

NEW FRONTIERS

January 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.

GOLDEN YEARS OF SOBRIETY

The reason I am using this title is because I am seventy-six years old and have been sober for thirty-seven years. When I was diagnosed legally blind in 1987 at the age of sixty-four, I went into a state of depression. With God's grace and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous I was able to pull myself out of the pit of depression. I went into the Blind Association, where I met Betty Wilson and she helped me out tremendously. She started the process for me to attend college, I enrolled at Erie Community College at the age of sixty - six years old, and graduated at the age of seventy- one. It was really amazing being the student speaker at my graduation before twelve hundred students and guests. Two television stations covered the graduation ceremony and broadcasted it on the evening news. Today I speak at Hilbert College twice per year to a diverse culture class in Hamburg N.Y. Presently I am taking computer typing at the Independent Living Center once a week. Today I have my own computer, given to me by a blind professor from Buffalo State College. I pointed out these things that have happened to me through God's grace and my sobriety, without His grace and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous these things wouldn't have been possible. Through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous I have developed self -esteem, serenity, peace with my fellowman, in these golden years of my sobriety.

Vemon G. - Cold Spring Group

Letter to the Editor

In the first fifty years of my life I had managed to lose: several jobs, the trust of my family and friends, my self-respect, and many other things including my ability to earn a living. This is the legacy of baggage I brought to Alcoholics Anonymous in 1985 when I had become: unemployable, unloved by many, trusted by few and dying from a disease I knew little about. In my first year, and aided by an old school sponsor, I began to regain some of the abovementioned losses by listening to the creed of Alcoholics Anonymous. However I was still subject to fits of depression when I sulked over the opportunities I had wasted and a poverty that haunted my future to the point that Alcoholics Anonymous' promises seemed very distant and unattainable. My sponsor dropped in one evening and caught me in one of these funks, which I was able to disguise pretty well in public and at meetings. The "pity pot" was a private thing for me as I pretended to be happy with a poor paying -menial job, which was going nowhere. My apartment was crude but cheap the only cheerful adornments were many cheerful photos of the children who were major victims of my drinking career, but were slowly accepting my attempt to change and make amends for the harm I had done. My sponsor, not a man of few words, sensed my mood, and told me to make a list of my assets. I kind of laughed and suggested it would be a short list, which I handed him in a few minutes. He glanced at it, then tore it into several pieces and raised his voice to a volume I hope I don't forget. "Take a look-around you, you dumb S.O.B. at those pictures. Those are your only assets and soon there will be grandchildren in those photos. If you keep doing what you are doing, no one will ever take them away. Treasure them and the rest will come. And he was right. In my fifteenth year of sobriety I have five grandchildren who have never seen me take a drink; four children who are forgetting that I ever did. If there were no other reward, this would be plenty, thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous and that sponsor.

Jack R., Southgate

From Behind the Walls

Hello to everyone in Buffalo,

I am writing this in the hope that anyone in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous who is facing incarceration or is already there will benefit. My name is Tom C. and I am an alcoholic, presently I am incarcerated at a prison camp, I have been in custody since March 24th, 1999. To those who think that alcohol or other mind altering substances are not readily available in prison, you can believe that anything is obtainable. The struggle to maintain sobriety is not an easy one either outside of or inside prison. One is constantly surrounded with apathy and the "street" way of over 700 other inmates, everyone has a hustle.

I am very fortunate however to have a God of my understanding and a sponsor of exceeding wisdom who wholeheartedly works the suggested steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, and is kind enough to assist me in doing the same while I am locked up. God, and him through God has shown me by their examples and miracles the value, peace and serenity of practicing A.A.s principles in all my affairs. Despite the above mentioned, and other more sinister conditions of a prison, God has seen fit to keep me willing to do whatever is necessary to stay sober. He has created in me the desire to keep working the Steps and shown me the hope of it all. I look down the road at my release date, and the assurance of returning to Buffalo to my many true friends and family in Alcoholics Anonymous. There are many advantages as well as disadvantages in a prison camp environment. Some of these are; you are controlled 24 hours a day, you are told when to eat, when to sleep, you are totally accountable for everything on a daily basis, and can face consequences at any given time. On the positive side you have a lot of time to read recovery materials. My sponsor continuously sends me Step readings, prayers and meditations. There are a number of spiritual groups here on a daily basis from both fellowships.

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.)

