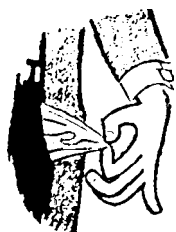




Published by
Cleveland Central Committee of A.A.

940 Rockefeller Building
614 Superior Avenue, N.W.
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216-241-7387

Communication!



The bulletin has been "carrying the message" for 50 years! Area members may not know that the bulletin is now running at a deficit of \$5000.00 per year.

When Central Committee started to "give away" a copy to each group, the subscriptions fell approximately 50%. Now we have only 531 subscribers.

531 Subscriptions @ \$5.00 ea.	\$ 2655.00
Yearly cost to produce and mail	<u>-7932.00</u>
Deficit	\$ -5277.00

Remember ! We are self-supporting through our own contributions. **What** is needed **is...**

All 850 Groups to subscribe.	\$4250.00
531 present subscriptions	<u>2655.00</u>
Projected Income	6905.00
Yearly cost to produce and mail	<u>-7932.00</u>
Deficit	\$ -1027.00
210 new subscribers @ \$5.00 ea.	<u>1050.00</u>
Prudent Reserve	23.00

If you want to continue to receive the Bulletin, the Bulletin needs you now! Here's how you can help.

All groups subscribe	\$ 4250.00
The 531 continue to subscribe	2655.00
260 new subscriptions	<u>1300.00</u>
Total subscriptions	\$ 8205.00
Yearly cost to produce and mail	<u>-7932.00</u>
Room to grow!	273.00

There is also a need for a regular in-put of fresh articles for your reading pleasure. If two groups would accept responsibility for submitting recovery articles for one particular month (i.e., two for February, two for March) we would sure have some good area sharing.

Bob R. and Francis M.

There Are No Giants!

Sid A., 42 year A.A. member, who has gone to the Big Sky Meeting, was fond of saying, "There are no giants in A.A."

If there were giants in A.A., Casimir L. would certainly stand head and shoulders above them.

"Cas" as his thousands of friends called him, celebrated a half century - 50 years - of uninterrupted sobriety on December 28, 1991.

When Cas came into A.A. as a young man of 24 on that December day, America had just gone to war to fight for freedom for the world. Cas came into this God given fellowship to gain his own freedom from the demons of alcoholism that ravaged his mind and body. And he gained his freedom the A.A. way "One Day At A Time".

Cas was born in Cleveland in 1917. He dropped out of South High School at the age of 16 to get a job at a grocery-produce firm as a dishwasher. He stayed on to become manager. For many years he owned a popular German restaurant at West 25th St. and Detroit Ave. He retired in 1976. He and his wife, married 55 years, have three children, four grandchildren, one great grandchild and another on the way in January.

When Cas came into A.A., he said in his lead, well-intentioned but gravely-misinformation members told him, "Kid, I spilled more than you drank. You're too young to be here. Come back when you really hit bottom". Cas did not take their advice. He knew he was where he belonged.

Cas was devoted to his family, his church, his community and to alcoholics. Cas is loved for many reasons. Some members remember him as the man who brought food to the house. The man who got the heat or lights turned on. One member remembers Cas this way. "He was there when I needed a word of comfort. I don't know where I would be today if it were not for him. He's like a father to me. I love him".

Cas's friends and family members will remember him on Sunday, Dec. 29th with an Open House Reception at St. Alexis Hospital's Guild Hall, 5163 Broadway, Cleveland. from 1p.m. to 5p.m.

Don B.
Parma Hts. Group.

GROUP ANNIVERSARY

To share your group's celebration with other members of our fellowship, send a note with time, date and special instructions 60 days prior to the event.

Chagrin Falls Friday Night N/S - 50th Anniversary

Friday, February 28, 1992

Federated Church

76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

Dinner 7:00 p.m. • Lead 8:30 p.m.

Call Michael D., 991-5555

Mary Yoder

Mary Yoder, the widow of Moses Yoder, died Thanksgiving evening at her daughter's home in Indiana.

The funeral was held on Monday, December 2, at the Cornerstone Mennonite Church in Hartville, Ohio

Memories of Moses Yoder

by Dj

I saw Mos' just once in the times I visited the "rooms" and he left this verse on "Stinkng Thinkng" forever planted in my mind...

My Mind is a garden.
My thoughts are the seeds.
What shall I plant
Flowers or weeds?

NAMING A.A. GROUPS

We sure were creative when it came to hiding booze. Dr. Bob used to put a pint in a large glove and throw it up to an upstairs porch. One gal used to hang a bottle outside her house -painting it the color of the house first. Some of us are still finding hidden (and forgotten) bottles years after getting sober.

All of this creativity seems to disappear when we're naming new AA groups. The pamphlet "The AA Group" used to offer these suggestions about naming groups.

1. The primary purpose of any AA group is to carry the AA message to Alcoholics. Experience with alcohol is one thing all AA members have in common. It is misleading to hint or give the impression that AA solves marital problems or knows what to do about addiction to heroin or other such drugs.

That is why our AA group conscience, as voiced by the Conference, has recommended that "Family" "Alcohol and Pill" meetings not be listed in our AA director's. The use of the word "family" might also invite confusion with Al-anon Family Groups, a fellowship entirely separate from AA.

Of course, drug addicts and non-alcoholic family members are-like everyone else-free to attend any "open AA meeting (see

section 15, p. 17). However the one requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking, and there is no way we in AA can turn nonalcoholics into alcoholics and thus enable them to qualify for AA membership. (Write GSO for a copy of the leaflet "Problems Other Than Alcohol").

Some of the groups found it is not a good idea to elect nonalcoholics to group offices, since officers should be AA members.

2. No matter how noble the activity or how prestigious the institution, experience has taught AA groups to avoid carefully any affiliation with or endorsement of any enterprise outside AA. Even the appearance of being linked to any professional or lay organization, club political or religious persuasion, or institution needs to be avoided.

Therefore, an AA group that meets in a correctional or treatment facility or a church can take care not to use the institution's name, but to call itself something quite different. This makes it clear that the AA group is not affiliated with the hospital, church, prison, rehab center, or whatever, but simply uses space there for meetings.

3. It has also been strongly recommended by the A.A. Conference that no A.A. group be named after any actual person living or dead, A.A. or non-A.A. That is one way we can "place principles before personalities" (in the words of Tradition Twelve).

This text was removed from the current version of this pamphlet; however, the pamphlet has been through 5 revisions in the past 2 years and some folks, notably the literature committee, are not happy with its present form. Some removed items may be reinstated. Whether this text is there or not, the conference actions are still in effect-that a group have but one primary purpose (carrying the message to alcoholics), that it not imply endorsement with any other organization, and that it practice principles before personalities.

Some groups skirt these suggestions. My own home group, Community Sunday, meets in a building that was once called Community Temple. The Try! See? Group met at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). My favorite example is the Coventry (Road) Group which meets in the Euclid Avenue Christian Church which is located on Mayfield Road. Dick P., a previous secretary of our district office, asked a Mexican group that named itself after him to please change its name.

Let's be a little more imaginative. I'm fond of the name "Last Call" for a group that meets Sunday at 10 p.m. I know of an "End of the Road Group" that meets on a cul-de-sac. There are hundreds of principles after which a group can name itself. They need not pick the name of the building or organization where they meet. I was asked to write this article because of the large number of groups that come to the Central Committee wanting to name their group contrary to these suggestions. I know that many groups don't comply with this. A lot of them where named before the pamphlet existed in 1965, and others where unaware of our suggestions.

I hope that this is of help to some members currently forming groups.

Bob McK.

THE FIRST STEP

Oh what a dilemma! You guys got me to a meeting - a meeting that I *knew* I did not have to be at except for the trouble that alcohol had got me into. You see, I *never got into trouble my whole life* - and my life was never *unmanageable* - it was just that, the trouble that alcohol caused *..not I caused...was the trouble..* It took me along time but I had to be there, the court said so. And many meetings, many sponsor sessions, many peelings of the skins of the onion that I am later, I finally began to see that maybe, just maybe you were right. Everyone I blamed, wife, kids, parents, brothers, relatives, friends, job, money, the sun, wind, rain, snow, car, dog, the cats and the canary *were all gone...all gone* !!! There I was bare -- naked with no one and nothing to blame but poor little ole me who had never intentionally done anything wrong, in my life right?...*Wrong!!*

T.I.M.E. (This I Must Earn). It took this sick, sick, sick puppy a long time to say, " We admitted we were powerless over alcohol and our lives are unmanageable". However in time and with the *Grace of God* , which I *finally accepted*, I was able to come to the realization that *I came...I came to...I came to believe*. After that it was simple, right?... *Wrong!* The following years of growing in the program did little for this ego oriented sick pup. I learned to go to meetings, go to meetings, go to meetings. Listen, listen, listen... listen to learn. Wow that is profound isn't it? *How come I didn't think of that. Now each morning I accept the Grace of God, and I pick up my sobriety from the night table where He lays it for me because now I know, and to the best of my ability try to work, the First Step in all my affairs.*

Bob R.

I try to take just
ONE DAY AT TIME...



..but lately several days have
attacked me all at once

Problem writing a 4th step?

Sponsor give you a deadline?

Just can't seem to put pen to paper

NO PROBLEM! - CALL

. INVENTORIES-R-US .

We're searching -We're fearless-We're...

Well 2 out of 3 ain't bad.

(Others take your inventory simply out of their own insecurity)

NOW LET THE PROS DO IT!!

TRUST US!

\$ Our motives are pure - we're In It for the money \$

You don't have to do it alone, so remember;

TOGETHER WE CAN

Call 1-800-4TH-STEP

ACT NOW AND GET YOUR 8TH STEP FREE!


A SUBSIDIARY OF OUTSIDE ENTERPRISES, INC.

Twelve Steps of a Sponsor


1. I will not help you stay and wallow in limbo.
2. I will help you grow, to become more productive, by your definition.
3. I will help you become more autonomous, more loving of yourself, more excited, less sensitive, more free to continue becoming the authority of your own living.
4. I cannot give you your dreams or "fix you up" simply because I cannot.
5. I cannot give you growth or grow for you. You must grow for yourself, by facing reality, grim as it may be at times.
6. I cannot take away your loneliness or pain.
7. I cannot sense your world for you, evaluate your goals, or tell you what is best for you in your world; you have your own world.
8. I cannot convince you of the crucial choice of choosing the scary uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of not growing.
9. I want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend; yet, I cannot get close to you when you choose not to grow.
10. When I begin to care for you out of pity, when I begin to lose trust in you, then I am toxic, bad and inhibiting for you, and you for me.
11. You must know- my help is conditional. I will be there with you, **hangin** there with you, as long as I continue to get even the slightest hints that you are trying to grow.
12. If you can accept all of this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be, mature adults, leaving childishness forever to little children.

