

NEW FRONTIERS

June 2005

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.

The History of the Responsibility Declaration

Have you ever wondered why the Responsibility Declaration begins with "I" rather than "we"? In 1975, the General Service Office received a letter asking just that question, and the staff asked old-timer Al S., who wrote the declaration for A.A.'s 30th Anniversary International Convention in 1965, to reply. Here is what he said:

"We wanted a statement that would be emotionally binding on the Fellowship, but without imposing any musts. I tried my hand at a flock of them, using the plural 'we,' but none of them came off because nobody – not even Bill or Dr. Bob – ever tried to impose any kind of a pledge on A.A. members.

"Finally, I hit on a simple solution. Write it in the first person singular, 'I'. Then it became a matter of individual choice. It sounded right – saying what we wanted to say about responsibility, but without institutionalizing it.

"The idea that the 'I' might be the higher power speaking had never occurred to me until your letter came. I see nothing wrong with interpreting it that way if you wish. It certainly gives it a higher meaning than I had intended."

The Responsibility Declaration was introduced in July 1965 to the crowd of 10,000 A.A.'s gathered at the 30th Anniversary International Convention in Toronto. The three-word phrase that begins it was originally intended simply to appear on the individual nametags for all participants, but Herb M., then general manager of the General Service Office, believed it was important enough to be the focal point of a special occasion. After co-founder Bill W.'s talk on Saturday night, the lights were dimmed, background music came up, and Herb announced a 'simple ceremony'. "Taking part in it," he said, "are A.A.'s from all parts of the United States and Canada.... Still others have come thousands of miles to represent fellow alcoholics in foreign lands, from as far away as Australia and South Africa, from Korea and Iceland, South and Central America. We have asked them to appear on this stage tonight and to recite with us the pledge that you will find on the back of your program. This states simply what we all feel."

Bill W. introduced the declaration, saying: "Under God's grace we are gathered in grateful remembrance of what he has wrought among us in the thirty years that are now gone down into A.A. history.

"We again rededicate ourselves to those vast responsibilities which the long future will hold for us all. As members, as groups and as a worldwide Fellowship, we pledge ourselves to the inspiring aim of ever-increasing growth, in spirit and in numbers.

"May we always deserve, and may God ever grant us the wisdom and the humility to walk in fortitude and in faith upon the wondrous path that he has long since revealed to us of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"In rededication, shall we join hands and repeat (here the A.A.'s on the stage joined hands and recited): 'I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible' (the cast raised their joined hands)." As the ceremony concluded, "I am responsible" was recited in French, Spanish, German, Finnish, Portuguese, Icelandic, Korean, and Norwegian, then once more in English by the full crowd of 10,000.

Four decades later, as several thousand A.A.'s from around the world are making plans to attend our 70th birthday party in Toronto in July 2005, its theme, "I Am Responsible," echoes that earlier occasion, reminding us of what the Fellowship has already accomplished, and of how much remains to be done.

Submitted by Terry B.

Step Six ~ Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Sixth Step for Her Meant No God, No Peace; Know God Know Peace

In Step Six I had to confront the need to change my attitudes and behaviors. So I had to become entirely ready to have God remove these defects of character I had uncovered in the previous Steps. To me this was a preparation Step, not an action Step. My part in this was to become entirely ready, which was a process in itself. I had to become ready for God's deepest work that was yet to come.

It wasn't easy looking at myself, and every time I saw a defect of character it brought me to my knees. The reason why I was brought to my knees and was so hard on myself with my defects was because I was incapable of seeing my assets.

I then had to learn to admit to the defect, accept the defect, and surrender to it. Only then did I have peace. This did not mean that my defect was removed; it only meant that I accepted it. Acceptance was, and is, my serenity.

I had all of the defects, bar none, so this process took a very, very long time. Getting from the admitting to acceptance was certainly a process that caused me a lot of pain. The reason why the pain was so severe was that I had no trust of the unknown.

So the key to this Step for me was to become entirely ready and willing to have God remove these defects. In the interim, what I have realized was the only reason I wanted these defects removed was because they were causing me pain. But once I had learned to accept myself for who I was, then, and only then, did I want my defects removed – not because I was in pain – but because I wanted to be a better person and get closer to God; to try and sincerely grow in the image and likeness of my Creator.

Michelina ~ Sayville Group ~ Suffolk Intergroup Assoc. *Bulletin* June 2004

Tradition Six ~ An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine

Your home group may want to use this list as a basis for discussion.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

True story, told by the driver at his first AA meeting.

A man goes to a party and has too much to drink. His friends plead with him to let them take him home. He says no – he only lives a mile away. About five blocks from party, the police pull him over for weaving and ask him to get out of the car and walk the line. Just as he starts, the police radio blares out a notice of a robbery taking place in a house just a block away. The police tell the party animal to stay put, they will be right back and they hop a fence and run down the street to the robbery.

The guy waits and waits and finally decides to drive home. When he gets there, he tells his wife he is going to bed, and to tell anyone who might come looking for him that he has the flu and has been in bed all day. A few hours later the police knock on the door. They ask if Mr. Smith is there and his wife says yes. They ask to see him and she replies that he is in bed with the flu and has been so all day. The police have his driver's license. They ask to see his car and she asks why. They insist on seeing his car, so she takes them to the garage. She opens the door. There sitting in the garage is the police car, with all its lights still flashing.

Submitted by Jim F. ~ Holland Group

Our Primary Purpose

“Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety” That’s what we do in AA, we stop drinking, and we achieve sobriety. At a recent local convention I listened to a woman who, for 50 minutes, told the story of her addiction to cocaine . . . whoaaa now! Am I missing something here? Alcoholics Anonymous was co-founded by two alcoholics for alcoholics. The idea that a drug is a drug needs to be squashed, and we of AA must concentrate our efforts on the alcoholic who still suffers.

