



The Winner's Circle

West Central Intergroup Monthly Newsletter



www.westcentralaa.org

December 2010 - January 2011

WEST CENTRAL INTERGROUP

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Dick S., Gene L., Judy C.

Statement of Purpose:

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to carry the AA message to alcoholics and try to practice the AA principles in all of its affairs. We are mainly accountable to West Central Intergroup as a whole, and hope to provide an open forum for the many diverse views of its members, striving to remain within the bounds of good will and the spirit of service. Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy nor imply endorsement by AA or this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 18 - Area 29 Assembly and Chili Cook Off**, Heritage Baptist Church, 1740 Forest Dr., Annapolis, MD begins at 9am
- Dec 24-25 - Frederick Christmas Alcathon** 10:30am-8:30pm, 115 West 2nd St, Frederick
- Dec 31- Jan 1 - Frederick New Year's Alcathon** - 10:30am - 8:30pm, 115 West 2nd St., Frederick

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| Name | Home Group | Date | Years |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Wayne R. | Red Door @ Noon | 12/28/74 | 36 years |
| Laurie B. | Original Frederick Group | 12/25/77 | 33 years |
| Pete R. | Let go let God | 12/17/86 | 24 years |
| Kevin Y. | Woodville Beginners | 12/14/87 | 23 years |
| Lee Ann W. | Jefferson Group | 12/25/87 | 23 years |
| Dot D. | Jefferson Group | 12/26/90 | 20 years |
| Steve P. | Let go Let God | 12/02/91 | 19 years |
| Brett M. | Walkersville Thursday Night | 12/27/94 | 16 years |
| Mike S. | Let go Let God | 12/04/98 | 12 years |
| Gene L. | Early Bird / New Freedom | 12/28/01 | 9 years |
| Johnny V. | Red Door @ Noon | 12/27/01 | 9 years |
| Charlie T. | Woodville Beginners | 12/21/02 | 8 years |
| Bubba M. | Mid Morning Group | 12/07/03 | 7 years |
| Ray R. | Original Frederick Group | 12/04/05 | 5 years |
| Sal C. | Prime Time | 12/18/05 | 5 years |
| Tim | Prime Time | 12/18/05 | 5 years |
| Gus W. | Happy Hour Group | 12/05/06 | 4 years |
| Frank C. | Happy Hour Group | 12/26/06 | 4 years |
| Tony H. | Young & Dumb | 12/25/07 | 3 years |
| Sarah | Frederick Sober Women | 12/11/08 | 2 years |
| Mike V. | Woodville Beginners | 12/17/08 | 2 years |
| Wayne K | Happy Hour Group | 12/23/08 | 2 years |
| Barry A. | Back Alley | 12/24/08 | 2 years |
| Eileen C. | Happy Hour Group | 12/22/09 | 1 year |
| Nikki K. | Happy Hour Group | 12/28/09 | 1 year |
| Peter E. | Let go let God | 12/29/09 | 1 year |
| Brandon | (apologies wasn't in Nov. issue) | Nov 2010 | 1 year |

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Features a local member that has recently celebrated an anniversary. This month we talked to Dot D. member of the Jefferson Group.

Name: Dot D.

Sobriety Date: 12/26/1990

First Meeting: Melwood Rehab in Montgomery County. My ACOA sponsor took me when I acknowledged I might be an alcoholic.

Service Positions held and favorite(s): I started by giving out chips, chairing meeting, making coffee, staffing AA booth at a professional meeting, took meetings into a rehab. Chaired registration at an Area 73 (WV) State Convention and served on various speaker panels and probably lots of other things I've forgotten. Staffing the WAIA phone line from 10pm to 7am for several months - that was very interesting - I began to recognize the voices of repeat callers.

Most unusual meeting you've ever attended: As a Maryland girl to attend a meeting on the beach in Ft Lauderdale. Also a Cambridge UK meeting when the longest sober person in the group announced that he had just had a slip. I lead the meeting on avoiding slippery places.

Biggest challenges met in sobriety: Making amends to my children, regaining their trust, becoming a loving Grandma and accepting the fact that one of my children does not want to reconnect.

Favorite Slogan or A.A. literature quote: I love the Promises, especially the 3rd, 9th and 10th step promises. Also the last three sentences on page 164 of the Big Book "Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."