Unsigned

New Jersey A.A.



Sobriety Insurance



"...nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics."

We need A.A.'s to volunteer to be "temporary contacts" (not sponsors) to help people getting out of treatment to "bridge the gap" into the A.A. community.

Working within our traditions, temporary contacts may do such things as:

- ★ Pick up or meet alcoholics at meetings in your neighborhood (especially the day that they get out of treatment).
- ★ Introduce them to as many A.A.'s as possible.
- ★ Guide them to possible sponsors and home groups.
- ★ Visit the alcoholic before they leave the facility.

The Temporary Contact Program is exactly that—a temporary arrangement until the new member feels at home in A.A. It is not sponsorship. This program is working successfully in many other U.S. cities. C'mon Northeast Ohio!

Please call Joyce K. at 431-7800 X216 or Steve H. at 932-8195, if you are interested in getting active.

P.S.: Please tell your friends!

sponsored by: Northeast Ohio General Service Treatment Facilities Committee

their dark confinement and vanish as they are exposed to disclosure's light.

6 & 7. "Discarding" the flaws of our character comes as a result of embracing the spiritual progressions of becoming willing then ready then humbly useful to others.

8 & 9. "Correcting the past damage caused by us to others by acts of restitution will bring peace and may result in forgiveness.

10 & 11. Just as steps 4 to 9 cleared up the past we continue this process daily for the remainder of our lives on a day at a time basis to seek freedom from self will by the maintenance of a fit spiritual condition. If we're not on the path's direction that we came here on, then we're going on the direction we came here from.

12a. An awakening of our spirit results from the merited bliss of a less self-centered life.

12b. Recognizing our unique ability to bring aid and comfort to a fellow sufferer will, by returning us to the step's process, insure our immunity from alcohol and allow us to continue to recover from ourselves. We see that sobriety is God's gift to us and what we do with it is our gift to God.

12c. By practicing these valid guides for living, we pursue less complicated lives and advance responsible and right relations with others.

Anonymous, Cleveland

Paraphrased Steps

1. The next first drink's obsession's insistence made us powerless over alcohol and the allergy's existence made our lives unmanageable. Thus, we have a body that can't take it which is ruled by a mind that can't leave it alone.

2. For a real alcoholic who has lost the power to choose whether he will drink or not, immunity from alcohol cannot come from the self, for the self can not remove the self from the center of its own endeavor. We no longer seek to solve the problem over which we have admitted powerlessness. Instead we seek the power, and the power solves the problem.

3. We seek to acquire this spiritual power by a systematic progression of: suspect, believe, decide and act in order to heal our shattered life by reducing our riotous will. We attain the relief of the bondage of self by doing the next six steps.

4. We learn that the root of our problem is selfishness. We "uncover" patterns of our past, invalid guides for living based primarily upon behavior which sought the satisfaction of instincts for security, status and sexuality, by analyzing our resentments, fears and sexual conduct.

5. We "discovered" how our self centered behavior led us to short-term pleasure and long-term pain. Relief from prideful shame and other emotions of the past break out of

GOD WONDERS

Lightning and thunder
are God's fireworks in the sky
as frightening as they may be
they leave a wonder to the eye

Friends and love
are God's wonders on earth
accumulated through time
from the beginning of the birth

These are things
we sometimes take for granted
thinking they'll always be there
this is when it's time
to look in the mirror
asking, "have I truly been fair?"...

Melinda R.

CENTRAL BULLETIN



Published monthly by the Cleveland Central Committee of A.A., a non-profit fellowship dedicated to serve. Address all letters to Central Bulletin, 940 Rockefeller Building, 614 Superior Avenue, N.W., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. District Office (216) 241-7367
Harry D., Founder and Editor 1892-1968

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING
ST. MALACHI CENTER

2416 Superior Viaduct • 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7, 1992

PLEASE ATTEND

Your group may be represented by you or a member assigned to be your group representative. Let us take an active part in these important meetings to uphold our-

UNITY IN FELLOWSHIP

Gerard P., Moderator

Jim W., Secretary

PURPOSE

Because better understanding is the key to friendship;

Because the public act of any group or individual involves our entire fellowship;

Because we must continually take inventory of ourselves as individuals and as groups;

The **A.A. Central** Committee has these purposes:

To bring together representatives of all groups for discussions of policy and practice; to create high standards; to guard against exploitation or commercialization; to insure our humility as groups and individuals.

To protect unity of thought and purpose through the Central Bulletin, the area wide meetings, and such other activities as seem consistent.

To maintain standards through the sponsoring of a Hospital Committee and such other committees **as are necessary to carry on this work.**

To serve as a clearing house for ideas.

The OBJECT of the Central Committee is SERVICE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

November 1991

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 2,430.38
Rent for 11/5/91 Meeting	\$25.00	
Bank Service charge	4.76	(29.76)
NEW BALANCE		\$ 2,400.62

CENTRAL BULLETIN FINANCIAL REPORT

November 1991

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$336.83
Total Deposits	\$264.00	
Printing Nov. Central Bulletin	\$234.53	
Mailing Nov. Central Bulletin	<u>56.72</u>	(291.252) (27.25)
NEW BALANCE		\$309.58

Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday *1/30/92 . 8pm.

Old Stone Church on Public Square
Each group is entitled to send a representative.

Tickets for the annual
Dinner-dance will be on sale.

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

ST. MALACHI'S CENTER

December 2, 1991 . 8 p.m.

The meeting was opened by moderator, James P. leading the members present in the Serenity Prayer. The roll call showed that 31 members were present, representing 28 groups. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Central Bulletin: Next editors' meeting is January 7, at 7p.m. We will be submitting photo-ready copy to our printer.

New Business: Committee approved of Bob R., Editor and Francis M., Co-editor of the Central Bulletin. A motion passed to ask for area meetings to submit articles monthly for printing in the Bulletin.

Clubs are not A.A.; Non A.A. announcements should be posted as such.

New Groups: Groups blessed to be added to the meeting schedule were:

Questions & Answers	One Step Ahead
Tuesday 8 p.m.	Saturday 1:30 p.m.
St. Bartholomew School	Glenbeigh Hospital
14875 E. Bagley	18120 Yuritas
Middleburg Hts.	Cleveland

La Discussion Del Libro Grande

Sunday 6:45 p.m.
1948 W. 32nd Street
Cleveland
Beginners Meeting

Election of Officers: • Moderator • Gerard P.
• Vice-Moderator- Mark L. • Secretary • Jim W.

N.E. Ohio General Service: The next Third Legacy meeting is January 19th, 2p.m. at the 12 Step Recovery Club, Brunswick Plaza 1480 Pearl Road., Brunswick. The NEO Mini-Conference will be at the Holiday Inn, Middleburg Hts. the weekend of February 28th -29th and March 1st.

87 speakers were supplied by the District Office to non A.A. groups for the months of January thru November 1991.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

I Was Told

The magic of believing! It doesn't matter what you believe, what faith you have. What is important is that you believe; have the faith! I used to think faith was only related to church and God. But now I know that faith is also the belief in your fellow man, in your work, in your employer, and in yourself. Without faith there is no hope. Without hope there is despair. Life is just a miserable existence without hope and faith that you will get better and eventually things will get better.

Due to the abuse of alcohol I lost my faith, my hope, and my belief that I could lead a sober life. That was over ten years ago. Through the Grace of God, my Higher Power, and the fellowship of A.A. I have been free from alcohol for over ten years.

Old timers told me to "FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT"! • and PRAY! I was very negative and sarcastic but I kept trying it. Eventually "I came to believe"! Prayer is talking to God. But it also gives one a positive attitude to rid oneself of resentments.

Ralph W.

CENTRAL BULLETIN
Subscription / Change of Address Form

Name _____ Date _____

New Address _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

One Year \$5.00 Amount Enclosed _____

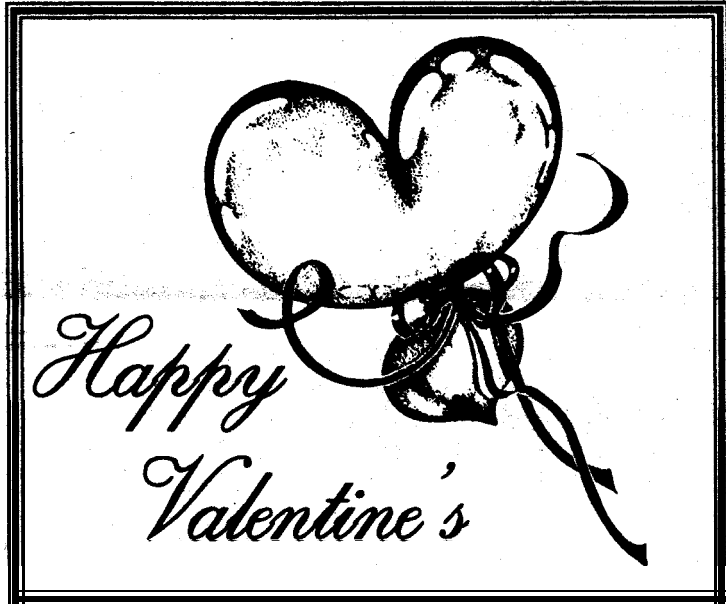
Mail to Central Bulletin
940 Rockefeller Building • Superior Avenue, N.W. • Cleveland Ohio 44113

If you don't want to cut this form out of your Central Bulletin, just sent us the above information

940 ROCKEFELLER BLDG.
614 SUPERIOR AVE., N.W.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2641
Cleveland, Ohio

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH



Four Old Girlfriends

J.B.

J.B. was my one true love. Maybe you know her too? The ads **say that** "Christmas without J.B. is just 'ingle 'ells." She had an hour glass figure. Well, maybe it was more bottle shaped, but towards the end I figure I consumed her by the glass by the hour. She was a jealous gal. She hated having things come into the way of our affair. Things like my wife,, my job, my health. Furthermore, she was quite expensive. I dumped her and started hanging out with a couple guys named Ernest and **Julio**. You know the rest of the story!,

ANNA

I went to a chemical dependency treatment center. I was taught there to introduce myself as "an alcoholic an' a drug addict" in order to be honest. **That's** fine. I am both. Their concern there is both. When I joined A.A. and introduced **myself this way, it seemed to me that by admitting I was an alcoholic I was identifying with everyone in the room but by adding the "an' a" I was alienating half of them.** A.A.'s only concern is alcoholism. I changed my statement to "I'm an alcoholic among other things," leaving this to your imagination.

As time wore on, I learned the difference between being completely honest and completely open A.A. only asked

my to by completely open in my Fifth Step, not in my **introduction** or my lead. You need not know my full life's story - just the part pertinent to alcoholism. This is, of course, only my opinion.

