

NEW FRONTIERS

June 2001

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.

For the past Forty Years "the perceived proper donation" to the basket has been a single Dollar.

That was fine in the 1960's when the Dollar still had the purchasing power of a Dollar.

But now, Forty Years later, today's dollar has the purchasing power of 16 cents when economically compared to the 1960's Dollar. Today's Dollar bill looks the same, feels the same, feels the same, but generates less purchasing power than a 1960's Quarter.

A question comes to mind:

Did we contribute too much in the 1960's, or are we putting in too little today?

Where the financial crunch hits the hardest is at the intergroup level. When individual groups do not have money left over at the end of the month from collections they are not in a position to pass on a significant contribution to their intergroup.

This results in inadequate funding for the intergroups. Without a healthy cash flow, the highly necessary services provided by the intergroups will suffer.

Until an effective educational program is put in place to inform the membership as a whole of the severity of the intergroups current financial situation, the shortfall will only get worse.

It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. On accord with that reasoning, I am enclosing literature that in the past has helped a number of groups through enlightening their members to become better aware of the group's responsibility to become self-supporting through its own contributions. Bill W. was crystal clear that the place where Spirituality and Money meet is in the basket.

I very much welcome feedback from you as to the result of that will come about through the use of this literature. I qualified at my home group in NYC and made it a point to discuss finances. The collection from, from the 200 in attendance, totaled over \$100 more than normal. No was offended at the mention of money.

Wish to be clear that this publishing endeavor has not been financed by AA is unofficial. Also desire to point out that this quest for a larger contributions is addressed only to those who can afford to increase their contributions.

Greatly appreciate your help in distributing this literature to the groups in your area.

...Tom D. Sobriety date 12/17/59

An old-timer in New York wrote the previous letter on March 2nd of this year. In my opinion he is right on the money, no pun intended, we as individuals of the groups on the frontier need to support our intergroups. The easiest way that I can see to do it is by adding an extra Dollar to the basket. John B. Lakeshore Group

ACCEPTANCE

Accepting my alcoholism was the key that opened the door to my recovery. Tranquility, serenity, and peace of mind came from my acceptance. Step one suggests, "we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable." I assumed that by admitting that I had a problem, it would be enough for my recovery. Such was not the case. Admitting and accepting are polar. Admit (acknowledge) and accept (to believe). Accepting my alcoholism meant I had to take action for my recovery. Alcoholics Anonymous is a program of action. In fact the most quoted aphorism is "action is the magic word".

My acceptance had an emotional impact and ultimately a sense of peace in my life. It is sobriety that is most important to me, not the materialistic trappings that surround it. In my drinking days I had a deep discomfort for the truth. Telling the truth was not within my realm of thought. Lies upon lies permeated my life. Alcohol undermined my linear and logical mode of thinking. The ultimate lie was that my drinking was normal.

In a world unduly mesmerized by the fun filled, macho, and sometimes-relaxing image of drinking, this alcoholic found it difficult and sometimes impossible to stop drinking. Accepting the fact that I was powerless over alcohol meant that I could never drink safely again. At first that conclusion was unacceptable to me. In Alcoholics Anonymous I don't take the first drink, one day at a time. The slogans "One day at a time" and "Let go and let God" were my salvation.

When I faced up to my alcoholism, my recovery began. As I began to live a sober life, my drinking personality suddenly became my defects of character. I accepted that much work needed to be done in that area. Acceptance was my answer to a relationship with God. I pray each day to accept his will for me, whatever that may be. Acceptance of life on life's terms brought some measure of tolerance to my life. My life had no real meaning until I accepted that I was an alcoholic and needed help from a Power Greater than Myself, God as I understood Him. With acceptance, came peace of mind and a relationship with my Creator, and recovery, "One Day at a Time."

John H., Sunday Morning Breakfast 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 AA books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc. Articles reprinted with permission of AA Grapevine, Inc. Are subject to the GRAPEVINE copyright.)

f " At one point in my sobriety, I started thinking why do I still go to a meeting everyday? I remember hearing people around the rooms saying, "I have a life now I don't need all those meetings." Well if you're a newcomer or an old-timer or at any point your sobriety and you wonder why you go to a meeting everyday or why you should go to more meetings, I've found three great reasons, Dr. Bob gives in "Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers." This is in his last of life when he is ill.

...Through this period, Dr Bob continued going to AA meetings at King school. Anne C recalled hearing someone asking him at the time "Do you have to go these meetings? Why don't stay home and conserve your strength?"

Dr. Bob considered the question for a time, then said:

"The first reason is that this way is working so well why should I take a chance on any other way?"

"The second reason is that I don't want to deprive myself of the privilege of meeting, greeting, and visiting with fellow alcoholics is a pleasure to me."

"And the third reason is the most important. I belong at that meeting for the sake of the new man or woman who might walk through that door. I am living proof that AA will work as long as I work AA, and I owe to the new person to be there. I am the living example."

Taken from Dr. Bob And The Good Old-Timers pg. 333 - 334

God bless you a friend



A Treatment Center is where you go and pay \$15,000 to find out AA meetings have no dues or Fees.

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred talking.

Remember the Envelope System?

Interested in receiving the New Frontiers?

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Just enclose a check or money order made payable to the AA Central Office earmarked the "New Frontiers" for \$_____ for _____ copies.

