

NEW FRONTIERS

May 2002

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.

From the Doctor's Opinion, Alcoholics Anonymous, pg xxvi, Dr. Silkworth writes:

"We believe and so suggested a few years ago, that the action of alcohol on these chronic alcoholics is a manifestation of an allergy; that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all; and once having found they cannot break it, once having lost their self-confidence, their reliance upon things human, their problems pile up on them and become astonishingly difficult to solve. Frothy emotional appeal seldom suffices. The message, which can interest and hold these alcoholic people must have depth and weight. In nearly all cases, their ideals must be grounded in a power greater than themselves, if they are to re-create their lives."

Please deliver us from the so-called pseudo-intellectuals and biochemists who would have us believe that bad metabolism, ethnic origins or our evil past was the cause of our alcoholism. I learned that I was allergic to alcohol. A simple no-nonsense approach to the resolution of my problem was to stay away from the source of that allergy. I fashioned many elaborate disguises for my disease. It was no act of heroism that brought me to AA, but rather a simple plea for help from the maddening disease of alcoholism. I sought a power greater than myself.

Before I arrived at the doors of AA, I believed in nothing but my own thoughts. At one meeting an old-timer asked me a question... "When your back was against the wall and you had nowhere to go for help, did you ever say, *'God help me, I'll never do this again!'*?" That was the moment of truth; I said that many times! I now had to face the fact that I did believe in a power greater than myself, I finally arrived.

The road to spirituality was open now. I had something to believe in. A simple prayer in the morning starts my day: *"Teach me today, to better do your will...not mine."* And in the evening a simple thank you is all that is needed. The 'Big Book' on page 85 tells us; *what we have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all of our activities. 'How best can I serve Thee? – Thy will (not mine) be done.'* The spiritual life is not a theory. We have to live it.

God brought me to AA, and AA in turn showed me a way to believe in Him. Regular attendance at meetings is a must for me, but meetings alone cannot keep me sober, I need daily guidance from a power greater than myself. Service work is important, not only does it keep me sober, but it also sends a message to the newcomer, to keep it we must give it away, or at least try.

John H. – Sunday Morning Breakfast Group

Step Five: "Admitted to God, ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. We must be entirely honest with somebody if we expect to live long or happily in this world. ...We search our acquaintance for a close-mouthed, understanding friend.

We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past. Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on a Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe.

Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter 6

Somehow, being alone with God doesn't seem as embarrassing as facing up to another person. Until we actually sit down and talk aloud about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

12 & 12 p. 60

Higher Power, my inventory has shown me who I am, yet I ask for your help in admitting my wrongs to another person, and to You. Assure me and be with me in this step for without this step I cannot progress in my recovery. With your help, I can do this and I will do it.

Blasdell Monday Nite Group

"We reacted more strongly to frustrations than normal people. By reliving these episodes and discussing them in strict confidence with somebody else, we can reduce their size and therefore their potency on the unconscious."

As Bill Sees It p. 111

Provided you hold back nothing in taking the Fifth Step, your sense of relief will mount from minute to minute. The dammed up emotions of years break out of their confinement, and miraculously vanish as soon as they are exposed. As the pain subsides, a healing tranquility takes its place. And when humility and serenity are so combined, something else of great moment is apt to occur.

12 & 12 p. 62

You can never find yourself until you face the truth. - Pearl Bailey

Tradition Five: "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Better to do one thing well than many badly. The life of our Fellowship depends on this principle. The ability of each AA to identify himself with and bring recovery to the newcomer is a gift from God ... passing on this gift to others is our one aim. Sobriety can't be kept unless it is given away.

12 & 12 p 10

.... Firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each AA to identify himself with, and bring recovery to the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates AA's all around the globe.

It is the great paradox of AA that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away. For us, if we neglect those who are still sick, there is unremitting danger to our own lives and sanity. Under these compulsions of self-preservation, duty, and love, it is not strange that our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission - to carry the AA message to those who don't know there's a way out.

12 & 12 p.150-151

Heard at a meeting:

- Recovery doesn't come to me; *I have to go get it.*
- Our hearts have only one door and the handle is on the inside. Only we can open it.
- Say a prayer, go to a meeting, *you will be contacted.*

Each day is God's gift to us; we can reject it or we can thank Him by showing how much we appreciate it. I am never promised a tomorrow; all any of us have is today. Everyday I try to repay in some way all that has been given so freely to me. A smile or a touch is often all that's needed to brighten someone's day.

We in Alcoholics Anonymous, have the power and the choice to live each day to its fullest - simply by learning to live one day at a time.

P.C. Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Submitted by Bob W. - Gardenville Group

TRUTH?

Hi, my name is Daniel and I would like to share what little wisdom I have accumulated over the years; you see I have been on a quest for knowledge for many years now. Not just any knowledge, but the big stuff - THE ULTIMATE TRUTH. Why do we exist? What is the purpose of life? Where is existence going, and how did it come about?

Now there are thousands of theories, and even more people who claim to know, however; they cannot. They can have their beliefs; but they cannot know! I do not claim I know the answers, but I can share my beliefs. I can shine light on a different perspective, one you may never have considered because in our western culture the search for TRUTH has been neglected in favor of the search of comforts. Remember this though, in the scheme of all things - in the scheme of eternity - our lifetime is less than the blink of an eye!

That was one of the things that started my quest. I felt that I must have more purpose, more substance than just one brief moment - one blink of an eye.

