

NEW FRONTIERS

A CENTRAL COMMITTEE JOURNAL FOR ALL A.A. MEMBERS
OF WESTERN NEW YORK AND THE NIAGARA FRONTIER



God, grant me the
Serenity
to accept the things I
cannot change ...

Courage
to change the things I can ...

and Wisdom to
know the difference ...



CONGRATULATIONS

On July 5th of this year, the Central Committee Representatives met to elect a new Executive Secretary. Those members of the Central Committee present and voting, chose to elect Cindy N. of the Sunrise Court-Group, as our new Executive Secretary, to take office on January 1st, 1999. Cindy is no stranger to service work, her record of service work is well known to everyone. The transition should be a smooth one, however, let us help Cindy get settled, and support her in her new tasks.

We, the Central Committee, welcome Cindy, and express our heartfelt thanks to Delphine H., our present Executive Secretary, for her unselfish dedication in her 19 years of service as Executive Secretary. Big shoes to fill. But, one era ends and a new one begins in the true spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Chair
Central Committee

7-CLAN DAY OF SHARING

**WNY 7-Clan Day of Sharing & Spiritual Weekend
August 15th & 16th 1998**

Tuscarora Reservation (Upper Mountain Road)

Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Corn.

(Bring a dish to pass)

T-shirts, Speakers, Campout, Friday and Saturday Nights

Come one - Come all!

The *New Frontiers* is published monthly by the Central Office of Western New York. We are self-supporting by your subscriptions and Central Office donations. The *New Frontiers* presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism. The staff reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and length. Articles should be approximately 250 words. We do not accept poetry. Articles will not be returned. Opinions expressed here are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by the Central Office of Western New York or Alcoholics Anonymous. (Exceptions: Quotations from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS and other A.A. books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. Art and articles reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. are subject to the GRAPEVINE copyright.)

John H., We Care, Editor

Dave W., Giving, Assistant Editor

Cindy N., Sunrise Court, Staff Reporter

MONEY



In case you haven't heard, there is a lot of talk about money! Who gets what, and where does it go, that sort of thing. There always seems to be a shortage of money in AA. Why? Who knows. Maybe we just need to talk about it a bit. This money talk can be heard at most meetings, at Central Committee, General Service Assembly, and at GSO in New York.

It would be easy to say that AA has a financial problem, but I don't think so. Consider a few other facts.

*Many areas have experienced a decline in AA membership since we no longer get an influx from treatment centers.

*Workshops are poorly attended. Usually the ones attending are the same dedicated few who do most of the work.

*Practically everyone puts something into the basket when it is passed.

It appears to me, that we just might have a serious spiritual problem within our Fellowship. I have visited groups who are uninformed about where to send their contributions. I have seen groups with huge sums of money in their coffers, hoarding contributions under the guise of a "building fund." It seems to me, that we need to better inform the groups, especially the "treasurers."

And do you agree that if we were doing our work of support and carrying the message to the alcoholic, that our ranks would be growing at staggering proportions? There certainly isn't a shortage of alcoholics. It would only stand to reason, that if we are not being responsible for our fifth tradition and twelfth step, we probably aren't too concerned about self-support, either.

I see disunity between service structures. I see individuals who are willing to criticize but never contribute to a solution. I see groups withholding contributions as some form of punishment or statement making. I see the ones who complain the loudest, are usually the ones who contribute the least. Unity? I think not.

Friends, we need to take a good inventory of ourselves, an honest and fearless inventory. Rather than fabricating excuses for our apathy, we should be celebrating our lives and trying to find new ways to give a little back to our life-saving fellowship.

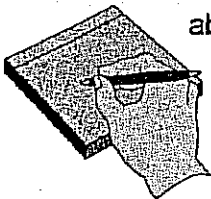
"...spirituality and money began to mix. One without the other would have amounted to nothing at all. Right then and there, Ebby established the principle that AA in action calls for the sacrifice of much time and a little money."

Where Spirituality and Money Mix (f 3)

Anonymous



STORIES WANTED!



If you have always wanted to write your story, but just haven't got around to it, how about now? Tell our readers what it was like for you. Everyone has a story to tell, and yours might be the one that a sick and suffering alcoholic might just identify with. Think about it! Our staff will help you with spelling and punctuation if you wish. You do not have to be an accomplished author to write your story of recovery. Do not be embarrassed by your lack of experience, the staff of the New Frontiers will not publish any article that would embarrass the writer. Come on, dig down and write!

