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Tradition 3 Long Form:  
“Our A.A. experience has taught us that: - Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation .”

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Central Office of N Idaho or A.A. as a whole.

“Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our directions” (First printing, p.36)



# Central Office of N Idaho

Edition 32

March/April 2023

## Editor's Two-Cents Worth

Greetings N Idaho A.A.

I was unable to publish a Central Office newsletter last month. I had a bad fall on the ice and broke two ribs. It was just too painful to sit in front of a computer and type. Anyway, you will notice two sets of Central Office Board meeting minutes in this edition.

I have thought about changing the schedule of the Central Office Newsletter from a monthly to a quarterly publication. I will be asking for your input on this topic during the next two monthly meetings.

After almost seven decades on this planet I feel I can say what I please without filtering. I have watched the world significantly change, and after two plus decades in Alcoholics Anonymous I have seen a lot of this change filter in to our Fellowship, some good, some awful!

As a Fellowship, from the GSO and GSC all the way down to a small home group (the upside-down Triangle is an ideal, not reality) we are being bombarded with outside controversial issues that have no place in Alcoholics Anonymous. An A.A. meeting is a place of refuge for many of us, where we can go to enjoy the quiet, one another, and block out all this madness and mayhem, even if for only one hour. I am sick and tired of outside controversial issues being perpetuated by GSO “Press Releases” and other forms of communication. What we do as private citizens is our personal business, but we need to honor our 12 Traditions and leave it outside the rooms.

In closing, I love Alcoholics Anonymous and want to do my small part to protect it. My grandchildren and great grandchildren will one day need our life-saving Program and the Fellowship. Let us put forth individual and collective effort to preserve that which was so freely given to us so that future generations will have access to Alcoholics Anonymous!

Yours in service,  
David R.  
Central Office Chair

**Central Office Representatives Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** It was online in January and we met for February meeting (The first Wednesday of every month)

**Location:** Online and Alano Hall (6:45 pm)

**Chairman:** David R.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:** Officers

Sally, Mary, David, Jan

Additionally, There were 5 others in attendance .

**MINUTES:** Jan read the previous month's minutes and they were unanimously approved as read.

**Central Office Report for C.O. Meeting 1-5-23**

I can't believe it is 2023 already. I am looking forward to a prosperous and successful year at the Central Office. My hope for the future year is, of course, a strong volunteer base and to be successful financially so that the office can continue to stay open. However, my most important mission for the Central Office is to help the still suffering alcoholic. The people who come into the office and learn what AA is about or who share stories with us, is what being a Central Office is all about, for me.

Thank you to all who contributed in the month of December, especially: Sober Sisters, NIDYPAA, Jack Ass Group, Serenity Sisters, Daily Reprieve, Fort Sherman, Sobriety Sisters and Daily Reprieve.

**Old Business:** I have not had to get a new phone yet. The one we have is working fine.

**New Business:** We lost our janitor lady and I only found out because I ran into the new one and asked. She is only cleaning bathrooms and main areas that are accessible to all. We have been taking out our own trash. I called the building manager and he said that he didn't realize that the old one did as much as she did. After a discussion, I believe it is best if we just take out our own trash and I will look into getting a small hand held vacuum for the floors.

I am still working on updating the 12 step call list, at this time. If you come across someone who wants to be on the list, please stress the importance of them answering the phone and not letting it go to voicemail.

**Phone Report:**

In office calls for December were:

3 for meetings, 6 for Business, 2 12-step calls and 5 "other" calls.

After hours calls were:

5 for meetings, 2 for business, 1 12-step call and 0 "other" calls.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Central Office Report: February**

Our contributions were down this month but we do want to thank Fort Sherman, Serenity Sisters, Daily Reprieve II, 1st things 1st and Wallace Miners for their contributions. We appreciate all the support you give to keep the office open.

I did purchase a new phone from Amazon for the office. It was time to replace the old one. Also, I purchased a used 5-high file cabinet and intended on painting it but it was being stored at my daughters' garage and they had a fire that destroyed everything in the garage. We will chalk that up to a small loss.

I am not having any luck getting birthday stories for the Newsletter. David is putting AA Birthday dates and First Names in the newsletter for now.

The Free Thinkers Sunday 9am meeting at the club is moving to 10am. Please be sure to come to the office to get the latest copy of the schedule so you have accurate info about the meetings. Also, please let the office know of any meeting changes, so we can pass the word on to the Web Chair and DCM.

We are now taking care of our own cleaning at the office, so I purchased a lightweight vacuum and we have all the cleaning supplies we need.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** 1. Since the coordinator uses her own storage for the office paperwork and some other items, a

motion was presented to compensate her \$20.00/month as the stored items take up about ¼ of her storage. Her storage is \$69.95/month for now. We will revisit this in 6 months and see about either getting central office it's own storage or add the motion to the bylaws, if needed.