I say that we cannot truly know something until we experience it ourselves. You can only believe, and beliefs may change many times in a lifetime - quite a bit more in an eternity. That is why I say I can share my beliefs, but I cannot know until I experience the things I speak of. The truths are far too big, beyond our comprehension, yet I desire to understand.

The words I will share with you do not come lightly; for it is a powerful subject the truth has led me to. Nor do they come from ignorance. I have come to my conclusions from reading the works of many brilliant men and women; books ranging from spiritual and religious, to science and psychology. I have read books on near death experiences and how to control anger. All of these books have taught me one thing, I can learn, I can believe, but I do not know, because knowing comes from within, not without. Others can guide us to the truth, but ultimately we must discover it ourselves. I am here to tell you it is with you already - it is inside you. All you have to do is open your mind, and your heart.

I could probably write ten books on what the TRUTH means to me, but I can sum it up for you right now. It is simply this: TRUTH = GOD = LOVE! The truth is we are all inherently good loving people, but we have forgotten this. That is why we are not as close to GOD as we should be. The power to love was given to us by GOD, who is the highest power in existence - the ultimate form of LOVE!

There are many paths to GOD, but only one vehicle. The vehicle to GOD is your heart. If you cannot feel love, true love inside, you cannot reach GOD - no matter what path you walk!

I hope this article at least makes you think about your potential to truly live in GODS love, which is manifested in you, and by you, every time you do an act of kindness. Do not mistake me for a preacher because I am not. I am simply a seeker of truth! I cherish awareness! I know love for what it is - DIVINE! - and I see GOD in all things!! AMEN.

With that I want to leave you with a quote from the 'Spiritual Seeker's Guide'

Being human, I cannot be completely unbiased. My vantage is that no one path is the path for everyone, and that all spiritual paths and religions provide what is needed for the consciousness that adheres to it's doctrines and practices. Moreover, the truth is not something that can be directly spoken or written about, or understood or experienced per se, but rather it is what you innately are and you will realize it when you are ready to. Scriptures and sutras can direct a seeker to truth, but ultimately individuals must come to realize it for themselves. —Steven Sadler

God bless, Daniel – Valley Group

Interested in receiving the New Frontiers?

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Rates:

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

Mail to the Central Office:
 845 Ellicott Square Building
 295 Main Street
 Buffalo, New York 14203-2412

One may be better than his reputation, but never better than his principles.

To All Groups,

We wish to remind you of what your 7th tradition should be used for, to benefit Alcoholics Anonymous. It is our wish that your group conscience be your guide in your contributions to the Buffalo Fall Convention coffee fund.

Yours in the Spirit of AA - Fall Convention Committee

Find a positive power as great as the power of the bottle.

Rule 62

- Don't give God instructions. Just report for duty.
- Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
- You can't have everything. Where would you put it?
- A newcomer at his first meeting: "Where are all the drunks?"

Recovery

I am an alcoholic. I have abused, excessively, almost every mood altering substance on this planet yet I am an alcoholic. I have myriad defects of character and mental aberrations, and yet I am an alcoholic. The miraculous process of recovery has allowed me to do, just for today, the most unnatural thing. Not to drink!

For today only I have the willingness to change my way of thinking. This occurs through the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. The twelve suggested steps teach me, as I pass through them, how to make amends for my past and how to live and enjoy life that IS happy, joyous, peaceful, serene, and free. This road is not easy or un-rocky but certainly is much softer than my old path.

If I continue on this path, remain willing, follow the suggestions that I am given and do not sell myself short by having expectations about my journey, then, beyond my wildest dreams this miracle of recovery WILL CONTINUE.

Yours in joyful sobriety
Tom C – Main & High Group

NOW

Now that I am out of the fog
Reality gave me a slap in the face.
I spent so much time self-absorbed
And blind to all the things that took place.

Now that I am out of the fog
I see the things I never took time to notice.
Looking back, the memories are painful.
I spent too much time feeding from the lotus.

Now that the sky is clear
The painful memories I am left to face.
People I have hurt, left to clean up my dirt.
This disease really put me in my place.

Now that I see this disease for what it is
And the turmoil it made me cause,
I see how I felt like a king for it.
Like I deserved some sort of applause.

Now that I can stand up and think for myself
I have a chance at winning the war.
There's a lot of things I've lost and pain I've caused
At least now I don't have to cause anymore.

Matthew L. – Lovejoy Group

Meeting In My Pocket

When I came into recovery, the old timers called it nickel-therapy and to me it has always been a lifesaver. Sometimes it weighs 100 lbs, if you know what I mean, other times, after some little victory it gives me telephinitis.

Phone calls, except for meetings are probably the most important tool for me. The motto of "Daily AA Contact" is one I like to try to adhere to. The cell phone is such a boon to mankind. I've been here since July and calls to AA's at home were a real help in the beginning.

Today I call my first sponsor, by now we are really good friends, 1-2 times a week. I have a great sponsor and some other new friends up here to call and "talk program." To me the cost is well worth it.

"Wire Power is Higher Power"

Anon - Main & High Group

**FEAR KNOCKED AT THE DOOR.
FAITH ANSWERED.
NO ONE WAS THERE.**

IN MEMORIAM
Things We Can Not Change

To all members of the fellowship who have lost family members or loved ones, our prayers are with you.

The New Frontiers Committee thanks all who contributed this month! Keep your articles coming.

Share your Experience, Strength and Hope.

Please submit your articles to Central Office by the 15th for next months issue.

