

NEW FRONTIERS

May 2000

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL A.A. MEMBERS OF
WESTERN NEW YORK AND THE NIAGARA FRONTIER
We request that this newsletter be kept within the Fellowship to insure anonymity

HELP WANTED

Positions To Be Filled Immediately

- ☞ Co-Chair for Central Committee
Appointed to fill position until January 2001

- ☞ District One Steering Committee Representative
Appointed to fill position until January 2001

- ☞ District 10 Steering Committee Representative
Appointed to fill position until January 2001

- ☞ District 6 Steering Committee Representative
Nominations April
Election in May

- ☞ 2001 Convention Co-Chair, District Three
letters of intent May 31
nominations June 4
election August 6

Candidate must be present for nomination and election.
Candidate must have 10 years continuous sobriety.

For further information please contact the Central Office at 853-0388. These positions are all valuable in carrying the message. Please, if there was a time it is now.

From Behind the Walls The First Three Steps

For me these first building blocks of the archway to freedom have recently, once again, surfaced to "re-mind" me, that is to put back into my mind and so into my life, that spiritual growth and progress never really end. In my incarceration in a "federal" prison camp I am participating in a 500-hour residential drug/alcohol program and one of the requirements is to complete a workbook on steps 1, 2 and 3. Since I am currently working on my 6th step I did not see the need for me to rework these first three...that is until I saw the need to pray and meditate on it.

As my sponsor pointed out I recognized that I had not before, (in early sobriety). Things those were so basic that I took them for granted. Such as Step 1 - I did not have to be fearful of powerlessness resulting in passivity. Quite the opposite. In so admitting powerlessness we subordinate our will to God's so that we can become the most effective and potent instruments of God that we were created to be. Also, that there are a great many things, outside of us, that we are completely powerless over. Things that we as alcoholics worry about and fixate on. Like what others think, say or do and the time we do not have instead of just ourselves. For who among us can add a single our to their lives by worrying about it.

Step 2 - Suggests by the phrase "came to believe" that there is a process and a progression of faith in this step. One that over time, after having admitted in step one our powerlessness evolves to that faith and the next logical step of seeking a new source of strength or power to take charge for us and restore us to health and wholeness (sanity). A strength and power that is greater than ourselves. I used to believe that abstinence alone would accomplish this end and it never happened until I sought out that power greater than myself, which brings us to...

Step 3 - Recognizing that God is that Higher Power and asking Him to assume control over and care of all aspects of our

lives, "turning it over", not just the burdensome and most obvious ones but every one. For the recovering person that means turning over to God's care every aspect of life, even down to the smallest, most insignificant frustrations involved in handling children or wives or girlfriend or finances. Trying to fix a broken appliance or dealing with congested freeway traffic. In the face of these irritations, (much as one faces everyday in a federal prison camp), the recovering person will say time and time again turn it over, let go and let God. The key here is, above all, WILLINGNESS. Once willingness cracks open just a little bit then God will direct us in the process. He will come in and dine with us and us with Him (read Revelation 3:20) and see the picture on the wall at the Harmony Group.

The third step prayer* is an excellent and efficient way to formalize our commitment to this new willingness.

All of these things have come to me again through and since my incarceration during which I have in turn done my will, been judgmental and unwilling to accept people and things when different than I am. All at the expense of peace of mind and serenity. Thank God for this 500-hour program, this prison, my sponsor and for the mysterious ways His wonders are performed. To say it simply: Step 1, I can't; Step 2, "He" can; Step 3, I'll let Him.

This fellowship surely is a beautiful thing.

* God, I offer myself to Thee, to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy power, Thy love and Thy way of life. May I do Thy will always.

Tom C.
Harmony Group

Getting Involved With Your Intergroup

For a change of pace, perhaps we might ask what we can do for our intergroup and Central Offices, which are on the front line in carrying the A.A. message to individuals, groups and the public at large. A recent issue of The Messenger, the newsletter of the Nashville, Tennessee, Central Office, carried some practical do's and don'ts, reprinted from the December 1994 issue of the Grapevine and adapted as follows:

First the don'ts:

- ✘ If you haven't participated, don't complain that members have no voice in decisions.
- ✘ If you decline all commitments, don't complain that service has stagnated and then offer advice on how things should be run.
- ✘ If you've been slow to contribute, don't complain about poor financial management.
- ✘ If you haven't been reading the newsletters and reports, don't complain that you're not kept informed.
- ✘ If you hang back when volunteers are needed, don't complain that you're never asked, never appreciated.

Now the dos:

- ✘ Volunteer to answer the phones.
- ✘ Place your name on your group's Twelfth Step call list.
- ✘ Serve and be an active intergroup representative or in other service jobs on the intergroup committees.
- ✘ Encourage your home group members to contribute time and funds on a regular basis.
- ✘ Make personal contributions of your own.

Of intergroups and the work they do to help both suffering and recovering alcoholics, A.A. co-founder Bill W. said over 50 years ago, "Heaven has surely reserved a special place for every one of them." (The Language of the Heart, p. 30). Turnabout is fair play and, besides, when we support our local intergroup or central office, aren't we really helping ourselves?

STEP 5

ADMITTED TO GOD, TO OURSELVES AND TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR WRONGS.