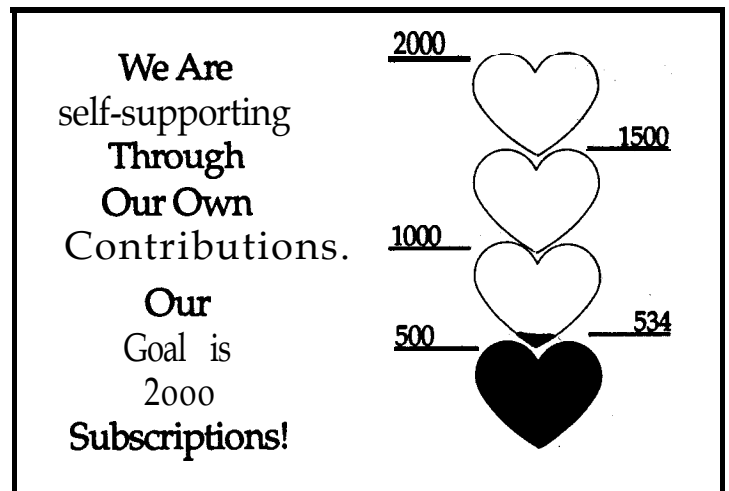
IDA

About a year **sober**, guilt and **remorse set** in. "If only I'd 'a' hone this. If only I'd 'a' done that. I was stuck with Ida. She wasn't a fun person! I was not having a good time! **What did this all mean? Was it time to go out drinking again? Maybe.** Either that or work Steps 4 through 9. I **chose the latter.** I thought the Big Book quote "**you will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it**" was an extravagant promise. It isn't.

SUE

Sue's my wife of fifteen years now, about half of that **drinking.** **By the end of my drinking, we had a marriage in name only.** **Changing** that required **years** of work on both our parts. At one time, about 1 1/2 years sober, I was ready **to walk out.** **My sponsor wouldn't let me. I still had amends to do.** Our **marriage now is better than ever.** **I think that is due in no small part to the Big Book's** "so we dean house with the family, asking each morning in meditation that our Creator show us the way of patience, tolerance, kindness and love." I claim no large measure of these virtues. I only claim a bit more than when I first **started** asking for them.

Bob McK.
Community Sunday



GROUP ANNIVERSARY

To share **your** group's celebration with other **members** of our **fellowship**, send a note with time, date and **special** instructions **60** days prior to the event.

- 50th Anniversary -

Chagrin Falls Friday Night N/S

Friday, February 28, 1992

Lead **Vic Zublik**

F&rated Church • 76 Bell St.

Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

Dinner 7:00 p.m. • Lead **8:30 p.m.**

Call **Michael D.** • 991-5555

- First Anniversary -

Euclid Sunday Non-Smoking Group

February 16, 1992 • 7:00 p.m.

St Roberts Bellarmine Church

23802 Lakeshore Blvd.

Euclid, Ohio

17th Annual Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference

February 28, 29 and March 1, 1992

Theme: *The A.A. Message In A Changing World*

Banquet Speaker: *Eileen G. -Staff G.S.O., NY*

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ • 7230EngleRoad

Middleburg Hts., Ohio 44130

Reservations Before February 14, 1992

John Salvaggi

John pass away on November 17, 1991.
He was a faithful member of the **Parma Saturday Group** for 21 years.

Only You Can Take Your Inventory

The editors of the Central Bulletin recently learned that some members were offended by the printing of a certain tongue-in-cheek ad in our January issue. If we have caused harm to anyone, we **apologize**. There is **only one way to take your Fourth Step and that is by the book** (page 65 to be exact).

Our tongue-in-cheek ad was inserted to provide a little humor, we hope you took it in jest. For those of you who didn't and actually called the number printed, we will pray that the burden of laziness be lifted from you. For those who actually believed that there is a shortcut to recovery and took the ad seriously, we only have one thing to say...**LIGHTEN UP!**

Humbly submitted by one Central Bulletin Editor
(Bet you can't guess which one).

Step Two: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to Sanity.

Well, in the First Step some of you allowed me, some of you **force-fed** me to see that truly, truly, there was a Higher Power in my life. It took a length of time to see that alcohol and all that went with it was directing every facet of my life asleep and awake. If I drank enough, it let me sleep for a while, only to awaken me to go out - if I had not had the foresight to protect my supply - and look for more. If I did not have money, it forced me to go to work, go to borrow, got to con, go to steal. Yes, go to any lengths to serve my **lower** power who was my higher power.

After an agonizingly long period of time, I finally came! I had shown up and stumbled in the door. I came to! I stayed without alcohol in my system, I started to clear up, and started to come to my senses. I have thought many times that I have gotten will, but unfortunately, or fortunately, circumstances proved once again to me that I am getting, not have gotten well.

Now the Second Step becomes workable: if I work it; if I turn my belief that not me but my Higher Power can restore me to sanity; that I desire to be restored to the Higher Power's sanity, not mine. For my sanity is what got me hem.

I learned through you that this spiritual awakening had it's beginning for me in the Second Step and I finally settled down and began the journey on a road that was wide, but was already beginning to narrow. I believe that the opening of spiritual doors in Step Two is an area that we do not have to tread alone. Our sponsors, other members, sharing before and after meetings, this and trying to recall what we were taught Before about faith and God, we can then try to Bring into Balance all the co-addictions that exist along with our alcoholism. These must all be put in proper perspective. So with this as a beginning, I tried to take Step Two.
BobR.

In The Drink

Wow **long** can you **tread** water?

"As long as I can move my arms."

"What's that you're listening to?" "It's not what. It's who."

"Excuse me. Whooo's that you're listening to?" "God."

Oh, yeah? What do you hear?" "God's will for me."

'How are you sure? 'My life improves"

"How does it improve?" "I kick my feet."

"How do you know you are going in the right direction?"

"I swim with my Guide."

"Who is your guide." "God."

"Are you certain?" "Yes!"

"What evidence do you have?" "I am still alive."

"So? So am I! Why would God be concerned with you?"

"I am his child."

"Imagine that? Another Immaculate!"

"No, just a once lost **shep**."

"And now, I suppose, you are found?" "Yes."

'How are you sure?' "I am no longer lost."

Duncan S.

Begin Anew (a poem for beginners)

by David C.

I'll tell my story, sad but true,
In hope that I can bring, to you,
The fearful truth that alcohol
Will, one by one, destroy us all.

My days grew longer - full of fear
I lost the Mends I held so dear.
With little left, I chose to hide
And drink away my shining pride.

Then out of shame, there came the day;
I went to treatment, then A.A.
I thought I'd try to do it right.
Attended meetings day and night.

There's just one thing I failed to see,
This wasn't my recovery.
My body?... surely it was there,
But mind and spirit?... everywhere.

A sponsor?... on no, not for me.
Still had to shield my dignity.
As time went on, I lost some fear.
I'd sham just what you'd like to hear.

I felt real good and had the book,
But **should** have taken a harder look.
For just as sure as meetings dwindled,
The flame of alcohol rekindled.

Out again and proud to say,
"Licked this thing in my own way."
I could now control my drinking,
Oh dear God... what was I thinking?

It **overpowered twice as fast**
And every drink would be my last.
I'd deal with God to get me through.
Just hoping that my words rang true.

The holidays went vaguely past
While family was still aghast.
God replaced my drunken leisure
With a trump card call a seizure.



While faithful few repaired my mess,
My conscience wanted to confess
To those who waited patiently
Along the path that is for me.

With pride in hand, I bared my shame.
For I had just myself to blame.
The door was here - and open still
I saw my friends and knew God's will.

This time I'll really do it right
Forget the show and stop the fight.
Enjoy the friends who really care
For they deserve an honest "share".

As a sponsor I have found, at last,
To help me sort my hateful past.
He made me wipe my book of dust
And make these steps a daily must.

The God I used to face with fear
Has brought me near and sent me here
To face the truth - begin anew -
I pray that it will be with you.

Sponsoring aid Being Sponsored

Don't drink, go to meetings and pray was a very difficult task when I first was led to the fellowship of Alcoholic's Anonymous. Getting a sponsor seemed to be the lesser of those three evils. I chose someone who appeared to be the exact opposite of my unique personality. Naturally, some one unlike myself would *belong* in those rooms because I **truly was not an alcoholic. She is Caucasian and I am Black.** I was smart and she was dumb. How else would she have gotten herself into the situation of being an admitted alcoholic? She was dull and I was hip. These things were obvious upon our first meeting. What I didn't know was that she was getting better and I was very, very sick.

After our initial battles and acceptance of the other's weird personality quirks, I found this sponsor to be a very distasteful person. Despite my protestations, she had an annoying knack for telling the truth. Although I tried to break her of this awful habit, she continued to tell me that **I could get sober in spite of anything and anyone. And when my denial was finally broken, she was there by my side, still telling me things I really didn't care to know. She taught me to speak again, to trust again, to love again. I began to see the hope of recovery through her eyes. We worked the steps and worked through fear and depression, success and failure. Although I've had many fine examples in my life**

and still do, my sponsor began to show me things I'd known before, but had gotten lost along the way, like the power of God and prayer. She's shown me that work really does pay off and that life is only as good as you make it. She challenged me to live and told me that happiness begins with me.

When I started to sponsor, I was met with those **people** who were exactly like me. As I worked with them, I learned more about the depths of my sickness. Before me stood mirrors of misery who had the very same chances for hope and **recovery that my sponsor told me about.** Sponsoring new comers has given me opportunity to grow and to gauge my own recovery.

I no longer question how the program works, I simply know that it does. Being sponsored has given me more **than I can say - a hand to reach out to and a heart to love. I've discovered that although my sponsor and I are different,** we speak the same language. In sponsoring I discovered a never-ending source of gratitude, for in sponsoring I found me. If the steps are the fruit of the program, then sponsoring is the fruit of the fellowship. Please sponsor someone and let yourself be sponsored today.

Frances M.

Armchair Philosophy

Thought is a straight line starting at a problem and aimed at its solution. Worry is a **circle**: It starts nowhere, aims at nothing and returns empty-handed.

This Space Reserved For You!
Send us your **recovery stories, alcohol related poems, jokes, cartoons.**
Fill your bulletin with contributions from **our own area group members.**

Alcohol Is A Drug

In response to *One Alcoholic to Another's* letter to the editor in November's issue of the Central Bulletin about the **alcohol AND drug controversy**, I would like to say that I am glad most AA members do not have the attitude of this letter writer. Like many other "bleeding deacons" of your kind, it is you who discourage recovery by your lack of **understanding** and lack of acceptance of individuals who are addicts and have not yet accepted their alcohol use as one of many **drugs that** prolong their disease. Whether **or** not you know it, you, sir, are an addict too! Alcohol affects the system just as many other mind altering drugs do.