Alcoholics are born with the illness, addicts are created. I have yet to see a controlled substance label on a bottle of booze, or warnings that it could become addictive; it’s legal except when operating a car, plane or boat. Sometimes I hear that “a drug is a drug is a drug.” To the people who say that, my response is “the next time you get malaria, try taking polio vaccine instead of Quinine. I have alcoholism; I need to identify and share with other recovering alcoholics in order to stay sober. If I need an ambulance, please don’t send an ice cream truck, because a ride is a ride is a ride.”

“The only requirement for membership in AA is a desire to stop drinking.” We need to respect and practice AA’s singleness of purpose; freedom from alcoholism. The life of the alcoholic yet to come to AA and the life of AA itself depends on it. It would be unfair for me to say that people with more than one addiction are not welcome in AA. All are welcome who have a desire to stop drinking! The hip hop talk about being “clean” means after shower time, to me. When we introduce ourselves at meetings, the only response should be “my name is ___ and I am an alcoholic”; skip the other addictions to drugs, sex, fast cars or pointed shoes.

The topics at AA meetings should reflect our recovery or lack of it. AA meetings are not group therapy where we talk of divorce, lack of job options or spurned relationships. AA is freedom from alcohol and how and when we changed. AA is about finding a Higher Power, a God of our understanding. AA is all about change and living life as God intended us to live. To me change equals patient improvement; a little change every day makes the difference. AA changed my life and AA will change yours also.

Let’s not lose our primary purpose and remember the alcoholic, who still suffers. AA cannot be all things to all people. Alcoholics Anonymous is a program founded by alcoholics for alcoholic, let’s keep it that way. There are many other programs available for those who suffer from other addictions. Personally I get very tired of listening to the hissy-fits permeating the tables of AA with their statements or I almost “used” or their “clean time”. Someone might want to inform them that street drugs are illegal.

John H. ~ Sunday Morning Breakfast Group

Praying to Die, Receiving a Miracle

I couldn't stop. No matter how hard I tried – I could not stop drinking. I had started drinking again after being sober for a little over 2 years, which turned into a 3 year drunk and one I thought would be permanent. I had been "around" this amazing fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous – but I was never a "part of" it. By that, I mean I showed up at meetings, kept all conversations to small "chit chat" and went on my merry way. I did believe in a higher power (God), and also prayed, but didn't do a whole lot to show my gratitude for not having to pick up a drink each day. Instead of working the steps and being of service, I found other things to do which were not very good for me. I came to rely on a power other than God and *never, never* let *anyone* close to me. I was known as "Little Miss Cheerful" – always smiling, always doing, "great, dandy and ducky" at all times – not knowing (or not wanting to know) that I was absolutely dying inside. I wouldn't admit it to myself, let alone anyone else. Needless to say, it wasn't long before I was "back in my cups".

This started a 3 year long journey into hell. Actually, I believe hell would have been a gift. I felt as if I was somewhere lower than that. A dark place of total bondage and slavery to my disease. Every day I would "chase the dragon" for what I needed to get by that day, sometimes that hour. Always planning, manipulating and plotting where my next drink would come from. Using and hurting everyone and everything in my downward spiral of life. I was not living, I was existing just to get thru each day – each lonely, painful and terribly sad day. I could not see a future. I had nothing to look forward to except another day just like the last. I would fantasize about "going out" in a grandiose matter – being shot in a bank robbery – being killed by terrorists – (God, we're sick)! Dying quick and painlessly by any other way except as an alcoholic. I did not want to die a drunk. My Mother was killed in a drug related incident, as she was an addict. A beautiful, giving and unconditionally loving person – but her legacy to ones who did not know her was – she died a Heroin addict. I did not want a legacy such as this, but at the time, I didn't have the strength or faith to do anything about it.

At the end I was up to almost a gallon of wine or half gallon of vodka a day and could not get drunk. I had to drink continuously just so I wouldn't get violently ill. One day, I was just so tired. Too tired to manipulate. Too tired to even try to get my next drink. I surrendered that day.....to death. I got on my knees and prayed for God to please take me. I could not go on one more day the way I was living and thought sobriety was impossible. I was just so tired.

I did not die that day. Instead I received the miracle.....of one day with out a drink. An entire 24 hours with out alcohol. I was sick, but not like I had been in the past. Then, another day followed and yet another. During these 3 days, I went into a depression like I've never known. A place so dark that I can hardly put it into words. I had never felt so alone – almost as if I had no soul. I believe the reason for that feeling those 3 days was so I would never forget it. Never forget where I came from and to never want to go back there again.....no matter what. The gift God did send me at that time was another alcoholic to talk me through those dark days and to get me through to the other side.

I started going back to meetings. The only place I knew that could keep me sober. I always knew I was an alcoholic – I had no problem with the first step, but for the first time ever – I accepted it. I didn't realize until now, there's a big difference between *admitting* you're an alcoholic and *accepting* you're an alcoholic. Acceptance is the key. I started going to meetings where I had remembered people from years ago that had what I wanted. They had long term sobriety, they led happy and productive lives. I always remembered liking these people – but they scared me. They insisted you had to work hard and continuously for your sobriety – you know – doing things like the "steps" and service, (stuff like that). I didn't have the gratitude back then to be willing to work hard and repay the precious gift that had been given to me. Today I do. It is a debt I never want to feel like I have repaid, because I never will be able to. By the Grace of God, I will continue to work toward it.

There was one (of many) magical things that happened when I came back to AA and the people I respected – I was willing to let them in for the first time – to see me as I am, all of me, sad and happy, good and bad. I used to be afraid that if anyone knew the "real" me, they wouldn't like me – because I didn't like myself. The beauty of letting these people get close to me, is that the closer they got, the better I felt about myself. I have received the Gift of friendship like I have never known. I have people in my life now who are so close to my heart that I want them there always. When I'm hurting now or something is bothering me – I have people to call (and boy, do I call) and when I'm goofing up and don't see it – believe me – they let me know. What a Gift!