Stories of about 250 words are best, typed or scribbled, we will decipher what you have to say. Share your experience strength and hope with our readers. Please confine your stories as they relate to alcoholism.

The Staff

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE

By Cindy N.

Step 8. "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all." This is obviously where a good 4th Step comes in. The 4th Step is the beautifully wondrous Step to this door of freedom. This Step asks us to become willing, we do not make these amends yet, we only become willing. I had to look at my past, recognize the part I played in it, and identify the people involved. Not so easy! I had an ugly habit of pointing my finger, and I had to look really hard to see my part in it all.

I needed to list the people that I had blamed for making my life miserable. I needed to look at the slights I had imposed on those I

thought had wronged me! To the women whose husbands I had dallied with, to the children of the families I had wreaked havoc on, to the storekeepers I had stolen from, and finally to my employers and members of my family.

To accept how sick I was, I needed to turn to my Higher Power for the guidance and courage to go on. Once I got started, I had no trouble coming to terms with this Step. I needed to do it as honestly as I could, and not become a whipping post in my recovery. I needed to do it and I wanted to do it. By doing this Step well, I was one step closer to being happy, joyous and free.

Tradition 8. "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers." God works in mysterious ways. As the light of AA became ever brighter, the demands for literature and information grew. Soon, it became apparent that volunteers could no longer meet those growing demands. Bill W. found it necessary to hire "special workers." The workers ranged from

translators in World Service to receptionists who moved a call along to the proper persons. The informational desk at General Service Office kept the message going out to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. All this work is very important, please support your local Central Committee, General Service Assembly, and the General Service Office. Yours in the spirit.



An AA member from Tampa recently observed that AA reminded him of a log floating downstream. "On this log there are a million ants clinging to it - and each one thinks he's steering!"

From Erma Bombeck, comes this variation on AA's Serenity Prayer. "God grant me the serenity to accept what cannot be changed, and the wisdom to keep my mouth shut when I don't know the difference."

*From the Grapevine
July 1993*

THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

I have been sober for over twenty-four years through the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it has been quite some time since I've been on a "wet" Twelfth Step call. Before the availability of all the treatment centers, the Twelfth Step call was the mainstay of sobriety. When the treatment centers began taking away our responsibilities in that area I believe we all became lazy. We still became temporary sponsors and greeted the center patients with love, care and concern when they were sent to our meetings, but by the time we saw them for the first time, they were clean, groomed, and virtually free of the shakes. They even smelled pretty good.

Now that many treatment facilities are closing because of the changes in health insurance, the responsibility will be ours as it was in the beginning. I believe that each of us will grow and that the AA program will become even more effective.

Our group has decided that we need to have some sharing sessions on the Twelfth Step call and we need some help. There are many service-oriented alcoholics who have never gone out in the middle of the night to visit a "sick and tired" alcoholic who has been holed up for days without any personal hygiene, with a family who has had it, and with nothing but a few drops of booze left in a bottle.

I am excited about getting back to basics because I believe that I've missed a great deal by letting the treatment centers do the dirty work for me. But we do need to be prepared. We need to have a network of

reliable teams who can be called upon to respond when the cry for help is heard. Times have changed. Twenty years ago another female twelfth-stepper and I were shot at by an angry and despondent woman. With today's climate of violence, the chances of this happening are even greater.

The combination of alcohol and drugs presents special problems too. There is the "I'll sue" society which didn't exist years ago. Some questions: The original idea was for two women to twelfth-step another woman. Is it wise now to include a man? What are the ramifications, if after a twelfth-step call, the drinker dies or decides to end it all?

Sometimes I think we've gotten very specialized in our groups, with meetings defined as nonsmoking, nonswearing, etc. What happens when the new guy comes in sick and shaking, needs a cigarette, and hasn't progressed to the point where his vocabulary has improved? Do we send him away?

Are we ready to have a good nights sleep interrupted? Are we ready to "hug" a drunk who still reeks of booze and vomit? Are we ready to tell it like it was and is? Are we willing to take time out of our busy schedules to take a sick and shaking drunk to his or her first meetings (maybe seven or ten in a row?)

If we are not ready, we had better get ready, because our time has come to be responsible.

