



# HAGERSTOWN AREA INTERGROUP

P.O. Box 1153, Hagerstown, MD 21741

www.hagerstownaa.org

Answering Service: 301-733-1109

## March 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](mailto:chair@hagerstownaa.org)

Treasurer: Henry R.  
[treasurer@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:treasurer@hagerstownaa.org)

Secretary: Angel Z.  
[secretary@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:secretary@hagerstownaa.org)

#### Committee Chairs:

Activities: Beth S. and Liz M.  
[activities@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:activities@hagerstownaa.org)

Answering Service: Skeeter H.  
District 20 DCM: Jan T.

Grapevine: Rick C.  
Newsletter: Nancy B.

[newsletter@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:newsletter@hagerstownaa.org)  
Public Information: **Open**

Website: Wayne G.  
[website@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:website@hagerstownaa.org)

Where & When: Carol W.

#### Corrections:

[corrections@hagerstownaa.org](mailto:corrections@hagerstownaa.org)  
Women's Chair - Carol B.  
Men's Chair - John B.

Submit anniversaries, articles or suggestions to:

[newsletter@hagerstownaa.org](mailto: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 Three:** Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

**Tradition Three:** The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

**Concept III:** To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional "Right of Decision"

"Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other. Therefore we cannot do less than trust our leaders in service. The 'Right of Decision' that we offer them is not only

the practical means by which they may act and lead effectively, but it is also the symbol of our implicit confidence."

*Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W., Concept III, p.14*

### Leitersburg Group 20th Anniversary Sunday, March 24 at 7:00 pm

There will be two speakers, both of whom attended the first Leitersburg meeting  
Cake & Ice Cream will be provided.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Celebrant	Yrs	Group	Time
Mar 1	Henry G.	8	Fellowship Hall	9:30 am
Mar 1	Veronica S.	4	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
Mar 3	Katie P.	2	The Way Out	3:00 pm
Mar 6	Bob B.	26	Maple Avenue	7:00 pm
Mar 7	Tim W.	4	Recycled Group	7:30 pm
Mar 11	Jeff F.	37	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Mar 11	Angel Z.	6	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Mar 12	Terry B.	3	Mountain Group	7:00 pm
Mar 15	Ken L.	34	Williamsport Grp.	8:00 pm
Mar 17	Jay W.	22	Leitersburg Group	7:00 pm
Mar 18	Henry F.	19	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
Mar 19	Diane W.	8	Oak Ridge	7:00 pm
Mar 22	Christie S.	26	Williamsport Grp.	8:00 pm
Mar 29	Steve M.	28	Williamsport Grp.	8:00 pm
Mar 30	Barry E.	1	Hagerstown Grp	8:00 pm

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Mar 9 - 9:00 am to 12:00 Mountain Breakfast** – Old Germantown Church of God, 16924 Raven Rock 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.

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

**Mar 23 – 8:30 am MD General Service Area Assembly** hosted by District 20 (Washington County). Held at Bethel UMC, 21006 Twin Springs Road; Chewsville, MD. All GSRs are encouraged to attend as well as any member wishing to see what takes place at an Area Assembly.

**Mar 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.



### Western MD Intergroup 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gratitude Breakfast April 27, 2013

8:00 am until ??

Tickets - \$15.00 (see Nancy B.)

Cumberland Country Club

10200 Country Club Rd., NE; Cumberland, MD

Speaker: John C. from Hedgesville, WV



## 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.** Who wrote A.A.'s Preamble? When was the word "honest" dropped from it (i.e. "honest desire to stop drinking"), and why?

**A.** The Preamble first appeared in the Grapevine in June 1947 and was written by Tom Y, the Grapevine Editor serving at that time. Its intent was to inform the public as to what A.A. is and what it is not. Shortly thereafter, the Preamble began appearing in each monthly issue of the Grapevine magazine, and later on in much of our A.A. Conference-approved literature. In 1992 the Grapevine published a short history of the Preamble.

In the 1947 version of the Preamble, it contained the wording, "...an honest desire to stop drinking..." as printed in the Foreword to the first edition of the Big Book. However, since the adoption of the short form of the Traditions in 1950, the Third Tradition has always read, "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking" and this form was used by Bill in writing the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

In 1958 the expression "honest desire" was discussed at great length at the General Service Conference. It was felt that it was impossible to determine what constitutes an "honest" desire, thus the word was dropped. The "new" version of the Preamble, without the word "honest", first appeared in the September 1958 issue of the Grapevine.