I have just completed my 7th step and am moving forward without hesitation. For the first time in my life, I am OK with who I am. That might not mean much to a nonalcoholic, but to "one of us" it's absolutely amazing. And so is my life today. Not a day goes by that I'm not conversing, hanging out or working with another alcoholic. This is my beautiful life now. It's amazing how it changes when you have acceptance, the willingness to work at it, wonderful friendships and most of all.....the Grace of God – for whom I will always be grateful.

If there is any message I would like to convey, it's please, don't give up and think it's totally hopeless. That's what I thought – yet here I am.

Cheryl P. ~ Lakeshore Group

LEARN TO LISTEN & LISTEN TO LEARN

"If you really listen to (not just hear) what is being said, you may find the person talking has quietly slipped inside your head and seems to be describing the landscape there -- the shifting shapes of nameless fears, the color and chill of impending doom -- if not the actual events and words stored in your brain.

"And whether this happens or not, you will surely have a good laugh or two in the company of A.A.'s, and you'll probably pick up a couple of ideas on living sober."

From "Trying the Twelve Steps:" c. 1975, Living Sober, page 85

We Should be Responsible

When I came to AA I knew nothing about AA. Thank God, men and women from the fellowship came to ECMC. They shared their experience strength and hope. If we take responsibility of chairing a meeting or committee, for our primary purpose, we need to be there.

If no-one came to ECMC for my very first meeting, I have no clue where I would be today. But there is one thing from that first meeting (1989) one day at a time I have not drank.

Give back what was given to you!

Charles L. ~ Spirit of Hope

Concerning group donations.

If each member gave a little it would add up to a lot. Please consider that the price of a drink today is \$3.00. If each of us gave that amount to the group treasurer as a group donation, it would help to support the Central Office, and us in the long run, to carry the message to the next suffering Alcoholic. Please consider that there are about 300 groups in our area with approximately 10 members each. If each of us gave the price of a drink \$3.00 once a month the amount would be, \$9,000 a month multiplied by 12...well you get the idea.

I know that the price of everything is going up but prices were going up when we were drinking and it didn't bother us then to come up with price of a drink.

An easy way to do it would be to set aside the price of a drink once a month and gave it to the group treasurer to send as a group donation.

We all know or have heard that "I am responsible to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic" well here is another way to do it only anonymously.

Respectfully submitted - John B. ~ Lakeshore Group

Heard at a meeting:

AA is the reason I have a life and a job, and I show my recognition and appreciation for that fact by giving of myself, including financially.

AA is the only place where you can walk into a room full of strangers and reminisce.

Alcoholism: An equal opportunity destroyer.

If you are in the center of AA, you won't fall off the edge.

Rule 62

My ego is not my amigo!

An alcoholic's favorite word - "More"

AA Romance.....The odds are

good.....but the goods are odd.

AA Has no fixed address--you can take it with you.

We're here for a reason, not for the season.

*Special thank-you to all who submitted
articles this month*

More To This Fellowship Than Just Personal Recovery

To participate in service is one of the joys of my sobriety. When my sponsor suggested that I might like to help clean ashtrays as I complained about my life while standing beside the sink and watching him do this simple chore, things began to change. Gradually, I started to do other things within my home group, like putting away chairs, mopping floors, and making coffee. I got to socialize with the members of my group, learning who they were as they learned about me. I began to feel that I was becoming more and more a part of my group. As I worked through the Steps and learned about the Traditions, my life started to get better. I learned there was more to this Fellowship than just personal recovery; there is also unity and service. I learned that each of us has to participate in all three legacies (recovery, unity, and service) at some level, if this Fellowship and its message of HOPE is to reach the next suffering alcoholic.

I became an alternate GSR (General Service Representative) because I didn't think there was going to be much to do. A few months later I became the GSR when, for personal reasons, our GSR resigned. I went to a county meeting and learned I needed to attend the area assembly because I was the voice and ears of my home group, which had the right of participation in AA – and the only way my home group could exercise that right was through the GSR.

Recently, for whatever reason, the attendance at our assemblies and committee meetings has been down. So, whether you are a GSR, DCM, DCMC, or an alternate, it is important to participate at the area assemblies and committee meetings so members of your home group can become fully informed about the workings of the General Service Conference and be part of an informed group conscience of our area, for it is the groups of Alcoholics Anonymous that are the ultimate authority.

In love and service, John W. ~ *The Link* Newsletter Southeastern NY

Things We Can Not Change

Please say a prayer for all the members of our fellowship who are sick or hospitalized.

Share your Experience, Strength and Hope.

Please submit your articles by the 12th for next months issue.

**Buffalo Central Office
681 SENECA STREET
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Buffalo, New York 14210**

or

E-Mail address: buffalooa@hotmail.com

New Frontiers committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month - 7:00pm
@ St Michaels, corner of Warsaw & Electric in Lackawanna.

The Central Office of Western New York publishes the *New Frontiers* monthly. 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.)