Page 62 of the *Twelve and Twelve*. As the pain subsides a healing tranquility takes place and when humility and serenity are so combined something else of great moment is apt to occur. When I first actually felt the presence of God I learned how to level out the emotional swings that got me into trouble both when I was up and when I was done. I was taught to differentiate between my wants (which are never satisfied) and my needs (which are always provided for). God cast out the burdens of the past and the anxieties of the future as I began to live in the present one day at a time. Today I embrace reality with open arms I find it beautiful! For at last I am at peace with myself. And with others and with God.

Carl K., a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous
Downtown Men's Discussion

Integrity can be seen as being the spiritual concept of step 5. Webster defines integrity as "the state of being entire; wholeness; probity; honesty; uprightness". I used to think that after hearing all these wonderful stories about the spiritual awakening that happened to those who did step 5 I was anxious with trepidation to get to it. When I wasn't transformed overnight, and when I did not have a golden light come into my room (except that from the bathroom down the hall) I guess you would say that I was disappointed and again feeling that I wasn't doing things right. But, over the process, I found that yes, I was as all right as I could be. That most transformations don't happen overnight, but that these too are processes. I was always told that I would not get sober overnight, it took me twenty years to become a drunk, and it will take me endless time to undo it, but I am as ok today as I can be. And that makes me whole. Honest, forthright (boy scout that I am), doing the best that I can with what I have, giving back what was freely given to me, how dare I not?

Cindy N.
Sunrise Court

TRADITION 5

EACH GROUP HAS ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE - TO CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

It is best that everyone understands that the "alcoholic who still suffers" does not necessarily mean the "alcoholic who still drinks" or "the alcoholic who is new to the program". No, even those of us who have been sober for years can still suffer at times. Therefore, the alcoholic who still suffers can mean you or I.

Now, let's focus on the group carrying its message. What is the message we carry to the alcoholic who still suffers? The message itself is that there is hope that life can be better for us without the alcohol. It can be better when we learn to take care of ourselves and it can be better when we courageously deal with the demons of the past. The group communicates this through its speakers, its discussions, its readings, its recitations of the slogans, its greeters at the door, and any other form it may take.

This tradition tells us that each group must primarily devote itself to carrying the message. Not exclusively to the newcomer nor to the old timers, not primarily to the group members not to the visitors does it carry its message. No, the group must carry the message to the alcoholic, whoever that may be, who still suffers at that particular moment.

Marie S.
Live and Let Live

CONCEPT 5

THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD SERVICE STRUCTURE, A TRADITION "RIGHT OF APPEAL OUGHT TO PREVAIL, THUS ASSURING US THAT MINORITY OPINION WILL BE HEARD AND THAT PETITIONS FOR THE REDRESS OF PERSONAL GRIEVANCES WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

"Concept Five deals with the rights of appeal and petition. A central problem of all free governments in democratic societies is how to protect and make possible the best use of minority feeling and opinion.

In A.A., individual freedom is of enormous importance. As a matter of fact, Tradition III insures us of this - for any alcoholic is a member the moment he says so -- we can't take away his right to belong, neither can we force members to believe anything or pay anything. Ours is indeed a large charter of minority privileges and liberties. Our Third Legacy procedures of putting two top candidates in the hat, insures that minority candidates have an equal chance with the majority's choice. At our last Board meeting, we had a brand new Trustee from the Southeast Region and he made a wonderful statement. He said, "I came out of a bottle into A.A. and out of the hat on to the Board of Trustees." And that is about the way it goes.

Strictly speaking, a democracy operates on the will of the majority no matter how slim that majority may be. So with this system of ours, of making it possible to accept the often demonstrated wisdom of minorities, we occasionally may deny the democracy's cherished principle of final decision by a majority vote. But, we have actually found that our Third Legacy method of electing Delegates has much strengthened the spirit of democracy among us. Unity has been cemented. Cooperation has been increased, and when the Delegate is finally chosen, no discontented minority can trail in his wake. To increase the actual spirit of democracy by special deference to minority opinion, is, we think, better than to follow blindly the rule which always insists on an unqualified dominance by a slight majority vote. Throughout his political speculation, deTocqueville, the French student of democracy, insisted that the greatest danger to democracy would always be the tyranny of apathetic, self-seeking, uninformed or angry majorities. Only a truly dedicated citizen, quite willing to protect and conserve minority rights and opinions could, he thought, guarantee the existence of a free and democratic society. Hence, we believe, that we shall never be subjected to the tyranny of either the majority or the minority, provided we carefully define the relations between them and forthwith tread the paths of service in the spirit of our Twelve Steps, our Twelve Traditions and this Concept Number V."

Eve M., 4th NYS Convention
submitted by Cindy N.

THE TREMBLING MAN

*He walked in, asked for a bed;
His lips were moving but his eyes were dead.
The scars on his face belied his age,
His trembling hands held back his rage.*

*Our conversation had just begun,
When he screamed, "I CAN'T DO IT AGAIN TO MY
SON!*

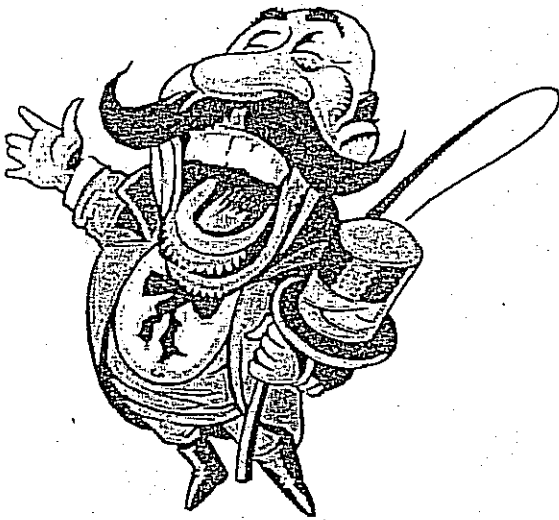
*I TOOK HIS MONEY. I'VE LEFT HIM UNFED.
THERE ISN'T EVEN A COVER FOR HIS BED. "*

