

# History of AA In Pittsburgh

(narrative by Ruth Hock)  
(Bill W's Secretary)

## PREFACE

The success of A.A. in Pittsburgh is arrested to by our geographical rather than our numerical growth, for it is in reaching out "Just a little further" that we are enabled to extend the hand to those who need and want it.

Experience over the years has taught us that it is unwise to indulge in the exaltation of achievement by quoting membership figures.

Let us just say that through the instruments and influence of A.A., many hundreds of families have found life a lot more worthwhile.

No history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Pittsburgh would be complete without an expression of gratitude to those who have passed on. To them we owe much for having laid a foundation for our sobriety and a life of quality rather than a mere escape from the trouble that once beset us?

May we also express our deep thanks to all of those who have helped us find the broad highway on the way back, for it was through their understanding help and empathy that we not only found the way much more easy but also much more worthwhile. The road lies ahead. History has been made, but history is still in the making.

### The History of Pittsburgh

#### Fifty-Five Years

In preparing this text, we are reminded of the Twelve Promises outlined in the Big Book: "If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations, which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves."

Are these extravagant promises? We think not, they are being fulfilled among us — sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them." (Taken from Big Book Page 83 & 84—Fifty years of freedom in the Mountain State.)

### The Early History of A.A. In Pittsburgh

1940

In *A.A. Comes Of Age*, Bill W. writes about the beginning of the Minneapolis Group in the winter of 1940. He continues, "As I remember it, Buffalo and Pittsburgh started not much later" Alcoholics Anonymous was just five years old when seven men (Five of whom were alcoholics) held Pittsburgh's first A.A. meeting on Friday, December 13, 1940, in Room 152 of the Hotel Henry. Present were Si H., Howell J., Jack H., Arch K., and Jim K. The other two were Tim O'L. And Attorney David J., who arranged the meeting. Both of these men had alcoholic employees and were not only interested in A.A., but also were a big help in the beginning. By the third meeting there were eleven men present.

1941

February 1941 (the new Castle Group started).

On March 1, 1941, the Jack Alexander story published in the Saturday Evening Post, "Alcoholics Anonymous, Freed slaves of Drink - Now Free Others," gave A.A. its first big break. In the same year, six articles appeared in the "Cleveland Plain Dealer." These were followed by a series of articles by Rolly Hemsley. The Cleveland catcher, who was known as "The Bad Boy of Baseball." As the result of this publicity the membership of A.A. jumped from 2,000 to 8,000.

While the initial growth in Pittsburgh was not too rapid, it was steady and consistent. A letter from someone in Pittsburgh to The Alcoholic Foundation, Nation Headquarters—Alcoholics Anonymous. The letter reads,

March 5, 1941.

Box 658,  
Church Street Annex Post Office,  
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Have just read the article published in the Saturday Evening Post, under date of March 1, 1941, entitled "Alcoholics Anonymous". Am greatly impressed with the working of this group And would appreciate any information you may be able to furnish me as to whether there is such a group organized in Pittsburgh, their address, or the requirements of organizing such a group.

Hoping to have an early reply, I am  
Very truly yours,

Robert M. Mad. ✓

A reply from The Alcoholic Foundation.

March 13, 1941

Dear Mr. McW.

Due to the personal tone of your letter of March 5, We wish to add a bit to the enclosed literature.

We are pleased to advise you that a small beginning in The work of A.A. has been made in Pittsburgh. For complete local Information please get in touch with Mr. J. . 611 Clearview Howell J Avenue, Crafton. We assure you that you Mr. J. will appreciate an opportunity to talk with you, and will extend all possible cooperation.

Meanwhile, if we can be of further assistance from this office do not hesitate to get in touch with us again.

Sincerely,  
R. Hock  
Secretary

We have a letter from The Alcoholic Foundation.

Dear Mr. McW:

Please overlook this mimeographed reply to your recent inquiry. Because of the large number of letters being received, our usual personal reply is not possible at this time.

So that you may have a basic understanding of the A.A. Program which has lead to the recovery of so many men and women from the disease of alcoholism, we are enclosing a brief but comprehensive booklet which tells the story of a group of men and women who call themselves Alcoholics Anonymous, and who developed among themselves a successful procedure for recovery from alcoholism, and who are now able to live normal, happy lives without the constant fear of alcohol.

In April, 1939, a book called "Alcoholics Anonymous" was written and published by A.A. members in an effort to get this information to those with whom they could not talk personally, and it has indeed proven valuable in this respect as well as in others.

Our work extends far beyond the book itself, and is carried on mainly through the efforts of each alcoholic on behalf of others. This mutual effort in various localities gradually leads to weekly meetings among A.A. members which are held without dues, fees, or obligations of any sort, merely a desire on the part of those already recovered, now numbering some 2000 men and women, to aid others similarly afflicted.

As in everything else worth-while, this solution to alcoholism can only be attained by the sincere and honest effort of the person who has the alcoholic problem. We are not reformers or evangelists, we make no effort to force ourselves or our ideas upon any individual; however, we stand ready at all times to keep this solution and our experience available to others who have this problem and are seeking an answer.

Therefore, we suggest that you read the enclosed pamphlet. If you then desire to know more of our work and methods or are interested in contacting the group closest to you, please get in touch with us again, for we are anxious to extend all possible co-operation to those who desire it.

We would appreciate an opportunity to correspond with you if we can be of further assistance in any way.

Sincerely,  
R. Hock  
Secretary.

Available facilities in the Hotel Henry became inadequate and the meeting was moved to the downtown Y.M.C.A. on Wood Street, where we celebrated our first anniversary in the Y's cafeteria, with 32 people in attendance and we heard the Co-Founders of A.A. Bill W. and Al, for the price of \$1.10 per person.

1942

A.A. in Pittsburgh had its first geographical expansion when four members, Ed R., Tom L., Joe V., and Jim K. formed the East Liberty group, and held their first meeting in the Eastern Star Hall on the first Tuesday in 1942.

In January, 1942, the New Castle Sunday Group was started by Ed A., John H., and Harry H. the first meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A..

With the war and an increasing number of servicemen were using the Y.M.C.A. for sleeping quarters, meeting space was at a premium and again the Pittsburgh group sought new quarters. The committee was fortunate in securing the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium through the kindness of the management in making a very radical reduction in the rent. Doctor Bob S. made his first visit to Pittsburgh and spoke at the second anniversary. The dinner was held at the Hotel Henry and the meeting in the auditorium, had over 300 in attendance.

### 1943

Many of our members were working nights and could not attend either Tuesday or Friday meetings. Many of the wives did attend and took notes, but this was not the answer. Personal contact was necessary. With this thought in mind, a third group was started on the North Side in February 1943. They met on Sunday night in the Y.M.C.A.. This group was under the guidance of Bob McW. and several downtown members.

### 1944

In 1944 Al R., Roy T., Doc McD., and Herb E. started a group in Glenshaw, most of the meetings were held in Al R.'s home on Saturday nights. Attendance was never too great and after a couple of years, the group folded. The present Glenshaw group came years later.

If the Spring of 1944, five years after she came into A.A., Marty M., a member from the New York Group, spoke at a public meeting, for several large groups in Pittsburgh. At a public meeting: "They told me out right that they wanted to show Pittsburgh that there was such a thing as a women alcoholic, and that they could recover. Still, it was many months after that before they got their first women alcoholic." (Grapevine, June 1994, Page 42).

Experience was fast proving that the small groups offered a more satisfactory method of helping solve the problems of the individuals who sought help. With closer contact and association, it was evident that the program could be much better disseminated in the smaller meetings. A committee was formed, and after much urging, groups were started in several communities, notably South Hills.

#### "South Hills Operation"

The story of the South Hills group or Souse Hills, as it became known is of historical significance in how A.A. operates sometimes. This group was started by five people, and in a short time of a few months had an attendance of over 30, of which 20 continued to drink and attend meetings regularly. As an added social feature, everyone went bowling one night every week. On one occasion when none of the nondrinkers showed, the evening ended up at the Oasis, where every one got "stinko". They also arranged a Safari to Akron, Ohio, for Founder's Day It was a long trip, and a couple decided to take along a bottle for company. Sufficient to say that no one made it to Akron; in fact, some of the didn't even get out of town. The group finally dwindled to four members, but eventually became so large that it is the present Mt. Lebanon Group. (From History of Pittsburgh, By Eph S. 1978).

The Braddock group started when five men met on one of the party's porch, on June 5, 1944. The five men were John M., Clark H., Carl K., Jack P., and Vince Co.. The first meetings were held in Edgar Thompson's cafeteria. At one time it met in the Board Of Directors room of the Braddock National Bank, but there were no facilities to make refreshments. It moved a few more times till they found the present meeting place.

### Back to the Early Days

Because of the acquisition of the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium by WDTV Pittsburgh's First TV Station, we were on the move again. Though the choice of available space may have been limited, the committee could hardly have done worse than to pick No. 1 Court Room in the Court House. This proved to be an unfortunate choice in more ways than one, and the attendance dropped considerably. The error was shortly rectified when the committee arranged to hold the Friday Meeting in the Alno Clubroom on the Sixth Street. Some difficulty was encountered here when it became necessary to explain to the club members that this was an A.A. meeting, and not a market for raffle-tickets, which seemed to be their chief means of support and survival.

When the club moved to West Ohio Street, the meetings went along. From there they moved to the Brimstone Methodist Church on the Corner of Seventh and Smithfield. The church had a young minister who was interested in A.A.. His replacement had other ideas. The next stop was the Congregational Church on Smithfield Street. The evening meetings were apparently not too successful. The committee made one last effort And moved the meeting at the Bell Telephone Auditorium on Stanwix Street. Unfortunately, there was no parking, no coffee and almost no attendance; and so, the meeting, started on Friday, December 13, 1940, came to its final resting place. Several communities now held their meetings on Friday Night and there were so many meetings with adequate parking, doughnuts and coffee that the big meeting had lost its attraction.

### 1945

The North Borough's Group was founded on February 7, 1945. The founders were Stanley E., J.J. Crowley, J.L. Hukill Jr., and H.C. Peace. The meetings were held at the residence of Stanley E.

The Butler Group started in February

The Hazelwood Group started in November

The Crafton Group was started in 1945

### Archives File

A letter date May 15, 1945, from the Alcoholic Foundation.

For All AA Members

Dear A.A.'s:

Several items of interest are in the air and we want the members to know about them.

First and most important is the tenth anniversary celebration to be held in Cleveland on June 10, at 2:30 PM and the Founder's Day Dinner the same day in Akron at 6:30 PM. Both of these affairs are to honor the meeting ten years ago of Dr. Bob S. and Bill W, a meeting from which A.A. was born. Bill hopes to be with Bob at these meetings if his health permits, but has asked me to tell you how much he regrets not being able to accept the many invitations coming in from other nearby groups. The doctors have advised Bill not to do any travelling or group visiting for some time to come. However, he wants to

have coffee and donuts, and so they started a group at St. Stephens. The Penn-McKee group finally went out of existence.

(A letter from the Archives File)

The School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh One-day institute on problems of Alcoholism. Speakers were Howard W Haggard M.D., Department of Physiology Yale University. Mrs. Marty Mann, Executive Secretary, National Committee for Education on Alcoholism, and Rev. Albert J. Murphy, Director Conference of Catholic Charities, was held on March 15, 1946.

(A Letter from the Alcoholic Foundation)

General Headquarters of Alcoholics Anonymous at a special meeting on September 10, 1946 the trustees of the Alcoholic foundation, though their policy committee, issued the following statement as a press release and a bulletin to all A.A. members:

"It has come to our attention that several local and national organizations are soliciting contributions of money from the public through personal appeals and letters from which the public may infer sponsorship by Alcoholics Anonymous.

In view of this fact, we feel that a restatement of our policy in regard to such matters is necessary at this time.

No individual or special group of individuals has been or will be authorized to solicit funds under the sponsorship or with the sanction of the General Headquarters of Alcoholics Anonymous Foundation.

In view of this policy Alcoholics Anonymous not only fails to endorse the present solicitations of funds but also looks with disfavor on the unauthorized use of its name any fund raising activity.

The Trustees of A.A.

## 1947

In May 1947, the Dormant group started on Wednesday Night by Carl B., Henry M., and Peg C..

In November the Brookline Tuesday Group started some of the founders were Dutch T., Bernie K., Bill O'N., and Al S, the first meetings were held in Dutch's home. It then moved to the Methodist Church on Brookline Blvd. and then to the church of the advent.

The Clairton group started by John B., and George S., the group was called "Last Chance Group;" when there is no where else to go, they come here.

The Homewood group started in November 1947. Andy A. from the Akron Group #1, was the speaker at the second anniversary.  
Bulletin

The Pittsburgh Group is glad to announce that starting Tuesday, March 25, at 8 P.M. and continuing every Tuesday thereafter at the same time, there will be beginners class conducted for new comers in A.A. and their sponsors. These meetings will be conducted as instruction classes and should prove very beneficial to the new person and also his or her sponsor. The Fourth Tuesday of each month will be set aside for a class on sponsorship. All A.A.'s are welcome.

The meeting will be held in the Chapel of the Trinity Cathedral Parish House, entrance on Oliver Avenue, enter first gate between the Oliver Building and the church. The Chapel is inside the first door to the left after entering the gate. It is suggested

that it would be a good policy to follow that all-new members be taken to one of these meetings before attending a group open meeting and there after continue attending both meetings. This should stimulate activity amount our group and work to the betterment of A.A. A.A. works for anyone who works for A.A.

Seventh Anniversary  
Carnegie Music Hall  
Wednesday, December 17, 1947  
Pittsburgh, PA 8:15 PM.

