



# HAGERSTOWN AREA INTERGROUP

P.O. Box 1153, Hagerstown, MD 21741

www.hagerstownaa.org

Answering Service: 301-733-1109

## January 2013 Newsletter

### HAIG INFORMATION

#### Monthly Meeting:

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month - 4 pm  
223 N. Prospect St; Hagerstown

### TRUSTED SERVANTS

#### Officers:

Chairperson: Jack B.  
chair@hagerstownaa.org  
Treasurer: Henry R.  
treasurer@hagerstownaa.org  
Secretary: Leigh D.

#### Committee Chairs:

Activities: Beth S.  
Liz M.  
activities@hagerstownaa.org  
Answering Service: Skeeter H.  
District 20 DCM: Jan T.  
Grapevine: **Open**  
Newsletter: Nancy B.  
newsletter@hagerstownaa.org  
Public Information: **Open**  
Website: Wayne G.  
website@hagerstownaa.org  
Where & When: Carol W.

#### Corrections:

corrections@hagerstownaa.org  
WCDC Women Carol B.  
WCDC Men John B.  
MCTC – Bob B.  
David L.

Submit anniversaries, articles or suggestions to:  
newsletter@hagerstownaa.org  
Deadline for submissions is the 4th Sunday of each month.  
Use of submitted articles is at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee.

**Step One:** We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.

**Tradition One:** Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity. (see more on page 4)

**Concept I:** Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

“We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery. The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed”.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p.30

### ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Celebrant	Yrs	Group	Time
Jan 3	Ed N.	37	Recycled Group	7:30 pm
Jan 4	Laura G.	3	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
Jan 4	Sam P.	40	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
Jan 6	Ron B.	10	New Paths	6:00 pm
Jan 7	Henry R.	9	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Jan 11	Mary E.	1	ARG	9:00 am
Jan 12	Rick B.	3	Hagerstown Group	8:00 pm
Jan 13	Bill K.	9	New Paths	6:00 pm
Jan 17	Joyce S.	1	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm
Jan 20	Brian T.	14	Leitersburg Group	7:00 pm
Jan 20	David S.	7	Leitersburg Group	7:00 pm
Jan 20	Cinda S.	33	New Paths	6:00 pm
Jan 20	Terrie A.	18	New Paths	6:00 pm
Jan 24	Carol W.	21	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm
Jan 24	Lucy S.	20	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm
Jan 27	Lori G.	6	New Paths	6:00 pm
Jan 28	Eric S.	11	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Jan 30	Nicole K.	1	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
Jan 30	Patty M.	2	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
Jan 31	Dee M.	24	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Jan. 12 - 9:00 am to 12:00 Mountain Breakfast** – Old Germantown Church of God, 16924 Ravenrock Road; Cascade, MD – Fellowship at 9:00, Breakfast at 10:00, Speaker at 11:00 – \$5.00 donation. Bring someone with you! Questions? See Carole H., Beth M., or Dave S.

**Jan 20 – 5:30 pm District 20 meeting** – 200 East Antietam Street (corner of Antietam and Mulberry). This meeting of GSRs takes place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. All are welcome to attend.

**Jan. 27 – 4:00 pm Hagerstown Area Intergroup** meets at 223 N. Prospect Street; Hagerstown. All Intergroup Reps, Officers, and Committee Chairs should attend. All are welcome.



### Summit Avenue Group 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Monday, January 21st

Dinner – 5:30 pm, Speaker – 7:00 pm

Michelle N. from Howard County

Chicken, beverages and cake provided.

Please bring a salad or covered dish to share.

### Maple Avenue Group 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm ~ Dinner

8:00 pm ~ Speaker (Al F. from Baltimore)

Chicken and beverages provided. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share.

## Our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition – How are we doing?

According to the Final Report of the April General Service Conference; 42.4% of the groups in the U.S. and Canada contributed to our General Service Office in 2011.

According to the Quarterly Contributions Report from our General Service Office; the numbers below represent the percentage of groups that contributed to GSO during the first 9 months of 2012 in:

Area 29 (MD minus Pr Geo & Mont Co.)	34.27%
District 20 (Washington County)	45.00%

In addition, the December 2012 report from Maryland General Service indicates the following percentage of groups in Area 29 that contributed to MD General Service through November:

Area 29	37.20%
District 20	57.14%



### FAQ's about A.A.'s History



Each year the G.S.O. Archives receives thousands of requests for research and historical information. The questions received range from very simple questions with easy answers to complex questions involving hours of research. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions received at the G.S.O. Archives, and some of the answers.

**Q.** I've heard it said that Bill always wished he could change the beginning of "How It Works" to read "Never have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path" (rather than "Rarely have we seen..."). Is this true?