*I prayed to God for the right thing to say and
Then these words came my way:
"There's always hope as long as you are alive.
Get help for yourself and your son will thrive. "*

*His son came by the other day.
To let me know his Father had passed away.
He was a fine young man with a steady grip,
Eyes that twinkled and a wit so quick.
He thanked me for being there from start to end
He knew his Dad needed a friend
His life had changed; he had been blessed
The journey his Father had begun had passed the
lest.*

*A day at a time he had done his best.
The family survived; the memories are grand.
That was all apart of God's plan
for the "Trembling Man".*

-Jim L., Harmony Group



MINI-CONVENTION

Why?

To allow more people to get active in
Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole;

To express our gratitude,

Find some fellowship and

Possibly, take something home...

...Sobriety for another day!

We need the groups to help...

Sponsoring food & coffee,

People to work registration,

Kitchen, programs and suggestions.

We need everyone's prayers and

Active support. Come on get involved,

Have fun...we're all on the

Broad highway together.

When? Where?

June 24th at St. James Church,

76 Main St. Hamburg. For more info.

Contact: Tom Pietrak at 649-1967

Thank-You...Lets all have a lot of

Fun; giving it away to Keep it!

It Needs to be Told
I remember yea, Lord I
Remember the days of old
That's when it was good Lord
And it needs to be told
Your words of wisdom
I did behold
The world outside
Became so cold
I came inside
And found pure gold
That's when it was good Lord
And it needs to be told
The answers the come
Not always for the old
When given your world
We need to be told
When it gets heavy
Beneath the load
It's then we need to let you mold
Mold us and show
To stay within the fold
It was Jesus, Lord your son
Who was sold
For thirty pieces of silver
I'm on the royal road.

Ava P. Powerless



Fellowship Announcements

May 22, Monday

Please help the members of South Buffalo celebrate their group's 55th anniversary with three speakers starting 8 pm at Woodside Methodist, refreshments will follow.

June 18, Sunday

Members of Sunrise Court respectfully request you join them in the group's 47th Anniversary Father Day Breakfast and speaker 11:30, Holiday Inn, 620 Delaware Avenue, tickets \$11.

There are currently local members who are incarcerated in out of town facilities, who would be extremely grateful for any kind of written communication. If, you have the inclination, time and gratitude, for even a short note, please contact the central office.

Journey by Lamp-light

Someone has observed, "He who carries a lantern on a dark road at night sees only one step ahead. When he takes that step, the lamp moves forward and another step is made plain. He finally reaches his destination in safety without once walking in darkness. All the way was lighted, but only a single step at a time. This is the method of God's guidance."

To me, this is a ultimate description of how the program of Alcoholics Anonymous works. The Twelve Steps, the principles they teach, and the Higher Power they lead to, are our lantern - the Fellowship is our fuel. We move forward one step at a time never knowing for sure what lies ahead, but move ahead on faith because the path we follow is well worn from those that have gone ahead of us. And we can be certain, as long as we keep the lantern fueled and burning bright, we will never fall into the dark pit of agony and despair where we once lived.

And if someone nearby is stumbling in the darkness, we can reach out our hand and share our light with them to help them stay on the path. This, more than anything else, will provide fuel for our own lantern. I pray the God of your understanding will richly bless you with serenity, joy and happiness as he has me. Thank you for helping me keep the lantern burning bright.

Sheba S. via E-mail
Reprint from May Grapevine

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ANNIVERSARIES

Acceptance

Linda V. 6 m
Paul Mc. 3 y
Janet M. 19 y
Barb C. 21 y

Amherst/Snyder

Donna D. 3 m
Don F. 6 m
Bob D. 6 m
Scott P. 6 m
Audrey B. 6 m
Larry B. 1 y
Doug C. 3 y
Bill R. 3 y
Mona A. 4 y
Tony B. 5 y
Jeff R. 7 y
Eva H. 9 y
Sheila G. 9 y
Rick G. 10 y
Amy H. 10 y
Jerry B. 11 y
Chris T. 11 y
Bruce G. 13 y
Fred S. 13 y
Rita F. 36 y
Al C. 43 y

Any Age

Mark W. 3 m
John W. 1 y
Nancy W. 2 y

Cazenovia

Curtis W. 10 y
Leon R. 10 y

Cold Springs

Arnette K. 6 m
Henrietta H. 1 y
Harley A. 2 y
Pearl B. 6 y
Denise R. 7 y

Fireside

Sharon N. 6 m
Kim K. 9 m
Bruce P. 9 m
Jill N. 3 y
John L. 3 y
Maura G. 5 y
Gretchen F. 9 y
Mark P. 15 y
Catherine P. 16 y
Terry A. 17 y
Carol S. 20 y

Courage

Jane F. 3 m

H.A.N.D.

