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Tradition 3 Long Form: 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.

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# Central Office of N Idaho

Edition 62

March 2026

## Editor's Two-Cents Worth

Greetings,

Spring arrived today and as I sit here writing I am looking forward to longer daylight hours and working in my flower garden. I would have never thought in my wildest dreams that I would get interested in growing a flower garden but here I am, a senior citizen having as much fun as a kid in a candy store buying garden items at the local Nursery.

I have been hearing reports about several groups holding fund raisers for various activities this Spring and Summer. It is true that each group is autonomous and may do as they please, as long as it does not affect A.A. as a whole. I think that fundraising for any worthwhile purpose could affect A.A. as a whole.

I encourage groups to study our 12 Traditions and speak with their Sponsor, or one of the crusty Oldtimers! I do not think that a Alcoholics Anonymous group should be doing fund raisers, just saying. I included an article in this newsletter, which is ironically Edition 62! My Lord has a great sense of humor! Seriously, the article is from the Cleveland Central Office in Cleveland, Ohio and it addresses "fundraising."

Please be sure to read through the entire newsletter. There are informational flyers and hopefully interesting articles and news from around District 8 and Area 92.

If you have any event flyers that you want published in this Newsletter, or articles of interest, A.A. Birthday, etc. please email to [soberin95@gmail.com](mailto:soberin95@gmail.com).

Yours in service,

David R  
12/06/1995 First Day of Freedom

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

## Central Office Coordinator Report

Next Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Alano Hall on April 8, 2026 at 6:45pm.

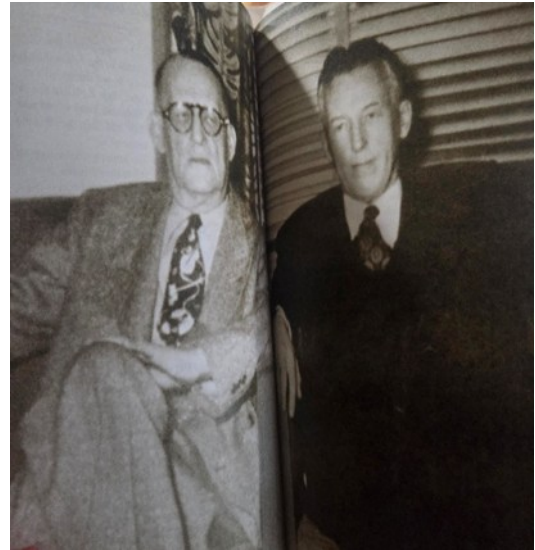
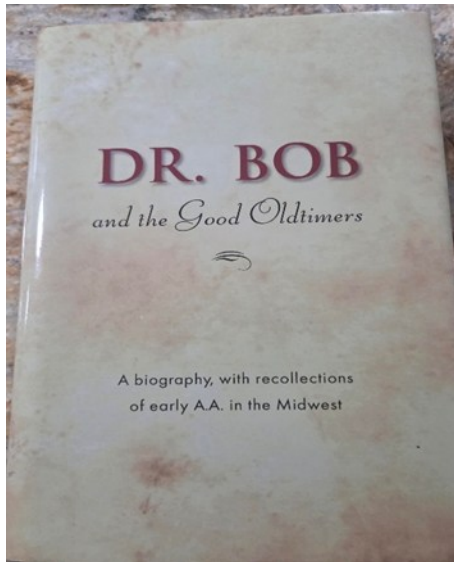
Thank you to all who so generously gave in the month of February. All bills were paid and we were able to stock up on cases of Big Books. Come get what your groups need. If you are wondering why prices have increased on Conference approved literature, I can send you the correspondence from GSO as to their increase of at least \$3.00 on all books and a big percentage rise in cost of pamphlets, etc. This is a necessary part of running a successful non-profit to be able to pay the bills and keep the doors open for the still suffering alcoholic.