There have been other versions of the Preamble, written by A.A. members for their local groups' use, which were then circulated around A.A.; for example: the "Texas Preamble," the "Wilmington Preamble," [the "Baltimore Preamble or Prologue,"] etc. Many A.A. members find these interesting, but they have never been adopted by the Fellowship as a whole.

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## Acronyms and Definitions

**BTG – Bridging the Gap** - A.A. members volunteer to serve as temporary contacts to introduce newcomers to A.A., thereby "bridging the gap" between treatment or correctional facilities and the rooms of A.A. Bridging the Gap may also encompass presentations by A.A. members to alcoholism professionals, patients/clients and/or inmates on "what A.A. is and what it is not".

## Intergroup Meeting Minutes February 24, 2013

Jack B. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

**Secretary's Report** – Minutes from the January meeting were accepted with an amendment to include under Group Reports that Dave S. submitted anniversaries for the Williamsport Group.

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

Balance available on	1/27/13	\$1,276.20
<b>Contributions/Income:</b>		
Maple Avenue Group	83.00	
Way Out Group	50.00	
Activities – NYE Dance	<u>585.00</u>	
Total		\$ 1,994.20
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Antietam Call Center	194.50	
Verizon	39.30	
Nancy B. Newsletter Feb	49.98	
Total		\$ 283.78
Ending Balance		\$ 1,710.42
Less Prudent Reserve		<u>300.00</u>
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>2/24/2013</b>	<b>\$ 1,410.42</b>

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Activities:** Liz M. reported that the annual Round Robin Dinner will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Episcopal Church (Drybridge), Hagerstown, MD. Please see Beth S. or Liz M. to volunteer to help.

**Answering Service:** Skeeter H. absent – no report

**Men's Corrections:** John B. reported that help is needed to carry the message into the WCDC (Washington County Detention Center). Contact John if interested. Volunteers are also needed at MCTC (MD Correctional Training Facility). The coordinators for MCTC are Bob B and David L.

**Women's Corrections:** Carole B. – We currently have full coverage for the Tuesday evening meetings being held at the Detention Center. Our next Committee meeting will be held in April. The date for the meeting will be announced in next months' newsletter. Summit Avenue, Williamsport and As Bill Sees It meetings all handed in Pink Can money last month making the total funds \$217.39.

**District 20:** DCM Jan T. reported that District 20 will be hosting the Area 29 Assembly to be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bethel United Methodist Church, 21006 Twin Springs Drive, Chewsville, MD. The Assembly begins at 9:00 am. Group GSRs are encouraged to attend as well as any interested member wishing to learn what takes place

at an Area Assembly. The District is requesting ideas for an upcoming workshop.

**Grapevine** – Rick C. – No Report

**Newsletter:** Nancy B. - The meeting of the HAIG Newsletter Committee was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, with four in attendance: Nancy B., Angel Z., Eric S. and Michelle B. Carole H. called in a report. The February newsletter and suggestions or feedback from the Fellowship were reviewed. Content for the March Newsletter including an article on the vacant PI Committee position was also discussed. It was agreed that the deadline for articles would be the monthly Intergroup meeting or before. It was suggested that each committee member create one page of the newsletter and take turns putting the completed document together. All members offered to help distribute the hard copies.

**Public Information:** *Open*

**Website:** Wayne G. - absent, no report

**Where & When:** Carol W. – absent, no report

### GROUP REPORTS

If your group is not listed here, your Intergroup Rep was not in attendance at the monthly meeting:

**Big Book Study Group** – Wayne B., no report

**Chewsville** – Jim T., no report

**Hagerstown Group** – Michelle B., The group will not meet at the Dry Bridge location on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting that night will be held at the Monday night location – Christ Lutheran Church on Cleveland Avenue. This is the monthly speaker meeting with Lou C. as the speaker.

**Leitersburg** – Mark F., The group will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 1.

**Maple Avenue** – Luran C. submitted anniversaries for March and April (which will be published next month).

**Mountain Group** – Marc L., The Mountain Group will be holding their annual picnic; date to be announced.

**New Paths** – Rick C., no report

**Oak Ridge** – Donna S., no report

**Summit Avenue** – Angel Z. reported three anniversaries

**The Way Out Group** – Katie P (IGR) & Cassie P. (Alt IGR) - *Welcome Katie & Cassie to HAIG!* The Way Out Group has made the following changes to their meeting schedule: Week 1 – Big Book, Week 2 – Open Topic, Week 3 – Literature, Week 4 – Speaker Meeting, Week 5 – Tradition.

**West End** – Mike M., The WEG has made the following changes to their meeting schedule: Monday will be a Steps 1, 2 and 3 Beginner's Step meeting or Traditions 1, 2 and 3 meeting. On Wednesday there will be a Big Book meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - A motion was made and approved for HAIG to donate \$500 to the General Service office in New York.