Jim L. 9 y
Bill K. 14 y

Honesty

Antonette L. 1 y
Sandy M. 10 y

Jouney

Roz S. 3 m
Lynette T. 10 y

Kensington

George I. 19 y
John T. 29 y
Ron W. 23 y

Let Go & Let

God

Elvis R. 11 y
Bill L. 12 y
Marcus W. 14 y

Lighten Up

Christine D. 3 m
Joe K. 1 y
Mike K. 1 y
Mary Rose K. 2 y
Colleen 4 y
Cindy D. 4 y
Mike B. 5 y
Amy J. 6 y
Jim C. 10 y

Main & High

Kim S. 3 m
Terri A. 3 m
Rasheena C. 6 m
Nyree B. 1 y
Winston F. 8 y

North Buffalo

Cathy B. 3 m
Paul M. 3 m
Anthony P. 3 m
Jim C. 6 m
David G. 1 y
Liz S. 8 y
Erika F. 13 y
Terry A. 17 y
Roger P. 19 y
Dave P. 21 y
Mel R. 23 y

Powerless

Josephine K. 2 y
Libby H. 3 y
Walter H. 9 y

Ridge

Lynn C. 2 y
Jim K. 3 y
Susan C. 3 y
Ellen C. 4 y
Matty B. 9 y
Beth D. 9 y

Rise & Shine

Leon W. 6 m
Jerry T. 6 m
Jim G. 9 m
Colleen K. 9 m
Bill P. 2 y
Faith T. 2 y
Vicky W. 4 y
Robert D. 8 y
Willie D. 10 y
Elvis R. 11 y
Willie G. 11 y

Sheridan

Kathy C. 3 m
George K. 6 m
Sharon B. 6 m
Dan S. 2 y
Don M. 2 y
Mark H. 3 y
John M. 4 y
Mark H. 4 y
Barry R. 4 y
John G. 5 y
Rob S. 9 y
Mark S. 15 y

Sunday Morning

Breakfast

Phyllis N. 6 m
Joanne H. 9 m
Susan D. 9 m
Don F. 1 y
Pam B. 1 y
Mark D. 3 y

The Book

Adam 1 y

Thruway

Julie Ann H. 3 m
Don F. 1 y
Mike B. 6 y
Suzanne M. 9 y
George L. 16 y
Mary Ellen S. 20 y

We Care

Mary Ann J. 3 m
Mike 6 m
John Z. 9 m

Women's

Westside

Thomasena 6 m
Joyce J. 1 y
Donna S. 1 y
Sandra Y. 2 y
Tara L. 2 y
Sally H. 2 y
Marge M. 3 y
Kathy M. 4 y
Beth D. 4 y
Lynette T. 10 y

Group

Anniversaries

Firside
Morning After
South Buffalo
University Men's
Lockport #1
Living Sober
Liberty Women
TGIF
Searching for
Serenity
Faith
Trail's End
Southtown
Women
Holiday Village
Springville Wed.
Noon
Boulevard
Helping Hand
Just For Today
Remember When
Why
Sobriety Men's
Discussion
You'll Never
Walk Alone
High View

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

*BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(716) 853-0388
(716) 853-0389 FAX*

*845 ELLICOTT SQUARE
295 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203*

May 2000

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

PLEASE NOTE

EASIER SOFTER WAY – Wednesday, 9 am, has moved to the Statler Towers, 107 Delaware Avenue, suite 555, Buffalo.

GAY, LESBIAN, SOBER & PROUD – is moving May 6, to St. John's Grace, 496 Lafayette Avenue, 10:30 pm

LAST DAYS FELLOWSHIP Wind Ministries Motor Club, 1526 Clinton Street Coffee House, Bailey at Clinton, parking across the street, has moved to Fridays at 7 pm same site.

LOVE Fridays, 1 pm, St. Louis, 35 Edward at Main, Open Meeting.

MOD/LIVING IN THE SOLUTION – is now known as **LIVING IN THE SOLUTION**.

SERENITY IN THE PARK – Delaware Rose Garden, Monday, 7 pm BYOC.

TFC-12 STEP CALL – Lockport Memorial Hospital is not a meeting that can be attended without being cleared through the Treatment Facility Committee.

TWIN CITIES – Now meets on Mondays and Fridays at 7:30 pm, 1208 Oliver St., N. Tonawanda.

VIP Thursdays, Veteran's Hospital, no longer meets.

WE CARE GROUP – Thursday, 7:30 pm, 130 Empire Drive, is updating their membership.

NEW MEETINGS

COMING EVENTS

- ~ May 7, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ May 7, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ May 13, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ May 13, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ May 16, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Ch., 6:30 pm.
- ~ May 20, Sat., **NYS Informational Workshop** planning committee meeting, 10 am. Ellicott Square conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ May 20, Sat., **Public Information Committee Meeting**, Church of the Holy Communion, S5381 Old Lake Shore Road/Route 5, 10 am.

- ~ May 21, **General Service Assembly**, Hamburg Town Hall, S6100 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, 1:00 pm.
- ~ May 21, Sun., **FALL CONVENTION** planning committee, 1 pm, Millersport Marriott.
- ~ May 22, Mon., please help the members of **South Buffalo** celebrate their group's 55th anniversary with three speakers starting 8 pm at Woodside Methodist, refreshments will follow.
- ~ June 4, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ June 4, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ June 10, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ June 10, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ June 17, Sat., **NYS Informational Workshop** planning committee meeting, 10 am. Ellicott Square conference room 117, 295 Main Street.
- ~ June 17, Sat., **Public Information Committee Meeting**, Church of the Holy Communion, S5381 Old Lake Shore Road/Route 5, 10 am.
- ~ June 18, Sun., **FALL CONVENTION** planning committee, 1 pm, Millersport Marriott.
- ~ June 18, Sun., members of **Sunrise Court** respectfully request you join them in the group's 47th Anniversary Father Day Breakfast and speaker 11:30, Holiday Inn, 620 Delaware Avenue, tickets \$11.
- ~ June 24, **Central Committee Mini Convention**, St. James Church, 76 Main St. Hamburg, call 649-1967 for more information.
- ~ June 20, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Ch., 6:30 pm.
- ~ June 29 - July 2, 2000, **International Convention**, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- ~ July 8, Sat., **Main and High's 3rd Annual Day of Sharing**, 960 Main St. parking and entrance in rear.
- ~ August 4-6, **NYS Informational Workshop**.