Rates:

1	copy	\$10.00	20 copies	\$57.00
2	copies	13.00	30 copies	75.00
5	copies	24.00	40 copies	95.00
10	copies	33.00	50 copies	120.00
15	copies	43.00	60 copies	135.00

Attention: Due to rising costs. The New Frontiers is going to have to raise the price of individual subscriptions the new cost will be in the June edition. They will go into effect in June. We will have the breakdown in the June issue. Thank you for cooperation in this matter
The New Frontiers Committee

God help me to set aside all I think I know about my disease, these steps, God, and my concept of spiritual principals in favor of a new experience.

Help me to set aside all I think I know

IN MEMORIAM.

To any members of AA have passed away recently let us remember them and their friends and families in their time of sorrow.

Keep the New Frontiers alive

The New Frontiers will welcome all submissions. Stories, news items, and anything related to carrying the message will be gratefully accepted. Please send articles to the following address:

New Frontiers
Room 845 Ellicott Square Building
295 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203 - 2412

The Invisible Boat

...The curse of alcoholism is that, eventually, reality gets bad enough so you have to drink. The curse of drinking is that, eventually, it gets bad enough that you have to get sober. And that combination is called alcoholism...if you've got it, there is no way out because you cannot take sustained reality. Every time alcohol works FOR you, it interferes with your ability to live in reality. It distorts perception.

That is why it is such a difficult thing to treat. There's been a great deal over controversy over the years about treatment centers. Old - timers who got sober years ago are not very pleased with the treatment-center concept: "We got sober, and, by God we stayed sober." And they did. And I did. It's just difficult...and for my first 15 years I hardly wanted to talk to people who came out of treatment centers. As I've got a little more sophisticated, I've come to realize there's a difference - there are good treatment centers and there are bad treatment centers.

But it's hard to tell which is which-and your life can depend on deciding which is which.

You think: "Why would anyone want to go to a treatment center, anyway?" The best analogy I've been able to think of is that it's like going down to the ocean at Santa Monica and wanting to go to Catalina. There's a nice yacht sitting there with attendants in white uniforms. You smell dinner cooking and they say: "Won't you come with us on the SS Treatment Center?" You say: "Maybe."

And over here are to guys lurking in the underbrush along the shore saying: "We are from AA. You want to come with us in our invisible boat?" Nobody in their right mind is going to get in an invisible boat if they can get on that treatment center yacht, I'll tell you.

You get on the yacht and you're glad. It's comfortable, it's nice, it's warm, and they feed you and it's good. The only problem is you're just about out of sight of shore and they say: Well this is where we turn back, got to go back and get another load." "What am I going to do?" you say. "Well, just swim like hell." And you're out there swimming and crying and here come those two guys in their invisible boat. "You want a ride, buddy?" "I'm not THAT sick." Pretty soon you're drowning and here they come again. "You want a ride, buddy?" Choking and spluttering, you say: "Yeah." Choking and spluttering, you get in and as soon as you dry off you realize...this is stupid...there is no boat here. We're floating in mid-air. This is goofy. "What am I supposed to do, you guys?" "Grab an oar and row." "You're crazy!" "No YOU'RE crazy!" And right then, anybody with sense says: "I'm out of here." And you're drowning one more time. "You want to get back in our boat?" Choking and spluttering again, you say "Yeah," and get back in. "What do you want me to do NOW?" "Grab an oar and row." And so you finally row, despite your knowledge that it can't help.

The irony of AA is that as you begin to row, the boat begins to appear. But it doesn't appear until then. You've got to be desperate to row an invisible boat. (And that's what sponsors are for. First of all, to persuade you to row...and later they come along from time to time to say "Hey goof, you've got your oar upside down.") If you keep rowing long enough, you've got a fine craft. Pretty soon it exceeds the SS Treatment Center. Pretty soon it gets as big and as nice as you want to make it.

The only sad thing is that no matter how long you row, when you start to rest on your oars for any length of time the boat slowly begins to shrink. If you rest long enough, you're back in the water.

[Continued next page]

That's why people with 25 and 30 years sobriety can still get drunk. They get to where they good-most of the time and figure there's no sense rowing anymore. "I'm there."

Somehow the function of AA is to encourage and re-encourage one another to recommit ourselves to stay involved. No matter how I seem to be doing I must remember to keep rowing...and that is what the boat is all about.

The function of AA and its steps and its sponsors and its actions and its involvement's are not to make us 'wonderful'. They are to do something more infinitely more complex ... to upgrade our perceptions of reality. As we look at the same world over a period of time we will eventually see it differently, as the promises point out.

To do this we must keep rowing. No matter how hard we work the program, neither you nor I will ever rise above being a basic human being. And as human beings are sometimes weak and sometimes fallible and sometimes cross and sometimes emotional.

Thank God for the oars AA give us.

Clancy I Venice, CA

Earlytimers

The archives committee is starting to collect oral histories, of your earliest recollections of your initial contact with the program. For anyone to arrange for a recording please contact me, or visit at our regular meeting held the 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Maryvale Presbyterian Church

425 Maryvale Drive

Cheektowaga, New York

Before the Courage groups regular meeting

Thanks Tom Bator, Chairman

Area 50 Archives

(716) 895-8461

FYI

Let go and LET God

14th year group Anniversary

Last Thursday of June 8:30 p.m.

Speaker, Eats Bring a Dish to Pass

....

