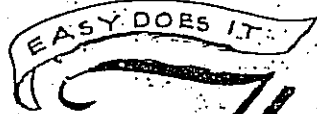


NEW FRONTIERS

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL A.A. MEMBERS OF
WESTERN NEW YORK AND THE NIAGARA FRONTIER
We request that this newsletter be kept within the Fellowship to insure anonymity.

A shot from the past!



The Frontiersman

AMBLING ALONG THE NIAGARA FRONTIER
Buffalo, N. Y.



VOL IV

JANUARY 1960

NUMBER 12

AA CO-FOUNDER SAYS THANK YOU TO WESTERN NEW YORK
FOR BEAUTIFUL ILLUMINATED SCROLL PRESENTED TO HIM
ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS SOBRIETY

The wire services covered the event--a testimonial dinner in the Astor Hotel for Bill W., who was celebrating the 25th anniversary of his last drink. It took place Nov. 16, 1959, a red-letter date for all who try to walk in the footsteps of Bill, co-founder of AA.

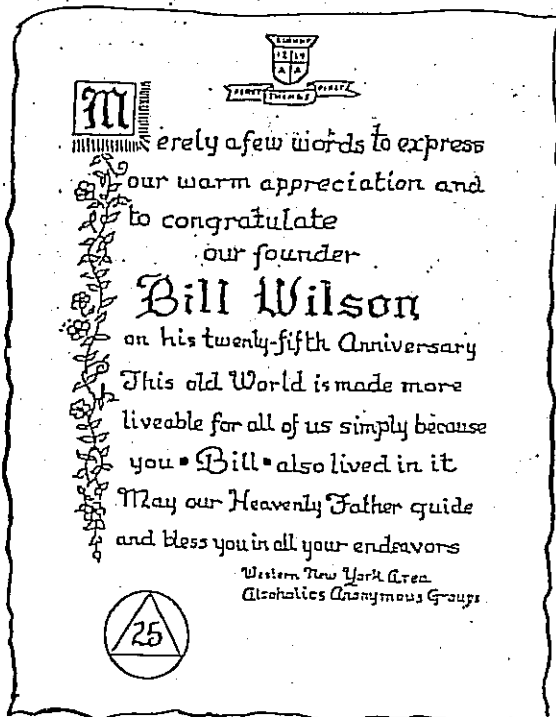
A UPI reporter described him thus:

"Bill is 64, lean and white-haired, and he divides his time between his home in Westchester and the AA headquarters in New York. He might pass for a Wall St. businessman, which is what he was until an insatiable thirst fouled up his career in the early 1930's.

"His last drinking bout started on Armistice Day, 1934, when he went to Staten Island to play golf. He made the mistake of stopping for a drink along the way and he never got to the golf course. That evening his wife found him sprawled drunk on the steps of their apartment house.

"The binge went on for days. But after drying out in the hospital Bill emerged a different man. 'In the hospital I had a spiritual awakening that was sudden and complete. I was luckier than many alcoholics.'"

It was the following May that Bill met Dr. Bob in Akron. Dr. Bob had his last drink on June 10, 1935, which is considered the founding date of Alcoholics Anonymous.



From Behind the Walls

Serenity in Prison?

My name is Guy, and I'm an alcoholic, I am also in prison. I've been an alcoholic for the better part of 22 years now. By the grace of God, and A.A. I have not needed to take a drink, or anything else, for over three years now. I will have been in prison for 3 years on September 6th.

Recently a friend of mine, also in recovery, wrote me and told me that my optimism, while being in this place, makes him sick. Whoa! What happened to "Let Go and Let God". Why shouldn't I have optimism? For the first time in my life, I realize that I have everything to live for. A very different feeling for this alcoholic.

I live in a place that presents real life problems for me, on what I would call a regular basis. Through a strong relationship with God, I have learned that there has not yet been a problem that cannot be solved. For many years, I could not understand why my life was so unmanageable, I refused to believe that booze had anything to do with it. In a way, I was partially right. My character

defects had been with me in all areas of life, alcohol acted like a magnifying glass, helping these defects to grow. My problems did not stop just because I quit drinking, for me it had to go deeper than that. Thank God for the Fourth Step. It was after writing out that step, and the following steps 5, 6 and 7, where the most needed change took place. Quoting the 12 & 12, where it talks about Step 6, "But when I became willing to clean house and then ask a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished". For me the obsession to destroy my life also vanished.

