

Kent County Central Office Newsletter

JANUARY 2020

4920 Plainfield Ave NE, Suite 19
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Office (616) 913-9216 (M-F, 1-5 PM)
A.A. 24-hour Hotline (616) 913-9149
Website: www.grandrapidsaa.org

Note: Inclusion of articles and announcements in Central Office News does not constitute A.A. or KCCO endorsement. Rather, members of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous have been encouraged to share their experience, strength and hope through this humble periodical. Opinions expressed are those of the writer unless otherwise noted. The Kent County Central Office makes these announcements solely as a service



Please consider donating
A dollar for each year of
Sobriety and joining our
Birthday club show your
GRATITUDE

A.A. BIRTHDAYS!!!

Carol K.	January 13, 1988
Sharron S.	April 12, 1984
Anne S.	August 30, 1981
Ben S.	December 5, 1978
Thomas B.	October 5, 1995
John Z.	March 29, 1985
Jim H.	July 5, 2005
Paul S.	August 10, 1983
Charlie B.	February 14, 1982
Harry G.	September 23, 1982
Mike W.	January 29, 2004
David P.	November 10, 2007
Gary Z.	October 31, 1985
David S.	March 20, 1984
Bill E.	May 30, 1965
Amy S.	December 13, 2013
John F.	April 22, 1989
Joanne D.	June 6, 1992
Rebecca M.	November 3, 2001
Jason D.	March 5, 2014
Peter W.	January 11, 2004
Mike Y.	April 22, 1989
Shelley S.	April 4, 2007
Mary	May 15, 1973
Sandee	June 23, 1987
Jim K.	December 16, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of the Kent County Central Office Newsletter is to serve Kent County and the surrounding A.A. community, in four ways. 1. To carry the A.A. message 2. To inform our readers. 3. To provide a forum for discussion of A.A. principles 4. To provide service work opportunities for A.A. members. **Need to find a meeting?** Go to the Website grandrapidsaa.org/meetings

KCCO NEWSLETTER

If you want to get the KCCO newsletter send an email to KCCONewsletter@gmail.com include your email address

THANK YOU TO OUR PHONE VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER 2019!!

David A. Marty P. Steve C. Jesse D. Sharon A. Shelley S. Steve E. Sharron S.

**KCCO desperately needs volunteers for the 24-hour AA hotline.
We need a one-month commitment of 4 hours every week.
Morning and afternoon shifts available.
Call Sharron 616-913-9216**

FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER MEETING
COME ONE.....COME ALL
PUBLIC WELCOME

LOCATION: THE NORTH ALANO CLUB

1020 College Ave, NE, Grand Rapids, MI
(Lower Level Balcony)
Phone 616-456-5709

Friday, January 3, 2020, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Jennifer E.

Home Group: Fri Night Speaker Mtg

Friday, January 10, 2020, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Kristine K.

Home Group: Battle Creek

Friday, January 17, 2020, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Amy O.

Home Group: 830 Mon Night MCAC

Friday, January 24, 2020, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Mike L.

Home Group: MCYPAA

Friday, January 31, 2020, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Laura P

Home Group: Sun Rm C NAC

FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS AFTER THE MEETING

Sponsored by

Kent County Central Office

4920 Plainfield NE, Suite 19, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

For any information call: 616-913-9216

**KCCC Business Meeting
December 20, 2019
Minutes**

Present: Mike W., Chairperson; Jim H., District 7/ KCCC Liaison & KCCC Treasurer; Sharron S., Office Manager; Susie J., Vice-Chairperson; Sandee C., Trustee #3; Chris B., Trustee#2; Jeff O., Web Master; David P., Comstock Park Thurs GSR; Carrier H., There Is A Solution, Cedar Springs; Lauren R., Marcia G.

Absent: Mary Beth R., Secretary; Ed B., District 7 Chair; Bruce M, Alternate District 7/ KCCC Liaison.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer at 6:035pm

Reports:

Minutes, Financial, Check Detail, Website and telephone reports were submitted and approved.

Roundup Business:

- 2022 Speaker- Bring suggestions to December Business Meeting – tabled until January. Listen to speaker tapes emailed.
- Lauren R. will reach out to MCYPAA for a 2020 speaker.
- Online registration through Event Brite; Jim will set up; \$3 fee.
- No new t-shirt design from Alex yet. Needed also for tickets and flyers.
- Make Your Own Sundae Bar raised to \$3; lost money last year.
- Sharron will create “Save the Date” preliminary flyer without logo.

