

## Membership Has Its Privileges



It is interesting to me how the tradition that developed to open the doors of AA to any person who has a desire to stop drinking is so often used to restrict the access of individuals who fail to use a key phrase at the beginning of the meeting. Don't get me wrong—nursing students, curiosity seekers, and concerned family

members have no reason to be in a CLOSED meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. What saddens me is how we react when someone identifies themselves as an addict or court ordered for DUI.

We seem to have no difficulty letting individuals who have little desire to stop drinking stay in a closed meeting as long as they say, "I am an alcoholic." We say to ourselves, "Who am I to judge his/her intent?" I wish we would extend this kind, loving, and tolerant reasoning to the newcomer who has yet to identify as an alcoholic. After hearing the message of hope and recovery the DUI offender or addict may very well leave a meeting with a new found desire to stop drinking. If they don't identify they probably won't be back.

I must confess that one of my character defects is being a wishy-washy extremist. At different times in my sobriety I have been absolutely convinced that only "alcoholics" should be in closed meetings. At other times I was certain that I should never judge another's inner motivation and everyone should be welcome. Out west, on vacation, I attended a meeting where I saw both these extremes work together in a beautiful way. It was a very large, closed, noon meeting. A few individuals identified themselves as meth addicts. The group conscience welcomed them to the meeting but specifically asked that only people who identified themselves as alcoholics share. It worked! There was enough hope for everyone but the message stayed on our 12 Steps

There are two types of people at an AA meeting; members and guests. I sometimes have guests I am not enthusiastic about but I try to be gracious. As a member of AA I am grateful that today I have the privilege to share sobriety and the message of recovery.

## Tradition 3

**The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

The POST is published to improve communication between local A.A. groups and encourage the participation of A.A. members in services and activities that promote sobriety. Opinions expressed in letters and articles are those of the authors and do not indicate endorsement by Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous.



**Contact Us**

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Intergroup Central  
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*Donations for print subscriptions are encouraged.*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CORRECTIONS WORKSHOP PLUS FOOD AND FUN!!



SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH

LUNCH AND WORKSHOP BEGINS:

1:30 PM

MEETING PLACE:  
THE LEGACIES GROUP

Are you **CHICKEN** to get involved with **CORRECTIONS??** Come eat **FRIED CHICKEN** and listen to those who are benefiting from the experience.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!



Legacies Group no longer meets on Sundays



## At Your Service

**INTERGROUP**– March 20 , 9AM

Jackson Hospital Cafeteria

**CORRECTIONS**– Mar 6 10:40 AM

Legacies Group

**GRAPEVINE**– Mar. 21, 1:30

Starbucks Atlanta Hwy.

**PI/CPC**– Mar. 6, 10:30

Happy Hour Group

### Grupo Empezar A Vivir

Spanish Speaking Group

Mon.– Sat. 7:30-9:00 pm

St. Peter's Catholic Church

235 Adams Ave.

### Links to Sobriety

*AA Websites-*

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

*Local Service and Meeting Schedules-*

[www.centralalaa.org](http://www.centralalaa.org)

[www.aaarea1.org](http://www.aaarea1.org)

*Special Events & Activities*

[www.caymanroundup.com](http://www.caymanroundup.com)

[www.acypaa.org](http://www.acypaa.org)

[www.icypaahost.org](http://www.icypaahost.org)

[www.foundersdayflorida.org](http://www.foundersdayflorida.org)

[www.sprngflngstl.org](http://www.sprngflngstl.org)

**52nd International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA)**  
New York City  
August 26th-29th 2010

*Spring Fling*  
May 28– May 30  
St. Louis, MO

*Road Trips To Happy Destiny*

*Baton Rouge Big Book Study*  
July 30– Aug. 1  
Baton Rouge, LA

*Founder's Day Florida Style*  
June 4–June 6  
Tallahassee, Florida



**Montgomery Area Intergroup Minutes – February 20, 2010**

**Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer.**

**Groups Represented:** Triangle, Camellia City, Clanton, 12 Steps, Chapter 9, Fellowship, Living Sober, Legacies, Happy Hour & Tradition III.