A working program starts at 8:15 organ recital at 8:30 three members of the Pittsburgh Group inter stage with Bill W.. Open Meeting with one verse of "Star Spangled Banner." The Reverend McLean opened the meeting with a prayer, in the customary A.A. manner. Mr. Walter D.S. will give "The History of A.A. in Pittsburgh". Introduce the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous Bill W.. The Reverend McLeann Tolcand in the Lords Prayer.

#### Bulletin

There has been some talk of the Pittsburgh group of the Alcoholics Anonymous holding a Christmas Party to include all groups in conjunction with the Open House Social Night being conducted at 3701 Fifth Avenue, Oakland, Saturday, December 27, 1947. In this connection, the following suggestions have been made:

That each group contributes \$5.00 or more towards financing this party.

That we endeavor to obtain a larger, more suitable hall in the Downtown Area, to have music, refreshments, a Christmas tree, favors for the kiddies, Bingo, Cards, Dancing, etc..

That the members of all groups contribute anything they can to help make this a real Christmas Party.

That two or three members of each group be selected to form a committee to handle this party.

#### 1948

On January 27, 1948, the Greensburg Tuesday group, held their first meeting. Present were Chuck S., Joe B., George McG., Ken K., Carl B., Jim R., and Dick C. The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church.

In August 1948 the Oakmont group was started.

The Shadon group started, on Friday evening October 8, 1948.

The Washington PA Group held their first meeting; the speakers were Jim C. from Cleveland, Ohio and Rev. Floyd E. from Columbus, Ohio.

The North Boroughs Group held their third anniversary on February 5, 1948. The speaker was Father Frau, Author of Sobriety and Beyond and the Golden Books. He was known as Father John Doc.

Other Groups that were meeting:

Sunday: Latrobe and Corapolis with M.P.S. as a member.

Monday: Young People, Squirrel Hill, South Hills, Lawrenceville, Charleroi with A.R.N. as a member and Ohio Valley.

Tuesday: Oakland and Greensburg

Wednesday: Wilkinsburg, Highland Park, and Burgettstown

Thursday: Carnegie with Henry R. H. as a member, Shadyside

Friday: Central Meeting Downtown Pittsburgh

Saturday: Cannonsburg

Day Unknown: East End with a member Mrs. Henries K.

Homewood group with a member John McH.

"A Letter of the Spirit of Anonymity"

The Alcoholic Foundation

May 17, 1948. May we make another plea to keep the list of AA. groups confidential !!! Too often letters come in telling of it being used in ways, which cause embarrassment to those listed. We hope one day to have simple listings for all groups, such as secretary, P.O. Box, Phone No., City State. A listing like this would be adequate for all mail and the phone number would assure the traveling A.A.'s of local information in a few minutes. Our list serves vital need and it would be regretful to discontinue it because of a few thoughtless misuses.

To carry out the spirit of anonymity in general main we plan from now on to sign our bulletins simply "Secretary start General Service Office".

Rev Amos Duworthy  
Chapter of Good Faith  
2600 West Fifth Avenue  
McKeesport, Penna.

Dear Sir.

June 1, 1948

Perhaps you have heard of me and my nation wide campaign on the cause of temperance. Each year for the past fourteen years, I have made a tour of the Middle West and delivered a series of lectures on the evils of drinking.

On these tours, my young friend and assistant Herman Forsythe have accompanied me. Herman was a pathetic case, a young man of good family and excellent background, whose life was ruined because of excessive indulgence in whisky, Gin, rum, brandy and not to mention- beer. How much better it would have been had he turned to the Lord.

Herman would appear with me at my lecture and sit the platform drooling at the mouth and staring at the audience through red, bloodshot eyes, while I would point him out as an example of what drinking does to a person.

This past winter, poor Herman died. A mutual friend has given me your name and I wonder if you would care to accompany me on my summer tour and take poor Herman's place.

Yours in the Faith,  
Rev Amos Dilworthy

Members of groups in this area sent this letter to problem drinkers.

A letter from The Alcoholic Foundation.

Talks about tradition seven, June 28, 1948. If every A.A. who has not sent us the necessary \$1.50 per member since February can arrange to send it through his or her group at this time, our financial problem will be solved. Incidentally did you read Bill's article on the seven tradition in the June issue of the A.A. Grapevine. We have tried to operate as efficiently and economically as possible in discharging the duties of your General Service Office, and are grateful for your generous cooperation and

participating contributions. Without your help, we could not function. Many thanks, and best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely yours,  
Secretarial Staff, General Service Office

#### A.A. Picnic

All Pittsburgh Area Group: "South Park". Place - Totem Pole and Spreading Oak Lodges. Time - Saturday afternoon, July 31, 1948. Price - Adults \$1.50 (All children Free) Program - Races, baseball, swimming, boxing bouts (for boys), Picnic dinner will be served - refreshments during the afternoon.

#### A Letter "from the Alcoholic Foundation" July 9, 1948

Flash!! Maybe we're gossiping, because this item doesn't actually concern our office. But we can't resist the chance to scoop the A.A. Grapevine, which is so obviously fond of snooping out news for and about A.A.'s. We have just learned, from an usually reliable source, that the A.A. response to a suggested pocket-size grapevine is overwhelmingly "Yes!" Gazing into our cloudy crystal ball, we predict that our popular monthly magazine will be streamlined accordingly for early fall production, with apologies to Mr. Pearson, we modestly report that our predictions thus far have proven 100% correct - for one simple reason, no doubt we have never before made any.

There's a noteworthy article in the July edition of Hygeia entitled "Alcoholics Anonymous", and one called "Easy Does It". Appears in the first quarterly issue of Federal Probation. Surely we owe a debt of gratitude to our friends of the press and radio, who have helped through the years - on an unpaid, unsolicited basis - to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Alcoholic who still suffers.

Sincerely,  
Secretarial Staff  
General Service Office

Suggested reading for AA's 8/05/48 pamphlets; 1). Alcoholics Anonymous - an interpretation of our 12 steps. 2). Alcoholic Hygiene. 3). Physician's Psychiatric digest. 4) The other Fellow's viewpoint. 5). Large A.A. Pamphlet = A.A. Saturday Evening Post Reprint. Medicine looks at A.A. - About the alcoholic husband - What about the alcoholic Employee. -A.A. Book (Big Book) 6). A Way of Life, - A.A. Sponsorship, - A manual for A.A. - Little lessons in spiritual efficiency - Who Me - Emergency relations - Akron Guild to the 12 steps and many more.

Matt Talbot Group - Religious forum (Second and fourth Sunday) of every month 8:00 PM, 6204 Alder Street. First Meeting September 12, 1948 founder Ed R., Red M., Herb F., Jim O.N., John McH, and Ed M. Modern Aids for Alcoholics in the Pursuit of Happiness. To the man or woman who has found alcohol a problem. Alcoholics Anonymous offers the most efficient mean of solving it. Alcoholics Anonymous brings peace and stability to the alcoholic. It is "Group Therapy" of the highest type, it is individual in that each person's problem is recognized as new and distinct to him at least. He is shown that the group and the individual are dependent on a "power greater than himself".

Through A.A. the alcoholic has discovered a new way to God, the psychological, Through the study of the unconscious realm., the invisible frustrations, complexes, and anxieties the sober alcoholics have taken a new look at religion and Christian theology.

It is quite obvious to many members of A.A. that the religious man has a distinct advantage, a greater guarantee of sobriety and peace of mind. He has grown spiritually and his problems are less pressing.

Through the "Matt Talbot Group", a chance is given to the sober alcoholic to be reeducated in religion, to have an adult understanding of age-old truths and a working knowledge of the pattern that assures not only sobriety but happiness and peace of mind.

The "Matt Talbot Group" is a religious forum consisting of discussions of a spiritual and psychological nature, an and his problems, and the way to a new life.

Membership is open to any sober problem drinker who is interested in his spiritual growth, no matter what color, creed, belief or disbelief he may possess. He makes no commitments, obliges himself in no way is free to come and go, free to ask questions or remain silent.

A letter dated October 25, 1948 from the alcoholic foundation General Headquarters - Alcoholic Anonymous

Meeting in regular session open this date, the trustees of the alcoholic foundation issued to whom it may concern the following statement regarding 'Anonymity', and the use of the name , Alcoholic Anonymous:

The practice of anonymity in our public relations already has had a profound affect upon us, and in the years to come it will undoubtedly remain one of our vital traditions.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the press, radio and motion picture companies of the nation for the splendid job they have done and are doing to respect our tradition of anonymity.

Occasionally, there occurs a break in this tradition, the name or picture of an A.A. member may be publicly printed, or he may speak or be spoken of by name in a radio interview. The responsibility for these regrettable, sometimes sensational, situations may rest with the A.A. himself. There are no rules or regulations that can bind him to the tradition if he chooses to disregard the wishes of the movement as a whole. In some of these instances the general public does not realize that we must ignore the alluring temporary benefits of personal publicity in favor of the long-term benefits of anonymity.

So if you are an A.A. member, or a friend of Alcoholics Anonymous, we earnestly request you personal cooperation in helping to maintain a worldwide policy of Anonymity at the public level as expressed in the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not to be broadcast, filmed or printed publicly. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There never is need to praise ourselves. We feel that it is better to let our friends recommend us.

Finally, no person is authorized to speak for Alcoholics Anonymous, nor obviously should anyone introduce publicly the A.A. name into his own personal affairs or controversy at the public level.

Alcoholic Anonymous

By the Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc.

A Request and apology.

By Bill

As an outcome of talks recently given in New York and Des Moines, Iowa, press reports carrying my full name have appeared at both places.

Since two of the 12 points of A.A. tradition emphasize the great importance of maintaining personal anonymity at the level of press and radio, I naturally feel uncommonly embarrassed and concerned at having been the subject of the anonymity breaks. Just how or why these lapses occurred, I have not yet learned; I thought suitable precautions had been taken against them. Perhaps they were partly due to my own failure to caution reporters present at these particular meetings.

In any case, I feel that all A.A.'s are entitled to this explanation and to my sincere apologies.

Everywhere the press has been uniformly cooperative on anonymity when it is explained as a vital protection to the alcoholic's anonymous movement. May I therefore urgently request all A.A. groups to carefully cover my anonymity on any future appearances and I shall, of course, try to take far greater care myself. Let us never let go of this vital principle.

11/10/48

A letter from the Alcoholic Foundation  
General Headquarters - Alcoholic Anonymous

Dear A.A.'s

October 11, 1948

The American Journal of Nursing, Hygiene and the Journal of the American medical association have recently printed pieces about alcoholics anonymous. We are listing the names of these magazines, with the date of the issue in which the article appeared and the address where it is published and copies may be obtained. Whenever this office gets an inquiry from a doctor or a nurse, we suggest the reading of one or more of these articles.

The American Journal of Nursing - July 1948 404 N. Wesley Avout, Mount Morris,  
Illinois Hygeia - July 1948

The Journal of the American medical association - August 21, 1948.  
535 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Announcement of 8th Anniversary 11/24/48

This year 1948 we will have a Fun night December 6th at 8:30 PM. We are going to hold this in the English and Gold rooms in the Fort Pitt Hotel. In Addition to the above, in January or February, we expect to have an open meeting with an outstanding speaker, the date of this will be announced later.

The cost of the admission tickets for this fun night will be \$2.50 per couple; these tickets may be purchased from your group secretary. The committee feels that this is the best way to handle the sale for the tickets, as it will enable the group to finance any tickets they deem necessary. Your committee is not in a position to accept tickets, which are not paid for. Tickets will be in your secretary's possession November 15, 1948.

Please get your reservations in for the fun night as soon as possible.

Announcement received 12/3/48

Friday evening, December 31, 1948 the Crafton Group will hold their annual New Years evening party the party will be held in the Knights of Columbus hall, 10 West Crafton Avenue, in Crafton.

There will be dancing, cards, Bingo, and Door prizes.

Refreshments - plenty of good coffee.

A.A. members and their friends cordially invited.

Sincerely yours,

Crafton Group

#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To nearly everyone Christmas brings thoughts of warm ties to be renewed, gifts to be given and received. Fresh and wondrous is the vision of him who shines down the centuries to all who will look up and behold.

To us of A.A. the Christmas experience is sure to be doubly meaningful. We know ties more precious than any we had dreamed, we have received the gift of life itself and may freely pass that on, each of us has seen and felt a redeeming radiance which he knows to be the grace of GOD. What more could we ask? what more could we receive?

Yes it's a Merry Christmas - A Merry Christmas indeed! The Trustees, the Grapevine, Dr. Bob, Anne, Bobbie, Lois and I with you the happiest of New Years.

As ever,

Bill

A Letter from the Alcoholic Foundation  
General Headquarters — Alcoholics Anonymous  
December 1948

IV. Each month our secretarial staff will keep all groups posted on general news with the bulletins—to be trustee approved before distribution.

V. The belief is widespread that the name "Alcoholics Anonymous" ought to attach only to an A.A. group, intergroup, or the movement as a whole. Several of our clubs are discarding the A.A. name in their titles. To hasten the process and to prevent possible misuse of our name by anyone, the trustees are now taking steps to incorporate, "Alcoholics Anonymous" in every state of the union.

Happy New Year!

General Service Headquarters

Ann, Bobbie, Virginia, Secretarial Staff

#### 1949

In March of 1949 the Monessen group started.

In May of 1949 the Friendship group was born. The original planner was Bernadette S. Monday night was chosen because of the meetings in the east end.