Someone told me once, that if I do everything it tells me to do in the first one hundred sixty four pages of the Big Book, I will never drink again, and life will become manageable. You know what? That person was right. Today I put my faith in God, and my beliefs in the fellowship. This unique partnership has given me real serenity for the first time that I can remember. This truly is a Great Way or Life! Thank you A.A.

Guy Z.

The Reformers Group

Dear Friends, Hello again from the Reformers Group at Collins Correctional Facility. We are very pleased to inform you that in the month of September our group chairman, Al O. will celebrate three years of continued sobriety. We would also like to remind you that every Sunday we hold an "outside speaker/open discussion" meeting and we encourage any and all "outsiders" to come and share their experience, strength and hope and give us an opportunity to share ours. Although we are incarcerated, we share a common bond with AAs everywhere. Thank you for your continued support.

The Reformers Group

The *New Frontiers* is published monthly by the Central Office of Western New York. We are supported by your subscriptions and Central Office donations. The *New Frontiers* presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism. The staff reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and length. Articles will not be returned. Opinions expressed here are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply the endorsement by the Central Office of Western New York or Alcoholics Anonymous. (Exceptions: Quotations from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS and other A.A. books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. Articles reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. are subject to the GRAPEVINE copyright.)

THE SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway . . .
The good fortune to run into the ones I do . . .
And the eyesight to tell the difference!

From the Intergroup-Express Fort Myers, Fl.
Submitted by Helen S., Thruway Group

12 Steps of Pre-Program

1. We admitted we were powerless over nothing - that we could manage our lives perfectly and those of anyone else who would allow us.
2. Came to believe there was no power greater than ourselves and the rest of the world was insane.
3. Made a decision to have our loved ones and friends turn their wills and lives over to our care even though they couldn't understand us at all.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral and immoral inventory of everyone we know.
5. Admitted to the whole world at large the exact nature of everyone else's wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to make others straighten up and do right.
7. Demanded others to either "shape up or ship out".
8. Made a list of all persons who had harmed us and became willing to go to any lengths to get even with them all.
9. Got direct revenge on such people wherever possible, except when to do so would cost us our lives or, at the very least, a jail sentence.
10. Continued to take the inventory of others and when they were wrong promptly and repeatedly told them about it.
11. Sought through carping and nagging to improve our relations with others as we couldn't understand them at all, asking only that they knuckle under and do things our way.
12. Having had a complete physical, emotional and spiritual breakdown as a result of these steps, we tried to blame it on others and to get sympathy and pity in all our affairs.

*Searcy W., S.D. 5/10/46
Dallas, Texas*

Submitted by Helen S., Thruway Group who added that she met Searcy at an Archives Workshop held in Akron, Ohio - September 1998. He was still going strong with such a dedication to service, the amazing power of example.

Why A Central Office?

The very first AA Central Office popped up in New York City in the late 1930s. This service arose out of the need for organization; individual groups could not coordinate effectively to help the suffering alcoholic without it. Twelve step calls were being made and hospitals visited. Sober AAs were working their pants off to carry the message. Though they meant well, so many drunks acting in a disunited manner led only to anarchy. In a Grapevine article published in November 1951, Bill W. addressed the issue plainly. The sick drunk was falling through the cracks. Yet another paradox of the program was born when Bill wrote, "We'd actually have to organize services in order to keep AA simple."

This realization that AA was now obligated to grow beyond the home group meeting hall was alarming to many, however, weighed against the possibility that the new alcoholic making an approach at AA might miss his chance at recovery and ultimately lose his life, it was a worthy risk. Bill recalls that from the beginning, the hint of organization at that level cause intense controversy: "Terrific outcries went up. To many this really meant destructive organization, politics, professionalism, big expense, a ruling officialdom, and government." The members feared a head tax and the advent of fees and dues. Experience taught Bill "[o]f course these exaggerated fears never materialized . . . In short, Central Offices do those area chores that no single individual or group could do. They unify regions: they make AA tick." This activity culminated in the first World Service Office in February of 1940.

Reprint with permission from

"The Messenger" Nashville, TN

So What Does The Buffalo Central Office Do For You?

AA Inquiries It has often been said that a central office is the frontline for the sick and suffering. They reach out, make a phone call and the best scenario is that there is a live, sober person at the other end of the line to take his call quickly. We then try to help him to put aside his fears, know that that is probably the best step he has taken in a long time. Determine what the best course of action is . . . can he make it to a meeting on his own, or is a 12 step required.