**Groups Not Present:** A Vision For You, Sole Purpose, Southside, Strange Camels, Fountain City, Chisholm, Millbrook Serenity, Autauga S.O.S., Selma, Selma Men’s, Love Works, Union Springs, Free World, Wetumpka, Slapout, 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition, Maplesville, Tallassee Ray of Hope, Empesar A Vivir & Prattville Downtown.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer’s report for February was accepted as written.

**P.O.S.T. Report:** The editor of the P.O.S.T. welcomes any contributions (articles, birthdays, group announcements, etc.). These contributions for the P.O.S.T. should be sent in before the end of the month to the editor at [theposteditor@knology.net](mailto:theposteditor@knology.net). You may request the P.O.S.T. via email at [postmail@knology.net](mailto:postmail@knology.net). You may also sign up to receive the P.O.S.T. by visiting the District 8 website at [www.centralalaa.org](http://www.centralalaa.org) & selecting the newsletter option on the web page. If you receive the P.O.S.T. and have a change of address please notify the Central office by phone or email at [mgmicco@netscape.net](mailto:mgmicco@netscape.net).

**Central Office:** There is still a need for volunteers to work at the Central Office & to help with the 24/7 phone line. The office hours are 10 am to 2 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Interested parties should contact the Central Office. You can view and print a current meeting schedule by visiting the District 8 website at [www.centralalaa.org](http://www.centralalaa.org). The Central Office will be open immediately after the monthly Intergroup meeting if needed.

**Old Business:** The condition of the copier at the Central Office was discussed again but it was agreed to continue using it until it stopped working & then a replacement for it would be discussed.

**New Business:** A motion was made, seconded & passed to purchase a TV/DVD not to exceed \$400.00 for use at the Central office. Allison J. was elected for the position of chairperson.

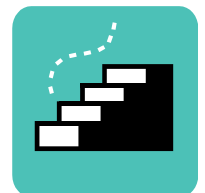
**Group Reports:** The Legacies group will have an eating/speaker meeting on Saturday, March 6, 2010 with the meal at 6:30 pm & the speaker at 8:00 pm.

**Meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.**

**Signed: Keith H. /Secretary**



**STEP 3**



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

What do you do to “turn it over?”

***Vacancy***

*The POST Editor service position is currently available.*

*Interested individuals should have a working knowledge of Microsoft Publisher or other publishing software. He/she should also be a participating member of AA who has worked the Steps. For more info contact Intergroup/Central Office or email inquiries to :[theposteditor@knology.net](mailto:theposteditor@knology.net).*



**District 8 Minutes  
February 6, 2010  
Groups Represented**

Chisholm	Strange Camels		
Happy Hour	Sole Purpose	Triangle	
<b>Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs Present</b>			
Program	Corrections	InterGroup	Grapevine
CPC/PI	Treatment		

**Minutes**

**Roll Call:** 22 people signed the roster, 8 groups, 4 GSR, 1 Alt/GSR. Welcome from DCM. Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer. Introductions around room. Jenny read Tradition Two; Krista H. will read Tradition Three for March. Julie R. read Concept Two, Justin E. will read and share on Concept Three for March.

**Secretary Report:** DCM requested someone take notes. Susan H volunteered.

**Treasurer Report:** Report accepted.

**DCM Report:** Discussed pre conference agenda. Advised each GSR to find out from DCM which committee group has been assigned to, background information will be given to GSR's the end of February. Requested any group change forms be given to DCM so he can send to GSO.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

-Rob J. requested \$100.00 for Treatment committee for Literature and new HOPE video. Seconded, approved.

**GSR Sharing and announcements**

-Susan H. - Legacies Group is now meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays @ 6pm. Also meetings @ 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Group will have an Eating Meeting on March 6, 2010 at 6pm, Speaker will be Nancy K.

-Jenny- 66<sup>th</sup> Montgomery Anniversary will be February 27 starting at 4pm with circuit speaker Michael E. held at Whitfield Methodist Church

-Ray H. Fellowship Group Eating Meeting February 13<sup>th</sup>.