Old Business:

- MOTION made, seconded and passed (1 opposed) to get a G-suite for non-profits for KCCC and KCCO mail. Minority opinion: Violates 7th Tradition to take free goods from an outside resource.
- MOTION made, seconded and passed to accept the Office Manager job description submitted by Sharron.

New Business:

- Discuss date for 2020 Gratitude Dinner-tabled. Tentative date 11.07.2020-will vote at December Business Meeting. Tabled until January.
- Office Manager applicants attending meeting, open questions.
- Meeting directories- 500 directories left. Sharron will call Grandville Printing for prices, and Jim will investigate prices for other formats. Tabled until January meeting.

Please announce at your individual meetings that volunteers are always needed to answer the 24-hour hotline. Have them call Sharron at KCCO, 616-913-9216. Thanks!

Next meeting 6:00 pm, Thursday, January 16, 2019 at KCCO office, 4920 Plainfield Ave NE, Suite 19, Grand

Rapids 49525, phone 616-913-9216.

Send your GSR or someone to represent your group and have a voice in how your Central Office is run!!!

7th Tradition: Passed the basket.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted, Sharron S., Office Manager.

Office Manager Report December 2019

December was a great donation month, we met and exceeded the \$3,000 in group donations needed to run the KCCO and pay the bills, thanks groups for your support!!

You've probably heard by now that I want to retire very soon, so we are searching for an office manager. Knowledge of Excel and QuickBooks would be helpful, but a good amount of sobriety and knowledge of AA Steps and Traditions, as well as a service background would be even more helpful. You will be hearing from all types of people who need your help, so knowing where to direct them is very beneficial. Submit your resume and come to the KCCC business meeting at 6pm the 3rd Thursday of each month at KCCO, 4920 Plainfield Ave NE, Suite 19, to present yourself to the committee. The job is 20 hours a week, Mon.-Fri., 1-5pm.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and please have a happy and safe New Year!
Check with some of the Clubs for safe and sober activities during the holiday season.

The volunteer schedule is almost full at present, need an experienced AA on Thursday mornings 9am-1pm. This changes all the time, though, and we are always looking for new volunteers and subs, so if you have time, call the office 616-257-0128 and let us know when you can be available. Shifts are 9am-1pm or 1pm to 5pm M-F and we ask that you commit for a month, more if you can. Thanks!! Volunteers are the backbone of KCCO; they put together beginner packets, help to fill orders, clean the office, keep the bookshelves filled and neat, make the coffee, and many other tasks. Thanks very much to those who have given their time at KCCO, and for any of you who can help out in the future.

We would love to see a representative from your group at the monthly business meeting at 6pm the 3rd Thursday of each month at KCCO, 4920 Plainfield Ave NE, Suite 19. We are working on Spring Roundup 2020, Saturday, April 25, 2020 at St. Peter & Paul School, 1433 Hamilton Ave NW, Grand Rapids. Flyers should be out soon. Be a part of your central office decision-making!

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron S., Office Manager



2020

A NEW YEAR!

2020.... Gratitude... do you have any? If you don't, there is no better way to get some than by serving... get out of yourself and go help someone else. The Primary Purpose of our program is: "To carry the message to other alcoholics who are still suffering..." No matter how you do it, directly by sponsoring or indirectly by going to, chairing, setting up or cleaning up after meetings, giving rides, etc... however you help carry the message, it does nothing but fill your heart with gratitude... You know what they say... (whoever "they" are I don't know!) "A grateful drunk is a sober drunk". Our goal in this new year of 2020 should be to remain grateful in ALL circumstances (good and bad) for ALL life changes that our Higher Power (God) allows us to have. In starting a new year, may we remind ourselves we can start ANY day over!

Nothing happens in God's world by mistake. On January 24 1971, Alcoholics Anonymous lost its co-founder: Bill W. His anonymity was broken in his obituary which Lois decided it was time this humble man be recognized. William Griffith Wilson. In his memory, the KCCO Newsletter is reprinting a few excerpts from the Memorial Issue of BOX 4-5-9, January 1971. (In Service)

STEP 1: "ADMITTED WE ARE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL – THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE"

Who cares to admit defeat? Practically no one; of course. Every instinct cries out against the idea of powerlessness. It is awful to admit we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of providence can remove it from us. There is no other bankruptcy like this one. Alcohol bleeds us of all self sufficiency and all will to resist its demands.

But, upon entering AA, we soon take another view of this humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our 1st step toward liberation. Our admission of personal powerlessness finally to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives are built.