Our volunteer positions are filled for now but we will always take backups. Please call the office if you are interested!! As always, we are open M-F 10am-2pm and Sat. 12 noon - 4pm. The 24/7 hotline is 208-667-4633. Our email is [keepcomingback1@hotmail.com](mailto:keepcomingback1@hotmail.com)

Sincerely in Service,  
Mary (Coordinator)



**March 2026 Item of the Month  
Central Office Store**



**Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers is a biography of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) co-founder Dr. Bob Smith, published by A.A. World Services in 1980, that chronicles his life from childhood to his role in A.A.'s founding, with a focus on early A.A. history in the Midwest. The book uses interviews with friends and family to portray him as a humble surgeon and a key figure in the fellowship, detailing the, often tumultuous, development of A.A. and its spiritual principles.**

**This book is full of wonderful pictures, like the one above of Dr. Bob and Bill W. \$16.50 at the Central Office.**

**Central Office of N Idaho  
118 N 7th Street Suite B-5  
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 667-4633**

## Central Office Meeting Minutes March 11, 2026

Date: March 11, 2026

Location: Virtual/Online

Chairman: David R.

CALL TO ORDER:

Opened at 6:50 pm online (Virtual Meeting)

ROLL CALL: Mary M., Sally A., Jan R., David R.

TREASURERS REPORT: Sally A

Treasure Report for January and February

DEPOSITS = \$3,059.92

CONTRIBUTIONS = \$1,202.83

Paula n Stan p ,1st things 1st, Lake City Thursday Women's, Anonymous, Weis Group, Serenity Sisters, Daily Re-  
prieve II. Saved by Grace, Grateful Ladies, Primary Purpose

RETAIL SALES = \$1,857.09

BILLS \$2,611.61

Rent, Coordinator, Zply, AFG, Safeway, Coeur d' Alene Press, Amazon, Temu, AAWS Recovery Accents

CHECKING BALANCE = \$3565.85

RESERVE BALANCE = \$6,087.73

**DEPOSITS IN FEBRUARY** \$2,633.29

CONTRIBUTIONS IN FEBRUARY \$ 926.46

Way Out Group, Lady A's, Paula T, Stan T., Primary Purpose Group, Daily Reprieve, Close Encounter Group, New-  
port Group, Ed A., Post Falls Saturday and Sunday Meeting, Ft. Sherman

RETAIL SALES \$1706.83

BILLS IN FEBRUARY

Alanon Family Groups, Zply Fiber, Coeur d' Alene Press, Quarterly Taxes, Rent, Coordinator, AA World Services,  
Recovery Accents, Staples, Storage, Culver Enterprise

(With the price of books increasing this month we made a large order of big books)

CHECKING BALANCE END OF FEBRUARY \$1,976.32

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Our email is [keepcomingback1@hotmail.com](mailto:keepcomingback1@hotmail.com)

Sincerely in Service,  
Mary (Coordinator)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

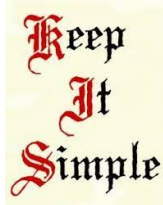
We will continue to have our quarterly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.  
Refer to flyers for many upcoming events.

**QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS:** If you have anything you want published in the Central Office Monthly Newsletter, and/or, if you want to subscribe (Free), please email David R. at [soberin95@gmail.com](mailto:soberin95@gmail.com) by the last Tuesday in the month.

**Respectfully Submitted**

JAN R

**Central Office Secretary**



# The AA Principles of the Month

## March

Step 3: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

Tradition Three: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as those who likely will not make it?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately or publicly do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or not?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, sexual identity or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what they do for a living? Where they live? What their domestic arrangements are? Whether they have been to AA before? What their other problems are?

Concept III: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. — the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives — with a traditional "Right of Decision."

- Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"?
- Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?
- Do we trust our trusted servants — GSR, DCM, area delegate, the Conference itself?

