



HAGERSTOWN AREA INTERGROUP

P.O. Box 1153, Hagerstown, MD 21741

www.hagerstownaa.org

Answering Service: 301-733-1109

February 2013 Newsletter

HAIG INFORMATION

Monthly Meeting:

4th 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: Angel Z.
secretary@hagerstownaa.org

Committee Chairs:

Activities: Beth S.
Liz M.
activities@hagerstownaa.org
Answering Service: Skeeter H.
District 20 DCM: Jan T.
Grapevine: Rick C.
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

Step Two: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society

“Are not some of us just as biased and unreasonable about the realm of the spirit as were the ancients about the realm of the material?”

Alcoholics Anonymous, p.51

ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Celebrant	Yrs	Group	Time
Jan 30	Jeff B.	12	West End Group	8:00 pm
Feb 1	Gary W.	1	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
Feb 5	Brett D.	5	Oak Ridge	7:00 pm
Feb 11	Skeeter H.	24	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Feb 11	Nancy B.	19	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Feb 13	David L.	1	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
Feb 15	Jim R.	28	Williamsport	8:00 pm
Feb 15	Jack B.	9	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
Feb 17	Jennifer A	2	New Paths	6:00 pm
Feb 21	Debbie B.	3	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm
Feb 21	Dee G.	1	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm
Feb 22	Ed L.	30	Williamsport	8:00 pm
Feb 25	Lauren K.	1	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Mar 1	Veronica S	4	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Feb 9 - 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.

Feb 17 – 5:30 pm District 20 meeting – This meeting of GSRs takes place every 3rd Sunday at 200 E. Antietam St. (corner of Antietam and Mulberry). All are welcome.

Feb 22-24 – NERAASA – Lancaster Host Hotel, 2300 Lincoln Highway East; Lancaster, PA. See page 3 for details.

Feb 24 – 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.

Meeting Changes

Fellowship Hall – All 8:30 pm meetings are now “open”. Therefore the Sunday meeting will be an Open Step, Monday an Open As Bill Sees It, and Wednesday an Open Discussion. There is now a Living Sober meeting on Mondays and Fridays at Noon and the Friday 8:30 pm meeting is a candlelight meeting.

West End Group – First and third Wednesdays at 6:00 pm beginning February 6th will again be “Eating Meetings”. A business meeting will be held each third Wednesday in the small room.

Where and When Updates

The Where and When was revised the beginning of January to include changes received to that date. All groups were provided with the updated version. Please make sure your group is distributing the most recent version as dated on the front page, and destroy all others.



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 is a popular question and answer:

Q. What is the story behind the Circle and Triangle logo?

A. The Circle and Triangle symbol has long been connected to the A.A. Fellowship. It was adopted as an official A.A. symbol at the International Convention in St. Louis in 1955 and from that point on was widely used in the Fellowship. In the book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Bill W.'s 1955 speech, in which he describes the adoption of the symbol, is printed:

"Above us floats a banner on which is inscribed the new symbol for A.A., a circle enclosing a triangle. The circle stands for the whole world of A.A., and the triangle stands for A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. Within our wonderful new world, we have found freedom from our fatal obsession. That we have chosen this particular symbol is perhaps no accident. The priests and seers of antiquity regarded the circle enclosing the triangle as a means of warding off the spirits of evil, and A.A.'s circle and triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service has certainly meant all of that to us and much more." (A.A. Comes of Age, p.139)

Nevertheless, in the early 1990's A.A. World Services decided to phase out the "official" or "legal" use of the Circle and Triangle symbol on its literature, letterhead and other material [to avoid copyright infringement issues]; and in 1994 the General Service Conference resolved that the logo be discontinued on all Conference-approved literature. However, the symbol is still associated with Alcoholics Anonymous (and other kinds of 12-Step recovery fellowships) and has a special meaning for A.A. members all over the world.

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Do You Have A Voice in A.A.?