Lovejoy Group's annual picnic

Sunday June 17, 2001

Como Park Shelter 1

BRING A DISH IF YOU LIKE

Everyone Welcome

....

Main and High Group

4th Anniversary Day of Sharing

Saturday, July 7th, 2001

9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Salvation Army

960 Main St

Buffalo, New York

Hot lunch, speakers, 50/50

Registration \$6.50

ANNIVERSARIES

Acceptance

Ronney V. 1 y
Sara S. 10 y
James M. 22 y
Jack G. 29 y
Mary Jo B. 30 y

Cold Springs

Mona W. 11 y
James W. 15 y

Courage

Rudy B. 11 y
Pete F. 13 y
Roger H. 17 y
Mary Jo S. 18 y
Bill O 21 y
Donna BR. 26 y

Ellicott

Bobby C. 13 y
Mary M. 24 y

Kensington

Colleen 6 m
Brian J 1 y
Jeffrey L. 13 y
Jerry M 17 y

Kenmore

Michael 2 y

Lighten Up

Rick B. 9 M
Mike C. 3 Y
Kathy R. 3 y
Betsy A. 7 y

Lovejoy

Eddie D. 3 m
Mike A 6 m
Jeff I 1 y
Marcy M 2 y
Tom K 5 y
Kathy W. 8 y
Jim Mc 11 y
Paul G 24 y
Anne H 28 y

North Buffalo

Tom T 3 m
Lorraine Y 3 m
Pete S 6 m
Courtney R 2 y
Robert S 2 y
Paul L 2 y
Judy P 4 y
Colleen N 4 y
Karen M 6 y
Frank Z 9 y
Nelson G 9 y
Geiry S 12 y
Peter M 19 y
Bob G 25 y

Renewal

Martin F. 2 y
Tim S. 7 y
David F. 8 u
Jackie P. 10 y
Tom G. 14 y

Rise & Shine

Mitchell J. 3 m
Steve M. 6 m
Annette N. 6 m
Jerry G. 1 y
Liz B. 2 y
Sandra C. 2 y
Joe A. 4 y
James Q. 5 y
Rosa A. 5 y
Sean S. 5 y
Shirley T. 6 y
Wanda R. 6 y
Floyd C. 6 y
Jerry S. 7 y
Darryl L. 7 y
Walter C. 8 y
Orlando D. 9 y
James M. 11 y

Sheridan

Michael S. 9 m
Betsy E. 9 m
Mike S. 2 y
Liza W. 6 y
Debbie D. 9 y

Sunrise Court

John 5 y
Jerry R. 5 y
Billy 5 y
Lewis 17 y

Thruway

Henry R. 3 m
Dan K. 3 m
Adriane M. 3 m
Scott R 3 m
Matt L. 6 m
Collette H. 9 m
Mary H. 2 Y
William G. 2 y
Mike C. 2 y
Edwin K. 3 Y
John B. 5 y
Diane H. 6 y
Jim Mc. 11 y
Donna F. 18 y

Why

Luther W. 3 m
Darren H. 9 m

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

Group Anniversaries

Spiritual Progress
Sunrise court
Helping Hand
DeVeaux Disc.
Kenmore
Chevy #1
Downtown Men's
Lovejoy
Beginner's Table
Beginnings Women's
Let Go and Let God
Mercy
No. Java Mon.
No. Java Sun.
We Choose Life
Golden Slipper
Victory
Guiding Light
Eden-North Collins
High Noon
Starting Over (pm)
No. Java Morning After
Matt Talbot
Any Age
Springville Tues Nigh
Spirit of Hope

BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(716) 853-0388
(716) 853-0389 FAX: 9-4:30 Monday - Friday

845 ELLICOTT SQUARE
295 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203
Schedule on line at ny-aa.org

JUNE 2001

PLEASE NOTE

- IF YOUR GROUP IS NOT MEETING, PLEASE INFORM THE CENTRAL OFFICE. THIS ALSO INCLUDES THOSE MEETING DAYS WHEN YOUR SITE IS CLOSED FOR A HOLIDAY.
- SPECIAL NOTE: MEETINGS ARE NOW POSTED ON-LINE AT NY-AA.ORG
- ALL MEETINGS PREVIOUSLY HELD AT SOUTHERN ERIE CLINICAL SERVICES, 517 SUNSET DRIVE ARE NOW BEING HELD AT 4390 QUINBY (runs east and west between South Park and McKinley, just north of the Erie County Fairgrounds).

4th STEP STUMBLERS – Sundays at 7 pm is changing format: step of the month will be read from the Big Book going to the 12/12 if appropriate; if the month is not over yet a topic will be pulled from and archival Grapevine. Everyone is invited – we have lots of room and real strong coffee.

****A STRONG DESIRE** Mondays at 9 am; open; High Hopes Club, 2969 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo

BIDWELL MONDAY DISCUSSION – now has a Spanish speaking table on the first Monday of the month

EYEOPENER – has moved to Harris Hill United Methodist Church, 8495 Main at Harris, wheel chair accessible, still at 7:30 am, non smoking.

****LOOK TO THIS DAY** Wednesdays at 7 pm, First Baptist Church, 538 E. 5th Street, Jamestown, closed discussion.

LOVE Fridays at 1 pm, is now closed

****NEW MEETING LOCKPORT** Wednesdays @ 10:00 am; Horizon Health Center; 225 Bewley Bldg., Market Street, Lockport

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT Sundays, 7 pm, no longer meets.