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Alexander

Sam F. 12y
 Jamie A. 18y
 Roy A. 22y
 Mike W. 33y

Amherst/Snyder

Chip R. 1y
 John L. 1y
 Beth U. 2y
 Jen Alyn 2y
 Scott C. 2y
 Christina C. 3y
 Amy M. 5y
 Cindy A. 5y
 Kathy R. 6y
 Dan R. 7y
 John B. 8y
 Richard C. 9y
 Martin P. 9y
 Elizabeth S. 11y
 David L. 15y
 Whitney D. 21y
 Kate K. 21y
 Sandy S. 21y
 Bob G. 21y
 Linda G. 21y
 Bill O'C. 24y
 Mary Ann C. 25y

Cold Springs

Christina F. 11y
 Arnold S. 14y
 James W. 19y

Courage Group

Rudy B. 15y
 Peter F. 17y
 Roger H. 21y
 Mary Jo S. 22y
 Bill O. C. 25y
 Donna B.R. 30y

Fireside

Sue S. 9m
 Tarrie K. 6y
 John S. 17y

Fresh Start

Laurie A. 3m

Gahada Gon

Diana M. 4y

Giving

Amy C. 6m
 Edwin R. 6m
 Michael E. 6m
 Keshia B. 9m
 Carmen C. 2y

Holland

Kathleen S. 15y

Ironhorse

Kevin K. 3m
 Cindy B. 6m
 Jeffery G. 6m
 Brian O. 1y
 Mark Mc 5y
 Dorothy K. 8y
 Jim S. 31y

Kensington

Jeffry L. 17y

Lakeshore

Tom B. 33y

Living Sober

Kate R. 2y
 Donna M. 5y
 Jim B. 8y
 Walter S. 12y

Lockport #1

Christine D. 2y
 Bob L. 16y

LoveJoy

Tom R. 3m
 Tim P. 6m
 Charlie S. 2y
 Dave B. 2y
 Paul D. 2y
 Billy L. 3y
 Paul G. 28y

N. Buffalo

Nichole M. 3m
 Rhonda R. 3m
 Tom L. 3m
 Tyrone M. 6m
 Nancy D. 6m
 Daniel L. 6m
 Judy D. 1y
 Martin L. 3y
 Wayne T. 4y
 Russel D. 4y
 Colleen N. 8y
 Frank Z. 9y
 Karen Mc 10y
 Bernard B 11y
 Gerry S. 16y
 Peter M. 23y

Rise & Shine

Dennis C. 2y
 Cheryl S. 2y
 James E. 3y
 Dean M. 3y
 Holly K. 4y
 Mark J. 4y
 Jerry G. 5y
 Sandra C. 6y
 Joe A. 8y
 James Q. 9y
 Rosa A. 9y
 Sean S. 9y
 Shirley J. 10y
 Wanda R. 10y
 Floyd C. 10y
 Jerry S. 11y
 Darryl L. 11y
 Walter C. 12y
 Orlando D. 13y
 James M. 15y
 Haywood E. 29y
 Bob C. 29y

Southtowns

Nelson G. 13y

Thruway

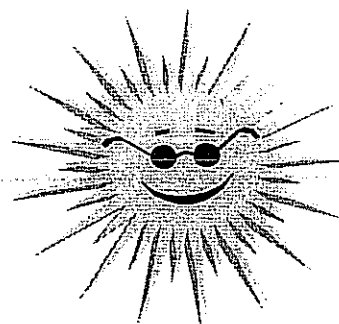
Pete R. 6m
 Ryan F. 9m
 John B. 9y
 Jim Mc. 15y
 Donna F. 22y

Sun. Morning Br.

Paul R. 3m
 Jim McN. 15y
 Cookie L. 20y

Valley

Bill O'D 20y



Group Anniversaries

Spiritual Progress
 Sunrise Court
 Helping Hand
 Kenmore
 Chevy #1
 Downtown Men's
 Lockport Tuesday PM
 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
 High Noon
 Starting Over (pm)
 No. Java Morning After
 Matt Talbot
 Any Age
 Springville Tues Night
 Spirit of Hope

Please remember to
 have the anniversaries
 submitted by
 the **12th**
 of the month
 previous



<p>5 Central Committee Meeting, SUNDAY, 7pm Corrections Committee Meeting, SUNDAY, 6:00 PM,</p> <p>1940: Ebby T. takes job at the NY World's Fair.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1940: 1st AA Group formed in Richmond, Virginia.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1941: St. Paul, MN, AA group is founded.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>*June 1942: Cleveland, Ohio, has a 24-hour AA service number in the phone book.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>*June 1948: A subscription to the AA Grapevine was donated to the Beloit Wisconsin Public Library by a local AA member.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>AA FOUNDER'S DAY 1995: Bill W. and Dr. Bob found the basis for AA in Alcoholics Anonymous.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1971: Ernie G., AA's #4 dies.</p>
<p>12</p> <p><i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p>The Big Book makes a great phone book... have you added any new numbers lately?</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FLAG DAY 1941: Kansas City Press reports the Friday AA group is composed of "one-time stew pums, barflies and plain drunkards."</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1942: New York AA group sponsor 1st annual NY group meeting. 424 hear Dr. Silkworth and other AA speakers.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1942: Buffalo Fall Convention Meeting, 7:00 PM New Frontiers Committee, 7:00 PM.</p> <p>1939: Bill W. visits the ward where Marty M. sobriety was found up.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1942: New York AA group sponsor 1st annual NY group meeting. 424 hear Dr. Silkworth and other AA speakers.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1942: New York AA group sponsor 1st annual NY group meeting. 424 hear Dr. Silkworth and other AA speakers.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1942: New York AA group sponsor 1st annual NY group meeting. 424 hear Dr. Silkworth and other AA speakers.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Columnist Earl Wilson reports NYC Police Chief Valentine sent 6 cops to AA and they sobered up. "They are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.</p>	<p>20 Treatment Facilities Committee, 6 PM, Newcomer: "How does AA work?" Oldtimer: "Just fine!"</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1944: 1st issue of <i>The AA Grapevine</i> is published.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1935: Dr. Bob talks his last drink</p>	<p>23</p> <p>*June 1961: Switzerland held its 25th Anniversary Convention. Lois W. Wing lived the thing.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1939: <i>New York Times</i> reviewer writes that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."</p>	<p>25 Archives Committee Meeting, 9 am</p>
<p>26</p> <p>1935: Bill D., AA's #3, entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.</p>	<p>27 Beginning Women's Group is celebrating their 19th Anniversary, 8:00 PM. We have 12 Steps — not 13!</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1935: Dr. Bob and Bill W. visited Bill D. at Akron's City Hospital.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>You're never LATE for AA but you can be EARLY.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1941: New York AAer discovers the Serenity Prayer! AA adopts it readily.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1941: New York AAer discovers the Serenity Prayer! AA adopts it readily.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>AA links are available on the Sobriety Calendar Web site. www.sobrietycalendar.com</p>

*BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(716) 853-0388
9:00 AM- 4:30 PM
Schedule on line at ny-aa.org*

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Fax: 853-0389*

buffalooa@hotmail.com

JUNE 2005

MEETING CHANGES:

NEW GROUP; We Are People 2; Wednesday's at 7:30 PM. Pride Center, 18 Trinity Place, Buffalo.