There are currently local members who are incarcerated in out of town facilities, who would be extremely grateful for any kind of written communication. If, you have the inclination, time and gratitude, for even a short note, please contact the central office.



Dick L. opened the meeting at 7:04 with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. Jim, read the preamble followed by the reading of the Purpose of Central Committee by Mike and Terry B. of the Lakeshore Group read the twelve traditions.

The minutes from the April 2nd meeting were read and a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was made by Jim B. of the Ridge group, and was seconded by. Pete F. of the Courage group.

34 GROUPS ATTENDED: District #1: Giving, Miracle, Sunday Nighters, and Sunrise Court. District #2: Age Doesn't Matter, Chapter IX, How it Works-Men's Disc., Kenmore, North Buffalo. District #3: Courage, Iron Horse, Rainbow, Ridge, Tuesday Women's, Victory, and We Care. District #4: Action, Hamburg, and The Lakeshore Group. District #5: Grand, Lockport #1, Niagara Frontier Men's, and Wilson. District #6: Dunkirk. District #7: Cold Spring, Ellicott, and First Step. District #8: Amherst Snyder, Lighten Up, Renewal, Wehrle, and Williamsville. District #9: Anybody's, and Rural is Plural. District #10: No one reported.

New group representatives were: Leslie P., Tuesday Women's.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) ENVELOPE SYSTEM: The written report was submitted by Darlene W., Bob K., GSA Area 50 Chairperson gave the report, \$407.00 was received for the month of April 2000. That made the total for the year 2000 of \$2,876.00. A comparison of April's total to prior months and to 1999 and 1998 can be seen in the chart below:

	2000	2000 ytd	1999	1999 ytd	1998	1998 ytd
January	\$1,319.00	\$1,319.00	1,540.00	1,540.00	1,795.00	1,795.00
February	981.00	2,300.00	337.00	1,877.00	580.00	2,375.00
March	169.00	2,469.00	469.00	2,346.00	592.00	2,967.00
April	407.00	2,876.00	538.00	2,884.00	540.00	3,507.00
May			572.00	3,456.00	388.00	3,895.00
June			263.00	3,719.00	134.00	4,029.00
July			783.00	4,502.00	772.00	4,801.00
August			282.00	4,784.00	540.00	5,341.00
September			527.00	5,311.00	373.00	5,714.00
October			375.00	5,686.00	356.00	6,070.00
November			154.00	5,840.00	817.00	6,887.00
December			418.00	6,258.00	341.00	7,228.00
TOTAL	2,876.00	2,876.00	\$6,258.00	\$6,258.00	7,228.00	7,228.00

2) STEERING COMMITTEE: Bob G., Amherst Snyder read the report (no written report was submitted). The Steering committee meeting discussed the need for a 2001 Convention co-chair from the third district. Pat M. of the Rainbow and Courage groups showed some interest. Anyone else interested should contact Cindy at Central Office. A reminder that 10 years of sobriety is needed for this position. District #1, #6 and #10 still need representatives to the Steering committee.

Also discussed were the complaints received about the 1110 group having to be addressed. The idea of sending a letter to them and having three Steering committee members attend their meeting to offer assistance was discussed. A copy of the proposed letter to be sent was read.

The idea of putting together a website was tabled until the June meeting.

3) DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: No reports given.

4) FINANCIAL REPORT: Jim B., of the Ridge Group, reported that the beginning checkbook balance was \$4,286.81. Total revenue was \$6,887.70. There were disbursements of \$8,348.13, leaving a closing balance of \$2,826.38. The full financial report with all details is available in writing, attached to the minutes.

5) TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Pete F., Courage Group, Chairman of the Committee read the report. The committee meets at 6:30PM at St Paul's Church, on Indian Church Road, South Buffalo. (Where the Iron Horse group meets). Ten (10) people attended. The status of the regular meetings at treatment facilities is as follows:

Sunday ECMC - 3:45pm: okay	Sunday VAMC - 7:00pm: okay
Monday Sheehan- 7:00pm: okay	Monday Salvation Army - 8:00pm: okay
Tuesday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay	Tuesday VAMC - 1:00pm: Need people for the 2nd Tue.
Thursday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay	Thursday Lockport Memorial Hosp.- 8:00pm: okay
Friday ECMC - 7:00pm okay	Saturday ECMC - 7:00pm: okay.

There was no Old Business

New Business. The workload was divided up to call all volunteers to get them information on "Bridging the Gap". Don B., the current B.T.G. coordinator will be leaving town due to a work situation, Bob G., Amherst Snyder group will be the new coordinator.

6) CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Bill L., We Care, Chairman, gave the report. The meeting was held on May 7th at 6:00 pm before the Central Committee Meeting. 5 people attended and discussed the following: meetings at Attica, Niagara County Men and Women's, Erie County Men and Women's, And Alden are all being covered. Gowanda is being covered on the 4th and 5th weeks with the 2nd and 3rd weeks to be covered starting next month. Please let it be known that the committee is looking for both members and groups to carry the message of recovery inside the jails.

7) SCREENERS: John B., Lakeshore, gave the report. A screener informed the committee that the answering service was telling people counselors would get back to them. The screener informed the answering service that we are members of AA and not counselors. The service will change the format to indicate that a member of AA will contact them. The screener chairman will receive a list of calls and responses. Received a list of screeners from Central Office and will be contacting these people to confirm or deny days on call. 12 Step contacts are also being contacted to see what days they would be available to match up with screeners.

8) CENTRAL OFFICE: No report was given.

9) NEW FRONTIER; Arnie, of Sunrise Court gave the report. Last committee meeting was held on April 15th 2000 to put together May's issue. 5 members were present. The next meeting will be held on May 13th 2000 at Central Office, 845 Ellicott Sq. Bldg., at 10:00 am.

10) PAST CONVENTION (FALL 1999): No report.

11) PRESENT CONVENTION: Adolph I., Co-chair of 2000 Convention gave the report. 59th Buffalo Fall Convention, Nov. 10, 11, and 12, 2000. The committee met on Sunday April 16th at the Marriott. The following topics were discussed: The policy on what price to charge people from halfway houses. Some suggestions were: Half-price, pay what you can, have the house make up the difference, start saving now, the vote will be next month. The committee is looking for a choice of beef or chicken, registrant must choose in advance. The dinner will have a limit of 550 people. Flyers will be sent out next month when graphics are complete. Next meeting: May 21, 2000 at 1:00 pm at the Marriott.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) A HOC COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION SITES: Adolph I. reported. Final report not ready. The Adam's Mark is still working on a price. Their facility is elegant and spacious, and newly renovated. There is room in the dining room to fit everyone for the main speaker. No smoking inside, but there is an outside courtyard off the hospitality room where people can imbibe in the pleasures of smoking. Plenty of small and medium rooms for speakers. Food is about \$2 more per person. The UB Alumni Arena was also looked into.

COURTESY REPORTS

1) GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: Bob K., Southgate Area 50 Chairman, made the report: There was no meeting last month. Delegate Mike B. gave the pre-Conference report at the Spring Convention. The next meeting will be May 21st (on the third Sunday because of Mother's Day), at the Hamburg Town Hall 5999 South Park, Hamburg, N.Y. Mike B. will have the full Conference report at that time.

2) PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Terry B. Chairperson gave the report. Since last month she spoke on a panel at the Spring Convention. A set of guidelines for the Internet to be added to PIC handbook. The committee met on April 15, 2000. Guy H. past PIC chair, was kind enough to come and talk to the committee about examples of presentations. Guy and three others went to Sweet Home High School on 5/2/00 and did five presentations. The next PIC meeting is May 20, 2000. There are also two presentations scheduled for Deltacraft Paper Company 5/11 and 5/18.

3) COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE: No report was given.

4) ARCHIVES: Tom B., Archives Chairman, gave the report. On March 12, 2000 John M. and Bill C. stepped down as Archives Chair and Archivist respectively and respectfully, job well done guys. Tom B. was appointed new Chairperson and Ben W. was appointed new Archivist and both are looking forward to working with the body. A display was set up at the Spring Convention in Jamestown April 7,8, and 9, 2000. There was also an Archives panel. The Chair would like to thank all that were involved. Future displays will be at the Main High groups 3rd Day of sharing July 8th, 2000 at the Salvation Army 960 Main St., The New York State Informational Workshop, Aug 4-6,2000 at UB, and the upcoming fall convention. The next Archives meeting will be held on June 3rd, 2000 because of Memorial Day, otherwise they are held on the 4th Saturday of every month before the Courage Group meeting at 9:00Am at the Maryvale Presbyterian Church, 425 Maryvale Dr. Cheektowaga.

RECAP

Regarding the Steering Committee, Jay H., N. Buff. wanted to know how long the steering representatives needed to be sober. Three years was the response.

Regarding the financial report, Dick L. asked about the \$12,714.70 on the financial report, was it the prudent reserve? Jim B. Financial chair said it was total assets. Dick pointed out that "outstanding invoices" is not part of assets.

Regarding Treatment Committee, Pete C., Renewal group said he went to the Tuesday 7 pm meeting and no one showed up, was this oversight or is this time slot not filled? It was reported to be an oversight.

Regarding the Past Convention, Scott T., Lakeshore, wanted to know when we would get the final report? Is this too long to wait for a Convention report held in November? We keep saying "next month, next month" and nothing gets done. If chairman is unavailable then the co-chair has to step up. Barry of the Victory group suggested that the Steering committee representative from District 10 should get a hold of the chairman. It was stated that he is the Steering committee representative Scott T. said then he thinks it is up to the

chairman of this body to see that a report is turned in. Pat M. Courage Group said he could contact Jerry B. to find out where report is. Pete F. Courage group wanted to know if the money from convention was turned in. It was reported that most of the money has been. Regarding General Service, Joanne M. of the action Group, alerted everyone to a flyer announcing the 21st Annual New York State Informational workshop. This is a great opportunity to see how other areas operate. This area (Area 50) will host the event Aug. 4, 5, 6, 2000 at UB's Amherst campus. Weekend meal and residence packages are available. This area hosts this event once every four years so it would be nice if we spread the word for a good turnout.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott T. announced that the Day of Sharing held in the south towns will be on Sat. June 24th, St. James, 76 Main Street. Anyone interested should contact Scott T. This event will be to inform people not only of what we do, but also of the benefits that we receive from serving AA.