E-Mail address: buffalooa@hotmail.com

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

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

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

ACCEPTANCE

Mark S. 9m
 Paul M. 5y
 Ivan O. 16y
 Janet M. 21y
 Barb C. 23y

Amherst/Snyder

Tim G. 3m
 Donald S. 3m
 Johnny P. 6m
 David McC. 6m
 Joe F. 6m
 Anne 6m
 Dan B. 9m
 Pam K. 9m
 Karen W. 2y
 Mark C. 2y
 Roger A. 3y
 Michelle S. 3y
 John D. 11y
 Grethen L. 11y
 Dawn W. 11y
 Eva H. 11y
 Don B. 16y
 MaryEllen M. 17y
 Dick M. 19y
 Betty C. 21y
 Richard M. 23y
 Virginia O. 48y

Cold Springs

Pearl B. 8y

Courage Group

Irv W. 3m
 Terry G. 9m
 Harry G. 9m
 Erica F. 15y
 Estel L. 22y

Ironhorse

Terri G. 9m
 Bob K. 1y
 Lynn N. 2y
 Bill R. 9y
 Dave C. 10y
 Bill K. 16y
 Helen B. 20y

Fireside

Jill J. 5y
 John L. 5y
 Maura G. 7y
 Mark P. 17y
 Catherine P. 18y
 Terry A. 19y

Kensington

George I. 21y
 Ronold W. 25y
 John T. 31y

Let Go & Let God

Elvis R. 13y
 Bill L. 14y

LoveJoy

David K. 6m
 Diane C. 1y
 Kevin S. 1y
 George E. 2y

Main & High

Winston F. 10y
 Paulette C. 14y
 Otto S. 14y

North Buffalo

Mike H. 1y
 Brian S. 1y
 David C. 1y
 Becky S. 1y
 Amanda P. 2y
 Peter L. 2y
 Liz S. 10y
 Erika F. 15y
 Terry A. 19y
 Roger P. 21y
 Dave P. 23y
 Mel R. 25y

Rise & Shine

Renea P. 3m
 Fred H. 3m
 Velvet J. 9m
 Aaron C. 9m
 Ana M. 1y
 Katherine G. 1y
 Jack M. 3y
 Bill P. 4y
 Faith T. 4y
 Vicky W. 6y
 Teresa W. 6y
 Bob O. 7y
 Willie D. 12y
 Elvis R. 13y
 Willie G. 13y

Renewal

Tom S. 8y
 David F. 9y
 Jackie P. 11y
 Tom G. 15y
 Martin F. 23y

Thruway

Brenda B. 3m
 Tom H. 6m
 Nancy H. 1y
 Don F. 2y
 Mike B. 8y
 George L. 18y
 MaryElen S. 22y

Sun. Morning Br.

Kevin D. 3m
 Andrea B. 1y
 Don F. 3y
 Mark D. 5y

University Men's

Se'an K. 6m
 Thomas B. 2y
 Hans K. 4y
 Ken L. 4y
 Akmal S. 7y
 Tony K. 9y
 Phil B. 12y
 Carl T. 17y
 Michael K. 20y
 Don McC. 20y
 Alan B. 21y
 Phil S. 22y
 Dan G. 23y

Victory

Brian L. 1y

Welcome

Meg G. 3m
 Marge B. 1y
 Jan S. 15y

Women's

Westside

Lavern W. 1y
 Tia L. 2y
 Beth O. 6y
 Lynette T. 12y

Group Anniversaries

AFTER MIDNIGHT
 BOULEVARD HELPING HAND
 COMMON BOND
 FAITH
 FIRESIDE
 HIGH VIEW
 HOLIDAY VILLAGE
 JUST FOR TODAY
 LIBERTY WOMEN
 LIVING SOBER
 LOCKPORT #1 GROUP
 MORNING AFTER
 REMEMBER WHEN
 SEARCHING FOR SERENITY
 SOBRIETY MEN'S DISC.
 SOUTH BUFFALO
 SOUTHTOWN WOMEN'S
 SPRINGVILLE WED. NOON
 T.G.I.F.
 UNIVERSITY MEN'S DISC.
 WHY
 YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

Please remember to
 have the anniversaries
 submitted by
 the 15th
 of the month
 previous



BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(716) 853-0388
(716) 853-0389 FAX: 9-4:00 Monday - Friday

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

MAY 2002

PLEASE NOTE

- IF YOUR GROUP IS NOT MEETING, PLEASE INFORM THE CENTRAL OFFICE. THIS ALSO INCLUDES THOSE MEETING DAYS WHEN YOUR SITE IS CLOSED FOR A HOLIDAY.
- THE CUT OFF DATES FOR ALL MONTHLY REPORTS IS NOW THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH. THIS INCLUDES NEW FRONTIERS, FINANCIAL REPORTS, ANNIVERSARIES AND ANYTHING FOR THE MONTHLY BULLETIN.
- *If your group would like to E-Mail Articles or Anniversaries for the New Frontiers, they can be sent to buffalaaa@hotmail.com*
- In following the Spirit of the Grapevine; The Central Committee has voted to allow in our bulletin, Men's and Women's Spiritual Weekends, providing they are put on by AA members ONLY, For AA members ONLY and all panels and speakers are AA members ONLY.

MEETING CHANGES:

1110 GROUP: Moved to 241 Genessee Street, Corner of Michigan. We also changed our name to The Buffalo Group.

ANOTHER CHANCE GROUP: meets on Thursday's at 5:30 PM rather than Monday's at 8:00 PM. Church of the Ascension, 16 Linwood at North.

