

NEW FRONTIERS

April 2000

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.

Half Measures

"Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked His protection and care with complete abandon." Chapter 5 page 59 of the Big Book

Before I came into the fellowship of AA, I never knew why my vain attempts to control my drinking failed; each one resulting in yet another failure. The lost jobs, family arguments, delinquent bills just to name a few. Since I was not homeless and still possessed a car, I was not alcoholic. At the close of my second month in the program the thought of drinking returned very subtly but thanks to my Higher Power whom I choose to call God, directed me to more meetings where I heard a group of members with years of sobriety state if you failed to take step 4 you will drink again. Then one night while reading the Big Book page 35 3rd paragraph showed the solution to my drinking problem "All went well for a time, but he failed to enlarge his spiritual life." [i.e. practice the 12 steps in all my affairs]. This statement was so powerful it showed me that until I put God and recovery first in my life I would always return to the drink. If I maintain my sobriety, stay active in AA and apply the 12 steps to God and this program at the end of March I will have nine months away from a drink. Keep coming back, God and AA worked for me as long as I stay willing thanks for letting me share.

Norm G. extremely blessed and grateful alcoholic
Member of the Harmony Group.

Lest We Forget

Let Us Not Forget Our Families', Our recovery demands that love and tolerance exist in our lives. For are not our loved ones the most affected by our past destruction?? Slow is the healing but healing can be done. We may have a blurry recollection of the previous events but we must build on the past to create a concrete foundation. Let us proceed with the vision of hope and allow our families to see the progress of small steps to grow and heal with us, to always keep one foot in front of the other, one step at a time.

Robert D.
Ironhorse Group

Prayer and...

Back when I was in rehab, I was told to "keep a journal of feelings and to pray". I thought, why not write-out my prayers, that way I can get two things done at once. Every morning I wake up, one of the first things I do is write to "the God of my understanding". I pray to him for the ability to do His will, pray for patience, tolerance, acceptance and appreciation of all people, places and things I may encounter throughout the day. To be by my side all day long and to carry me when encountering an "unmanageable period". I have learned to pray not for things I want, for that would be "my will". That would be contradicting myself when I ask to follow God's will. I do pray for my actions to be considerate and helpful to my fellows, I feel that is God's will. To hear a sincere "Thank You" from another person is very gratifying for I have learned that God speaks through my peers. What can be better than hearing "thank you" from the God of my understanding?

Jeff N.
North Buffalo Group

From Behind the Walls

THE SAD FACT IS...

I have been blessed in my recovery. I say this because I knew that my life had become unmanageable. I knew that I no longer wanted to live life the way I had been living it. I knew that I did not possess the power needed to remove the malady from my life. I knew that God must have this power, or I was through as a productive human being. When I came back into recovery, after a devastating relapse, I humbled myself to the fellowship, and the directions that were given me.

That was almost 4 years ago, and I have been clean and sober since, Thank God! The sad fact is that many of the people in recovery don't see it this way. When I try to help one of these unfortunate people, and they keep grasping for their will, and yet another tragedy-strikes, well being honest it hurts little. I can't help but wonder if I had something to do with this, or if I had done or said something different that it might of been prevented. Then I will turn to pages 448-449 of the Big Book, and read it carefully. It tells me that "Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in Gods world by mistake" I have to remember this, for when I think I can fix everything, I'm setting myself up to be hurt. I set myself up to fail. Life is hard enough sometimes, without helping myself to more pain.

Now there is the other side of this, where I find myself saying, "don't try to help, do you remember the last time?" This too is wrong and I have to guard against it. Now what? Well, as in all things in my life today, God holds the answer. I must trust in the Will of God, and let things happen His way, not mine. I have to allow myself to be a

channel of His directions, and use the Big Book as my guide when helping another sufferer find the way. I have no power over the decisions these people make, I can only set an example by following the suggestions that have worked so well in my life .so far.

In "How it Works", it states, "If you want what we have and are willing to go any length to get it", I am fortunate to have really wanted it. I allowed fear to keep me from working with others outside the rooms. I was not helping them, and also not helping myself. As faith replaced fear, I started to reach out, and began to grow even more. In every success or failure, I learned something that enhanced my recovery.

The fact will always remain that some people really want it, and some do not. I cannot close myself to either group, or I hurt myself more than doing nothing at all. Today, I have nothing but praise for God, and the A. A. fellowship. I have serenity in my life for the first time I can remember. I have real friendships both inside and outside the rooms.

I have learned how to trust again, others and myself. I know what real love is, and how good it feels to be on both ends of that love. I don't have to live in fear anymore!!

For me IT WORKS!! It really and truly does, Thank God!!

Guy Z.

The Reformers Group
Collins Correctional

From Your General Service Chair

My name is Bob K. and I am a recovered alcoholic. I am currently allowed to serve as your area chair for Western New York. I would like to take this time to thank all the groups in Area 50 for allowing me to serve as your Area Treatment Facilities Coordinator for the past two years.