A clarification was made regarding the Corrections Chairs. John B. and Carol B. are the Chairpersons and Bob B. and David L. are coordinators for the MCTC meetings.

There was discussion regarding who is eligible to make a motion at HAIG. Since our current By Laws do not address this issue, the Chairperson, Jack B., appointed an Ad Hoc committee (Mark F., Jim T., and Angel Z.) to review and submit revisions to the By Laws, if warranted. Any proposed By-Law revisions must be posted for three (3) consecutive months in the HAIG Newsletter prior to a final vote taking place.

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

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### **Tradition Three by Ira C.**

*"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."*

In February of 1948, Bill Wilson's Editorial on Step Three appeared in the AA Grapevine. The AA membership rules were thus established. In short, Bill was expressing the rule as a total absence of rules. The only rule was that there be a desire to stop drinking.

The evolution of this Tradition is interesting. In the very early days of the initial forming of an AA group, the existing members of the group would interrogate prospective members to see if they belonged. No particular criteria were used, particularly from group to group. In some cases the wife of the proposed member would likewise be interviewed.

The original language for this Tradition was "an HONEST desire to stop drinking ". It was realized early on that an active alcoholic could not be "honest" about much including his alcohol desires. Hence the original language was altered to reflect reality. Bill Wilson believed there was one "vitaly important qualification" and that was the use of AA's name. Any group of individual alcoholics gathered for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided they have no other affiliation. The groups may vary but the group name may be used with "straight AA activities ". His dream was that AA would forever be inclusive and never exclusive.



## Is Your Voice Being Heard?

This will be your opportunity to participate in discussions on the Agenda Items for the annual A.A. General Service Conference which makes decisions that affect A.A. as a whole. Join fellow A.A. members at the:

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

Cost is FREE! A \$5 donation is requested for lunch. For more information, contact your DCM or [miniconf@marylandaa.org](mailto:miniconf@marylandaa.org)

## So, What Is The “Pink Can” Anyway?

by Celeste D.

You’re sitting at a meeting, the announcements are being read and you hear the person say “...and the Pink Can is for donations for our jails and institutions.” So you ask yourself, “What does that mean?”

The Pink Can idea in Hagerstown was borrowed from the Baltimore Institutions Committee but originated in the Northern California area in 1957. It was there that a plain can was painted pink to make it stand out and in short time the pink cans were appearing on literature tables and being passed around at many meetings. The purpose of the “pink can” was to provide funds to help purchase literature for those who are institutionalized, whether in jails, hospitals or rehabs. Folks dropping money in the pink can should know that those funds go directly to the Corrections Committee at Hagerstown Intergroup to buy pocket-size Big Books, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or any other Conference approved literature or pamphlets.

In Hagerstown the literature is divided in half and distributed equally between the men’s and women’s committees to take into the Washington County Detention Center (WCDC). Some literature is also contributed to the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC).

So consider dropping a buck or a quarter into “The Pink Can” the next time you see it at a meeting you attend. It is another way to help carry the message.

### 2012 Group Contribution Numbers from GSO

50% of the groups in District 20 contributed to GSO  
 38.73% of the groups in Area 29 contributed to GSO  
 Did your group contribute? – Ask your group’s GSR.

## Public Information/CPC Committee

by Angel Z.

How did you find your way into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous? For many of us, myself included, had it not been by the direction of a person wearing a long black robe, I would not have known where to turn for help. Fortunately, there is another way to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic with the help of the Hagerstown Area Intergroup Public Information/CPC Chairperson and committee members – **a position which is currently open.**

The primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of the Public Information/CPC committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media.

Some of the basic committee functions can be PI/CPC visits to schools, local businesses, church and civic groups. As part of reaching out to the professional community, contact may be made with clergy, health care providers, lawyers and teachers. A visit might include distribution of A.A. literature, a brief talk and/or showing an A.A. video. Other methods of reaching out may include staffing an A.A. booth at a health fair or contacting our local radio and television stations to broadcast a public service announcement (PSA). Some areas provide literature racks in libraries, schools, bookmobiles, and hospital reading rooms. These are just a few ideas given in the A.A. Guidelines on Public Information which can be found at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). There is also a workbook available to help guide you through forming a committee and carrying the message.

If you are searching for a new service position, this would be an excellent opportunity to reach out to those who may still be suffering and don’t know where to find help. Please contact our HAIG Chairperson, Jack B. for further information or to volunteer to serve.

*I am responsible when anyone anywhere reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. to always be there.*

Please send Group 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions to:	
<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