BODHISATTVA: Now meets at 8:00 on Thursday instead of Wednesday's. It's no longer at the hospital; it's now at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, 496 Lafayette Ave, Buffalo West, Closed Meeting.

BUFFALO STATE: Now meets in the Classroom Building, Room B-106, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 pm.

COLD SPRINGS: has moved to the Crucial Center, 230 Moselle St. Monday's at Monday's at 8:00

COMMUNITY CENTER: Has moved to 118 E. Utica; Friends of the Elderly Center.

CROSS TALK BIG BOOK is now an Open Discussion Meeting instead of closed.

FEELINGS: Wednesday's at 7:30 will now be an open discussion the last week of the month.

HARMONY: Now meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am.

KENMORE GROUP is now an open discussion group the last Thursday of the month.

LIGHTEN Up now meets at 5:30 PM on Wednesday's; Friday's is still 6:00 PM.

RECOVERY NEAR THE GARDENS, now meets on Monday's at 6:30 pm. Lake Shore Behavior Health Building, 2600 South Park, Lackawanna.

SPIRITUAL PROGRESS; has a new home. Church of the Advent, 54 Delaware Rd., Kenmore.

STEPPING STONES; Williamsville, 5225 Sheridan Dr. now meets at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30.

THREE LEGACIES; (formally Unity Men's Stag); Monday's at Good Shepherd Church, 96 Jewett Pkwy at 8 pm. Closed Discussion Meeting. No longer just a Men's Group.

THANKFUL GROUP, Fridays at 2 pm have moved to the Senior Center, behind the fire hall at 101 King & Oakwood. Please join us in our new meeting place.

THURSDAY NITE STEPPERS; 7:00 P.M., 176 Clark Street, Buffalo

Unity Group, Will begin meeting at Calvary Episcopal Church, corner of Cayuga and Milton, one block south of St. Peter & Paul. This is only a temporary move.

NEW MEETINGS:

Sunday At 8:00; 8:00 pm, Smoking, Closed, Open last Sunday of the month. Good Shepherd Church, Rt. 438 Extension, Irving.

Early Rising Obliging; Friday's at 10:00 AM. 6560 Niagara Falls Blvd at the 190, behind Timberland Lodge Restaurant. In Horizons Health Center.

Another Chance; Monday 8:00 PM, Church Of The Ascension, 16 Linwood At North; Downtown; OD

Saturday Nite Sober; Fredonia, Open Discussion, WC, Buttrick Hall; Central Ave & Cottage

Sobriety Comes First; Tuesday's, 8 PM, OD, 1206 Niagara St., Niagara Falls

Buffalo State Group; Rm. B-106, Classroom Building, Tues. & Thurs. 12:30 pm, Open Discussion

I Don't Knew Group; St. Francis Church, 175 East Street and Amherst. Smoking in one room, Non-Smoking in another. It will be an open speaker meeting the first and last weeks, and discussion the rest the month. Monday's at 7:00 PM.

Thursday Night Steppers; Open Meeting every Thursday at 7:00 PM, 176 Clark St., Buffalo. Come out and share your Experience, Strength, and Hope.

COMING EVENTS

- ~ April 26, 27 & 28, **Blossom Time Convention**, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Registration \$12.00(USA); Banquet \$27(USA); Dance \$8.00(USA). Flyers in Central Office.
- ~ April 26, 27 & 28, **29th Annual Women's Spiritual Weekend**, St. Columbian Center in Derby. Space is limited and registration forms will be available to AA women at local meetings and the Central Office.
- ~ April 27, **Archives Committee**, 9 am, At Maryvale Presbyterian Church, 425 Maryvale Dr
- ~ May 4, **Boulevard Helping Hands 5th Anniversary**; 10:00 Am., Wheatfeild Town Hall, 2800 Church street. Speaker and Brunch.
- ~ May 4, **JAMESTOWN 57th ANNIVERSARY**, 1 day only. St. John's Church, 270 Newton. \$20 including banquet, \$14 for just registration and dance.
- ~ May 5, **Central Committee Meeting**, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street, St. Michael's Parish. (Hosted by Three Legacies).
- ~ May 5, **General Service Assembly**, Hamburg Town Hall, S6100 South Park Avenue. (Hosted by Ironhorse)
- ~ May 10^{th-12th}, **2002 Spiritual Weekend for Men of A.A.** St. Columbian's Retreat, Box 426, Tonawanda, NY 14151. \$100.00 Per Person/ \$50.00 Deposit. Flyers available at Central Office.
- ~ May 16, **New Frontiers Committee**, 7:00 PM. St. Michaels Parish Center, Electric And Warsaw, Lackawanna, before the Victory meeting.
- ~ May 18, **CPC Meeting**, 10:00 am, Bacon memorial Presbyterian Church, 166-59th St., Niagara Falls.
- ~ May 18, **Buffalo Fall Convention Committee Meeting**. Anyone interested in getting involved is welcome. Maryvale Presbyterian Church, 425 Maryvale Drive. 9:00 AM before the Courage Group.
- ~ May 18, **Sober Saturday & South Buffalo Groups Spring Fling Dance**; Cazenovia Hall- Corner of Seneca Street & Cazenovia Street. Doors open at 7:00 PM, Speakers at 8 & 9 PM. There will be an AA & Alanon Speaker, giant 50/50, great food, lots of fun and fellowship. Why not come and join us and have a good time. \$5.00 Donation at the door.
- ~ May 25, **Archives Committee Meeting**, 9 am, Maryvale Presbyterian Church, 425 Maryvale Drive.
- ~ July 12-14, **NY State A.A. Convention**, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albany, NY 12207. Flyers available at the Central Office.
- ~ July 19-21, **Freedom on the Lake**, A.A. Men's Spiritual Weekend. Speakers, Meetings, Incredible Fellowship, Food & Accommodations, Campfire Sharing Session. Registration \$110.00, \$25.00 nonrefundable deposit. Flyers available at Central office.