Best change in sobriety: Everything!

Something your higher power has done for you that you never could have done for yourself: God led me on a path I could not see, into a program I knew nothing about. Before I got sober I knew that my life was over, now I don't know anything except to trust the God of my understanding.

Greatest joy in sobriety : Letting God be in charge.

Most awesome experience: Attending the International in San Antonio with AA friends.

MINUTES FROM INTERGROUP MEETING –OCTOBER 27, 2010

Intergroup Chair Brigitte F. opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer and the Purpose of Intergroup. The following new group reps were welcomed: Brian from Early Bird and Lynn S. from Red Door Noon. The September meeting minutes were read and approved.

Reports:

Chair – Brigitte: The Fall Festival at Summers Farm was a success; more than 130 people attended and we would love to do it again next year. More details under the Activities report.

Vice Chair--Cynthia: The revised 12 Step List is just about finished. Many thanks to those who have offered to be available for 12 Step calls.

Treasurer: Jodie distributed the financials; everything looks fine.

Standing Committees:

Office: Kim R. distributed the October calendar and reminded everyone that training is available, just call her. Also, Bud R. noted that office space is now available on the first floor of the building where Intergroup is now located. It's one room rather than two, with new carpeting and paint. He asked that board members stop in and look at the space to see whether there is an interest in moving there.

Literature: John V. reported that the office is well-stocked with chips and most literature. Hard cover 12 and 12s are on order. If you notice something is running low, please let him know. He has several Big Books in Braille and asks that anyone who knows where they could be used to please let him know. He was advised that a local county agency might be able to use them.

Where & When's: Kevin reported that we ran short of these during the summer and did a second printing and now have plenty of them available. He suggested we hold off on the Fall/Winter printing until early December.

Public Information: Doug reminded folks to email him with upcoming AA events that they would like him to put up on the website. He will add the Alcathon schedule.

Institutions: Johnny B. requested that his phone number please be added to the front of the newsletter. He has been receiving several applications to take meetings into the jails. Applications for women to take meetings in were available at the meeting and will be stored at the Intergroup Office.

Activities: Brigitte reported on the Fall Festival, held Oct. 23. Event made a net profit of \$417 for Intergroup Activities, which helps get that line item out of the red. Suggestions for next year included: starting the event earlier, starting the bonfire meeting earlier, getting a wireless mike for the meeting, providing hot coffee. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful time and thanked Kirsten for the awesome idea and hard work!

Newsletter: Barry asked people to please submit holiday themed articles and information about upcoming AA holiday parties if appropriate. The next newsletter will be the annual combined Dec/Jan edition. Keep the anniversaries coming! Unfortunately, Brandon T. was accidentally omitted from the list of November anniversaries; his information will appear in the next issue.

CPC: Dick G. reported that three pamphlet distribution sites have been set up and that District 41 has adopted one of the sites to keep it replenished. He said that for personal reasons he needs to step down from CPC; those interested in helping with this committee, which provides information to the professional community, should contact him as soon as possible.

District 40: Walter, DCM, was absent. Brigitte reported that there is a new Spanish-speaking meeting, Amigos de Verdad, on Thursdays at 7 p.m., 5 Hillcrest Drive, Suite B-200.

District 41: Dick G. reminded everyone of the upcoming workshop being presented by the district on Anonymity in the Digital Age, Nov. 13 from 9 to 11 a.m. He also encouraged people to attend the district meetings, held the first Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., at Grace Trinity, route 144, where New Freedom meets.

Maryland ICYPAA: Michelle reported that the Maryland Bid Committee is now campaigning to have the 2012 convention in Baltimore and she distributed flyers with more information. Election for the new committee will be Nov. 14 in Columbia, MD.

Old Business:

Cost of Where and When's. Background: the pamphlets cost 10 cents apiece to print and Intergroup currently charges 5 cents apiece. Last month, group reps voted to table the issue until they had an opportunity to discuss it with their groups. After much discussion, a vote was taken and the motion to raise the cost to a dime apiece was approved, with 20 For and 10 Against.

