLE.ORG	5
EVENTS	6
HAPPY SWELTERING THANKSGIVING	7
DARK GROUPS	8
FINANCIALS	10
CONTRIBUTIONS	10 & 11

#### MESSENGER DESIGNATED DONATIONS APPRECIATED at aanashville.org

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

WE ARE SELF-SUPPORTING THROUGH OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS

#### TRADITION ELEVEN

#### BY: BILL W.

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. - From the October 1948 Grapevine

Providence has been looking after the public relations of Alcoholics Anonymous. It can scarcely have been otherwise. Though we are more than a dozen years old, hardly a syllable of criticism or ridicule has ever been spoken of AA. Somehow we have been spared all the pains of medical or religious controversy and we have good friends both wet and dry, right and left. Like most societies, we are sometimes scandalous--but never yet in public. From all over the world, naught comes but keen sympathy and downright admiration. Our friends of the press and radio have outdone themselves. Anyone can see that we are in a fair way to be spoiled. Our reputation is already so much better than our actual character!

Surely these phenomenal blessings must have a deep purpose. Who doubts that this purpose wishes to let every alcoholic in the world know that AA is truly for him, can he only want his liberation enough. Hence, our messages through public channels have never been seriously discolored, nor has the searing breath of prejudice ever issued from anywhere.

Good public relations are AA lifelines reaching out to the alcoholic who still does not know us. For years to come, our growth is sure to depend upon the strength and number of these lifelines. One serious public relations calamity could always turn thousands away from us to perish--a matter of life and death indeed!

The future poses no greater problem or challenge to AA than how best to preserve a friendly and vital relation to all the world about us. Success will rest heavily upon right principles, a wise vigilance, and the deepest personal

(Continued on page 3)

## Middle Tennessee Central Office-

417 Welshwood Dr., # 207, Nashville, TN 37211,

Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm,

Phone -(615) 832-1136 \* Fax-(615) 834-5982, Hot Line (615) 831-1050, (800) 559-2252

Email- mtcoaa@aol.com \* Website- www.aanashville.org

#### (Continued from page 2)

responsibility on the part of every one of us. Nothing less will do. Else our brother may again turn his face to the wall because we did not care enough.

So the Eleventh Tradition stands sentinel over the lifelines, announcing that there is no need for self-praise, that it is better to let our friends recommend us, and that our whole public relations policy, contrary to usual customs, should be based upon the principle of *attraction* rather than promotion. Shot-in-the-arm methods are not for us--no press agents, no promotional devices, no big names. The hazards are too great. Immediate results will always be illusive because easy shortcuts to notoriety can generate permanent and smothering liabilities.

More and more, therefore, are we emphasizing the principle of personal anonymity as it applies to our public relations. We ask of each other the highest degree of personal responsibility in this respect. As a movement we have been, before now, tempted to exploit the names of our well-known public characters. We have rationalized that other societies, even the best, do the same. As individuals, we have sometimes believed that the public use of our names could demonstrate our personal courage in the face of stigma, so lending power and conviction to news stories and magazine articles.

But these are not the allures they once were. Vividly, we are becoming aware that no member ought to describe himself in full view of the general public as an AA, even for the most worthy purpose, lest a perilous precedent be set which would tempt others to do likewise for purposes not so worthy.

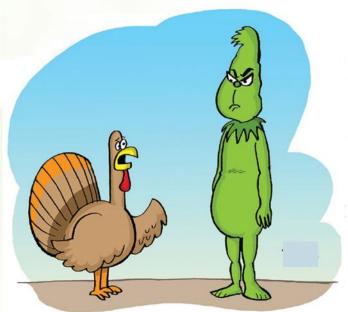
We see that on breaking anonymity by press, radio, or pictures, any one of us could easily transfer the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous over onto any enterprise or into the midst of any controversy.

# ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION

More and more, therefore, are we emphasizing the principle of personal anonymity as it applies to our public relations. We ask of each other the highest degree of personal responsibility in this respect. As a movement we have been, before

To the million alcoholics who have not yet heard our AA story, we should ever say. "Greetings and welcome. Be assured that we shall never weaken the lifelines which we float out to you. In our public relations, we shall, God willing, keep the faith."





"We'd like to hire you to steal Thanksgiving."

## WE ARE SELF-SUPPORTING THROUGH OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS

Our groups, our
areas, and AA as
a whole, will not
function unless
our services are
sufficient and
their bills are
paid when we
are generous
are generous with the hat
(basket) we give
a token that we
are grateful for
our blessings
and evidence
that we are eager
to share what we
have found with
all those who
still suffer.
(The Language of
the Heart, pg

251.)

	ITEM		YR - 1980	vs.	YR - 2023
****	Milk per gallon		1.59		3.54
	Postage Stamp		.22		.66
CENT	Coffee per pound	3	1.90		4.99
	Bacon per pound		1.69		7.63
	Tomatoes per pound		.39		1.84
	Eggs Dozen		.88		4.42
	Value of a Dollar Bill 1980 vs. Today		1.00		3.74

CENTRAL OFFICE	OFFICER	<b>PHONE</b>
POSITIONS	NAME	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	Charlie B	615.554.9085
Treatment Facilities		
<b>Events Chair</b>	Brian	615.406.6361
Archives		
Sobriety Dinner	Brian	615.406.6361
Newsletter Editor	Pat P	228.254.7053

# 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 Jan 22nd 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

# WWW.AANASHVILLE.ORG YOUR WEBSITE YOUR HOME SCREEN



#### Latest News

Meeting list is updated regularly. We depend upon trusted servants of each group to provide us with updated and accurate information. Meeting additions, deletions, and updates for both In Person and Online may be sent to midtn@bellsouth.net

New Book Prices 2023

## About Us

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. Copyright by The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CENTRAL OFFICE

# The Messenger Here is the electronic copy of the **October Messenger**

The Messenger is available in Adobe's PDF format.

If you don't already have the *Adobe Acrobat Reader*, you may download it from here before getting your *Messenger*.

MESSENGER ARCHIVES

# EVENTS IN MIDDLE

**TENNESSEE** 

(Click to view flyer)

Middle Tennessee Intergroup Annual Sobriety Dinner

Friendship House 60th Anniversary

Brentwood Prime Time Men's Group 2023 Fall Retreat

N.O.W. Annual Women's Holiday Party 2023

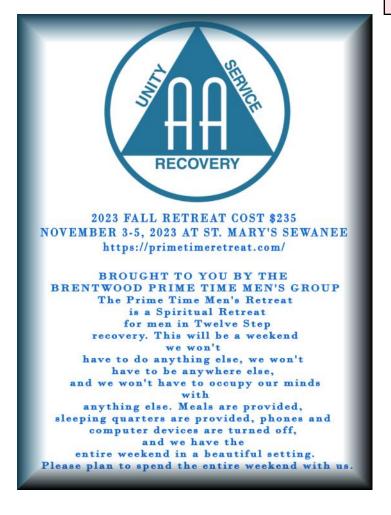
Stepping Into Serenity Women's Conference

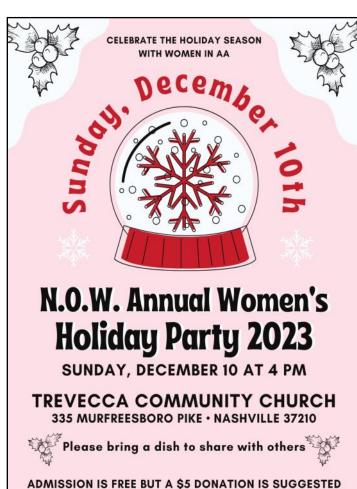
Gratitude Roundup

Lewisburg Primary Purpose Big Book Study Group Meeting List









STEPPING INTO SERENITY
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024
CHATTANOOGA, TN



Hotel Info: Doubletree by Hilton 407 Chestnut Street Chattanooga, TN 37402 423-756-5150 Room Rates: \$121.00 Reservation Code: SIS Reserve by: 01/23/2024