*Carole T., Oshkosh, Wisc.
From the Grapevine
November 1994*

*"I don't know the key to success,
but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."*

Bill Cosby

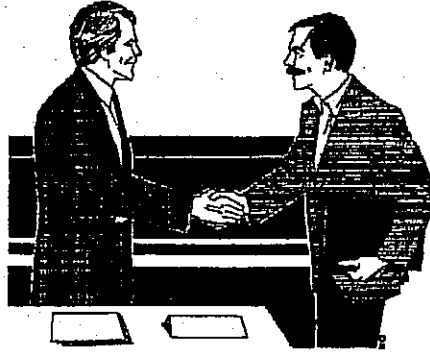
OLD TIME AA ??? THE TORCH IS PASSING!

What is the difference I feel in the rooms? I see newcomers with all the answers, talking anything and everything but recovery. There are few protests from the "old timers." When I came in, I was told to be quiet and try to listen to everyone. I was told that I did not have a message yet, and that all my answers were in the "Big Book" and the message that the people carried in the rooms. I was told that if I would listen, that the message would come to me when I was ready to hear it. I followed that advice. It was much easier for me to do that. I found that by not having to worry about what I was thinking of saying I could more carefully listen to what others had to say. It was a blessing to me and my sobriety that those folks had the courage to tell me what I needed to hear instead of what I wanted to hear.

They were not there to be people pleasers or win a popularity contest—they were there to try to teach me how not drink, one day at a time, and to teach me how to grow in the Program and to work the Steps. They were more interested in my staying sober and learning to live life on life's terms than how much I would like them.

They never let me forget for a minute that drinking is still, and always will be an option for me. After all, if drinking was not an option for me today, I could go about my business and quit attending meetings and working the Steps and doing service work, and anything else I wanted to do. But you see, if it were not an option for me, I would not be an alcoholic. You can turn a cucumber into a pickle, but you can never turn a pickle back into a cucumber. **Got it?**

Now some of the things that go in meetings today simply did not occur, or were quickly squelched, in the days when I first came into AA. Of course, I will have to say this; in those days, the meetings were more often chaired by people with some sobriety. They knew when to speak up and get the meeting back on the topic of a Step, and kept the talk focused on the solution instead of the problem. Today it seems like more and more meetings are chaired by newcomers who do not even know that children, Al-Anons, and spouses of alcoholics cannot attend a closed meeting. There is a big difference in closed and open meetings.



The attendance at closed meetings should be limited to alcoholics only. It is a safe place to discuss anything pertaining to the problems of alcohol without fear that your anonymity will be broken. Without this safe place, some of us would perish. But, if the chairperson is new and the "old-timers" won't speak up—then where is the safety??? More people with some time in the program need to chair the meetings.

The torch has been passed and it is sad to see that we older members are ill prepared to take it. We need to study the principles and leave the personalities alone. We need to give back what was so freely given to us. We need to tell people what they need to hear. I cringe when I hear someone say, "Take what you want and leave the rest." I was told to take what I needed and leave the rest. This is not a play on words. It is the difference between what works and what doesn't.

In a time when so many treatment centers and detox places are closing or drastically limiting their facilities, we are going to have some really wet ones to deal with and that is scary. We don't seem to know how to guide the ones that have some knowledge of what the program is about, much less one who is puking and has the DT's. Do we need workshops? Do we need hands on training? How are we going to be effective in carrying the message "out there" if we can't even carry it in the rooms? It is not a "control issue." It is not a "tough love" message. It is a message for us to take responsibility to reach out with truth and help, and hope and love, to the hand that is reaching out to us. If we continue to enable their sick thinking and molly coddle them, then who is going to help them? **The torch has been passed, can we handle it?**

I have certainly been paying attention to what is going on and have decided to take some of my own advice. It is a heartfelt concern to me and I have decided to take some action and get myself ready in heart and mind to meet the needs of those who still suffer and come to us for help. I hope this will cause you to think too. As always, I pray for the courage to change the things I can, and that is only me.

*From "The Freeway Breakfast" March 1998
Submitted by Paul R. Sr.
Williamsville Group*

AUGUST 1998 ANNIVERSARIES

AMHERST/SNYDER

Dave Z. 6 mos.
 Joanne K. 6 mos.
 Carol K. 9 mos.
 Ralph M. 2 yrs.
 Ed M. 2 yrs.
 Mike E. 6 yrs.
 Paul J. 6 yrs.
 Mickey G. 8 yrs.
 Lynn L. 9 yrs.
 Lisa N. 10 yrs.
 Julie J. 12 yrs.
 John L. 15 yrs.
 Tom C. 16 yrs.
 Bernard A. 18 yrs.
 Eliot L. 38 yrs.
 Frank L. 50 yrs.