2. We discussed that the Alano Hall is struggling financially and we may be looking at donating some of our office funds to help.

**Phone Report:**

In office calls for January 2023 were: 7 for meetings, 15 for business, 10 for "other" and 0 12-step calls.

After hours were: 6 for meetings, 2 for business, 0 for "other" and 1 12-step call

**CENTRAL OFFICE (January) TREASURE REPORT**

DEPOSITS \$2,233.27

CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 563.53

RETAIL SALES \$1669.74

BILLS FOR THE MONTH \$2433.90

COORDINATOR, RENT, ZIPPLY FIBER, CDA PRESS,

RECOVERY EMPORIUM, GRAPEVINE, AMAZON, AA MEDALLIONS, HAZELDEN, AAWS, AFG, QUARTERLY TAXES,

AL-AON FAMILY GROUPS

CHECKING BALANCE \$5747.82

RESERVE BALANCE \$6496.54

A motion was made by Jan to accept the treasurer's report ad David seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CENTRAL OFFICE (FEBRUARY) TREASURE REPORT**

DEPOSITS \$2,215.58

CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 716.85

RETAIL SALES \$1,498.73

BILLS FOR THE MONTH \$4006.25

COORDINATOR, RENT, ZIPPLY FIBER, CDA PRESS,

AMAZON, RECOVERY ACCENTS , HAZELDEN, AAWS,AFG,

CHECKING BALANCE \$4,086.42

RESERVE BALANCE \$6,496.79

A motion was made by Jan to accept the treasurer's report ad David seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

**NEWSLETTER:**

(January and March) David R. reported that he will ask Mary for the stories. GSRs will be asked to submit birthday stories from their groups.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None for February

None for March

**NEW BUSINESS:**

February

Jan will update the By-laws and report back. There was a motion to allow Mary to keep CO items in her personal storage. It was unanimously agreed upon.

**QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS:**

If you have anything to add to the Monthly Newsletter, please email David R. at [soberin95@gmail.com](mailto:soberin95@gmail.com) by the last Tuesday in the month.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

Sally and Mary seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

JAN R

Central Office Secretary

**A.A. History March**

March-May 1938 - Bill begins writing the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc. established to support writing and printing of the book.

March 1940 - Mort J. came to LA from Denver; started custom of reading Chapter 5 Big Book at Cecil group.

March 1941 - Second printing of Big Book. The term "spiritual experience" was changed to "spiritual awakening" and "as the result of these steps" was changed to "as the result of those steps"

Appendix II Spiritual Experience was added.

March 1946- The March of Time documentary news film, began production with the cooperation of the New York Central Office.

March 1948 - Grapevine reports: She's Glad to Be Free!, by R. K., Muncie.

March 1951 - American Weekly publishes memorial article for Dr. Bob.

March 1, 1941 - Jack Alexander's Saturday Evening Post article published and membership jumped from 2,000 to 8,000 by years end.

March 3 1947 - Nell Wing started work at Alcoholic Foundation 415 Lexington Avenue.

March 4, 1891- Lois W is born.

March 5, 1945- Time Magazine reports Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.

March 7, 1940 - Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.

March 7, 1941 - Boston newspaper reported that any drunk who wanted to get well was more than welcome at the AA meeting at 115 Newbury St., at 8 p.m.

March 9, 1941 - Wichita Beacon reports AA member from NY who wants to form a group in Wichita.

March 10, 1944 - New York Intergroup was established.

March 11, 1949 - The Calix Society, an association of Roman Catholic alcoholics who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in Alcoholics Anonymous, was formed Minneapolis by five Catholic AA members.

March 11, 1951 - American Weekly article on Dr. Bob.

March 15, 1941 - 1st AA group formed in New Haven, Connecticut. Not reported in paper until Oct 1, 1941.

March 16, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation & Works Publishing move to Newark to 30 Vesey St in lower Manhattan. First headquarters of our own.

March 18, 1951- Bob W. ,was elected 1st Delegate to represent Indiana at the General Service Conference.

March 18, 1973 – Anderson Herald report "The Silent Invader" 26th Anniversary in Anderson, IN.

March 20, 1948 – Chicago Herald report a three part series on "American Billion Dollar Problem for Industry Alcoholism".

March 20, 1995 - The New Yorker article "A.A. at the Crossroads".

March 21, 1881 - Anne R, Dr Bobs wife, is born.

March 21 1966 - Ebby dies.

March 22, 1951 - Dr William Duncan Silkworth dies at Towns Hospital.

March 22, 1984 - Clarence S, "Home Brewmeister", dies.