#### **SPEAKERS**

Jennifer D. Wilmington, NC Step 1 Mari G. Markham, Canada Step 2 & 3 Judith R. Bismark, ND Step 4 & 5 Amy D. Louisville, KY Step 6 & 7 Leslie S. Atlanta, GA Step 8 & 9 Step 10 & 11 Jessica J. Georgetown, TX Brenda J. Mckinney, TX Step 12 Diane A. Nashville, TN Alanon Registration: \$30 until January 1st, 2024

Registration: \$30 until January 1st, 2024 At the Door: \$35 after January 1st, 2024

Please make check or money order to "SIS" and mail to Stepping Into Serenity

> P.O. Box 21203 Chattanooga, TN 37424

www.steppingintoserenity.org

# It's 100 degrees, the family is nuts and the turkey's burning. Thank God I'm is sober.

So Albert brought home a gigantic frozen turkey. I'm grateful that he was considerate and bought the thing in the first place, but it took a considerable amount of our collective concentration all week long to decide how to deal with it. First, it had to be thawed. It sat out on the countertop for what seemed to me to be a dangerously long time; then it got brined in the sink. Next it lived in the fridge, becoming a silent member of the family, lurking about in various locations of the kitchen all week long.

Finally, cooking day arrived. Much argument ensued about stuffing ingredients. Albert likes to put in strange and exotic things; I like to keep the stuffing simple and traditional. After what seemed to be an eternity of stand off, a compromise was reached regarding two batches of stuffing. Then came the eminent debate about cooking times for our new friend. The turkey was so large, it took a joint effort to put it in the oven. I'm truly surprised it fit in at all. It was decided it would cook for 30 minutes at 400 degrees, and then be turned down to 325 for the next four hours.



At this point, Albert sequestered himself in his bathroom where he commenced to down a copious amount of vodka. The biggest problem was that he didn't have any idea how drunk he was getting. He thought he

was functioning completely normally, but he was not. He came out of his chambers, and did something to the oven. It's a tricky oven; it's digital. So it's easy to accidentally push the heat button and think you're pushing the time button, and vice versa, especially if you are lit. Albert got really ticked off when he thought I had left the bird at 400 for too long, when actually he had simply hit the wrong button and increased the temperature by accident.

We recovered from this mistake. By then our son Sam had put on "The Twilight Zone" marathon on TV, so the mood in the place was getting strange. Between drunk Albert and Rod Serling, you could almost cut the tension with a knife. Everything was made worse because it was about 90 degrees outside. Our little apartment gets really hot and the area where the TV is gets no crossventilation. So with the heat wave outside, and what the oven mandated, we had to turn on the air conditioner, which is really loud. This meant the TV had to be turned up so we could hear the creepy tales being told even louder. I was grateful when it was time to go get my mom.

Whenever I pick my mom up for a doctor's appointment, a shopping run, a come-overfor-turkey-day fun, whatever the event, she requires a minimum of 45 minutes to collect all of her belongings. Keep in mind that it's only a 15-minute drive to my place, yet she needed stock tissues, to pharmacopeia of potentially necessary pills, at least one change of clothes in case of drastic weather change or spillage of food (the latter being the real threat), and makeup, lots and lots of makeup. She also decided she needed to bring her computer; for what reason, I can't imagine.

Finally, she was packed and ready to go. Back in the apartment, we found Sam in his room, zoning out on computer games. Albert was nowhere to be found. "The Twilight

(Continued on page 9)

## DARK GROUPS

# A member discusses the phenomenon of groups who don't participate in area service

I am disturbed by the current trend in our area of calling groups that choose not to participate in area service 'dark' groups. Besides the implied racism, the term suggests of an attitude of superiority. Imagine that; a drunk that thinks he's better than another drunk.