So like anything else the choice is mine, "live and grow in sobriety," or be apathetic and resentful and sink into the darkness of remorse. I chose the first, life and growth are never easy but they are a reality. I choose to make the time serve me not me serve the time.

For anyone struggling for any reason I suggest that you look to God, read and apply how it works of Alcoholics Anonymous in your life. With God, your home group(mine is the best!) and a sponsor, my worst day sober is a million times better than my best day drunk and that is a beautiful thing.

Fight the good fight my dear friends and family.

Yours in gratitude and sobriety,

Tom C. O.D.A.A.T. Harmony group.

Dear friends of Bill W.

Greetings once again from the Reformers Group. As we move toward a new millennium, it is our greatest that all of you, and A.A.s everywhere enjoy a safe, healthy and sober Holiday season.

We thank you for your publication and support.

Yours in the Fellowship,
The Reformers Group

POWERLESS

*"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol- that our lives had become unmanageable."
12 Steps and 12 Traditions,p-21*

It is no coincidence that the very first Step mentions powerlessness: An admission of personal powerlessness over alcohol is a cornerstone of the foundation of recovery. I've learned that I do not have the power and control I once thought I had. I am powerless over what people think about me. I am powerless over having just missed the bus. I am powerless over how other people work (or don't work) the Steps. But I've also learned I am *not* powerless over my attitudes. I am *not* powerless over negativity. I am *not* powerless over assuming responsibility for my own recovery. I have the power to exert a positive influence on myself, my loved ones, and the world in which I live.

Taken from the Daily Reflections (January 3rd)

Honesty

As in the first step, honesty brilliantly shows the light to reality and my miserable existence of acting drinking. No longer is it possible to conceal a lifetime of self-deceit into what is wrong with us. Admitting honestly that there is a problem with alcohol opens the door to which can be closed at any time, if we so choose. Keeping that door open makes a recovering life possible. I can no longer lie to myself that there is no problem or that everything is fine. I am able to face reality and its trials and look for solutions instead of denying my problems and worsening them by ignoring them away. This is essential for if being honest isn't a vigilant partaking in my everyday life, that beast of self-deceit raises its ugly head and alcoholism is alive, even without taking a drink. It is far too familiar to pick-up that old behavior of lying it is as easy as breathing. Even if I falter it becomes evident, sooner or later, and something must change, that something is me and my attitudes. This happens on a 24-hour basis, day-by-day with Gods grace. Being open and honest with myself can lead to the rest of the spiritual principles, then becomes second nature if I practice it on a daily basis. It becomes a way of life and a guide to help me. Honesty develops that relationship with God that he has always wanted me to have. I draw closer to God when I stop being deceitful and dishonest to others who are trying to help me.

Arnie J., Sunrise Court

*Essay on the First Tradition
Our common welfare should come first:
Personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity*

None of us stands alone anymore. Don't get me wrong, we surely used to think that we were alone in this world.....alone with our only friend, the almighty bottle. Things have changed and we becoming aware of a larger world and our part in it. It is part of our growing up process The part of the process that we missed when we chose to pursue our obsession is considering the greater whole, the big picture, not just our part in it. We do it in a most simple way with our home group. This group was there for a part of our recovery, whether it was the beginning of recovery or during a crucial period for us some group was there for us and we have to remember to be there for it, to make sure that the group is there for someone else who may need it. This is a part of tradition one is saying Help the group sustain itself for the newcomer or for the person going through a hard time Help the group be there for someone else.

Marie S., Powerless

Another View . . .

No one invented AA. It grew. Trial and error has produced a rich experience. The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous grew out of the mistakes and tribulations of the early years. The traditions first appeared in 1946 as a Grapevine Article by Bill W., entitled: *An Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition of Relations Twelve Points to Assure Our Future*. The traditions were not ratified until the 2nd World Convention

in St. Louis in 1955. The original wording from of the 1946 article is preserved in the long form of the traditions in the back of the Big Book.

The traditions exist to protect the unity of A.A. The first Tradition succinctly states this. Our unity is our most cherished quality. It protects AA from us. It keeps our old nemesis of money, power, and pleasure at bay. What is good for AA is more important than what is good for me. The tradition clearly states that my desires as an individual run a close second to what is good for AA.