**Happy A.A. Anniversary/Birthday**

**March 2026**

**Robert F-2 Years**

**Marlene R-3 Years**

**Tom B-6 Years**

**Amy B-6 Years**

**Paula T-36 Years**



**I am Responsible.**

**When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,**

**I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.**

**And for that: I am responsible.**

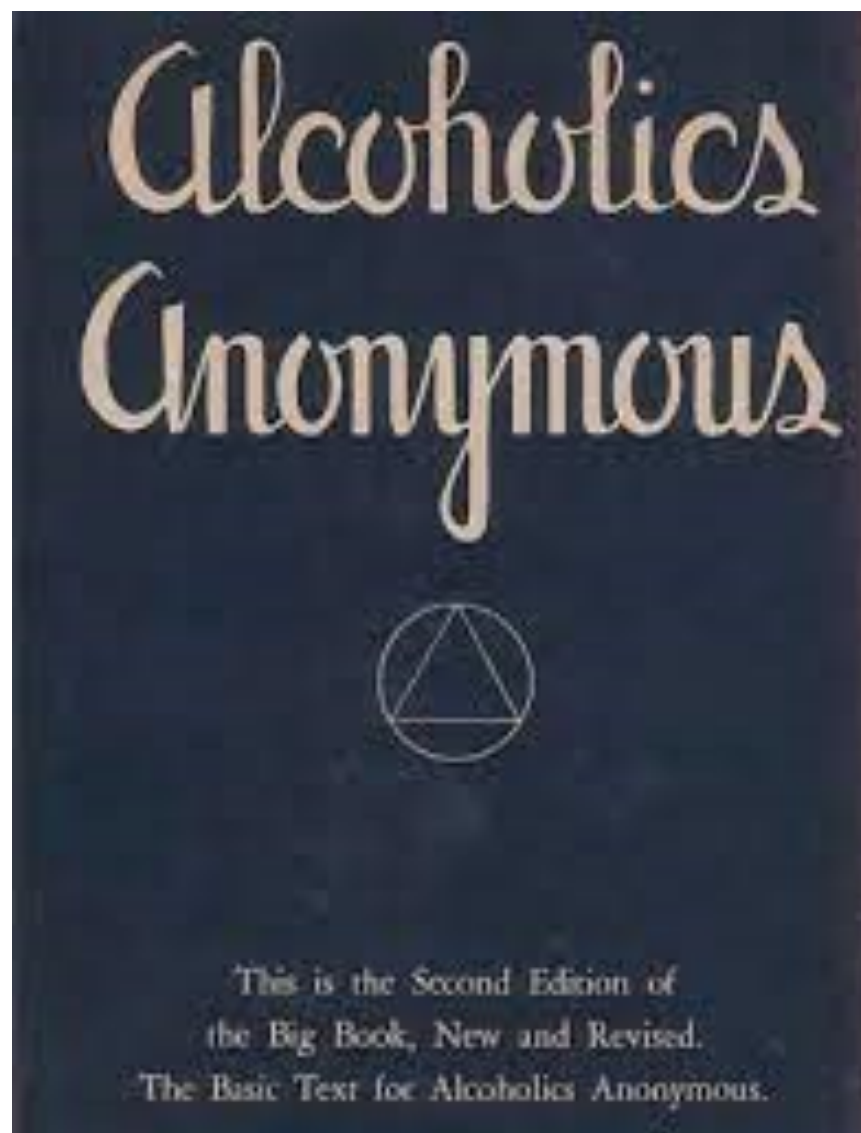
## A.A. History March

- March 3: 1947: Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of AA, began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.
- March 4: 1891: Lois Wilson was born.
- March 5: 1945: Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.
- March 7: 1940: Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.  
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 PM Wednesdays.
- March 9: 1941: Wichita Beacon reported AA member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.
- March 10: 1944: New York Intergroup was established.
- March 11: 1947: A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- March 12: 1940: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.
- March 14: 1941: South Orange, NJ, AA held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.
- March 15: 1941: 1st AA group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.
- March 16: 1940: Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)
- March 18: 1951: Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.
- March 21: 1881: Anne Ripley, Dr. Bob's wife, was born.  
1966: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.
- March 22: 1951: Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.  
1984: Clarence Snyder, founder of Cleveland AA and author of "Home Brewmeister," died at 81, 46 years sober.
- March 23: 1936: Bill & Lois Wilson visited Fitz Mayo, "Our Southern Friend," in Maryland.  
1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety Dates. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.
- March 25: 1898: Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle") was born  
1965: Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.
- 2005: Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL- See Memorial at: <http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.htm>
- March 29: 1943: The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.
- March 31: 1947: 1st AA group was formed in London, England. Other events in March, for which I have no exact Dates:  
1936: AA had 10 members staying sober. At end of 1936 A.A. had 15 members.  
1938: Bill begins writing the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc established to support writing and printing of the book.  
1940: Mort J. came to LA from Denver; started custom of reading Chapter 5 Big Book at Cecil group.  
1941: Second printing of Big Book.  
1941: 1st Prison AA Group formed at San Quentin.  
1945: March of Time film was produced and supervised by E.M. Jellinek and produced by NY AA office

1946: The Jefferson Barracks AA Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought to be the first ever in a military installation.