Throughout AA history, there have been meetings and groups. As described in the pamphlet, The AA Group, "...some AA members hold AA meetings that differ from the common understanding of a group. These members simply gather at a time and place for a meeting ... The main difference between meetings and groups is that AA groups generally continue to exist outside the prescribed meeting hours ... "

Many of these 'so called' dark meetings are indeed a beacon of light for those who attend. It is there they find recovery from the ravishes of alcoholism. Our local stag groups are often singled out for their lack of participation in area service, but there is solid recovery in those groups and at least a dozen men I wouldn't hesitate to recommend for sponsorship.

While volunteering at the local intergroup, I was approached by a man remorseful of his ongoing violence towards his spouse and I knew instantly where to send him. I saw him a few years later and although I didn't recognize him, he

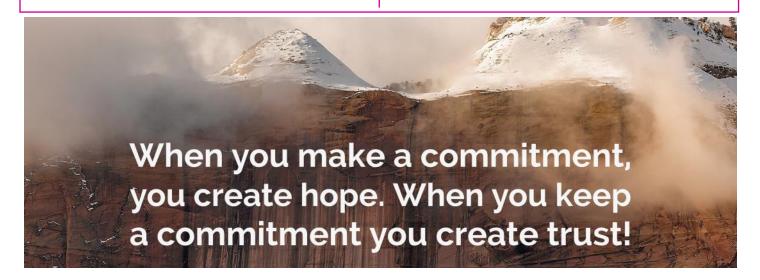
remembered me and thanked me for sending him to the stag group. He related that he was now sober and that the aforementioned issue had also been resolved.

As long as alcoholics continue to find recovery from alcoholism in these meetings, then the meetings are serving a very useful service and should continue to do so. If that's what they do well, then that's what they should do. Do I believe the area could benefit from their participation? Yes, but it's not for me to say how to run their meeting any more than telling an individual how to work their program.

Even older than the distinction between meetings and groups is the adage that 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. This is true both inside and outside AA. Most people just don't like business meetings, controversy, politics or being disrupted from their normal routine. The other 20 percent seem to thrive on it. The 20 percenters don't get enough recognition for what they do, but that doesn't give them the right to criticize others for not being like them.

The longer I stay sober, the more I understand what Bill meant when he wrote, " ... the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of AA's Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all."

Anonymous—Eugene, OR Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine.org



#### HAPPY SWELTERING THANKSGIVING

(Continued from page 7)

Zone" was blaring and now it was about 100 degrees inside.

I swung into gear, pulled all of the side dishes together, rounded up everyone, set up TV trays and, just in time, Albert returned to carve the bird. Amazingly, everything came together. The bird came out tender and juicy. Everyone got a warm plate of food and we all ate our Thanksgiving dinner.

While I was shaking the cranberry jelly tube loose from its can, I poured myself a nice glass of sparkling cider. As I poured it into a glass, it looked a lot like a beer. It reminded me of how, for many years, I would sneak and hide to throw back a beer out of view of the living room. (There's a really good hiding place in the kitchen, where I would get smashed, just out of view of anyone's line of vision.) I had a profound moment thinking about that, and how good it felt to be sober.

One theme that has come up for me lately at my AA meetings is how I used to drink "to feel good." It has dawned on me that nothing feels better than being sober and in the moment. I took a moment to look at my mom, with her beloved oldness, her pink accessories, foofy makeup, and her beloved kind heart. And another moment to look at my son, his energetic youth and his sweet smile. And even Albert—while he drives me nuts a lot of the time, I could see his intentions are good. For a moment, I got the whole picture, that my life is full of goodness and love, in whatever kind of strange packages.

J.T.—Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.—2016 Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine.org





For further information and online registration, please visit

www.mississippicoastroundups.org

Speaker Panel, Raffles, 50/50 Drawing, Marathon Meetings, Big Raffle, Hospitality Room,

T-Shirts Available for \$20 (Limited Availability) and More...