COLD SPRING

Harvey A. 3 mos.
 Dan H. 6 mos.
 Leona T. 1 yr.
 Heneritta N. 1 yr.
 Lorenzo B. 1 yr.
 Thornie C. 5 yrs.
 Edith H. 5 yrs.
 Barbara H. 5 yrs.
 Dorothy M. 6 yrs.
 Winston M. 6 yrs.
 Carmen J. 8 yrs.

COURAGE

Patsy N. 28 yrs.

FAITH

Mae H. 2 yrs.

FIRESIDE

Lil B. 2 yrs.
 Patty W. 2 yrs.
 Gregg C. 3 yrs.
 Dan V. 3 yrs.
 Judy M. 3 yrs.
 Gary W. 5 yrs.
 Susan S. 8 yrs.
 Ed M. 10 yrs.
 Janet S. 10 yrs.
 Paul H. 12 yrs.

HAND

Eddie R. 19 yrs.

HAPPY HOUR

Mike S. 3 mos.
 David O. 6 mos.
 Victor C. 9 mos.
 Antjuan D. 9 mos.
 Charles M. 9 mos.
 Leeha R. 9 mos.
 Leona T. 1 yr.
 Dwight B. 2 yrs.
 Victor V. 2 yrs.

HAPPY HOUR(CONT)

Randy B. 3 yrs.
 Gigi M. 3 yrs.
 Kim S. 9 yrs.
 Frank E. 10 yrs.
 Craig M. 13 yrs.

HONESTY

Sid R. 22 yrs.

NORTH BUFFALO

Luther W. 3 mos.
 Mike G. 3 mos.
 John S. 6 mos.
 Sean M. 6 mos.
 David G. 6 mos.
 Jake J. 1 yr.
 Colleen N. 1 yr.
 Barbara C. 1 yr.
 Mansfield M. 1 yr.
 Bill D. 1 yr.
 Melissa M. 1 yr.
 Marty K. 2 yrs.
 Lisa Y. 7 yrs.
 Kathy T. 8 yrs.
 Chuck B. 9 yrs.
 Bernie R. 9 yrs.
 Roddy P. 10 yrs.
 Kevin C. 15 yrs.
 Jeanie A. 23 yrs.
 Barbara B. 24 yrs.

POWERLESS

Jim K. 4 yrs.

REMEMBER WHEN

Mallocka L. 1 yr.
 Darnell W. 1 yr.
 Donald V. 3 yrs.
 Robert C. 3 yrs.
 Randy B. 3 yrs.
 Robert H. 3 yrs.
 Harold A. 5 yrs.
 Kim S. 9 yrs.
 Isiah W. 10 yrs.
 Richard F. 10 yrs.
 John N. 19 yrs.
 John M. 19 yrs.

RISE & SHINE

Cathy S. 3 mos.
 Faith T. 3 mos.
 Johnny F. 6 mos.
 Robert F. 9 mos.
 James J. 9 mos.
 Tangey F. 1 yr.
 Michelle G. 1 yr.
 Tom H. 1 yr.
 Victor V. 2 yrs.
 Teresa L. 2 yrs.
 Robert S. 2 yrs.
 Randy B. 2 yrs.

RISE & SHINE(CONT)

Marion S. 3 yrs.
 Derrick D. 3 yrs.
 Bennie P. 3 yrs.
 Tammie C. 3 yrs.
 Michael A. 4 yrs.
 Theresa B. 4 yrs.
 Kim K. 4 yrs.
 Barbara H. 5 yrs.
 Chris M. 7 yrs.

SHERIDAN

Leon D. 3 mos.
 Joe K. 3 mos.
 Ann K. 3 mos.
 Jamie H. 6 mos.
 Dave Z. 6 mos.
 Ron H. 1 yr.
 Jonathan B. 2 yrs.
 Andrea R. 2 yrs.
 George B. 3 yrs.
 Anthony R. 3 yrs.
 Bob G. 4 yrs.
 Dave P. 4 yrs.
 Will 6 yrs.
 Kevin C. 15 yrs.
 Larry C. 17 yrs.
 Debbie M. 19 yrs.
 Sidney R. 22 yrs.