NEW BUSINESS

George B., N. Buff, inquired about children at closed meetings. Some concerns his home group had were that of anonymity, non-compliance with the closed meeting statement, and the kids being a distraction. Some mothers have trouble getting babysitters; can the groups help out here? Dick L. says AA is not a baby-sitting service. Cheryl of the Giving group says that some mothers can't afford sitters so they have to bring kids to meetings. Karen S. of the Ridge Group says that it should be up to the individual group consciousness to decide if kids are allowed. Terry B. Lakeshore group, says when she goes to a closed meeting she expects nobody but alcoholics to be in attendance. If groups want to allow anyone to attend then they should change to an open meeting format. Jay H., N. Buffalo according to our Traditions, the anonymity of an alcoholic at a closed meeting is the group's responsibility. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking, if there is no desire then you don't belong at a closed meeting. Scott T. Lakeshore Group says that we can step up and help people instead of not allowing them to attend. It is also our responsibility to inform the new mother or father of our traditions. If we don't like a meeting where there are children then we can attend another meeting.

Joanne M., of the Action group made a motion to allow the Steering committee to move forward in deciding what hotel we will use for the 2001 Convention. John B., Lakeshore Group seconded the motion, the motion passed with one descending vote.

It was brought up that we need to address the matter of the 1110 group following the traditions. Jay H. asked if we should send a letter to them followed by a visit from members of the Steering committee. Jim B., Ridge group suggested that we make groups aware of the traditions and suggest they follow them. Scott T. reminded us of years ago when a situation like this arose, some old-timers went down to talk openly about our traditions, without making any ultimatums, and the problem took care of itself in a short time. Jay H. reiterated that groups are autonomous unless they affect other groups or AA as a whole and if they are we should address the issues with them. Cheryl of the Giving group made a motion that we send three steering committee members to address the 1110 group for assistance purposes along with a copy of the letter that has been drafted. Joanne M. seconded the motion. There were two votes against and two abstentions, all the rest were in favor. In a descending opinion, Rich F., of Ridge group asked who are we to interfere? We should let them sink or swim, by letting God take care of the situation.

Motion to close was made by Pat M. of the Courage and Rainbow groups, the motion was seconded by John B. of Lakeshore, the meeting closed at 8:23 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Mark S. Lakeshore Group
Recording Secretary

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2000

GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
Abbott Men		90.00		90.00		90.00
ceptance/Welcome	400.00	400.00				
Action	75.00	115.00				
Age Doesn't Matter		50.00				
Amherst/Snyder		158.00				
Amsdell/Lakeshore	25.00	107.65				
Any Age		200.00				
Any Length	30.00	150.00				
Anybody's Group	20.00	80.00				
Attitude Adjustment		150.00				
Attraction		100.00				
Bidwell Monday Nite		50.00		50.00		50.00
Big Book/Lockport		50.00				
Blasdell Monday Nite		40.00				
Boulevard Women		150.00				
Brass		55.00				
But For The Grace of God		35.00				
Came To Believe		14.75				
Casting	100.00	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cathedral Park		27.95		5.00		5.00
Caz	7.00	64.00				
Chapter IX		40.00		40.00		40.00
neektowaga		100.00		50.00		
Clarence Men's Disc. Wednesday		100.00				
Courage		320.00		30.00		30.00
Crossroads		217.50				
Crosstalk Big Book		60.00				
Daily Reflections		60.00				
East Aurora		100.00				
Easy Does It		25.00				
Ellicott	10.00	70.00		10.00		10.00
Everybody's		80.00				
Express		176.00				
Eyeopener		200.00				
Father Baker		400.00				
Fireside	480.92	992.12			50.00	100.00
Fireside PM	700.00	700.00				
First Things First		120.00				
Fredonia Discussion		60.00				
Freedom	50.00	125.00				
Gardenville	50.00	100.00				
Georgetown		400.00				
etting Better		7.00				
Giving				50.00		
Golden Slipper		50.00				

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2000



GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
Grand Group	20.00	40.00				
and II Joy of Living		100.00				
Grateful		40.00		40.00		40.00
H.A.N.D		180.00				
Handicappers		150.00				100.00
Harmony	75.00	225.00			30.00	30.00
Helping Hand	20.00	60.00				
High Noon	100.00	150.00				
Holiday Village		400.00				
Holland		90.00				
Honesty	30.00	150.00	10.00	50.00		
Hope-Big Book Study	10.00	10.00				
Inspiration	50.00	50.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Intoxicated On Life		20.00		10.00		10.00
Ironhorse	33.50	306.00	13.40	35.65	13.40	35.65
Journey		80.00				
Keep It Simple, Sister		75.00				
Kensington Discussion		40.00				
Lake Shore	45.00	95.00		66.00		50.00
Lakeview		25.00				
Let Go and Let God		50.00				
Lighten Up		302.50				
Live and Let Live		120.00				
Living In The Solution		700.00				
Lockview		150.00				
Lovejoy		60.00		10.00		30.00
Main & High	5.00	30.00				
Marilla		100.00				
Matt Talbot	50.00	200.00				
Medina New Life		20.00				
Miracle	20.00	20.00				
Morning After	75.00	75.00				
New Beginnings		30.00				
New Outlook/Albion		60.00				
Niagara Frontier Men's		150.00				
North Buffalo	100.00	500.00	25.00	125.00	25.00	125.00
North Java Groups		80.00				
One Day At A Time		275.00				
Pathway To Peace	40.00	40.00				
Perry Discussion		40.00				
Pioneer		60.00				
Positively Living/Linwood		40.00				
Positively Living/Renaissance I		500.00				
Powerless	25.00	25.00				
Progress	30.00	30.00				