Pause for a second to consider what unity means. As members we must ponder such things. The dictionary definition of unity is. "The quality or state of being one." Each AA is a very small part of a great whole. The scope of unity of AA goes beyond the mere dictionary definition though. Every action taken since 1935, and even before, was taken so that we make take a sober breath in 1999 (2000). Moreover, the continuous action we take now, insures that AA will be around tomorrow, and for however long God may need us. Simply State we are in unity with the Past; Present and Future, as well as each other.

During the 1780's the thirteen colonies had the daunting task of ratifying the constitution. There was a political cartoon circulation that showed a dead snake cut up in pieces. Each piece of the snake had a different colony printed on it. The caption to the cartoon read "United we Stand, Divided we fall." We do this together. The coffeemakers, the Chairman, the cleanup crew, those that speak, those that listen, the shaky newcomers, the steady old-timers, one and all we play a part. We must live our parts in unity, because to do otherwise is to side. Of the entire twelve essays on the traditions in the , this one is the shortest. It is so fundamental to our fellowship that not much to be said.

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to AA's future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united; For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

All material for this article was taken from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions"; "Alcoholics Anonymous"; Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers" and the pamphlet "AA Tradition; How it Developed", We invite you to explore this for yourself.
Andy B.,

The Twelve Concepts for World Service

Concept 1: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Service should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

This concept coincides with our Second Tradition, it is our group purpose of a General Service Representative. Each group can have its say in World Wide A.A. through its General Service Representative. Without a G.S.R. your group cannot participate in the group conscience of A.A. as a whole we are not just members of our groups; we are "part of" a World Wide Fellowship. There are great rewards to be found in Service work. I have seen many of the promises of A.A. come to light in my life through Service. Service is an integral part of my sobriety, it has aided me immensely. What a great Feeling to be a "part of" a World Wide Fellowship and not just a member of my group!

Darlene W., Ridge Group

Why Should We Pay To Go to A.A. Events?

Why, some members have asked, do A.A.s have to pay a fee to attend an A.A. conference, convention or other special event? As one Californian wrote to the General Service Office, "Some of us have difficulty when it comes to having the A.A. name attached to any gathering that requires payment to participate. What's more, some of the prices at many of these functions are not cheap." And, he adds, "what about the payment of travel expenses and lodgings for certain 'select' speakers?"

It's true that A.A. membership is free, and meetings and most A.A. events are self-supporting in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. But conferences and conventions are A.A. get-togethers beyond the group-meeting level, generally ranging from special one- or two-hour meetings to banquets and weekend events--area, statewide, regional and international. These events require months of planning, preparation and money presented up-front to the hotel and other commercial facilities involved. Arrangements may also be made for A.A.s with special needs: providing wheelchair accessibility, sign-language interpreters for the deaf and, in some instances, programs in Braille for the blind.

Additional expenses include the printing of flyers, schedules, postage and supplies, not to mention renting meeting space, insurance coverage, travel and accommodations for the invited speakers, many of whom live a thousand miles or more from the convention site. As the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences and Conventions, available from G.S.O., state, "It should be made clear, when the speakers are booked, what terms are being made for expenses. Unless it's otherwise specified, speakers have a right to assume that all their travel, meal and hotel expenses will be paid. Speakers will also expect hotel or motel accommodations as a matter of course; if they're to be guests in private homes, this should be explained well before their arrival."

How are the costs of a convention covered, and what can be done to ensure that the venture won't go deep in the red? According to the aforementioned Guidelines, "there's no substitute for common sense here: the committee must take a businesslike approach to finances and keep expenditures somewhere within a conservative estimate of anticipated revenues."

Among the sound methods that seem to be in general use: (1) underwriting of the event by area groups. Since the registration fees can be established at a level sufficient to cover the total costs, this should result in no actual out-of-pocket costs to the groups; and (2) building a convention fund to which the area groups contribute year-round. This method obviates the need to charge a registration fee except for visitors from out-of-state.

The criterion for using the A.A. name generally specifies that the event be put on by A.A.s for A.A.s about A.A.s. Although a golf tournament or a dance are beyond the purview of A.A.'s primary purpose, such events are often scheduled as social adjuncts to the main meetings and workshops scheduled.

When Al-Anon participates in an A.A. convention, the relationship and financial arrangements usually follow one of two patterns: When an A.A. convention committee invites Al-Anon to participate with its own program, A.A. may pay all expenses (for meeting rooms, coffee, etc.) and keep all income from registrations and such in a single fund earmarked to cover the convention bills, after which any excess income reverts back to A.A. Alternatively, Al-Anon may have a separate registration and cover its own expenses directly, besides assuming its share of common expenses. In this case, Al-Anon receives its own share of the registration income and also shares in any losses incurred.

