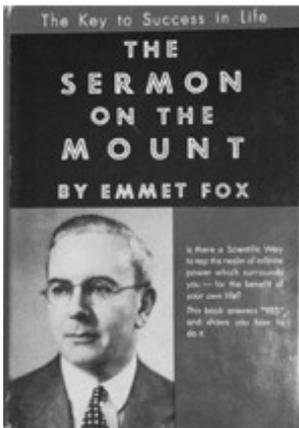
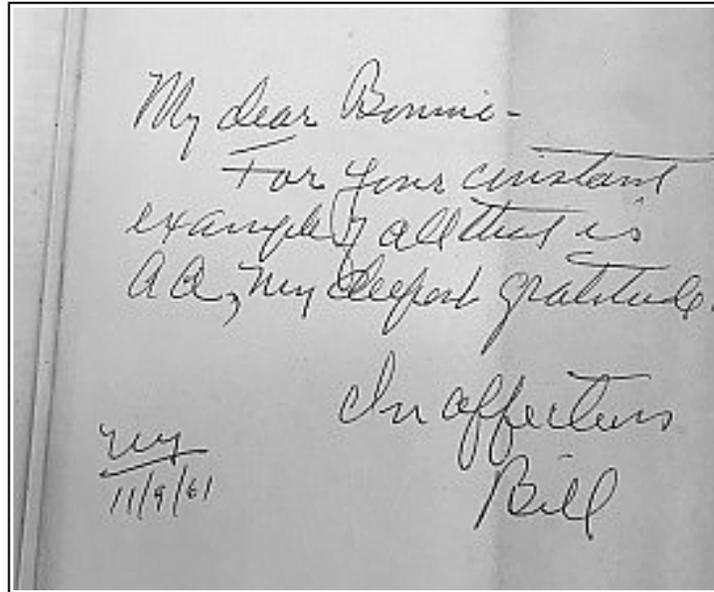
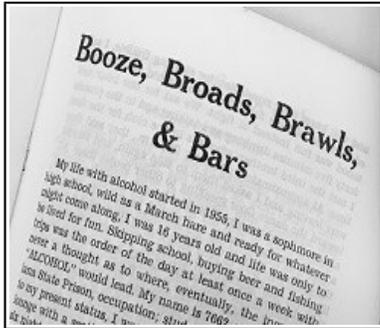


# Intergroup Archives



A sampling of literature in Fort Wayne Area Intergroup archives. Upper left: an article in the 32nd anniversary issue of *Bar-Less AA* magazine published in Michigan City prison. Lower left: *The Sermon on the Mount* by Emmet Fox printed in the 1950s. Above: AA Big Book signed by Bill W. These were part of the collection on display at the 2017 Northeast Indiana Convention.

## Anniversaries

### May

- Jeff M. 5/1/94
- Stephanie J. 5/1/90
- Paul E. 5/23/90

### June

- Linda H. 6/2/86
- John S. 6/3/85
- John B. 6/3/95
- Katie T. 6/10/09
- Sara P. 6/11/06
- Gary C. 6/11/15
- Scott H. 6/12/88
- Pam H. 6/17/06
- Owen S. 6/21/85
- Bernie G. 6/23/84
- Vee S. 6/27/97
- AnnMarie L. 6/30/86

# Group Histories at Central Office

Intergroup office manager Jan E. is collecting local AA group histories as part of the ongoing development of archival records and materials at Central Office. Jan said that she has received about 10 group histories, so far, as word gets around to the groups.

A group history form is available at the office. This form provides a simple outline of the kind of information to be gathered for a basic group history. Also, group history guidelines are available for download at the AA website.

Central Office now has an extended sign-up sheet for groups volunteering to serve on the AA hotline. This service was developed so that anyone calling AA after office hours will be talking with an alcoholic. Calls are transferred to a cell phone in the care of a volunteer AA group, and this group then passes it on to the next group. The sign-up sheet is extended beyond the immediate three months so that groups can see the schedule and select times that work for them.