Please bring your voice to the next General Service function. That voice can be heard through your General Service Representative and the vote he carries for your group, or your very own voice. We need your input on how we can serve all the groups in Area 50 and AA as a whole. WE *can* get our groups well informed and healthy, but only with your help. I hope to see everyone at your spring convention in Jamestown.

Faith and Service
Bob K., Southgate
Area 50 Chairman

What Moves Someone To Serve

Hi everyone, my name is Terry, I'm an alcoholic and a member of the Lakeshore Group. My sobriety date is 4/19/87. Over the last 12 years I've quietly served in many conventions, been an active member of my home group, sponsored many women and tried to the best of my ability to walk my talk; and those that know me know I talk big book. I would speak when asked but prefer not to, and feel much safer blending into the crowd. Back about mid December I became aware of a gaping hole in Alcoholics Anonymous. No one was willing to stand for Information Chairman in the General Service Assembly. God began to work on me. On one hand a good friend and fellow AA was talking a lot about service, "What is it worth to be given your life back? You talk a lot about gratitude...That's an action word. "I wanted him to shut up, doesn't he understand I have so much to do; work, home, parent, AA, run, run, run. God took over; thoughts continued to grow. If my child needed AA-how would she hear about it? Were there any seeds planted in your life before arriving at the doors of AA? God worked I think day and night in my thoughts and placed people in my path. The full committee in my head was going-fear-you bet, anything with the public scared me to death. God doesn't remove fear-he gives you the courage to go through it. So here I am at the January meeting of General Service standing for the job of PIC chairman-Thy will, not mine be done. What moves someone like me to serve; I'm grateful to God for being sober and alive. The life I have is unbelievable; to someone like me; a drunk. I also love my child, my unthought of grandchildren and so on. If there's any chance of heredity it's my responsibility. I don't think God intends me to do this alone though-nothing in AA is meant to be. WNY is a big area. There is so much to be done. Yes; there are presentations in schools, but there so much more. There are simple things like keeping library racks stocked. Delivering schedules to police stations, hotels, centers-what about when we get old? Will AA still be there for us? Any where that the general public may want information on AA; health fairs-how hard is it to sit a literature table? There's room for a lot of help. Maybe your home group would want to sponsor a library in your area. I can't do it alone. Could you-Would you help

me. The PIC committee will be meeting on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Church of the Holy Communion, Route 5 and The Old Lakeshore Rd Hamburg (Lakeshore Group). Gratitude in action and love of our future that's what motivates me to service. Thank you for the honor . . . Terry B.-PIC chairman

TREATMENT FACILITY NEWS

Our Bridging the Gap, temporary contact program, is in place. We have an 800 number for people leaving a treatment center to call if they want to attend a meeting in their area. Don B., our Bridging the Gap Coordinator, met with staff of E.C.M.C. and received favorable response to B.T.G temporary contact program. Hopefully we will be meeting with staff of other treatment facilities in the near future.

Our Treatment Chair, Pete F., and General Service Area 50 Treatment Facility Coordinator Richard F., attended the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA). Our area was very well represented with all committee chairs and coordinators attending. Six different areas attended the treatment roundtable, and a variety of subjects were discussed. Bridging the Gap was one topic, which we shared with other areas on what we have done in Area #50 and mostly in the Buffalo Intergroup.

Also discussed was how different areas provide support for their Treatment Facility Committees. Did you know that Buffalo Intergroup's, T.F.C. is supported solely on monies that are earmarked specifically for Treatment by individuals and groups and that money is used only for literature, 800-phone number and answering service for B.T.G.? Does your group support the T.F.C.? Literature is our best resource.

The Spring Convention is just around the corner/T.F.C. will have an informational table set up to answer all questions concerning Bridging the Gap and T.F.C. meetings. There will be lists for people who would like to volunteer their services as temporary contacts or to chair a Treatment meeting. There is a constant demand for both and we hope to see you there.

Yours in Service
T.F.C.

STEP 4
MADE A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES.

Creation gave us instincts for a purpose, without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. My whole life all I wanted was to feel like a complete person. So in order to have that. As a young "potential alcoholic" that's what I thought. I got a wife, children, the white picket fence. Great. What do I do now having power, prestige, and money wasn't enough. Drinking from the beginning I soon lost everything. When I did my fourth step taking a look at what I didn't see coming. I ran the show myself, always, I had to have control. I had went out, got it all, and didn't take time to grow up mentally. Self delusional. I was a child my self, I was unable to take care of my family. What I ended up with was them taking care of me. Searching fearlessly I found I was always in conflict with my self-will. Today I have been a part of my family's life growing up with the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Also, today I don't have the white picket fence but I do have a family. The rest Alcoholics Anonymous and my Higher Power will take care of in time, when its time. With humility I am able to grow a day at a time and for that I am truly grateful.

Carl K., University Men's Discussion

Courage, the spiritual principle of Step 4. An inventory of any kind can be a tedious and painful venture. A moral inventory can be a most harrowing process. Honestly searching and examining the resentments, harms and fears, reveals that I was neither "Attila the Hun" or "Alexander the Great". Discovering that I am a "garden-variety" alcoholic suffering from that mental, physical and spiritual disease of alcoholism draws a clear picture of who I was and who I am today. To complete this, I used courage as a source of strength it became necessary to believe that I possessed this through God's grace. He gave this to me courage takes shape in many forms and uses in the battle of day-to-day life. Having put faith in God, as I understand Him that I can face those skeletons of the past and giving me the "courage to change those things I can" and use some of those assets that I do have to clean house and recover from a "hopeless state of mind and body. Then I'll be able to help another suffering alcoholic in whatever way I can.

Arnie J.
Sunrise Court

TRADITION 4
**EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER
GROUPS OR AA AS A WHOLE.**

Let's face it. Some of us just don't know what autonomous means. Webster's Dictionary defines it as self-governing.

There are many decisions that are made each day or week to allow a group to function. What would be the use of having an outside source governing these decisions? It might, in fact, lead to AA being run as a business with only a few people having all the power and all the rewards while most others have little power and few rewards. Tradition Four prevents this from happening. It stresses the fact that each group consists of members who make the decisions concerning the whole group. Therefore, who makes the coffee and how this person is chosen is left to the group, just as the length of their stay in that position of service is also left to the group to decide. This whole premise seems to be an extension of the basic understanding that individuals ultimately decide for themselves whether or not to attend meetings on a continuous basis. Therefore this tradition extends similar privileges to the group too.

Marie S.
Live and Let Live

CONCEPT 4
**"THROUGHOUT OUR CONFERENCE STRUCTURE, WE OUGHT TO MAINTAIN AT ALL
RESPONSIBLE LEVELS A TRADITIONAL "RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION", TAKING CARE THAT EACH
CLASSIFICATION OR GROUP OF OUR WORLD SERVANTS SHALL BE ALLOWED A VOTING
REPRESENTATION IN REASONABLE PROPORTION TO THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT EACH MUST
DISCHARGE." (SHORT FORM ADOPTED IN 1974 BY GENERAL SERVICE.)**

Bill W., in his statement of the fourth concept, poses the Traditional Right of Participation keeps whole the working attitude of World Services as well as service work at any level Every committee or conference operates upon a basic right to actively in discussing that either face the group or A.A. as a whole. No exclusionary rule to hamper or separate one body of service from another can prevail, even though there may be a consensus or movement to impose such. With this "Right of Participation, a working part of the service structure, the emphasis becomes being a "trusted servant", working for the common good for A.A. as a whole not seeking personal power or status. We all work together. No one has authority over another.

Arnie J.

Sunrise Court

Acceptance

I love this word today' And the way I came to Love this word is by reciting "The Serenity Prayer" over & over, every day in early sobriety. By living life difficult situations without picking up, with the feelings & talking out my feelings with my sponsor, slowly I started to discover that by accepting rather than manipulating is so much easier on myself. I find serenity in my life when I accept. I find chaos when I try to orchestrate. When I allow my Higher Power of my understanding to be in charge, things just fall in place the way He sees fit. And I have to pray to accept any outcome.

Thank you for letting me share. Have a wonderful 24 hours.

Love in the spirit of the fellowship

Maria F., Acceptance Group

The Miracle of Hope

I write this letter to share with others what the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous has given to me. While there are countless jewels that have been shared with me since I arrived nine months ago, the one, which stands out most in my mind, is hope. As I reflect back on my years of addiction I can see that hopelessness was an inherent part of my core being. This saddens me. However, today, I see people who freely offer hope without apprehension. This has brought joy to my life in a way I am struggling to identify with words.

I am early on the road to recovery and ever reminded of the importance of being humble and learning to listen- neither of which I do without a fight. Some say "take your time..." again not something I am accustomed to doing. Yet I remain sober, a miracle in and of itself. The program suggestions are saving my life daily, and I believe with all of my heart that my life has truly been blessed by the God of MY understanding, and the people of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In closing I want to especially thank my sponsor and her family, the Casting Group, and a very special friend. I am not always an easy pill to swallow...Thanks for ALL your support!!!

Liz B., Casting Group

GRATITUDE

I can remember a time when I felt that all things were against me. I felt as if I was truly a victim of circumstances, that there was absolutely nothing to be grateful for. After coming to the realization that I had a problem with alcohol and that all of my problems were stemming from my usage of it, I then turned to AA for help. Once I began listening to other members and taking the steps, I began to see that I was creating my own circumstances and was allowing myself to become a victim because of my drinking. Today I am grateful that I am able to realize what my drinking can do to my life. With taking the steps and taking an honest look at myself, it is very difficult to blame others for my own doing. I wake up today and ~ grateful for the life that my higher power has given me. Even in the most difficult times, this program has helped me to see even the good in what I always felt was just the bad.

Antoinette L. - Honesty Group

Fellowship Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

Sylvia G. of the Patchin Group

Courage

Courage is the armor
To face each given day.

A reward for hope and faith
In God's most gracious way.

To face the pains and sorrows,
To dance with cheers and bliss.

Humble courage can free us
And accept all of these blessed gifts.

Me and My Higher Power One Plus One

Sometimes I just have to laugh
All these silly things I do
Just keep me on that path
The one that leads back to you.

If ever I happen to stray
O please be there when I am found
One thing I know today
I'm someone when you're around.

John M.
Mod/Living in the Solution

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ANNIVERSARIES

Acceptance

Jill K. 2 y
 Chuck D. 24 y
 Art F. 45 y

Any Age

Ann P. 1 y
 Reb B. 6 y
 Tom S. 30 y

Cold Springs

Shirley C.L. 2 y
 Dorothy F. 3 y

Fireside

Rick A. 1 y
 Donna D. 1 y
 Issac H. 2 y
 Day W. 12 y
 John H. 14 y
 Maggie D. 24 y
 Bob K. 25 y

Giving

Lucinda 9 m
 Jose E. 9 m
 Velvet J. 9 m
 Jackie K. 9 m
 James T. 9 m
 Joe H. 4 y

Grand

David M. 1 y

H.A.N.D.

Mark Mc. 2 y
 Joe R. 4 y
 Bryant G. 15 y

Honesty

Mark S. 15 y

Inner City

Johnny 12 y
 Hattie S. 19 y
 John B. 30 y
 Cleo 30 y

Kensington

Mary H. 19 y
 Rita F. 26 y

Lighten Up

Mary P. 6 m
 Bob M. 2 y
 Lil B. 3 y

Lovejoy

Greg C. 1 y
 Debbie K. 3 y
 Dan S. 3 y
 Phil L. 3 y

Main & High

Selina P. 6 m
 Tim C. 1 y
 Wallace G. 3 y
 Larry H. 12 y

Miracle

Christine Z. 4 y

New West Side

Christine Z. 4 y

Ridge

Joe McC. 1 y
 Terri C. 3 y

Rise & Shine

Carol W. 6 m
 Shawn S. 6 m
 Tom K. 9 m
 Charles F. 3 y
 Dorothy F. 3 y
 Ted J. 3 y
 Threse B. 4 y
 Teresa W. 4 y
 Jean D. 4 y
 Carol S. 5 y
 Patricia K. 6 y
 Bruce G. 13 y

Sunday Morning

Breakfast

Shawn M. 6 m
 Latonya H. 9 m
 Carl B. 9 m
 Bob H. 1 y
 Mark O. 3 y
 Becky B. 3 y
 Dan-W. 12 y

The Book

Shirley S. 13 y

Thruway

Dale B. 6 m
 Craig C. 9 m
 Bryant G. 15 y
 Leo S. 17 y
 Bill C. 22 y

Victory

Kurt S. 3 m
 Jackie M. 1 y

We Care

Bruce F. 6 m
 Ken K. 1 y
 Frank D. 2 y
 Tim F. 2 y
 Greg D. 3 y
 Neal O. 3 y
 Elmer M. 20 y

Welcome

Mark H. 6 y
 Della 15 y
 Art F. 45 y

Group Anniversaries

1110
 Attraction
 Casting
 Cheektowaga
 Crossroads
 East Amherst
 H.O.W.
 Holland
 Inner City
 Lewport
 Lower Mountain
 Women's
 Purpose
 Ray of Hope
 Serenity on the Lake
 There's a Solution
 Welcome
 Please remember to
 have the
 anniversaries
 submitted by the 10th
 of the month
 previous.

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APRIL 2000

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

PLEASE NOTE

Apr. 8, Sat., **General Service Assembly**, will take place in Jamestown at the Holiday Inn at 10:30 am. This has been incorrectly reported in this Bulletin.

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD – Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Tonawanda has moved to St. Edmunds, 530 Ellicott Creek Road.

EYEOPENER – Sat. April 1st only, will meet at Sister's Hospital Annex, Harlem Road near Sheridan, Star Program meeting room.

IN THE SOLUTION – Friday, 8 pm, C.O.P.N. House, Niagara Falls, no longer meets.

MARILLA Friday, 8 pm will not meet on April 21, 2000 only.

NOTHIN' BUT THE BOOK – Thursday, 8 pm, St. Rita/Pat, no longer meets.

VALLEY – Thursday, 8 pm, Woodside Methodist, no long meets.

WE CHOOSE LIFE – Wednesday, 5:30 pm, has moved to St. John's Grace, 496 Lafayette.

The Western New York General Service Assembly would accept additional financial support to assist carrying the message to AA as a whole.

NEW MEETINGS

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING – Tuesday, 8:30 pm, United Methodist, Gowanda, open meeting.

ATTENTION THURSDAY – SUNDAY MEETINGS. If you would like your homegroup to be listed for available meetings during the Fall Convention and you are convenient to the Millersport Marriott, please forward to the Central Office directions on how to get there from the hotel.

COMING EVENTS

- ~ Apr. 1, Sat. the members of the Springville area are inviting spring in with a speaker at 7:30; dance at 8:30, bring a dish; \$5 presale, \$6 at the door.
- ~ Apr.2, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Apr. 2, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Apr. 7-9, **GSA Spring Convention**, Jamestown, New York
- ~ Apr. 8, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.

- ~ Apr. 8, Sat., **General Service Assembly**, will take place in Jamestown at the Holiday Inn at 10:30 am.
- ~ Apr. 15, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ Apr. 15, Sat., **NYS Informational Workshop** planning committee meeting, 10 am. Ellicott Square conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ Apr. 15, Sat., **Public Information Committee Meeting**, Church of the Holy Communion, S5381 Old Lake Shore Road/Route 5, 10 am.
- ~ Apr. 15, Sat., the members of the **1110 Group** are celebrating their group's third anniversary with an eating meeting, food at 6 and speaker at 8 pm. 1110 Kenmore at Colvin in the rear.
- ~ Apr. 16, Sun., **FALL CONVENTION** planning committee, 1 pm, Millersport Marriott.
- ~ April 16, Sun., members of the **Serenity Group** request your presence to help them celebrate the group's 37th anniversary with breakfast and speaker at the Holiday Inn, 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, 9:30 am; \$8 tickets; sorry - no tickets at door.
- ~ Apr. 18, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Ch., 6:30 pm.
- ~ Apr. 30, Sun. **Fourth Step Stumblers** movie night, come watch *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* with us, learn about principles, traditions, sponsorship, home group, etc.
- ~ May 7, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ May 7, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ May 13, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ May 13, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ May 16, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Ch., 6:30 pm.
- ~ May 20, Sat., **NYS Informational Workshop** planning committee meeting, 10 am. Ellicott Square conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ May 20, Sat., **Public Information Committee Meeting**, Church of the Holy Communion, S5381 Old Lake Shore Road/Route 5, 10 am.
- ~ May 21, **General Service Assembly**, Hamburg Town Hall, S6100 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, 1:00 pm.
- ~ May 21, Sun., **FALL CONVENTION** planning committee, 1 pm, Millersport Marriott.
- ~ June 29 - July 2, 2000, **International Convention**, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- ~ August 4-6, **NYS Informational Workshop**, UB's Amherst Campus.

I would like to thank everyone for his or her prayers, thoughts and encouragement during the recent loss of my mother. It is only with gratitude to this fellowship and the 12 steps that I was able to be of service to mom and my family.

In Love and Service, Cindy

BUFFALO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting, April 2, 2000

Dick L. opened the meeting at 7:10 with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. Jay H., N. Buff, read the preamble followed by the reading of the Purpose of Central Committee by Jim B., Ridge Group and Pete C. of the Renewal group read the twelve traditions. The minutes from the March 2nd meeting were read and a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was made by Sandy M. of Serenity circle, and was seconded by Mike D. of Abbott Men's Discussion.

34 GROUPS ATTENDED: District #1: Giving, Main & High, Miracle, Positively Living, Serenity Circle, Sunrise Court and You'll Never Walk Alone. District #2: Age Doesn't Matter, Chapter IX, North Buffalo. District #3: Abbott Men's Discussion, Cheektowaga, Courage, Iron Horse, Rainbow, Ridge, Victory, and We Care. District #4: Action, and The Lakeshore Group. District #5: Johnson Creek and Wilson. District #6: Dunkirk. District #7: Cold Spring, Ellicott, Let Go & Let God, Pass It On, and Spirit of Hope. District #8: Amherst Snyder, Lighten Up, Renewal and Williamsville. District #9: Rural is Plural. District #10: No one reported.

New group representatives were: Michael D. Williamsville; Mark A., Johnson Creek Big Book

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ENVELOPE SYSTEM: Darlene W. gave the report. \$169.00 was received for the month of March 2000. That made the total for the year 2000 of \$2,469.00. A comparison of March's total to prior months and to 1999 and 1998 can be seen in the chart below:

	2000	2000 ytd	1999	1999 ytd	1998	1998 ytd
January	\$1,319.00	\$1,319.00	1,540.00	1,540.00	1,795.00	1,795.00
February	981.00	2,300.00	337.00	1,877.00	580.00	2,375.00
March	169.00	2,469.00	469.00	2,346.00	592.00	2,967.00
April			538.00	2,884.00	540.00	3,507.00
May			572.00	3,456.00	388.00	3,895.00
June			263.00	3,719.00	134.00	4,029.00
July			783.00	4,502.00	772.00	4,801.00
August			282.00	4,784.00	540.00	5,341.00
September			527.00	5,311.00	373.00	5,714.00
October			375.00	5,686.00	356.00	6,070.00
November			154.00	5,840.00	817.00	6,887.00
December			418.00	6,258.00	341.00	7,228.00
TOTAL	2,469.00	2,469.00	\$6,258.00	\$6,258.00	7,228.00	7,228.00

STEERING COMMITTEE: Mike D., Abbott Men's discussion, gave the report. The Steering committee meeting opened at 6:15PM and the following topics were discussed: 1) The Co-Chairperson for the 2001 convention will come from District #3. Persons interested must have 10 years sobriety by 8/6/2000. Central Office is sending flyers out notifying groups of this event. Replies should be sent to Central Office. 2) Discussed the three year comparison chart that central office prepared. The average quarterly expenses totaled \$19,784.62. This information will be mailed out to each group with the monthly mailing. 3) Also, some steering committee reps. will attend other groups about matters affecting still other groups. 4) Groups holding fundraisers and sending money to Central Office was discussed and tabled until next month; the meeting was adjourned at 7:04PM.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jim B., of the Ridge Group, reported that the beginning checkbook balance was \$2,242.76. Total revenue was \$6,450.00. There were disbursements of \$5,840.05, leaving a closing balance of \$2,852.71. The full financial report with all details is available in writing, attached to the minutes.

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Pete F., Courage Grp, Chairman of the committee read the report. The committee meets at 6:30PM at St Paul's church, on Indian Church rd., South Buffalo. (Where the Iron Horse group meets). Twelve (12) people attended. The status of the regular meetings at treatment facilities is as follows:

- Sunday ECMC - 3:45pm: okay
- Sunday VAMC - 7:00pm: okay
- Monday Sheehan- 7:00pm: okay
- Monday Salvation Army - 8:00pm: okay
- Tuesday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay
- Tuesday VAMC - 1:00pm: okay
- Thursday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay
- Thursday Reflections Lockport Memorial Hosp.- 8:00pm: okay
- Friday ECMC - 7:00pm okay
- Saturday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay

"Bridging the Gap" report. About 75 people have volunteered with a good mix of men and women. There have been a handful of responses from facilities for clients wanting help. This is a good start.

New Business. A motion was made and passed to add a brief description of "Bridging the Gap" to the Treatment meeting format, to keep clients informed.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Bill L., chairman, gave the report. Held the meeting at 6:00PM before the Central Committee Meeting. 6 people attended and discussed: The date for the "Corrections Connection" originally set for 4/21 has been changed to an unknown date. We are starting from scratch to get the entire lot of meetings filled. Looking in to sending a flyer out with monthly mailings to inform groups of the need. Reaffirming contacts with each prison has been initiated.

SCREENERS: No new report, working on putting a committee together.

CENTRAL OFFICE: Cindy N., of the Sunrise Court group, and Executive Sect., delivered the report. The Central Office received the following number of calls, visitors, and requests for information:

AA Information	543	<u>Mail</u>	
PIC	1	730 Pieces	
CPC	0	\$495.29 Total Mail Cost	
Al Anon	19		
Ala Teen	1	<u>Answering Service</u>	
ACOA	0	Incoming Calls	119
12 Step	8	Outgoing Calls	66
Literature Requests	30		
Fax In	6	Visitors	179
Fax Out	2	Volunteers	93

Does the committee want to look into getting AA information and open meeting schedules into your Doctor's office. Central office will be more than happy to supply the schedules if there is interest. Schedules in hotels?

It was also noted that there was a pull over error on the accounting sheets, which will be corrected next month.

I would like to thank everyone for his or her prayers, thoughts and encouragement during the recent loss of my mother. It is only with gratitude to this fellowship and the 12 steps that I was able to be of service to mom and my family.

NEW FRONTIER: No report.

PAST CONVENTION (FALL 1999): No report.

PRESENT CONVENTION: 59th Buffalo Fall Convention, Nov. 10,11,and 12, 2000. Charles L. gave the report. The last meeting was held on March 19,2000 at the Marriott Hotel. Committees are still being filled. Discussed trying to keep the registration and banquet the same price. Will try to get a Beef dish for dinner. Talked about the guidelines and traditions by the GSA concerning Al-Anon. Also discussed concerns about discounts for halfway houses and treatment facilities. This is in response to the Box 459 article "Why should we pay for AA events. The next meeting will be April 16, 2000 @ the Marriott at 1:00Pm.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION SITES: Adolph I. reported. The Marriott wants more money (\$2000) for the use of the banquet facility. The Convention Center wants \$3000 rental plus \$8000 for coffee. The U.B. facility was considered but transportation is a problem. Another concern from the Marriott was the hospitality smoking room making a mess. So we may not be able to smoke. The Convention Center has ventilation. The final proposal next month.

COURTESY REPORTS:

GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: Bob K. Area 50 Chairman, made the report: With the new format we have seen support up. Still looking for more GSR reps in attendance. Delegate Mike B. will report at the Spring Convention Sat. @ 10:30Am. Appointed a new Archives chairman, Tom. B. of the Lovejoy Group. and Archivist Ben W. both appointed by the Chairman. The next meeting will be the third week of May (due to Mother's Day), at the Hamburg Town Hall 5999 South Park, Hamburg, N.Y.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Terry B. Chairperson gave the report. The last meeting was held 3/18/00 with 9 people in attendance. Last months report was reviewed as well as the NERASSA roundtable summary. Newcomers were brought up to speed on what PIC is all about. Several commitments have been fulfilled: City Honors High School (2), Spectrum Human Services; South Buff. presentation, Hilbert College Wellness Fair table. and Spectrum Human Services; Orchard Park. (2). All went well. Working on a date for Sweet Home High School. Libraries are being contacted to see who has racks and who doesn't. Some small newspapers are being contacted to see what would be needed to run PIC ads. Have an article in the New Frontiers. Next meeting is 4/15/00.

COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE: Griff N gave a report. The last meeting was held on March 11,2000 at 9:00 Am. The CPC will be represented at the Spring Convention. Also, people are inquiring about the 9 Am meeting time being too early to have new people out. The committee is all for the change if it brings more people to the meeting.

RCHIVES: No report

RECAP: Regarding the Steering Committees discussion about fundraising for the Central office, Elizabeth pointed out that every year New York has a Bill Wilson Center fundraiser. Mike D. said that is the whole New

York area that puts that on, not individual groups. It was also mentioned that the steering committee doesn't vote on issues they just bring them up for discussion.

Regarding the Ad-Hoc Committee's looking into convention sights, George B. asked what an Ad-Hoc committee is and Adolph said it handles looking into specific issues and then reports to the Central Committee. Elizabeth inquired about bringing the Convention back to the city. Adolph said to do that would cost more money (for Convention Center) and he's trying to get in touch with Adam's Mark. Griff N. spoke of going with just a pre-registration due to the growth in size of the Convention recently. We're in a bind because of that and the fact that AA gets a bad name from other areas leaving unpaid bills at hotels. We need a good "reality check".

OLD BUSINESS: Scott T. said we are still looking into a place for the 20th of May for the day of sharing. Maybe where the Hamburg group meets.

NEW BUSINESS: Elizabeth said we should allow groups to fundraise for Central Office. Griff responded by saying that by our Traditions we are self-supporting and that we shouldn't rely on "gimmicks". We can't continue to push the line. If we are about paying our own way and standing for spiritual principles then we dig into our own pockets. If we stay inside of our Traditions we will be guided spiritually. Elvester M. added that people sell T-shirts and mugs as souvenirs, which many people enjoy. Dick L. clarified the issue by saying that a group had a dance to support Central Committee because they were in dire need of funds and it was supposed to be for one year, however this is the third year that they held this dance so the steering committee discussed it and brought it to the floor. No motion was made and it was tabled until the May meeting.

Charles L. made a motion to close and John B. seconded. The meeting closed at 8:25 Pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark S. Lakeshore Group
Recording Secretary

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2000

GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
ott Men		90.00		90.00		90.00
Action		40.00				
Age Doesn't Matter	50.00	50.00				
Amherst/Snyder		158.00				
Amsdell/Lakeshore	57.65	107.65				
Any Age	200.00	200.00				
Any Length	30.00	120.00				
Anybody's Group	20.00	60.00				
Attitude Adjustment	50.00	150.00				
Attraction		100.00				
Bidwell Monday Nite		50.00		50.00		50.00
Big Book/Lockport	50.00	50.00				
Blasdell Monday Nite		40.00				
Boulevard Women		150.00				
Brass	25.00	55.00				
But For The Grace of God		35.00				
Came To Believe		14.75				
Cathedral Park		27.95		5.00		5.00
Caz		57.00				
Chapter IX	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Cheektowaga		100.00		50.00		
Confidence Men's Disc. Wednesday	100.00	100.00				
Courage	120.00	320.00	10.00	30.00	10.00	30.00
Crossroads		217.50				
Crosstalk Big Book	60.00	60.00				
Daily Reflections	30.00	60.00				
East Aurora		100.00				
Easy Does It		25.00				
Ellicott	10.00	60.00		10.00		10.00
Everybody's	40.00	80.00				
Express		176.00				
Eyeopener		200.00				
Father Baker	100.00	400.00				
Fireside		511.20				50.00
First Things First		120.00				
Fredonia Discussion		60.00				
Freedom		75.00				
Gardenville	50.00	50.00				
Georgetown		400.00				
Getting Better		7.00				
Giving				50.00		
Golden Slipper	50.00	50.00				
Grand Group		20.00				
Grand II Joy of Living		100.00				
Grateful	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2000

GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
H.A.N.D	60.00	180.00				100.00
Handicappers		150.00				
Harmony	75.00	150.00				
Helping Hand		40.00				
High Noon		50.00				
Holiday Village	200.00	400.00				
Holland		90.00				
Honesty	30.00	120.00	10.00	40.00		10.00
Intoxicated on Life		20.00		10.00		
Ironhorse	81.00	272.50	8.10	22.25	8.10	22.25
Journey		80.00				
Keep It Simple, Sister		75.00				
Kensington Discussion		40.00				
Lake Shore		50.00		66.00		50.00
Lakeview		25.00				
Let Go and Let God		50.00				
Lighten Up	162.50	302.50				
Live and Let Live	120.00	120.00				
Living In The Solution		700.00				
Lockview	150.00	150.00				
Lovejoy		60.00		10.00		30.00
Main & High	15.00	25.00				
Marilla	25.00	100.00				
Matt Talbot	50.00	150.00				
Medina New Life		20.00				
New Beginnings	30.00	30.00				
New Outlook/Albion	20.00	60.00				
Niagara Frontier Men's		150.00				
North Buffalo	100.00	400.00	25.00	100.00	25.000	100.00
North Java Groups		80.00				
One Day At A Time		275.00				
Perry Discussion		40.00				
Pioneer		60.00				
Positively Living/Linwood		40.00				
Positively Living/Renaissance I		500.00				
Purpose	50.00	150.00				
Rainbow	25.00	50.00	25.00	25.00		25.00
Ray of Hope		50.00				
Reformers (Prison)				10.00		
Remember When	25.00	60.00				
Renewal		100.00				
Ridge	50.00	202.00	25.00	31.11	25.00	25.00
Rochester Group	100.00	200.00				
Rural Is Plural		50.00		5.00		5.00
Searching for Serenity		150.00				