Meeting Lists This office maintains the meeting schedule which is printed twice a year. This schedule is only as good as the group's information given to the Central Office. We find it very important to have the correct information to relay over the phone to a newcomer. Remember the new guy at your meeting last week? Maybe he called the office and got your group information as to when and where. Were you welcoming? Was your group even meeting? Are you sure the Central Office has the correct information?

Information Exchange Any Conference approved literature can be found or purchased through the central office. Did you know that there is a pamphlet on the "AA Group" What about Bill and Bob? Did you know that there is a pamphlet on "The Co-Founders of Alcoholics Anonymous"? Do you know how the traditions were formed? Of course there is a pamphlet, it is "AA Tradition - How it Developed". There is a wealth of information just waiting for you to cash in on at your central office.

What's happening on the Niagara Frontier? When and where is the next service conference? An eating meeting? Group anniversary? Was that committee meeting Thursday or Friday? What service positions are available? Where is the next conference locally, nationally, and internationally? All this information and more can be had from your central office. The better informed we are, the healthier we are. Do you feel your events are not being supported? How have you let the

fellowship informed? For a small fee (the cost of a telephone call, office visit, or mail) you can let the area know what is happening for your group.

Local Committees on TFC and CFC

These committees reach out to those in treatment or any correctional facility. They take meetings to those who do not have access to meetings the way we do. They make sure that the client or inmate is getting the same message we get on the outside, one of experience, strength and hope. How to live one more day without the use of alcohol. And isn't that what we are all about? Carrying the message to those who suffer?

Newsletter You are reading it. It is

what you make it, and it is only as good as the input.

Special Needs We have or can get any

conference approved item that you wish. We have on hand large print, braille, and audio tapes of the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve. We have other audio tapes as well as video tapes.

Meeting Away From the Meeting

Office official hours 9-5 Monday through Friday (generally in the office a little earlier). Bad coffee, stale donuts, good company, who could ask for anything more. Come on down. Even for a minute. You will be surprised what your central office can do for you!

Where Spirituality and Money Mix

If you have ever wondered about that statement, just come on down to the office. Take some time and visit or answer phones. Just having the office here where it is a safe dry environment for those who happen to have to kill some time between appointments. It is the first place people call when they are in alcoholic trouble or our concerned others call for peace of mind. It is a place where at least 10 schedules go out a week to those who ask. It is a place where one comes to buy literature. It is the place that schools and professionals call for presentations. If it was not for your support of this office none of this would be happening.

*Thanks for listening
Cindy N.*



GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY NEW OFFICERS

On Sunday, September 12, the WNY GSA voted in Mike B., Lodge Group as our new Delegate for Area 50. Mike will be assisted by Glenn P., Alternate Delegate; Bob K., Southgate, GSA Chairman; Rudy B., Sunday Morning Breakfast, Treasurer; Ginny K., Attitude Adjustment, Recording Secretary; Griff N., Sunrise Court, CPC Chair; Dick L., Everybody's Group, Grapevine Chair; and Mike L., South Buffalo, Archives Chair.

Congratulations and we trust everyone will join in making your tour of duty a pleasant one.

Chairs which have remained unfilled are: Treatment, Corrections, Public Information. Please call the Central Office for further information.

Back to the Concepts

CONCEPT VII: THE CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES THAT THE CHARTER AND THE BYLAWS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ARE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS: THAT THE TRUSTEES ARE THEREBY FULLY EMPOWERED TO MANAGE AND CONDUCT ALL OF THE WORLD SERVICE AFFAIRS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONFERENCE CHARTER ITSELF IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT: THAT IT RELIES INSTEAD UPON THE FORCE OF TRADITION AND THE POWER OF THE A.A. PURSE FOR ITS FINAL EFFECTIVENESS.

I somehow think of Concept Seven as being the "checks and balances Concept." The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, while the Conference Charter is not -- relying on the force of the A.A. Traditions and the A.A. purse, as it were, for its final effectiveness. This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the traditional influence of the charter itself, and further from the undoubted ability of the Delegates to cut off the contributions from: the groups themselves.

We can see practical applications of this in our day to day lives. The most obvious is the collection plate at the group. If the program chairman isn't doing a good job, and there aren't good meetings scheduled or the schedule breaks down, attendance falls off and so does the collection. And even though the Steering Committee may have nominated the program chairman, the group conscience can request that he be removed.