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From *Box 4/5/9; April May 1996*

Fellowship Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

David L. of the Matt Talbot Group, December 1, 1999

Come and join us in celebrating our 27th Anniversary at the Unity group in Williamsville on January 26th at 10:00 am. Guest speaker and a luncheon will follow. This will be an open meeting.

The Kensington Group will celebrate their 28th Anniversary on Tuesday, February 22, 7:45 pm, 261 Cleveland Drive, Cleveland Hill Lutheran Church. Please join them in fellowship and refreshments.

The Members of the Any Age group will be holding their annual "Blizzard Ball" on February 5, 2000. Doors will open at 7:00 pm, speaker at 8:00 pm, music and dancing. Pizza, Pop, Coffee, giant 50/50. \$5 donation.

The Main & High group
is celebrating their 2nd Group Anniversary
on January 26th, 2000
Guest speaker and food, bring a dish if you wish.

ANNIVERSARIES

Acceptance

Jim H. 5 y
Robin A. 15 y
Alice B. 20 y

Amherst/Snyder

Audrey B. 3 m
Bob D. 3 m
Cheri H. 6 m
Mike H. 6 m
Mark P. 2 y
Carl H. 2 y
Russ M. 3 y
Ann P. 8 y
Barbara B. 10 y
Gene H. 15 y
Don B. 19 y
Alice B. 20 y
Helen H. 25 y
Buzz R. 43 y

Cold Springs

Marie T. 1 y
Brady P. 6 y
Willie J. 6 y
Lenny G. 7 y
Al L. 20 y
Henrietta W. 31 y

Courage

Rozella M. 3 m
Andy S. 4 y
Leo K. 12 y
Agnes H. 17 Y

Ellicott

Richard M. 1y

Fireside

Donna D. 9 m
Bret B. 1 y
Daryl C. 1 y
Denise D. 2 y
Kregg K. 4 y
Annette S. 8 y

H.A.N.D

Mark O. 3 y

Happy Hour

William W. 1 y
Verneeda K. 2 y
Dick S. 2 y
Andy A. 3 y
Maira F. 4 y
John J. 4 y
Sherwood K. 4 y
Betty K. 6 y
Jerry A. 9 y
Scott C. 10 y
Terry H. 13 y
Jim H. 13 y
Carol A. 24 y

Journey

Don M. 6 m
Parker O. 1 y
Tom g. 1 y
Philip W. 1 y
Richard M. 2 y
Denise L. 3 y

Kensington

Jack 1 y
Robert H. 3 y

Lovejoy

David A. 1 y
Holly G. 2 y
Fran B. 11 y
Eugene B. 15 Y

Main & High

Charles B. 3 m
Tim C. 9 m
Michele D. 1 y
Janet W. 1 y

Matt Talbot

Christine H. 9 m
Pat 9 m
Deborah W. 9 m
De'Aun D. 4 y
Bob P. 17 y

North Buffalo

Justin J. 3 m
John G. 6 m
Matthew W. 6 m
Bill T. 6 m
Tom C. 1 y
Johnnie M. 1 y
Butch C. 1 y
Mike S. 2 y
Jim W. 2 y
Amy H. 3 y
David C. 3 y
Walter P. 4 y
Mike K. 7 y
Roger R. 11 y
Pat S. 12 y
Michelle L. 13 y
Larry W. 15 y
Frank C. 15 y
Jim S. 16 y

Rainbow

Pat M. 11 y
Norm K. 15 y
Gerry T. 16 y

Reformers

Isaac B. 6 m

Rise & Shine

Carol W. 3 m
Shawn S. 3 m
Tom K. 6 m
Paul F. 3 y
Calvin J. 3 y
Joe R. 4 y
Camille C. 4 y
James F. 6 y
Fred R. 7 y

Sunday Morning

Breakfast

Shawn M. 3 m
Latonya H. 6 m
Carl B. 6 m
Norm K. 14 y
Gayle H. 15 y

Thruway

Dale B. 3 m
Craig C. 6 m
Tom B. 2 y
Judy g. 2 y
Kathy K. 12 y
Micky G. 20 y
Ellen McN. 25 y

We Care

Bruce 3 m
Ken K. 9 m
Jim J. 8 y
Bill G. 13 y
Agnes H. 17 y
Jim L. 17 y

Women's Westside

Discussion

Mary Kay H. 6 m
Michelen 1 y
Nicole W. 1 y
Michelle C. 2 y
Joyce Q. 10 y

Group

Anniversaries

Brownbaggers

Cazenovia

F.U.N.