5th STEP: "Admitted to God, to ourselves, and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

5th TRADITION: " Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

5th CONCEPT; Throughout our structure, a traditional Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that the minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM

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

Terry Bateman

Executive Secretary

**BUFFALO CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MAY 05, 2002 MEETING**

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by our Chairman Scott T. with a moment of silence and Serenity Prayer. The Preamble was read by Scott, the Purpose of Central Committee by Gary, and the Traditions were read by Gary P. Scott asked if there were any new Representatives, none present. John H. motioned that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with, Gary P. seconded the motion. Joanne McC. called to our attention one correction regarding the placement of sentences within the financial report. Correction was noted, motion passed.

45 GROUPS ATTENDED: Dist. #1: Downtown Men's, Easier Softer Way, Main and High, Sunday Niters, Sunrise Court. Dist. #2: Chapter IX, Early Bird, Easy Does It, Living Sober, North Buffalo, Three Legacies Men's Discussion. Dist. #3: Cazenovia, Courage, Gardenville, New Life Group, Rainbow Group, Ridge, Sunday Morning Breakfast, Thruway, Try Again, Victory. Dist. #4: Action Group, Amsdell-Lakeshore, Holland, Keep It Simple Sister, Lakeshore, Lake View, Sobriety Men's Discussion. Dist. #5: Grand Group, Lockport #1, Sobriety On The Lake, Wilson. Dist. #6: None. Dist. #7: Buffalo Group, Beginning In Sobriety II, Casting, Coldspring, Crosstalk Big Book, Ellicott, Fresh Start, Higher Powered, Let Go and Let God, Lovejoy, Perry Discussion. Dist. #8: Amherst Snyder, Renewal. Dist. #9 & Dist. #10: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ENVELOPE SYSTEM: Karen S. reported that the contribution for April was \$537.00 giving a YTD total of \$3210.00 and she asks that we continue to encourage our Groups to contribute to this fund.

STEERING COMMITTEE: Charmaine D. gave the report. Agenda items included #1. Salary review for Executive Secretary, #2. Selection of District and Convention Chair for Fall 2003, District #5 did not respond, therefore District #6 will be contacted by letter, #3. The improper use of AA by persons or Groups, #4. Mike D's attendance at Buffalo Group meeting; for the time being Buffalo Group will remain in Buffalo Area Schedule, #5. Turning over, this concerns lease of Central Office and possibility of moving from this site after lease expiration in two years, to a location which could house the Office, have meeting area and Parking. (No written report was submitted therefore the above items might only represent a partial report).

FINANCIAL REPORT: Joanne McC. submitted this report. There is one error on the Report for Treatment contributions. "A letter was sent in April to all groups indicating that our group contributions to the Central Office do not actually cover expenses. We are depending upon literature sales to keep the Office going. Groups that are able should consider either contributing more or even contributing something at all." "We are self supporting through our own contributions." Joanne McC.

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Tom C. reported for Winston F. who was out of town. All concerns have been worked out, and are acceptable to the treatment Committee.

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCREENERS COMMITTEE: Dave reported that he has been working on the phone list to update. Cookie L. asked to be placed back on the list.

CENTRAL OFFICE: "MAY OFFICE REPORT: CALLS: 325 - AA Information; 21-ALANON; 14 - 12 STEP; 2 NA; 47 - VISITORS; 1 - VOLUNTEER. Volunteers have really dropped off. The time they are needed is the week of the 15th when all the reports are finalized and the mailings are done. Continued to go over the financial report and I couldn't get it to match the checking account. I took it down to our accountant who is currently working on our last year's corporate taxes. He said he was already finding some things and he would figure out last year's mess, which should put us right from this January forward. So, I turned it over to a power greater than myself. Started to work out the minimal profits that are made on literature sales since January 15th. For those that might be interested that figure is \$1,228.67. I also charted out the Group Districts on a large map to familiarize myself where one-district boundaries are for new groups as well as familiarize myself with the areas. 2002 Schedules will be in this week. Yours in the fellowship of the Spirit, Terry Bateman, Executive Secretary."

NEW FRONTIER: No Report

61st BUFFALO FALL CONVENTION 2002: Chairperson Pat M. gave this report. "The meeting was held on April 20th. We approved the graphics for the flyer, shirts and mugs. We decided on the coloring for the shirts and also the mugs, which are a very light tan and a dark mug. We also decided on the selling of pop during the dances on Friday and Saturday. I have already secured two people to chair that committee. The next meeting will be May 18th at 9:00 in the morning at the Marriott on 1340 Millersport Highway, Amherst, NY in Salon E."