New business:

1. Gratitude Breakfast: Cynthia reported the date for the 2011 Breakfast will be Sunday, April 10. Martin's has again raised their price to \$20 apiece. Other venues are now being investigated with the goal of keeping the ticket price at \$15. Urbana Fire Hall, where the event was held, may do this but the space is limited to 250. Holiday Inn at FSK Mall may be available, at the price we want and seat up to 500 people. Cynthia asked the group for their thoughts on either raising the ticket price and staying at Martin's or changing the location to keep the price down. There was a general agreement that \$20/ticket puts the event out of reach for too many people. Offers were made by a couple of individuals at the meeting to join the planning committee and help gather more information.
2. Archives: It was brought up that there is no information about WCI in the Maryland AA Archives. This will be looked into.
3. Al-A-Teen: Lynn S. noted that the meeting listed in the Where and When for Libertytown does not exist. There are no Al-A-Teen meetings in Frederick County. A couple of group reps said they had information to share with Lynn after the meeting re this issue.
4. New meeting: Cynthia advised there is a new meeting on Wednesdays at noon at the location where Antiques Group used to meet (the small building on the same street), that needs support.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brigitte F.

2010 - 2011 ALCATHON SCHEDULE

| Meeting Time (Start to End) | CHRISTMAS MEETINGS Xmas Eve (Friday Dec 24 th) | NEW YEARS MEETINGS New Years (Friday Dec. 31 st) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Happy Hour | Golden Mile |
| Noon - 1:00 p.m. | Noon Group | Noon Group |
| 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. | St. John's | Saturday Night Live |
| 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Legacy Step | Mt. Airy Woodville Beginners' |
| 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Sisters In Sobriety | Under One God |
| 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Commuter | Commuter |
| 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Saturday Night Mountain | Point of Rocks Saturday |
| 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. | Blue Light Special | Frederick Sober Women |
| 10:30 - 11:30 p.m. | Mid Morning | Mt. Airy Woodville |
| | Christmas Day (Sat. Dec. 25th) | New Years Day (Saturday Jan. 1st) |
| Midnight - 1:00 a.m. | Original Frederick | Uptown/Downtown |
| 1:30 - 2:30 a.m. | Let Go Let God | Jefferson |
| 3:00 - 4:00 a.m. | Antiques | Fireside |
| 4:30 - 5:30 a.m. | Catoctin Furnace | New Freedom |
| 6:00 - 7:00 a.m. | Early Bird Group | Early Bird Group |
| 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. | Red Door Noon | Back Alley |
| 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. | Liberty | Monocacy Valley |
| 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Chambersburg PA | Myersville Keep it Simple |
| Noon - 1:00 p.m. | Mason Dixon | Primary Purpose |
| 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Hagerstown | Prime Time |
| 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Boonsboro | Walking Thru the Books |
| 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Young & Dumb | Living Sober |
| 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Red Door Friday | Sunday by the Book |
| 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | There is a Solution | To be advised |

DID YOU KNOW?

Why do most A.A. meetings in the U.S.A. end with The Lord's Prayer?

In A.A. the closing of meetings with The Lord's Prayer is common in some regions and somewhat rare in others. Many groups open with the Serenity Prayer and close with The Lord's Prayer. It is also common for groups to open without a prayer and to close with the Serenity Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer, found in The Bible (Matthew 6:9-13), was used extensively in both the Oxford Group and early A.A. In a letter written in 1959, Bill Wilson explained it this way:

“Now about the business of adding the Lord's Prayer to each A.A. meeting. This practice probably came from the Oxford Groups who were influential in the early days of A.A. You have probably noted in A.A. Comes of Age what the connection of these people in A.A. really was. I think saying the Lord's Prayer was a custom of theirs following the close of each meeting. Therefore it quite easily got shifted into a general custom among us.

Of course there will always be those who seem to be offended by the introduction of any prayer whatever into an ordinary A.A. gathering. Also, it is sometimes complained that the Lord's Prayer is a Christian document. Nevertheless this Prayer is of such widespread use and recognition that the argument of its Christian origin seems to be a little farfetched. It is also true that most A.A.'s believe in some kind of God and that communication and strength is obtainable through His grace. Since this is the general consensus it seems only right that at least the Serenity Prayer and the Lord's Prayer be used in connection with our meetings. It does not seem necessary to defer to the feelings of our agnostic and atheist newcomers to the extent of completely hiding our light under a bushel.”