The Friendship group showed no performance for length of sobriety or accumulated knowledge of the program, but encouraged every member, new or old, to take an active part in discussions, in chairing, in offering the opening prayer, in reading the 12 steps, in speaking of their own experiences for the benefit of all present, and in helping generally with the meeting.

There was a social evening, with bingo cards and refresh-

ments. Sponsored by various groups. Stanwix hall, Third Floor, Corner Stanwix and Penn Avenue. Taken from a meeting list found in the archives files 1949.

#### FROM BILL

Lois and I wish to extend our warmest thanks to those hundreds of friends who sent their cards and remembrances at Christmas. These tokens of affection mean much, we wish it were possible to respond personally to each one. And to everyone, best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Bill

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES FILES

Do you act == or react???

I walked with a friend, a Quaker , to the newsstand the other night and he bought a paper, thanking the newsy politely The newsy didn't even acknowledge it "A sullen fellow isn't he " I commented.

"Oh, he's that way every night, Shrugged my friend".

"Then why do you continue to be so polite to him" I asked.

"Why not." Inquired my friend. "Why should I let him decide how I'm going to act?"

As I thought about his incident later, it occurred to me that the important word was "Act". My friend acts toward people; most of us react towards them.

He has a sense of inner balance which is lacking inmost of us; he knows who he is, what he stands for, how he should behave, He refused to return incivility for incivility because he would no longer be in command of his own conduct.

When we are enjoined (command) in the bible to return good for evil, we look upon this as a moral injunction - which it is . but it is also a psychological prescription for our emotional health. Nobody is unhappy than the perpetual reactor. His center of emotional gravity is not rooted within him-self where it belongs, but in the world outside him. His spiritual temperature is always being raised or lowered by the social climate around him, and his is a mere creature at the Mercy of these elements.

Praise gives him a feeling of euphoria, which is false, because it does not last and it does not come from self-approval. Criticism depresses him more than it should, because it confirms his own secretly shaky opinion of himself. Snubs hurt him and the slightest suspicion of unpopularity in any quarter roses him to bitterness.

A serenity of spirit cannot be achieved until we become the master of our own actions and attitudes. To let another determine whether we shall be rude or gracious, elated or depressed, is to relinquish control over our own personalities, which is ultimately all we possess! The only true possession is self-possession.

The Little Red Book

An interpretation of the twelve steps of the alcoholic anonymous program. A letter from Coil-Webb Company.

Dear Friends,

The many letters we have received from A.A. Groups and individuals reporting the Little Red Book as a helpful source of supplementary reading to the Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous", prompt us to comment on their findings. It is in the spirit of humble appreciation that we list some of the ways in which the little book has been mentioned as an aid to simple understanding of A.A. fundamentals.

Third: it directs attention to vital A.A. fundamentals, stresses importance of studying the Big Book. Through better understanding of our philosophy; creates harmony and coordination between members. It is an incentive as a medium of education in reduction of "Slips".

Fourth: many groups report excellent results from using the interpretation as an outline for study of the 12 steps in weekly classes, which are conducted by qualified members. The classes run from four to six weeks and are of one to two hour duration, and tend to unify a simple 12 step understanding in our fellowship.

Distribution of the Little Red Book is an endeavor by certain Minneapolis members to share with A.A. groups and individuals the book that has been so beneficial to them.

Should you have any suggestions for improvement of the "Interpretation" please send them in perhaps they can be used in future revision that we hope to make.

Sincerely yours,  
Coil-Webb Company  
P.O. Box 564  
Minneapolis, Minn.

PS. Single copies \$2.25 plus postage.

#### LETTER FROM THE A.A. GRAPEVINE

We have been wondering, of late, if everyone knows the A.A. Grapevine is the only official A.A. periodical. It is, you know, back in 1945 a letter written by Bill W. was sent to all the groups from the General Service Headquarters asking whether they wanted to designate the A.A. Grapevine as the official periodical. The answer was overwhelming in the affirmative.

The guiding purpose of the A.A. Grapevine is to publish material consistent with A.A. and helpful to sobriety. We try to make each issue a kind of international monthly meeting in print and a place for exchange of thoughts by members throughout the world.

#### LETTER FROM THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters Alcoholics Anonymous

1949 Bulletin #3 April 5, 1949

Membership 73,218 Groups 2,685 This included groups in 53 hospitals, 66 prisons, 7 U.S.A. possessions and 26 other countries. 221 groups did not report a membership figure.

New projects sometime in the future, we are planning to prepare a list of non - A.A. groups (wives, families, etc.) List of hospital groups, and a listing of all the publications put out by local groups. This is in response to the many, many inquiries we have received on these subjects.

#### Announcement

8th Anniversary of A.A. in Pittsburgh

Place of Meeting: Carnegie Lecture Hall

Speaker: Clem Lane (Newspaper Editor from Chicago, Ill.)

Time: 7:45 (the door will be opened at this time)

#### A LETTER FROM ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters - Alcoholics Anonymous

1949 Bulletin #4 May 5th

A new recording by Bill: Bill W wishes that he could accept all of your kind invitations to speak at large group meetings, conferences and conventions. Since this is not possible the second best bet seems to be a recording that would be suitable for these occasions such a recording, called, "Milestone of A.A.'s" is now available. It is a five-minute talk on one side of a 12" record, is designed to be used as an opening address, and may be played on any ordinary machine with a loudspeaker attachment. These records will be distributed in the same way as the earlier set made by Bill. Orders may be sent to us, which we will relay to the recording company for Air-express shipment. This company works with us a cash basis, so we ask that you enclose your money order or check (made payable to Works Publishing Inc.) with each order. The cost of each record is \$2.25, which includes packing and prepaid air-express. Kindly allow about 10 days for delivery.

#### A LETTER FROM THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters Alcoholics Anonymous

For Immediate release.

To : All newspapers, all news service, radio announcers and radio programs

New York, N.Y May 14— This statement is issued by the General Service Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous. We do not endorse or oppose the current fund raising campaign being carried on by an educational committee on alcoholism. Alcoholics Anonymous is not connected with it and wishes to refer you to the following traditional policy:

Our experience has taught us that Alcoholics Anonymous ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of its own members; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies.

For example, we can say quite emphatically that neither alcoholics anonymous as a whole nor any A.A. group ought to enter any other activity than straight A.A. as a movement or as a group we cannot endorse, finance or from an alliance with any other cause, However good; we cannot link the A.A. name to other enterprises in the alcoholic field to the extent that the public gets the impression we have abandoned our sole aim. We must discourage our members and our friends in these fields from stressing the A.A. name in their publicity or appeals for funds. This would include the maintenance of personal anonymity in the public eye; i.e. press, radio and pictures. To act otherwise will certainly imperil our unity, and to maintain our unity is surely our greatest obligation to our brother alcoholics and the public at large.

As we define it, Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. A.A. has no dues or fees. It is not allied with any sect, denominations, politics, organization or institution. Does not wish to engage in any controversy neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

First Annual Western Pennsylvania

A.A. Retreat 1949

"Ask the Man Who Made One" May 15, 1949

Dear Friend,

We are happy to announce the first annual man's A.A. retreat open to all members of Alcoholic Anonymous which will be held at Sacred Heart Mission House, Girard, Pennsylvania. The retreat will open at 8:30 P.M. Friday July 8th and close at 4 P.M., Sunday July 10th. This retreat will be A.A.'s only and will be given by the undersigned, a member of the Indianapolis group. Its purpose is to provide an invaluable opportunity to "Seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him" (11th Step). We know from experience at our former retreats and at retreats in other A.A. groups, that many a one has finally grasped the spiritual side of the program in the quiet of a retreat. There is no one who has not benefited greatly by attendance, it is nondenominational, but A.A.

Full accommodations, including rooms, meals, and all incidentals will be provided. To help defray this expense an offering of \$12.00 is asked of those attending. This will cover everything including a copy of the souvenir retreat booklet. Offerings must be made in advance and mailed to the undersigned with the enclosed registration card or facsimile. Since we shall accept only the first 100 registrations, we advise registration as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Should anyone feel financially unable to make the above offering, he may contact the undersigned and arrangements will be made for him to attend.

As many as can do so should be present for the opening conference on Friday at 8:30 P.M. Supper will be served at 6:00 P.M. for those present.

If you desire any further information feel free to write me at the address below:  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Fraternally in A.A.  
Father Pfau

PO Box 1194  
Indianapolis, Indiana

#### A LETTER FROM THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters - Alcoholics Anonymous

1949 Bulletin #5 To All A.A. Members June 7th Publicity - The July issue of Liberty Magazine on the newsstands, June 17, carries an article titled "How San Francisco Sobers Em up." This piece deals with what one city in the United States hopes to do with its alcoholic problem. The July issue of Coronet, Distribution Date June 24, also carries an article "New Help for Alcoholics" which may be of interest to A.A.'s especially those "Silent Partners" -the wives, husbands and families of members. It is written by the wife of an A.A. and describes what are now becoming known as "Non-groups. These groups are made up of close relatives of members.

Recordings - In our bulletin #4, May 5, 1949 we announce a new recording by Bill called "Milestones of A.A." We also mentioned it would be distributed in the same manner as an earlier recording by Bill. Orders for and questions about this earlier record poured in. Both recordings are now available. The First "A Talk by Bill - April 1947 (two 10 inch records which run 15 minutes) sells for \$3.30 at set. The second "Milestones of A.A." sells for \$2.25 both shipped insured parcel post prepaid. All orders for records must be accompanied by payment, for the company, which makes and ships the records deals with us on a cash basis. They can no longer ship via Air express as previously stated for the increased rates now make the price prohibitive; allow 10 days delivery from receipt

of order. Please remember, these records may not be used for radio broadcasting, they are distributed for A.A. meetings or home playing only.

## A LETTER FROM THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

1949 Bulletin #6 To All Members July 7th

Publications - There seems to be a growing impressions that all pamphlets, cards and mimeographed material on A.A. subjects have been published by us and carry a "Formal stamp of Approval: The true picture is that literally hundreds of groups publish local material on A.A. and their interpretation of the 12 steps. In line with our traditions we feel that in the matter of this local literature, . . . just as in its other affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority. But the group conscience. The trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation have discussed this matter and the conclusion is always that group literature should be left free and clear for local distribution. We do try to keep track of which group publishes what pamphlets - simply to answer inquiries correctly!

As regards our own publications, most of you know that the Alcoholic Foundation wholly owns Works Publish, Inc., which was established to publish the Book - Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill has had much to do with the writing our pamphlets and the trustees are consulted by us before we publish and distribute anything. With this bulletin you will find an order blank, which list all publications obtainable through us. In ordering, please send only a money order or check as cash is so easily separated or lost. Also it would help us greatly if the groups could anticipate their needs. Recently telegraphic rush orders have waited in our P.O. Box over an entire weekend, the telegram having arrived after the close of office hours on Friday.

"Wash Tubes" Questions about the comic strip by Leslie Turner, appearing in many papers, pour in. Leslie Turner is not an A.A. member but according to the Newspaper Enterprise Association has many close friends in A.A., he lives in Florida.

Non A.A. groups - We now have our promised list of the Non-A.A. groups, of which three publish a pamphlet. Have you read the article in the July issue of Coronet, "New help for Alcoholics". Describing the functions of these informal groups?

#### A LETTER FROM THE REV RALPH PFAU,

Dear Friend, September 15, 1949

In Response to the numerous requests received for a copy of the track on "Attitudes". Given to many of the southeastern groups this past winter. I am happy to inform your group that

Page 30

such is now available as the "Silver Book Of Attitudes" and may be ordered from the Smt. Publishing Co., Indianapolis.

Assuring you of my highest esteem and with the kindest personal regards.

Fraternally in A.A.

Father Pfau

#### A LETTER FROM THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters - Alcoholic Anonymous

1949 Bulletin #8 To All A.A. Members September 9th

Radio? - Perhaps many of you are acquainted with the "Aunt Jenny" Program which is broadcast over CBS at 12:15 Monday through Friday. FLASH to all members. From October 3rd thru 7th, and October 10th thru 13th "Aunt Jenny" will present the story of an alcoholic who recovers through A.A.. Professionals will act the parts and it promises to be of interest to A.A.s everywhere. On the Friday before October 3rd, at the end of the "Aunt Jenny" regular program, there will be a three-minute introduction to the forthcoming story by an anonymous women member of A.A.

#### ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT

November 15, 1949

On Wednesday evening, December 7, 1949, the Pittsburgh Central Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will celebrate its ninth anniversary dinner at McSorley's Colonial Inn. Located at 958 Ohio River boulevard, Avalon (Route 88) Dinner will be served at 6:45 P.M.

The tickets are \$2.00 per person. A member of the program committee will deliver, personally, the tickets for your group. It is necessary that the committee know by December 5th, the number of your group members who plan to attend -as reservations must be made.

We are happy to inform you that Marian Mallett, the senior secretary of the Alcoholic Foundation in New York, will be present as our hundred guest and principal speaker. Following the program, there will be cards, bowling, and dancing (Round and Square).

For a good time and a chance to renew old and make new acquaintances in the A.A. plan to attend this ninth anniversary dinner.

Program Committee

1950

The first open meeting of the Perry Group was on April 26, 1950, at the Zion Lutheran Church. The First Speakers were the first members of the North Boro's group. This is the only group we have in our files that started in 1950.

From the Archives File - A Letter to All Members of Allegheny County Area of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Greetings

At a recent meeting of your newly appointed "Secretary's Conference Committee" matters pertaining to the operation of our Central Office were reviewed and discussed at considerable length.

The work of this committee, as stated at the time of their appointment, is to discuss and suggest, only, anything that may offer increased efficiency in the handling of matters effecting this office.