WOMEN ON THE RISE Wednesdays @ 9:30 am; Horizon Health Center; 225 Bewley Bldg., Market Street, Lockport no longer meets.

MEETINGS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

INSPIRATION – St. Barnabas, 2049 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, 10 am Thursdays

PERRY DISCUSSION – 344 Perry Street, Tuesdays, 12:15 pm Tuesdays

ST. BARNABAS– 63 John Street, Akron, 8 pm Mondays

COMING EVENTS

- ~ June 3, Sunday, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street. *Lakeshore hosting.*
- ~ June 3, Sunday, Correctional Facility Committee, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ June 9, Sat., Coop.w/Prof.Community, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale 9 am.
- ~ June 9, Sat., Public Information Committee Meeting, Church of the Holy Communion, S5381 Old Lake Shore Road/Route 5, 10 am.
- ~ June 16, Sat., New Frontier Committee, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ June 17, Sun., Sunrise Court's Annual Father's Day Breakfast. Will be held at the Holiday Inn, 620 Delaware Ave., 11:30 am, \$13, speaker and breakfast.
- ~ June 19, Tues., Treatment Facility Committee, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Ch., 6:30 pm.
- ~ June 23, Sat., Archives Committee, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ June 23, Sat., members of the 1110 Group (Colvin and Kenmore) will be celebrating AA's 66th birthday with an eating meeting, starts at 6 with speaker at 8. Bring a dish if you wish, entrance in rear.
- ~ June 24, Sun., FALL CONVENTION planning committee, 1 pm, Conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ June 25, Mon., members of the Beginnings Women's are celebrating their group's 15th anniversary at 8 pm at St Michael & All Angels Church at Burke and Huntley Streets. Panel on Steps 10, 11, and 12. Desserts and snacks – all women are invited, please join us.
- ~ June 28, Thurs., members of the Let Go and Let God are celebrating their group's 14th anniversary with an eating meeting and speaker; please bring a dish to pass
- ~ July 1, Sunday, Correctional Facility Committee, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ July 7, Sat., Main and High's 4th Anniversary Day of Sharing, 9-3, \$6.50, Salvation Army, 960 Main Street, Buffalo. come for great speakers and lunch. Entrance in rear.
- ~ July 13-15, 33rd NYS Convention, Binghamton; \$15 Registration; \$37 reg. + banquet.
- ~ July 14 Sat., New Frontier Committee, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ July 14, Coop.w/Prof.Community, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- July 14, Sat., Public Information Committee Meeting, Church of the Holy Communion, S5381 Old Lake Shore Road/Route 5, 10 am.
- ~ July 27-29, members of the Any Age group are hosting a campout: speakers, sharing and fellowship. \$5 per day/\$10 for the weekend. Bring a dish to pass, hot dogs, hamburgers pop and coffee will be provided. Don Miller Park, 1601 Sweeney NT
- ~ July 28, Sat. Archives Committee, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.

STEP SIX THOUGHT:

I am ready for your help in removing from me the defects of character, which I now realize, are an obstacle to my recovery. Help me to continue to be honest with myself and guide me toward spiritual and mental health.

+BUFFALO CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 3, 2001 MEETING

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Jim G. of Age Doesn't Matter read the Preamble. Bob K. of Iron Horse read the Traditions. Art of the Thankful Group read the Purpose of Central Committee. The minutes from the previous meeting were not read because the recording secretary lost them. An apology was offered from the recording secretary. Joanne M. of the Action Group pointed out an error from the April minutes. It was not Donn Esmonde who broke his anonymity it was Sam Hoyt. Donn Esmonde wrote the article.

46 Groups Attended: District #1: Another Chance, Bidwell Monday Disc., Easier Softer Way, Main and High, Miracle, ODAT, and Sunrise Court. District #2: 1110, Age Doesn't Matter, Chapter IX, Honesty, How It Works- Men's Disc., Living Sober, North Buffalo, and Survivors. District #3: Abbott Men's Disc., Cazenovia, Courage, Iron Horse, Rainbow Group, Ridge, Southgate, Sunday Morning Breakfast, Try Again, Victory, and We Care. District #4: Action, Amsdell- Lakeshore, Hamburg, Lakeshore, Ray of Hope, and Thankful. District #5: Lockport #1 and Niagara Frontier Men's Disc. District #6: Dunkirk Monday Nite. District #7: Coldspring, Ellicott, Fresh Start, Higher Powered, Let Go & Let God, Remember When, and Spirit of Hope. District #8: Amherst Synder and Turing Point. District #9: Rural is Plural and Springville Wednesday Noon. District #10: No representatives.

There weren't any presentations from the any of the Committee's this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Envelope System: Karen S. of Ridge Road gave the report. For the month of May the Envelope System collected \$493.00 this brings the year to date total to \$2,957.00. Karen put out the request that reps. Inform their groups about the pressing need there is to support the envelope system. A complete breakdown of the envelope system for the last four years is listed with the minutes.

Steering Committee: Andy B. of Iron Horse gave the report. Pat of the Rainbow Group gave a courtesy report on the state of the 2002 Fall Convention. The Convention will move back to the Marriott and will be the first weekend of November.