SUN. MORN. BREAKFAST

Maryann H. 9 mos.
 Roy B. 9 mos.
 Gene K. 1 yr.
 David P. 2 yrs.
 Jim P. 2 yrs.
 Jim K. 4 yrs.

SUNRISE COURT

Laura Lee M. 6 mos.
 Margie 3 yrs.
 Chris M. 7 yrs.
 Patsy 28 yrs.

THRUWAY

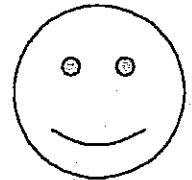
Darryl D. 3 mos.
 Jonathan B. 6 mos.
 Eugene K. 1 yr.
 Wayne B. 1 yr.
 Joelle D. 7 yrs.
 Bob K. 8 yrs.
 Bryan D. 9 yrs.
 Peter S. 9 yrs.
 Lisa N. 10 yrs.
 Perry L. 11 yrs.
 MaryJane M. 12 yrs.
 Dick S. 15 yrs.
 Lee R. 18 yrs.
 Edwin R. 19 yrs.
 Dave B. 20 yrs.
 Bernie S. 26 yrs.

WE CARE

Rita K. 5 yrs.
 Shem E. 9 yrs.
 Marcy S. 12 yrs.

REMINDER:

**SEPTEMBER 1998
 ANNIVERSARIES MUST
 BE IN THE CENTRAL
 OFFICE, IN WRITING,
 NO LATER THAN
 AUGUST 10, 1998.**



**BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
295 MAIN STREET
ROOM 845 ELLICOTT SQUARE BUILDING
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203
853-0388**

AUGUST 1998

MEETING CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS:

MAIN & HIGH - WEDNESDAY - will now be meeting in the building next to there present location. This building number is 984 MAIN STREET.

V.I.P. - THURSDAY EVENINGS still meets at 8:30PM

SOBER TRAIL - MONDAY - in Irving, New York, now meets at the SAYLOR BLDG on RTE 438.

PRIMARY PURPOSE - THURSDAY - 12 Noon - also meets on TUESDAYS at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Center Street in GOWANDA.

EAST AMHERST - THURSDAY - 7:30PM - which meets at St Mary's RC Church, Swormville at 8:00PM is now an OPEN MEETING.

MERCY - THURSDAY - 10:00AM - Brothers of Mercy, 4520 Ransom Road in Clarence, NY is no longer wheelchair accessible. The meeting will always be a Closed Discussion.

LIVING SOBER - WEDNESDAY - in Kenmore wants to use their address as 32 Landers Road at Delaware Road.

KEEP IT SIMPLE, SISTER - is changing their open meeting to the last week of the month. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pine & Fillmore in East Aurora. - THURS

TWIN CITIES - MONDAY - Payne Avenue Christian Church, 350 Wheatfield Street, North Tonawanda is changing their meeting time to 7:30PM. This is one of the oldest meetings in the area and needs support to stay open. It will be an Open Discussion meeting with a Speaker the last week of the month.

PLEASE NOTE:

BI-LINGUAL SPEAKING PEOPLE - Every once and awhile we get a call here at the office requesting a person to help someone who does not speak English. If you are some one who speaks a second language and could help us out occasionally please call the Central Office and let us know. We have had requests for Spanish, Polish, Vietnamese and most recently, Russian.

SCHILLER - TUESDAY - 8:00PM - new meeting that meets at St Francis of Assisi School, 122 Schiller Street off Lovejoy, one block east of North Ogden. This is a closed, 12 step study group. Non-smoking.

HARMONY - MONDAY & FRIDAY - Salvation Army - Westminster at Bailey is updating their membership during the months of June, July and August. Please come to the meeting and let the group secretary know if you consider yourself a member of the group.

4TH STEP STUMBLERS - SUNDAY - has added a comfortable touch to their meeting by serving homemade sandwiches and pastries. A nice way to finish a weekend on Sunday Evenings at 7:00pm, West Av Presbyterian Ch, 104 W Ferry

PATHWAY TO PEACE is a MONDAY through FRIDAY meeting at 10:00AM. It is at the New Beginnings House at 376 Dewitt. Dewitt is off West Ferry, 3 blocks east of Niagara Street. Come join in.

SEASONAL MEETING:

SERENITY IN THE PARK - MONDAY - 7:00PM, Delaware Park Rose Garden. -

