The Post POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT

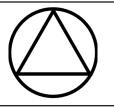
March/April 2022

EDITOR'S CORNER

Hello AA family! Covid finally got me, but I can see the light at the end of the tunnel today. I hope this edition of the POST finds you all healthy and covidfree! We are still looking for writers to contribute, so please prayerfully consider joining our team as a traditions or history writer. Big thanks to our only writer so far this year. We appreciate your experience, strength, and hope, Michael D!

> HOME GROWN

Gratefully yours, Allison K.



VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

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Suggestions on topics you want explored? Contact us at <u>Post.Editor@centralalaa.org</u>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE POST? TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US AT Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

THE POST is published to improve communication between local A.A.® groups and encourage the participation of A.A. members in services and activities that promote sobriety. Opinions expressed in letters and articles are those of the authors and do not indicate endorsement by Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous®.

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Have a burning desire to share your experience, strength and hope? Send your article to post.editor@ centralalaa.org.

SERVICE ALERT

Post Positions Open - 12 month commitment: All Post Positions are up for renewal at end of year. Vot-

ing will be in October. If interested be sure to contact

Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

All Intergroup positions are up for renewal at end of

year. Voting is to be in October. If interested, please

contact your Intergroup Chair or come to IG meeting.

Please contact Intergroup@centralalaa.org if willing and able to serve!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Intergroup Monthly Meeting Saturday, May 7, 2022

8:00 a.m. @ Legacies Group (via Zoom) 3412 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL 36109

> District 8 Service Meeting Saturday, May 7, 2022 9:30 a.m. @ Legacies (via Zoom)

FOR THE MOST UP TO MEETING SCHEDULE, PLEASE VISIT www.centralalaa.org/meetings

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please check website.

MORE EVENTS & INFO: WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG/UNITY/UPCOMING-EVENTS/

The Post

POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT

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WE WELCOME YOUR ASSISTANCE! SUGGESTIONS ON TOPICS YOU WANT EXPLORED? TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US AT POST.EDITOR@CENTRALALAA.ORG WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG YOUR DISTRICT 8 ONLINE WWW.AAAREA1.ORG YOUR AREA 1 ONLINE WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG/UNITY/ INTERGROUP/LITERATURE/ LITERATURE AT CENTRAL OFFICE

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MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A.® GROUP MEETINGS

Meeting Schedule: August 5, 2021 Montgomery Intergroup Central Office 24/7 Hotline 334-264-4122

					204 4122		
Group/Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MONTGOMERY			I		I	1	
12 Steps Group of AA Heritage Baptist Church, Rm 127 1849 Perry Hill		C-D-ST-BG 6p					
A Vision for You Group of AA Baptist Health Training Entrance 2010 Normandie Dr.	Temporary Inactive		O - D 7 p				
Chapter 9 Group of AA CAP Auditorium 1153 Air Base Boulevard	Temporary Inactive					O-D 1:30 p	O-D 1:30 p
Chisholm Group of AA I-409 Federal Dr.	C-D-SM 12p C-ST-SM 6p	C-D-SM 12p C-D-SM 6p	C-D-SM 12p C-L-SM 6p	C-D-SM 12p C-D-SM 6p	C-D-SM 12p C-D-SM 6p	C-D-SM 6p	O-SP 6p
Fellowship Group of AA Grace Church at Bell Road 5 Bell Road (Corner of Bell Rd & Atlanta Hwy)	C-L & BG * 6 p	C-D & BG * 6 p		C-D & BG * 6 p	C-L & BG * 6 p	O - SP 6p	C-D* 2p C-D-W 6p
Happy Hour Group of AA 3466 Eastdale Circle (Next to Fortis College)	C-D 6:30 am 12p & 6p	C-D 6:30 am &12p C-D (12x12) 6p	CD 6:30 am C-D BB 12p CD 6p	C-D 6:30 am &12p O-BG 6p	C-D 6:30 am 12p & 6p O-SP 7p 1st Friday	C-D 12p C-D 8p	C-D 9 am C-D 12p O BG 6p
The Legacies Group of AA 3412 Atlanta Highway (Enter on Forrest Hills) Zoom ID 798-727-9234 PC Awakening	C-D 12p C-D (zoom) 6 p	CL BB 12p	C-D 12p O-SP 8p	C-L (12X12) 12p	C-D 12p C-D-CI 8p CD CI (zoom)8p	C-D 12p	C-D 9am C-D (zoom) 9a
Grupo Ayudate a Ti Mismo 3412 Atlanta Highway (Enter on Forrest Hills)	O-D 7:30-9p HISP	O-D 7:30-9p HISP				O-D 7:30-9:30p HISP	O-D 11a-1p HISP
Living Sober Group of AA Church of the Ascension 315 Clanton Ave. 36104 meeting in the Joshua house	С-D бр		C - L 6p				
Sole Purpose Group of AA 22 North California Street		C-D 7:30p		C-L BB 7:30p			
Strange Camels Group of AA Immanuel Presbyterian Church 8790 Vaughn Road	C-L 7p	C-D 7p		C-D 7p			
Tradition Three Group of AA 386 St. Lukes Drive Bradford Health Service Building	O-D 11a Temporary Inactive	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O - D 11a	O - D 11a		
We Stopped in Time Group of AA	Temporary Inactive						
CLANTON							
Clanton Group of AA Church of Christ 111 Lay Dam Rd. Clanton, AL 35045	O - D 7p			O-L 12p		O - D 7p	
GREENVILLE							
Camellia City Group of AA Greenville Housing Authority 601 Beelant St, 30637 334-437-2015	C-D 7p			C-D * 7p			
HOPE HULL							
County Hope Group of AA Hope Hull United Methodist Church 305 Wasden Road (Silver trailer behind Church)	https:/	O-D 6p /www.cen	tralalaa.org	O-BB 6p /meeting	\$		