We feel that the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary should be limited to the dissemination of information concerning A.A. and the help it has to offer and that any discussion of Alcoholism, the Alcoholic and his or her problems should be handled entirely by members of A.A.

Considerable comment has come to hand of the limited opportunities to do twelve step work and it has been suggested that all calls for assistance, whether by phone or in person, should be forwarded to the group secretary in each locality in which the call originates, regardless of whether the individual had been contacted by an A.A. member.

Experience has taught us that informed members are less likely to resort to criticism. Most misunderstandings are due to insufficient or incorrect information reaching the individual members of various groups. Groups as a whole should feel responsible that the Central Office should be informed immediately of any change of group secretaries in order that all communications and information reach the proper parties and that all information be brought to the attention of the members and be made available for their consideration.

We realize, along with many others, the urgent need for an additional room at the central office where possible new members, and others making inquiries, may be given the full, patient and serious attention they deserve. The office was never intended to be used as a "Club Room" and congestion and confusion tend to penalize the secretary in the performance of her duties. Let be fair with the person who at best, has a very difficult job to do.

Sober reflection should bring a realization that A.A. is growing, must expand its facilities to meet each new need and a little better financial participation by all groups is the evident answer.

We, therefore, solicit your cooperation and participation in all matters concerned here in and we will be glad to meet with any individual or group to discuss any matters that may pertain to the operation and address of our General Office.

Sincerely,  
Ed H. Ryan, D.D. Delphy Jr.  
D. Walter Smith

A Letter from General Service Headquarters Alcoholics Anonymous  
Bulletin #2 To All A.A. Members February,  
1950.

Far East International lists, — Our "Loners at Sea," who call themselves the Far East Internationalist, would like very much to correspond with A.A.'s ashore. A list of these "Loners" is available at the General Service Headquarters for anyone interested in responding to the worthwhile request.

Traveling — As much as we would like to defray all expenses when members of our secretarial staff are invited to speak before out lying groups, our budget at this time will not permit us to do so. May we count on your understanding until such time as this can be remedied?

Best wishes to all,  
Senior General Secretary

A Letter From General Service Headquarters Alcoholics Anonymous  
Bulletin #3 To All A.A. Members March, 1950

Printed on Parchment — because of the many requests which have come into headquarters, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are now available for framing at the price of \$2.50 per set. They are printed on parchment, and we feel that they would make an attractive addition to the walls of meeting places or clubhouses. Your order may be placed through General Service Headquarters, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Annex, New York, N.Y.

April 20, 1950  
NOTICE

Beginning with Friday Night - April 28, 1950, Central (Downtown) group meeting will be held in the assignment room at the Court House at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Grant and Diamond and Ross Streets, Pittsburgh PA.

The assignment room is located on the third floor of the courthouse and the entrance to be used is through the archway on Diamond Street.

The Friday night meetings of the Central (Downtown) group will be held at the above location in the courthouse until further notice. Parking will not be permitted in the Court House Yard.

## The First International Conference

Dear Secretary

April 28, 1950

This meeting of thousands of A.A.'s from all over the world,  
Sponsored by THE PIONEER GROUPS, endorsed by OUR CO-FOUNDERS, BILL  
and Doctor Bob, and the Alcoholic Foundation has been acclaimed by  
all the hundreds of A.A.'s with whom it has been  
discussed.

At this vitally important gathering of A.A.'s those attending will be reaffirmed and defined by a great meeting of minds and will undoubtedly have the same stabilizing effect on our group public relations that the Twelve Steps had in bringing the A.A. philosophy to individuals.

A fellowship of 100,000 men and women belonging to thousands of groups in hundreds of cities, need confirmed traditional policies to effectively and satisfactorily meet their obligations to society in general.

This meeting or series of meetings, is being sponsored by the three pioneer groups - Akron, New York and Cleveland, and administered by a full-time secretary Cleveland was chosen as the best location because it is the most centrally located of the three groups, and adequate facilities to handle the thousands who will attend.

In addition to the conference itself and the "Big Meeting", a general program of planned activities and meetings of special interest groups such as A.A. women, institutional groups, office and group secretaries, industrial relations, AA publications, Hospitalization, Young People's groups == and other subjects will be scheduled for falls discussion.

The conference is to be financed in true A.A. tradition - by a nominal registration fee for all meetings, tentatively fixed at \$1.50 per person attending.

Please discuss this First International Conference with your group at once, and let us know how many of you plan to attend at your own expense and/or how many if any, the group will send. Please advise us on the return card the number we may expect from your group as early as possible. First International Conference Committee

### OF INTEREST TO YOU!

Dr. Bob and I have been asked by the Cleveland-Akron Groups and by the trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation of New York to announce:

The First International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.  
This gathering of our fellowships will be held at Cleveland,  
Ohio, July 28-30, 1950, in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the founding of A.A. Such an extraordinary meeting is proposed at this time for excellent reasons:

First: Alcoholics Anonymous is moving from infancy into maturity, so this will be our "Coming of Age" party.

Second: By the vote of a large number of A.A.'s, we hope at Cleveland to see our "Twelve Points of Tradition" so confirmed that none will ever again doubt where we stand upon these principles.

Third: We would like to make possible a series of discussions, which could give us sound opinions on current problems as they affect our lives together, and our relations with the world.

Fourth: Naturally everyone will wish to see everyone else, and will be eager to attend the largest A.A. meeting ever held under a single roof.

Yes, Co-founder Dr. Bob, our good friends, the trustees, the Grapevines and the general Office Secretaries will be there. So will Lois and I, Full of Joy at seeing you too.

This idea sprang from the A.A.'s of Cleveland and Akron, though A.A. was born at Akron, the Town couldn't hold us now. So the hospitable Clevelanders (Pioneer Group No.3) will hold our party in their city assisted by the Akronites, will take on the role of playing host. Every A.A. group in the world will soon receive an invite from their conference committee Dick S., Chairman. Give them a hand, get in your reservations early. Be seeing you at Cleveland.

Bill

Reprinted from the A.A. Grapevine, April 1950

#### General Service Headquarters

Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #6 To all A.A. Members June, 1950

Pamphlet: last year at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Montreal, Bill gave a talk on A.A.

This talk was published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, and your General Service Headquarters has had it reprinted in pamphlet form. The new addition to the publications issued by the Alcoholic Foundation is enclosed with this bulletin and can be ordered in quantity through us a five cents a copy.

#### First International Conference

15th Anniversary of Alcoholic Anonymous

Dear Secretary, July 5, 1950

Please read to your group before putting on your Bulletin Board!  
To you and your group.

Visualize an A.A. meeting room - 1950 International Convention Style!

The huge Cleveland Public Auditorium—seating 10,000—is a far cry from an Akron kitchen. Yet as Bill and Dr. Bob step before the throng which will fill this great hall, they will be remembering it will be a moment to bring a lump to every throat—and to thank God not for our impressive number, but for the grace by which each of us can stand and be counted amid such overwhelming evidence that man, with divine help, can rise above his own weaknesses.

We know that you and each member of your group will want to be present, to personally be among those that will stand and be counted!

What a privilege this convention offers—if you and your group have not as yet sent your reservations—please do it now. We can take care of all who will attend but we must know how many. We are running out of time!

Most Sincerely,  
First International Conference Committee

#### General Service Headquarters

Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #7 To All A.A. Members July 1950

Wallet Cards—laminated wallet cards, with the twelve steps printed on one side and the twelve traditions on the other side are now available at the headquarters. They may be ordered through this office at \$3.50 per hundred. Dates—for our records, we would like very much to have the exact date and location of the First Regional Conference (two or more states meeting in one locality). And also the date and the name of the state in which the first state conventional or assembly was held. Your General Service Headquarters would gratefully receive this information.

Best wishes for happy vacations to all of you from all of us.

Secretary

"He is the Rock upon which A.A. is founded".

Dr. Bob, Born August 8, 1879 in St. Johnsbury, Vermont close to noon time on Thursday, November 16, 1950, he was resting, the nurse in attendance stood by his bed, watching....waiting for any change that might come, Dr. Bob, M.D. lifted his hand to the light... with professional calm he studied the color.... with a final confirming glance, he spoke....

"You had better call the family.. this is it..."

—So reconciled with his brothers, he placed his gifts upon the alter and went his way.. Reprint from A.A. Grapevine January 1951, RHS pp 3., 25, 44.

#### The Alcoholic Foundation

General Headquarters — Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #12 To All A.A. Members December 1950

Memorial Issue—The January A.A. Grapevine will be a memorial issue devoted to Dr. Bob. This Grapevine staff is working hard to make this an issue that will be treasured by A.A.'s everywhere for years to come. We suggest that A.A. groups or members who will want extra copies of this memorial issue, notify the A.A. Grapevine, P.O. Box 85, Knickerbockers Station, New York, N.Y of their requirements just as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
General Secretary

The Alcoholic Foundation

General Headquarters      Alcoholics Anonymous

Christmas 1950

Dear A.A.'s

This is the fifteenth Christmas for A.A., never have we had so much cause for gratitude; never has providence been so generous. The gift of a new life has been granted 20,000 more of us in 1950; the opportunities to become givers in turn, as well as receivers, have been limitless. Happy Noel, Indeed!

Lois and I join with all who serve here at the foundation to wish each of you every joy of this precious season.

Devotedly,

Bill

1951

The Ford City Group was established in October 1951. The group was known as the Ford City 12 x 12.

Friday Noon Smithfield Street Group was founded on November 8, 1951. The founder was Marie McD. (closed approx. 1965) for years. Friday noon was the pioneer noon group in Pittsburgh.

April 20 - 22, 1951. The First General Service Conference of A.A. was held in New York, NY The 1951 Conference highlights are in the Archive's files.

The Alcoholic Foundation

General Headquarters - Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #2 Bulletin From Bill February, 1951

Re: The General Service Conference

Dear AAs:

This month's bulletin was turned over to me because you will wish to be brought up to date on the progress of our General Service Conference.

The Conference was first a dream, then an idea, then a gamble. But now I am delighted to say it is a reality Here is where we stand: Approximately 1400 AA Groups have already assented to the Plan and the majority have sent in their (\$5 -\$10) contributions for the general overhead expense as described in the "third Legacy" pamphlet.

More importantly State assembly Meetings have been held at Boston, New York, Newark and Philadelphia. These have proved, beyond a shadow of doubt, that State or Area committeemen and Delegates can surely be named without the usual political friction. These Assembly meetings have produced excellent Delegates and Committeemen, the latter well distributed geographically the results have exceeded our highest hopes. The Conference scheme really does work at the grassroots, we need have no further fear on this score.

We shall presently mail all AA groups a supplement to the "Third Legacy" pamphlet. This will show the Host Committees more clearly in States I cannot visit, how to set up their Assembly Meetings.

Meanwhile the financing of the "general overhead expense" for the April 1951 conference here at New York has been coming along. We have already received over \$5,000. Between now and April, I hope we shall pick up at least \$2,500 additional in (\$5 - \$10) contributions from still more groups who may wish to participate. If therefore, your Group hasn't sent in its contribution I wish you would do so—checks payable the Alcoholic Foundation "Conference Funds".

Though the Conference will be only one-half size in 1951, the initial expenses for the first year will be heavy because we shall have to include the cost of printing and distributing 50,000 copies of the "Third Legacy", several extra mailings, my travel to 15 states, etc. Of course these unusual expenses will not recur in 1952; but, an equal amount of these extra funds will then be required to take care of the "second panel" delegates on their arrival in '52.

Communications respecting the Conference should be directed to Helen Brown of this office. She will act as General Service Conference Secretary for 1951.

Gratefully yours,

Bill

PS. Ruth Breen asks those group who have not sent in their information for our World Group Directory to do so right away. The deadline on the Directory is February 15, 1951.

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

#### WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY.

A meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Assembly was held in the Fort Pitt Hotel Gold Room, March 18, 1951.

The Chairman of the Host Committee called the meeting to order. Fifty-three Regional Groups were represented.

The Host Committee, for purposes of clarification presented a suggestion that the Regional committee be composed of ten members, representation of the various groups to be distributed geographically as follows:

Allegheny County	3
North	3
East	2
West	1
South	1

This suggestion was presented as a motion, seconded and carried unanimously.

Motion made seconded and carried that written ballots be used for election of the ten committeemen. The first elected to be Chairman. Voting as follows:

- 1st ballot      WG. G. as Chairman
- 2nd. ballot     Fred E. as Treasurer
- 3rd. ballot     C.H D. as Secretary

Motion made seconded and carried that only the delegates from their respected areas vote for their committeemen.

Voting results as follows:

Allegheny County	J.Q. M.D.
North	J.C. W and Arthur B.
East	Chas H. V and George McG.
West	Ben M.
South	Stanton F.

These, with the elected Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary from the Committee of the ten area representatives. Moved seconded and carried unanimously that all delegates present concur in election of the above ten committeemen.

Moved, seconded and carried that names of elected committeemen be posted on black board.

Moved, seconded and carried that the ten elected committeemen retire and elect a delegate and two alternates from that group as delegate to National Conference. Following a short recess, the committeemen announced that they had elected Delegate to National Conference WG. G.-C.h

V. Alternate, Stanton E. 2nd Alternate.

The date of April 20-21-22 was announced for Conference meeting in New York City, Hotel Commodore. Moved, seconded, carried the Pittsburgh Central Group is responsible for the expenses of the initial Regional Meeting. Meeting adjourned.

#### THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters - Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #4 TO ALL A.A. MEMBERS April, 1951

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP** You will notice, when you receive your copy of the World Group Directory for 1951, that the membership figure is slightly under 120,000 total - the number quoted quite generally for some time now. Unfortunately there are any number of groups which did not give us any membership figure at all; there are also prison groups whose membership is not known; and then there are the groups which did not return the directory information card, and from whom we have had no correspondence in over two years - or since January, 1942 - (these groups were omitted from the directory list, since it was felt that the meager information in our files was obsolete, or the group was disbanded). There also may be some groups in existence, which have never registered with General Service Headquarters. Taking all these things into consideration, we still feel that the overall membership figure of 120,000 is substantially correct.

**MAY ISSUE** The May Issue of the A.A. Grapevine will contain an article of the life of Dr. William Duncan Silkworth of New York City, author of the chapter entitled:

"The Doctor's Opinion" in the Alcoholics Anonymous book. The recent death of Dr. Silkworth grieved many in A.A. Those of you who did not know him will be interested to learn of his important contributions to the A.A. movement in the days of its infancy and through the ensuing years.

**NEW PAMPHLET** By special permission of the Editors, and article  
on A.A., which appeared in the February issue of Fortune magazine,  
has been prepared in pamphlet form and reprints are now for sale  
from this office for 8 cents a pinch. This reprint comes to you in a  
new form - pocketsize! We are anxious to know how you like it.

**Cordial best wishes to all.**

Sincerely,

# Ruth Breen

# General Secretary

# **THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION**

## **General Headquarters - Alcoholics Anonymous**

### **A CALL TO SERVICE**

# BY BILL

# May- 1951

# Dear AAs:

This is the spring request for funds to keep our A.A. General Office going-January 1, to July 1, 1951. But in this letter you may also sense the unfolding of an historic event and you will surely hear a special call to service.

# OUR GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MEETS

The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous held its first gathering at A.A. Headquarters last month. Delegates from half the states and provinces of the U.S. and Canada - 37 of them - sat in a three day conference with our Alcoholic Foundation Trustees, staff members of the General Office and Grapevine. These excellent and carefully chosen A.A.'s had come to New York to view the Foundation and its past

record; they had come to decide whether they wished to take responsibility for A.A.'s principal services and the permanent guardianship of our Traditions.

# AA ACCEPTS ITS THIRD LEGACY

There was deep significance in all this. It actually proved that A.A. had grown up; A.A. was proposing to take its affairs into its own hands, and it certainly did, forthwith. The Group Conscience of all A.A. was heard to speak for the first time; at that precise moment our Third Legacy of Service passed from Dr. Bob and me to you.

# LAST YEAR'S DILEMMA

This time a year ago we were in tough financial shape. Looked like we might run \$45,000 in the hole. When I wrote you about this last fall your response was wonderful. As you'll see by the coming Annual Report, we finished 1950 somewhat in the red. But you did save us from real financial calamity. My deep thanks to all who helped.

**THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION  
General Headquarters- Alcoholics Anonymous  
Number 5  
May 1951**

**Bulletin At A Glance**

1. First General Service Conference a Success, Thanks To You All!
2. Cleveland Session Recordings now available through this office.
3. Dr. Bob's last major talk now on record.
4. We have a new secretary at the general Service Office.
5. Up-to-date listing of "loners" ready for you.

#### FIRST PANEL OF CONFERENCE MEETS – DELEGATES TO REPORT BACK TO YOU

The first meeting of the General Service Conference of A.A. was held in New York late last month and the 37 delegates from the first "panel" will soon be reporting back to their area committees. In addition, a summary of the meeting will be sent to all groups including those from Panel Two who will have delegates at the Conference next year. Future issues of your 'grapevine' will also carry detailed material on the Conference and on General Office Services.

As you know the Conference is designed to turn back to A.A. as a whole the "legacy of service" created and sustained by early members and their friends.

Everyone at your General Service Office joins in a heartfelt thanks to those groups whose contributions and support made possible the success of the first Conference meeting.

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#### RECORDINGS OF CLEVELAND SESSIONS BEING DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THIS OFFICE

All orders for recordings should be accompanied by check or money order.

(Make checks and money orders payable to Works Publishing, Inc.)

All prices include parcel post costs. For Railway Express, add 50 cents.

For Air Express, add \$1.00.

Note: some records are 78 rpm; other is 33 1/3 rpm.

"A take BY Bill – 1947"	78RPM
	\$3.30

(2 records)

Reviews the development of A.A. and recalls some of the problems encountered in the early days of the movement.

"Milestones of A.A."	78 RPM
	\$2.25

(1 record)

Recording of a talk given by Bill at San Francisco in which he summarizes highlights of several crucial periods on the growth of A.A.

\* "A.A. Traditions"

33 1/3 RPM (LP)

\$7.00

(4 sides)

Recording of one of the key meetings of the international Conference at Cleveland, 1950. Bill and other A.A.'s are heard in a discussion of the importance of the Twelve Traditions to the future of A.A.

\* "The Big Meeting"      33 1/3 RPM (LP)      \$8.50

(4 sides)

Recording of the final (Sunday afternoon) session of the 1951 International Conference at Cleveland. This is the only recording on which both Bill and Dr. Bob may be heard.

"Dr. Bob's Last Major Talk" 33 1/3 RPM (LP) \$5.00

(2 sides)

In this talk, recorded in 1947, four years before his death, Dr. Bob told a Detroit audience of the early days of A.A., with special reference to the development of the first "group" in Akron.

When ordered together, recordings of "A.A. Traditions" and "The Big Meeting" may be purchased for \$15.00.

DR. BOB'S LAST MAJOR TALK NOW READY ON RECORD

A member who was present with a portable recorder fortunately preserved the 1947 Detroit talk of Dr. Bob, one of our cofounders, for us. This was Dr. Bob's last major talk. A special long-playing record of the talk has just been made and is ready for distribution.

Sincerely,

General Secretary

PS. watch for a special letter from Bill that will be along soon.

Attention Secretary: When your group has been informed of contents of Bulletin suggest placing it in Secretary's Handbook for reference.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 10, 1951

Dear Secretary:

In May 1951 "Bill" in New York wrote to all Secretaries explaining the financial needs of the New York Foundation. In the letter it was suggested through the "General Service Conference", that the old measuring stick of voluntary group contributions of \$1.00 per member per year be temporarily abandoned in favor of \$1.00 per member semi-annually

Our Steering Committee on Friday July 6, 1951, suggested that the Secretary write to all local group secretaries reminding them of their responsibilities to the New York Foundation.

It was also suggested that all contributions be sent to the Pittsburgh Central Office, so that one check for the entire Pittsburgh area be sent to New York as was the former practice. Each local group will receive recognition for their contribution in the New York Office. Deadline for these contributions is July 31, 1951.

SINCERELY  
ELEANOR SRODOS

Sincerely  
Eleanor Srodes.

THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION  
General Headquarters - Alcoholics Anonymous  
Bulletin #7      July 1951  
(FOR POSTING IN SECRETARY'S HANDBOOK) BULLETIN  
AT A GLANCE

1. More than 50 "service Story" film Strips ordered by Groups
2. New Handbook Section Lists All Foundation Literature, Recordings
3. How You Can Help Groups Abroad and Prison Groups
4. New Wallet Cards Feature Prayer and Description of A.A.
5. All Groups Receive "Conference Highlights" Pamphlet

DOES YOUR GROUP KNOW WHAT THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE DOES?

Thousands of A.A.'s throughout the country today have a better understanding of how the General Service Office of the Alcoholic Foundation operates. These A.A.'s are members of groups that have staged the special colored filmstrip presentation on the G.S.O. and on the A.A. Grapevine. Groups and committees in the U.S. and Canada have ordered more than 50 copies of the presentation. The strip shows "where the money goes," how General Service Office activities develop through fifteen main channels.

Copies of the strip, which can be shown with any 35-millimeter filmstrip projector, are \$10.00, by cash, check or money order, payable to Works Publishing, Inc. Two copies of an illustrated narrative script are sent with each print.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

At the final Conference session the delegates approved unanimously the following proposals, which are presented here in condensed form:

1. Non-alcoholics should continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation.
2. In future years A.A. textbook literature should have Conference Approval.
3. There should be a fixed term of office for alcoholic members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.
4. Attendance at the 1952 Conference should be limited to Conference members only.
5. The subject of A.A. auxiliaries or family groups should be discussed further by the local groups and be considered at the 1952 conference.
6. The temporary Conference charter, suggested in the "Third Legacy" pamphlet, is suitable for the coming three years and the general principles guiding A.A. assemblies are also approved.
7. It is suggested that each delegate report to his State or Provincial Committee a summary of the financial report.

8. It is suggested that each delegate advise his Committee of the visual (film strip) presentation, approved for general issue, illustrating the services of the "Grapevine" and the General Service Office.

9. Conference approval of services rendered by the "Grapevine" and the General Service office should be conveyed to the groups and individual members.

10. All members should be informed of the projected 1951 General Service Office budget, which is \$107,000

It is suggested that those groups wishing to participate in contributing to the Alcoholic Foundation give a minimum of two dollars per member for the year 1951.

11. It is suggested to the Board of Directors of the "Grapevine" that some mild form of promotion for an increase in circulation be adopted.

12. If there is no considerable improvement in the financial condition of the "Grapevine" by October 1, 1951, an increase in price is recommended to avoid further depletion of the Alcoholic Foundation reserve fund.

13. Suggestions for new alcoholic trustees of the Foundation may be submitted to any State or Provincial Committee man, or sent direct to the Foundation.

The above "Advisory Actions," intended for the guidance of Trustees of the Foundation represent a milestone in A.A. Through their adoption by the Conference, the movement as a whole assumed a participating responsibility in determining the future of A.A. not alone for those who are already sober but for "the million who still don't know"

(Additional copies of this report available at five cents each)

The Alcoholic Foundation, 141 East 44th Street, N.Y.C.

## THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

### BULLETIN #9

September, 1951

(For Posting in Secretary's Handbook)

### BULLETIN AT A GLANCE

1. Out-Of-Towner's invited to 17th Anniversary Dinner Reception

2. Bill's talk on "Third Legacy" Now Available

3. Serenity Prayer Now on Parchment Paper

4. Service Office Secretaries Rotate Assignments

5. Bill Curtailing Travels after covering 25 states.

### NOVEMBER 12TH IS DATE OF ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND RECEPTION

Monday, November 12th is the date. The event is the 17th Anniversary Dinner of A.A., commemorating Bill's sobriety date. The place is the Hotel Astor in New York City. If you plan to be in town, you and members of your Group are invited to the special reception for out-of-towners from 3 to 5 o'clock, also at the Astor. Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation will be your hosts.

Bill, Lois, Trustees of Service Committee, secretaries from General Service Headquarters and the New York Intergroup, editors and staff of the Grapevine and members of the Southeastern New York State Committee will be on hand to greet visitors.

Even though the 12th is a holiday the General Service Office at 141 East 44th Street will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come one, come all. You're all welcome.

#### HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HEAR BILL ON THE "THIRD LEGACY"

As you know by now the "Third Legacy of A.A." is service -- not only to existing AAs but also to "the million who still don't know" This legacy has been expressed in the recent formation of the General Service Conference through which the membership as a whole will counsel and guide the Trustees in discharging A.A. services.

Now all members can hear Bill's thoughtful talk on the development of the A.A. legacy of service. The talk has been recorded on two long-playing records, which may be purchased by the Groups for \$9.00. All sales are on a cash basis with postage prepaid except that Railway Express makes a charge of \$1.00 for Air Express shipments and \$.50 for shipment.

(the recording, "A talk by Bill," is no longer available, due to failure of the master record).

#### YOUR "OLD" LITERATURE CAN HELP NEW A.A.s WHO NEED IT DESPERATELY

You don't have to let your "old" literature just fade away. is needed desperately by groups overseas who, because of currency restrictions, cannot afford precious Grapevines, folders, leaflets and other A.A. material. Your General Service Office starts these groups off with a supply of free literature but the office obviously cannot continue to underwrite the cost of all the literature needed in foreign countries. If you want to help, write to us and we will give you the names of groups whose need of literature is most acute. You will then be able to get in touch with them direct. The General Service Office cannot forward any bundles of literature.

Many prison groups in this country also need literature and lack funds with which to acquire it. Names of prison groups in such straits are available upon request.

#### DESCRIPTION OF A.A. FELLOWSHIP NOW ON WALLET

CARD A.A. has a new wallet card. The "Serenity

Prayer," which

has come to be known by many as the "A.A. Prayer," appears on one side. On the other side is the "standard" description of the A.A. Fellowship, which originally appeared in the A.A. Grapevine. (\$3.50 for 100 cards.)

#### MANY GROUPS STUDYING "CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS" PAMPHLET

The detailed report on what took place at the General Service Conference in April ran to more than 20 pages, including appendix

material. Thus, it was financially impossible to send a copy to each group. The General Service Office has done the next best thing. It has prepared a concise four-page digest, "Conference Highlights," two copies of which have been sent to each of the groups for review and study (Just to cover the groups involved a printing of 10,000 copies).

Additional copies are now available at five cents each. Because "Conference Highlights" summarizes every session of the three-day meeting, together with a brief report on all action taken at the conference. This pamphlet is probably one of the most important pieces of literature ever distributed to the groups. A number of groups are ordering copies for every member.

General Secretary

THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters—Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #11 November, 1951

#### BULLETIN AT A GLANCE

1. A.A. Receives Lasker Award - And National Recognition
2. General Service Committee Announcement
3. Deadline for 1951 Group Contributions
4. Misuse of A.A. Group Directory

#### WHAT IS THE LASKER AWARD AND WHY WAS IT

PRESENTED

TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?

