

## Alcoholic Journal



Up early praying and meditating and reading my meditation literature. Not a religious man, but working on trusting God and learning each day to be more spiritual, which for me means to have a more positive outlook on life. Like my reading this morning: "This is a journey with no end." I guess the most important path is the one you share with others. It is our journey. The selfishness of my disease locks me in my little cage, unaware of a larger world beyond my vision. Trapped within my meager soul, I drink to kill the pain of some vague loss, not able to put my finger on it but knowing it is real. It's a terrible way to live—this imprisonment of fears, angry that the world mistreats me, sensing that I deserve more love and understanding yet unable to reach out to others, filling this void with alcohol.

This emotional pain always gets me drunk Tired of fighting it, I seek the pain-killer alcohol. It didn't begin this way. In my youth I was vigorous and drinking was a fun recreation, something my friends and I did on weekends. But years of heavy drinking made it a habit and along with it the ensuing problems. Friends went on with their lives and I went on binges, nursing my bottle and thinking myself above the fray in my rebel freedom. But my self-image turned out to be just one of many delusions. In the end I was just a common drunk, all alone and full of anger and self-pity and too sick to change or do anything but to go on drinking. This is the point when drinking became a necessity and an addiction because my entire personality was dependent on the false reality drinking gave. You know deep down it is killing you but the prospect of facing life sober is so frightening you haven't a choice but to go on drinking.

This is the terrible dilemma of the chronic alcoholic. Some are blessed to never have reached this stage. Something or someone intervened early enough in their lives and they were spared the hopeless nightmare of the chronic stage. Sadly, for the majority of us, we deny that we have a problem until it is too late. Even to the moment of death we deny our powerlessness, dream that somehow tomorrow it will be different and we can control this gorilla that has us in its grasp. Our only true hope is in abstinence, but with few exceptions can we stop drinking without help. It takes many hands to break the grasp of this gorilla addiction. For me the fellowship of AA has been those many hands and for this I shall forever be grateful.

J.D.C.

## Anniversaries

### September

Tom B. 9/4/12  
Linda B. 9/18/05  
Jean H. 9/23/83

### October

John S. 10/3/10  
Connie S. 10/4/75  
Kirk P. 10/4/83  
Tom M 10/15/83  
Andrea H. 10/23/13  
Larry F. 10/25/71  
Brian L. 10/27/02

### WORKSHOP

***"The AA Group ... Where It All Begins"***

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Allen County Library Main Branch  
(See "Events" on Page 3 for details.)

### FALL FESTIVAL 2017

***"It's a good old-fashion square dance, y'all"***

**Saturday, October 7th  
Franke Park Pavilion #1**

Doors open at 11 a.m. food at 12 noon, dance at 2 p.m. \$5 at door. Children 12 & under free. 50/50 drawing and raffles.

Bring covered dish or dessert to share. Pulled pork, baked beans and potato salad provided.



**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.

## Tradition Ten (The Long Form)

*No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.*

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### The reason:

“We conceive the survival and spread of Alcoholics Anonymous to be something of far greater importance than the weight we could collectively throw back of any other cause. Since recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, it is imperative that we preserve in full strength our means of survival.”

### ...though we are not saints:

“Maybe this sounds as though alcoholics in A.A. had suddenly gone peaceable, and become one great big happy family. Of course, this isn’t so at all. Human beings that we are, we squabble. Before we leveled off a bit, A.A. looked more like one prodigious squabble than anything else, at

least on the surface. A corporation director who had just voted a company expenditure of a hundred thousand dollars would appear at an A.A. meeting and blow his top over an outlay of twenty-five dollars’ worth of needed postage stamps. Disliking the attempt of some to manage a group, half its membership might angrily rush off to form another group more to their liking. Elders, temporarily turned Pharisee, have sulked. Bitter attacks have been directed against people suspected of smixed motives. Despite their din, our puny rows never did A.A. a particle of harm. They were just part and parcel of learning to work and live together. Let it be noted, too, that they were almost always concerned with ways to make A.A. more effective, how to do the most good for the most alcoholics.”

Quotes from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pages 177-178

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## Indiana State Conventions



Portraits of Dr. Bob and Bill W. in the archives display at the 64th Indiana State Convention in Fort Wayne, July 2017.

The 65th Annual Indiana State Convention, “New Beginnings,” will be Feb. 23-25 at the Hendricks County Conference Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN 46122. The deadline for mail-in registrations is Jan. 31. Details and registration form are available online at: [www.indyaa.org](http://www.indyaa.org)

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Along with the fellowship and fun at conventions, people share their service experiences as well. Area 22 CPC and Treatment committee chair Charles K. said there was much benefit in meeting and talking with members of Fort Wayne Area Intergroup, who shared information on our local efforts. His committee responds to requests for information throughout northern Indiana.