1949: Dr. Bob considers idea of AA conference premature.

1951: American Weekly publishes memorial article for Dr. Bob.



Wanted  
Donations  
For The District 8 Archives

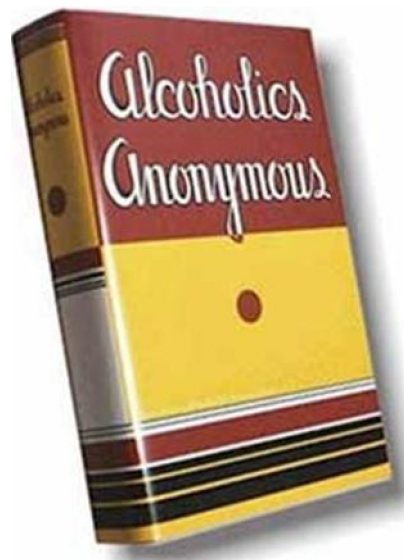
**Old Big Books**

Memorabilia

Historical Items Contact

David R **208-651-2215**

[soberin95@gmail.com](mailto:soberin95@gmail.com)





**2026 Pre-Conference Assembly April 10th-12th \*Hosted by District 6**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1107 W Fremont, Selah, WA, 98942**  
*“Humility in Action”*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Tag Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Event and Meal Registration**

Last day for Meal purchases: 4/1/2025

**Registration:**

Virtual and In-Person      \$35      \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals:**

Friday: Ice Cream Social      \$10      \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday:**

Lunch-Baked Potato Bar      \$15      \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner-Spaghetti      \$20      \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday: Breakfast-Scramble \$20      \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee Cup      \$10      \_\_\_\_\_

Total:      \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable:** John Miller District 6

**Mail Registration to:**

District 6  
 P.O. Box 11174  
 Yakima, WA 98909



~OR~

**Register Online:**

Scan to Pay →



Still working  
 on this and  
 will be rolled  
 out ASAP!

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

Rates Valid thru March 27, 2026

**Baymont** 1603 E Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA 98901

One Queen \$99 Two Queens \$109

\* reference 2026 AA Pre-Conference Assembly for room rates.

**Quality Inn** 659 N Wenas, Selah, WA 98942

\$95 and up depending on needs

**La Quinta Inn** 1001 E Staff Sgt Pendleton Way,

\$84 and up depending on needs

**Alt-Housing Contact:** Jeanie B. 360-469-1314

**Questions Call:** Shawna L. 509-388-3891

\*\*Parking will be in Back of venue with Handicap also.

## **Self-supporting through our own contributions....**

**Clearing up the confusion...**

**We have had many phone calls at the Cleveland Central Office as to whether certain events are AA or not. We have gotten a number of calls that certain meetings are promoting God as they understood Him rather than as we understood Him, endorsing outside issues when they announce non-AA events, no matter how spiritual or entertaining they may be, like retreats, treatment center fund raisers, 12 step comedians, etc...**

**We must all keep in mind our Declaration of Unity: This we owe to AA's future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.**

**An AA event is one run by A.As, is about AA, and for A.As. In order for it to be about AA, it must have an AA meeting attached to it. If your picnic, dance, etc... has an AA meeting attached to it, it can legitimately be called an AA event. If it does not, it is a sober picnic or sober dance, etc...**

**We need to be careful and protect our Sixth, Seventh and Tenth Traditions. We need to remember what our Third and Eleventh Steps say.**

**Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.**

**Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.**

**Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.**

**Once an AA meeting starts, you are in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous where our primary purpose is to stay sober and help another alcoholic achieve sobriety. We do not use AA meetings as a platform for:**

### **Fund Raising**

**We do not sell T-shirts at AA meetings to raise money. We do not sell tickets for fund-raising events for outside enterprises, such as treatment centers and clubs.**

### **Spiritual Retreats**

**Can be a great tool of renewal for people. We are free to pursue our spirituality in any way we understand it; Alcoholics Anonymous does not sponsor any spiritual retreats.**


### **Promoting Religious or Political Beliefs**

**Step 3 and Step 11 talk about a God of our understanding. Tradition 6 tells us we do not endorse any outside enterprises and Tradition 10 reminds us we do not have any opinions on outside issues**

or get drawn into public controversy while acting as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We do not promote our religious or political beliefs at meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are program of attraction, not of promotion. We stick to what we have in common, recovering from alcoholism.