In the WCI area at the end of meetings the leader usually asks attendees to join in the Lord's Prayer if they wish or silently in their own manner.

Source: AA.org - Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.'s History

GENERAL INFORMATION

For Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) information call 301-534-1815 or go to www.adultchildren.org. Closest meeting is in Montgomery County and there are links to chats rooms and on-line meetings.

Al-Anon/ Alateen Literature: There are two sources for this literature –ask an Al-Anon member or go the web-site www.al-anon.alateen.org.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



“There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let’s not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual AA work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words ‘love’ and ‘service.’ We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let’s bear those two things in mind.

“Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let’s use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

“And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn’t taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we’re not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us. Thank you very much.”

From the final address by Dr. Bob to the First AA International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, July 28-30, 1950 © 1980, AAWS, Inc., Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, “The Last Year,” page 338.

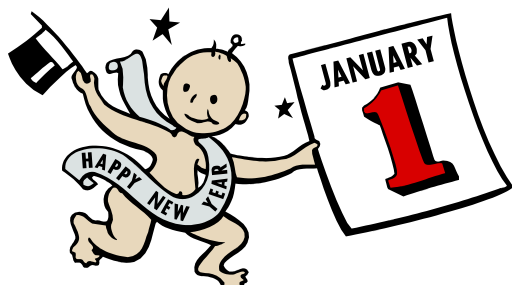
Submitted by Ty M., Prime Time

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| Name | Home Group | Date | Years |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Vivian R. | Mid Morning Group | 1/22/72 | 39 years |
| Gary S. | Red Door @ Noon | 1/14/83 | 28 years |
| Linda S. | Happy Hour Group | 1/02/84 | 27 years |
| Chipper T. | Let go Let God | 1/21/85 | 26 years |
| Tom F. | Let go Let God | 1/27/86 | 25 years |
| Diana S. | Jefferson Group | 1/02/87 | 24 years |
| Kathy B. | Let go Let God | 1/10/87 | 24 years |
| Fred S. | Walkersville Thursday Night | 1/19/88 | 23 years |
| Marian D. | Westminster Monday Night Step | 1/14/90 | 21 years |
| Melinni T. | Deaf Friends of Bill W. | 1/22/97 | 14 years |
| David S. | Golden Mile Big Book Study Group | 1/03/02 | 9 years |
| LeeAnn W. | Happy Hour Group | 1/19/03 | 8 years |
| Sylvia M. | To Thine Own Self Be True | 1/14/04 | 7 years |
| Mary Jeanne K. | To Thine Own Self Be True | 1/03/05 | 6 years |
| Drew McG. | Living Sober | 1/08/05 | 6 years |
| Luis O. | Happy Hour Group | 1/17/08 | 3 years |
| Kye S. | Prime Time | 1/01/09 | 2 years |
| Lynda J. | Happy Hour Group | 1/19/09 | 2 years |
| Mari G | Happy Hour Group | 1/23/09 | 2 years |
| Kim G. | Let go Let God | 1/31/09 | 2 years |
| Phil R. | Happy Hour Group | 1/10/10 | 1 year |
| Steph F. | Woodville Beginners | 1/22/10 | 1 year |
| Jon-Mikel B. | Living Sober | 1/1/10 | 1 year |

PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS OCT – NOV 23, 2010

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Commuter | 129.35 |
| Blue Lite Special | 116.00 |
| To Thine Own Self Be True | 30.00 |
| Walkersville Walkin’ Thru the Book | 15.00 |
| TOTAL | \$370.17 |



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS OCT – NOV 23, 2010

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Frederick Women’s Group | 83.85 |
| Mt Airy Woodville Beginners | 520.00 |
| Jefferson Tuesday Night | 80.00 |
| Libertytown | 200.00 |
| Myersville Keep It Simple | 104.60 |
| New Windsor Monday Night | 100.00 |
| Point Of Rocks | 150.00 |
| Serenity at Seven | 75.00 |
| New Market Antiques | 94.00 |
| Woodbine Saturday Night | 81.00 |
| Westminster Monday Night | 121.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1,609.45 |