



HAGERSTOWN AREA INTERGROUP

P.O. Box 1153, Hagerstown, MD 21741
www.hagerstownaa.org Answering Service: 301-733-1109

April 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. and 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.

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 Four: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Concept IV: Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.



Mark Your Calendars!
HAIG Round Robin Dinner
Saturday, May 4th

St. John's Episcopal Church (Drybridge)
101 S. Prospect Street; Hagerstown, MD.
2 pm Coffee & Fellowship
3 pm Dinner, 4 pm Speaker

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Celebrant	Yrs	Group	Time
April 1	Lauren K.	1	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm
April 10	Lauran C.	3	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
April 11	Lori M.	1	New Visions	7:00 pm
April 12	Craig T.	22	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
April 14	Carole H.	13	Leitersburg	7:00 pm
April 16	Bob S.	27	Oak Ridge	7:00 pm
April 17	Gary B.	23	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
April 18	Mickey W.	1	New Visions	7:00 pm
April 19	Heather L.	2	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
April 20	Gene S.	23	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
April 23	Sam W.	9	Oak Ridge	7:00 pm
April 25	Clint P.	3	Boonsboro ABSI	7:00 pm
April 26	Michelle L.	1	Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm
April 27	Beth M.	22	Maple Avenue	7:30 pm
April 29	Beth S.	12	Summit Avenue	7:00 pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Apr 13 - 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.

Apr 13 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Area 29 Mini Conference Annapolis, MD 21403. See more info on page 4.

Apr 21– 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.

Apr 27 – 8:00 am Western MD Intergroup 24th Annual Gratitude Breakfast – Cumberland Country Club, 10200 Country Club Rd. NE, Cumberland, MD – Tickets \$15.00, Guest Speaker – John C. from West Virginia. See Nancy B. to purchase tickets before the deadline of April 20th.

Apr 28 – 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.

May 4 – Mountain Group Annual Picnic - Pen Mar Park, Fort Ritchie, Cascade, MD. Picnic-1:00 pm, Speaker- 2:00 pm. Pork, Chicken, Beverages and condiments provided. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share.



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 range from very simple with easy answers to complex questions involving hours of research. Below is a popular question and answer:

Q. Who wrote Chapter 8 of the Big Book, "To Wives"?

A. Bill was the author of the "To Wives" chapter. It is commonly thought that Lois wrote it. But, as *Pass It On* describes (page 200), Lois said, "Bill wrote it, and I was mad." She added, "I wasn't so much mad as hurt. I still don't know why Bill wrote it. I've never really gotten into it – why he insisted upon writing it. I said to him, 'Well, do you want me to write it?' and he said no, he thought it should be in the same style as the rest of the book."

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Intergroup Meeting Minutes March 24, 2013

Chairman, Jack B. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Other Officers in attendance were: Henry R., Treasurer; Angel Z., Secretary. There were 10 of the 21 groups in our district represented.

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

Treasurer's Report – read and accepted:

Balance available on	2/24/13	\$1,710.42
Contributions:		
ARG	50.00	
Oak Ridge Group	75.00	
Total		\$ 125.00
Expenses:		
Antietam Call Center	119.20	
Verizon	37.68	
Nancy B., Newsletter-Mar	49.98	
General Service Board	500.00	
Total		\$ 706.86
Ending Balance		\$ 1,128.56
Less Prudent Reserve		- 300.00
Total Funds Available	3/24/13	\$ 828.56

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: Co-Chair Liz M. distributed flyers for the upcoming Round Robin Dinner which will be held Saturday, May 4 from 2 pm to 5 pm. See all information on page 1.

Answering Service: Skeeter H. absent, no report

Men's Corrections: John B. reported that four people have had to step down from this service. One new man is awaiting approval. Help is still needed to fill all Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and all Sundays at 8:00 pm. See John B. for WCDC service and David L. or Bob B. to take meetings into MCTC.

