



# The Winner's Circle

West Central Intergroup Monthly Newsletter



February 2011

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

## 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.

#### From the Grapevine:



"I know you told me no new relationships for a year, but he's got seven months and I've got five - does that count as a year?"

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Home Group	Date	Years
Mike M.	Myersville	Feb. 24	33
	Celebrating at Red Door Feb 26		
Chyrle A.	Walking Thru the Books	Feb. 13	29
Debbo W.	Woodville Beginners	Feb. 28	26
Mike C.	Red Door Friday Night	Feb. 2	25
Carl S.	Myersville	Feb 7	24
Mark S.	Walking Thru the Books	Feb. 9	16
Ann C.	Frederick Sober Women	Feb. 16	9
Kim G.	Woodville Beginners	Feb. 21	9
Nova	High Noon	Feb. 2	8
Sandy O.	Frederick Sober Women	Feb. 23	8
Curt D.	Walking Thru the Books	Feb. 9	7
Walter M.	Walking Thru the Books	Feb. 11	7
Lynn McG.	Woodville Beginners	Feb. 21	5
Gina S.	Prime Time	Feb. 26	4
Jane B.	Frederick Sober Women	Feb. 15	4
Debbie M.	Westminster Mon.Night Step	Feb. 7	4
	Celebrating @ Westminster Feb. 7		
Mary D.	To Thine Own Self Be True	Feb. 2	2
Kevin H.	Prime Time	Jan. 29	1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 17  
7.30pm **Nellsville Group 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**, Neelsville Pres. Church, 20701 Frederick Rd, Germantown, MD 20876. Just north of Rt. 118 on Rt. 355. Dessert buffet and early members of the group to share at speaker meeting.
- February 12  
5.30-9pm **District 40 Bingo Night**, St. Luke's Church, 1519 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks, MD. FREE Pasta Dinner followed by Speaker meeting and A.A. Bingo - prize for winner!
- February 20  
8.30am-12pm **Baltimore Gratitude Breakfast**, La Fontaine Bleu, 7514 Richie Hwy, Glen Burnie, Maryland. Tickets: \$22  
Feb 25 - 27 **NERAASA 2011**, Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown NY. Info [www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org)
- March 5  
6pm - midnight **WAIA Gala**, Marriott in Greenbelt MD. Banquet dinner, speaker meeting, dance. Tickets \$40. Info email [gala@aa-dc.org](mailto:gala@aa-dc.org)
- March 6 - 11  
**Sessions in the Snow, Killington VT**  
5 days skiing and meetings every evening - more info [www.aa-dc.org](http://www.aa-dc.org)
- March 18-20  
**Southern Maryland Round-up** - "Woodstock of AA" - workshops, meetings and dance - Holiday Inn, Solomons Island, MD. Info email [woodstockofaa@yahoo.com](mailto:woodstockofaa@yahoo.com)
- April 10  
8.30am-12pm **WCI Gratitude Breakfast**, Frederick Elks Lodge, 289 Willowdale Dr., Frederick. Tickets from your group's WCI Representative - \$15.

## MEETING CHANGES



**Living Sober** - new venue and time - Wednesdays at 6.30pm at Trinity Chapel - 10 W. Church St, Frederick. The group read and discuss a section of the Living Sober booklet each week (with a Step from the 12 and 12 the first Wed. of each month). Playroom adjacent supervised by rotation of parents that attend meeting.  
**Young, Dumb and Full of A.A.** - new venue - The Club, 400 E. Church St, Frederick - Sundays at 8pm.

**MINUTES FROM INTERGROUP MEETING –DECEMBER 8, 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: Paul from Deaf Friends of Bill W., Danny from Serenity at 7; Richard from Sermon on the Mt. Group, Michael from Walkersville. The October meeting minutes were approved.