MILLBROOKPrimary Purpose Group of AA Charch of the Mazarene Fellowship Hall 2321 Brown RoadO-D 6pO-D 6pO-D 6pPRATTVILLEAntauga S.O.S. Group of AA St. Mark's Episcopal Church 178 E 4th StreetO-L 12pC-D 12pC-D 12pO-L 12pC-D-W 9aPratrville Downtown Group of AA 178 E 4th StreetO-L 12pC-D 12pC-D 12pC-L 6.30pO-SP 6.30pC-D 12p C-D 6.30pC-L 6.30pC-D 12p C-D 6.30pC-D 12p C-D 6.30pO-SP 6.30pO-D 12p C-D 6.30pC-D 12p C-D 6.30pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 6.30pO-D 12p C-D 6.30pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 12pO-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 12p C-D 6pC-D 6pO-D 12p C-D 12pC-D 6pO-D 6pO-D 6p C-D 6pO-D 12p C-D 6pO-D 6pO-D 6pO-D 6p C-D 6pO-D 7p <th>Group/Location</th> <th>Monday</th> <th>Tuesday</th> <th>Wednesday</th> <th>Thursday</th> <th>Friday</th> <th>Saturday</th> <th>Sunday</th>	Group/Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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D = Discussion SP = Speaker SM = Smoking CI = Candlelight Meeting

W = Women

HISP = Spanish Speaking YP = Young People & Young at Heart ST = Step Study BG = Beginners L = Literature Literature Study (BB, 12/12 or Other) LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi Transgender * Al-Anon meets Simultaneously ** Alateen meets Simultaneously

Montgomery Intergroup provides this schedule of A.A. group meetings in this area to member groups, individual A.A. members, and appropriate interested parties. A listing in this schedule does not imply approval of endorsement of any group's approach to or practice of the traditional AA program.

Montgomery Intergroup 334-264-4122 * montgomery.intergroup@yahoo.com * www.centralalaa.org 828 Forest Avenue, Suite A * Montgomery, AL 36106 * Open Mondays 10 am to 2 pm

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STEP THREE MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM.

One way to summarize the first three steps is, "I can't, God can, and I'm going to let him." In step one I saw that I can't get sober on my own because I'm powerless over alcohol and my life is unmanageable. In step two I saw that a higher power could restore me to sanity and thus solve my obsession with alcohol. Step three is where the hammer meets the nail. This is where I let God do what he wants, which means I have to let go of what I want.