When: November 5th, 2023

## Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1 For the Nine Months and Year Ended September, 2023

	September 2023		YTD 2023			
	<u> </u>		Budget			Budget
	34.9	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income						
Net Literature Sales	4,806.03	2,700.00	2,106.03	26,322.91	24,300.00	2,022.91
Group Donations	5,181.24	6,598.00	(1,416.76)	60,956.63	59,382.00	1,574.63
Individual Donations	1,047.23	1,480.00	(432.77)	13,001.72	13,320.00	(318.28
Messenger Donations		5.00	(5.00)	135.00	45.00	90.0
Website Donations	::-:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	5	-	-		
Special Events	210.00	416.00	(206.00)	210.00	3,744.00	(3,534.00
Interest	2.37	10.00	(7.63)	2,441.71	90.00	2,351.7
Total Income	11,246.87	11,209.00	37.87	103,067.97	100,881.00	2,186.9
Expenses	03					
Bad debt	5	0.50	176	199.28	17.0	199.2
Casual Labor	275.00	275.00	-	2,475.00	2,475.00	
Payroll	6,530.00	6,530.00	-	58,770.00	58,770.00	
Legal & Professional	350.00	350.00	-	2,450.00	3,150.00	(700.00
Rent	1,050.00	1,100.00	(50.00)	8,984.50	9,900.00	(915.50
Printing	173.59	33.00	140.59	173.59	297.00	(123.41
Payroll Taxes	500.00	500.00	-	4,480.00	4,500.00	(20.00
Repairs & Maintenance	50.00	35.00	15.00	520.89	315.00	205.8
Equipment Rental	101.66	100.00	1.66	1,050.66	900.00	150.6
Telephone & Fax	617.02	630.00	(12.98)	5,571.08	5,670.00	(98.92
Answering Service	204.24	250.00	(45.76)	1,877.63	2,250.00	(372.37
Postage	113.28	125.00	(11.72)	1,230.34	1,125.00	105.3
Office Supplies	72.59	208.00	(135.41)	708.91	1,872.00	(1,163.09
Bank Service Charges	40.00	65.00	(25.00)	504.00	585.00	(81.00
Computer & Technology	278.33	140.00	138.33	2,555.67	1,260.00	1,295.6
Credit Card Service Fees	167.16	200.00	(32.84)	1,164.87	1,800.00	(635.13
Intergroup Expense	<u>-</u>	150.00	(150.00)	216.51	1,350.00	(1,133.49
Insurance	2	175.00	(175.00)	1,525.00	1,575.00	(50.00
Special Events	161.30	166.00	(4.70)	161.30	1,494.00	(1,332.70
Travel	263.34	177.00	86.34	413.34	1,593.00	(1,179.66
Miscellaneous			120	-	- 30 000 000	
Depreciation	2	79.20	528	20	6 <u>2</u> 6	
Over/Under	78 <u></u>	12	<u> 928</u> 8	1/20		9
Total Expenses	10,947.51	11,209.00	(261.49)	95,032.57	100,881.00	(6,047.71
Net Income	299.36	2.5	299.36	8,035.40	15	8,234.68
	1					

GROUP / MEETING	<b>SEP 2023</b>	YTD	GROUP / MEETING	<b>SEP 2023</b>	YTD
86'ers		825	DAVIDSON RD		4,500
AWOL		226	DESIGN FOR LIVING		335
BACK TO THE BIG BOOK		120	DICKSON		140
BACKROOM		2,756	DISTRICT 13		100
BELLEVUE		1,500	DOWNTOWN LUNCH		190
BERRY'S HILLS		124	EAST SIDE MEN'S STAG	1,100	1,900
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON		875	EAST SIDE SATURDAY		1,047
BROWN BAG		240	EASTSIDE SUNLIGHTERS	1,608	2,216
BY THE BOOK, DICKSON		102	EVERY WOMAN HAS A	·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
BYRDSTOWN		40	STORY		219
CELEBRATE SERENITY		105	FAIRFIELD GLADE		200
CENTERVILLE		734	FAYETTEVILLE	25	100
CHAPEL HILL		120	FIRST THINGS FIRST		659
CHICKEN PLUCKERS		1,539	FIVE AND FIVE		900
CLARK STREET		200	FRANKLIN		764
COLUMBIA		270			
COMFORT ZONE		1,500	FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S		72
COOKEVILLE	180	450	FREE TO BE		303
CROSSVILLE		89	FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE		25
CROSSVILLE NOONERS		350	FRIENDS IN RECOVERY		1,075