2013 Mini-Conference
Saturday, April 13, 2013
9:00 am until 4:00 pm
Salvation Army Building
351 Hilltop Lane
Annapolis, MD 21403

Cost: Free! \$5 donation requested for lunch
For more information, contact
miniconf@marylandaa.org

Intergroup Meeting Minutes January 27, 2013

Chairman, Jack B. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. In attendance were: Henry R., Treasurer; Angel Z., Secretary and Summit Ave Group; Beth S. and Liz M., Activities; John B., Men's Corrections; Carol B., Women's Corrections; Rick C., Grapevine and New Paths; Nancy B., Newsletter; Wayne G., Website and Chewsville Alt; Jon F., Fellowship Hall; Michelle B., Hagerstown Group; Mark F., Leitersburg; Lauran C., Maple Avenue; Tony T., Mountain Group; Donna S., Oakridge; Wayne B., Thurs Night BB; Cliff P., West End; Dave S. and Ed D., Williamsport

Secretary's Report – The December 2012 minutes were accepted without reading.

Treasurer's Report – read and accepted:

Balance available on	12/23/12	\$1,346.91
Contributions:		
Chewsville Group	250.00	
Leitersburg Group	125.00	
Summit Avenue Group	<u>178.43</u>	
	Total	\$ 553.43
Expenses:		
Antietam Call Center	195.30	
Verizon	36.72	
Nancy B. Newsletter Dec	27.28	
Beth S.-NYE Dance seed	200.00	
Carol W.-Where & When	69.68	
Nancy B.-Newsletter Jan	55.00	
1 Box Bank Checks	<u>40.16</u>	
	Total	\$ 624.14
Ending Balance		
		\$ 1,276.20
	Less Prudent Reserve	- 300.00
Total Funds Available	1/27/13	\$ 976.20

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: Co-Chairs Beth S. and Liz M. thanked everyone for their support for the 2012 New Year's Eve Dance. The financial summary for the event is:

Income	\$985.00
Expenses	<u>-599.58</u>
Profit	\$385.42

The date for the Round Robin in May will be decided by next month.

Answering Service: Skeeter H. absent

Men's Corrections: John B. reported that help is needed to carry the message into MCTC (Maryland

Correctional Training Center and WCDC (Washington County Detention Center). See John B. for WCDC and David L. or Bob B. for MCTC.

Women's Corrections: Carol B. reported that six members attended the committee meeting held on January 19th. The topics discussed were meeting format and carrying the message. A suggestion was made to purchase Conference approved pamphlets for distribution in the facility. Carol requested that money submitted from the Pink Can be labeled with the contributing group's name. The Corrections Committee was asked to contribute an article for an upcoming HAIG newsletter. Pink Can balance is \$116.49. Carol B. will be stepping down from her position as Women's Corrections chair in June 2013.

District 20: Jan T. absent

Newsletter: Nancy B. reported that the Newsletter Committee held its second meeting on January 10, 2013 with four in attendance. The January newsletter, suggestions and feedback from the Fellowship were discussed. To date there has been no negative feedback. Article and column titles were discussed with five new title suggestions made. It was agreed that the deadline for articles would be the monthly Intergroup meeting or before. All committee members offered to help distribute the hard copies since it was not possible in January to get to several groups. If anyone would like to write an article, serve on the committee, or ask questions, write to newsletter@hagerstownaa.org. The next Newsletter committee meeting will be Feb 19th at 6pm at Nancy's house. Please ask for address.

Website: Wayne G., no report

Where & When: Carol W., absent

Reports from Intergroup Reps in attendance:

Big Book Study Group – Wayne B., no report

Boonsboro ABSI – Maureen B. submitted Pink Can money and anniversaries.

Chewsville – Wayne G. (Alt), no report

Fellowship Hall – Jon F. asked that the website and Where and When be updated to reflect the information reported on page one of this newsletter.

Hagerstown Group – Michelle B., no report

Leitersburg – Mark F., no report

Maple Avenue – Luran C. submitted one anniversary

Mountain Group – Dennis, no report

New Paths – Rick C. submitted two anniversaries.

Oak Ridge – Donna S., submitted anniversary

Summit Avenue – Angel Z. reported three anniversaries

West End – Cliff P., see report on page one.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - A concern was raised regarding why the decision to reformat the HAIG newsletter was not taken back to the groups for a vote. It was pointed out that a report was given at the November and December HAIG meetings outlining the committee's discussions and decisions on possible reformatting, articles and additional costs(s), etc. A vote was taken by the Intergroup Representatives in attendance at the December meeting and the proposed changes were approved. Further discussion included the distribution of the newsletter. The newsletter will be sent electronically to those providing an email address, hard copies will be distributed, and the newsletter is also available on the HAIG website – www.hagerstownaa.org for printing.

Carol B. suggested that the Intergroup meeting time be re-scheduled during the holidays to allow for more representatives to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Tradition Two by Ira C.

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority- A loving God as He may Express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern."

In an editorial written for the AA Grapevine in January 1948, Bill W. begins by comparing the growth and development of an individual in early sobriety with the growth and development of an AA group. It was recognized early on that both the individual and the group operate on the same or similar cycles. As each individual has his or her own specific strengths and weaknesses, shortcomings and praiseworthy behaviors, *so does each group.*

Each AA group has a conscience much like each AA individual has a conscience. As each AA member has defects of character, so does each group. As each AA individual reaches out for God's will, so should each group. The pursuit of God's will is the guiding principle both for the AA member and the AA group. The coalescence of individual and group dependency on a "loving God" directs the thoughts, prayers and mediation of all involved. The collective conscience of a group will always prove superior to the individual no matter how long sober, how intelligent or compassionate the individual may be.

News from the General Service Office

General Manager, Phyllis H., reported that while the General Service Office was officially closed during the week of Hurricane Sandy, Staff and employees who reside in New York City stood by and supported the office.

The aa.org Website Redesign project has been placed on hold until the 2013 Budget is set.

The staff member on the International Desk attended the 11th annual meeting of MERCAA, the Middle Eastern Regional Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, which met in Kuwait. During the week prior to that, she met with members of the Fellowship in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

For the research buffs: Past issues of Box 4-5-9 (the General Service Office Newsletter) have been added to the Website going back to 1980.

A.A. World Services approved the Publishing Committee's recommendation that funding for the oral translation of the Navajo Big Book be included in the 2013 budget.



NERAASA 2013
North East Regional A.A.
Service Assembly
Lancaster Host Hotel
2300 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602

This service event is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Committee Members, Intergroup Representatives, and all A.A. members of the North East Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service common to the areas of the Northeast Region.

There will be panel presentations, floor discussions, Northeast Regional Trustee Report, A.A. Speaker, and Roundtable Sharing Sessions. This is a great opportunity to meet many members dedicated to service.

Hotel and Event Pre-Registration will end February 1st, but registration at \$20.00 is available at the door. Lancaster, PA is only about 1-1/2 hours away, so this is a great year to attend NERAASA!

Thank you to all who have provided feedback, suggestions, and especially articles to help improve the content of YOUR Intergroup newsletter.

Corrections Service – A Spiritual Benefit

by Celeste D.

Many recovering alcoholics get their beginning in an institution environment. None of us comes to A.A. on a winning streak.

Hagerstown Intergroup has a Corrections Committee which is a group of men and women who do service by carrying the A. A. message to potential newcomers in the institutions.

Before taking meetings into the local detention center or prison, a completed application and release forms must first be submitted for approval. The women, in pairs, take meetings to the Washington County Detention Center every Tuesday. Men, sometimes in pairs, take meetings to the detention center on Sundays and Wednesdays with a separate commitment at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC) on Tuesdays.

As a member of the Corrections Committee, I can share the rewards of sobriety, my experience with the Twelve Steps, the importance of a sponsor and the A.A. meetings with ladies who are seeking a new way of life. From personal experience I will say, without a doubt, it was an A.A. meeting brought into the jail, God, and the willingness to do whatever it took, to have today what that speaker so freely shared with me.

Acronyms

Here is another of those “pesky” phrases you may have heard but not wanted to question what they mean:

GvR – Grapevine Representative. This person works to ensure that group members know about A.A. Grapevine (A.A.'s Meeting in Print) and all of the other literature and items made available through the Grapevine. We have a new volunteer at HAIG for this service position. See Rick C. if you would like to help out.

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