-Allen-Tallassee Ray of Hope Group's Anniversary will be February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Reports:**

**Archives:** Ralph H. reported committee will be asking for funds soon for framing of more Archives. Informed everyone Archives for District 8 are at the Happy Hour Group for anyone who would like to see them. **Next Meeting:** Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am, Happy Hour Group

**Corrections:** Susan H. Committee is receiving calls from facilities requesting volunteers. Please get involved in Corrections. **Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of EVERY month, 10:30AM, Legacies

**C.P.C.** -Michelle H. Will be getting packets together. **Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month at the Happy Hour Group at 10:30 am

**Public Information**

-Kent W. Public Service Announcements are going out to radio stations this week. Website had sixteen thousand hits in January. Most of the hits coming directly from domain name. Possibly putting Archives on website. **Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month at the Happy Hour Group at 10:30 am.



**Grapevine:** Natalie C. There has been a 40% decrease in sales of the Grapevine and other Grapevine publications. **Meeting:** March 21<sup>st</sup> 1:30 pm @ Starbucks on Atlanta Highway in front of Wal-Mart.

**Treatment:** Rob J. Has literature for those going into Treatment facilities. Pre-trial diversion meeting going well. Need Volunteers for Wetumpka Detox and Salvation Army.

**Meeting:** February 18<sup>th</sup> Legacies, 6:00PM

**Literature:** Not Present. **Meeting:** Call Kent L. for info.

**Intergroup:** Curt J. Central Office is need of volunteers. Considering buying a tv will be discussed at next meeting. **Meeting:** 3rd Sat. of month, 9AM at Jackson Hospital.

**Program:** Dennis R. Archives possible program soon. Willing to put programs together for all committees. **Meeting:** TBA

**Refreshments:** NONE!!

**OTP:** Elected new Old Timers Picnic Chair for 2010 Rob J.

**Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.**

**Web Address:** [www.centralalaa.org](http://www.centralalaa.org)

**POST address:** [theposteditor@knology.net](mailto:theposteditor@knology.net)

**Central Office:** [mgmicco@netscape.net](mailto:mgmicco@netscape.net)

**Next District meeting 3/6/2010, 9AM at Sole Purpose Group.**

**2010 International Convention Central Office/  
Intergroup Luncheon  
July 2, 2010  
San Antonio, TX  
RSVP to 210-821-6325  
\$30**



**Eatin' Meetin'  
Legacies Group  
March 6th  
6PM Fellowship & Food  
8:00 Nancy K.**

**AS BOB SEES IT .....**

"Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service.'"

# Happy Birthday!!!



## Remember!

We won't know it works at your group unless you send in your birthdays!



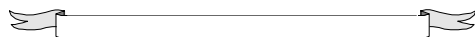
### Chilsholm

Jim S. 34 yrs.  
David J. 17 yrs.  
Jeff S. 12 yrs.  
Vicki R. 1 yr  
Penny S. 1 yr.



### Fellowship

Paula C. - 8 yrs  
Steve H - 15 yrs  
John W. - 2 yrs



*Forget a birthday? No worries! Send it in next month or the month after that. Deadline for birthdays, announcements and articles is the 29th of each month.*

To make a donation to cover the cost of print subscriptions, please make your checks out to Montgomery Intergroup/Central Office and indicate "POST" in the notation line.

## Concept 3

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"?

# From the Archives

On February 27 about 200 of us celebrated sixty six years of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Montgomery area together. That celebration included all of District 8. At that event Ralph H shared very well on the fact that we have found a common solution in this part of the world since February 22, 1944. We can get another glimpse of our common past in looking at a newspaper article that celebrated twenty nine years of AA in Montgomery in 1973. Just as at this year's celebration, an AA speaker from the Atlanta area shared experience, strength and hope. Most importantly the article reveals that, "The first step is to humble oneself to the point of admitting he [or she] really has a drinking problem. From there the strength of other member and the power of the program begin a new life for the sincere." Grateful for the help we have received we wish to share this life-giving message to others. That is just as true for us today .Let us walk hand in hand with other and our Higher Power.

## AA Marks 29 Successful Years in Montgomery Area

**By JOANN KLEIN  
Advertiser Staff Writer**

Through one of those doorways which leads only to stairs and yet another doorway, this door swings open to reveal a dimly lit room much like an auditorium with a sitting room in the back.

Yet from this dark room come some of the brightest lights in Montgomery—the lights of revelation. This room is the home for Alcoholics Anonymous in Montgomery, 216 Bibb St.