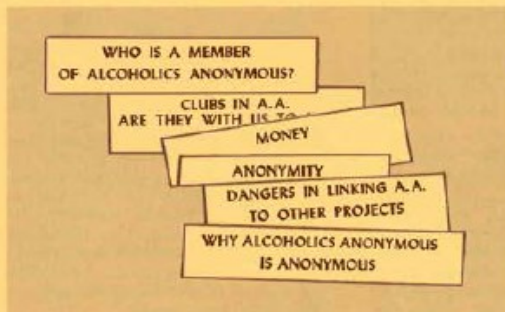
INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR



# AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A. A.      October-November 1966

Vol. 11 No. 5      • 305 East 45th Street, New York 10017 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 10017 •



WHO IS A MEMBER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?  
CLUBS IN A.A. ARE THEY WITH US TO MONEY  
ANONYMITY  
DANGERS IN LINKING A.A. TO OTHER PROJECTS  
WHY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS ANONYMOUS

## Traditions Steer A.A.'s Course Since 1946

Thousands upon thousands have written G.S.O. about Group problems—and in 95 per cent of the cases of A.A.'s 12 Traditions. Since the Traditions were first proposed by Bill W. 20 years ago, and accepted formally by the movement (as the Second Legacy—Unity)—

in Cleveland in 1950, they have been woven into the rich fabric of A.A. life so well that nowadays they are as useful as the 12 Steps (the First Legacy—Recovery), many members agree, and it would take a major A.A. revolution to change any of them.

### Could A.A. Die?

If wholesale violation of any of them ever occurred, according to one A.A. historian, A.A. would perish forever—just as the Washingtonian and Catch-A-Pal movements did before A.A.'s time.

A quick survey of the most common questions we are asked shows these are among the least understood of the Traditions:

No. 7 (each Group self-supporting). We are frequently asked about a Group's soliciting or accepting funds from industry, or the public.

No. 5 (primary purpose is to carry the message), and No. 6 (no endorsement, financing, or lending of A.A. name to outside enterprises). Many book publishers want our "endorsement," and many institutions would like to claim they are "endorsed by A.A." There are no such things as "A.A. hospitals, farms, clubhouses, or retreats"—although of course many A.A. members cooperate in such worthy enterprises.

No. 10 (staying out of public controversy and legal disputes). Many lawmakers want A.A. on their side in political debates. Some professional alcoholism

(to page 2)

## Who Are 'Trustees'?

An A.A. newcomer heard some other member talking about the G. S. Trustees and asked, "Who are the Trustees, anyway, and what do we trust 'em with?"

As "trustees" they are trusted to see that A.A.'s world center of communication, G.S.O., really serves the Groups and other alcoholics. They are custodians of funds received, of the Twelve Steps and Traditions, and are the "legal guardians" of the name *Alcoholics Anonymous*. They have no power over any A.A. member or Group. They endeavor to keep the A.A. name from being drawn into public controversy, and to protect the anonymity of A.A. members everywhere. Our dedicated non-A.A. Trustees now consist of: Dr. Travis Dancy, Montreal, Que.; Dr. Vincent Dole, New York City; John M. Mortagh, New York City; Austin MacCormack, New York City; Robert W.P. Morse, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dr. John L. Norris, Rochester, N. Y.; Archibald Roosevelt, New York City; Bernard B. Smith, New York City; Professor Harrison Trice, Ithaca, N.Y.

A.A. members fill two kinds of 4-year trusteeships on the G.S. Board:

(1) "Regional" trusteeships, filled by six U.S.A. and two Canadian regions set up geographically.

Current "Regional" Trustees are Tom B. Winnipeg, Man.; R. Fay B., Bismarck, N.D.; D. Bruce M., Akron, O.; Jim M.,

Carmichael, Calif.; and Frank R., Lowell, Mass.

(2) "General Service" trusteeships, occupied by active A.A.'s with specific business or professional skills (such as finance, publishing, law, etc.), most of whom live within the New York City commuting area so they can spend the necessary long hours doing their volunteer chores for the Fellowship.