Alcohol and other drugs attack the system in this order. **First**, it affects the thinking, then the emotions, followed by **motor activity, semivoluntary movement and finally involuntary body functions. What that really means is that our thinking, feeling, walking, talking, and necessary body functions are affected.** Over time, we can and often do die. Did alcohol effect you this way? I think it did. In addition, **over 50% of AA members have misused or become addicted to another drug.**

AA is not on its way out. I believe it is growing stronger and offering life and hope to many who have used other drugs but are in denial about their **alcoholism**, just like you and I were when we were **qualifying** for this program. Peal alcoholics are addicts too. A little honesty and a lot of acceptance is in order. This controversy is bound to continue if attitudes like yours don't change. As you learn and grow, you will find that God's work can never be challenged.

If Alcoholic's Anonymous is God's gift to us, it will never die. Who are you to challenge god...

Sincerely,

A sober, pillpopping, marijuana, cocaine smoking, heroin snorting any kind of drug taking alcoholic.

Further Thoughts On Step One

Last Sunday at my home group, Community **Sunday**, a **plea was made for articles to be published. As I have learned from the fellowship of A.A. part of my recovery depends on service, so I am choosing to write how Step One of our suggested 12 Steps has affected me and the struggle I had making the admissions I was powerless.**

I am Jane and by my Higher Power's grace I am able to write this article today. Seven years ago this Christmas if you would have asked me to do anything for another I w & have **examined the request and if no gain was to be had for me, old self-centered me would have just shrugged and said "maybe later."** You see, I was filled with self-centeredness, self-pity and indecision. I would not have **wanted to admit those defects then, but today I have realized that by admitting my powerlessness and defeat in "Step One, I am totally grateful that I can do some service for this fellowship.**

I did not come to Step One easy. I really struggled because of my "chronic pride." It took me six months of praying half-heartedly, "Higher Power make me willing to be willing," that finally thru my Higher Power's grace, my willingness came. I later shared with my sponsor (who had directed me to pray for the willingness to be willing) that my dilemma was a result of fear. 23 Years ago, I again felt hopeless and I knelt and asked my Higher Power to help me. Months later I bottomed out emotionally. Again seven years ago that fear played a big part in trust.

However, today I have learned it is my Higher Power's **will - not my will in my life. I had to accept my obsession and unmanageability before I could begin to grow by way of the 12 Steps I know today no human power could have ever removed my obsession. I realize today and accept that I am not cured or will be cured, but today, for one day at a time with my Higher Power's grace, I can make it through this one day.**

This **First Step** is the principle of honesty and in the 5th chapter of the **Big Book**, it **states "if we have the capacity to be honest" we can recover. I had to stop blaming others and get honest. Step One for me was not as I originally perceived it - as despair-but rather in fact this became a step of hope.** The first **word** in the step is 'We', and this fellowship is a 'We' fellowship, so I did not have to go it **alone any more. Thank you for allowing me to share the struggle I had taking Step One. Today my self-seeking 'has slipped away' thru the grace of my Higher Power.**

Anonymous,
community Sunday



Published monthly by the Cleveland Central Committee of AA., a non-profit fellowship dedicated to serve. Address all letters to Central Bulletin, 940 Rockefeller Building, 614 Superior Avenue, N.W., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. District Office (216) 241-7387 Harry D., Founder and Editor 1892-1968

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING
ST. MALACHI CENTER**

2416 Superior Viaduct • 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7, 1992

PLEASE ATTEND

Your group may be represented by you or a member assigned to be your group representative. Let us take an active part in these important meetings to uphold our-

UNITY IN FELLOWSHIP

Gerard P., Moderator

Jim W., Secretary

PURPOSE

Because better understanding is the key to friendship;

Because the public act of any group or individual involves our entire fellowship;

Because we must continually take inventory of ourselves as individuals and as groups;

The AA Central Committee has these purposes:

To bring together representatives of all groups for discussions of policy and practice; to create high standards; to guard against exploitation or commercialization; to insure our humility as groups and individuals.

To protect unity of thought and purpose through the Central Bulletin, the area wide meetings, and such other activities as seem consistent.

To maintain standards through the sponsoring of a Hospital Committee and such other committees as are necessary to carry on this work

To serve as a clearing house for ideas

The OBJECT of the Central Committee is SERVICE

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT
December 1991**

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$ 2,400.62
Rent for 11/5/91 Meeting	\$25.00	
Bank Service charge	4.69	(29.69)
NEW BALANCE		\$2370.93

**CENTRAL BULLETIN FINANCIAL REPORT
November 1991**

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$309.58
Total Deposits	\$205.00	
Printing Nov. Central Bulletin	\$235.53	
Mailing Nov. Central Bulletin	58.94	(294.47)
NEW BALANCE		\$220.11

Central Bulletin Deadline

In order to be included in the March issue of the Central Bulletin, all articles must be on the editors desk by **March 5th**. Mail to: Central Office or Bob Russo, 5506 Wilber Ave, Parma, Ohio 44129

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

ST. MALACHI'S CENTER

December 2, 1991 . 8 p.m.

The meeting was opened by moderator, James P. leading the members present in the Serenity Prayer. Vice-Moderator, Mark L., read the purposes of the Central Committee and the Twelve Traditions. The roll call showed that 43 members were present, representing 33 groups. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Act & Committee: John C. of the Action Committee reported that the AA Group supposedly soliciting money for purposes other than the support of the group was not valid.

Central Bulletin: As stated at every meeting of 1991, the Central Bulletin needs the support of every AA group/member in taking out subscriptions and sending in articles. Next editors meeting, February 4, 1992 at 7:00 pm Everyone Welcome.

New Business: Editors from the Sober Press were present to state that they were not in competition with the Central Bulletin but simply carrying the message of hope and recovery.

N.E. Ohio General Service:

The next Third Legacy meeting is February 16th, 2p.m. at the 12 Step Recovery Club, Brunswick Plaza 1480 Pearl Road., Brunswick. The NEO Mini-Conference will be at the Holiday Inn, Middleburg Hts. the weekend of February 28th -29th and March 1st.

87 speakers were supplied by the District Office to non AA. groups for the year 1991.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

New Groups: Groups blessed to be added to the meeting schedule were:

North Royalton 24 Hour Discussion Group Thursday - 7:30 pm Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church Corner of Abby & Rt.82 North Royalton Closed, Mixed, Non-Smoking Fresh Beginning Tuesday - 7 pm 16801 Euclid Avenue Open, Mixed, Handicap Accessible, Smokii	Saturday Morning Breakfast Group Saturday Breakfast - 9 am Lead - 10:30 am Annunciation School 12815 Bennington Cleveland Fresh Start II Sunday Stag Sunday - 9 am 16801 Euclid Avenue Closed , Men Handicap Accessible, Smoking
--	--

Serenity Prayer

In the 1960's I was taught a "pop psychology" I no longer believe. It went with sayings like, "You can change the world," "You can be anything you want to be." Today I don't believe I can change the world. I can only try to change me.

In the alkie hospital in 1979, the therapist said, "Read the A.A. Big Book. You are not going to change that much but you can at least try!"

I think it is time that the pebble dropped into the pond spreads waves over the pond. Yes, we do affect others. And we give an immortality by passing on the A.A. traditions to a newtimer. I know I have fond memories of AA. sponsors who have passed on.

"You can be anything you want to be." No, I must accept myself. . . **Accept** the things I can not change... I could never be a mathematician, doctor, or scientist as I don't have that kind of interest or intelligence.

. . . **Change the things I can...** But I do have other talents and gifts and I must have the courage to use them to the best of my ability. I am a writer, communicator, and salesman. We all have God given talents. Some are teachers, mechanics, nurses, construction workers, housewives, etc.

...And the wisdom to know the difference... I am not a novelist, but I did try once. I am a salesman, but I am not a corporate executive. Acceptance! Accept the things you can not change... Accept yourself!

Ralphw.

CENTRAL BULLETIN
Subscription / Change of Address Form

Name _____ Date _____

New Address _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

One Year \$5.00
Amount Enclosed _____

* to Central Bulletin
940 Rockefeller Building • Superior Avenue, N.W. • Cleveland Ohio 44113

If you don't want to cut this form out of your Central Bulletin, just sent us the above information

940 ROCKEFELLER BLDG.
614 SUPERIOR AVE., N.W.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

**Non-Profit
Organization**
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2641
Cleveland, Ohio

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH



From the depths of my heart,
from what I understand and see.
I am an alcoholic and an alcoholic is me.

It's not my fault as to the cause of this affliction.
I understand it's a disease, a disease called *addiction*.

I must apply to my life "The Twelve Steps" and learn how to give.
I remember fighting this disease thinking I could win.
But it always tricked me, beat me down over and over again.

I now understand the value of one alcoholic helping another, black or white
no matter what color. For the alcoholic who really *seeks* help. . .
he *is* my brother. In my brother alcoholic I have found hope.
In applying the Twelve Steps I am learning to cope.

Now I'm starting to understand the plan. To live this life - rigorous honesty
is in great demand. For "*we*" can help each other when no one else can.

We come together to share our hopes, hurts and pain. We depart in
tranquility knowing it will get better from the knowledge we gain.
Though we know we are powerless . . . "*we*" is the power
that will carry us through the hell and rain.

Us, "*we*" together, will help each other sooth our hurts and pain.
For there is no one but us who understands "*us*" better than "*we*".

And for the sick still out there all we do is pray
that one day they'll see. If it's in God's plan
they too will understand
that *there is no "me" without "we"*.

Leonard C.
Orca House



**35th International Conference
of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous**

Benefit Dinner Dance

Saturday • April 4, 1992 • St. Christine Gym
840 E. 22nd Street • Euclid, Ohio

6:00 pm: Hor d'oeuvres

7:00 pm: Sit-down Home Cooked Dinner

8:00 pm: Lead - Caz L. . D.J.: 10:00 pm - ??

For more info write 35th ICYPAA, P.O.Box 200513, Cleve., OH 44120

11th Anniversary

Big Book Discussion Group

May 7, 1992 • 12noon

Old Arcade, Room 381

401 Euclid Ave. • Cleveland, Ohio

• *Limited Seating* •

Second Anniversary

First Step recovery

May 28, 1992 • 6:00 pm

2475 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.

Cleveland, Ohio

**35th International Conference
of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous**

August 27th • 30th, 1992

Marriott Society Center Hotel

127 Public Square • Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Reservation Deadline: June 15th, 1992

See your group secretary for registration form.

For more information call: (216) 586-9612

A &

JACOBSON

Harold A. Jacobsen a dedicated and cherished member of A.A. died Thursday, Feb. 13, 1992. He celebrated 27 years of sobriety. Harold will be dearly missed. Any contributions may be made to Stella Maris.

NICKENS

Samuel "Daddy Sam" Nickens, Sr. passed away recently. He was a member of the Garden Valley Group - an active member in A.A. for 40 years. We will miss him.