It

Life Today

Main & High

Try Again

Varysburg

Williamsville

Please remember to have the anniversaries submitted by the 10th of the month previous.

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January 2000

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

NEW MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE

The 2000 Meeting Schedule Books Are Now Available.

POSITIVELY LIVING II Monday – Saturday, 12:30 pm, 16 Linwood, Ascension Church, no longer meets on Saturdays.

COMING EVENTS

- ~ Members of the **Mod/Living in the Solution** group are presenting alcohol related movies on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9 pm and Charlie and Joe "Big Book Study tapes" every Thursday at 8 pm; discussions will follow all meetings.
- ~ Jan 2, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Jan 2, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Jan. 8, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Ch., 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ Jan. 9, Sunday, **General Service Assembly**, 1 pm, Hamburg Town Hall, S6100 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, New York.
- ~ Jan. 15, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ Jan. 15, Sat., **NYS Informational Workshop** planning committee meeting, 10 am. Ellicott Square conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ Jan. 18, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Church 6:30 pm.
- ~ Jan. 25, Tues., **Mod/Living in the Solution** will be showing the General Service video, "Bill's Own Story", followed by discussion. 9:00 pm viewing time, 340 Military Road.
- ~ Jan. 26, Wed., **Main & High Group** is celebrating its 2nd Anniversary. Salvation Army, 984 Main Street, Buffalo. 7pm, speaker and food.

- ~ Jan. 26, Wed., **Unity Group** is celebrating its 27th Anniversary. 5480 Main Street, Williamsville, Sts. Peter and Paul/Newman Room, Church Basement across from School at 10:00 am. Guest speaker with a luncheon to follow. This will be an open meeting, bring a dish if you wish.
- ~ Jan. 30, Sun 4th **Step Stumblers's** movie night, 7pm, 104 West Ferry. Sharing Behind the Walls with presentation and question and answer session with the Correctional Facility Committee.
- ~ Feb. 5, members of the **Any Age Group** are sponsoring their 15th Annual Blizzard Ball at St. Andrews Church Hall, Elmwood at Sheridan. Doors open at 7 pm; no children under 12; tickets are \$5 per person; food and beverage will be provided; guest speaker at 8 pm.
- ~ Feb. 6, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Feb 6, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Feb. 12, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ Feb. 12, Sat., Members of the **Mod/Living in the Solution** are sponsoring their annual dance. Speaker at 7; dancing at 8. Buddy Hinds will be playing, monies are to go to help support the Central Office.
- ~ Feb. 12, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Ch., 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ Feb. 15, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Church 6:30 pm.
- ~ Feb. 19, Sat., **NYS Informational Workshop** planning committee meeting, 10 am. Ellicott Square conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ Feb. 25-27, 2000, **NERASSA**, Greenbelt, Maryland.
- ~ April 7-9, **2000 GSA Spring Convention**, Jamestown, New York.
- ~ June 29 - July 2, 2000, International Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- ~ August 4-6, **NYS Informational Workshop**, UB's Amherst Campus.

We are trying something else new. In attempting to provide a quick response to requests for meetings, an additional road to take is to have the zip code of the meeting building. This will pinpoint a little better than Kenmore or South Buffalo, etc. Please call the Central Office with the zip code and general directions for your meeting. This will be added to the computer data base to help anyone in the office.

BUFFALO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting, January 2, 2000

Dick L. opened the meeting at 7:05 with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. Bob K. read the preamble followed by the reading of the Purpose of Central Committee by Tom. Jim B. of the Ridge group read the twelve traditions. The minutes from the December meeting were not read because the secretary was late in arriving. The minutes were eventually distributed in written form later in the meeting.