**Reports:**

**Chair** – Brigitte encouraged everyone to attend upcoming holiday Alcahons.

**Vice Chair**—Cynthia advised Gratitude Breakfast is set to be held at Elks Lodge on April 10 for \$15 each.

**Treasurer:** Jodie distributed the financials.

**Calling For Volunteers!**

Please meet at Intergroup Office at 2 E. Church St. on **Friday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** to move furniture and supplies out of office into hallway for new carpet and painting on Saturday. **Sunday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 12pm** volunteers are also required to move furniture etc. back into freshly painted and carpeted office.

**Standing Committees:**

**Office:** Kim R. distributed the December calendar and is looking for someone to fill in for her in February 2011 when she will be out of town. Mary-Jeanne has offered to do so.

**Literature:** John V. has list of items to order from New York, please contact him if you would like anything not in stock.

**Where & When's:** as there are 700 copies of Fall Where and When's still in the office it was agreed to only print 750 copies in December and then another full print of 1,500 in February.

**Public Information:** Doug reminded folks to email him with upcoming AA events.

**Institutions:** Johnny B. advised they have a good stock of literature and are still looking for more volunteers to take meetings into jails.

**Activities:** Gratitude Breakfast details confirmed – April 10, 2011 at Elks Lodge, 289 Willowdale Dr, Frederick for \$15 per ticket. Speaker will be Eleanor from DC who has over 50 years of sobriety and was the first ever female chair of an Intergroup.

**CPC:** Dick G. is handing over the maintenance of pamphlet stands to District 40 and finishing his CPC service position with Intergroup. If anyone is interested in the service position it is approximately 3 hours per month and is letting professional organizations know what AA is and is not by providing literature and attending conferences. Jim S. will also assist on this committee as needed.

**District 40:** Kris McG., Alt. DCM acknowledged hand over of CPC activities and advised District 40 is planning an event in the Winter and another in the Spring.

**District 41:** Next district meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup> (held the first Tuesday of every month) at 7 p.m., at Grace Trinity, route 144, where New Freedom meets.

**Old Business:**

The Intergroup Office will not be moving location. Renovations to the current space will be scheduled in the near future and volunteers will be asked to assist in moving furniture for this to occur.

**New business:**

- o Fred asked if the Native American book “The Red Road to Wellbriety”, published by Hazelden would be able to be stocked at WCI for a Native American meeting that is being set up in the area. Members were asked to consider and discussion will be held at next WCI meeting.
- o Cynthia wished to make members aware of the availability through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.hazelden.org](http://www.hazelden.org) of the publication “The Book That Started It All” which is the Original Working Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous and includes many changes made in black, green, and red in their original form, revealing the opinions, debates, and discussions that went into making the Big Book.
- o Cynthia has Spanish translations of the Conference Report if anyone would like one.

The meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 7:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Kirsten T.*

**PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS  
DECEMBER 2010**

Commuter	70.85
Frederick Women's Group	30.00
High Noon	60.00
Manchester Friday Night	17.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$178.06

**GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS  
DECEMBER 2010**

As Bill Sees It	67.20
Back Alley Group	130.00
By the Book	27.50
Frederick Women's Group	50.00
Myersville Keep It Simple	36.55
New Windsor Wednesday	55.75
Sunday Morning Special	1,308.00
Sykesville Sunday Morning	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,825.00

**West Central Intergroup**

# *Gratitude Breakfast*

**April 10, 2011**

**8.30am – 12pm**

**Frederick Elks Lodge  
289 Willowdale Drive  
Frederick MD 21702**

**Tickets \$15.00 each from your Intergroup  
Representative (*not available at door*)**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8.30am – 9.15am   | Coffee and fellowship   |
| 9.15am – 10.30am  | Buffet Breakfast including French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries, biscuits and sausage gravy, ham, fresh fruit, yoghurt, granola, coffee, tea and juices. |
| 10.45am – 11.00am | Sobriety Countdown and Announcements  |
| 11.00am-12.00pm   | Speaker – Eleanor from D.C.   |



*“In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy” – Brother David Steindl-Rast*

**Memo To** All Intergroup Representatives  
**RE:** Gratitude Breakfast Tickets  
**From:** Activities Committee

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We are pleased to announce the Gratitude Breakfast will be held on April 10, 2011 at the Frederick Elks Lodge on 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick MD 21702. It will begin with coffee and fellowship at 8.30am, full buffet breakfast (*including French toast, bacon and eggs, fruit, yoghurt and granola and much more*) at 9.15am-10.30am, then a sobriety countdown and speaker meeting from 10.45am until 12pm. The speaker this year is Eleanor from the D.C. area who has over 50 years of sobriety and was the first ever female Intergroup Chair.