One thing that I realize now about hitting bottom, referred to by some as step zero, is that I didn't know what I wanted, I just knew I had to stop drinking. All my plans and delusions of grandeur had dissolved as my addiction had taken their place and I finally was awakened enough to realize how empty and broken I was. I felt like I had nothing left give and I didn't even know who I was anymore, but as my sponsor repeatedly reminded me, "the ego quickly repairs itself." So it wasn't long after I had stopped drinking and started taking some action that I started coming up with my own plans for running the show again. I was going to play the country music song backwards and get my life back, but that wasn't God's plan. Instead, he wanted to give me a whole new life, one that wouldn't be run on selfwill anymore. That would mean I would have to surrender, and surrendering for me meant I had to die to all of my plans, all of my ideas, even my conception of myself. I

didn't understand all that when I knelt with my sponsor on the back porch of where our AA group meets and said the third step prayer, but I was willing to turn myself over. As I continued to pray that prayer every day and practice this principle of surrender, I realized that the person I thought I was had to die, but that is okay because he didn't even really exist.

I felt like I was in the desert with no direction, I couldn't figure out why God would bring me out here. Had he abandoned me? What I found was that he wanted to take me to a new experience of him and to head in a new direction. As I waited not knowing what to do I was forced to give up my plans. I had to accept that I wasn't going back to grad school and I wasn't going to get my marriage back, instead God wanted me to live in a recovery house. That definitely wasn't one of my plans, but it turned out to be the best thing for me because I was able to be of service to other suffering alcoholics. I learned that turning my will and life over involved everyday actions of being there for others and not me thinking up plans for my own personal aggrandizement. As I kept doing that, very imperfectly, but making some progress, I met God in a new way. I came to understand that God was a lot more gracious and patient than I had ever given him credit for. I also started realizing that knowing God wasn't about my theology or what I thought I knew about him, it was about experiencing him through giving myself to him and being available for him to use me.

Michael D.

HOME GROWN

STEP FOUR CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY.

In the first few months of my recovery an old-timer told me, "Recovery is God lovingly introducing us to ourselves," but I didn't really get what he was talking about. Now in retrospect I can see that more was revealed and a lot of what was revealed was who I really was, this especially became more clear as a result of taking step four.

On page 64 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, it calls inventory "a fact-finding and a fact-facing process." Or as someone said, collecting the dots and connecting the dots, this is getting "down to causes and conditions" (AA Page 64). I had no idea why I drank before I did step four. I knew I had tried to stop multiple times, and sometimes I could stop, but I couldn't stay stopped. I had tried exercise, praying, reading religious books, reading psychology books, changing my diet, getting more involved at church, going to grad school, doing various volunteer jobs, changing what I was drinking, you get the idea, but none of that resulted in me getting any real sobriety. What I was to find out from doing step four was that drinking wasn't my problem, it was the solution to my problem. My real problem was the bondage of self. I had an inflated ego and I was super sensitive because I was going to other people to get my self-worth. When they couldn't deliver the praise and thanks that I thought I deserved, I was angry with them. These were unrealistic expectations, one of my main character defects, but I couldn't see that that had anything to

do with my drinking until I took step four.

My drinking mostly took place by myself at home, I would sit in my study late at night drinking and thinking. The more I drank, the less I had to think, and that was the reason I drank. I didn't want to be around anyone else, especially later in my drinking career, because I thought everyone else were idiots and they had all let me down. When I wasn't drinking I was thinking about all the things I should have done to reach my unrealistic expectations and all the people that should have done what I expected them to, but they all had failed to meet my expectations. This made me miserable and drinking was a great escape from that misery, until it stopped working and I was as miserable when I was drunk as when I was sober, but I still didn't understand why I drank until I finally surrendered and went to AA.

I talked with someone who had been in AA a while and they asked me why I drank. I honestly didn't know the answer to that question, but I finally came out with something about how it made me feel. That was a lightbulb moment for me. I drank because I didn't like the way I felt! Wow! Apparently a lot of people know that about alcohol, but I had never stopped to do any introspection about my drinking, it was just a fun pastime for me, and one I didn't want to give up, so I just did it and didn't think much about it. But now I had to think about it, and that was harder to do than I thought it was going to be. That's why I needed the support of AA, especially my sponsor, to give me direction and help me walk through the steps.