Suburban Group's last Meeting will be Saturday, May 28th, Community Baptist Church, 1225 Brighton Rd., Tonawanda. 8 PM.

NEW MEETING; Victory Women's, Wednesday's at 7:30 PM. Our Lady of Victory, Basement, Lackawanna. Closed women's.

Varieties of Spiritual Experience & Miracle groups are joining on Thursday nights starting June 1st. Trinity Parish Hall, 371 Delaware. 8:00 PM

NEW MEETING: Carry The Message; Sunday's @ 7:30 PM in Hamburg. Open Speaker. Trinity Episcopal Church, 261 E. Main Street

PASS IT ON GROUP: Does MEET; it no longer meets at the Polish Center, now meets at 165 Sears Street, Buffalo, East. Tuesday's, 8:00 PM.

Progress Men's Group. Thursday's in East Aurora. 10:30 Am, First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora, 9 Paine. **NEEDS SUPPORT.**

Kenilworth Group, 8 PM, Thursday's, **NO LONGER MEETS.** United Church of Christ, 45 Dalton Rd, Tonawanda.

Service Opportunities:

~ June 5, **Central Committee Meeting,** SUNDAY, 7 pm, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street (Hosted by Action).

~ June 5, **Corrections Committee Meeting,** SUNDAY, 6:00 PM, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street (lower).

~ June 16, **64th Buffalo Fall Convention Meeting,** Thursday, 7:00 PM @. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1080 Main Street, Buffalo. E-mail address 2005BuffaloFallConvention@gmail.com. Website: please send comments/suggestions): <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeeivob/>

~ June 20, **Treatment Facilities Committee,** MONDAY, 6 PM, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street.

- ~ June 16, New Frontiers Committee, THURSDAY, 7:00 PM. St. Michaels Parish Center, Electric And Warsaw, Lackawanna, before the Victory meeting.
- ~ June 25, Archives Committee Meeting, SATURDAY, 9 am, Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street (lower).

COMING EVENTS:

- ~ June 27' Beginning Women's Group is celebrating their **19th Anniversary**, Monday, 8:00 PM. St. Michael's of All Angels Church, corner of Burke @ Huntley Sts. Near Kensington in Buffalo. There will be an out-of-town speakers. We will be serving snacks and desserts. All women are welcome.
- ~ July 15-17, AA Men's Spiritual Weekend. St. Columban Center, Speakers, Meetings, Fellowship, Great Food, Campfire. Registration Fee \$120, \$25 Deposit, flyers included or @ Central Office
- ~ July 16, 8th Anniversary, Main & High Group Day Of Sharing, Saturday, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1080 Main Street, Buffalo. Panels & Speaker - 50/50 - Hot Meal - Refreshments - Registration \$7.00.
- ~ July 29-31, Any Age Annual Campout: speakers, sharing and fellowship. \$15 for the weekend. Bring a dish to pass, hot dogs, hamburgers, pop and coffee will be provided. Don Miller Park, 1601 Sweeney NT. 3 PM Friday- 12 Noon Sunday.
- ~ Sept. 2-4, 52nd Annual Tri-State Assembly Chautauqua, NY. More information to come!!
- ~ Nov. 4-6, 64th.BUFFALO FALL CONVENTION: Buffalo Marriott Hotel, 1340 Millersport Hwy. Amherst. Registration: \$20, Banquet: \$33. For more information check their website: 2005BuffaloFallConvention@gmail.com

6th STEP: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

6th TRADITION: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

6th CONCEPT: The Conference recognizes that chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM

... Yours in the Fellowship of the Spirit...

Terry Bateman.... Executive Secretary

Buffalo Central Committee
MAY 2005

Gary J., Committee Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with a moment of silence, the Serenity Prayer and the Preamble. Joe S., Living Sober Group, read The Purpose of the Central Committee. Donna E., Wehrle Group, read the Traditions. Motion to dispense with the reading of last months' minutes by Charmain D., Lockport #1, seconded by Joe S., Living Sober. Motion passed.

Groups were represented: District 1: Cornplanters Again, Main and High, Sunday Niter's; District 2: Early Bird, Living Sober, North Buffalo, Three Legacies, Univ. Men's Disc.; District 3: Abbott Men's Disc., Biadell Mon. Night, Father Baker, Iron Horse, New Life, Ridge, South Town, Southgate, Sunday Morning Breakfast; District 4: Action; District 5: Big Book Lockport, Lockport #1; District 6: Amsdell Lakeshore, Go To Any Lengths, Lakeshore, Serenity On The Lake, Tri Step Beginners; District 7: Community Center, Fresh Start, Lovejoy, Spirit of Hope; District 8: Amherst Snyder, Wehrle, Williamsville.
32 Groups represented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ENVELOPE SYSTEM: Karen S., Committee Chair, reported that they received \$610 for the month of April. The year to date total received is \$2,293.

STEERING COMMITTEE: There were 10 members in attendance representing Districts 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8. No resumes were received for 2006 Convention Chair from anyone in District 2. District 4 needs a Steering Committee representative. Terry B's performance review will be done by the Steering Committee members in June. There was a discussion on procedures to be followed for more accurately reporting convention expenses and revenues. The Steering Committee voted to present the Central Office tax statements as a recommendation to Central Committee during new business. July Central Committee meeting will be moved to the following week, July 10, so as not to interfere with the holiday. From District 2 regarding the disruptive behavior at the Serenity Shack, Will M. is in contact with Donna and will investigate.