Bob G. of Amherst Synder brought information from NYC on how they handle the starting of a new meeting. He had an information packet as an example as to what they do. Also, it was discussed that we should stick with tradition and stay with a meeting must be in existence for at least six months until they can be put in the schedule. Motion to table the discussion was made by Jay H. of North Bflo. and seconded by Dick L. of Dunkirk Monday Nite.

Ed K. of Abbott Men's received a letter from Karen S. dated May 11, 2001 pertaining to behavior outside of the norm by the Executive Secretary. Lee H. noticed odd behavior the day the Executive Secretary came back to work after a month long leave

of absence. Dick L. stated this matter should go before the whole body. Scott T. said there needs to be a disciplinary program in place to help not to terminate. He also stated that the Executive Secretary is held to higher standard and must rise to the occasion. There are errors in the Executive Secretaries story and it keeps changing. We should ask for a resignation if answers are not forthcoming. There was a motion made by Lee H. to put this matter before all of Central Committee. Jay H. of North Bflo. Seconded the motion. The discussion of the motion began by Bob G. of Amherst Snyder he asked if there was any explanation as to why there was the odd behavior. The Executive Secretary responded that she was raped the night before she returned to work. There was a question if she had documentation from a doctor to validate this claim. She responded that no, she did not have any documentation. Dick L. said that this matter must be brought before all of Central Committee because there has been no change in behavior and the month long leave of absence was the one and only chance for Executive Secretary. Jay H. reiterated this statement. Scott T. said groups have no confidence in Central Office and will not support it. They want to see someone in the office they can have confidence in. Scott T. then made a motion to recommend and I quote, "Our recommendation is to ask for the immediate recommendation of Cindy as Executive Secretary." Dick L. seconded the motion. The vote by the Steering Committee was as follows:

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed unanimously.

There was then a discussion started by Dick L. about the financial state of the Central Office. The Prudent reserve went from \$18,000 to \$10,000 during the term of office of the Executive Secretary. There is also \$1,600 in outstanding invoices that needs to be accounted for. There was a question about the possibility of an audit to be made by an independent auditor. Scott T made a motion to table the discussion. Bob G. seconded the motion. Bob G. made a motion to close. Charles seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 7:03.

Financial: Jim B. of Ridge Road gave the report. A complete breakdown of the finances for the month of May was given to all the members of Central Committee present. Included in this month's minutes is a complete breakdown of the finances for the month of June.

Treatment Facilities Committee: Jim G. of Age Doesn't Matter gave the report. All of the Facilities are fine except keys need to be made for Sheehan Hospital. Also, the VA on Tuesday at 1:00 and Lockport Memorial Hospital needs to be checked. There were no calls listed as being given to the Bridging the Gap.

Correctional Facilities Committee: Bill L. of We Care gave the report. There were four members in attendance. Gowanda is having a dinner on June 13th. To go to Collins for the Tues at 6:00 meeting you must be Pre-approved. Wende needs help; there is only one

person doing the Saturday at 1:30 meeting. (Unless mentioned the other facilities are fine. The same is true for Treatment.) The meeting closed at 6:35.

Central Office: Cindy Nettles of Sunrise Court gave the report. There were some problems with the answering service in the month of May. It gets turned on by pressing *73 not *72 or vice versa. The recording secretary missed that. What is important though is that the people who need to know now do. There is a breakdown of the Central Office listed below:

Incoming Calls:

AA Information 435
PIC 0
CPC 1

Faxes In 4
Faxes Out 6

Mail: There was no information
on the amount of mail received.

Al Anon 12
Ala Teen 3
ACOA 4
12 Step Calls 4

Answering Service:
Incoming Calls 262
Outgoing Calls 47

Visitors 59
Volunteers 20

Screeners: Joanne M. of the Action Group gave the report. A problem occurred several times in May with the phone not being placed on call forwarding for the answering service. A screener alerted her to the problem twice. The Central Office Executive Secretary has alerted her that Secrephone, the current answering service, has raised its rates. The base rate will go up from approximately \$80 dollars a month to about \$129 a month with a raise in the price for calls that exceed 100 a month from .15 per call to \$1.26 per call.

The Executive Secretary would like us to switch to AAA Abbott Answering Service, which is supposed to be cheaper. She called them on Friday and asked them to send her a copy of their rates. They sent her a new account application form. I called them back and they did not answer their phone. She then asked the question, "Do we need approval from Central Committee to change companies?"

New Frontiers: John B. of Lakeshore gave the report. The new rate increase is in the June edition of the "New Frontiers." If anyone dies, please submit it by the article deadline. The article deadline is the 10th of each month. As always they are looking for articles. You can submit an article to Central Office and it will be passed to John.

Convention: Adolph I. Of Chapter IX gave the report. The information on the budget will be given at the June 24th meeting and they should have a price at the July meeting of Central Committee.

Courtesy Reports:

General Service Assembly: Mike B. Delegate for Area 50 gave the report. The fourth edition of the Big Book was approved by the General Service Conference and will be available to purchase in November. The delegates to the Conference did not see the book

it was taken on faith that it will be sufficient. There will also be a new book on the stories from previous editions of the Big Book. 15 stories were retained and 26 new stories were added. Also, the placement of the stories will be moved so page 449 will no longer be on page 449 etc... The reason the book was taken on faith is for three reasons: first of all, is the possibility of Copyright infringement, second there is the chance that people will steal the book, and third they did not yet receive all the necessary releases to let others read the book. The conference elected a new chairperson of the board. For the first time in it's history the chairperson of the board will be a minority woman. Literature wise, there is a new edition of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Jail Cell" is being printed. There is also a new pamphlet being printed for African American Alcoholics. Lastly, the book for Senior Citizens is being redone. The State Convention is July 13th -15th in Bingimton, New York. Mike then commented that there is a great deal of apathy right now in AA and that General Service needs support. The next meeting is on Sunday August 2, 2001.