1951 marks the sixth annual presentation of Lasker Awards by the American Public Health Association. The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation give the Lasker Awards to individuals and groups for outstanding contributions in research related to diseases, which are the main causes of death and disability, and for distinguished service in the field of public health administration. In the five years since their establishment, the Lasker Awards have come to be regarded amount the nation's primary medical honors.

It was presented in 1951 to ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in recognition of its unique and highly successful approach to that age-old public health and social problem, alcoholism. Bernard L. Smith, Nonalcoholic Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation, accepted the Award and Bill (introduced anonymously as 'an early member') responded. Their presentation was made at the San Francisco Opera House, October 30, 1951.

#### THE DAY WILL COME

Soon, I hope, every AA will plainly see the Twelve Steps mean his survival, the Twelve Traditions mean Group unity, and so Group Survival, and finally that his contribution to A.A. Headquarters spells out survival for A.A. as a whole and the main chance for the million who don't yet know Do make that day soon.

Gratefully,

PS. Please make your checks payable: The Alcoholic Foundation  
(Group Funds)

P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Annex New York 17, N.Y.

1952

Fred H. and Reverend Myers founded the Original North Side Monday Niters. The first meeting was held in 1952, at St. Marks Lutheran Church, North Side, Pittsburgh.

The A.A. Grapevine  
P.O. Box 85      Knickerbockers Station      New York  
2, N.Y.

Dear Secretary,  
1952

### IS YOUR GROUP AN OSTRICH?

When you receive your personal copy of the February issue of your A.A. Grapevine turn to page 36. There you will see a drawing of some ostriches.. their heads buried in the sand. An AA ostrich, we hear, is an AA who keeps his own head in his own sand and doesn't care much about what goes on around him. AA ostrich flocks, we are told, are groups that aren't looking at too much horizon.. unless it is there own.

Take a moment for group inventory and check the below:

**OUR GROUP IS AN OSTRICH:** We have no monthly bulk order: few if any, or our members subscribe individually to their magazine.

**OUR GROUP IS INTERESTED IN WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE AA WORLD:** We have a monthly bulk order, which could probably be increased: many of our members subscribe individually.

The year 1951 seemed to prove that AA is growing... in number, in maturity and in stature. To keep abreast of the news and views of other A.A.'s is to grow as an individual and as a group.

IT IS IMPORTANT that each group in the whole international family of AA have at least one copy of your AA Grapevine available to its members.

### HOW ABOUT IT? OSTRICH OR INTERESTED?

Sincerely,

The Grapevine Staff

THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters, Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #3

March 1952

Bulletin at A Glance

2. Wanted: Correspondents
3. Doctors of A.A. Convene

### NEWS OF LONERS

There are an ever-increasing number of lone members who write to this office, wanting A.A. correspondents. We have a listing of them from all parts of the world, for those who might like to try this kind of Twelfth Step work. The original "Loner At Sea," of Grapevine fame, has been joined by sixty-nine others; making a grand total of seventy men in the "internationalists", our corresponding group of seamen. A comparatively new correspondence group that is growing rapidly is

composed of A.A. members in T.B. sanatoriums. This group, each of who is alone in his or her particular hospital or sanatorium, would welcome letters and literature. If any of your memberships of A.A.'s who would like to be included in any of these listings, please let us know.

#### THE "MEDICS" CORNER

The Third Annual Convention of doctors whom are members of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held on May 25th and 26th, at Pocono Manor, the Pocono Mountains, and Pennsylvania. We print this item in the Bulletin in an effort to bring this news to any doctor in AA who may not yet have known that such a convention is held yearly. The meetings are confined to A.A.'s who are members of the medical profession. For further information, write P.O. Box 921, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

General Secretary,

#### THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

General Headquarters — Alcoholics Anonymous

Bulletin #5            May 1952

#### BULLETIN AT A GLANCE

1. A.A. For The Women, long-awaited Pamphlet, Now Available to Groups.

#### NEW PAMPHLET ON "A.A. FOR THE WOMAN" EXPECTED TO IMPORTAN TO FILL NEED.

Three years ago your General Service Committee was asked by a number of groups to see what could be done to produce a booklet designed specifically for the woman with a drinking problem.

Following a number of revisions, first copies of the new pamphlet were delivered from the printer in time for distribution at the Second General Service Conference late in April. Delegates to the conference seemed unanimous in their feeling that the pamphlet would be of tremendous help in working with women who turned to the groups for help.

The Pamphlet is priced at fifteen cents per copy to the groups and it is believed some groups will wish to handles them at twenty or twenty-five cents for local distribution.

While "AA for the Woman" does not replace the A.A. book, its series of personal case histories of women alcoholics who have recovered through A.A. is likely to be more compelling than some to the personal stories recorded in the A.A. book. The new pamphlet also contains a brief introduction to A.A. written from the woman's point of view, together with information on the recovery program itself.

1953

The Pleasant Hills group started on June 11, 1953 by two men Al T. and Bill A. who attended meetings in Mount Lebanon, and other locations. They decided that the South Hills needed another meeting so they started the group in Pleasant Hills.

1953 This man faced the last ditch when his wife's voice from 1300 miles away sent him to A.A.

"You an Alcoholic! I don't believe it!"

"Sure, I've seen you tight several times, but you're on Alcoholic!" "Your kidding- you an Alcoholic?"

Many times have I heard the above expressions, since I have been in A.A., and many times I have had to reply "definitely I am an Alcoholic, and while it may be hard for you to believe, it is not hard for me."

As these words are written, with over nine years of A.A., behind me, with all its wonderful teachings, I haven't the slightest doubt about being an Alcoholic. I have always considered myself one of the lucky members of our fraternity. Lucky because my excessive drinking never got me in jail, or hospitalized, nor did it ever cost me a job.

In 1940 another good opportunity moved me to Pittsburgh, where I was to manage two radio stations. It didn't take long for me to fall in with the fast crowd. I graduated there from a five O'clock alcoholic to a noon-day one.

On more than one occasion my wife would threaten to leave me. In the spring of 1944, my frustrated wife couldn't take it any longer. After another of my 'never again episodes' she packed up and left. Her parting words were 'I can't bear to be here when you lose the respect of others, and above all - when you lose your own self respect.'

One Saturday noon I staggered home with every intention of showing her. I would end it all and then, by George, she'd be sorry! Looking directly at me was a large oil painting of my wife. And her very words seemed to shout at me "I am not leaving you because I don't love you; its because I do love you. I can't bear to be here when you lose the respect of others, and above all When you lose your own self respect. I read and heard a little about A.A. and so, groping for the phone book. I found the A.A. number and with hope in my heart eagerly telephone. Sure enough in A couple of hours two men were at my door and for the first time I heard some facts about liquor and my problem that sounded sensible to me.

I promised my tow sponsors that I would attend their meeting I kept away from liquor and eagerly waited. My first meeting gave me a great deal of hope.

(TAKEN FROM THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PAGES 356 - 368

We have not found anything for the year 1954. We would like to have what you have for this year.

### 1955

The Twentieth Anniversary Convention of A.A. was held in St. Louis, Missouri on July 1, 2 & 3, 1955.

6 or 8 men from the "Old Perry Group" started the North Hills Group in 1955. The group met in the "Old Carriage House"

Today it meets in the undercroft at the Christ Episcopal Church. In 1955 Dr. Samuel M. Shoemaker wrote: "What the church has to learn from Alcoholics Anonymous".

The Mayfair Group was founded on a Wednesday night, in Mid-June, by four men. Founders were Al H., Frank S., and Jerry S., and Harry W.. Al H. was a friend of Dr. Samuel M. Shoemaker who was a spiritual patron of A.A. in New York City and help draft the original 12 steps.

#### AA Fourteenth Anniversary

Alcoholics Anonymous, Pittsburgh Group, Colonial Inn, Saturday Evening, January 15, 1955.

Program, Opening Prayer, Remarks by Chairman, The Twelve Steps, Story of an Alcoholic, By D.C. - A member of the Atlantic City, N.J., Remarks by Chairman, The Lord's Prayer, Friday night meetings of the Metropolitan Group at 130 Sixth Street, Downtown, Pittsburgh are open to the General Public.

The Mount Washington Group held its first meeting on April 14, 1956. Fred E. was the speaker. The first meeting was held in the Cinosam Club on Grandview Avenue. Then moved to its present location.

#### August 1956

From The Gateway Message, The Pittsburgh Metropolitan News letter. Sobriety Sam Says: "Tomorrow is the cloud you pull over today's sunshine..

In 1956 there were more than 60 magazine and newspaper articles printed.

#### 1957

Two men started the South Park Group in September 1957 from the Crafton Group. When they moved into this area.

W.G.W.

Box 459 Grand Central Annex  
New York, N.Y

Dear Ed, February 26, 1957

I was deeply affected by your words about the new book, "A.A. Comes of Age" and all memories that it evoked and made clear. As you probably can see, I did this document by dictation and mostly off the top of my head. Though the basic line of it is okay there are innumerable corrections and omissions, which ought to be caught up.

So, therefore, I am especially thankful to have your comments on what the facts really were.

Unfortunately, in a volume of this size and purpose, a pretty sharp limit has to be set on what goes in. But with the facts you sent me, I will try to adjust the thing more in line with the actual events that pertain to you. And I hope you will like whatever change in emphasis it is possible to make. You can depend upon me to do my best.

You must know, Ed, how much your comeback inspires me. I'll never forget the day, after all those years, that I saw you at Dr. Bob's.

Next time you come to New York, tell the people at the office that you are calling at my personal request. As you may be sure I have to put a fence around myself The girls in the office react the way they do on this account and additionally because any number of A.A.'s come through with all sorts of tall stories. But if you tell them I personally wrote you and asked you, there won't be any difficulty. You might ask for my secretary, Nell Wing. She knows exactly who you are.

Looking now at the date of your letter, I expect you have come and gone, again. I had to go to the West Coast to look after a full-length television show now is preparation to be produced by NBC in the fall.

When you next think of coming down, give me a little advance notice and I will try to make a firm date. Please use my telephone number here at the house - Katonah, 4-1422. Make the call collect as I don't pay the bill anymore!

Affectionately yours,

Bill

In February or March 1957, The A.A. Gateway Message wrote  
The Triangle Group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., at 1014 Forbes Street.  
The Carson Street Group Meets Thursdays at 8 p.m., at 2400 Carson Street.

#### THE EYES HAVE IT

A problem of our drinking days that we could never lick was vividly recalled by Dr. Selden D. Bacon, director of the Yale Center of Alcoholic Studies in a recent speech to the Pittsburgh Perennial Association. In describing the problem drinker in business, he said:

"His shoes gleam, his cheeks are freshly shaven..... and he has tried every breath deodorant on the market.

"But those DAMNED EYES: how can he change them?"

#### A.A. PROGRAM AVAILABLE ON FILM

If your group is interested in showing the Loretta Young TV. Program on A.A., it is now available from General Service Headquarters in New York. It's a 16-millimeter print. You provide the projector and screen. Write the General Service Headquarters, A.A. P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Annex, New York 17, and suggest at least three dates when you can use it. No charge for use of the film, just a guarantee to return promptly to G.S.H. after the showing. If Your group doesn't have projector and screen and you meet in a Church, they probably would be willing to lend you their equipment. Be sure to have an experienced operator for the projector.

General Service November 1957.

Your General service conference has designated GRATITUDE TIME—gratitude for our sobriety and for the opportunity to extend the worldwide fellowship of A.A.

Traditionally, groups has based their support on \$2.00 per Member for the year. Have you paid your \$2.00 for general service headquarters? You spent a hell of a lot more than that booze. Give the \$2.00 immediately to your group treasurer.

Correct the Meetings Leaflet.

It's important to correct the leaflets, which list the meetings. Three Times lately in leads we have hear of brand new potential members picking out a group from the leaflet and going, only to find it wasn't there. Result: heading for the nearest Tavern instead...

ON ACTION:

God gives every bird its food ,but he does throw it into the nest.....  
From the gateway messenger . November, 1957

1958

Something BIG to look forward to —

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual banquet of Pittsburgh A.A. It's to be in the Penn-Sheraton Hotel Ballroom, no less. It's to be Sunday night, January, 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm—so get out your new 1958 calendar and make this the first entry, Pete W. program chairman, has already lined up a star M.C. in Walter O.k. from New York.

Bob o. will be one of the principal speakers. Others will be announced in the gateway messenger. But hold the date for the biggest event with the best speakers Pittsburgh A.A. has ever had.

The Rebos House Group, first meeting was held in 1958. In the dining room of the Rebos House. Meetings were held primarily for residents but are open meetings today.

1959

Three A.A. members who worked for the Mon-Con Railroad founded the Industrial group, on June 6, 1959. The first three meetings were held on the plant premises. Then moved on July 2, 1959 - November 4, 1959 - April 8, 1970 and on Wednesday July 6, 1983 it moved to its present location at the Trinity Lutheran church on Brownsville Road.

1960

The 25th Anniversary Convention was has at Long Beach, California, July 1-3, 1960.

The Rosary Hall meeting was started in 1960. The founders were Bill B., George M., and Madeline M. The group was named after the ward in Cleveland Ohio Hospital.

The Monroeville Friday Night, was founded on October 17, 1960, by John McH., Robert S., George T., William O'L., Leo W., Dean A., and Stan L.. The seven left the East Boro's group because the women alckeys and the wives of members got into a fight over washing cups.

1961

The McDonald Friday group held its first meeting on December 15, 1961, at the Trinity United Presbyterian church. Members were Sunny H., Lois H., Gene V., and Tom O'C.