TREATMENT: Report given by Tom C., Chairman TFC: All meetings are currently covered. We discussed the ECMC/Dr. Blondell issues. The doctor no longer has a list of names. The TFC coordinator will call ECMC directly every day. Independent living is not yet involved at ECMC. Those in attendance were reminded that the International Convention is coming up and many AA's have legal issues to address if they are going. The Main & High Annual Day of Sharing is also coming up. There was no BTG report.

CORRECTIONS: No representative present.

CENTRAL OFFICE: AA INFO: 251; 12-STEP: 3; ALANON: 6; PIC: 1, VISITORS: 75; VOLUNTEERS: 10. Our taxes are back from the accounts and are available at Central Office for anyone who wishes to review them. State and Federal Quarterly's have been filed for the first quarter. Our bank is changing names - it will become Citizens Bank. Reminder, I am taking vacation days on May 20th and May 27th.

Yours in the fellowship of the Spirit,
Terry B, Executive Secretary

PIC: No representative present

NEW FRONTIERS: No representative present

FINANCIAL REPORT: MARCH 2005

Income							
March	March	Variance	%	YTD	YTD	Variance	%
2004	2005		Change	2004	2005		Change
Avg	Actual			Avg	Actual		
\$7,565.00	\$9,217.93	\$1,652.93	21.85%	\$22,695.00	\$23,833.93	\$1,138.93	5.02%

Narrative:

Executive Secretary Report Corrections: Convention income was already posted in year end December. This is a double income posting, please disregard. An addition mistake has been found in January - Group donations should be \$4241.86 not \$4231.86. Year to date income

is \$23883.93 not \$25015.47 as reported in the Secretary's report.

Expenses

March	March	Variance	%	YTD	YTD	Variance	%
2004	2005		Change	2004	2005		Change
Avg	Actual			Avg	Actual		
\$7,586.00	\$8,563.00	\$977.00	12.88%	\$22,758.00	\$23,829.00	\$1,071.00	4.49%

Narrative:

An added maintenance fee has been added to the rent for the year and will continue and increase every year of the rental agreement. Postage increased 2nd month in a row - up 99% in Feb and up 61% in March. Talking phone book subscription up 22%.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully, Patty S., Going To Any Lengths Group

CONVENTION COMMITTEE: Report given by Charmain D., Convention Chair: The theme of this years' convention is 'Language of the Heart' and will be November 4, 5, 6, 2005 at the Marriott. We have had 4 meetings and the next is May 19. Flyers were presented to the Central Committee members. Speakers are in place. We are developing a budget and will report on financial template. There are some changes in the program with an introduction of 2 workshops. The web site is AA 2005 Convention.

COURTESY REPORTS:

ARCHIVES: Report given by Kim E., Treasurer: Our past display was at Southgate's Group anniversary on April 9, 2005. Our next display will be at Jamestown 60th Anniversary of AA at the Holiday Inn on May 6 – 8, 2005. The Boulevard Helping Hands Group requested our presence at their anniversary but due to our commitment in Jamestown we will not be able to display. We would like to thank the Morganville Group for their donation to the Archive Committee. Members of our committee attended Hamilton's and Districts Archives Breakfast on Sunday, April 10, 2005 in Hamilton, Ont. We exchanged information and ideas; there were 544 attendees at that event from Canada and Western New York. Our next Archive meeting will be on May 21, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Office.

GSA: Tom B., Archivist, stated that the next meeting will be at Hamburg Town Hall on May 15 hosted by Lovejoy Group.

RECAP: John C., Complanters Again, requested that the Convention flyers be revised to include phone numbers of contacts such as Registration Chair or Chairman, for people who do not have computers.

OLD BUSINESS: Since there were no resumes received from District 2 for the Chairman of the Fall 2006 Convention, we will have nominations from District 3 next month.

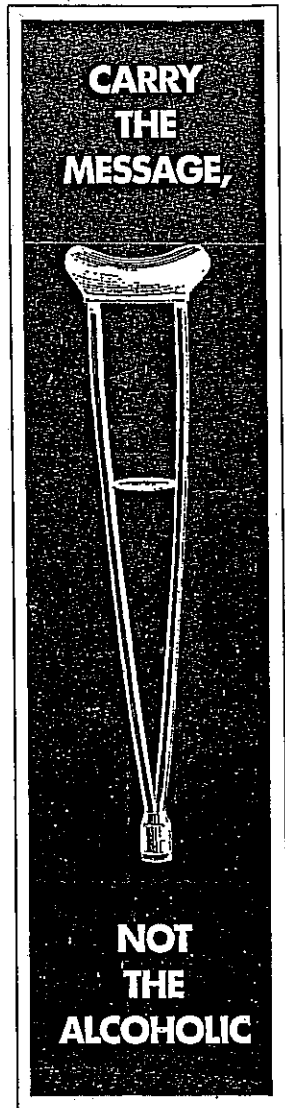
NEW BUSINESS: District 4 needs a Steering Committee representative.

Motion to adjourn by Willie F., Serenity On The Lake, seconded by Lindsay, Three Legacies. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Recording Secretary, John H., Sunday Morning Breakfast.