Public Information Committee: Terry B. of Lakeshore gave the report. The Spring Convention panel was on May 12th and went very well. All three parts of area 50 were represented. On May 18th there was presentation at Iroquois High School. First time one of the presentations was part of someone's project. On June 12th literature will be available at Bryant & Stratton College Health fair. The next meeting is June 9th at 10 am at the Church of the Holy Communion in Hamburg.

Cooperation with the Professional Community: Griff N. of Sunrise Court gave the report. They have been informed the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous will assist our area with literature for the Eire County fair in August. They have received an invitation from the General Service Office to staff a booth at the 105th annual PTA convention in Buffalo, New York November 9th thru the 11th. They will also provide some literature for that event if our budget allows Area 50 to cover the not-for-profit fee of \$150. The lack of financial support from groups in our area may curtail some of the activities they have been asked to do. The New York Informational workshop is in Garrison, NY August 10th-12th. This conflicts with the fair though. They will decide at our next business meeting how to address this item since they are responsible for a panel there. The next meeting will be at 9am on June 9th at the Maryvale Pres. Church 425 Maryvale Drive.

Recap:

Financial: Dick L. had a question about the salary of the Executive Secretary during her month leave of absence.

Corrections: Bob G. of Amherst Snyder had a question about the Collins meeting that needs speakers.

Screeners: Rich F. told Joanne M. that the Bridging the Gap system that Treatment uses is the same company that Joanne was trying to contact. He told her that Pete F. has all the information she needs and that she should contact him.

Public Information: Joanne M. had a question about what was being done about Sam Hoyt's anonymity break in the Buffalo News. Mike B. told her that he referred the matter to Bill Archer in the General Service Office. Bill sent out a letter to him that they send out to politicians concerning anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

John H. of Sunday Morning Breakfast made a motion to accept the Steering Committee recommendation to terminate the Executive Secretary immediately. Griff N. said the motion is out of principle. The groups must decide. Dick L. seconded the motion. Tom of Rural is Plural said that terminate is false they only asked for her resignation. Dick L. wanted to bring the information out. Scott T. said that the information is private. He then asked Griff what principle did we violate. Adolph I. of Chapter IX said this is a serious action and there needs to be list generated pro and con that the groups can evaluate before making a decision. He then asked what is going on? Jim G. of Age Doesn't Matter said the groups have to know why. Carl from Southgate asked if there was a precedent as to who fills in if this sort of thing happens. He was told that during the Executive Secretary's leave of absence Lee H. Chairman of Central Committee filled in. Rich F. asked what is going on? Mike B. quoted guidelines 2a and 2c for use in governing this body's decision. Adolph I. stated that this was not done correctly it should be more organized. Christine then said Employees are held to certain standards and when they do not meet those standards they should be removed. We are all her employers. She likes the Executive Secretary but being a nice person is not enough to do the job successfully. Marsha of North Bflo. then talked about the contempt prior to investigation quote from the Big Book. She said as a fellowship we are not punitive at all to our members and there are 36 principles that should guide all our actions. Jay H. of North Bflo. said the motion asked for her voluntary resignation. Elevester of Coldsprings said that any decision should be made by a unanimous decision. Jim G. then asked what happens to the office if she is removed. Griff N. said if she resigns then great, but what he is concerned about is that character assignation is taking place, and that personalities are getting in the way of principles. This whole thing is out of principle, because the Executive Secretary's character is being assassinated. Barry of the Victory Group said don't believe anything until you see a person do it until then it is just rumor. We need more information. Darlene of the Ridge Group said she has admitted to certain accusations. Joanne M. of the Action Group said that when Harry D. was the Executive Secretary he had a stroke and tried to continue in the office for a while and Leo G. went and asked him for the good of AA to step down. Maybe the present Executive Secretary should do the same thing. Terry B. said that when we elected the Executive Secretary he/she is a trusted servant. We trust them to do the job, this has been called into question and the Steering Committee also are trusted servants and we should trust them to do their