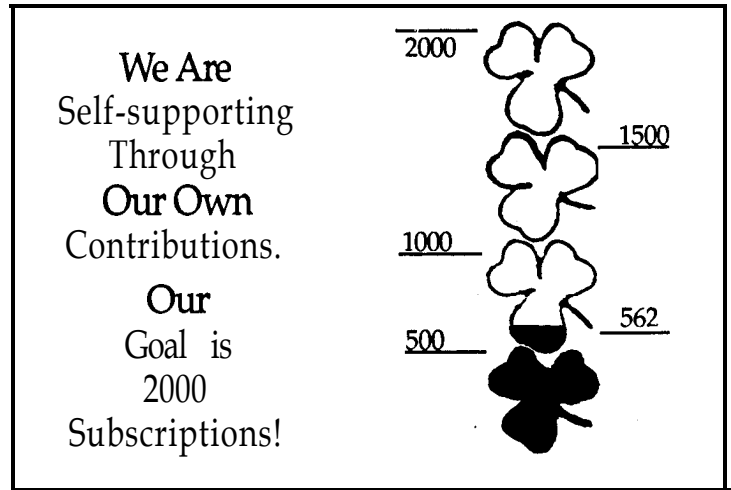
From A Friend

Harold! All who knew him were encouraged by his example. Through A.A. he had found a way to live, laugh, love, care for other people and stay in touch with God whom he considered a friend.

Jeanne

COMMUNICATION CLARIFICATION !

We would like each group to pay for the courtesy copy of the Central Bulletin currently sent to the group secretary. Sending \$5.00 and receiving another copy does not cover the cost of the *group's copy*.



We Are
Self-supporting
Through
Our Own
Contributions.
Our
Goal is
2000
Subscriptions!

This Is A Challenge!

This is in reference to the article on Central Bulletin Subscriptions in the January 1992 issue. First of all our group has just subscribed to the bulletin and through our group conscience, we have decided to donate one subscription per week as one of our raffle prizes to help lower the deficit of the bulletin. We would now like to challenge other groups to do the same. I also realize that our group has been around for twenty years and we have a good sized group. However, maybe your group can only afford one subscription per month, or one every three months, or whatever.

If each of the 850 groups just paid for a subscription for their own group and bought one more per year (maybe to be raffled off), the whole deficit would be wiped out with a lot of room to grow.

So get on this wagon and meet this challenge.

P.S. Since they told me to think positively in my early days, I will ask Shirley H. to post the results when we have overcome this deficit.

One of your 850 groups

Editor's Notes:

With last month's issue we started a progress graph. Let's fill up the chart!!

Have a complaint about the bulletin? Call Bob R. direct at 885-3361. (24 hour answering - personal or machine)

The concept of God.. .The Third AA Step

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

The **newtimer** in AA often has trouble accepting and understanding the third step: turning our will over to the care of God. . . I know as a drunk I played God. I was very willful, self centered, and cared little about anyone. My selfishness was centered around **the booze** bottle. Now that I am sober I am told, “Let go, Let God!” I am naturally aggressive but I now try to stop running the show. In AA I found out other AA’s have good opinions. My sponsor told me step back and give time, time! Do not be so impulsive and demanding as we cannot control people, places, and things. Let God’s will take it’s course and accept the things we cannot change...

AA says we all can have our concept of God, a higher power as we understand him. And it has been stated that the essence of the AA program **is**: “I am not God!” . . . That I am a limited human being who can fail and does fail. It is OK to fail as long as we get up and try again!! The only true failure is accepting failure by not trying again.

I was taught that we are human beings who are a part of the world’s nature. As such we live and die within nature. Most of us believe our spirit or consciousness live on in a spiritual world. God just “is”. . . a total spiritual perfection. **We are** imperfect and we will join that total perfection when our bodies die. Then we will have total serenity...

One young AA was angry with God: “God killed my Mother!!” . . . **No** God does not kill people, we die mostly due to the physical imperfection of disease. Alcoholism is one of those chronic diseases that can and will kill us if we do not stay in AA recovery!

The above is an opinion. We are all entitled to our opinions in AA. It is a suggested program of Recovery.

God Bless!!
Ralph W.



Words For Gratitude

God

Recovery

Alcoholics Anonymous

Trust

Inner healing

Tolerate and accept

Useful

Don’t drink

Enjoy Life

By having God and Alcoholics Anonymous my Trust in God “a day at a time” gives me an Inner healing to Tolerate and accept others, and to become Useful again. If I Don’t drink today, I can Enjoy “life on life’s terms with *gratitude*.”

Gratefully yours !
Bob V. (Borton)



Turning Flaws Into Gifts

The results I am seeking are that the steps develop my character flaws into contrasting spiritual **gifts**.

I came **DISHONEST** and in Step 1

. . . **HONESTY** developed.

I came **DESPAISED** and in Step 2

. . . **HOPE** developed.

I came **FEARFUL** and in Step 3

. . . **FAITH** developed.

I came **COWARDLY** and in Step 4

. . . **COURAGE** developed.

I came **JUSTIFYING** and in Step 5

. . . **INTEGRITY** developed.

I came **UNWILLING** and in Step 6

. . . **WILLINGNESS** developed.

I came **PRIDEFULLY** and in Step 7

. . . **HUMILITY** developed.

I came **ISOLATING** and in Step 8

. . . **FELLOWSHIP** developed.

I came **UNDISCIPLINED** and in Step 9

. . . **DISCIPLINE** developed.

I came **SLOTHFUL** and in Step 10

. . . **PERSISTENCE** developed.

I came **INDEPENDENT** and in Step 11

. . . **SPIRITUALITY** developed.


I came **SELFISH** and in Step 12

. . . **CHARITY** developed.

Anonymous, Cleveland

Attention! Attention.. .

... all group Secretary's and members of A.A. who come to the Central Committee meeting to have your group blessed and listed in the meeting schedule book. Once you have accomplished this, the C.C. does not see you nor a member of your group anymore.

Support your local Central Committee!
Let's send out the message to the new-comer/old timer - that A.A. is more than just going to meetings. Jim W., Secretary
Central Committee 

News from the Cleveland District Office

The 12- Step Committee wishes to congratulate and **thankall** the groups who have been so generous in giving of their time and efforts to answer the phones on the weekend. At present, the groups have signed up through mid May. That's truly carrying the message!

The 12-Step Committee is also expanding by carrying the message into the Correctional facilities. This is currently being done by a few dedicated individuals who are going in on their own and have built up an excellent rapport with the correctional facilities. Since the need seems to be greater, we are trying to enhance the programs that are working by asking for volunteers that would be willing to go along. A form was sent to your group in January that requested information from those , who would like to join the correctional facility meetings. Please check with your secretary for details, if there seems to be no information, call the District Office. You can help in many ways, by actually going into a correctional facility, by donating or collecting funds for Big Books -by collecting or donating literature that's collecting dust, or by corresponding to an inmate. Each person's anonymity would be protected by using the District Office's address in all correspondence.If you would like further information, pleasecontact the Central Office.The next meeting will be at 6 pm on February 23 at the Annunciation Church on West 130th and Bennington St. at the same place that Brookpark Monday Group meets. As they told me when I said I had no experience in jails, etc., "They don't need how to get in jail, they just need to know how to stay sober once they get out." That is why it is so important to get an outside contact so they can get off to a running start in the AA fellowship, once they are out in society.

The Annual March Fund Drive is getting geared up, our goal is **\$125,000.** the same as the past two years. We realize that this is not adequate for all our operations, we are trying to be frugal in light of the present economic conditions. However, we are hoping to get a few more members of the fellowship to contribute - in the past three years only 2 out of 10 members have contributed. Our membership is growing to over 20,000 our groups have increased to 891. We are being **asked** to reach out to more and more people in need of our fellowship. We are getting more calls from "fringe type **areas**" which are those in adjacent counties, those who have volunteer staff or operate on a limited basis. We supply speakers to schools, nursing and college classes as well as Health Fairs, Community programs and Churches. There is a great need for more sharing in Nursing Homes and College Campuses. We supply literature for all our groups and members at a nominal cost, we also get requests from out of town groups and people who have acquired some of the pamphlets that are only available from the Cleveland Office. Our service is very good and they are grateful for that. We also supply literature in **some** foreign languages for those who need it. We are often asked for help in translating languages, particularly from ministers and court systems who identify alcohol as the problem, but cannot communicate with the person. We want to keep the doors open for anyone who is in need of our fellowship. Please examine your situation today, compare it to the time before you came into our fellowship. Is it worth the price of a bottle to keep the doors open? If each person would contribute just that amount, we would easily be able to collect the funds necessary for our operations. You've been wonderful in **the** past - we thank you for your contributions of time, energy and funding to keep the doors open. Please be receptive to the person who will be soliciting the funds from you as individuals and groups. Many thanks.

Shirley H.



This Space Reserved For You!

We need step articles for each month. For April we will need a Fourth Step article. Have a favorite Grapevine cartoon? Send it in. We have permission to reprint.

CENTRAL BULLETIN



Published monthly by the Cleveland Central Committee of A.A., a non-profit fellowship dedicated to serve. Address all letters to Central Bulletin, 940 Rockefeller Building, 614 Superior Avenue, N.W., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. District Office (216) 241-7387
 Harry D., Founder and Editor 1892-1968

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING
 ST. MALACHI CENTER

2416 Superior Viaduct • 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 1992

PLEASE ATTEND

Your group may be represented by you or a member assigned to be your group representative. Let us take an active part in these important meetings to uphold our-

UNITY IN FELLOWSHIP

Gerard P., Moderator

Jim W., Secretary

PURPOSE

- Because better understanding is the key to friendship;
- Because the public act of any group or individual involves our entire fellowship;
- Because we must continually take inventory of ourselves as individuals and as groups;
- The A.A. Central Committee has these purposes:**
- To bring together representatives of all groups for discussions of policy and practice; to create high standards; to guard against exploitation or commercialization; to insure our humility as groups and individuals.
- To protect unity of thought and purpose through the Central Bulletin, the area wide meetings, and such other activities as seem consistent.
- To maintain standards through the sponsoring of a Hospital Committee and such other committees as are necessary to carry on this work.
- To serve as a clearing house for ideas.
- The OBJECT of the Central Committee is SERVICE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1992

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$2,370.93
Rent for 1/7/92 Meeting	\$25.00	
Bank Service charge	4.35	(29.35)
NEW BALANCE		\$2,341.58

CENTRAL BULLETIN FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1992

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$220.11
Total Deposits	\$459.00	
Printing Nov. Central Bulletin	\$225.00	
Mailing Nov. Central Bulletin	.58 39	(2 8 3 . 3 9)
NEW BALANCE		\$395.72

Central Bulletin Deadline

In order to be included in the April issue of the Central Bulletin, all articles must be on the editor's desk by March 5th. Mail to: Central Office or Bob Russo, 5506 Wilber Ave, Parma, Ohio 44129

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

ST. MALACHI'S CENTER

February 4, 1991 • 8p.m.