40 GROUPS ATTENDED: District #1: Downtown Men's Discussion, Giving, The Journey, Main & High, Serenity Circle, Sunday Nighters, and Sunrise Court. District #2: Chapter IX, Early Bird, Grand II Joy of Living, North Buffalo. District #3: Abbott Men's Discussion, Iron Horse, Rainbow, Ridge, Victory, and We Care. District #4: Action, Hamburg, and The Lakeshore Group. District #5: Golden Slipper, Just For Today (Albion), Niagara Frontier Men's, and Wilson. District #6: Dunkirk. District #7: Cold Spring, Ellicott, Fresh Start, Let Go & Let God, Lovejoy, and The Spirit of Hope. District #8: Amherst Snyder, Lighten Up, and Williamsville. District #9: Everybody's, and Rural is Plural. District #10: No one reported.

New group representatives were: George, North Buffalo
Chuck W., Amherst Snyder
Tom P., Hamburg

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Envelope System: Bob D. of the Iron Horse group read the report. \$418 was received for the month of Dec. 1999. That made the total for the year 1999 of \$6,258.00. A comparison of December's total to prior months and to 1998 and 1997 can be seen in the chart below:

	1999	1998	1997		1999	1998	1997
January	\$1,540	\$1,795	\$920	July	783	772	463
February	\$337	580	635	August	282	540	598
March	\$469	592	335	Sept.	527	373	545
April	\$538	540	793	Oct.	375	356	442
May	\$572	388	976	Nov.	154	817	398
June	\$263	134	521	Dec.	418	341	655
				TOTAL	\$5840	\$7228	\$7281

Steering Committee: The steering committee met and discussed the following topics: 1) The prudent reserve periphery will be left at \$25,000. Cindy N. will put together a year ending financial report for Central Office/Niagara Frontier Intergroup. This will let groups know how much it costs to maintain our intergroup in hopes contributions will increase accordingly. Our current prudent reserve is at \$9,000. 2) Also discussed was the idea of having a traditions committee. Don H. from Amherst Snyder will have more information to be discussed at next meeting. 3) The idea of having more days-of-sharing in each district was also mentioned.

District Representative Reports: None.

Financial Report: Jim B., of the Ridge Group, reported that the beginning checkbook balance was \$1,125.99. Total revenue was \$9,934.59. There were disbursements of \$8,036.84, leaving a closing balance of \$3,023.74. The full financial report with all details is available in writing, attached to the minutes.

Treatment Facilities Committee: Rich F., Iron Horse, of the committee read the report. The committee met 12/21/99, 6:30 at St Paul's Church, Indian Church Road, South Buffalo. (Where the Iron Horse group meets) Seven (7) 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: Needs Lit.
Tuesday ECMC - 7:00pm: no report

Tuesday VAMC - 1:00pm: needs 1 person
Thursday ECMC - 7:00pm: no report
Thurs. Lockport Mem. Hosp. 8:00pm: no report
Friday ECMC - 7:00pm okay
Saturday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay

The Bridging the Gap committee, Don B. (Coordinator), Rich (T.F.C. Chairman) and Bob K. (G.S.A. Chairman), met with C.P.C. to discuss approaching Treatment facilities staff. Pete F. is going to nail down an exact price for 800# so letters can be sent to the staffs of the treatment facilities. Elections for Chairman and Co-chairman were held. Pete F. was elected Chair and Bill L. elected Co-chair. Rich F. was appointed recording secretary. The Renaissance House staff has canceled Renaissance House TFC meeting on Sunday. The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer at 7:45pm.

Correctional Facilities Committee: No report.

Screeners: No report.

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

AA Information	391	<u>Mail</u>	<u>Answering Service</u>
P.I.C	2	868 Pieces	Incoming calls 223
CPC	0	\$363.68 Total mail costs	Outgoing calls 45
12 Step	5		
Literature Requests	20	119 visitors	
Al Anon	16	53 volunteers	
Ala Teen	1		
ACOA	3		

New Frontier: Arnie gave the report. The committee met 12/11 and discussed the feasibility of a large print edition and how it might boost subscriptions. They are looking for feedback. The next meeting will be held Jan. 15 at the central office at 10:00 am.

Past Convention (Fall 1999): Jerry B., of the Golden Slipper group and chairman of the committee, said he will have a closing report in Feb. He also stated that we were still chasing down a few errant checks.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Convention Sites: Jerry B. reported that he has spoken with the Hyatt Hotel with no firm commitment and will report back again next month (Feb.).

SERVICE REPORTS:

General Service Assembly: Bob K. Area 50 Chairman, made the report. Public Information Chairperson, Correctional Facilities Coordinator, Treatment Facilities Coordinator The following positions need to be filled at the Jan. 9 GSA meeting:

All voting will be done under third legacy procedures. All group representatives who wish to participate are encouraged to show.