The Gratitude Breakfast tickets will be available at the January and February Intergroup Meetings. Tickets will be sold in groups of eight (8) which is the number seated at each table. The cost is \$15 per ticket (\$120 for 8) and in order to make tickets available to as many A.A. members as possible we ask that tickets are *fully pre-paid* before issuing to Intergroup Reps. If you cannot collect ticket price from your members for the January 26<sup>th</sup> Intergroup meeting, you may put your group on the list and it shall have first priority to purchase tickets at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting (you must be in attendance Jan 26<sup>th</sup> to do so). Once all groups have had the opportunity to purchase a group of 8, then groups will be given a second opportunity to purchase extra tickets (sold individually up to another 8) and then any left-over tickets will be available individually through the Activities Committee until the March Intergroup meeting when the final headcount will be sent to the Elks Lodge for catering purposes.

We hope this slightly different procedure from previous years will allow tickets to be available to all those that wish to go. In the past we have had many unpaid tickets returned close to the event or at the event and therefore did not have enough time to sell them to those groups of individuals that would have liked more tickets. Once purchased from Intergroup tickets are transferrable (but not refundable). If a member purchases a ticket and finds they are unable to attend they may sell or donate their ticket to another member.

Look forward to seeing you at the Intergroup meetings, January 26, February 23 and March 30.

### CELEBRATING MILESTONES

*Features a local member that has recently celebrated an anniversary.*

**Name:** Mike M. (AKA Bus Driver Mike)

**Home group:** Myersville

**Sobriety Date:** February 24th, 1978

**First meeting or introduction to A.A.:** As a result of a 12th Step call I was taken to the Southeast Southwest Boundary Group in SE Washington D.C. (The man who made the 12th step call on me became my sponsor and remained my sponsor for over 31 years until he passed away.)

**Service Positions held and favorite(s):** GSR, DCM, H&I Committee, Program Chair, coffee maker; Favorite or most rewarding, taking meetings to rehabs and jails.

**Most unusual meeting you've ever attended:** In a small town in the high desert country of western Oregon the meeting was actually held in the back room of a bar! They threw a piece of plywood over the pool table and pulled some chairs around. The senior member of the group had six weeks!

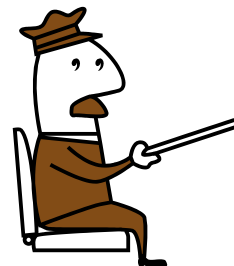
**Biggest challenges met in sobriety:** Remembering that doubting my ability to carry the message is to doubt the wisdom of God. Have to remind myself that when it seems everyone I'm working with is getting drunk!

**Favorite Slogan or A.A. literature quote:** "This is the how and why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work!"

**Best change in sobriety:** Sleeping indoors...no, I'm just kidding (sort of..) Finding One who has all Power.

**Something your higher power has done for you that you never could have done for yourself:** Too many to list, let's just say, becoming "Happily and usefully whole"

**Greatest joys in sobriety:** Helping others; the sheer joy of seeing someone "get it"; raising a daughter who's never seen her parents drunk.



### DID YOU KNOW?

**Who wrote Chapter 8 of the Big Book, "To The Wives"?**

Believe it or not Bill was actually was the author of the 'To The Wives' chapter. It is commonly thought that his wife Lois wrote it. But, as Pass It On describes (page 200), Lois said, "Bill wrote it, and I was mad." She added, "I wasn't so much mad as hurt. I still don't know why Bill wrote it. I've never really gotten into it - why he insisted upon writing it. I said to him, 'Well, do you want me to write it?' And he said no, he thought it should be in the same style as the rest of the book."



*Source: AA archives*