On Thursday three men gathered, all well-respected in the community, taking time off from important jobs to discuss what life used to be like.

After talking to the men for only a few minutes, realizing the light of AA is easy. A strange feeling pervades the room as the three share their experiences and those of others in this kinship. As one man put it, "You don't know our problem; ministers don't

know our problem; but we do. We can help each other because we've been there and we understand. We don't know why we understand; we just do."

This understanding is what has made the Montgomery branch of AA strong enough to be celebrating its 29th anniversary Saturday night. The meeting, scheduled for the Whitley Hotel at 8 p.m., is open to all, whether alcoholic or not. Speaker will be Dr. Conway H. of Atlanta. (AA never uses last names of members.)

But what of the story that has made AA so strong in Montgomery? The people are the story of the group's strength: lawyers, ministers, priests, state employes, persons from every walk of life. And each alcoholic is a story in himself.

For an alcoholic the road to help comes when he "gets sick and tired of being sick and tired." At this point he has lost "family, spiritual life,

social life, loved ones" and his life is generally "messed up."

Then he seeks AA.

One of the men came in three years ago with a "busted head and not a nickel in my pocket." Today he says all his problems are not over, but "at least I'm sober and can cope with them."

Another man, a government employe, became so low before seeking AA's help he was fired from a job as a dishwasher. That was 20 years ago. Today he is a supervisor.

The third man hitchhiked into Montgomery with no money in his pocket. He is now one of the most successful salesmen in the state, but as he put it, "It's a long road."

"Most of us come from skid row but today we're getting many people who come before they reach skid row. They

come before they lose their wives or husbands."

"We've been in the same jails," one man added. This explains why they can have that unique kinship.

After coming to AA a person goes through what are called the 12 steps in the program of AA.

"There's a strange connection between a higher power, call Him God or whatever, and the AA program. Things just seem to fall into place strangely."

"Don't get me wrong; you won't get everything you want. But you will get what you need," was one man's explanation of the success of the program.

The first step is to humble oneself to the point of admitting he really has a drinking problem. From there the strength of other members and the power of the program begin a new life for the sincere.

But the road is by no means rosy. As one man put it, "So-

ciety is cruel to an alcoholic but it can be very kind to someone trying to do something about it."

From menial jobs, the AA member can work his way to a comfortable success.

"We're happy staying sober," was a good tribute to the Montgomery club.

Montgomery's AA has branched to help form clubs in Clanton, Tuskegee, Selma, Troy and Luverne, all as a testament to the work of Charlie A., founder of the local organization.

Charlie returned to Montgomery in 1943 from the Army with a drinking problem. He tried several ways to battle his problem and finally answered a newspaper advertisement.

Charlie's contact with the organization led to a meeting Feb. 22, 1944. Prior to the meeting Charlie began celebrating his birthday and continued to drink for a week. He got out of bed on Feb. 22 with the firm desire not to

drink and to contact as many people as possible.

The first person Charlie called on was a prominent automobile dealer, known to have a long drinking problem. To Charlie's amazement, the man met him with gratitude and offered his auto showroom for a meeting place.

The meeting was held and the organization was begun. Today over 2,000 persons have passed through the organization's program with current membership totaling 500.

Charlie is remembered today, over 10 years after his death, with a portrait and plaques of honor at the AA club. And every member silently thanks him for the work he did for each of them.

An example of the dedication of alcoholics to AA was illustrated by one man who got back his wife and family and now has grandchildren, a good job and a great deal of happiness. His tribute: "AA gave me all those things."

66 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AA in Montgomery Final Financial Report		02/27/10
Beginning Balance		\$856.00
Meeting Rent (Happy Hour)	\$ 30.00	\$826.00
Facility Rental (Whitfield UMC)	\$130.00	\$696.00
Individual & Group Donations	\$646.00	\$1342.00
Food/Beverage/Dry Goods	\$620.00	\$722.00
Decorations	\$ 48.00	\$674.00
Speaker		
Travel Expenses	\$200.00	\$474.00
Room	\$184.00	\$290.00
Welcome Basket	\$ 33.00	\$257.00
7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition Basket	\$334.00	\$591.00
Raffle	\$341.00	\$932.26