**The Amethyst Statement of Purpose:** The Amethyst is published every two months for members of the A.A. community in the Fort Wayne area. The Amethyst is financially supported by contributions to Fort Wayne Area Intergroup. The purpose of The Amethyst is to share information and experience in recovery, unity and service in the Fort Wayne area. The articles published in The Amethyst are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either Fort Wayne Area Intergroup, Inc. or A.A. as a whole.

## ‘The Twelve *What?*’

From the vantage point of more than 80 years, it can be hard for present-day A.A.s to imagine how tenuous the Fellowship’s existence was in its early days. Co-founder Bill W. often referred to A.A. as “a flickering candle,” one that might at any minute “be snuffed out.” Yet, despite the initial challenges, the Fellowship proved durable and, with the help of its many friends and supporters, began to take root and grow.

Today, the foundation of A.A. is strong, built on the principles and wisdom of A.A.’s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, as represented by the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. “The Twelve what?” one might ask upon hearing that last set of twelve.

Often considered the arcane province of A.A.’s “service-minded folk,” the Concepts can be a bit of a mystery throughout the Fellowship.

Written by Bill W. to foster and strengthen the Legacy of Service, the Concepts stand as an interpretation of A.A.’s world service structure as it emerged through the Fellowship’s early history and experience. As Bill articulated to the 1960 General Service Conference, “Just as it was vital to codify in Twelve Steps the spiritual side of our program, to codify in Twelve Traditional principles the forces and ideas that would make for unity and discourage disunity, so may it now be necessary to codify those principles and relationships upon which our world service function rests, from the group right up through the trustees of the General Service Board... a stated set of principles and relationships by which we may understand each other, the tasks to be done and the principles for doing them.”

As noted in the introduction to the Concepts, published in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, “These Concepts... aim to record the ‘why’ of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost.”

At the 1970 International Convention in Miami Beach, the late Bernard Smith, a nonalcoholic trustee who played a critical role in creating A.A.’s service structure, spoke on the topic of “Unity and Continuity.” He talked of unity as a totality of related parts. “Our Fellowship is composed of all the groups of A.A., the separate areas of the General Service Board and all of its related service organizations, and the Conference... and so the whole of the parts becomes one — the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

As the Fellowship flourished and its structure continued to evolve, Bill set about putting onto paper the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the best summary he was able to make of the Fellowship’s more than twenty years’ experi-

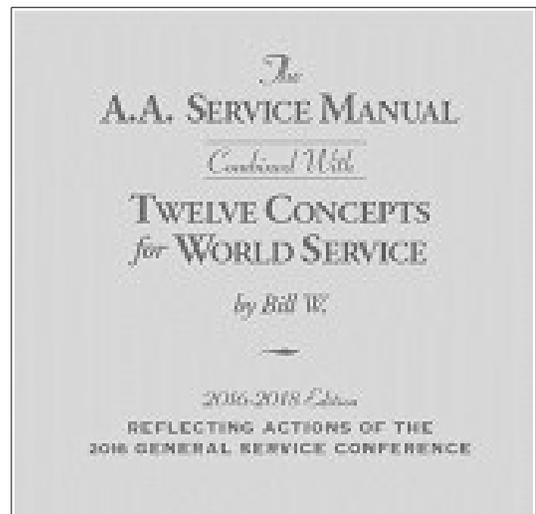
ence in the creation of the service structure and in the conduct of A.A.’s world affairs.

“Well knowing our own propensities for power driving,” wrote Bill in the introduction to the Concepts, “it is natural and even imperative that our service concepts be based on the system of ‘checks and balances.’ We have had to face the fact that we usually try to enlarge our own authority and prestige when we are in the saddle. But when we are not, we strenuously resist a heavy-handed management wherein someone else holds the reins. I’m the more sure of this because I possess these traits myself.