**A.** No. A rumor has persisted for years that Bill wished he could have changed "rarely" to "never." But we know, through Bill's own words, that that is not the case. In a letter to Les V., dated May 25, 1961 Bill W. stated: "...concerning your comment about the use of the word 'rarely' in Chapter Five of the Big Book. My recollection is that we did give a considerable thought at the time of writing. I think the main reason for the use of 'rarely' was to avoid anything that would look like a claim for a 100% result. Assuming of course that an alcoholic is willing enough and sane enough, there can be a perfect score on such character. But since willingness and sanity are such illusive and fluctuating values, we simply didn't like to be too positive. The medical profession could jump right down our throats...I do remember thinking about it a lot."

In addition, the following question and response were made at the 1970 General Service Conference, as part of the "Ask-It" Basket questions. Bill was, of course, still living at this time and was able to respond:

**Q.** Has Bill ever said, "If there was any change he would make in the Big Book, it would be to change the word 'rarely' to 'never' at the start of Chapter Five?"

**A.** "No, Bill said he had never considered this." (1970 General Service Conference Report, p.31).

*Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

## A Landmark Decision: Our Co-Founder's Homes Make History

It is official: the home of Bill and Lois Wilson (Stepping Stones), and the home of Dr. Bob and Anne Smith are National Historic Landmarks!

On October 17, 2012 the U. S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the designation, after a detailed and highly competitive process was completed. This process began when Stepping Stones was encouraged to apply by the National Parks Service. Stepping Stones will now be one in a list of only 2,527 properties throughout the country, nationally significant historic places so designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior because they possess exceptional value in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.

Reminiscent of the strong bond between couples Bill and Lois Wilson and Dr. Bob and Anne Smith when they were alive, Dr. Bob's Home in Akron, Ohio has also been made a National Historic Landmark. Realizing the parallel significance of Dr. Bob's Home in the formation and growth of the recovery movement, the NPS solicited an application for landmark status for that property when the application for Stepping Stones was received. It is gratifying that the homes of both of A.A.'s co-founders have received this prestigious national recognition at the same time.



## "Big Book" Recognized by Library of Congress

The "Big Book", Alcoholics Anonymous, has been designated by the Library of Congress as one of the 88 "Books That Shaped America," and is included in the library's new exhibition in Washington, D. C.

It is one of the best-selling books of all time, having sold 30 million copies. In 2011, Time Magazine placed the book on its list of the 100 best and most influential books written in English since 1923, the beginning of the magazine.

## Intergroup Meeting Minutes December 23, 2012

Chairman, Jack B. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. In attendance were: Henry R., Treasurer; Beth S., Activities; John B., Men's Corrections; Nancy B., Newsletter; Carol W., Where & When and ABSI alternate; Jon F., Fellowship; Lauren C., Maple Avenue; Rick C., New Paths; Susan W., New Visions Alt.; Angel Z., Summit Avenue; Beth M., Visitor.

**Secretary's Report** – The November minutes were accepted without reading.

**Treasurer's Report** – read and accepted:

Balance available on	11/25/12	\$1,313.21
<b>Contributions:</b>		
New Paths Group	120.00	
Oak Ridge Group	50.00	
Recycled Group	40.00	
Gratitude Breakfast 50/50	144.00	
Total		\$ 354.00
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Antietam Call Center	158.35	
Verizon	37.66	
Wayne G. Newsletter	36.89	
Wayne G. Website	107.40	
Total		\$ 340.30
Ending Balance		\$ 1,326.91
Less Prudent Reserve		- 300.00
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>12/23/12</b>	<b>\$ 1,026.91</b>

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Activities:** Beth S. reported that tickets were still available for the New Year's Eve Dance. Beth made a motion to request \$200 seed money for the dance. The motion was approved.

**Answering Service:** Skeeter H. absent

**Corrections:** John B. reported that additional men are always needed to take meetings to the men in the Washington County Detention Center. Please e-mail John or see him for an application. He also reported that men are needed to take meetings to the prison (MCTC). Please see Bob B. or David L. for an application.

Boonsboro ABSI Group turned in \$33.52 from their pink can to buy literature for WCDC and MTC.

The Women's Corrections Committee will have a meeting for all women currently carrying the message to the WCDC and also for those interested in joining. The meeting will be held January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at 13216

Fountainhead Plaza. It is the office right beside the drycleaners and behind the fountain.

**District 20:** Jan T. absent

**Public Information:** Open

**Newsletter:** Nancy B. reported that the Newsletter Committee held its first meeting on December 13 with five in attendance. The issues discussed were format of the newsletter, content, creation and distribution. Estimates were obtained from three different printers for three different formats. It was decided to ask the IGRs to consider the 8-1/2 x 11, 2 page double-sided format at a cost of \$52.15 for 200 copies. Some of the ideas discussed for articles or column titles were: History of the Traditions, History of Groups, FAQ's from A.A. Archives, Acronyms, Quote of the Month, 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, etc.