Spring Convention: No report

Cooperation With Professional Committee: No report

Public Information Committee: No report

Archives: No report

RECAP:

Regarding the Steering Committee: Bob K. asked if inventory was part of the prudent reserve. Cindy N. answered that the prudent reserve is for times of emergency such as, if no money was received during a period of time, then central office could tap into the reserve to meet our accounts. For accounting purposes it is put along with assets. Inventory is not part of the prudent reserve.

Regarding the Screeners: Jay H., of the North Buffalo group, asked who the Screener Chairman was. Dick L. said it was Jim who wouldn't be able to complete his obligation and suggested we should appoint another.

Regarding the Past Convention: Scott T., of the Lakeshore group, asked about the tracking down of checks not yet received. Jerry B. said he hopes to recoup the money in the near future.

Regarding the Current Convention: Someone asked where the convention would be held. Charles stated that it will be held at the Marriott.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nominations and Elections for Steering Committee were conducted.

District #2- Jay H. nominated Dave W., of the Giving group. George, of the N. Buff. Group seconded. Dave W. was unopposed and elected.

District #3- Mike D., of Abbott Men's Discussion, was nominated, Rich F. seconded. Mike D. was unopposed and elected.

District #5- Jerry B. of the Golden Slipper group, nominated Jerry J. Mark, of the Wilson group, seconded. Jerry J. was unopposed and elected.

District #9- Dave W., of the Giving group nominated Tom O., of Rural is Plural The motion was seconded. Tom O. was unopposed and elected.

Charles L. mentioned that we still had to resolve the issue of raising the Executive Secy.'s annual income by \$2000/year. The raise was contingent on an evaluation of performance, which was deemed satisfactory. The steering committee approved the raise and suggested it be voted on at the meeting. Jay H. inquired about the eligibility of steering committee members to vote. It was noted that they indeed were not. Only group representatives could vote. The motion to approve the \$2000/year raise for the Executive Secretary was made by Karen S., of the Ridge group, seconded by Cheryl T., of the Giving group. The vote was unanimous. Congratulations Cindy on a job well done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rich F., of the Iron Horse group, said that he was rotating out as the Treatment Facilities Chairman and it was up to the body to nominate and elect someone new. He then nominated Pete F., of the Courage group; it was seconded by Chuck W., of the Amherst Snyder group. He was unopposed and elected unanimously. Pete F. gave his qualifications, which were ample.

Dick L., Chairman, suggested the body should take Correction Facilities Chairperson nominations. Mike D. nominated Bill L., of the We Care group. Jay H. seconded and Bill L. was elected unanimously. He gave his qualifications, which were ample.

It was also brought to the attention of the body that we needed to elect a Screener Chairperson. Bob K. suggested we send that issue to the steering committee for review. Scott T. said sending it to that committee would be fruitless and nominated John B., of the Lakeshore group. Charles L. seconded the motion and John B. accepted. The vote was unanimous. John then gave his qualifications, which were ample.

Mike B., of the Lodge group, and the newly elected Area 50 Delegate, asked to be recognized. He was and shared the final report from 1999 General Service. He also informed the Central Committee on the 50th Conference and the International Convention being held in Minnesota. Mike then fielded some questions from the body.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jay H. and seconded by Chuck W. The meeting closed at 8:45pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Mark S. Lakeshore Group
Recording Secretary