...little good can come to any alcoholic who joins AA unless he has 1st accepted his devastating weakness and all its consequences. Until he humbles himself, his sobriety – if any – will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. This is one of the facts of AA life. The principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole society has sprung and flowered.

When 1st challenged to admit defeat, most of us revolted. We had approached AA expecting to be taught self-confidence. Then we had been told that so far as alcohol is concerned, self-confidence was no good whatsoever; in fact, it was a total liability. Our sponsors declared that we were the victims of a mental obsession so subtly powerful that no amount of human will power could break it. There was they said, no such thing as a personal conquest of this compulsion by the unaided will. Deepening our delima, our sponsors pointed out our increasingly sensitivity to alcohol – an allergy, they called it! It was a statistical fact that alcoholics almost never recovered on their own resources. And this had been true, apparently, ever since man crushed grapes.

In AA's pioneering time, none but the most desperate cases could swallow and digest this unpalatable truth. Even these "last gaspers" often had difficulty in realizing how hopeless they actually were. But, a few did, and when these laid hold of all the principles with all the fervor with which the drowning seize life preservers, they almost invariably got well. That is why the first edition of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" published when our membership was small, dealt with low-bottom cases only. Many less desperate alcoholics tried AA but did not succeed because they could not make the admission of hopelessness.

It is a tremendous satisfaction to record that in the following years this changed. Alcoholics who still had their health, their families, their jobs and even 2 cars in the garage, began to recognize their alcoholism. As this trend grew, they were joined by young people who were scarcely more than potential alcoholics. They were spared that last 10 or 15 years of literal hell the rest of us had gone through. Since Step one requires an admission that our lives have become unmanageable, how could people such as these take this step? (con't 12 Steps & 12 Traditions; page 23 paragraph 2)



TO OUR BILL, IN LOVING MEMORY (from: BOX 4-5-9 Memorial Issue, January 1971)

Bill W. died at 11:30, Sunday, January 24th, 1971, at the Miami Heart Institute after a long illness. He had been treated with emphysema since 1968. At death he was 75 years old. After a private funeral service, burial will be in E. Dorset, VT where he was born on Nov 26, 1895. These arrangements followed Bill's wishes.

AA groups around the world will hold memorial meetings February 14, 1971, honoring Bill's work as co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, author of basic AA books, chief architect and articulator of the Fellowship's principles.

Last public appearance was at the Spiritual Meeting, July 5, 1970, in Convention Hall, Miami Beach, which closed the 35th Anniversary International Convention – the fifth in AA history.

He had gone to Florida anticipating a full speaking schedule, but viral pneumonia necessitated a short hospitalization, and

physicians allowed him only the one token convention appearance.

That Sunday morning, the tall, slender and somewhat weary white-haired man was wearing a bright orange-colored jacket as a salute to the AA's of his host state. As he pulled himself to his feet, a throng of 11,000 men, women, and children jumped to their feet applauding and cheering. Many wept. Many 24 hrs had passed since Bill had gulped from a bottle of gin on the steps of Towns Hospital, New York. That proved to be his last drink, on Dec 11, 1934. It followed shortly after Ebby T., an old drinking buddy, had visited Bill in the house on Clinton St. in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Bill lived, unemployable, seemingly a hopeless drunkard supported by his wife Lois.

Ebby had stopped drinking after affiliating himself with the Oxford Groups, a religious movement then very popular.

In the Towns Hospital, Bill had the transforming spiritual experience which relieved him of a desire to drink and prompted him to try to give up drinking.

His efforts seemed to meet with no success until May 1935, when he found himself about to take a drink in the Mayflower Hotel in Akron, Ohio after a business disappointment. Suddenly he realized that his futile efforts in N.Y. to sober

up other drunkards had at least resulted in his own sobriety for nearly 5 months. So, instead of going into the bar, Bill began a series of telephone calls to find a fellow alcoholic whom he could try to help – believing now that whether the other listened to him or not, trying to help another person would, it seemed, prevent him from taking that drink. It was now, for the 1st time, a matter of his own survival.

As a result, in the gatehouse of the Seiberling estate in Akron, Bill met Robert S ("Dr. Bob"), a surgeon who was also an alcoholic.

This meeting of the two who became known as the co-founders of AA, represents, in a way, the 1st session of the very 1st AA "group". It was the start of Dr. Bob's recovery.

He resumed his medical practice, specializing in the hospital treatment of alcoholics.

With Dr. Bob's encouragement, Bill devoted nearly all his time thereafter to AA, which grew steadily into 16,000 groups in 90 countries, with an estimate total membership of over 475,000.