“Consequently, ideas like the following pervade the Concepts: ‘No group or individual should be set in unqualified authority over another,’ ‘Large, active and dissimilar operations should be separately incorporated and managed, each with its own staff, equipment and working capital,’ ‘We ought to avoid undue concentration of money or personal influence in any service group or entity,’ ‘At each level of service, authority should be equal to responsibility,’ ‘Double-headed executive direction should be avoided.’ These and other similar provisions define working relations that can be friendly and yet efficient. They would especially restrain our tendency to concentrate money and power, this being nearly always the underlying (though not always the conscious) motivation of our recurrent passion for the ‘consolidation’ of world service entities.”

Adopted by the General Service Conference in 1962, the Concepts have been a consistent resource in guiding the Fellowship to its present level of growth. With over 117,000 A.A. groups worldwide, an A.A. presence can be found today in approximately 180 nations, with worldwide membership estimated at over two million.

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## Intergroup Services

### Group Contributions

#### January

Al-Anon Family Groups – Auburn  
Central Group  
Early Start Group  
Feed And Seed Group  
Freedom At Last Group  
Fremont 12 & 12 Group  
Fresh Start 5 Step Group  
Hope & Help Group – Leo  
Living Sober Group – Hamilton  
New Haven Canal Group  
No Left Turn Group  
Northeast Group  
Speak-EZ Group  
Thirteen Step House Meetings  
Under New Management Group  
Wed. Morning Group – Kendallville  
Women's Day By Day Group

#### February

A New Beginning Group  
Addictive Syndrome Group  
Beginners Group  
Bloomingdale Group  
Daily Reflections Group  
Early Start Group  
Freedom At Last Group  
Just Stay Group  
Keep It Simple Group  
Lamp Post Group  
Mon. Nite 12+12 Study Group  
Sisters In Sobriety Group  
Trails End Group  
Unity Group

#### March

Aldersgate 12+12 Study Group  
Big Book Discussion Group  
Big Book Study Group  
Big Book Study Group - Canterbury  
Central Group  
Early Bird Grapevine Group  
Early Saturday Night Group  
Early Start Group  
Fort Wayne Discussion Group  
Goshen Road Marbles Group  
Into Action Group  
Mon. Nite Women's Group  
Mon. Nite Vets Group  
Northside Group  
Wed. Morning Group – Kendallville

## Events

#### May 7

Eatin' Meetin' breakfast and speaker hosted by Daily Reflections Group at Club Oasis, 1118 Spring Street, Fort Wayne 46808. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., speaker at 9 :30 a.m. \$3 suggested donation.

#### May 11

Thursday Night Men's Group 24th anniversary dinner at First Cong. regational Church of Christ, 314 W. Maumee St., Angola 46703. Fellowship 6 p.m., dinner 6:30, speaker 7:30. Main entree provided; bring a covered dish.

#### May 13

"Carry the Message," 38th annual Central Indiana Mini-Conference. Christian Congregational Church, 11015 N 300 E (Bethel Pike), Alexandria 46001. Doors open at 9 a.m., \$15 per attendee. See flier at: [www.area22indiana.org](http://www.area22indiana.org)

#### May 19, 20, 21

Camp Mack Weekend Assembly, "Get ready for a fun-filled, relaxing weekend." Camp Alexander Mack, 1113 E. Camp Mack Road, Milford 46542. \$150 Friday and Saturday nights lodging, linens, and six meals; \$97 Saturday night lodging, linens, and four meals. Download flier at: [www.area22indiana.org](http://www.area22indiana.org)

#### June 9, 10, 11

Founders' Day 82nd anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous, Akron, Ohio. Pre-registration period ends May 15 and mail-in registrations must be postmarked May 15. Full information and online registration are available at the Akron AA website: [www.akronaa.org](http://www.akronaa.org)

#### July 14, 15, 16

"Join Us...With Complete Abandon," 64th annual Indiana State Convention and the East Central Regional Conference. Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne 46802. Schedule, list of speakers, registration and hotel information are posted on Area 22 website page: [www.area22indiana.org/StateConvention2017.html](http://www.area22indiana.org/StateConvention2017.html)

## Meeting Notices

"Live Your Life" Alateen meeting at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2417 Getz Road, Fort Wayne 46804, Room 200 (upstairs), Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Both Al-Anon and AA meet concurrently in other rooms of the church.