Women's Corrections: Carol B. reported that the next committee meeting will be held on June 22, 2013 at 10:00 am – 13216 Fountain Head Plaza. The balance in the Pink Can is \$230.85.

District 20: Jan T. absent

Grapevine – Rick C. asked if anyone knew where the Grapevine display and literature is. It was suggested that he can create a new display and ask for seed money to purchase needed literature.

Newsletter: Nancy B. reported that the newsletter committee continues to meet monthly to review feedback and consider ideas for upcoming articles to ensure interest and timeliness. The deadline for articles and anniversaries is still the fourth Sunday of the month by the Intergroup meeting.

See Nancy or write to newsletter@hagerstownaa.org if you would like to write an article, have ideas or questions, would like to help create the newsletter, or would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

Public Information Committee – Open

Website: Wayne G. reported that the annual web hosting will be due next month in the amount of \$60-\$80.

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

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

(If you do not see your group listed here, a representative was not in attendance):

Big Book Study Group – Wayne B., no report

Boonsboro ABSI – Maureen B., group donated \$39.64 to the Pink Can and submitted one anniversary by e-mail.

Chewsville – Jim T., no report

Fellowship Hall – Mike S. (Alt) reported that the Wednesday and Saturday 8:30 meetings are candlelight meetings. All 8:30 meetings are now open meetings.

Hagerstown Group – Michelle B., by phone- no report but two April anniversaries will be held in May

Leitersburg – Mark F., one anniversary submitted

Maple Avenue – Lauran C. submitted anniversaries

Mountain Group– Marc L., no report. See Annual Picnic information on page 1.

New Paths – Rick C., no report

Summit Avenue – Angel Z., one anniversary submitted

The Way Out – Katie P., no report

West End – Cliff P., no report

Williamsport – Dave S. in attendance!! - no report

OLD BUSINESS

Jim T. reported that the ad hoc By-Law committee was charged last month with creating an amendment to the By-Laws to address who may make a motion for a vote at an Intergroup meeting. The committee recommends amending Article V – Meetings, Section 3, which reads: "Meetings are open to all interested AA members however voting on any issue shall be on a one vote per group basis by the Intergroup representatives." The amended statement will consist of one of the three options listed below. Each group is encouraged to consider these options and have their Intergroup Rep attend next month's meeting to vote for one:
Options

1. Meetings are open to all interested AA members. Any member present shall be able to present a motion for a vote however voting on any issue shall be on a one vote per group basis by the Intergroup Representatives.
2. Meetings are open to all interested AA members; however only Intergroup Representatives may present a motion for a vote. Voting on any issue shall be on a one vote per group basis by the Intergroup Representatives.
3. Meetings are open to all interested AA members; however only Intergroup Representatives and Standing Committee Chairpersons may present a motion for a vote. Voting on any issue shall be on a one vote per group basis by the Intergroup Representatives.

In accordance with Article VI – Amendments, Section 1, of the Hagerstown Area Intergroup by-laws, the proposed change chosen in April will be published in the HAIG Newsletter for two months (May and June). A vote on the proposed change will be conducted during the regular July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jack C. appointed Dave S., Maureen B., and Lauran C. to the Nominating Committee tasked to encourage members to stand for the position of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary of Intergroup. Elections will be in June.

2. Activities Co-Chair, Beth S., asked for \$250.00 seed money for the Round Robin. Motion granted.
3. Grapevine Chair, Rick C., asked for \$100.00 to purchase Grapevine literature. Motion granted.

Bob C., our Area 29 Delegate, gave a brief presentation on some of the items on the agenda of the 2013 General Service Conference which he will attend in April. He is very interested in getting feedback from members. You may contact Bob at delegate@marylandaa.org for more information, or to obtain a copy of the full agenda. This agenda can also be obtained from your group GSR or the District 20 DCM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Step Four – What IS a Moral Inventory?