### 1962

The Coraopolis group was founded on March 7, 1962. The first meeting was held at the YM.C.A. in Coraopolis, PA.

The Bakerstown Friday group held its first meeting on March 17, 1962. The meeting was held at the St. Thomas in the Field Church. Ray K., chaired and Jack K., was the speaker.

### 1963

There was a Zelie Early Sunday Group that started in February 1963

There was a Allegheny Group that started in February, 1963.

### 1964

The Twenty-Third Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in Pittsburgh was held in the Ball Room of the Penn-Sheraton Hotel on Sunday evening, March 27, 1964. The chairman of the banquet committee was Regis M. The A.A. speaker was Charles C., from Laguna Beach, CA.

We have no group histories in our archives files for 1964.

#### GATEWAY MESSAGE

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Metropolitan Meeting.

Every three months the fellowship swarms to Rockwell Hall, Duquesne University, for the quarterly metropolitan meeting. It's a Wonderful evening for seeing and talking with friends, you haven't bumped into recently.

Friday, April 3, at 8:30 pm is the date to circle. Dr. Joseph C. of Washington D.C. will be the speaker. Dr. Joe is a prominent psychiatrist and the chairman will be a well-known medical doctor of the district. It adds up to a stimulating evening— one to be enjoyed by friends and curious as well as members and their families.

#### "SUGGESTED AS A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY"

Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol.... That our lives had become unmanageable.

"Few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom— It was a statistical fact that Alcoholics almost never recovered on their own resources... Under the lash of Alcoholism we are driven to A.A., and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation ... we stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us. Taken from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

26<sup>th</sup> Cook Forest Conference, May 22-24,. Write to Cook Forest Conference – Box 265, Verona, Pa.

Dr. Sam Shoemaker Pavilion:

The new facility for alcoholics at May view State Hospital is a success so far. Since A.A. has no official connection with any organization, we are not directly involved with the operation. But many members

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are most vitally involved. And it's name , the Dr. Shoemaker Pavilion, after our late, great friend. The first and most important thing to get straight about this pavilion is this : Success depends on continuing sponsorship.

1965

Gateway Message, January, 1965...

There was a Vineyard group – in North View Heights. What happen to it....

Metropolitan meeting

Will be Friday, January 8. Place Rockwell Hall, speaker is Margaret S. from Harrisburg. Described as solid A.A. Her talk is said to have special interest to Doctors, Clergy and Law-enforcing friends.

From the Editor's Corner

Comment from a reader:

I believe everybody has the right to his own opinion, but I believe a person or persons gets blinded by the dust he kicks up from the pile of dirt which he is standing on, which could be a blinding ego. For I believe it says in tradition four on page 150, that— every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it please, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened, and it also says [same page].

We are a large band of ego – driven individualists, children of chaos, we have a defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and we think the wiser, so why not let a dying dog lay as ever, I remain..

Wilmer (Fritz) B.  
North Boros Group

In the Grapevine that month.

Senile sobriety, new laboratory findings on making simple amends, complicated amends. The treasurer's report, I Needed a psychiatrist

GATEWAY MESSAGE February 1965

Group news: the Pius group has change its name to Onala Sunday Nitors.

The Matt Talbot Group held it's first anniversary, John McH. Of the Monroeville Group was the speaker.

March 1965:

24<sup>th</sup> Annual A.A.Banquet.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Pittsburgh district will be at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel Sunday, March 21. Price for banquet is \$6.75, pay your group secretary or banquet reservations handler. Speaker will be Del S. from New York, a news commentator

Metropolitan Meeting.

The spring metropolitan meeting will be Friday, April 2. Tom P of New York City and Calicoon, N. Y. will be the speaker, this author has a hardnosed. A.A. background and equally "tough" message. Loud of the Squirrel Hill Group is the chairman.

**Among Our Friends:**

The Rebos house is bagging for trading stamps—any kind. S&H TV, Green, Plaid etc. The object is a station wagon.

**Steering committee, Central Service**

The Central Service Committee of the Pittsburgh District will meet at the Onala club April 11,. The “unholy eight” will disgusts any business that has developed since the last meeting.

September, 1965:

**Gateway message**

Look for talk about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Pittsburgh.

At the Metropolitan Meeting, to be held on October, 1. Sam P. Of Castle Shannon—Mt. Lebanon. Groups, is awaiting an answer from two solid A.A. Knowing Sam ,it's a sure pop the speaker will be a solid swinger.

The 30th Anniversary of the International Convention was held in Toronto, Canada on July 2-4, 1965.

We have no group histories in our archives files for 1965.

The Alcoholics Anonymous in Pittsburgh was Twenty-five years old in December, 1965

1966

**The Silver Anniversary, Pittsburgh A.A.**

25 years Annual Banquet was held at the Penn Sheraton Hotel on Sunday, March 20, 1 966. The chairman of the banquet committee was Ben G. the A.A. speaker was John V, of Oklahoma City We have no group histories in our archives files for 1966.

1967

We have no group histories in our archives files for 1967.

1968

The Young Peoples group started in April, 1968, at St. Mary of Mercy Church in Lawless Hall, Downtown, Pittsburgh.

The Amberson group was founded, to fill the need for a Saturday morning meeting, in the East End of Pittsburgh. The first meeting was held on April 6, 1968. The founding member was John B.

1969

We have no group histories in our archives files for 1969.

1970

The Thirty-Five Anniversary of the International A.A. Convention was held July 3-5, 1970 in Miami, Florida.

We have no group histories in our archives files for 1970.

1971

The Plum Unity group was started on January 25, 1971.

Founded by Don H. and Kevin D.

The Bridgeville Sunday Discussion group started on September 19, 1971. The founder and secretary was Walter S.

The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Area groups was held in the Ballroom at the Syria Mosque, Pittsburgh, PA on Sunday February 28, 1971.

Welcome: Dr Alan A.K. - Chairman

H2

Al-Anon - It Works Gene C.

A.A. Message Dr James W of Chicago, Ill

Point View group held its first meeting on Friday, April 2, 1971.  
the founders were Bill H., Dorothy B., and Oscar J.

### 1972

The Glenshaw group started in February 1972. Founders  
were Craig P., Dave K., Ed S., and Gert S.. Attendance was 74. A  
Beginners meeting and a discussion meeting started in 1980.

Tuesday Early Nitors, started in November 1972. In the  
McKeesport Hospital. Founders were Jim D., Mex E., Millie J.,  
George H., and Dr. Eastman.

### 1973

The Kittanning group was started in February, 1973.

### 1974

The Fox Chapel group started on January 2, 1974 the founders  
were Jay B., Jack F., Bob F., Grace W., and Bill W..

The Beth-Clair group started in February 1974.

The Garfield Noon group started on March 20, 1974. The  
founders were Mike Y., Sylvia B., Bob C., Jack C., and Mike C.. The  
first meetings were held at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in the  
bowling alleys, then moved to the gym. In 1980 it moved to the  
United Methodist Church. In April 1982, it moved to Ursuline Center  
and in January 1983 it moved back to the United Methodist Church.

The Sheraden group was started on April 1, 1974. The founders  
were Patricia C., Marge F., and Bernie D..

The Fellowship group was founded on May 4, 1974. The  
founders were Ann B., Diane P., Sam F., and Shelton E. went with  
Ynonne T. to Father Rie of Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Thirteen  
were in attendance at the first meeting.

Springdale closed discussion group started in May 1974.  
Meetings held at the United Methodist Church.

The Hill District group held its first meeting on July 10, 1974.  
With Ms. W., Rosalyn H., Josephine B., and Frank S. in attendance. It  
meets in Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The Midtown meeting was started in September, 1974. Dr. Ken  
Williams and George S started it.. The group moved three times from  
1983 to 1988.

The West View Monday Night group started in October, 1974.  
Founder was Hal H.. Meetings are held at the North Mont United  
Presbyterian Church.

The Wexford Thursday Morning group started on November  
26, 1974 with six members in attendance.

### 1975

The Greensfield group started on February 5, 1975 on a Thursday  
night. Founders were Joe W and Bill G. (Sarge).

The Forest Hills group started on November 10, 1975. Founders  
were Ann B., Jerry D., and Walter M..

The 40th Anniversary International Convention was held July 4-  
6, 1975 in Denver, Colorado.

## 1976

Kevin D. founded the Mustard Seed group in 1976. Y. Land., Lois C., and John N., it meets at Hiland Presbyterian Church.

The Goodwill Tuesday group started on June 21, 1976. It meets in the Goodwill Building. It had 5 members and moved three times because of time co-ordination and finally set up at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel and stabilized finally on July 6, 1982.

The Beech view Saturday Night group was started on October 1, 1976, at St. Catherine's School. Founders were Millie J., Al M., Marty Z., Reg G.. In the fall of 1979 another church called downtown office to start a meeting and was unaware of the meeting at St. Catherine's School. It moved to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and found better facilities and stayed.

The New Life group started on January 27, 1976, it was a women's group when it first started.

## 1977

The Big Book Study Group of Mt Washington started on March 17, 1977. Early members were Betty N., Millie W.. The first speaker was Bill D.

The Latrobe Thursday Night group started on September 29, 1977.

The founders were Philip (Dutch) O., and Thomas G.. They meet at Latrobe Presbyterian Church.

## 1978

The Northside Sunday Niters started on Sunday, April 2, 1978. The original members were Jim T., Jack L, Donald T., Ronald K., and Henry P..

The New Hope group was started on April 28, 1978. The

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founders were Peter D., and Jim M.. One of the few gay groups in Pittsburgh.

The Jefferson group started on May 10, 1978. At the Jefferson Hospital. The chairman for the first meeting was Joe McN. The first speaker was Bud T.

The Greensburg Wednesday Noon Discussion group was started on September 20, 1978. The founders were Ron Mc., W and Jean M.. They meet at the First Presbyterian Church.

## 1979

The Concerned group started in late January or February of 1979. The founders were Mary Ann C., and Tim H.. It started at the 310 Club in Butler, PA and moved to the second floor of the Butler Public Library in 1982, they have 20 meeting a week.

The Welcome Home Group was originally the Onala group in 1979. Renamed in 1982, they have 20 meetings a week.

Dr. Twerski, Pat S., Tome D., and George F started St. Francis Re-Entry group in 1979.. The group is for those people in A.A. who have had slips. Which is a discussion meeting Tuesday nights at 8:30 PM on the 12th floor of the east wing.

Easy Does It Group started on November 29, 1979. The founders were Becky S., Anna Mac G., Cecelia G., and Mike K.. The meetings were held at the Good Will Building then moved to the Bingham Methodist Church.

The Three Rivers group, started in November 1979. Founders were the Board of the Onala Club. In 1980 the Sunday morning discussion meeting broke away and now is a sharing meeting in Mt Washington. The Three Rivers group moved to St James church in West End in 1980. In May 1981 it held the first long timers meetings has become an annual event.

### 1980

The Berkley Hills group was started in February 1980. Founders were Jack S., Rodger D., Jim B., and Bernie McC. they meet at the Berkley Hills Lutheran Church.

The St. Mary Wednesday Night group started on April 2,

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1980. at 8:30 PM in the Lyceum. The founders were Fr. Gilden the Pastor, Bud C., Mike B., and 47 people attended the first meeting.

The St. Peter's Southside group started on August 3, 1980 by David B., and John P.F.. Twenty people attended the first meeting.

The West Penn Group started on September 8, 1980. Founded by George F. and another A.A. member. It meets on Friday nights at 8:00 PM At the first meeting 35 were in attendance.

The Beaver County group was started in October 1980. Founder was Don C.. The previous name was Beaver County Medical Center group.

The Scottdale group was started on November 12, 1980. The founders were Ken P., and Rose P., with 6 other group members.

The Vandergrift group was started on November 17, 1980 at 8:30 PM. The founders were Tom S., and Paul C.. With the First Tradition - Closed Discussion meeting, there were 13 active members.

Roger Del, and Jack S started the Nineteen North Group on November 20, 1980..

The Saturday Late Niters group was started on December 13, 1980 at St. Joe's Interns Residence. It was started for the Mill Workers.

The Village group was started on February 12, 1980.

Thirty Ninth Anniversary

Pittsburgh Area - Alcoholics Anonymous - Annual Banquet was held Sunday, March 9, 1980 at 6:00 PM in the Grand Ballroom of the Pittsburgh Hilton, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome Marge M. Chairman of the Banquet Committee

Al-Anon Speaker Jan K.

A.A. Speaker Bill O. of Fort, Kentucky

The Forty-fifth Anniversary International Convention was held in New Orleans on July 3-6 1980.

### 1981

St. Mary's North group was started on March 28, 1981. It was renamed the Saturday Morning group on February 26, 1983.

Jean G. started the Regional #5 Correction Facility on April 15, 1981 at the request of the Warden, Mr. Thomas Fulcomen. Joe J. was the first A.A. member.

The Lower Burrell group, better known as the Puckety Up Group was started, April 28, 1981. The founder was Baldy. This is a discussion of the Big Book, Steps, Traditions and Speaker Meetings.

The Open Door group was started on December 9, 1981. The founders were Chuck J. and Frank S..

The Fortieth anniversary of the Pittsburgh Area — Alcoholics Anonymous

Annual Banquet — Sunday, March 15, 1981 at 6:00 PM Grand Ball Room - The Pittsburgh Hilton, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome— Walt J. Chairman, Banquet Committee

Alanon Speaker Marge Mck.

A.A. Speaker Tom G., of Winnipeg, Manitoba

### 1982

The Sunday Night Serenity was started on January 30, 1982. Founders were Rodger D., and Jack S.. Previous name was McIntyre Young Peoples.