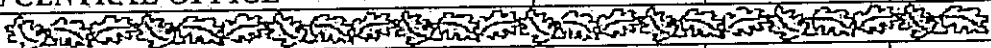

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2000

GROUP			Correctional Fund		Treatment Fund	
		Accum.		Accum.		Accum.
Abbott Men	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Action	40.00	40.00				
Amherst/Snyder	87.00	87.00				
Any Length	30.00	30.00				
Boulevard Women	75.00	75.00				
Brass	10.00	10.00				
Cathedral Park	17.95	17.95				
Caz	4.00	4.00				
Crossroads	109.00	109.00				
Easy Does It	25.00	25.00				
Express	176.00	176.00				
Eyeopener	20.00	20.00				
Father Baker	100.00	100.00				
Freedom	25.00	25.00				
Georgetown	200.00	200.00				
Getting Better	7.00	7.00				
H.A.N.D	60.00	60.00				
Handicappers	150.00	150.00			100.00	100.00
Helping Hand	20.00	20.00				
Honesty	30.00	30.00	10.00	10.00		
Ironhorse	95.50	95.50	9.55	9.55	9.55	9.55
Journey	80.00	80.00				
Keep It Simple, Sister	75.00	75.00				
Lake Shore	25.00	25.00	35.00	35.00	25.00	25.00
Let Go and Let God	25.00	25.00				
Lighten Up	140.00	140.00				
Main & High	10.00	10.00				
New Outlook/Albion	40.00	40.00				
North Buffalo	100.00	100.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
North Java Groups	80.00	80.00				
One Day At A Time	275.00	275.00				
Perry Wed. Night Meeting	10.00	10.00				
Positively Living/Linwood	40.00	40.00				
Rainbow	25.00	25.00			25.00	25.00
Ray of Hope	50.00	50.00				
Ridge	152.00	152.00				
Rochester Group	100.00	100.00				
Rural Is Plural	50.00	50.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Searching for Serenity	50.00	50.00				
Serenity	100.00	100.00				
Serenity Circle	10.00	10.00				
Sheridan	20.00	20.00				
Sober Saturday	24.60	24.60				
Spirit of Hope	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2000

GROUP		Accum.	Correctional Fund		Treatment Fund	
				Accum.		Accum.
Porting Over	21.40	21.40				
Suburban	10.00	10.00				
Sunday Third/Sheridan	25.00	25.00				
Sunrise Court			3.75	3.75		
Thruway	200.00	200.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Thursday Afternoon Disc.	100.00	100.00				
TriCounty/Gowanda	35.00	35.00				
Tuesday Women	20.00	20.00				
We Care	30.00	30.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	20.00
Westminster	50.00	50.00				
Willing to Grow	100.00	100.00				
Pink Can			18.25	18.25		
Group Contribution Total	\$3,398.45	\$3,398.45	179.55	179.55	272.55	272.55
54 Groups Contributing						

January 2000

Beginning Balance 12/25/99			\$3,023.74
RECEIPTS			
54 Groups Contributed	\$3,398.45		
Joint Meeting 1/2/00	52.96		
New Frontier Subscriptions	28.00		
Envelope System	1,319.00		
Literature	2,097.05		
Refund from literature	21.56		
Bequest	500.00		
EXPENSES:		\$7,417.02	\$10,440.76
#10 Ellicott Court Corporation <i>Office Rent</i>	\$636.00		
St. Michael's Parish <i>Meeting Room Rent</i>	35.00		
Salaries	1,633.23		
Charter One/Federal Withholding	534.00		
Health Insurance	141.20		
New York State Employment Taxes	284.00		
United States Treasury/ <i>FUTA</i>	56.00		
Selective Insurance/ <i>Liability</i>	366.37		
Secrephone (Answering Service)	113.65		
Minolta Leasing/Copier	187.00		
Bell Atlantic	210.14		
Image/Toner <i>Delivery</i>	5.00		
Vermont Pure Springs	53.20		
World Services, Inc.	1,864.95		
Hazelden	774.30		
Office Depot	66.16		
United States Post Office	730.00		
Breitweiser Printing/ <i>Schedules</i>	1,151.92		
Williamson UPS	22.60		
Bank Charge	25.00	\$8,889.72	\$1,551.04
Balance 1/24/00			\$1,551.04
Money Market 12/26/99	1,100.00		
Interest Credit	1.75		
Monthly Service Charge	(3.00)		
Balance 1/25/00			1,098.75
Certificate of Deposit			
Balance 1/25/00			8,000.00
Outstanding Invoices			1,351.74
TOTAL CENTRAL OFFICE			\$12,001.53
			
<i>Correctional Facilities 12/26/99</i>	565.19		
<i>Donations 12/26/99 - 01/25/00</i>	179.55		
Corrections Cruise	200.05		
<i>Expenses</i>		703.45	
<i>Bank Charge</i>		4.60	
Balance 1/25/00			236.74
			
<i>Treatment Facilities 12/26/99</i>	234.34		
<i>Donations 12/26/99- 01/25/00</i>	272.55		
<i>Expenses</i>		312.00	
<i>Bank Charge</i>		4.40	
Balance 1/25/00			190.49

I declare this statement to be true subject to review. James Brumbaugh, Financial Secretary.