*Pete C.*

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***I am responsible... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.***

## —Events & Notes—



### Sept. 23

Workshop: "The AA Group ... Where It All Begins," Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne 46802. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come early for coffee and donuts, 9:30 a.m. Lunch provided for a nominal fee. Sponsored by Area 22 Districts 61, 63, 65 and 67.

### Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1

INCYPAA XXXVI: Indiana Conference of Young People in AA. Comfort Suites, 5775 Coventry Lane, Fort Wayne 46804. Registration and conference information at website: [www.incypaa.com](http://www.incypaa.com)

### Oct. 7

Fort Wayne Area Intergroup Fall Festival: "It's a good old-fashion square dance, y'all." Doors open at 11 a.m., food at 12 noon, dance at 2 p.m. \$5 at the door, children 12 & under free. 50/50 drawing and raffles. Bring covered dish or dessert to share. Pulled pork, baked beans & potato salad provided. Hosted by Under New Management Group.

### Oct. 14

Area 22 DCM Conference, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 4703 N 50 W, West Lafayette, IN 47906. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Eastern Time Zone. All are welcome to attend. Lunch served for a nominal fee. Hosted by Districts 49 & 53.

### Nov. 11

Defiance Annual Gratitude Roundup: "Do Your Best...Let HP Do the Rest!" UAW Local 211, 2120 Baltimore St., Defiance, OH 43512. Registration 9 a.m., Event 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Countdown, raffle, door prizes and 50/50 drawing. Tickets: \$15 Sessions Only; \$20 Sessions & Dinner Banquet (October 31 is last day to purchase). See flier for more information on the November events calendar at website: [www.aaftwayne.org](http://www.aaftwayne.org)

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

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### Group Contributions

The list of groups supporting Intergroup services in June and July will be included in the next issue of *The Amethyst*.

### Steering Committee Elections

Chairman Paul W. expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be of service, and he welcomed the new members of the steering committee: Chairman Randy W., Co-Chairman Chris J., Treasurer Tom R.; Steering Committee One Year – Paula C., Steering Committee Two Year – Dori D. and Steve I.

### Archives Committee

Jan E. was elected to chair archives committee. Jan has developed an archives display at Central Office, and she continues to collect AA group histories.

### "Bridging the Gap"

Public information committee chair Greg S. reported that Bridging the Gap program has a new email address which is posted on the Intergroup website: [btgfortwayne@gmail.com](mailto:btgfortwayne@gmail.com). This provides a direct link to AA volunteers who serve as speakers, in cooperation with the professional community, or as first contacts for alcoholics being released from correctional or care facilities. The committee is also working on the development of an AA orientation meeting for newcomers.

### Group Updates

Huntertown 12 & 12 Group has a name change to Huntertown Group. The closed meetings now use a discussion format. The group meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Central Group, which meets 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, has changed its meeting format from speaker meeting to Big Book study.

Parkview North Sunday Night Women's meeting has a new name and location: Vision of Hope Group, 1502 E Wallen Road, Fort Wayne 46825. Big Book study for women, 7 p.m. Sundays.

Life's New Beginnings Group in Paulding, Ohio, now meets in the Paulding Co. Hospital Community Room, 1035 W. Wayne Street, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

## The A.A. Group... Where It All Begins



A panelist for the AA Group Workshop on Sept. 23, Holly Y. had some good news to share from the Warsaw vicinity. The local Corrections/CPC committee reported, after a two-year suspension of progress, women are now able to safely take a meeting into the women's side of the county jail.

The committee works with donation cans at meetings in order to provide free literature to doctors' offices, psychiatric facilities, schools, and jail. Holly said, also, the literature committee is donating Grapevine subscriptions to the jail and mental health centers. I will be joining Holly as a workshop panelist.

*Pete C.*

Service Material from the General Service Office  
SM F-53

### Estimates of A.A. Groups and Members As of January 1, 2017

	Groups	Members
United States	61,258	1,276,165
Canada	5,078	86,237
Sub-Total:	66,336	1,362,402
Correctional Facilities	1,413	34,903
Loners, Internationalist, Homers	1	29
U.S. & Canada Total:	67,750	1,397,334
Outside U.S. & Canada	50,555	705,850
Worldwide Total:	118,305	2,103,184

## 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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