GROUP / MEETING	<b>SEP 2023</b>	YTD
FRIENDS OF BILL, LAKE		253
TANSI		
G.A.A. GALLATIN	25	100
G.O.D. (GROUP OF		366
DRUNKS)		100
HAPPY HOUR		182
HARDING	100	61
HARDING RD	125	190
HERMITAGE S.S.S.		306
HERMITAGE WOMEN'S		555
HIGH NOON		275
HOW IT WORKS, MENS KEEP IT SIMPLE		300
		199
KEY TO SOBRIETY KICK OFF NOT UNTIL		240
NOON		150
LADIES NIGHT OUT		189
LAFAYETTE NEW HOPE		50
LAMBDA		294
LATE LUNCH BUNCH		2,125
LAWRENCEBURG		60
LET IT HAPPEN	180	180
LIFE SAVERS	100	150
LIVING THE PRINCIPLES		388
LIVING BY THE PRINT	300	900
LIVINGSTON AA		175
LIVINGSTON 12x12		75
MEN'S LOG CABIN		573
MIDDLE TENNESSEE		20
MURFREESBORO	28	225
MUSIC ROW		150
MUSTARD SEED		600
NEW HOPE		30
NORTHSIDE		12
N.O.W.		109
ON AWAKENING		800
ONE PURPOSE	25	225
ONE STEP CLOSER		313
OUT OF FOG/OUT OF BOG		1,500
OUT TO BREAKFAST		477
PAGE 112		573
PAY DAY		300
PEACE IN THE PARK		440
PORTLAND UNITY		60
PRIMARY PURPOSE		370
ROLLING HILLS		310
PULASKI	30	770
RECOVERY HILL		629
RECOVERY ON THE ROW		778

GROUP / MEETING	SEP 2023	YTD
ROBERTSON COUNTY		70
RUSHH HOUR		1,000
RUTS	250	250
SAFE HARBOR	100	300
SAFE PLACE		145
ST. A'S	133	263
SANGO SOLUTIONS		150
SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE	20	180
SEEKERS		500
SERENITY, MURF		100
SERENITY IN THE PARK		252
SHADE TREE	395	5,082
SHELBYVILLE		25
SISTERS IN SOBRIETY CROSSVILLE		72
SOBRIETY FIRST		97
SPRING HILL		55
SSS, HERMITAGE		364
STRAGGLERS		1,050
STRUCK GOLD		306
SUNDAY 10AM, CROSSVILLE		50
THANKFUL CONTEMPLATION		775
THERE IS A SOLUTION		256
THREE LEGACIES		275
TURNING POINT		1,926
UNCOMMON WOMEN		43
UNITED, GALLATIN	300	900
UNITY AT 6		250
WAKE UP		76
WAVERLY		120
WAY OF LIFE		53
WEEKENDERS		300
WEST NASHVILLE		235
WINNERS & BEGINNERS	300	832
WOMAN'S WAY		115
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION		250
WOMEN'S FREEDOM		202
WOMEN'S OPEN DOOR		163
WOODBINE	57	185
GROUP MONTHLY		
TOTALS	5,181	60,957
INDIVIDUALS	1,047	13,002
MESSENGER	-	135
COMBINED TOTALS TO		F4 000
DATE	6,228	74,093

Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup Association

417 Welshwood Drive Suite 207 Nashville, TN 37211

615.832.1136 800.559.2252 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. Postage Paid Nashville, TN Permit No. 517

# **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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: mtcoaa@aol.com



Time to Change?

	New / Renewal Subscription
	Address Change
Ī	
	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
I	-
	listed in this issue.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE
PHONE	ZIP
OLD ADDRESS	