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2000

GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
Serenity		180.65				
Serenity Circle	5.00	26.00		2.00		2.00
Serenity Trail		27.50				
Sheridan	20.00	80.00				
Sober Saturday		24.60				
Southgate				20.08		
Southtown Women's	47.50	62.50				
Spirit of Hope		10.00		5.00		5.00
Spiritual Progress	50.00	100.00				
Starting Over	40.00	91.40				
Stepping Stones	20.00	120.00				
Suburban	10.00	80.00				
Sunday Morning Breakfast	150.00	150.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Sunday Third/Sheridan		25.00				
Sunrise Court				6.25		
Surrender & Hope		100.00				
Thankful		50.00				
The Book Meeting	38.61	38.61				
Thruway	200.00	950.00	20.00	80.00	20.00	80.00
Thursday Afternoon Discussion	100.00	200.00				
Trail's End		20.00				
County/Gowanda	10.00	65.00				
Tuesday Men's Discussion	25.00	65.00				
Tuesday Women	40.00	60.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Unity	100.00	320.00				
University Men's Discussion	125.00	250.00				
Valley		30.00				
Varieties of Spiritual Experience		49.00				
Victory		15.00		15.00		15.00
Wake Up Call		36.00				
We Care	30.00	120.00	10.00	40.00	20.00	80.00
Wehrle		25.00				
Westfield	45.00	45.00				
Westminster		50.00				
Why		90.00		15.00		15.00
Willing to Grow	100.00	200.00				
Wilson Smith University Alumni		60.00				
Women's West Side Discussion	47.50	47.50				
Dick's Tees		10.00				
Pink Can			3.00	67.41		
Memoriam BK				20.00		
Anonymous	35.00	55.00				
Back To Basics/Canada		10.00				
Perry Wed. Night Meeting		20.00				
Group Contribution Total	\$3,729.76	\$14952.81	\$ 276.10	\$1015.100	\$ 248.10	\$ 939.25

Beginning Balance 3/26/00			\$4,286.81
RECEIPTS			
58 Groups Contributed	\$3,729.76		
Joint Meeting 4/5/00	49.40		
New Frontier Subscriptions	35.00		
Envelope System	407.00		
Literature	2,523.62		
Copies/Mail	142.92	\$6,887.70	\$11,174.51
EXPENSES:			
#10 Ellicott Court Corporation <i>Office Rent</i>	\$636.00		
St. Michael's Parish <i>Meeting Room Rent</i>	35.00		
Salaries	1661.84		
Charter One/Federal Withholding	716.00		
Health Insurance	272.74		
The State Insurance Fund	46.85		
Secrephone (Answering Service)	106.20		
Minolta Leasing/Copier	187.00		
Image Office Equipment (Delivery)	5.00		
Neopost	310.52		
Advance Business Machine (Meter Supplies)	39.65		
Bell Atlantic	218.75		
Vermont Pure Springs	20.95		
World Services, Inc.	2,772.91		
Grapevine	90.00		
Hazelden	689.70		
Paper Store (Paper)	117.27		
Williamson UPS	22.25		
Postage	395.00		
Bank Charge	4.50		(\$8,348.13)
Balance 4/25/00			\$2,826.38
MONEY MARKET			
Money Market 3/26/00	\$1,102.32		
Interest Credit	1.85		
Balance 4/25/00	\$1,104.17		1,104.17
Certificate of Deposit Balance 4/25/00			8,000.00
Outstanding Invoices			784.15
TOTAL CENTRAL OFFICE			\$12,714.70
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES			
Correctional Facilities 3/26/00	288.50		
Donations 3/26/00 - 4/25/00	276.10	\$ 564.60	
Expenses		(\$328.50)	
Bank Charge		(\$8.00)	
Balance 4/25/00			\$ 228.10
TREATMENT FACILITIES			
Treatment Facilities 3/26/00	\$148.18		
Donations 3/26/00- 4/25/00	248.10	\$ 396.28	
Expenses		(\$ 86.97)	
AT&T	14.92		
AAA Ans. Ser.	31.60		
Ecmc	32.45		
Bank Charge	8.00		
Balance 4/25/00			\$ 309.31