By 1937, the co-founders realized that about 40 once-hopeless drunks were staying sober

in two tiny, nameless bands in Ohio and N.Y. They then persuaded those 1st members that a written record of their experience should be made, so it could be used by other alcoholics – in other places, and at other times.

THE 3 LEGACIES

The result was the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous", first published in 1939. The movement itself soon became known by the name of the book. Bill wrote the 1st 11 chapters including the 12 steps suggested as a program of recovery. He later described *Recovery* as the *First Legacy* of AA's earliest members to the rest of us.

In the next few years, AA ideas and procedures – in addition to those in the 12 steps - were being developed.

Bill described them as the Legacy of *Unity* – the *Second Legacy* from AA's founders to its future members. He enlarged on them in "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" his 2nd book, published in 1952.

Ownership of the movement's books and operations of its principal information office (G.S.O.) in NY, had been entrusted in 1939 to a non-commercial corporate board. (continued pg 7)

A SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT

Bill worked tirelessly to make AA a spiritual movement which would be above and beyond individual personalities and one which would survive its founders.

Such a time has now come for the entire movement, and it leaves us here at G.S.O. with a depressing sense of personal loss.

But as he so often said, "in AA our work is more important than our persons. Newcomers to AA must be greeted and helped long after we go."

So Bill would probably ask for no more fitting memorial tribute than the outstretched hand of help offered to the next drunk who stumbles into any AA meeting room tonight.

So long for now, Bill.
Welcome, newcomer.

TO HONOR BILLS MEMORY

Lois, Bill's widow, wishes to convey her gratitude to the thousands of friends-and even strangers -who sent messages of sympathy and comfort. Personal acknowledgement of each will be physically impossible. Both Bill and Lois requested no flowers, they suggest that AA members may wish instead to make contributions to a special *in memoriam* to be administered by the General Service Board of AA for some special AA purpose.

Only contributions from AA members can be accepted, of course, because of the AA tradition of self-support. Checks should be mailed to "Memorial Fund, PO Box 459, New York, NY 10017

(Reprint: Box 4-5-9 Jan. 1971

(3 Legacies Continued from pg 6)
Among trustee members of the board (all unpaid), distinguished nonalcoholic business and professional men outnumbered AA members. But the board had few ties of any sort to the AA groups and membership.

To remedy this, Bill proposed that a General Service Conference composed of delegates elected by U.S. and Canadian AA groups meet annually as a bridge between the membership and the board.

At the fellowship's second International Convention (St. Louis, 1955) the Conference was accepted by the fellowship as the permanent successor to Bill, Dr. Bob and AA's other Old Timers. It is the means by which the General Service Board of AA holds itself accountable to the entire membership.

In "AA Come of Age", published in 1957, Bill described this event in a brief history of AA's first 21 years.

In 1966, the Conference changed the ratio of alcoholics and non-alcoholics on the G.S. Board, providing for a board of 14 AA and 7 nonalcoholic trustees.

Third Legacy

To Bill this signified the Fellowship's complete acceptance from its founding members of the *Third Legacy* - the responsibility for *Service* to alcoholics as well as for its own future.

In "As Bill Sees It", (The AA Way of Life), Bill's last book (1967), he returned to the inspirational and spiritual concerns which since 1934 had formed the basis of his own personal life. It summarizes in a daily reader-format much of the help he freely gave to other alcoholics in the thousands of visits and a vast correspondence.

Thousands of AA's probably remember Bill best as speaker at

International Conventions held every 5 years since the Cleveland meetings in 1950 - in 1955, in St. Louis, Mo., in 1960, in Long Beach CA; in 1965, at Toronto, Ont., and in 1970, at Miami Beach, Florida.

He held thousands spellbound as he repasted the stories of AA's beginnings.

Maybe he told it best at his own 35th AA anniversary dinner. The 1969 event climaxed AA's 1st *World Service Meeting*.

Twenty-seven delegates from 15 countries were among the 3,500 guests who heard Bill say that AA really began in the office of Dr Carl Jung, a founder of psycho-analysis and modern psychiatry in Zurich, Switzerland, during treatment in the early 1930's of an American alcoholic named Roland. The latter in turn would share his experience with Ebby T., the former drinking crony of Bill's who in turn carried his recovery to Bill in Brooklyn in 1934.

BILLS BOOKS TAPES & FILMS

(available 49 years ago!)