Auburn YPAA (Young People in AA) meeting, Auburn Church of Christ, 1103 S. Jackson St., Auburn 46706 (corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Jackson), Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

**Fort Wayne Area Intergroup meets the first Monday of the month,  
Crescent Avenue Church at Tennessee, 7 p.m.**

## Simple & Good

### With a bit of mustard, one member orders up a hot dog just like he does his sobriety

At a meeting last night I ran into a fellow I hadn't seen in a number of years. He was doing well, seemed calmer and more self-possessed than the last time I had seen him. As it turned out, he was celebrating 24 years of sobriety and, as we talked, he thanked me for helping him once many years earlier. I had said something, he related, that had really helped him. "Do you remember?" he asked.

Try as I might, I simply couldn't. He went on to describe what I had told him that night as we stood together on the line for coffee, and, essentially, the great wisdom I had imparted boiled down to something quite akin to "Don't drink, and keep coming back"—words considerably less eloquent than I would have expected, words, in fact, that I had heard in response to many of my own difficulties over the years. I found it odd at first that these few words were what he would remember and relate so many years later, yet the more I thought about it, the more meaningful it became.

Clearly, the words I had spoken to him were far less critical than the moment I had spoken them in—a moment in which he was feeling completely isolated and alone, caught up in his own head, searching desperately for some kind of human connection. I recognized that for most of us, recovery is comprised of a series of such moments, strung together on a necklace like beads, moments of crisis and resolution, of panic and calm.

Thinking back on my own sobriety, I began to remember some of those moments in my own life and the almost inconsequential things I was told that helped me through. Stuff so inane as "Good to see you" or "Thanks for sharing." And, empty as those things sound now, when delivered in the context of a caring hand on the shoulder and an encouraging smile, they had—and still have—great meaning for me.

In today's world, we are constantly surrounded by the concept of "more"—of "bigger is better." The realm of fast food serves as a case in point, where we've gone from

singular patties to quarter-pounders, to third-pounders, and soon, no doubt, will be commercially tempted to enjoy a full-pounder, followed by the double- and triple-pounders of the future. Everything gets bigger, more complex. You can have a taco that's wrapped in a quesadilla that's inserted into an empanada that's encased in fried dough and covered with your selection of 15 different toppings.

A couple of years ago, I traveled out west with my family. Someplace in Montana we pulled over for something to eat. Standing on line at the roadside eatery, we looked up at the menu hanging down from behind the register. Hot dogs were the featured item, and there were more kinds of hot dogs than you could shake a stick at: corn dogs, cheese dogs, chili cheese corn dogs, chili cheese jalapeño pepper dogs, chicken fried cheese dogs with grilled onions, and so on.

At the counter, I ordered a cup of tea and a hot dog. It was like everything stopped for a moment. Raising an eyebrow, the woman who took my order gave me the once-over. I smiled. She smiled back. "Anything on that?" she asked. "No thanks," I said. She waited for a moment as she processed the information before turning back to the order pad in her hand. "You sure?" she asked after a pause, almost pleadingly, as if I were about to walk away from the bonus round on "Wheel of Fortune."

With a little bit of mustard, that hot dog was just what I needed.

Like the comment I made to my friend, sobriety is sometimes small. And it's often just what we need.

*Ames S.  
New York, NY, USA*

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**Drinking problem?  
There is a solution.**

**Alcoholics Anonymous  
(260)471-6262**

*The Amethyst* – SUBMISSIONS: The Amethyst welcomes feature articles, supporting articles, group histories, anniversaries, jokes, cartoons and upcoming events as long as they relate to A.A. experience and reflect an awareness of A.A.'s singleness oorf purpose. Submissions are reviewed by newsletter committee and recommended to the editor for publication.

LENGTH: The Amethyst will publish work of different lengths, from feature articles to one-liners.

Send submissions to: [editor.amethyst@gmail.com](mailto:editor.amethyst@gmail.com) or mail to:

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