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2000

GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
Purpose	50.00	200.00				
rainbow		50.00		25.00	25.00	50.00
ray of Hope	10.00	60.00				
Reformers (Prison)			10.00	20.00		
Remember When		60.00				
Renewal		100.00				
Ridge		202.00		31.11		25.00
Rochester Group		200.00				
Rural Is Plural		50.00		5.00		5.00
Searching for Serenity	100.00	250.00				
Serenity		180.65				
Serenity Circle	5.00	31.00		2.00		2.00
Serenity Trail		27.50				
Sheridan	40.00	120.00				
Sober Saturday		24.60				
Southgate				20.08		
Southtown Women's		62.50				
Southwestern	70.00	70.00				
Spirit of Hope	10.00	20.00		5.00		5.00
Spiritual Progress		100.00				
Starting Over	40.00	131.40				
Stepping Stones		120.00				
rurban	10.00	90.00				
Sunday Morning Breakfast	150.00	300.00	50.00	100.00	50.00	100.00
Sunday Third/Sheridan		25.00				
Sunrise Court				6.25		
Surrender & Hope		100.00				
Thankful		50.00				
The Book Meeting		38.61				
Thruway	150.00	1100.00	20.00	100.00	20.00	100.00
Thursday Afternoon Discussion	100.00	300.00				
Trail's End	25.00	45.00				
TriCounty/Gowanda	10.00	75.00				
Try Again			25.00	25.00		
Tuesday Men's Discussion		65.00				
Tuesday Women		60.00		10.00		10.00
Unity		320.00				
University Men's Discussion	125.00	375.00				
Valley		30.00				
Varieties of Spiritual Experience	20.00	69.00				
Victory		15.00		15.00		15.00
Wake Up Call		36.00				
We Care	30.00	150.00	10.00	50.00	20.00	100.00
ehrle		25.00	10.00	10.00		
Westfield		45.00				

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2000

GROUP	Central	Accum.	CFC	Accum.	TFC	Accum.
Westminster		50.00				
hy		90.00		15.00		15.00
Willing to Grow		200.00				
Wilson	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		
Wilson Smith University Alumni		60.00				
Women's West Side Discussion		47.50				
You'll Never Walk Alone	5.00					
Dick's Tees		10.00				
Pink Can			1.02	68.43		
Memoriam BK				20.00		
Anonymous		55.00				
Back To Basics/Canada		10.00				
Perry Wed. Night Meeting		20.00				
Group Contribution Total	\$3,651.42	\$18,574.23	\$ 234.42	\$1,249.52	268.40	\$1,207.65

Beginning Balance 4/26/00			\$2,826.38
RECEIPTS			
48 Groups Contributed	\$3,651.42		
Joint Meeting 4/7/00	46.45		
New Frontier Subscriptions	151.00		
Envelope System	242.00		
Literature	1,441.26		
Sweatshirts	76.50		
IRS Refund	105.01	\$5,713.64	\$8,540.02
EXPENSES:			
#10 Ellicott Court Corporation <i>Office Rent</i>	\$636.00		
St. Michael's Parish <i>Meeting Room Rent</i>	35.00		
Salaries	1,661.84		
Charter One/Federal Withholding	572.80		
Health Insurance	141.20		
New York State Employment Taxes	291.60		
Seed Money Mini Convention	300.00		
Secrephone (Answering Service)	165.78		
Minolta Leasing/Copier	187.00		
Image Toner Delivery	5.00		
Bell Atlantic	197.35		
Vermont Pure Springs	27.40		
World Services, Inc.	1,798.60		
Hazelden	60.38		
Office Depot	348.64		
Internal Revenue Service	16.20		
Williamson UPS	41.26		
Postage	400.00		
Bank Charge	43.25	(\$6,929.30)	
Balance 5/25/00			\$1,610.72
Money Market (<i>Savings</i>) 4/25/00	1,104.17		
Interest Credit	1.79		
Balance 5/25/00			1,105.96
Certificate of Deposit (<i>Prudent Reserve</i>)			8,000.00
Outstanding Invoices			1,120.80
TOTAL CENTRAL OFFICE			\$11,837.48
			
<i>Correctional Facilities</i> 4/25/00	228.10		
<i>Donations</i> 4/26/00 - 5/25/00	234.42		
<i>Expenses</i>		375.50	
<i>Bank Charge</i>		8.00	
<i>Balance</i> 5/25/00			79.02
			
<i>Treatment Facilities</i> 4/25/00	309.31		
<i>Donations</i> 4/26/00- 5/25/00	268.40		
<i>Expenses</i>		(\$243.77)	
	AT&T	14.77	
	AAA Ans. Ser.	31.05	
	ECMC	130.00	
	Pamphlets PF	19.95	
	Flyers BK/PF	40.00	
	Bank Charge	8.00	
<i>Balance</i> 5/25/00			\$333.94

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