March 22, 1981 – Anderson Herald report on "UAW's Crisis Center"

March 25, 1898 - Jim B ("The Vicious Cycle") was born.

**March 25, 2005 – Nancy O., Founder of AAHL dies.**

**March 29, 1943 - The Charleston Mail, WV, reported on Bill W's talk at St. John's Parish House.**

**March 31, 1947 - 1st AA group formed in London, England.**

### **Three Fold Illness?**

**While we give Dr. Bob credit for his intense work with alcoholics, "The Prince of Twelve Steppers," we owe Bill a great debt for revealing a secret of successful Twelve Stepping.**

**In reading Bill's Story, we learn Bill understood how desperate his situation was. He was dying of malnutrition and was wishing for the end, but he got a call from his best friend and drinking buddy, Ebby, asking if he could come over for a visit. It had been some time since they had been together. Bill had heard Ebby had been committed for alcoholic insanity but he there he was. Bill bought two quarts of "Bathtub Gin" looking forward to getting caught up with what was going on in each other's life. Bill poured a drink and pushed it over to Ebby but Ebby refused it. Surprised, Bill asked, "What has gotten into you, Ebby?" Ebby replied, "I've got religion." Bill's thought was, "Poor ole Ebby has become a religious crackpot." I'm sure that had that been anyone but Ebby, Bill would have thrown the guy out. Bill was a hard-core agnostic, but Ebby's story gave Bill some hope. Bill listened and drank.**

**For the next couple of weeks, Bill's agony and drinking was greater than ever. On December 11, 1934, Bill realized he was beginning to experience Delirium Tremens. A short time previously, Dr. Silkworth had predicted Bill would die of a heart attack during DT's. In hopes Dr. Silkworth might be able to help him one more time, Bill went to Towns Hospital where he was given a shot of paraldehyde that knocked him out for a couple of days. On the third day, December 14, Bill called Ebby and asked him to go over what he was doing to live sober. Of course, Ebby came and reviewed what he had learned to do. After Ebby left, Bill, an agnostic, slipped to his knees and prayed, "If there is a God let Him show Himself." God did and Bill's life was changed from then on...**

**For the next few months, Bill floated on his spiritual intoxication. Almost daily, he would go to the Calvary Mission, Towns Hospital or any place he might find a drunk. He would tell them of his drinking and the miraculous Solution (his "Hot Flash") he had been blessed with; physical, mental and spiritual. His success in helping drunks was a total failure. After about four months, he told his wife, Lois, that he was going to quit wasting his time chasing drunks. He was going to get a job and make them a respectable couple again. She told him that for the first time in their seventeen years of marriage, he had been sober for four months and she loved having a sober husband. She encouraged him to keep on looking for drunks. That would make her happy.**

**Bill decided to visit Dr. Silkworth and report his efforts and failure. Dr. Silkworth listened and told Bill he was turning his prospects off with his talk of his "Hot Flash." He was getting the cart before the horse. The Dr. told Bill to give them the scientific facts of alcoholism; the allergy and the obsession. Render them hopeless! Then, maybe they would like to hear about how he found his spiritual experience. He said he would try it.**

**We know the first opportunity Bill had to try Dr. Silkworth's suggestion was after a failed business venture in Akron, OH. Bill knew from his previous experience that trying to help a serious drinker had been the only thing that had carried him this far. He didn't care who the hard drinker was. He just wanted the opportunity. His prospect happened to be a rectal surgeon. The Dr. agreed to meet this rummy from New York for 15 minutes and 15 minutes only. In that 15 minutes, Bill followed Dr. Silkworth's suggestion and here we are with a plan of not only survival but how to live a life that really counts.**

Bill reports of another opportunity of focusing on the allergy and obsession only in Fred's story, A.A., pg 39. They told him what they knew of alcoholism, the allergy, and the obsession, and shut up. He didn't think he was an alcoholic. They said they didn't know if he was or not but if he had an alcoholic mind, he would drink again. A year later, he called Bill for help. He and one of his protégés went to see Fred. They asked him if he now thought he was an alcoholic. He said he was so, being a year later, they gave him a killer dose of alcoholism by telling their story one more time. When he then pleaded for help, they told him of the Solution they had found. First things first.

The Big Book instructs us to, "Get an idea of his behavior, his problems, his background, the seriousness of his condition, and his religious leanings" before we make our initial contact with a prospect.

What is more important, learning how our Founders approached a prospect which proved to be so successful or sharing our ideas and opinions thereby putting the life of an agnostic or atheistic alcoholic at risk? If we take a serious look at long term sobriety in our Fellowship, it is very obvious that we are failing the newcomers. As one of my dear friends said, "The way we treat newcomers today borders on slaughter." The "Three Fold" idea is but one piece of the problem.