The newsletter will be posted on the HAIG website, [www.hagerstownaa.org](http://www.hagerstownaa.org), delivered electronically to all e-mail addresses provided, and delivered in hard copy where necessary. All groups are asked to designate at least one person with an e-mail address to receive the newsletter and make copies for the group. E-mail addresses can be sent to [newsletter@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:newsletter@hagerstownaa.org)

**Website:** Wayne G. absent

**Where & When:** Carol W. reported that the Where and When was revised in September to include the changes to the Hagerstown Group. The revised version was sent to Wayne G. to post on the website. Carol was asked to have new copies printed for the next Intergroup meeting.

### Reports from Intergroup Reps in attendance:

**Boonsboro ABSI** – Carol W. submitted pink can money and four anniversaries.

**Fellowship Hall** – Jon F. submitted two anniversaries, money for New Year's dance tickets and reported that the hall would be open Christmas Day from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm.

**Hagerstown Group** – not present but provided anniversaries by e-mail.

**Leitersburg** – not present but provided anniversaries by e-mail.

**Maple Avenue** – New IGR, Lauren C. submitted two anniversaries and reported that the group would celebrate its 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a potluck dinner on January 19<sup>th</sup>. See page 1 for details.

**New Paths** – Rick C. submitted two anniversaries.

**New Visions** – Alternate IGR, Susan W. had no report.

**Summit Avenue** – Angel Z. reported two anniversaries and the group’s 29th anniversary celebration with a potluck dinner on January 21<sup>st</sup>. See page 1 for details.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Beth S. and Liz M. will contact IGRs and others for ticket money and unsold tickets for the New Year’s Eve Dance. Help needed for set up at 7pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

New Paths IGR, Rick C., volunteered to take the position of Grapevine Representative. Everyone thanked him for his offer to serve. Jack will talk to him about the position after the meeting.

Newsletter Chair, Nancy B., made a motion which was seconded **that the HAIG Newsletter format be changed to four 8-1/2 x 11 pages, double-sided and stapled, at a cost not to exceed \$55.00 per month with the understanding that this amount will decrease as electronic distribution increases.** Discussion revealed that the present 12 month average for 200 copies is approximately \$42.00 so the change would be an increase of approximately \$10.50 per month. The new format would allow for additional articles providing information about our program and our fellowship. The motion passed by a vote of IGRs, 6 for and 0 against.

Hearing no other new business, Jack asked for a motion to adjourn at 4:30 pm.

---

**Acronyms**

Ever wonder what people are talking about when they use terms like, CPC, PI, IGR, GSR or DCM? We will print as many definitions for you each month as space will allow. If you have a special request, just ask!

**CPC** – Cooperation with the Professional Community committee. This committee seeks to create mutual understanding and cooperation between the fellowship and those professional groups and individuals concerned with alcoholism and the still-suffering alcoholic, to further the acceptance of A.A. in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and similar facilities, and to bring additional help to alcoholics under treatment there.

**P.I.** – Public Information. This is the activity of carrying the A.A. message through the use of the media such as newspapers, TV, radio, films and other social media like the internet. It is through this activity that A.A. informs the world at large about the principles of A.A.

**IGR** – The Intergroup Representative is the link between the A.A. group and the local Intergroup which provides an answering service, Where and When directory of meetings, website for information, and a newsletter to

keep the fellowship informed of local activities and events.

**GSR** – The General Service Representative provides the critical link between the A.A. group and the rest of the A.A. fellowship worldwide by attending, participating and voting at monthly district and quarterly Area meetings and reporting the results to their groups.

**DCM** – Elected by the GSRs, the District Committee Member is the chairperson of the district, guiding the GSRs to help them learn about our Traditions, Concepts and matters which affect A.A. as a whole. Hagerstown is in District 20 which covers Washington County. The DCM attends all area meetings and chairs the monthly District meeting.

---

**Tradition One**  
by Ira C.

**“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”**

As the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous wrestled with many problems, it became necessary to formulate certain guiding principles to allow for the survival and development of our organization without formal governance. This became increasingly difficult as various meetings were being opened in Akron, Cleveland, and New York. Without computers, cell phones, and other methods of communication, a list of priorities was being developed.

Interestingly the Traditions were developed almost totally in reaction to behaviors, thoughts, and actions that if continued could end A.A. before it really took hold. The first Tradition emphasizes “common welfare” and A.A. unity. As to “common welfare” it was included to demonstrate that “rebellion ceases and cooperation begins”. Each A.A. must set aside personal ambitions and work toward our “common welfare”.

By cooperating with this common theme, A.A.’s learn that without substantial unity there can be no Alcoholics Anonymous. Without unity there can be no recovery. Each A.A. must set aside his/her “personal ambitions” and become “a small part of a great whole”.

---

<b>Please send group 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions to:</b>	
<b>Hagerstown Intergroup</b> P.O. Box 1153 Hagerstown, MD 21741	<b>Maryland General Service</b> P.O. Box 20177 Baltimore, MD 21284-0177
<b>General Service Board</b> General Service Office P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163	<b>District 20 Committee</b> c/o Bob C. 229 Broadview Court Falling Waters, WV 25419