Income Statement	31-Jan-05	2/29/2005	31-Mar-05	30-Apr-04
Beg Bal Cash on hand	4,397.21	4,981.86	6,394.11	7,048.74
Contributions				
Groups	4,241.86	3,539.40	4,638.87	3,947.21
Joint Meeting	42.05	25.70	37.31	35.30
Envelope System	617.00	674.00	392.00	610.00
New Frontiers Subs	106.00	20.00	118.00	30.00
Literature	1,678.57	3,193.57	3,810.75	2,970.12
Archives Room Rent	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Meetings at GO	150.00	228.50	171.00	217.00
Mail/Misc.				25.00
"Gratitude Month" (NOV)				
Conventions/Day of Sharing	1,190.89			42.00
Monthly Income	8,076.37	7,731.17	9,217.93	7,926.63
Expenses				
Office Rent	753.04	753.04	768.47	768.47
Electric	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
Payroll				
Salaries (Net)	1,696.16	1,696.16	1,696.16	1,696.17
Federal Withholdings	588.60	735.75	441.45	588.60
NYS Withholdings	365.81			336.96
Insurance				
State-Ins Fund			301.56	
Health	304.00	304.00	304.00	304.00
Liability	973.73			
Postage	248.83	561.61	452.69	53.09
Phone	104.98	137.01	127.89	158.26
Accounting				
Advt				
PIC Lit				
Talking Phone Book			428.40	
Verizon	98.50	98.50	107.00	102.75
website				
white directory				
Yellow Pages			296.00	
Literature Expenses				
Grapvine		434.80	35.00	
World Services Inc	1,028.85	1,021.00	2,519.52	173.60
Hazeldon			553.30	388.45
"In All Our Affairs"				
Printers	2,232.50			
Office Supplies		112.02	181.41	66.00
Answering service	119.29	114.58		117.02
Minolta leasing (copier)	260.45	260.45	260.45	260.45
Minolta Copies	80.30			
Seminar				
Monthly Expenses	8,945.04	6,318.92	8,563.30	5,103.82
Monthly Income (Loss)	(868.67)	1,412.25	654.63	2,822.81
CD	8,039.22	8,039.22	8,039.22	8,039.22
End Bal Cash on hand	4,981.86	6,394.11	7,048.74	9,871.55
Literature Assets:	9,350.98	7,382.40	7,145.65	6,230.35
Literature Receivable:(outstanding)	1,936.24	1,487.14	1,044.35	771.27
Corrections Facilities	835.45	988.72	1,013.72	877.72
Donations	153.27	121.12	414.00	237.67
Expenses		96.12	550.00	15.00
Balance	988.72	1,013.72	877.72	1,100.39
Treatment Facilities	385.79	473.41	501.79	933.09
Donation	178.27	106.12	459.00	212.67
Expenses				
AT & T Bridging The Gap	35.15	36.24	27.70	32.04
AAA Abolt Answering Service	42.00	41.50		46.00
Literature	13.50			214.00
Balance	473.41	501.79	933.09	853.72



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP	CENTRAL		CORRECTIONS		TREATMENT	
	APRIL	YEAR	APRIL	YEAR	APRIL	YEAR
11:45		0.00		0.00		0.00
12 Step		0.00		0.00		0.00
4th Step Stumblers		0.00		0.00		0.00
6th Step	75.00	75.00		0.00		0.00
A Day At A Time		0.00		0.00		0.00
Abbot Men's		178.94		178.94		178.94
Acceptance/Welcome	270.00	620.00		0.00		0.00
Achievement		0.00		0.00		0.00
Action		100.00		0.00		0.00
Age Doesn't Matter	100.00	100.00		0.00		0.00
Ablon Lunchbunch		0.00		0.00		0.00
Alexander	100.00	100.00		0.00		0.00
Amherst Snyder	220.69	403.65		0.00		0.00
Amsdell Lakeshore	20.00	80.00		0.00		0.00
Any Age		0.00		0.00		0.00
Any Length	30.00	120.00		0.00		0.00
As Bill Sees It	15.00	70.00		0.00		0.00
Altitude Adjustment		100.00		25.00		25.00
Attraction		200.00		0.00		0.00
Backdoor		0.00		0.00		0.00
Batavia Friday Night		0.00		0.00		0.00
Beginning in Sobriety II		0.00		0.00		0.00
Beginning's Women		0.00		0.00		0.00
Bidwell Monday		0.00		0.00		0.00
Big Book Lockport	50.00	100.00		30.00		30.00
BB Spiritual Awakening		0.00		0.00		0.00
Big Book Study		0.00		0.00		0.00
Big Book Workshop		0.00		0.00		0.00
Blasdell		0.00		0.00		0.00
Blasdell Monday Night		20.00		0.00		0.00
Bodhisattva		0.00		0.00		0.00
Boulevard Helping Hand		0.00		0.00		0.00
Boulevard Women		80.00		0.00		0.00
Brass		50.00		0.00		0.00
Brocton AA		0.00		0.00		0.00
But For the Grace of God		0.00		0.00		0.00
By The Book		0.00		0.00		0.00
Came To Believe		0.00		0.00		0.00
Castling	70.00	70.00		0.00		0.00
Cathedral Park		0.00		0.00		0.00
Caz Manor	20.00	80.00		0.00		0.00
Cazenovia		0.00		0.00		0.00
Central Park		0.00		0.00		0.00
Chapter IX	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00
Cheektowaga	100.00	300.00		0.00		0.00
Chevy #1		0.00		0.00		0.00
Clarence Men's		0.00		0.00		0.00
Clarence Men's II		0.00		0.00		0.00
Cold Spring		0.00		0.00		0.00
Common Bond		0.00		0.00		0.00
Common Problem		0.00		0.00		0.00
Common Solution		0.00		0.00		0.00
Commitment		0.00		0.00		0.00
Community Center		0.00		0.00		0.00
Complanters		0.00		0.00		0.00
Courage	80.00	80.00	30.00	40.00	30.00	30.00
Arcade		0.00		0.00		0.00
Crossroads		75.00		0.00		0.00
Cross Talk Big Book		25.00		0.00		0.00
Daily Reflections	150.00	150.00		0.00		0.00
Daily Reprieve		0.00		0.00		0.00
Derby		0.00		0.00		0.00
Desire		0.00		0.00		0.00
Downtown Men's		0.00		0.00		0.00
Dunkirk Monday Night		100.00		0.00		0.00
Early Bird		0.00		0.00		0.00
Early Rising Obliging		0.00		0.00		0.00
Easter Softer Way		0.00		0.00		0.00
East Amherst		0.00		0.00		0.00
East Aurora	150.00	300.00		0.00		0.00
Easy Does It	25.00	75.00		0.00		0.00
Ellicott		0.00		0.00		0.00
Ellicottville		0.00		0.00		0.00
Emergency		0.00		0.00		0.00
Eternal Vigilance		100.00		0.00		0.00
Everybody's		40.00		0.00		0.00
Express		0.00		0.00		0.00
Eyeopener		239.94		0.00		0.00
F.U.N.		0.00		0.00		0.00
Faith		0.00		0.00		0.00
Father Baker	200.00	300.00		0.00		0.00
Feelings		50.00		0.00		0.00
Fireside	146.30	1075.69	25.00	25.00		75.00
First Things First		0.00		0.00		0.00
Fredonia Discussion		0.00		0.00		0.00
Freedom	100.00	100.00		0.00		0.00
Fresh Start	30.00	60.00		0.00		0.00
Friendly		0.00		0.00		0.00
Frontier(New)		0.00		0.00		0.00
GAHADA GON		0.00		0.00		0.00
Gardenville		0.00		0.00		0.00
Georgetown		0.00		0.00		0.00