## Happy A.A. Anniversary/Birthday!

January 2023

Danielle- 1 Year

Gail J-10 Years

February 2023

Sarah W- 19 Years

March 2023

Jana R- 6 Years

Al J -10 Years

Stan B -23 Years

Paula T -33 Years

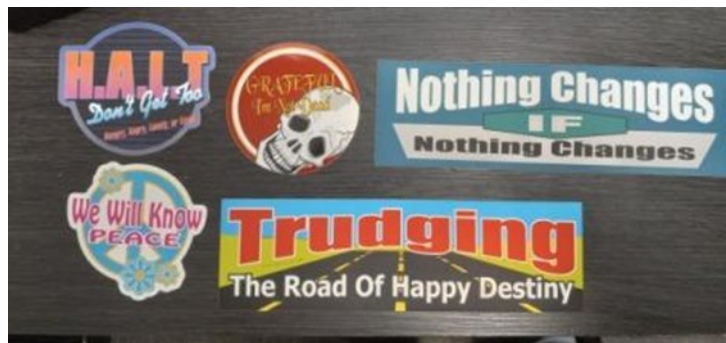
Please contact me if you want you're A.A. Anniversary posted, to show others, especially newcomers, that "It Works. It really does!"



Please Support the Central Office Store!  
All proceeds from store items go to paying the bills and keeping the  
Central Office open.

**Featured items This Month!**

**ASSORTED STICKERS:** We have a large selection of Bumper Stickers and other stickers  
at the office. Pricing is around \$3.00 - \$.50.





## **SIGNIFICANT DATES IN AA HISTORY FOR APRIL**

- April 1935 - Dr. Silkworth told Bill to quit preaching at drunks & tell them of obsession & allergy.
- April 1946 - Twelve Suggested Points for AA Tradition, published in the Grapevine.
- April 1947 - Grapevine report on new group in Richmond & Evansville, IN.
- April 1950 - Saturday Evening Post article "The Drunkard's Best Friend" by Jack Alexander.
- April 1958 - The word "honest" dropped from AA Preamble, "an honest desire to stop drinking".
- April 1966 - Change in ratio of trustees of the General Service Board; now two thirds (majority) are alcoholic.
- April 1970 - G.S.O., moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.
- April 2003 - Experience, Strength and Hope : Stories From the First Three Editions of Alcoholics Anonymous, was published.
- April 1, 1966 - Sister Ignatia died.
- April 2, 1966 - Harry Tiebout, M.D., died.
- April 3, 1941 - First AA meeting held in Florida.
- April 3, 1960 - Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor." (LOH 364)
- April 7, 1941 - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.
- April 9, 1963 - Ethel M. dies (From Farm to City, BB Story)
- April 10, 1939 - Publication date of Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A.'s Big Book.
- April 10, 1945 - The Day In Indiana, Muncie Star reports on the "Indiana Home."
- April 11, 1941 - Bill and Lois finally found a home, Stepping Stones in Bedford Hills, NY.
- April 13, 1983 - President Ronald Reagan presented A.A., with the Volunteer Action Award.
- April 16, 1940 - A sober Rollie H. catches the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.
- April 16, 1973 - Dr. Jack Norris presented President Nixon with the one millionth copy of the Big Book.
- April 16, 2005 - Nancy F. dies. ("Independent Blonde" 2nd edition, Big Book story.)
- April 19, 1940 - The first AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed. First 'mail order' group.
- April 19, 1941 - The first AA group in the State of Washington was formed in Seattle.
- April 20 - 22, 1951 - AA's first General Service Conference was held.
- April 21, 2007 - Charley P. of Maysville, AK. dies. (Joe & Charley Big Book Comes Alive)
- April 22, 2004 - Robert S. ("Smitty") Last Eyewitness of AA's Origin Dies in Memphis, TN.
- April 23, 1940 - The first A.A. group in Indiana was established in J. D. and Rhoda H's home at 420 S. Denby St. in Evansville, meeting every Tuesday night. One can find it listed on the Evansville meeting schedule today as the Tri-State Group.
- April 24, 1940 - The first AA pamphlet, "AA", was published.
- April 24, 1989 - Dr. Leonard Strong died.
- April 25, 1948 - Indy Radio Broadcast, WFBM (1260), on A.A.
- April 26, 1939 - Bank forecloses on 182 Clinton Street.
- April 29, 1939 - Morgan R interviewed on Gabriel Heatter radio show.
- April 30, 1989 - Film "My Name is Bill W." a Hallmark presentation was broadcast on ABC TV.

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If you would like to subscribe to the Central Office Newsletter, or submit an article, local A.A. news, flyer, etc., please call, text or email the Editor:  
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