The term "moral inventory" has a daunting ring to it and many a newcomer to Alcoholics Anonymous has been put off by the apparent scope of this task. The fact that the *Big Book* and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* describe the task slightly differently might also confuse someone who is approaching this task. Furthermore, the recovering alcoholic may be confused by the wide variety of worksheets and guides that have been written on the topic of the moral inventory. What does the term "moral inventory" mean and how is this task accomplished?

On page 64 (Third Edition) of the Big Book, the process of the moral inventory is described in detail. The essence of the task is self-examination. The goal is to identify resentments and fears that keep the suffering alcoholic sick. A three-column approach is taken that calls upon the person taking the step to list the personal target of resentment, the cause of that resentment, and how it affects the person making the list.

After making the list, the recovering alcoholic is urged to re-read it, and consider his or her own part in creating the situation that led to the resentment. The recovering alcoholic should ask: "Where am I to blame in this situation?" Taking responsibility for one's own conduct is an essential element of recovery.

Sometimes people new in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous make the assumption that Step Four requires a daunting amount of writing. This is not the case. A thorough moral inventory does not mean a 100-page account of our drinking careers. The emphasis in this process is honesty, and we are urged to honestly examine the role that we have played in creating our own problems. When we have completed this moral inventory, we must share this information with another human being to complete Step Five.



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 is free! \$5 donation requested for lunch

Join us to discuss items from the April agenda of the General Service Conference which may affect A.A. as a whole. Here are just a few of those agenda items:

1. Consider a suggestion to add "Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the Open Meeting side of the blue card.
2. Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
3. Should the language in the short form of Tradition 11 be changed to include wording regarding social media?
4. Review report from P.I. Committee on establishing a PI Social Media [Facebook] page.
5. Consider a proposal to publish a commemorative "75th Anniversary Edition" of the First Edition, First Printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 2014.



The "Birthday Plan" – Our Gratitude in Action

Since the 1950's, the "Birthday Plan" has provided a way for members to celebrate their individual and group anniversaries by setting aside \$1 (or more) for each year of their sobriety and sending it to The General Service Office to be used for A.A. services worldwide.

Last spring at the General Service Conference in New York, South Florida Delegate, John K. relates, "There was talk about how effective the Birthday Plan used to be, how it's another place in the A.A. hat where spirituality and money can mix, as our co-founder, Bill W. put it -- and how maybe we need to remind our members, especially newer ones, about using the plan."

Some groups have revived the plan by presenting a medallion and a Birthday Plan envelope to members celebrating an A.A. anniversary. Birthday Plan envelopes can be requested, free of charge, from the General Service Office.

The Birthday Plan provides an opportunity to express personal gratitude and at the same time support A.A. services. A.A. is self-supporting through its own contributions -- and that's us!

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE WONDERFUL GIFT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN -- PASS IT ON!

Welcome to new HAIG Grapevine Chair, Rick C. of the New Paths Group, who offers the article below. See Rick for more information on Grapevine or to find out how to become a Grapevine Rep for your home group.



A.A. Grapevine at a Glance

Check out the A.A. Grapevine website at www.aagrapevine.org for many exciting opportunities!

Grapevine wants your stories! Go to the website to see the 2013 issue themes and writers' guidelines. GV is now accepting stories for "Keeping AA Safe for Everyone" (including discussions about gossip, anonymity, protecting newcomers, 13th stepping, disruptive members and or special needs. Stories are due April 25). Other upcoming issues include "Day Counters' Issue" (What are some things that helped you when you were a newcomer? Stories due May 15).

You can also tell your story in audio. Go to the website to learn about Grapevine's new audio project.

Check out AA Grapevine's e-books available in Nook, Kindle and coming soon to ibooks – Apple.

Give the gift of Grapevine. You can purchase gift certificates on line.

While online, download the **Grapevine News** to share. This newsletter is accessible to anyone that is interested. Share the good news!

Thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter by writing articles, helping with distribution or providing article ideas. Your continued participation and support are certainly appreciated. Please let the Newsletter Committee know if your group is not receiving an adequate number of newsletters each month.

Send 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