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP	CENTRAL		CORRECTIONS		TREATMENT	
	APRIL	YEAR	APRIL	YEAR	APRIL	YEAR
Getting Better		0.00		0.00		0.00
Giving		50.00		0.00		0.00
Go to Any Length		0.00		0.00		0.00
Golden Slipper		500.00		0.00		0.00
Grand		48.00		0.00		0.00
Grand II Joy of Living		50.00		0.00		0.00
Grateful		0.00		0.00		0.00
Guiding Light		0.00		0.00		0.00
H.O.W.		0.00		0.00		0.00
Hamburg		107.75		0.00		0.00
Hand		0.00		0.00		0.00
Handicappers		200.00		0.00		0.00
Happy Hour		0.00		0.00		0.00
Harmony		0.00		0.00		0.00
Helping Hand		50.00		0.00		0.00
High Noon	70.00	280.00		0.00		0.00
High View		0.00		0.00		0.00
Higher Power		0.00		0.00		0.00
Hillbilly		0.00		0.00		0.00
Holiday Village		350.00		0.00		0.00
Holland		0.00		0.00		0.00
Honest Solutions		0.00		0.00		0.00
Honesty		40.00		0.00		0.00
Hope Big Book Study		20.00		0.00		0.00
How It Works		0.00		0.00		0.00
How It Works/Men's		0.00		0.00		0.00
Inner City		0.00		0.00		0.00
Inspiration		0.00		0.00		0.00
In The Solution		0.00		0.00		0.00
Intoxicated on Life		45.00		0.00		0.00
Ironhorse		43.10		17.20		17.20
IT		0.00		0.00		0.00
Jamestown Groups		0.00		0.00		0.00
Johnson Creek Big Book	60.00	120.00		0.00		0.00
Journey		0.00		0.00		0.00
Just Do It		0.00		0.00		0.00
Just For Today/ Ablon		0.00		0.00		0.00
Just For Today/Cheek		0.00		0.00		0.00
Keep It Simple Sister		40.00		10.00		10.00
Keep On Coming		0.00		0.00		0.00
Kenmore		0.00		0.00		0.00
Kensington		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lake Shore	25.00	205.00		25.00		75.00
Lakeview		0.00		0.00		0.00
Last Days Fellowship		5.00		0.00		0.00
Lawyers		0.00		0.00		0.00
LawPort		0.00		0.00		0.00
Let Go and Let God		0.00		0.00		0.00
Liberty Women		50.00		0.00		0.00
Life Today		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lighthen UP		0.00		0.00		0.00
Live and Let Live		0.00		0.00		0.00
Living in the Solution	20.00	120.00		0.00		0.00
Living Sober		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lock City		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lockport #1		500.00		50.00		50.00
Lockport (no name)		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lockport Discussion		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lockport Ladies		25.00		0.00		0.00
Lockview	400.00	400.00		0.00		0.00
Look To This Day		0.00		0.00		0.00
Love		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lovejoy		20.00		0.00		0.00
Lower River		0.00		0.00		0.00
Main and High		10.00		0.00		0.00
Main Street		0.00		0.00		0.00
Maple Meditations		0.00		0.00		0.00
Marilla	40.00	40.00		0.00		0.00
Matt Taibot	50.00	150.00		0.00		0.00
McKinley Winners		100.00		0.00		0.00
Medina Big Book		0.00		0.00		0.00
Medina New Life		0.00		0.00		0.00
Mercy		0.00		0.00		0.00
Mid-day	33.55	88.05		0.00		0.00
Midnight Discussion		0.00		0.00		0.00
Miracle		0.00		0.00		0.00
Morning After		0.00		0.00		0.00
New Awakening		0.00		0.00		0.00
New Frontier		0.00		0.00		0.00
New Beginnings/St. Vincent		0.00		0.00		0.00
New Life		0.00		0.00		0.00
New Outlook		0.00		0.00		0.00
Niagara Intergroup		0.00		0.00		0.00
New Westside		0.00		0.00		0.00
Niagara Frontier Men's Disc.		70.00		0.00		0.00
North Buffalo	100.00	400.00	25.00	100.00	25.00	100.00
North Java Monday		0.00		0.00		0.00
North Java Sunday		0.00		0.00		0.00
One Day At A Time		0.00		0.00		0.00
Open Arms		50.00		0.00		0.00
Open Mind		0.00		0.00		0.00
Orchard Park Step	74.00	248.00		0.00		0.00
Pass It On		0.00		0.00		0.00
Patchin		0.00		0.00		0.00

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