job for the good of AA. Jim G. then asked if the nature of the reasons for asking for the resignation was administrative or personal. What type of accusations are being made. Jay H. of North Bflo. then said that if she doesn't resign then the information that prompted the Steering making their recommendation should be brought forward and made available to all. Darlene said it should be the stuff she admitted to. Dick L. reiterated what Jay H. said and said he had letters and attempted to read them. The chairman of Central Committee told he didn't have the right to read those here. Dan from Bidwell then asked if the reason for asking for the Executive Secretary's resignation had to do with business or personal practices. Tom from Rural is Plural said that this whole thing makes him sick and that there is a lot of misinformation being spread around. Also, that people are purposely being misled so as to form negative opinions about the Executive Secretary. The people who are doing the misleading are dogs nothing more than vicious dogs. Jim G. then said that if the problems are administrative then it is simply a matter of making intelligent decisions and that can be fixed. Bob G. of Amherst Snyder said that he works for the state and they bring in a neutral arbitrator so that that none of what has transpired gets out into the general public. Christine said that we decided not to tell, this is going round and round, why don't we just ask the Executive Secretary to resign. Lee, the Chairman, asked the Executive Secretary if they had anything to say. The Executive Secretary said no that they didn't. Scott T. then says that state law prevents us from making any information public. We cannot tell anyone. There has been a lot of slander going around about the people involved in this. Even Lee the Chairman has been slandered. Mike B. then said that when he was at the General Service Conference he really wanted to read the new Big Book before he approved it, but he had to have faith in the process and in the people assigned to make sure the Big Book was up to snuff. We have to have faith in our Trusted Servants. The Steering Committee did not come to this decision lightly, we have to trust their judgment. There are legal ramifications if we let anyone know the details plus it is not ethically sound to drag the Executive Secretary through the mud. It is not any of your damn business. John B. of Lakeshore then paraphrased the story from tradition three in the 12 & 12 that ends with "What would the master do?" Gary then said we have proof, we don't have proof and made a motion to table this until next month. Pat of the Rainbow group said are we just supposed to hang here until next month? The answer was yes. People inquired what information they were supposed to take back to their groups. They were told that the information they were to take back to their groups was that the Steering Committee made a recommendation to ask for the immediate resignation of the Executive Secretary and nothing else. The motion to table passed unanimously. Tom made a motion to close the meeting and John B. seconded it. The meeting closed at 8:57 with the Our Father.

--NOTE-- Much of this account has been paraphrased in the interest of space. Many repetitions were omitted and also there were some things I was just not able to write all of because I can only write so fast. The spirit of the discussion is readily evident I hope though.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy B.
Recording Secretary

2001 Group Contributions

June

	Central Office	Cummulative	Correctional Facility Committee	Cummulative	Treatment Facility Committee	Cumulative
11:45						
1110		2.00				
12 Step						
4th Step Stumblers						
6th Step		25.00		4.10		
A Day At A Time						
A Little Bit of Everything						
A New Freedom		70.00				
A Strong Desire						
Abbott Men's		240.00		240.00		240.00
Acceptance/Welcome		700.00				
Achievement						
Action		60.00				
After Midnight		60.00				
Age Doesn't Matter		25.00				
Alexander						
Amhers/ Snyder	40.00	936.50				
Amsdell Lakeshore	30.00	160.00				
Another Chance						
Any Age						
Any Length	60.00	226.00				
Anybody's		40.00				
As Bill Sees It						
Attitude Adjustment		37.50				
Attraction	100.00	200.00				
Beginner's Table						
Beginning In Sobriety II						
Beginning's Women						
Bidwell Monday		137.50		100.00		100.00
Big Book Lockport		75.00				
Big Book Study						
Big Book Workshop						
Blasdell						
Blasdell Monday Night						
Bodhisattva						
Boulevard Helping Hand		20.00				
Boulevard Women	75.00	150.00				
Brass	10.00	50.00				
Broadway Bailey						
Brocton AA		50.00				
Brownbaggers						
But For the Grace of God						
By The Book						
Came To Believe		17.50				
Casting	26.00	46.00		20.00		20.00
Cathedral Park		60.74		25.00		25.00
Caz Manor						
Cazenovia						
Central Park		50.00				
Chapter IX		60.00		60.00		60.00
Cheektowaga						
Chevy #1						

2001 Group Contributions

June

Clarence Men's		200			
Clarence Men's II					
Cold Spring					
Common Bond					
Common Problem		25.00			
Community Center	25.00	25.00			
Complanters		100.00	40.00		20.00
Courage					
Courage to Change					
Crossroads	115.00				
Cross Talk Big Book					
Daily Reflections		120.00			
Daily Reprieve					
DeVeaux Discussion					
Derby		100.00			
Desire					
Downtown Men's					
Dunkirk Monday Night					
Early Bird		70.00	70.00		70.00
Easier Softer Way					
East Amherst					
East Aurora					
Easy Does It					
Eden-North Collins		50.00			
Ellicott		40.00			
Ellicottville					
Emergency					
Eternal Vigilance					
Everybody's		50.00			
Express		341.00			
Eyeopener	774.80	1535.11			
F.U.N.					
Faith		225.00			
Father Baker					
Feelings		427.00			
Fireside					
Fireside PM					
First Things First					
Fredonia Discussion		60.00			
Fredonia Friday Noon					
Freedom		75.00			
Freedom Now					
Fresh Start					
Friendly					
Frontier					
Gardenville		50.00			
Georgetown	150.00	450.00			
Getting Better					
Giving			21.56		
Going to Any Length		110.00			
Golden Slipper		200.00			
Grand		65.00			
Grand II Joy of Living	20.00				
Grateful					