Or at Intergroup -- if the groups don't feel their Intergroup is giving them enough Twelve Step calls or providing them with sufficient services, they could reduce or eliminate their monthly pledge. It was out of these considerations that our present Conference Charter was developed -- a structure which clearly gives the Conference the final ultimate authority, but which nevertheless, legally preserves the rights of the Trustees to function freely and adequately, just as any business Board of Directors must. This arrangement is in strict conformity with the "trusted servant" provision of Tradition Two, which contemplates that our servants within the scope of their duties, should be trusted to use their own experience and judgement. Up to the present time, our experience shows that this balance of powers between the trustees and the conference is thoroughly workable. We believe this balance can be maintained indefinitely, because one is protected by Tradition and the other by law.

by Eve M.
4th NYS Convention
submitted by Cindy N.

Alcoholics Anonymous in Buffalo and on the Niagara Frontier

While April 8, 1941, has been designated the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in Buffalo, all of the evidence taken together shows that interest and activity of sorts was occurring in the city from as early as November 1940; the same evidence can also be interpreted to show that the first meeting occurred as late as September 1941.

The original group no longer exists but every group had its origins within that first group and sprung from the first meeting place at Main and Fillmore.

The fellowship in Buffalo and on the Niagara Frontier now has over two hundred¹ meetings per week on all seven days with a membership several thousand strong. A.A. in Southern Ontario and all of the counties of Western New York, to as far south as Bradford, Pennsylvania has also prospered.

Powerless over alcohol and desperate for help some people in Buffalo contacted the Alcoholic Foundation in New York City. This was more so after Alcoholics Anonymous received widely acclaimed attention in a prestigious newspaper in March 1941. These individuals were referred to the Family Service Society where they met with a psychiatrist. It was the custom in those early years for the New York office make such a referral. The doctor was supplied with the Big Book and he met with alcoholics in a group at his office.

Four individuals wrote again to New York after meeting with the doctor. A fee was being charged and the article which had brought them to the fellowship had stated that

there were no dues or fees. The complaint was forwarded to Dr. Bob in Akron. Dr. Bob contacted a member who was being transferred to Buffalo from Cleveland. This man was Arnie C.

Arnie contacted the Family Service Society and attended a meeting there. He was charged a fee based upon his ability to pay. At the meeting, he noted that the Big Book was not displayed and that the doctor interpret the book for those in attendance. Arnie also noted with whom he would make contact after the meeting, based upon information he had received from Dr. Bob. Arnie had also been instructed to make contact in such a way as not to offend the psychiatrist.

After the meeting, Arnie made the acquaintance of the men who had written to New York City: Bob C.; Al P.; and Joe G. They went to Arnie's car parked under a streetlamp and conducted the first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Buffalo. That was Tuesday, April 8, 1941. It happened that Arnie read Chapter Five of the big Book which had been the topic that evening. Those men saw the Big Book for the first time.

Others interested in Alcoholics Anonymous made contact with these men. Meetings continued in various homes until a permanent meeting place was found on Main Street at Fillmore Avenue. With a couple of years a Central Office was opened and a Central Committee was meeting.

History of Buffalo A.A.

¹ Currently, 296 meetings in the area.

ANNIVERSARIES

Acceptance

Lisa S. 9 y
 Jim G. 11 y
 Mary Jean C 14 y
 Margaret M. 24 y

Amherst/Snyder

Nancy Rae K. 3 m
 John O. 6 m
 Ed S. 1 y
 Frank J. 4 y
 Annette L. 5 y
 Maureen L. 9 y
 Tom C. 11 y
 Rhonda H. 13 y
 Nancy F. 14 y
 Toni F. 15 y
 Dan J. 23 y
 George P. 27 y
 Russell Q. 28 y

Any Age

John W. 1 y
 Kevin 1 y
 Amy Lynn 3 y
 Bill G. 27 y

Cold Springs

Lisa Mc. 1 y
 Jacqueline P 1 y
 Francis F. 3 y
 Loretta H. 7
 Elizabeth G. 27 y

Courage

Wayne L. 9 m
 Don B. 9 m
 Mark Z. 1 y
 Lauren L. 1 y
 Laura L. 5 y
 Russ C. 7 y
 Leo M. 11 y

Fireside

Jim W. 3 m
 Jean B. 1 y
 Danny R. 3 y
 Bill B. 4 y
 Keith L. 7 y
 Pat N. 9 y
 David S. 10 y
 Al F. 10 y
 Mike B. 12 y
 Anne S. 13 y
 Chris R. 14 y
 Don K. 14 y
 John R. 14 y
 Charlie J. 19 y

Ellicott

Yvonne D. 13 y

Fresh Start

Reggie G. 3 y
 Vincent H. 4 y
 Margaret H. 21 y

Happy Hour

Gerald B. 1 y
 Shirley J. 3 y
 Ramon S. 3 y
 Valerie M. 4 y
 Jill C. 4 y
 Terry C. 4 y
 Carl W. 5 y
 Jay W. 7 y
 Elizabeth R. 8 y

Journey

Daryl L. 3 m
 John G. 9 m
 Tim T. 9 m
 Michael A. 1 y
 Matt W. 1 y
 Anne H. 2 y
 Bill G 8 y
 Tut R. 8 y

Kensington

Neil C. 6 m
 Norma F. 16 y

Lovejoy

Marcy M. 3 m
 Janie C. 9 m
 Laura L. 5 y
 Geri H. 12 y

North Buffalo

Henry J. 3 m
 Paul L. 3 m
 Anthony H. 1 y
 Tom T. 1 y
 Beverly S. 5 y
 Norma F. 16 y
 Bill L. 19 y

Main & High

Sharon F. 9 m
 Celeste L. 9 m
 DeArtis B. 1 y
 Kim S. 1 y

Powerless

John R. 1 y
 Wayne W. 10 y

Reformers

Al O. 3 y

Rise and Shine

Sandra C. 3 m
 Don C. 6 m
 Rolando S. 1 y
 Robert G. 2 y
 Theresa H. 2 y
 Linda C. 4 y
 Darrell M. 7 y

Suburban

Lou B. 5 y
 Steve B. 8 y
 Dale H. 19 y

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Mary Ann H. 3 m
 Suzie D. 3 m
 Bob H. 9 m
 Lynn N. 1 y
 Rich W. 2 y
 Dan J. 23 y

Thruway

Dennis Y. 9 m
 Barry McQ. 1 y

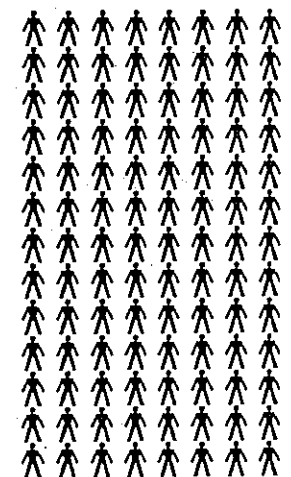
We Care

Karen D. 6 m
 Michelle K. 3 y

Women's

Westside Disc.

Michele M. 9 m
 Nicole W. 9 m
 Dawn S. 1 y
 Maisha S. 1 y
 Joanne S. 2 y



BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(716) 853-0388
(716) 853-0389 FAX

845 ELLICOTT SQUARE
295 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203

OCTOBER 1999

PLEASE NOTE: ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS ARE OPEN TO ANYONE IN THE FELLOWSHIP.

NEW MEETINGS

NEW OUTLOOK - Wednesday 8 pm Open Discussion, 438 West Avenue, Albion.

POWERLESS II - Monday 8:30 pm, 310 Starin at Wingate, N. Buffalo, Open.

SUNRISE COURT - Begins anew on Sunday October 3, 10 am, New City Court Building, Part II, Second Floor, 50 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo.

SEASONAL

SERENITY IN THE PARK - Monday 7 pm Delaware Rose Garden.

PLEASE NOTE

4th STEP STUMBLERS, will show Conference Approved Videos on the 5th Sunday of the month (of course, those months containing 5 Sundays). 7 pm at the West Avenue Pres. Church. This month: Bill W. Discusses the 12 Traditions.

DECISIONS, CHOICES, CHANGES - now meets at 6 pm on Thursdays at Deaconness Hospital, 1001 Humboldt Parkway.

HAPPY HOUR Will meet one day a week - Friday at 5 pm at 341 Seventh Street, Holy Cross School.

PASS IT ON - has purged its files, if you are a member please confirm with the group secretary. Also, please note that this is a non-smoking meeting.

SENECA 12 & 12 - Saturdays at 8 pm no longer meets.

The Archives Committee will not meet November and December.

COMING EVENTS

- ~ Oct. 1-3, The members of University Men, is having a Spiritual Weekend, \$95, contact John Rucharski, 400 Wheatfield, N. Tonawanda, NY 14120.
- ~ Oct. 1-3; Hamilton Autumn Leaf contact Central Office
- ~ Oct. 3, Sunday, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Oct. 3, Sunday, Correctional Facility Committee, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.