

NEW FRONTIERS

October 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.

Two Thoughts on Gratitude

The 'first step' of the AA program reads: 'We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.' Only then was the first part of AA's second step possible. 'We came to believe.' The program and fellowship of AA emphasizes gratitude because AA members receive their sobriety as a gift.

Each had tried, promised & struggled to never drink again, or at least never to get obnoxiously drunk again, and they meant it. But their will and effort had gone - so they gave in, one way or another, surrendered and came to AA. In AA the first thing they heard was they could not stop drinking 'on their own,' or 'by themselves.' Some resisted that truth and kept up the struggle against AA as well as against booze. And as long as they fought, they lost. Finally they gave up. Then, and only then, was the gift of sobriety given to them.

Bill R. ~ Gardenville Group

What is gratitude? It is the cultivating process by which our garden of sobriety grows. It is an action word. We say we are thankful, we show our gratitude. We have neither the time nor the luxury to rest on our laurels and congratulate ourselves on our sobriety. Our sobriety is a God given gift, one that must never be taken for granted. In showing our gratitude no task is too difficult, no effort too overwhelming. Action is the magic word. We show others our gratitude in many ways. Our participation in a home group, helping the newcomer, volunteering for jobs at the group or inter-group level, that's gratitude in its simplest form.

Gratitude can take on a monetary importance. When baskets are passed we can contribute to make certain our home group remains solvent and that our inter-group office maintains its lifeline to the alcoholics who still suffer. Once we have achieved some measure of sobriety in the fellowship of AA, we must show our gratitude for the most precious gift we have received. To paraphrase an old JFK remark, "Ask not what AA can do for you, but rather what you can do for AA."

The first evidence of this change in the recovering alcoholic is the slow, fearful, but persistent offering of themselves to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. We alcoholics were charter members of the 'gimmies' of the world: "Gimmie a job," "Gimmie a chance," "Gimmie a break." In AA these same 'gimmies' should ultimately become givers who unselfishly carry the message in the manner AA was once presented to them,

In conclusion, we must feel gratitude rather than self-satisfaction. Grateful to be relieved from the bondage of alcohol, grateful for the gift of recovery, grateful for the privilege of helping other alcoholics, and grateful for the camaraderie which binds us together in this fellowship of miracles. Gratitude is the motor that holds the cornerstones of our recovery, not only suggested but also ultimately paramount to our recovery.

John H. ~ Sunday Morning Breakfast

40th International AA Women's Conference

This past February Joanne Mc. Traveled to Denver to the 38th IAAWC. She took along a bid package that she presented to the Advisory Board. Her efforts were successful and the bid was accepted. The IAAWC will be held in Buffalo on February 19th - 22nd, 2004. The conference will be held at the Buffalo Convention Center. The Hyatt Regency & The Adam's Mark will be the participating hotels. The theme will be "The Language of the Heart Will Be Spoken Here."

Past conferences have hosted 2000-2500 women. This is a huge undertaking. We are looking for women to help make this a success. We are recruiting volunteers to chair our many committees or to commit to support them.

We need women to recruit other participants. Do you know any women in WNY, Rochester, Syracuse, Pennsylvania, or Southern Ontario? Contact them. Ask them to get involved!

The year 2004 may seem like a long time away, but we need support now. We have so much to do before January 1st. We must have our registration forms printed before we attend the 2003 conference in Seattle. This is so we can promote our conference & obtain registrations. In order to print our registrations we must have our tours & souvenirs planned. What's your expertise? Do you have any ideas? Then, please come and join us.

We are told that service work is so very important in our recovery. How about getting involved? There's a spot waiting for you! If you are even a little bit curious, please call Joanne @ 668-2760 or Karen @ 822-4089.

Veterans in Recovery

I'm at a National Convention for Veterans at this time. When I returned from Nam never in my wildest dreams could I believe in attending such a thing. Remembering back to then and how I didn't want anything to do with Veteran organizations. Now I belong to six of them, although I still have unresolved issues.

I abused V. A. drugs, street drugs and alcohol. Just as I was able to put down drugs and alcohol and get some peace in my life, I have some peace with what I did (or did not) do in that time when my world revolved around saving my life. Some of us believe we didn't do enough and some of us saw too much.

I write this not just for Vet's, but for everyone who thinks no one knows what we (I) had to go through to get to the doors of AA. There are many good things in my life now. My first life is AA, for if I didn't have my sobriety I would not be able to vacation and spend time with family and enjoy that relationship. I can't believe all the joys I denied myself for all those years. I am able to enjoy normal day to day life and I can handle those things that I used to use as an excuse to drug & drink.

A Proud Vet and member of AA in WNY.

*Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!!!*

Survival of AA

Occasionally the question is asked: "How long will Alcoholics Anonymous last?" All institutions degenerate, and so it is conceivable that someday those who claim to follow the AA program will allow their practice to degenerate into formalism, imposing membership requirements, insisting on rigid adherence to certain rules, or applying various theories and doctrines. But should that happen in some cold and distant future, we can also be sure that somewhere, (perhaps under a battered bridge or in a dingy alcove perhaps even in an atmosphere free of cigarette smoke and without the requisite coffeepot) some alcoholic who is trying to stay sober will sidle up to some other alcoholic who may even be drinking and say "Psst, buddy you must be awfully thirsty, but let me tell you how it was with me when I used to need a drink." And in that moment of acknowledged shared weakness an AA meeting will begin, and the story of AA will continue, and nothing that any of AA's individual groups or those who run treatment programs, or those who write books will ever be able to prevent that from happening. In other words, as one alcoholic recognizes in another alcoholic (first and foremost) that he/she is an alcoholic, and therefore both of them need each other, there will be not only an Alcoholics Anonymous, but there will be the Alcoholics Anonymous that you and I love so much and respect so deeply.

Bill R. ~ Gardenville Group

Turning It Over

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse. He had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start. While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again." Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Submitted by Jim S. ~ Holland Group

There is no better exercise for the heart than reaching down and lifting someone up.

Step Ten ~ Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Excerpts from the 12 & 12

No one can make much of his life until self-searching becomes a regular habit, until he is able to admit and accept what he finds, and until he patiently and persistently tries to correct what is wrong.

Although all inventories are alike in principle, the time factor does distinguish one from another. There's the spot check inventory, taken at any time of the day, whenever we find ourselves getting tangled up. (and) There's the one we take at day's end, when we review the happenings of the hours just past. Here we cast up a balance sheet, crediting ourselves with things well done, and chalking up debits where due. ... For these minutes and sometimes hours spent in self-examination are bound to make all the other hours of the day better and happier,

It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong *with us*. If somebody hurts us and we are sore, we are in the wrong also. But are there exceptions to this rule? What about "justifiable" anger? ... For us of AA this is a dangerous exception. We have found that justified anger ought to be left to those better qualified to handle it.

Few people have been more victimized by resentments than we alcoholics. It mattered little whether our resentments were justified or not. ... Nor were we skillful in separating justified from unjustified anger. As we saw it, our wrath was always justified. Anger, that occasional luxury of more balanced people, could keep us on an emotional jag indefinitely. These emotional "dry benders" often led straight to the bottle. Other kinds of disturbances - jealousy, envy, self-pity, or hurt pride - did the same thing.

A spot check inventory taken in the midst of such disturbances can be of very great help in quieting stormy emotions.

Our first objective will be the development of self-restraint. This carries a top priority rating. When we speak or act hastily or rashly, the ability to be fair-minded and tolerant evaporates on the spot. ... Nothing pays off like restraint of tongue and pen. We must avoid quick-tempered criticism and furious, power driven argument. The same goes for sulking or silent scorn. These are emotional booby traps baited with pride and vengefulness. Our first job is to sidestep the traps.

Finally, we begin to see that all people, including ourselves, are to some extent emotionally ill as well as frequently wrong, and then we approach true tolerance and see what real love for our fellows actually means. It will become more evident as we go forward that it is pointless to become angry, or get hurt by people who, like us, are suffering from the pains of growing up.

Courtesy, kindness, justice, and love are the keynotes by which we may come into harmony with practically anybody.

Tradition Ten ~ Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A. A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

We have seen millions die in political and economic wars often spurred by religious and racial difference. We live in the imminent possibility of a fresh holocaust to determine how men shall be governed, and how the products of nature and toil shall be divided among them. That is the spiritual climate in which AA was born, and by God's grace it has nevertheless flourished.

Let us reemphasize that this reluctance to fight one another or anybody else is not counted as some special virtue which makes us feel superior to other people. Nor does it mean that members of Alcoholics Anonymous, now restored to citizens of the world, are going to back away from individual responsibilities to act as they see the right upon issues of our time. But when it comes to AA as a whole, that's quite a different matter. In this respect, we do not enter into public controversy, because we know that our Society will perish if it does. We conceive the survival and spread of Alcoholics Anonymous to be something of far greater importance than the weight we could collectively throw back of any other cause. Since recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, it is imperative that we preserve in full strength our means of survival.

12 & 12 pages 116-117

Heard at a meeting:

- It's a long road, but the journey is worth it.
- "Get well letters" will be signed after the meeting.
- We can listen to others but we get direction from God.
- We drink and drug to find a way to escape. We come to AA to find a way to live.

RULE 62

- People listen to our talk but they trust our actions.
- If GOD is your co-pilot ~ change seats.
- A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel.
- We come into AA having lost everything. The first thing we get back is our opinion!

ATTITUDE

By Charles Swindull

"The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me is more important than facts. It is more important than past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people say or do. It is more important than appearances, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a Company ... a Church ... a Home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

'I AM RESPONSIBLE' [part two]

In part one, my perception of 4 areas of recovery; discovery, inventory, restitution and continuing practice; was stated. The discovery phase began with 20 or so years of alcoholic drinking, starting in teen years, and then went on to the comprehension of my alcoholic condition and acceptance of the capability of a higher power to heal me. Thus steps one and two were taken – recovery began with me.

Gradually, the "turning of will and life over" was taking shape in me. Fortunately, the guidance of sponsors and other "elder statesmen" helped me to realize that the purpose of step three is to lead us in to step four. The understanding that I have is that we practice the "turning it over" by doing steps four and onward. Hence, the ongoing practice of step three, "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him" was begun by doing a written step four.

The first time that I made an approach to step four, I experienced considerable fear. Over coffee at a local restaurant, I explained my fear of step four to one of my sponsors. He very patiently listened to my tale of woe. Finally, after I had wound down and run out of things to say, he asked me a couple of very simple questions which served to lift the fog of anxiety from me. He asked if I had turned my will and my life over to the care of God yet that day. When I replied in the affirmative he asked: "Then what in the hell are you afraid of?" Thus I was given the courage to do my first step four.

With a lot of paper and pens, I sequestered myself alone and commenced to write anything and everything that came into my head. I really cannot recall how long this took, but it seems that quite some time went by before the end finally came. The result was a big stack of paper. Some sheets had only a word or phrase, other pages were filled with my writings. The next chore was to organize all this in to some sense of order. Somewhere along the way of doing all this writing and organizing of those writings, the insidious insanity of this disease of alcoholism was revealed to me. WOW! WHAT A REVELATION!

My next move was to contact a fellow member of AA who also happened to be a member of the clergy. I made an appointment with him to review my written step four with him and to do step five with him. We reviewed my writings and he shared with me some of his life. He then asked me if I were ready to have God remove all of these defects of character. When I told him that I was ready he told me that God had indeed forgiven me and that I no longer had to carry all that garbage around with me any longer. This latter part completed my first time of experiencing steps six and seven, "were entirely ready to have God remove all of these defects of character" and "humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings".

That day I left there feeling a freedom that is beyond my ability to describe. It seemed like I was walking about three feet off the ground. During the drive home, reality began to sink in. That was a tough pill to swallow – the realization that here I was in my late thirties with a wife, children, responsibilities, and I had not grown up yet. The job ahead was very clear. Although the defects of character had been removed, the residual damage remained. The task now, make the repairs to the best of my ability. Again it became evident, "I am responsible" – recovery had to begin with me. The first order of business was to assess the damage. The way to do that presented itself in the form of step eight – "made a list of all persons whom we had harmed and become willing to make amends to them all." Again the counsel of sponsors and other "elder statesmen", helped a great deal. The categories of people harmed seemed to readily fall into one of the following: myself, family, friends, employers. With this guideline and having the experience of a completed step four the list was developed. This completed what I refer to as the inventory phase of recovery.

[to be continued]

Respectfully submitted by a member of AA in Western New York.

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

IN MEMORIAM
Things We Can Not Change

Jim K. ~ Courage and Powerless Groups ~ 8 Years
 Bill O' Connor ~ one of the founders of Caz Manor
 Marsha W. ~ North Buffalo Group ~ 23 Years
 Tony A. ~ Lovejoy Group ~ 18 Years

Let's remember them and all the others who passed on in our prayers

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.)

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

ACCEPTANCE

ROBIN G. 6M
 MEG G. 6M
 DON K. 4Y
 DON S. 7Y
 K&Y S. 48Y

Amherst/Snyder

Dave P. 3m
 Chris B. 3m
 Chuck T. 6m
 Richard F. 6m
 Susan C. 6m
 Chandra C. 6m
 Glenn G. 9m
 Jay M. 9m
 Jon O. 1y
 Phillip B. 1y
 Kara B. 1y
 Dave P. 1y
 David B. 1y
 Mike H. 2y
 Patricia S. 3y
 Bob D. 3y
 Tim K. 3y
 Audrey B. 3y
 Don F. 3y
 Rick G. 3y
 Judy O. 4y
 Machele F. 7y
 Suzie F. 8y
 Don N. 10y
 Valerie R. 13y
 Kevin N. 14y
 George F. 15y
 Jim M. 16y
 Ellen S. 20y
 Beverly S. 31y

Cold Springs

Carrol S. 3y
 Yvonne S. 7y
 Andrew P. 13y
 Stanley B. 19y
 Lena S. 29y
 Annie S. 30y

Courage Group

Irv W. 3m
 Marion D. 4y
 Justin G. 11y
 Paul K. 18y

Fireside

Amy K. 6m
 Sam V. 9m
 Ann H. 5y
 Tom F. 8y
 Joe K. 15y
 Bert A. 17y

Giving

Nilsa R. 6m
 Eric B. 9y

Ironhorse

Ken L. 3m
 Jim K. 9M
 Frank P. 2Y

Living In the Solution

Mary B. 9m
 Paul B. 9m
 Ray B. 9m
 Nancy H. 7y

Let Go & Get God

Frank R. 13y

LoveJoy

Kenyon J. 6m
 Marty L. 9m
 Tony O. 9y
 Carol 9y
 Tom L. 10y

North Buffalo

Susan O. 3m
 Brian N. 2y
 Maggie M. 2y
 Burt H. 2y
 Jerry C. 2y
 Steven A. 3y
 Todd J. 3y
 Pete N. 4y
 Khristian B. 5y
 John McC. 9y
 Develle L. 12y

Renewal

Debbie G. 6y
 Peter C. 12y

Rise & Shine

Richard P. 6m
 Justin B. 6m
 Gary C. 9m
 Yvonne P. 9m
 Diane C. 9m
 Elizabeth D. 1y
 Joyce P. 2y
 Shawn S. 3y
 Carol W. 3y
 Pam C. 7y
 Carter 12y

Thruway

Jim R. 1y
 Danial W. 2y
 Dale B. 3y
 Michelle D. 9y
 Norm T. 10y
 Helen S. 21y
 Bud G. 22y
 Bill P. 32y

Sun. Morning Br.

Joyce P. 2y
 Tony O. 9y
 Eddie K. 15y
 Helen S. 21y

Victory

Leslie P. 4y
 Paul R. 12y

We Care

Ron K. 3m
 Craig W. 1y
 Margarita 1y
 Paul K. 18y

Welcome

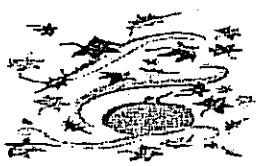
Mark T. 3y
 Alice W. 5y
 Dave B. 6y
 Ron S. 7y
 Tammy W. 11y
 Alice W. 16y
 Ron S. 18y



Group Anniversaries

Hamburg
 Amsdell-Lakeshore
 Silver Creek Friendship
 Patchin
 Lighten-Up
 St. Mark's
 Wehrle
 Rainbow
 Open Mind
 Ridge
 Bidwell Monday
 Fredonia Friday Noon

*No. 7. Policy:
 Anniversaries must
 be submitted by
 the 15th
 of the
 month previous*



BUFFALO CENTRAL OFFICE
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OCTOBER 2002

PLEASE NOTE

- **MOBILE MEETING- ARE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, HOMEBOUND OR CONFINED IN A NURSING HOME AND UNABLE TO GET TO A MEETING? IF SO, AND YOU WANT A MEETING BROUGHT TO YOU, CALL CENTRAL OFFICE AND LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER, SOMEONE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.**
- **LABOR DAY WEEKEND, CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL NOT MEET. IT WILL MEET THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH.**
- **The Daily Reflection Flip Calendar is being offered at a discount price (\$5.00) until supplied are gone. They have been discontinued in New York.**
- **In order to reduce size of this bulletin, Meeting Changes and New Meeting will be carried for 2 months. Events will be limited to those events in that month's bulletin, unless there is a pre- registration.**

MEETING CHANGES:

AFTER MIDNIGHT; Friday & Saturday night, All Saints Church, 781 Maple, East Amherst. NO LONGER MEETS.

BUFFALO NEWS GROUP; Tuesday's at 7:30 AM, NO LONGER MEETS

CAME TO BELIEVE; Monday's at 8:00 at Alden BryLyn, is no longer allowing people from the outside.

CASTING GROUP; 608 William St, 1 PM Sunday's, has changed to an open speakers meeting.

JUST FOR TODAY; Saturday's at 10:00 am, Mother of Divine Grace, 120 Old Maryvale Drive, Cheektowaga, STILL MEETS

LADIES NIGHT; Wednesday's in Dunkirk, NO LONGER MEETS.

LUNCHTIME MEETING, Tuesday's, 80 Goodrich, NO LONGER MEETS.

NEW MEETINGS:

PHOENIX GROUP; Thursday's at 12 Noon, Open Discussion, William Seneca Building, Route 438, Irving, Basement Cafeteria. Non-Smoking.

COMING EVENTS

- ~ Sept. 8, **Central Committee Meeting,** 7 pm, 651 Washington Street, St. Michael's Parish. (Hosted by Father Baker).
- ~ Sept. 8, **Corrections Committee Meeting,** 6:00 PM, 651 Washington Street, St. Michael's Parish.
- ~ Sept. 8, **9th Annual Holiday Village A.A. Picnic,** 12 Noon- 7 PM, Glen Meadows Park (off Sunset Dr.) in the Village of Hamburg. Speaker at 4 PM. Flyers in the office.
- ~ Sept. 14, **CPC Meeting,** 10:00 am, Bacon memorial Presbyterian Church, 166-59th St., Niagara Falls.
- ~ Sept. 19, **New Frontiers Committee,** 7:00 PM. St. Michaels Parish Center, Electric And Warsaw, Lackawanna, before the Victory meeting.

- ~ Sept. 21, 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.
- ~ Sept. 21, **Public Information Committee** will meet at Deerhurst Presbyterian Church at 9:00 am.
- ~ Sept. 27, 28 & 29, **AA Men's Spiritual Retreat**, Sponsored by University Men's Group, Stella Niagara Renewal Center. \$95, for information call Guy H. 871-0644 or Bill W. 881-4218.
- ~ Sept. 28, **Archives Committee Meeting**, 9 am, Maryvale Presbyterian Church, 425 Maryvale Drive. Archives are still available for group functions or Anniversaries; call Dick K. 668-8358, with 30 days notice.
- ~ Oct. 4-6, **NERC 2002**. Sheraton South Portland Hotel, South Portland, ME. Information at the office.
- ~ November 8,9 &10, **BUFFALO FALL CONVENTION**: Buffalo Marriott Hotel, 1340 Millersport Hwy. Amherst. Registration: \$18, Registration & Banquet: \$43. Flyers are out, for more information call, Registration Chair: John C. (716) 884-0962 or Convention Chair: (716) 894-1199
- ~ Oct. 13, **General Service Assembly**, Hamburg Town Hall, 1:00 PM. 6100 South Park Ave. (Hosted by North Buffalo Group)

9th STEP: "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

9th TRADITION: "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

9th CONCEPT: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM

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

Terry Bateman

Executive Secretary

BUFFALO CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 6, 2002 MEETING

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by our Chairman Scott T., with a moment of silence and Serenity Prayer. Scott read the Preamble, Frank read the Purpose of Central Committee, and Lee read the Traditions. Scott asked if there were any new Representatives, there were 6 present. John M. motioned that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with, Lee seconded the motion.

44 GROUPS ATTENDED: Dist. #1: Main and High, Sunrise Court. Dist. #2: Chapter IX, Early Bird, Living Sober, North Buffalo, Three Legacies Men's Discussion, and Welcome. Dist. #3: Abbots Men's Discussion, Cazenovia, Courage, Gardenville, Iron Horse, New Life Group, Ridge, South Town, Southgate, Sunday Morning Breakfast, Thruway, Try Again, Victory. Dist. #4: Action Group, Holland, Keep It Simple Sister, Patchin, St. Marks. Dist. #5: Lockport #1, and Wilson. Dist. #6: None. Dist. #7: Buffalo Group, Coldspring, Community Center, Ellicott, Fresh Start, Higher Powered, Inner City, New Awakening, Remember When, Spirit of Hope. Dist. #8: Amherst Snyder, Common Problem, Renewal, Wehrle. Dist. #9: Springville Tuesday Night & Dist. # 10: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ENVELOPE SYSTEM: Karen S. reported that the contribution for September was \$256.00 giving a YTD total of (\$5882.00) and she asks that we continue to encourage our Groups to contribute to this fund in order to give support to Central Committee.

STEERING COMMITTEE: Parker gave us this report: Agenda items included #1. Nominations for the election of Co-Chair of Central Committee and Recording Secretary. #2. Moving Central Office- Lee will make the presentation today. #3. The redistricting plan will be presented by Mark S. #4. Terry B. will share about the Central Office Seminar she attended. #5. The need for a District rep. for District 5. All nominations will be made at the November meeting, with elections in December.

FINANCIAL REPORT: No Report

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Winston F. gave this report. All meetings are covered, and no problems have been reported. Over the last month it was reported that twelve calls were made through Bridging the Gap, and volunteers connected with eleven of them.

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Bob gave the report for this committee. The following Facility report was stated as having needs: Collins/2nd Tues. ;Gowanda: 3rd Wed. 7-9. Wende: Needs Help Fri. and Saturday. Buffalo Work release 7:pm Tues. Groups can agree to do these meetings. We are still working on Erie County Holding Center. Bridging the Gap for Corrections is in need of more volunteers. Any interested call Central Office or contact Tom P. (649-1967) to sign up as a volunteer.

SCREENERS COMMITTEE: Dave B. gave this report: Friday after the Central Office closes there will be a system in place to monitor how many calls have come in. Web site will soon be activated. Dave asks that he be kept informed of any changes of phone numbers.

CENTRAL OFFICE: "October OFFICE REPORT: AA INFO: 288; ALANON: 23; 12-STEP: 9; CPC: 1; VISITORS: 72 – more than twice the traffic as last month; VOLUNTEERS: 4 – half what we had last month, really need some people to step up.

It's been a busy time at the office this past month. A lot of traffic, literature orders are being filled, great stuff but I still don't have the volunteers that boils down to a lot of late nights and early mornings for me because the work still needs to get done. In the last mailing, the notice about this meeting had some typo's- just letting you know that I know.

The quarterlies for both state and federal taxes have been filed. Last week I received the disk from the accountant that has the worksheet for monthly financial reports, reconciliation worksheet, payroll worksheet, treatment reconciliation, corrections reconciliation, and convention worksheet. I've begun inserting the information and hopefully next month you'll have accurate information. Last year when we changed our deadline date for reports we did ourselves no favor. We have had to re-write all information to reflect the end of the month for proper reconciliation. After this month we should have our reports reflect the month prior, and base our reports on the end of the month. We should still keep all other deadline dates at the 15th.

Last weekend was the Central Office/Intergroup Seminar. I cannot express how grateful I am for this Experience. It was absolutely wonderful to meet so many that completely understand my position. I found out that our problems are not so different than other places. I truly do know a whole lot more than I have given myself credit for. I have come back with so many idea's to try and a renewed outlook of how to best serve you and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We also were given copies of The Daily Reflection Large Print, now available in the office as well as the new AA Service Manual. Thank you again for this opportunity. (sic).

Yours in the fellowship of the Spirit, Terry Bateman

NEW FRONTIER: Debbie reported that we need more subscriptions and encouraged the new groups to take copies of the New Frontier back to their area Groups.

61st BUFFALO FALL CONVENTION 2002: Chairperson Pat M. gave this report. We had our meeting and everything is going fine. We met with the Hotel reps, and the rooms have been booked for the Speakers. The Hospitality rooms are set. The sweatshirts and mugs are done and ready to sell. The next meeting will be held at the Marriott Hotel on October 19, at 10:00 A.M.

ARCHIVES: Frank stated that there was nothing new to report.

CPC COMMITTEE: No Report

PIC COMMITTEE: Adolph I. reported: The committee met on June 21, 2002 at 9:00 A.M. at the Deerhurst park Presbyterian Church, after the How It works meeting. 4 members attended.

We determined that the most immediate problems were: (1) to get more members: some young people and some females: and (2) to find out ways to get the word to people and groups that we were available to speak about alcoholism to interested gatherings.

We agree to meet, again, on the third Saturday of July, at 9:00 AM, at the same place. Unfortunately, in July, only one person showed up.

In August, there was no meeting, because I was away for vacation.

The committee met again on Saturday, September 21, at 9:00AM. Three people attended. We adjourned it to Monday, September 23, at 9:00 PM, after the Amherst-Snyder meeting.

On September 23, two committee members said they would be available to speak and wanted to do so, but did not wish to do committee work, but wanted me to handle the assignments. I accepted their request.

I reported that the committee had (1) replenished the literature at the Erie County library, (2) scheduled 2 speakers for the Amherst Central High School, for Monday and Tuesday, October 7 and 8, at 8:00 AM and 8:39 AM, [two (2) sessions per day for two days].

I am in the process of arranging speakers for: Women for Human Rights and Dignity, Buffalo Mental Health Services – Beggars Night, and Wilson (?) Central Schools

The remaining committee members will meet on Saturday, October 19th, at 9:00AM at Deerhurst Presbyterian Church. Adolph I.

RECAP:

FINANCIAL REPORT: Several Groups questioned their reported contributions. Terry said they should check their records and she will adjust if necessary.

CENTRAL OFFICE: Mel from Renewal had some questions about the Seminar Terry attended. Karen stated that she felt an end of the month report would work better for her envelope system report.

CONVENTION 2002: Bob had questions about the menu for the Convention Banquet. Karen, as Banquet Chair went over the menu with us.

OLD BUSINESS: Mark gave the presentation on Redistricting. This information should be taken back to the groups and if they have questions bring them to the next meeting. He also passed out old and plans which showed the incorporation of Districts 9 and 10 into other areas. Mark also suggested the moving, on district sheets of some groups to other outlying areas. Some groups wanted the actual report to take back to their home groups. It was suggested that any action be delayed until all groups received this information and had this opportunity. Motion to delay vote until December so this can be accomplished.

Lee M. Made the presentation on moving the Central Office from Downtown Buffalo to another area.

This plan was questioned vigorously. Some of the questions included –

1. Feasibility 2. Financial responsibility and vulnerability of the present study 3. Thoroughness of search 4. Actual desire to move 5. Whether we were really prepared to vote on this at the present time. Some were under the impression that the vote would be taken at this meeting. 6. Should we look at fund raising for this Capital effort? 7. Should we buy instead of leasing another area? 8. Should the committee be increased to include some that presented valid points to consider? A motion was made that we stay within the current expense of office when considering this move; this was later rescinded with the acknowledgement that it may be necessary to increase cost but we must be responsible in this. Given all considerations it was agreed that we would vote in November on the question of if we should pursue this. (The Secretary apologizes if there has been an oversight in this report. It may have been caused because of the multitude of emotional comments not being discernible).

Both Mark and Lee were thanked for their effort in making the presentations and the time they dedicated to this. The Group was thanked for the Seventh Tradition; Motion to close meeting at 8:40, and carried.