2001 Group Contributions

June

Guiding Light					
H.O.W.					
Half and Half					
Hamburg					
Hand		30			
Handicappers		300			
Happy Hour		5.20			
Harmony		150.00			
Helping Hand		40.00			30.00
High Noon					
High View					
Higher Power					
Hillbilly					
Holiday Village		450.00			
Holland					
Honesty	30.00	180.00	10.00	60.00	
Hope Big Book Study					
How It Works					
How It Works/Men's		200.00		200.00	200.00
Humboldt Riley					
Inner City					
Inspiration		50.00			
Intoxicated on Life		130.00			
Ironhorse		186.50		67.30	49.30
IT					
Jamestown Groups		41.20			
Johnson Creek Big Book					
Journey	50.00	50.00			
Just Do It					
Just For Today/ Albion	10.00	20.00			
Just For Today/Cheektowaga		100.00			
Keep It Simple Sister	150.00	150.00			
Keep On Coming					
Kenmore		50.00			
Kensington					
Ladies Night					
Lake Shore		165.00		122.00	
Lakeview	100.00	100.00			
Last Days Fellowship					
Let Go and Let God	25.00	75.00			
Liberty Women		110.00			
Life Today					
Lighten UP		367.50			
Live and Let Live		144.00			
Living in the Solution					
Living Sober	10.00	36.7500			
Lock City					
Lockport #1		500.00		100.00	100.00
Lockport Discussion					
Lockport Ladies		50.00			
Lockview		250.00			
Look To This Day					
Love					
Lovejoy		121.00			

2001 Group Contributions

June

Lower River						
Lunch Time						
Main and High		12.00				
Main Street						
Marilla		125.00				
Matt Talbot	50.00	200.0000				
Mayville Uptown Group	135.00					
McKinley Winners						
Medina Big Book						
Medina New Life		40.00				
Mercy	50.00	50.00				
Mid-day		57.92				
Miracle		25.00				
Morning After						
Monday Morning Lockport		50.00				
New Awakening						
New Beginnings/St. Vincent		25.00				
New Life						
New Outlook						
New Westside						
Niagara Frontier Men's Disc.		45.00				
Nightshift						
North Buffalo	100.00	600.00	25.00	150.00	25.00	150.00
North Java Monday						
North Java Morning After						
North Java Sunday						
One Day At A Time		200.00				
Open Arms						
Open Mind						
Orchard Park Step		233.50				
P.B.P. Big Book Study						
Pass It On		13.00				
Patchin						
Pathway to Peace						
Pendleton Chapter Five						
Perry Discussion						
Pink Can				19.09		
Pioneer						
Positively Living/Ascension		10.00				
Positively Living/Renaissance		1000.00				
Powerless						
Primary Purpose		10.00		10.00		
Principles Before Personalities						
Progress		50.00				
Purpose/Tonawanda		455.00				
Rainbow		50.00				
Ray of Hope		125.00				
Recovery Near the Gardens	10.00	10.00				
Remember When		25.00				
Renewal		100.00				
Ridge		200.00				
Ridge/Pink Can				8.25		
Rise and Shine						
Rochester		90.00				

2001 Group Contributions

June

Roland					
Rural is Plural					
Sally					
Saratoga					
Searching For Serenity	50.00	150.00			
Second Chance					
Serenity		240.00			
Serenity Circle	10.00	50.00			
Serenity on the Lake					
Serenity Trails					
Setaside					
Sheridan	20.00	120.00			
Silvercreek Friendship					
Sober and Proud					
Sober Saturday					
Sober Trail					
Sober Winners		45.00			
Sobriety for Women					
Sobriety Men's Discussion					
Sobriety on a Saturday Night					
Sobriety on the Lake					
Somerset					
South Buffalo					
South Town		90.00			
Southgate		10.00	10.00		10.00
Southtown Women's					
Southwestern					
Spirit of Hope		36.00	17.00		17.00
Spiritual Progress		100.00			
Springville Saturday Afternoon					
Springville Tuesday Night					
Springville Wednesday Noon					
St. Barnabas		27.50			
St. Mark's		250.00			
Starting Over		149.00			
Staying Alive		20.00			
Step Work					
Stepping Stones/Gowanda		59.00			
Stepping Stones/Williamsville		560.00			
Suburban	10.00	60.00			
Sunday Afternoon Ascension					
Sunday Morning Breakfast		150.00	50.00		50.00
Sunday Niters					
Sunday Third Group					
Sunrise Court		100.00	2.10	22.27	
SUNY Amherst Campus					
Surrender and Hope		150.00			
Survivors					
T.P.H.					
TGIF					
Thankful					
The Book Meeting	15.00	78.59			
The Moonshiners					
There's A Solution					

2001 Group Contributions

June

Those Too	5.00	30.00				
Thruway		950.00	20.00	100.00	20.00	100.00
Thrusday PM Discussion	100.00	200.00				
Today						
Today's Woman		30.00				
Trail's End						
Tri County	120.00	130.00				
Tri-Step Beginniners						
Try Again						
Tuesday Men's AM	50.00	230.00				
Tuesday Women	10.00	50.00	10.00	50.00	10.00	50.00
Turning Point						
Twin Cities		110.00				
Unity		100.00				
Unity Men's Stag						
University Men's Discussion	100.00	300.00				
Valley						
Varieties of Spiritual Experience	25.00	1600.00				
Varysburg						
Victory		45.00		45.00		45.00
Wake Up Call						
We Are Not Saints		20.00				
We Care	30.00	150.00	10.00	50.00	20.00	100.00
We Choose Life						
Wehrle		25.00				
Welcome						
Westfield						
Westminster						
Why		101.75				
Williamsville	180.00	733.95				
Willing To Grow		200.00				
Wilson Group	25.0	75.00		50.00		
Wilson Smith Alumni		90.00				
Women on the Rise						
Women's West Side		50.00				
Working						
You'll Never Walk Alone						
Youngstown						
Annonymous						
Cassadata and Dad		35.00				
JoJo G.		11.00				
Katherine S.		10.00				
William L.		60.00				
TOTAL						