The meeting was opened by moderator, Gerald P. leading the members present in the Serenity Prayer. Vice-Moderator, Mark L., read the purposed of the Central Committee and the Twelve Traditions. The roll call showed that 30 members were present, representing 24 groups. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Central Bulletin: There will be an Editors meeting March 3, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Reminder...remerber the goal of the Central Bulletin for 1992 is 2000 sybscriptions.

Treatment Facilities: Laurelwood Hospital is expanding its support to the A.A. Community. Call 953-3000 for more information.

New Business: A motion was made to take \$1000.00 from the Central Committee and give it to the Central Office. This was tabled until the March meeting of the Central Committee.

N.E. Ohio General Service:

The next Third Legacy meeting is April 12th, 2p.m. at the 12 Step Recovery Club, Brunswick Plaza 1480 Pearl Road., Brunswick. 4 speakers were supplied by the District Office to non A.A. groups for the month of January.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

New Groups: Groups blessed to be added to the meeting schedule were:

Monday Morning Madness

Monday - 10:00 a.m.
 Just For Today Club
 327 E. 156th St.,
 Cleveland
 Open, Mixed, Smoking

Beachwood Monday Noon

Monday • 12:00 p.m.
 Trinity Presbyterian Church
 22111 Chagrin, Beachwood
 (Enter off Halworth via Belvoir)
 Closed, Mixed, Non-Smoking

Wednesday Nite Late "Hoot Owl"

Wednesday, 12:15 a.m.
 9326 Garfield Blvd.
 (Comer 94th St. & Garfield Blvd)
 Garfield Hts.
 Open, Handicap Accessible

O.D.A.T. Sunday

Sunday, 3:00 p.m.
 11300 Juniper Rd., Cleveland
 (Arabica Coffeeshop •
 Case Campus)
 Open, Mixed, Smoking

Monday Morning "Eye Opener"

Monday • 10:30 a.m.
 9326 Garfiled Blvd, Garfiled Hts.
 (Comer 94th & Garfiled Blvd.)
 Open, Handicap accessible

•• New Meeting Time ••

Allendale Thursday
 575 Richmond Road
 Effective May 7, 1992
 8:00 p.m. (from 8:30)

A Different Drummer

I used to be real proud that I marched to the beat of my own drummer. Yeah! A different drummer! Yeah! I do it my way! However marching to the beat of a different drummer sometimes took me over cliffs (no ropes, cleats or pick) into forest fires (no asbestos suit) or out into deep water (couldn't swim a stroke). The rest of the world would stop because their drummer stopped.

"What's Wrong With Her?" "Stop! Danger Ahead!"

But I was marching to my own drummers beat, or toward catastrophe. Somewhere my drummer stopped and the world kept on going while I waited and waited and waited.

"What's Wrong With Her?" "Come on! We're moving onward and upward!"

So the world kept on moving and I was left behind, stuck in the nightmare of my own creation. A big part of my recovery is realizing that the world doesn't have to get along with me. I have to get along with the world. I have to change my expectations, my reactions, my thoughts, myself so I can hear the other drummers and other music. The world doesn't reside in me, I reside in the world.

Thelma Young (Came To Believe)

CENTRAL BULLETIN
Subscription / Change of Address Form

Name _____ Date _____

New Address _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

One Year \$5.00
Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to Central Bulletin
940 Rockefeller Building • Superior Avenue, N.W. • Cleveland Ohio 44113

If you don't want to cut this form out of your Central Bulletin, just sent us the above information

940 ROCKEFELLER BLDG.
614 SUPERIOR AVE., N.W.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2641
Cleveland, Ohio

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH



Who Am I?

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world.

I have destroyed more men than all the wars of the nation.

I have caused millions of accidents and wrecked more homes than all floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes put together.

I am the world's slickest thief, I steal billions of dollars each year.

I find my victims among the rich and the poor alike, the young and the old, the strong and the weak.

I am relentless, insidious, and unpredictable.

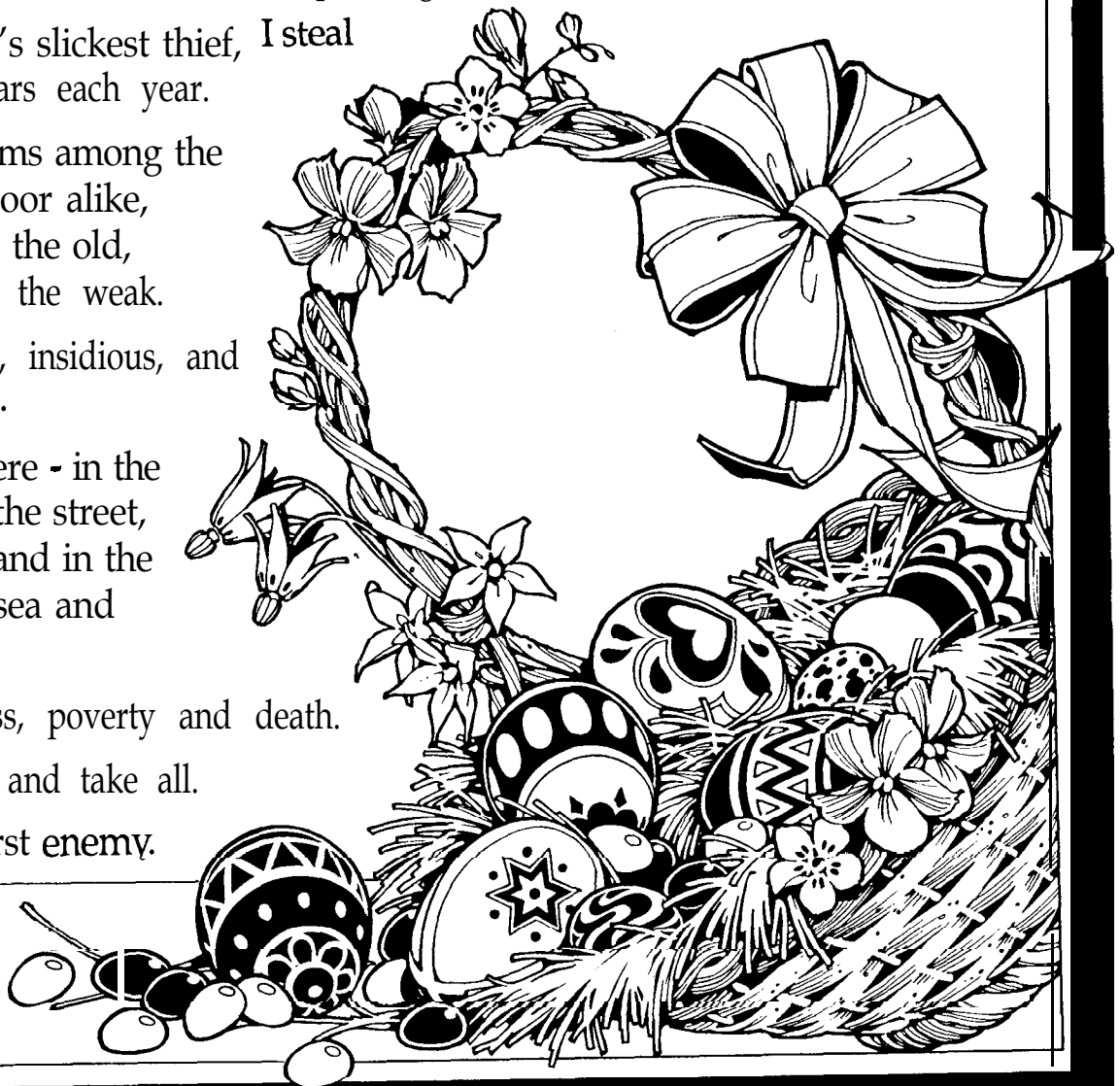
I am everywhere - in the home and on the street, in the factory and in the office, on the sea and in the air.

I bring sickness, poverty and death.

I give nothing and take all.

I am your worst enemy.

I am
ALCOHOL!



**35th International Conference
of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
Benefit Dinner Dance**

Saturday • April 4, 1992 • St. Christine Gym
840 E. 222nd Street • Euclid, Ohio

Donation \$15.00

6:00pm: **Hors d'oeuvres**

7:00 pm: Sit-down Home Cooked Dinner

8:00 pm: **Lead • Caz L. • D.J.: 10:00 pm • ??**

For more info write 35th ICYPAA, P.O.Box 200513, Cleve., OH 44120

32nd Annual Al-Anon Dance

Saturday • April 4, 1992 • Normandy East Center

35700 L&eland Blvd. • Eastlake, Ohio

Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner at 7:30 pm

Dancing from 8:00 pm to 1200 am

Donation \$17.50 per person

Tickets • West Side: Cindy S. 3318947

Tickets - East Side: Lula F. 736-6241

Or call Al-Anon office: 621-1381

36th Anniversary • Solidarity Group

Sunday • April 12, 1992 • 3:00 pm

(Doors open at 2:00 pm)

Phyllis Wheatley Emeritus House

4450 Cedar Avenue • Cleveland

Food at 4:00 pm

Desserts Welsome!

Lead: Bob R • Independence Group

11th Anniversary

Big Book Discussion Group

May 7, 1992 • 12 noon

Old Arcade, Room 381

401 Euclid Ave. • Cleveland, Ohio

• *Limited Seating* •

Second Anniversary

First Step Recovery

May 28, 1992 • 6:00pm

2475 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.

Cleveland, Ohio

**35th International Conference
of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous**

August 27th - 30th, 1992

Marriott Society Center Hotel

127 Public Square • Cleveland, Ohio 44114

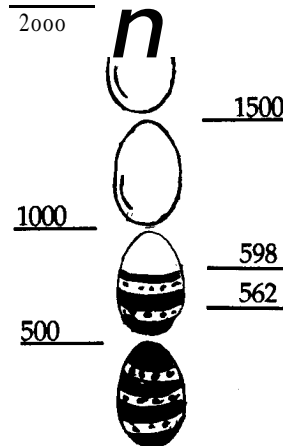
Reservation Deadline: June 15th, 1992

See your group secretary for registration form.

For more information call: (216) 586-9612

We Are
Self-Supporting
Through
Our Own
Contributions.

Our
God is
2000
Subscriptions!



Cleveland A.A. History

In June, 1939, Clarence Snyder, Abby Goldrick and 17 others founded the first Cleveland A.A. group which had broken away from the Oxford group due to Catholic members being forbidden to attend Oxford's religion.