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Dick K. reported, "Held our regular meeting April 21st. Business as usual, discussed various projects: Restoration work, search for repository, Nia Falls Convention 2003. Possible fund raising: Bookmarks from portraits of Bill W. and Dr. Bob for sale, Raffle at convention. Displayed Archives at Helping Hand Group in Wheatfield with four members: Ben W., Frank M., Cheryl K., and yours truly. Good speakers, good food, and good meeting. We have two tentative dates for Archives display, and one for Springville, Tuesday night 8:00 June 25th. If you would like to join the committee or have a display at your group come to our regular meeting on May 25th, 9:00AM at 425 Maryvale Dr., Cheektowaga, NY, 14227. Thank You, Dick K., Archives Chair."

CPC COMMITTEE: No Report

PIC COMMITTEE: Adolph I reported that he has started to gather people and ideas.

RECAP:

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mel L. of Renewal Group stated that from the reported income for Feb., Mar., April there are resources coming in and he took exception to what he felt was implied slur toward Groups that don't contribute to Central Office at this time. He stated that his group is unable to at this time but he contributes also through other meetings he attends and they may have the resources to contribute.

OLD BUSINESS: REWORDING OF GUIDELINES: Question were brought up whether there was a real need for wording changes in the old guidelines of self-support, regarding the Buffalo Fall Convention. Group Rep's were to take this information back to their groups for feedback and input. Cookie L. had a question regarding how the original question arose. Scott answered that it began in District #4. John H. had question about group conscious decision to send check to Coffee Fund. Scott explained that he and the Steering Committee felt the change was necessary to make the Convention Committee responsible to raise their own Coffee Fund money. He also stated that this will not affect this fall's Convention, but will clarify it for the future. If a group wants to send money to the coffee fund they should feel free to do so. Charmaine stated that they wanted a way to answer the question of coffee funding, and we need a way to do this. Several groups said that they had taken it to their groups and supported the change, but after hearing the concerns they would have to take it back. Adolph and several others suggested changing the wording of the proposed new guideline to eliminate any arbitrary words, such as non-participants, and this would require it being sent back to all groups for review. Also if groups sent money to the coffee fund it must be used for that solely or sent back, and that we do not solicit contributions.

ATTENDANCE/ REGISTRATION FEES: Another question was raised concerning the authority to allow some to attend the Convention even if they lack funds. It was explained that it has always been the practice, the historical way to allow the Chairperson or designated other to make these decisions, which usually concern Treatment facilities, Halfway Houses or other similar institutions. Adolph stated that if the Chairperson or other did not have this discretion the request would have to go back to the committee and that could take forever. This would put it in the guidelines for all.

LENGTH OF SERVICE: Discussion was entertained about changing length of terms for officers of Central Committee. Mel L., Renewal Group said, on the surface it sounds great, but there is a downside. Currently the Chairman serves one year as co-chair, then if the change is made two years as chairman which may turn into 3 or 4 years. It could become 'my central committee'. Another point is that I have previously served on Central Committee. We always had a problem getting people to serve. Now we are asking them to serve longer. It's going to get worse getting qualified people for Chairperson and other positions. Cookie asked about length of service for recording secretary. Scott answered that the recording secretary does only that and is not involved with other committees or duties. The recording Secretary took exception to this and stated that she also makes sense of all of this for the benefit of everyone. Charmaine D. responded to Mel's concern and said we are governed by a Higher Power and if ego raises it's head the steering Committee, composed of strong individuals will speak up. The Central Committee was informed that an explanation of the new terms would go out to the groups.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	CO	Cummulative	Treatment	Cummulative	Corrections	Cummulative		CO	Cummulative	Treatment	Cummulative	Corrections	Cummulative
							Dunkirk Monday Night		255.00				
11/45							Early Blvd						
ip							Easter Softer Way						
... Step Stumblers							East Amherst						
6th Step							East Aurora	100.00	200.00				
A Day At A Time							Easy Does It						
A Little Bit of Everything							Ellicott	75.00	95.00	10	20.00	10	20.00
A New Freedom							Ellicottville						
A Strong Desire							Emergency						
Abbott Men's		125.00		125.00		125.00	Eternal Vigilance		50.00				
Acceptance/Welcome		700.00		50.00		50.00	Everybody's		40.00				
Achievement		500.00					Express		250.00				
Action	75.00	150.00					Eyeopener	165.60	590.20				
After Midnight							F.U.N.						
Age Doesn't Matter							Faith						
Alexander	100.00	100.00					Father Baker	200.00	315.00				
Amherst/ Snyder	170.26	287.14					Feelings		75.00				
Armsdell Lakeshore	25.00	100.00					Fireside		250.00				
Another Chance							Fireside PM						
Any Age		115.00					First Things First						
Any Length		120.00					Fredonia Discussion		160.00				
Anybody's		60.00					Fredonia Friday Noon						
As Bill Sees It							Freedom		75.00				
Attitude Adjustment		70.00					Freedom Now						
AW Group							Fresh Start						
Attraction	100.00	300.00					Friendly						
Beginner's Table							Frontier						
Beginning in Sobriety II							Gardenville	50.00	150.00				
Beginning's Women							Georgetown	200.00	200.00				
Bidwell Monday		75.00		75.00		75.00	Getting Better						
Big Book Lockport		25.00					Giving						
Big Book Study	30.00	30.00					Going to Any Length		200.00				
Big Book Workshop		60.00					Golden Slipper	300.00	600.00				
Blasdell							Grand		60.00				
Blasdell Monday Night	30.00	30.00					Grand II Joy of Living						
Blasatva							Grateful						
Boulevard Helping Hand							Guiding Light						
Boulevard Women		150.00					H.O.W.						
Brass		60.00					Half and Half						
Broadway Bailey							Hamburg						
Brocton AA							Hand						
Brownbaggers							Handicappers		300.00				
Buffalo Group	2.00	9.00					Happy Hour						
But For the Grace of God		130.00					Harmony		75.00		60.00		
By The Book							Helping Hand	20.00	65.00				
Came To Believe	34.50	44.50					High Noon						
Casting	53.00	153.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	High View						
Cathedral Park		70.21		40.00		40.00	Higher Power		20.00		30.00		15.00
Caz Manor							Hillbilly		250.00		50.00		50.00
Cazenovia		88.00		44.00		44.00	Holiday Village		625.00				
Central Park							Holland		60.00				
Chapter IX		60.00		60.00		60.00	Honesty		30.00				10.00
Cheektowaga							Horizon		70.00		35.00		
Chevy #1							Hope Big Book Study						
Clarence Men's							How It Works		231.00				
Clarence Men's II							How It Works/Men's						
Cold Spring		15.00					Humboldt Relay						
Common Bond							Inner City						
Common Problem							Inspiration	150.00	150.00				
Community Center		20.00					Intoxicated on Life						
Complainers							Ironhorse		121.00		48.00		48.00
Courage	120.00	120.00	25.00	141.75	35.00	151.75	IT						
Courage to Change							Jamestown Groups						
Crossroads							Johnson Creek Big Book		40.00		5.00		5.00
Cross Talk Big Book							Journey		50.00				
Daily Reflections		90.00					Just Do It						
Daily Reprieve							Just For Today/ Albion						
Deaux Discussion							Just For Today/Check						
Deby	150.00	150.00					Keep It Simple Sister		50.00				
Desire							Keep On Coming		109.20				
Downtown Men's		21.00					Kenmore						

	CO	Cummulative	Treatment	Cummulative	Corrections	Cummulative		CO	Cummulative	Treatment	Cummulative	Corrections	Cummulative
Kensington							Renewal						
Ladies Nighl							Ridge	200.00	200.00				
Shore							Ridge/Pink Can						
Shoreview		75.00					Rise and Shine						
Last Days Fellowship							Rochester		100.00				
LewPort							Roland						
Let Go and Let God		20.00					Rural is Plural						
Liberty Women	75.00	75.00					Sally						
Life Today		100.00					Saratoga						
Lighten UP	87.50	687.50					Searching For Serenity	100.00	100.00				
Live and Let Live							Second Chance						
Living in the Solution							Serenity	50.00	50.00				
Living Sober	30.00	60.00					Serenity Circle		50.00				
Lock City							Serenity on the Lake						
Lockport #1		500.00		75.00		75.00	Serenity Trails						
Lockport Discussion							Setaside		300.00				
Lockport Ladies		50.00					Sheridan	40.00	120.00				
Lockview		400.00		50.00		50.00	Silvercreek Friendship						
Look To This Day							Sober and Proud						
Love							Sober Saturday		125.00				
Lovejoy		100.00					Sober Trail						
Lower River							Sober Winners	20.00	60.00				
Lunch Time							Sobriety for Women						
Main and High		15.00		15.00		5.00	Sobriety Men's Disc.						
Main Street							Sobriety On The Canal		40.00				
Marilla	25.00	75.00					Sobriety on a Sat. Night						
Matt Talbot		200.00					Sobriety on the Lake						
Mayville Uptown Group							Somerset						
Medina Grapevine							South Buffalo						
McKinley Winners		100.00					South Town						
Medina Big Book							Southgate						
Medina New Life		30.00					Southtown Women's		128.00				
Mercy		25.00					Southwestern	63.00	181.00				
Mid-day		52.00					Spirit of Hope		100.00				
Miracle							Spiritual Progress		150.00				
Morning After							Springville Sat. Afternoon						
Monday Morning Lockport							Springville Tues. Night						
New Awakening		50.00					Springville Wed. Noon						
New Freedom							St. Barnabas						
New Beginnings/St. Vincent							St. Mark's						
New Life		20.00					Starting Over	70.00	72.40				35.00
New Outlook							Staying Alive						
Niagara Intergroup							Step Work						
New Westside							Stepping Stones/Gow.		90.00				
Niagara Frontier Men's Disc.	20.00	20.00					Stepping Stones/WIII.						
Nightshift							Suburban	10.00	50.00				
North Buffalo	200.00	500.00	50.00	125.00	50.00	125.00	Sunday Afternoon Ascension						
North Java Monday							Sunday Morning Breakfast		350.00		50.00		50.00
North Java Morning After							Sunday Niters		10.00				
North Java Sunday							Sunday Third Group						
One Day At A Time							Sunrise Court						
Open Arms		25.00				25.00	SUNY Amherst Campus						
Open Mind							Surrender and Hope						
Orchard Park Step							Survivors						
P.B.P. Big Book Study							T.P.H.						
Pass It On							TGIF						
Patchin		150.00					Thankful						
Pathway to Peace							The Book Meeting		15.00				
Pendleton Chapter Five							The Moonshiners						
Peny Discussion		20.00		10.00		10.00	There's A Solution						
Pink Can							Three Legacies	30.00	30.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Pioneer							Those Too	5.00	45.00				
Positively Living		1000.00					Thruway	300.00	1352.00	20.00	100.00	20.00	100.00
Powerless							Thursday PM Discussion		\$ 250.00				
Primary Purpose		100.00					Today						
Principles Before Personables		100.00					Today's Woman		10.00				
Progress							Tri County		40.00		10.00		
Prose/Tonawanda		150.00					Tri-Step Beginners						
Rowbow	25.00	100.00		15.00		15.00	Try Again		100.00		50.00		
Ray of Hope	25.00	150.00					Tuesday Men's AM	50.00	150.00				
Recovery Near the Gardens		10.00					Tuesday Women	25.00	125.00	10.00	50.00	10.00	50.00
Remember When		150.00					Turning Point		50.00				

	CO	Cumulative	Treatment	Cumulative	Corrections	Cumulative
Twin Cities		200.00				
Unity		100.00				
University Men's Disc.						
Wiley	50.00	80.00				
Varieties of Spiritual Exper.		20.00				
Varysburg						
Victory	50.00	125.00	25.00	50.00	25.00	50.00
Wake Up Call						
We Are Not Saints						
We Care		150.00		100.00		40.00
We Choose Life						
Wehrle		50.00				
Welcome						
Westfield						
Westminster						
Why						
Williamsville	200.00	420.00				
Willing To Grow		200.00				
Wilson Group		25.00				25.00
Wilson Smith Alumni		100.00				
Women on the Rise						
Women's West Side	50.00	150.00				
Working						
You'll Never Walk Alone						
Youngstown						
Dale M.		4.80				
60 Fall Convention		14.00				
A.D.D.		30.00				
TFC Printing & Folding		15.00				
Leo K.		21.00				
Misc.		42.00				
Nancy H.	13.00	13.00				
Lucile D.	100.00	100.00				
M & H Breakfast Com.	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
TAL	4088.86	21,276.95	195.00	1,548.75	205.00	1,413.75

MAY

Income Statement	15-Jan-02	15-Feb-02	15-Mar-02	15-Apr-02	15-Apr-02
Beg Bal Cash on hand	12,710.68	16,130.56	16,930.08	18,436.13	18,295.27
Contributions					
Groups	4,498.71	3,649.89	5,112.20	4,037.98	4,088.76
Joint Meeting	54.55	75.00	105.00	75.60	57.90
Envelope System	1,642.00	788.00	243.00	537.00	603.00
New Frontiers Subs	96.00	23.00	10.00	30.00	127.00
Literature	2,682.87	2,897.74	3,344.09	2,386.21	2,743.93
Convention (Fall 2001)	1,950.00	112.00			
Monthly Income	10,924.13	7,545.63	8,814.29	7,066.79	4,876.66
Expenses					
Office Rent	636.00	636.00	636.00	636.00	881.46
Meeting Room Rent	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00
Payroll					
Salaries (Net)	1,260.08	1,260.08	1,331.91	1,935.35	1,548.04
Federal Withholdings	679.84	509.88	203.46	1,354.39	383.40
NYS Withholdings	184.60			181.43	
Insurance					
State Ins Fund			331.16	64.30	64.30
Health				608.00	304.00
Liability	838.84				
Postage	200.00	600.00	995.00	16.95	681.00
Phone	104.19	97.84	112.59	188.81	179.45
Accounting					
Advt					
Talking Phone Book					
Verizon	141.50	70.75		70.75	141.50
website					
white directory					
Yellow Pages		149.00			
Literature Expenses					
Grapevine	43.50	132.00	73.50		
World Services Inc	532.25	2,439.50	2,152.38	1,377.50	1,304.20
Hazeldon	681.12	-	340.89		829.36
Printers	1,477.00	-			1,981.00
Office Supplies	125.38	66.56	275.95	15.07	148.17
Answering service	355.45	530.50	487.70	510.35	459.00
Minolta leasing (copier)	187.00	187.00	187.00	187.00	187.00
Minolta Copies			112.95		
Crystal Rock (water)	14.50	14.50	14.50		9.00
Bank Charges	8.00	17.50	18.25	26.75	8.00
Monthly Expenses	7,504.25	6,746.11	7,308.24	7,207.65	9,143.88
Monthly Income (Loss)	3,419.88	799.52	1,506.05	(140.86)	(4,267.22)
End Bal Cash on hand	16,130.56	16,930.08	18,436.13	18,295.27	14,028.05
Literature Assets:	5,859.61	4,922.05	6,605.24	6,173.01	6,295.31
Literature Receivable:(outstanding)	3,155.84	1,433.86	722.86	954.42	1,298.01
Corrections Facilities	1,177.50	1,322.70	1,176.95	1,429.00	919.45
Donations	356.50	182.00	338.75	351.00	205.00
Expenses	199.30	315.75	74.70	848.55	
Bank Charges	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Balance	1,322.70	1,176.95	1,429.00	919.45	1,112.45
Treatment Facilities	430.13	370.17	217.94	527.94	652.37
Donation	381.50	212.00	398.75	406.00	195.00
Expenses					
AT & T Bridging The Gap	25.71	27.28	29.90	31.91	29.48
AAA Abott Answering Service	30.75	35.95	46.85	35.95	31.25
Literature	373.00	289.00		172.80	
Bank Charges	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Balance	370.17	217.94	527.94	652.37	774.64

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(1650.30)

16,644.97

Income Statement	15-Jan-02	15-Feb-02	15-Mar-02	15-Apr-02	15-May-02
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Monthly Income	10,924.13	7,545.63	8,814.29	7,066.79	7,620.58
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Accounting					
Advt					
Talking Phone Book					
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white directory					
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Literature Expenses					
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Expenses					
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Literature	373.00	289.00		172.80	
Bank Charges	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Balance	370.17	217.94	527.94	652.37	774.64