### Bob H. Newly Elected

Newly elected in this capacity is Bob H., of Rockville Centre, N.Y. Sober over 20 years, Bob is in the advertising business. He has served G.S.O. on its Nominating Committee, and is now on its Public Information and Literature Committees. He has been a Director of A.A.W.S., Inc., since July, 1964.

He is a former chairman of the New

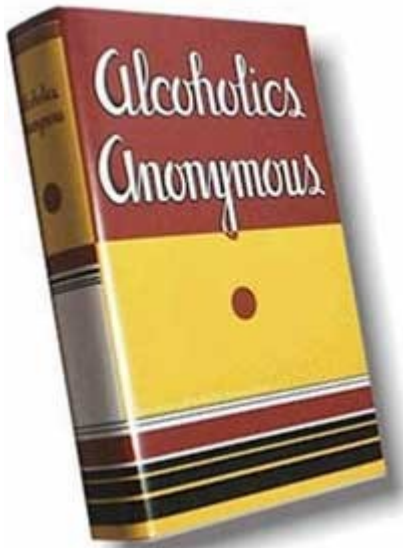
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### G.S.O. CORDIALLY

invites all out-of-town\* A.A.'s who are attending Bill's 32nd Anniversary Dinner to a RECEPTION — 3 to 5 p.m. on October 29th — at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

\*Limited space; sorry New York A.A.'s!

# That Ain't in the Big Book!



Since the suggestion made by “The Grapevine” in the late 60’s that “Open Discussion” (OD) meetings might be a good idea, there has been a change in the message being presented in the rooms from a focus on the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous to “group therapy” where anyone and everyone is privileged to speak on whatever might be on their mind. The result of this has been a severe decline in the success rate of alcoholics finding lasting recovery. We hear a lot of stuff said in meetings that can’t be reconciled with the program as described in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. Here is a list of the opinions, perspectives, and slogans we often hear in rooms and what our original Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous basic text (4th Edition) has to say about it.

## **“Just do the next right thing”**

Page 86, paragraph 4: “We may not be able to determine which course to take. Here we ask God for inspiration, an intuitive thought or a decision.”

Page 87, paragraph 1: “Being still inexperienced and having just made conscious contact with God, it is not probable that we are going to be inspired at all times. We might pay for this presumption in all sorts of absurd actions and ideas.”

## **“Don’t make any major decisions for the first year”**

Page 60, paragraph 4: “(a) That we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives. (b) That probably no human power could have relieved our alcoholism. (c) That God could and would if He were sought. Being convinced, we were at Step Three, which is that we decided to turn our will and our life over to God as we understood Him.”

Page 71 paragraph 1 "If you have already made a decision, and an inventory of your grosser handicaps, you have made a good beginning."

"You need to stay in those feelings and really feel them." Page 84, paragraph 2: "When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them."

pg. 125 paragraph 1 "So we think that unless some good and useful purpose is to be served, past occurrences should not be discussed."

**"We learn to live life on life's terms."**

Page 77, Paragraph 1: "Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us."

**"Stay out of relationships for the first year!"**

Page. 69, paragraph 1: "We do not want to be the arbiter of anyone's sex conduct."

Page 69, paragraph 3: "In meditation, we ask God what we should do about each specific matter. The right answer will come if we want it."

Page 69, paragraph 4: "God alone can judge our sex situation."

Page 69-70: "Counsel with other persons is often desirable, but we let God be the final judge."

Page 70, Paragraph 2: "We earnestly pray for the right ideal, for guidance in each questionable situation, for sanity, and for the strength to do the right thing."

**"Alcohol was my drug of choice"**

Page 24, paragraph 2: "The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink."

**"Keep coming back, eventually it will rub off on you"**

Page 64, Paragraph 1: "Though our decision was a vital and crucial step, it could have little permanent effect unless at once followed by a strenuous effort to face, and to be rid of, the things in ourselves which had been blocking us"

**"Ninety Meetings in Ninety Days"**

Page 15, paragraph 2: "We meet frequently so that newcomers may find the fellowship they seek."

Page 19, paragraph 2: "None of us makes a sole vocation of this work, nor do we think its effectiveness would be increased if we did."

**To Be Continued.....**

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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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This Newsletter is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous, nor is it endorsed by Alcoholics Anonymous.

All information and opinion expressed in this Newsletter is solely that of the author (s).