Three things happened. One, an influential Pastor Lupton preached about A.A. resulting in; two, writer Davis of the Plain Dealer publishing seven articles about A.A., followed by; three, the popular 1940 Cleveland baseball catcher, Hemsley, (who was guiding 18 year old Bob Feller), breaking anonymity.

The resulting overwhelming flood of requests for help outnumbered the fellowship's ability to work on a one-on-one basis. Then the Cleveland area promoted "identification" by a throw-back technique of the Oxford group of "sharing" which was the forerunner to the lengthyspeakermeetings. "Sharing" flourished (at about 90% of the meeting in this area) for the past 50 years, a practice found exclusively in this area.

Cleveland Anonymous

" The Fearless Moral Inventory - Step 4

My sponsor told me to write my inventory.

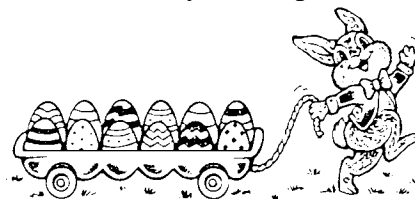
I called him. "I'm ready!"

He asked, "How long is it?" I told him, "Half a page."

He said, "Fearless! Do it again!" This time I had four pages. He said to read it out loud to myself.

It hit me. Seeing and hearing at the same time showed me how low an animal am I.

Now I'm ready for Step Five.



Gabor C.
Burton Group



"A Willingness To Take Action"

It is said **that** faith without work is dead" and I can attest to this in my three and a half years of sobriety. When I had first come to the fellowship I didn't believe. I was selfish and totally useless. In **the** beginning I didn't do anything **that** was suggested, so I slipped. The pain of having one foot in AA and one foot out brought me to my knees and allowed God as I understand him a new way of life a day at a time.

After accepting Step One, I was willing to go to any lengths, such as getting a sponsor that I knew was going to tell me things I didn't want to hear (like the **truth**). He suggested immediate action like praying, reading **the** Big Book, 90/90 and meet him at his home group so we could work the steps together. Feeling **not** so all alone, I began praying for sobriety and willingness. Watch what you pray for, because the willingness helped me become open minded in the program. Like shaking hands, asking questions, working the steps and be involved with this wonderful thing called Alcoholics Anonymous.

What I mean by being involved is making my sponsor's home group my home. After being a greeter I was asked to come early and make coffee and set up, which I did not really willingly but for which I will be forever grateful. I started learning home group members names and a little bit about them (not realizing they were getting to know me to!) My AA family began growing as I did, we were uniting in service and recovery. By growing along spiritual lines I was asked to be chairman and sponsor.

After having strung together some twenty four hours, my home group family must have seen something in **me** I could not see for myself and they elected me as secretary. Whether it is **because** I am just the sickest one or that they just love me, I will be their trusted servant the way God allows me. It is an honor and privilege to be helping another alcoholic in the home group with **the** history of the Borton Group.

I could say today that through the experience, strength, and hope I am trudging through. God and my A.A. family have made me come to believe and to become useful to my family at **home**, to A.A., and to other people. With God and action I am able to be an instrument for a beautiful group of people that I am very proud to know! I love you family!

Bob V.,
Borton

Excitement - Boredom

A young man I sponsored was found behind a shopping center - dead - with his throat cut. He was last seen alive at a university recreation building. At that time **he** was asked, 'Why did you slip (relapse)?' His answer, "I was bored with sobriety."

The *negative excitement of Alcoholism!* Danny started out three years ago as what might be called a high class street kid. He was not a college student but hung out at **the** college going to fraternity house keg parties. With three years of "in and out of A.A.", **he** became a down-and-out street person. . . Panhandler Danny. . . being out of **the** city shelter and **on the** street.

There is an **Oldtimer** A.A. saying, 'You never give up on an A.A. as long as he/she asks for help and keeps coming back. If you no longer can help, pass him on to another A.A. sponsor.' I was Danny's last A.A. sponsor. We all helped Danny but we all gave up over last summer as he became unmanageable. He was getting so drunk even the shelter would not let him in. He slept in the park. It is said, 'We can carry the message but not the alcoholic.' So, Danny died - from the excitement of **the** street!

Yes, as a drunk I **went** from bar to bar looking for excitement, and sometimes I found more than I could handle. I don't need **the** negative excitement of jails, car wrecks, and DWI's anymore. And when it was over and I was brought into A.A., my reaction was, "What do I do now?" I was bored! The answer is, "Don't get drunk and go to meetings." Get active! You will make new friends and your boredom will be replaced with A.A. Sobriety.

Ralph W.

Yes, but...

A rather talkative and intoxicated gentleman wandered into a closed discussion meeting and wanted **to** give a speech. Since he **wasn't** a pugnacious drunk, one of **the** members recommended that one of the fellows and he could step outside and talk. He agreed.

Once outside, the drunk apologized and explained all he wanted to do was explain the evils of alcohol. The A.A. member assured him they were all aware of **those**, but if he wanted to stop drinking himself he had certainly **come to the** right place.

The drunk pulled himself up and, with true alcoholic dignity, replied: "Don't talk to me about stopping drinking. . . I have enough problems already."

E. McD, / Texas

(Via "Central News", Farmersville, CA A.A.)

Acceptance Of Life

As I experience more of the "high roads" and "low roads" of life, it is gradually becoming more difficult for me to perceive a failure/loss/ sadness as being "bad for me" or the success/gain/pleasures as being "good for me". Because all these are "of life," those which come to me must be tasted, embraced, even welcomed and learned from rather than summarily avoided or extinguished or even wished away.

Much of what is viewed as "detachment" and "acceptance" is the more immediate realization that I should meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors in life just the same as they develop. This call upon me to realize my presently ineffective powerless position and to seek patience while awaiting the future consequences which are certain to develop. This process always leads me to a greater understanding of life.

So I must stop appraising the value of, or reacting to, today's conditions, as I can not now perceive or judge their ultimate effect, which will eventually be deemed acceptable.

Anon - Cleveland



Carrying the Message

There is a great deal of work being done by a number of A.A. members who are carrying the message of A.A. recovery inside the walls of correctional facilities, and a call for more people to join these A.A. members has come from the Twelve Step Committee of **The Cleveland Central Office**. As one of those people who has been carrying the message into a correctional facility, I would like to say that any A.A. member who responds to this call for help will be well received.

Perhaps describing the present state of the meeting which I am involved in, as well as its present needs, will help some of you understand how you can contribute to the growth of this very important work.

This meeting takes place every Monday night at 7:30 at The Cleveland House of Corrections, also known as the Warrensville Workhouse, in the "Annex Building", and is known as Warrensville Crossroads Monday. The meeting is attended by 20 to 35 male inmates as well as 2 to 4 male A.A. members from "the outside". The format of the meeting alternates weekly with either a speaker giving a lead or an audio cassette tape being played. The audio tapes have been either The Big Book of A.A. or the A.A. Grapevine. After the lead or the tape

is finished, the meeting is opened to comments and questions, then closed with The Lords Prayer. We raffle one or two A.A. approved hardbound books and provide a variety of softbound literature in both English and Spanish. Of course, the raffle tickets are given to the inmates, not sold, and we do not pass the basket during the meeting. Our costs for materials and literature are met entirely by donations solicited from other A.A. meetings.

Most of the inmates who attend this meeting are required to be there, much the same as those of us who have appeared at A.A. meetings on the outside with a "gift certificate" to be signed. Some of these inmates are familiar with A.A., others are totally new to the program. In fact, we almost always have a few voluntary attendees who are not there to get a sheet signed. Like any one of us who may have been required to attend A.A. meetings, there are the doubters, the skeptics, and those who are certain they have no business at a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, we have witnessed a few who "came to scoff but remained to pray", and there is no telling how many seeds we have planted, which will sprout in God's time.

There are two areas in which we at Warrensville Crossroads Monday need the most help. First, we have never had a steady supply of fresh literature to provide to the inmates, nor have we had an abundance of Big Books or other hardbound books to provide to these people. There has been many a night when we have seen several inmates obviously disappointed that they did not receive a Big Book from the raffle. I cannot describe the feeling I get to see a person hear a lead, desire a Big Book to read, then walk away empty handed because we have none left. Second, there are frequently inmates who express an interest in A.A. meetings on the outside as their release date approaches, and we have entirely lacked access to an available body of people who would serve as interim sponsors for these people once they are **released**. We have recently asked for and received from the Central Committee their blessing as a new group, and will soon be listed in the meeting schedule (under a special Correctional Facility Meeting heading). This will allow us to contact secretaries of other groups located in the vicinity of the released inmate's home and arrange for a member of that group to meet the person upon their release. The first few hours after an inmate's release are critical. This person may have a sincere desire to stay sober, but we all know what that desire plus a dollar or so can add up to . . . a drink. This is a tremendous opportunity for a recovering alcoholic to carry the message.

(See Carry, page 6)

Step Four

I was feeling pretty good about myself. It had been several months since re-introducing myself to the fellowship. Being alcohol free had been made easier once I realized I was no longer in control. Having a God to give my alcohol problem to left me feeling freer. I knew I didn't have to drink again if I left this problem in Gods hands. I was finally back to normal again. After all, wasn't I a good kid from a good family. I had morals and values and a program before I was placed in the hands of Alcoholics Anonymous.

My home training left me in a better position to live life than many of my fellow newcomers. Of course, there was little wrong with me aside from a slight drinking problem. I was satisfied in knowing that alcohol, not me was my problem. If those people had not done those things to me, if they would just stop bugging me, I would be okay. On **gooddays** I moved about the rooms puffed up and feeling so much better. On bad days I was argumentative, judgmental, perpetually angry and thoroughly depressed. In a short period of time, the good days were fewer and the bad days began to take over. Holding onto the facade of easy sobriety (isn't that a laugh), I decided to let ego and intellectualizing take over. I was justified because I'd heard that I was supposed to "fake it till I made it".

One day, and it was a good day to I might add, a woman named Sponsor came along. As I sat there, ego firmly in place looking around at the poor unfortunates around me, she walked right up to me and said that a Fourth Step was in order. "You aren't perfect you know. In fact, you're a real sick chick." Could you imagine her saying something like **that** to me. Obviously she didn't know who I was. She didn't realize **that** I was as perfect as I was going to be. What was wrong with me anyway? Didn't everybody live with anger and depression? They were my soulmates and bedfellows. Wasn't it normal to spew venom on everyone around you? If it wasn't normal for you then it was you who had the problem. It's a rough world out there and a girl needs a little protection from the hurt that's out there waiting for her. I didn't know that my past was affecting my attitudes and choices. I didn't know that my fears and emotions were deeply rooted in a past I struggled to forget. I didn't know that a house cleaning was what I needed to start afresh. The woman named Sponsor did.