BOOKS

Alcoholics Anonymous (In 9 Languages)

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
AA Comes Of Age

As Bill Sees It (AA Way of Life)

FILMS

"Bill's Own Story"

"Bill Discusses the 12 Traditions"

TAPES

"The First Recovery Story"

"How we learned to Serve"

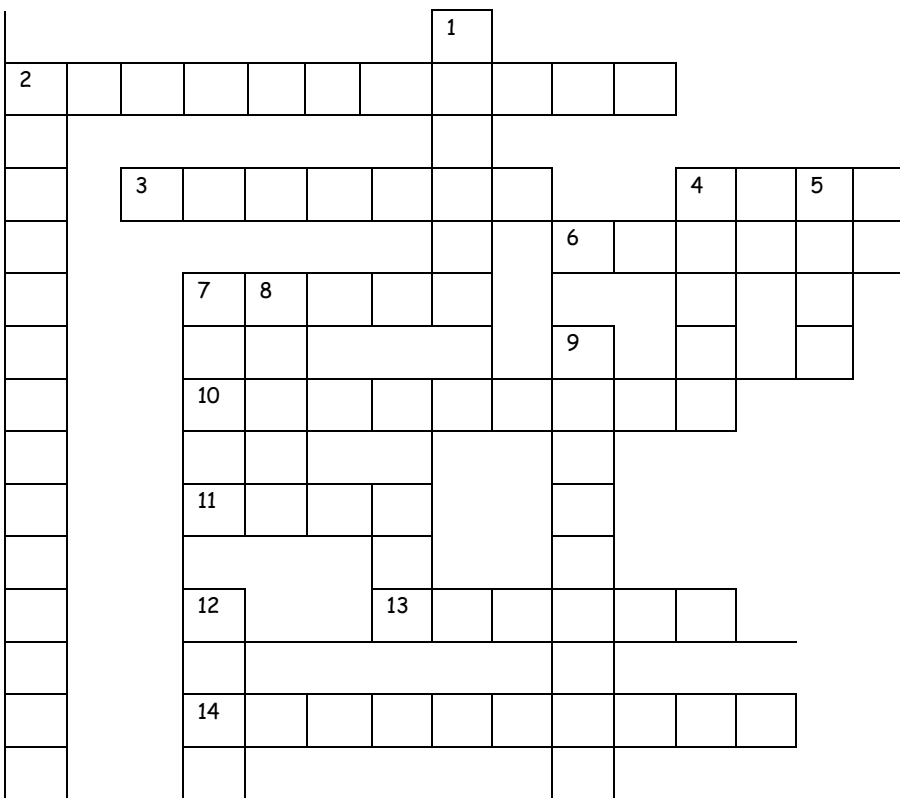
(This month marks 49 years since the passing of Bill W. This page and the previous one are of articles from BOX 4-5-9 NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF AA Vol 16 No 2 Memorial Issue Jan 1971)

CHECKLIST – TRADITION ONE

www.aagrapevine.org © AA Grapevine, Inc. These questions were originally published with a series of articles on the 12 Traditions that ran from November 1969 – September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since adopted them as a basis for wider discussion.

OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS ON AA UNITY.

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person? Am I sometimes divisive? Do I ever gossip or take another member's inventory?
2. Am I a peace maker? Or do I foster arguments with statements such as "just for the sake of discussion?"
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I sometimes abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I ever put down some AA activities for not participating in this or that aspect of AA



DOWN

1. What edition of the Big Book was printed in 2001?
2. Nickname of house where Bill wrote the steps (2 words)
4. How many chapters in the Big Book not including stories.
5. Bill's wife's name
8. Town in Ohio where Bill met Bob.
9. Dr's name who wrote Dr.'s opinion.
12. Who visited Bill in his kitchen?

ACROSS

2. Bill W's profession.
3. Where AA general service office is located (2 words)
6. Bill's last name.
7. We perish if it is not working in and through us.
10. Magazine published by AA.
11. Dr Bob's wife
13. Group Bill belonged to before founding AA.
14. Chapter 1 in the Big Book (2 wrds)

Below are the A.A. recommended proportions for group donations:

- 50% to Kent County Central Office
 - 4920 Plainfield NE – Suite 19, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
- 30% to General Service Office
 - PO Box 459 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 10% to District 7
 - PO Box 1131, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
- 10% to Area 34

**THANKS TO ALL YOU WHO SUPPPORTED KCCO THIS YEAR! HOPE MORE GROUPS MAKE
IT PART OF YOUR PRIMARY PURPOSE TO HELP IN THIS WAY IN 2020 TOO!**