The Murrysville group was started on February 2, 1982 the founders were Steve B., Diane B., Joe K., and Stevie D.. The first meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Murrysville.

The Sewickley Pauper Group was started on April 2, 1982 the founder was Jack O'Neil. At the end of the first year they started a beginners group.

The Lambda group was started on May 1, 1982. This group attends to special needs of the gay community in Shadyside.

The McKeesport Friday Morning Twelve Step group was started on May 7, 1982. The first chairperson was Millic J..

The Primary Purpose group was started in August 1982 the founders were Rege C., Lenny S., and Ed H., the meetings were held at the St. Paulinus R.C. Church.

The Windover Hills group was started on August 2, 1982 the founders were Joseph A., and George S.. This group meets at the Windover United Methodist Church, Ridge Road, South Park Township.

The Lost and Found group was started on October 16, 1982. The founders were Jerry L., and George M.. The first meeting was held in the Apprentice Room at Armco Steel Corp.

The Bower Hills Sunday Niters group was started on October 17, 1982. The founders were Frank Z. and Jack McM.. Originally began as the Mt. Lebanon Sunday Niters. In the winter of 1985 or 1986 it moved to its current location at our Lady of Grace Church, Kane Boulevard.

The Mount Oliver group was started on December 7, 1982. The founders were Rege F. and Stanley P.. Meetings are held at St. Joseph Church.

The Forty-First Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Area Annual Banquet Sunday, March 14, 1982 at 6:00 PM  
The Syria Mosque Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Welcome Tom R. Chairman of the Banquet Committee  
Alanon Speaker Chuck W.  
A.A. Speaker Leclair B.

### 1983

The Arlington Group was started on January 8, 1983 the founders were Gregory A., W and Judith R..

The West Mission South group was started on November 2, 1983. The founders were Bob M., Marilyn W., Verna B., Jack E., and Jim S.. The group started with day old pastries and donut holes.  
The Forty Second anniversary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Annual Banquet —Sunday, March 20, 1983, 6:00 PM the Syria Mosque, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Welcome Shirley T. the chairman of the banquet committee  
Alanon Speaker Karen B.

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AA Speaker Frank M.

### 1984

The Monday Morning Gratitude group was started on January 3, 1984. The founders were Bob L. Jr., Brian N., Wilma H., Chuck B., and Betty A..

The Back to Basics group was started on January 7, 1984. The founders were Rick P., Norm S., John S., and Jim Mc.. The group has a Monday night speaker meeting and Friday nights a discussion meeting.

The Legion Park group was started in January 1984. The founders were Ron R., Keith C., and Bill B.. They meet Monday at the Trinity Lutheran Church on Shadeland and Davis streets.

The Mount Royal group was started on Tuesday February 14, 1984. The founders were Missy B., Steve L., Steve B., Bob N., and Rose B..

The Twin Lakes group was started on February 18, 1984. The founders were Ron and Mac W. and they meet at the Luxor Methodist Church.

The Winners group was started on March 17, 1984 at St. Georges School Building. The Founders were Chuck F. and Chuck S. this meeting started at the request of Father Holzer and Father Clarke.

Burchfield Big Book Study group was started on March 17, 1984. The founders were Chuck and Janice S. and Chuck G., and Gert S.

On April 16, 1984, the Clairton Big Book Discussion group was founded by Ruth D. and Peg M. at St. Joseph's School Hall on Monday at 7:30.

Beaver Falls Monday Central group was started on April 27, 1984. The founders were Bob P., Bob B., Chic D., John M., and Bob L.. Group has celebrated a 24-hour Christmas party in 1987 and 1989.

The Monday Big Book Study (Greensburg) group was started on July 9, 1984 at the Christ Episcopal Church. The founder was Paul McD..

The Pitcairn group was started on September 20, 1984, at the Pitcairn Presbyterian Church, it moved to the Club Above in Pitcairn, PA. The founders were Chuck P. and Ed Z.

The Butler Southside group was started on November 14, 1984 at St. John Church. The founders were Jim Y., Jim H., Mike J., and Sandy K. The McKeesport Friday Night Serenity group was started on November 16, 1984. The founders were Carol B., David D., Jerry Z., and Bobbie P.. The first speaker was Joe D. or the Homestead group.

The You Are Not Money group was started sometime in 1984. The founders were Henry C. and Dawn S.

Forty-Third Anniversary, Pittsburgh Area A.A. Annual Banquet Sunday, March 25, 1984 at 6:00 PM The Syria Mosque, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome Ed R. Chairman of the Banquet Committee

Alanon Speaker Marge E.

A.A. Speaker Ernie R.

## 1985

The How It Works group was started on February 12, 1985. The original home group members were Tom G., Bob K., Ken W., and Ruth McV..

The New Birth group was started on Wednesday March 13, 1985. The founders were John and Claudia M.. They felt they needed a closed discussion meeting in this area.

The Our Group was started on June 17, 1985. In the basement of St. Catherine's Church of Beechview. The founders were Lucy Z., and Regis Crouse.

The Washington Non-Smokers group was started on August 12, 1985. The founder was Fred F.. The first meeting was held in

1986. The North Braddock group was started on January 8, 1986. After three discussion meetings it decided that the group would have only A.A. leads, no cross addiction leads.

The original members were Mike S., Danny W., Larry C., Dave B., Lee B., Bill S., and Harry G..

The St. Anne's group was started on Wednesday August 1986.

The Plug in the Jug group was started on December 7, 1986. The founders were Oscar M., Kevin McC., Joe H., Rich L., and Ted W.. The meeting was said to be a stag meeting because for the first six months not many women attended the meeting. The meeting from Friday to Wednesday nights in July 1989. In August 1992 the meeting became a Big Book Step Study.

The Forty-fifth anniversary, Pittsburgh Area A.A. Annual Banquet, Saturday March 1, 1986, at 6:00 PM was held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome Lou P. Chairman, Banquet Committee  
Alanon Speaker Ann H.  
A.A. Speaker Butch P.

### 1987

The Waterworks Sunday Morning group was started on March 27, 1987. The founders were Chuck G., Woodrow P., Henry P., and Dave F.

The Derry Monday Night group was started on April 27, 1987

The previous name was the Monday Night Bridge group. The founders were Jim M., and Lou M.

The Westview Wednesday Niteers group was started on June 3, 1987. The founders were Betty D., Bruce Q., Lois C., and Hugh B..

The Glenshaw Straight A's group was started around August, 1987, in a members homes, when the founders began to miss the Wexford Saturday group, which was closed due to over crowding.

The Greensburg Gratitude group was started on November 6, 1987 in the employee's cafeteria at Westmoreland Hospital. The founders were Butch M., and Sam W..

Forty Sixth Anniversary Pittsburgh Area A.A., Annual Banquet, Sunday April 5, 1987 at 6:00 PM at the Syria Mosque, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome John K., Chairman, Banquet Committee  
Alanon Speaker Diana N.  
A.A. Speaker LuAnn S., Los Angeles, California

### 1988

The Tuesday Morning group was started in January, 1988. Founder was Amie P. It is a daytime meeting because there were no daytime meetings in Kittanning, PA. On the third meeting the group was called the Daily Workers.

The Logau's Ferry group was started on February 5, 1988. The founders were Ken H., and Kevin K.. In July the group was on the verge of discontinuing when an out of town member was badly in need of a meeting. This made the group continue.

The Thursday Night Recovery group was started in February 1988. The founder was Casey D., the meetings were held at the Asbury Heights Retirement Home.

The Spiritual Express group was started on March 10, 1988. The founders were Verne P., Fred R., and Leigh R.. The meeting was held at Bankerstown and Warrendale Road. It moved to Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church on June 9, 1988.

The Surprise Odd-Chair group was started on June 16, 1988. The first meetings were held in the basement of

Elaine's Restaurant, Penn Hills, PA. On July 21, 1988 the meeting was moved to the All Saints Episcopal Church, Verona Road. The meeting is a chairman's choice.

Smoke-free Sunday Morning Sharing group was started in December, 1988. The founders were Gene B., and P.R. Mc.. This group was started as a result of growth and subsequent discomfort of heavy smoking.

The Forty-Seventh, Anniversary, Pittsburgh Area A.A. Annual Banquet, Sunday April 17, 1988 at 6:00 PM

The Syria Mosque, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome Pat F. Chairman, Banquet Committee

Alanon Speaker Marge J.

A.A. Speaker Eugene L., County Clare, Ireland

The Thursday Morning Winners group was started on

June 15, 1989. The founders were Ray S., Dave B., and Barb S..

The first meetings were at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

It moved to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Sobriety First group was started on September 2, 1989 at the St. Eusebuis Church, East Brady, PA.

The Tuesday Night Men's group was started in September 1989. The founders were Don A., and Tim B.. The previous name was the Tuesday Professional group.

The West Enders Living Sober in A.A. group was started on October 9, 1989. The founder was Kathleen K.. Kathleen's father got sober in 1948.

The Forty-eighth Anniversary, Pittsburgh Area A.A. Annual Banquet, Sunday April 16, 1988 at 6:00 PM

Held at the Syria Mosque, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome Harry M., Chairman or the Banquet Committee

Alanon Speaker

A.A. Speaker Mary M. of Houston, Texas

1990

The Pleasant Hills Women's group was started on January 26, 1990.

The founders were Jan P., Betty M., Flo M., Nancy J., and Dawn K.

The As Bill Sees It group was started on March 24, 1990

The founders were Bruce D., Phil S., and Dave B.. They wanted to start on meeting in the area Saturday morning, got a church, called my sponsor and said we need a name, he suggested "As Bill See's It".

The Forty-Ninth Anniversary, Pittsburgh Area A.A. Annual Banquet, Sunday March 25, 1990 at 6:00 PM

Held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome Big Jean M. Chairman of the Banquet Committee

Alanon Speaker "Ace" Horace C. of Pittsburgh

A.A. Meeting

A.A. Speaker Mary R., of Tustin, CA

The Fifty-fifth Anniversary of the International Convention was

held in Seattle, Washington, July 5-8, 1990.

1991

The Ladies Wednesday Nhe group was started on January 16, 1991. The founders were Betty S. and Pam K..

The Breathe Easy group was started on February 7, 1991. The founder was Mice L.. The meeting was started because

1992

The Elizabeth Township group was started on November 9, 1992. The founders were Sharon, Heidi, and Jay. The first meeting had five members in attendance. Each one gave a ten-minute mini-lead, focusing on despair and hope.

1993

We have no group histories in the archives file for 1993.

1994

The First Pennsylvania State Convention was held on August 5,6,& 7, 1994 at State College, PA.

The Sweaty Palms group was started on September 12, 1994. The founders were Jack T., Marchall B., Dave B., Charles (Butch) L., Billy F., and Ron S..

1995

The Sixtieth Anniversary International Convention was held in San Diego, California on June 29-30 and July 1-2, 1995.

Dates Unknown

The Wilmerding Valley group "Date Unknown". The group once had a Christmas party and still tries to maintain it. Christmas is considered the Anniversary Dinner Wilmerding.

Allegheny Brighton group "Date Unknown" was originally the Allegheny group which meets at the corner of Allegheny and Beech street in Calvary Methodist Church on the North Side.

Washington Friday Niters group "Date Unknown". The first meeting was held at the Washington Hospital then moved to Washington City Mission. Then moved to Trinity Epispcal Church Annex. This is where the group meets now.  
Central Office

As A.A. continued to expand, it was decided to establish a central setup for Greater Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Area, which was comprised of 23 groups. The Friday night meeting, was continued as a meeting place for all groups and many out of Towners who attended. The requests for help by mail continued to increase and the problem of

handling the correspondence was no longer an avocation, it was a job. Up to this time, Billie McW., Gertrude R., had handled the telephone answering and Rita F., wives of A.A. members, from their homes. We began to realize that A.A. had grown up. It was decided to employ a full time nonalcoholic secretary and open an office downtown.

The committee chose Billie McW. but, for some unknown reason, the office was located in Bellevue. This arrangement proved entirely unsatisfactory, and relocated on the Fifth floor of the Renshaw Building on Ninth Street. On March 13, 1947, Billie McW. resigned as secretary and Mrs. Eleanor Shrodes was hired. She was a long time member of the morals court staff. A 24 hour telephone answering service was installed, and many volunteers still cooperated in answering the after hours calls for help; they had done a truly

remarkable job. After a long tenure, Eleanor retired in 1968 and Dorothy C. was appointed in 1963. Eleanor worked for 8 years before her resignation.

In 1970 the office moved to the Magee Building, 336 Fourth Avenue and Shirley M. became secretary from 1971 to 1975, when a Peggy A. took over temporarily. She ran the office for several months until a permanent secretary was found. In July, 1975 Pat G. was hired as a permanent secretary. She was promoted to Office Administrator.

In 1977, Martin B. took over for Laura A.- who did book work in her home. Martin set up the files at the office and worked from there. In 1979, a permanent part-time secretary, Dorothy S. was hired to work vacation and sick days. Later Dorothy began working on a regular daily basis one day a week.

In 1980, the Magee Building was sold and we were asked to vacate within 30 days. At the end of that time, we found ourselves in the Investment Building, 239 Fourth Avenue. In 1983, Martin retired and Bill M. was hired as the part-time bookkeeper. In addition to this job, he was always willing to help out at the office when needed.

In 1985, due to the office needing more space, raises in rent and escalation charges, we moved to the Fulton Building, 107 Sixth Street. Pat retired November 1993 and Heidi is the present secretary.

(History from Pittsburgh Central Office)