Once I began to read about taking an inventory, I began to feel relief. Of course I could write down all the things **the** world had done to me. I had 24 years, 265 days and 13 hours worth to be exact. I knew the inequities heaped upon me were great. What I didn't know was

whether or not I had enough paper. With the book in front of me I began to fill those three columns. Who I was resentful of, what happened and how it affected me. And I began to relive it all. I was justified in my anger. Then, the woman named Sponsor called and told me to add a fourth column to my list describing the part I played in each resentment. Immediately I gave birth to a new resentment bearing my sponsor's name but I continued.

Uncovering myself was truly painful. I had to pray in order to be honest. I had to pray to reveal everything about each situation that I remembered. I had to pray to finish the **task I started**. When I released the pen from my hand, I knew that something meaningful had just taking place. As I began to study my inventory, the picture of my personality was complete I could see it all — the selfishness, the greed, the pride, the ego. But I also saw another picture. The liar, the cheat, and the thief was also a frightened child, a sensitive soul as blameless in some cases as she was the victim in others.

There I had in front of me a blueprint for change. It has been some 24 hours since my first inventory but it has not been my last. I came away from that inventory with a clear picture of myself and knowing that the steps are necessary for growth and are to be taken in order. My surrendering to a God of my understanding gave me the strength and courage to take that fourth step. Still today committing my resentments to paper is an invaluable tool for me when I cannot promptly admit the part I play in my troubles. Just like the first time, each inventory I take today brings me back to the me I ought to be.

Frances M.
RAF Group

Central Bulletin Deadline

In order to be included in the May issue of the Central Bulletin, all articles must be on the editor's desk by **April 5th**. Mail to: Central Office or Bob Russo, 5506 Wilber Ave, Parma, Ohio 44129



Central Bulletin Gem From
October, 1988 Issue
Cocktail Lounge: A half-lit room
filled with half-lit people.

Inner Peace

Be on the lookout for symptoms of inner peace. The hearts of a great many **have** already been exposed to inner **peace** and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions, this could pose a serious threat to what has been up to now a fairly stable condition of **conflict** in the world.

Some of the signs of inner peace are...

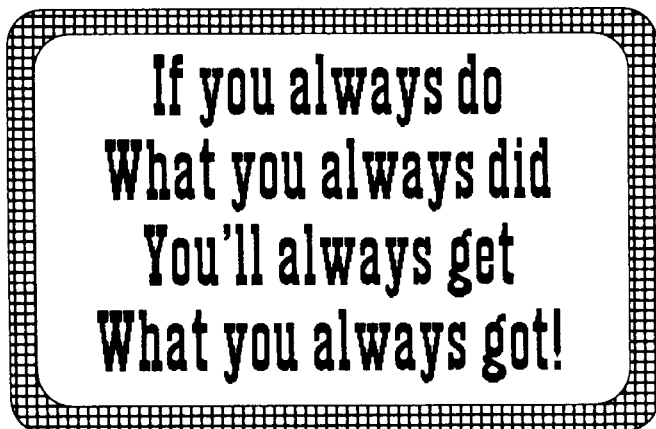
- A tendency to think and act spontaneously, rather than **on** fears based on past experience.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in judging yourself.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (*This is a very serious symptom*).
- Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connections with others and with nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increasing susceptibility to the love extended by others, as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

WARNING!!

If you have some or all of the above symptoms, please be advised that your condition of inner peace may be so far advanced as not to be curable. If you are exposed to anyone exhibiting **any** of these symptoms. . . *remain exposed only at your own risk.*

Anonymous

(Thanks to Ron F. For the exposure.)



Why Did I Become The Editor?

The request went out for an editor for the Central Bulletin. I responded and was told to come to a meeting of people interested in **the** Bulletin. I found out that the previous editor had been at it for more than one or two years and needed a break. I showed up first, Frances M. showed up second so she became co-editor.

I have been a trusted servant before for a bulletin in Philadelphia, and also in New Jersey for another 12 - Step program. My work history is in all phases of printing and I felt that my expertise and ability to coordinate and produce the bulletin **on a** monthly basis would help the Committee, the Central Office and my program.

I regret **that some** readers call the Central Office and complain to Shirley or others. If you have complaints, please call me 885-3361. If I am not in, **my** wife, DJ (who is also in program) is here or there is always an answering machine, 24 hours a day.

I regret some people think alcohol is not a drug because it's **not** in the Big Book. However if you read A.A. literature *P-1 1, The A.A. Member- Medications and Other Drugs*, page 6, paragraph 2 it says "...many alcoholics tended to become physically and/or psychologically dependent on drugs other than alcohol."

I regret being referred to as a teacher. I am not! However, aren't all of us in A.A. both students and teachers?

I regret putting Orca House under a members poem. He is in treatment and I really did not think I was advertising.

I don't regret **the** controversy, keep reading, keep complaining. . . *but call ME! Come to our monthly meeting and help us do it right!* God bless you.

Bob Russo, Your Editor

Carrying (cont. from pg. 4)

I must stress that the present state of the meeting which I have described is just that: one meeting. There are many other meetings which take place in correctional facilities in the **area**, but we speak only for ourselves. If you would like to learn how you can help any of these other meetings, or give service in this important work in some other way, a way to get involved would be to attend the next meeting held by a group of volunteers for correctional facilities, which meets as a part of the Twelve Step Committee. This meeting will take place at Annunciation Church, 4697 W. 130th on Sunday, March 22, at 6:00 p.m. The church is located at the southwest corner of W. 130th and Bennington Avenue, north of I-480, east of I-71. We hope to see you there.

John C.



Published monthly by the Cleveland Central Committee of AA., a non-profit fellowship dedicated to serve. Address all letters to Central Bulletin, 940 Rockefeller Building, 614 Superior Avenue, N.W., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. District Office (216) 241-7367
Harry D., Founder and Editor 18924 968

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING
 ST. MALACHI CENTER**

2416 Superior Viaduct • 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, 1992

PLEASE ATTEND

Your group may be represented by you or a member assigned to be your group representative. Let us take an active part in these important meetings to uphold our-

UNITY IN FELLOWSHIP

Gerard P., Moderator

Jim W., Secretary

PURPOSE

- Because better understanding is the key to friendship;
- Because the public act of any group or individual involves our entire fellowship;
- Because we must continually take inventory of ourselves as individuals and as groups;
- The A.A. Central Committee has these purposes:**
- To bring together representatives of all groups for discussions of policy and practice; to create high standards; to guard against exploitation or commercialization; to insure our humility as groups and individuals.
- To protect unity of thought and purpose through the Central Bulletin, the area wide meetings, and such other activities as seem consistent.
- To maintain standards through the sponsoring of a Hospital Committee and such other committees as are necessary to carry on this work.
- To serve as a clearing house for ideas.
- The OBJECT of the Central Committee is SERVICE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

February 1992

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	\$2,341.58
Sales of Literature -	
Who Me?/Four Absolutes	\$1533.48
Printing -	
Who Me?/Four Absolutes	\$ 991.56
Rent for 2/4/92 Meeting	25.00
Bank Service charge	9 . 4 3 (1,025.99) <u>507.49</u>
NEW BALANCE	\$2,849.07

CENTRAL BULLETIN FINANCIAL REPORT

February 1992

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	\$395.72
Total Deposits	\$368.00
Printing Feb. Central Bulletin	\$217.50
Mailing Feb. Central Bulletin	<u>6238</u> (279.88) <u>88 12</u>
NEW BALANCE	\$483.84

Correctional Facility Meetings: There will be a separate listing (page) added to the schedule book for groups that meet at correctional facilities that have limited access.

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

ST. MALACHI'S CENTER

March 31 1991 • 8p.m.

The meeting was opened by moderator, Gerald P. leading the members present in the Serenity Prayer. Vice-Moderator, Mark L., read the purpose of the Central Committee and the Twelve Traditions. The roll call showed that 38 members were present, representing 33 groups. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Central Bulletin: There is still a need for groups to help on the cost of sending the bulletin monthly. We are at 25% of our goal for the year. Send in your articles to be part of the bulletin.
Treatment Facilities: Laurelwood Hospital provided meeting space for the "Bridge the Gap" program of N.E. Ohio Treatment Committee. There is a need for contacts on the East Side.
Correctional Facilities: Questionnaire is available at office for members interested in correctional work. Ladies needed in area.
Central Office: March was the month for the fund drive. The goal was \$125,000.00 If your group was missed, donate at the office. Thank you! An article in a news letter has led to the office inquiring about information on the author of the pamphlet, *If God Had Spoken To A.A., He Might Have Said*. Please contact Shirley.
Old Business: A motion to repay central office for helping on the printing of the bulletin was tabled until member who made motion is present. **Articles for groups should be given to editor for next printing by the 5th of the month**
'New Groups: Groups blessed to be added to the meeting schedule were:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Big Book Study | Sober Monday |
| Monday • 7:00 p.m. | Monday • 1:00 p.m. |
| 22771 Shore Center Drive | 3135 Chester Avenue |
| Euclid | Cleveland |
| Founders Path | Addison Hi Rise |
| Tuesday 7:30 p.m. | Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. |
| W. 14th & Howard | 7400 Wade Park |
| St. Augustine, Cleveland | Cleveland |
| Easier By The Dozen Disc. | It's In The Book |
| Thursday, 12:00 noon | Thursday 7:00 p.m. |
| 8261 Kinsman Road | 18120 Puritas Avenue |
| Russell | Cleveland |

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| W/O ABC Women's | Southgate Sunday Nite |
| Thursday, 8:00 p.m. | Sunday 5:00 p.m. |
| 2420 South Taylor Road | 20571 Southgate Blvd. |
| Cleveland Heights | Maple Heights |

Service and Love

Most groups in the area have heard of the term General Service Representative and have one. Well there is also a position in the group structure known as a *Central Committee Representative*. As the GSR keeps the group conscience informed of area, district, and world news and events, your CCR voices group conscience once a month at the Central Committee Meeting. This meeting is listed and described in our area meeting schedules. The time and place is in the **bulletin**.

If every group in the schedule felt it necessary that their group be informed and votes are heard, the present facility the meeting is held at wouldn't be large enough to hold all those in attendance.

There is concern about the low monthly attendance. When issues come to the body only those present have the say as to what the area wishes are. This could be money, new groups, or happenings dealing with group or individual tradition wrong doings. Yes, there is good news now and then, and we would like to put good deeds in our minutes versus all the bad that can be.

Hope to see you in a bigger and bigger place from there.

Voice of Moderation

CENTRAL BULLETIN
Subscription / Change of Address Form

Name _____ Date _____

New Address _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

One Year \$5.00
Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to Central Bulletin
940 Rockefeller Building • Superior Avenue, N.W. • Cleveland Ohio 44113

If you don't want to cut this form out of your *Central Bulletin*, just sent us the above information

940 ROCKEFELLER BLDG.
614 SUPERIOR AVE., N.W.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2641
Cleveland, Ohio

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH