

I found this article in the June, 2004 **Grapevine** titled, A Mirror of the Fellowship for 60 Years. It begins on page forty.(*ed.*)

Bill W's Letter About Hippies in AA

(3/71)

Your letter about the hippie problem, (so-called) was mighty interesting to me. I doubt that we need to be alarmed about this situation, because there have been precedents out of the past. All sorts of outfits have tried to move in on us, including communists and heroin addicts, prohibitionists and do-gooders of other persuasions.

Nearly all of these people, who happened to have an individual problem with alcohol, not only failed to change AA, but in the long run, AA changed them. I have a number of them among my closet friends today, and they are among the best AAs I know.

You also have people who are not alcoholics, but are addicts of other kinds. A great many AAs have taken pity on these people, and have actually tried to make them full-fledged AAs. Of course, their identification with alcoholics is no good at all, and the groups themselves easily stop this practice in the normal course of AA affairs.

Thoughtful AAs, however, encourage these sponsors to bring addicts to open meetings, just as they would any other interested people. In the end, these addicts usually gravitate to other forms of therapy. They are not received on the platform in open meetings unless they have an alcohol problem, and closed meetings are, of course, denied them. We know that we cannot do everything for everyone with an addiction problem.

There has occurred lately a new development centering upon hippies who have LSD or marijuana troubles — not so much stronger stuff. Many of these kids appear to be alcoholics also, and they are flocking into AA, often with excellent results.

Some weeks ago, there was a young people's convention of AAs. Shortly thereafter, four of these kids visited the office. I saw one young gal prancing down the hall, hair flying, in a miniskirt, wearing love beads and the works. I thought, "Holy smoke, what now!" She told me she was the oldest member of the young people's group in her area — age twenty-two! They had kids as young as sixteen. I was curious and took the whole party out to lunch.

Well, they were absolutely wonderful. They talked and acted just about as good a kind of AA as I've seen anywhere. I think all of them said they had had some sort of drug problem, but they had kicked that, too. When they first came around, they had insisted on their own ideas about AA, but in the end found AA plenty good enough as it was. Though they needed their own meetings, they found interest and inspiration in the meetings of the much older folk as well.

Perhaps, as younger people come into AA, we shall have to put up with some unconventional nonsense — with patience and good humor, let's hope. But it should be well worth the attempt. And also, if various hippie addicts want to form their own sort of fellowship along AA lines, by all means let us encourage them. We need deny them only the AA name, and assure them that the rest of our program is theirs for the taking and using — any part or all of it.

For these reasons, I feel hopeful and not a bit scared by this trend. Of course, I'm no prophet. I may be mistaken, so please keep me posted. This is a highly interesting and perhaps significant development. I certainly do not think it ought to be fought. Instead, it ought to be encouraged in what we know to be workable channels.

In affection . . .
Bill

LIFELINE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

We welcome your correspondence and will publish your material, space permitting, if it meets editorial criteria. *Share your experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic.* For a free subscription or to submit articles, suggestions or contributions, contact Central Office of Salt Lake City:

CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

80 West Louise Avenue

Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

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**CENTRAL OFFICE
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Central Office is to provide the basic services listed, to include, but not limited to:

- To carry the A.A. message and help those individuals who suffer from alcoholism;
- to maintain a 24-hour Twelve-Step phone service;
- to answer phone inquiries as needed;
- to compile, update and print meeting lists;
- to maintain A.A.-approved literature for sale to members and the public;
- and to print and distribute a newsletter.

Specifically excluded shall be the operation of any club, clubhouse or drying-out place, and acts in violation of the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

“ . . . Let them carry the experience and spirit of A.A. into all these affairs, for whatever good they may accomplish. For not only has God saved us from alcoholism; the world has recieved us back into its citizenship.”

Suiting up and Showing Up

**Groups Represented At the
Central Office Reps Meeting for:**

February 2009

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10 TH STEP GROUP | PRIMARY PURPOSE |
| A WAY OUT | GREATER KEARNS |
| 12 O’CLOCK HIGH | NO NONSENSE |
| CANDLELIGHT SERENITY | AN A.A GROUP |
| A VISION FOR YOU | UNITY LUNCH BUNCH |
| SPIRITUAL QUEST | GRAPEVINE |
| OFF THE CUFF | BOG IRISH |
| ACCEPTANCE | FLYIN’ HIGH |
| COME AS YOU ARE | COMMUNITY GROUP |
| HOLIDAY THURS. | |
| CANDLELIGHT YOUNG &
ALIVE | |

*The sign-up sheet was held on to. Please remember to ‘pass it on’.

Is Your Group Represented?

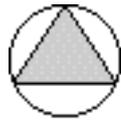
The next C.O. Reps Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at Central Office, 80 West Louise Ave. (2860 South)

Please visit our website for meeting information.
www.saltlakeaa.org

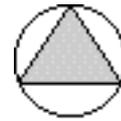
To reduce our costs, Central Office would like to update our mailing list for the **LIFELINE**. If you have moved please contact C.O. at 801-484-7871
Thank you.

“Let us never be a closed corporation; let us never deny our experience, for whatever it may be worth, to the world around us. Let our individual members heed the call to every field of human endeavor. . . .”

A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 232-233



Upcoming Events,



April 18th; **District 11 Workshop**, Backstreet Club, Bountiful UT.

11:30 am to 4:00 pm.

May 15th — 17th; **Area 69 Post Conference Assembly**, Park City, UT.

May 22nd — 24th; **Spring Fling Convention**, St Louis, MO.

June 2nd — 5th; **Seniors in Sobriety Conference**, Vancouver, WA.

June 26th — 28th; **ASCYPAA**, Prescott, AZ.

July 10th — 12th; **27th Annual Great Outdoor Campout**, Defa's Ranch, UT.

godcampout@yahoo.com

August 7th — 9th; **Maple Grove Campout**, Maple Grove, UT.

August 23rd; Sunday in Murray Park at the **Central Office Picnic**

Pavilion#5, Murray, UT.

September 18th — 20th; **Area 69 Fall Assembly**, Kaysville, UT.

February, 11th— 14th, 2010; **46th Annual International Women's Conference**, Orlando, FL.

July, 1st — 4th, 2010; **International Convention**, San Antonio, TX.

HERE IS A LIST OF CURRENT ADDRESSES WHERE YOU CAN SEND YOUR DONATIONS.

A. A. World Services
Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY.
10163

Central Office of Salt
Lake City
80 West Louise Ave.
Salt Lake City, Ut.
84115

Tresurer, Area 69
P.O. Box 40
Washington, UT.
84780-0040

Treasurer, District 2
P.O. Box 615
Salt Lake City, UT.
84110

Treasurer, District 10
P.O.Box 57271
Murray, UT.
84157

Treasurer, District 11
1065 North 400 West
Bountiful, UT.
84140

Friends of Bill W., Please Come to the Gate . . .

Once you learn to walk, crawling is out of the question. - *James D. Davis*

Sometime in the early 1990s I was treating a woman in an intensive outpatient chemical dependency group. Let's call her "Grace." Grace was a flight attendant and had been suspended from her job with a major airline due to her untreated alcoholism. She had been stealing the little miniature liquor bottles, drinking in airport bars in uniform, and so on. Her employer, realizing she needed treatment, sent her to us.

After the eight-week program, I suggested to her it might be a good idea to solidify her foundation in recovery before returning to work as she would be working in a high-risk environment (serving alcohol, being out of town alone, etc.). Grace did, however, return to work shortly after completing outpatient treatment. One day while she was departing from a plane at the end of a long day, a major craving for alcohol overpowered her. There she was, in the Los Angeles International Airport, pulling her roller-bag behind her when this massive craving to drink came over her. She tried to just "think through it," or "just forget about it," but it was way too powerful. It was so powerful, in fact, that she was resigned to the fact that she would just go drink. Grace thought, *Oh, the heck with it, I'll get another job ... or maybe no one will find out anyway.* But deep down inside Grace did not want to drink. She truly had wanted to stay sober, but she was in trouble.

On her way to the bar in the airport, Grace had a moment of sanity. She stopped, picked up the airport paging phone and said, "Will you please page friends of Bill W.," she paused, quickly looking around for an empty gate, "to come to Gate 12?"

Within minutes, over the paging system in the L.A. International Airport came, "Will friends of Bill W. please come to Gate 12. Will friends of Bill W. please come to Gate 12." Most people in recovery know that asking if you are a friend of Bill W. is an anonymous way to identify yourself as a member of AA.

In less than five minutes there were about fifteen people at that gate from all over the world. That brought tears of amazement, relief and joy to Grace. They had a little meeting there in that empty gate, total strangers prior to that moment. Grace discovered that two of those people had gotten out of their boarding lines and missed their flights to answer that call for help. They had remembered what they had seen on many walls of meeting rooms: "When anyone, anywhere reaches out their hand for help, I want the hand of AA to be there and for that I am responsible."

Grace did not drink that day. I would venture to guess that none of the people who came to Gate 12 drank that day either. Instead Grace had a moment of sanity, realized she could not do it on her own, took the action of asking for help and received it immediately. This help is available to all of us if we want it and sincerely ask for it. It never fails.

- Jim C., Jr.

Improve the quality of your sobriety and get out of yourself! Central Office needs volunteers for service work. We need people for 12-Step calls, stuffing envelopes, answering the telephone, et cetera. If you are interested contact Central Office at 484-7871.



1820s

By the 1820s people in the US were drinking, on average, 27 liters (7 gallons) of pure alcohol per person each year, and many religious and political leaders were beginning to see drunkenness as a national curse.



From the Fellowship.**Choose a Home Group**

My name is Shawn. My sobriety Date is April 25th, 1988; for that I am grateful. When I first got sober I was told a few basic things like, “Do 90 meetings in 90 days.”

“Get a Sponsor.”

“Read the Big Book.”

I have had an incredible journey since that day.

My journey started when I got out of jail for the last Time. I lost My Job. My boss, at the time, thought I may have a problem with drugs and alcohol when I got the company truck impounded, always-missing work to go to court for something alcohol related.

I heard about the Alano club and thought maybe I could get some help, so I stuck out my thumb and hitched a ride. That’s how I got around early in sobriety. I met people. Lot’s of people.

They said things to me like “We will love you ‘till you can love yourself.”

“Keep coming back.”

Nobody ever wanted me to come back before, so I kept coming back. Someone gave me a Big Book. I had never read a book cover-to-cover before because I didn’t read much or know what some of the words meant. I finally picked a sponsor. He said, “No.” He didn’t have a year yet.

I went to a lot of meetings. I didn’t have a job or any money.

I didn’t really want to stay sober either; I just wanted the pain to go away. I finally was able to put 90 days together.

I think I was thought of as a ninety-day wonder. The guy I asked to be my sponsor celebrated one year at a meeting one night, so I asked again and he said “Yes.” There was always talk about having a home group.

I would bounce around to different meetings but never really make a commitment to one group. I would say things like, “They are all home to me.”

I never really shared much either; never got close to a group.

Yes, I learned to read better; looked up words in a dictionary; worked with a sonsor; did steps; got spiritual, and generated some years of sobriety.

I did a little service work here and there, got married, then divorced. I would show up at a meeting after a time of isolation, and not know anyone --all new faces. Very few people knew who I was either -- still didn’t have a home group.

Over the years I had a lot of fun, growth and adventure.

I got back that job I lost. Now, I own the place. I have a wonderful son from the marriage I had. I can even talk to my ex-wife and be happy about it.

My sponsor asked me the other day if I ever got a home group. I had the same thought as I did the years before. Then I realized something: my home group is the Free Riders. I had a lot of fun with these guys early in my sobriety. After my divorce, I didn’t come around much, so I didn’t see much recovery either.

Now, I see a lot of recovery within the group and am proud to call the group “Home”. I have a service position with the group. We put on fund-raisers for recovery. We have a clean and sober softball team. We are now having a panel that speaks at meetings at local public schools, talking to high-risk kids. March 5th we did West Jordan Middle School; April 2nd is Highland High. It is a totally powerful experience to carry the message to these kids.

We also take a meeting to VOA Detox.

So now, after all these years, I finally realize the importance of a home group — a place where I can share often; let people know me and I know them; care about each other; know if someone is missing.

I have a home group, a host of friends to recover with, ride motorcycles with, and carry the message of recovery.

Do what is suggested — get a Home group!

THE GUEST HOUSE

This, being humane, is a guest house.

Every morning - a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out for
somenew delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door, laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent as
a guide from beyond.

Rumi

When life gives you lemons - - - - SQUEEZE !

**AFTER-HOURS AA SLC CENTRAL OFFICE
PHONE VOLUNTEER CALENDAR**

April 2009

*If you would like to help us out by filling in one of the open times,
please contact our Vol. Phone Coordinator Bill J. @ 801.604.0511
or billj5403@yahoo.com!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12am – 930am Allison W. 530p – 7pm Afternooners 7pm – 12am Todd K.	2 12am – 7am Todd K. <u>7am – 930am OPEN</u> <u>530pm – 12am OPEN</u>	3 12am – 7am Valerie <u>7am – 930am OPEN</u> <u>6pm – 12am OPEN</u>	4 12am – 10am Troy J. 2pm – 6pm Andrea 6pm – 9pm A Vision For You <u>9pm – 12am OPEN</u>
5 12am – 7am A.J. 7am – 12pm Bill J. 12pm – 6pm An AA Group 6pm – 9pm 974 Group 9pm – 11pm Dave W. 11pm – 12am Randy	6 12am – 930am Deanna 530p – 1030p No Nonsense 11pm – 12am Jeff R.	7 12am – 930am Jeff R. 530p – 10p 10 th Step Grp 10pm – 12am Vivian	8 12am – 930am Allison W. 530p – 7pm Afternooners 7pm – 12am Todd K.	9 12am – 7am Todd K. <u>530pm – 630pm OPEN</u> 630pm – 10pm Hillcrest <u>10pm – 12am OPEN</u>	10 <u>12am – 7am OPEN</u> 7am – 930am Andrea <u>530pm – 630pm OPEN</u> 630pm – 12am Basic Y.P.	11 12am – 10am Troy J. <u>2pm – 3pm OPEN</u> 3pm – 7pm Its In The Book <u>7pm – 12am OPEN</u>
12 12am – 7am A.J. 7am – 12pm Bill J. 12pm – 6pm An AA Group 6pm – 11pm Melissa B. 11pm – 12am Randy	13 12am – 930am Deanna 530p – 1030p No Nonsense 11pm – 12am Jeff R.	14 12am – 930am Jeff R. 530p – 10p 10 th Step Grp 10pm – 12am Vivian	15 12am – 930am Allison W. 530p – 7pm Afternooners 7pm – 12am Todd K.	16 12am – 7am Todd K. <u>7am – 930am OPEN</u> <u>530pm - 12am OPEN</u>	17 <u>12am – 7am OPEN</u> 7am – 930am Andrea <u>530pm – 630pm OPEN</u> 630pm – 12am Non Smoking Sobriety Hour	18 12am – 10am Troy J. 2pm – 7pm Unity Lunch B 7pm – 12am Magna Friendly Bunch
19 12am – 7am A.J. 7am – 12pm Bill J. 12pm – 6pm An AA Group 6pm – 8pm Chris M. 8pm – 11pm Dave W. 11pm – 12am Randy	20 12am – 930am Deanna 530p – 1030p No Nonsense 11pm – 12am Jeff R.	21 12am – 930am Jeff R. 530p – 10p 10 th Step Grp 10pm – 12am Vivian	22 12am – 930am Allison W. 530p – 7pm Afternooners 7pm – 12am Todd K.	23 12am – 7am Todd K. <u>7am – 930am OPEN</u> 530pm – 12am Dave S.	24 <u>12am – 7am OPEN</u> 7am – 930am Andrea 530pm – 10pm Honey's Breakfast Bunch 10pm – 12am Troy J.	25 12am – 10am Troy J. 2pm – 6pm Billy S. 6pm – 10pm Grapevine <u>10pm – 12am OPEN</u>
26 12am – 7am A.J. 7am – 12pm Bill J. 12pm – 6pm An AA Group 6pm – 8pm Chris M. 8pm – 11pm Dave W. 11pm – 12am Randy	27 12am – 930am Deanna 530p – 1030p No Nonsense 11pm – 12am Jeff R.	28 12am – 930am Jeff R. 530p – 10p 10 th Step Grp 10pm – 12am Vivian	29 12am – 930am Allison W. 530p – 7pm Afternooners 7pm – 12am Todd K.	30 12am – 7am Todd K. <u>7am – 930am OPEN</u> <u>530pm - 12am OPEN</u>	<p>CENTRAL OFFICE REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS MON – FRI 930AM – 530PM SATURDAY 10AM – 2PM</p>	