My sponsor encouraged me to look at page 65 in the Big

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Book and do my inventory just like it was outlined, but that was way too simple for me. So I had to look up a bunch of different fourth step guides online until I was thoroughly confused enough to go back to my sponsor and ask him about it. He kept pointing me back to the Big Book, so I eventually started writing. He encouraged me to start with the first column and write down all the people I was angry at. I thought it wouldn't take very long, I thought I might have about nine people on my list. I started writing and it was like opening a vein. I wrote names down for nine pages. Then I had to write down what they had done in the next column. Almost every one of them for me was what they had failed to do for me. Later I was able to go over this list and see my character defects, that's when I realized how unrealistic my expectations were of everyone. Then I had to think about how it had affected me. The main ways these resentments had affected me was my pride (my inflated ego) and my fear. I didn't think of myself as being afraid of anything. I thought I was ready to die, that I didn't really

care what others thought, that I was financially secure, blah blah blah. In reality, I was terrified that others might find out what a failure and phony I was. I was afraid some of them already knew that and that's why they had given up on me. I was afraid that God was disappointed with me. I was scared of just about everything and that made me angry. I was so mad when I came into AA that I might have really hurt someone or myself if I didn't get some recovery, and I still could if I decided to go back to my old way of living.

Then I had to see where I was at fault. I think this was the hardest part of step four for me. I didn't want to admit I had anything to do with the neglect and abandonment I felt. Some of these weren't my fault, but I had also let those seeds of bitterness grow, and they had grown so big that they had taken over my life. Now I had to let that all go, and step five is how I was able to do that.

Michael D.

HOME GROWN



Birthdays

Happy Hour

Celebrating birthdays in March and April are: Angela C , Tim H, Lesley L., Bill H., Todd W, Byron T., Jill Z., Orie Jr., Raymond G., Trent B.and Corky. That's a total 65 years of sobriety for our Happy Hour friends!

If you want to see your homegroup's birthdays celebrated, please designate a group member to send in a list to post.editor@centralalaa.org. Please type them out as opposed to sending a picture. Thank you!

CELEBRATING AN AA BIRTHDAY?

AT YOUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING ASK YOUR G.S.R. OR GROUP SECRETARY TO SEND IN MEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO POST.EDITOR@CENTRALALAA.ORG

Have a burning desire to share your experience, strength and hope? Send your article to post.editor@centralalaa.org.



¿QUÉ ES A.A.?



Alcohólicos Anónimos es una comunidad internacional de hombres y mujeres que ha tenido un problema con la bebida. Es no profesional, automantenida, multiracial, no política y disponible en casi todo el mundo. No hay requisitos referentes a edad ni nivel de educación. Puede hacerse miembro cualquier persona que desee hacer algo para solucionar su problema con la bebida.

Desde su publicación en 1939, este texto básico ha ayudado a millones de hombres a recuperarse del alcoholismo.

Actualmente disponible en la Tercera Edición aprobada por la Conferencia de Servicios Generales, el Libro Grande contiene las historias de los cofundadores, y de muchos miembros de diversa procedencia que han encontrado la recuperación en la Comunidad mundial.

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Nuestra oficina Central, localizada en Montgomery, AL, tiene recursos en Español como literatura y folletos.

Abierto los Lunes de 10:00 - 2:00pm. 828 Forest Avenue, Suite A Montgomery, AL 36106 Tel: (334) 264-4122 <u>Intergroup@centralalaa.org</u> <u>https://www.aa.org</u> >> para mas informacion y recursos en Espanol

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce tiene una experiencia o historia para compartir acerca dela recuperación en las reuniones de Alcohólicos Anónimos por favor póngase en contacto conmigo Oni S., a través de Post.Editor@centralalaa.org.



DISTRICT 8 MINUTES | April 9, 2022

GROUPS PRESENT | Legacies, Strange Camels, Millbrook Primary Purpose, Living Sober, SOS, Thorsby Group and Happy Hour.

OPENING | WELCOME | *Sherry R.* | Meeting called to order at 9:31 a.m. and opened with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions were done.

READING OF THE TRADITION(S) & EXPLANATION OF THE CONCEPT(S)

David H. | read the long form of Tradition 4 Zyna C. | discussed Concept 4

READINGS SCHEDULED for May 7

David W. | will read the long form of Tradition 5

Ashley B. | will read and explain Concept 5

OFFICER REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT | OPEN | SECRETARY@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Becky not present. March 2022 Minutes were approved by District.

TREASURER'S REPORT | Blakey V. | TREASURER@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Blakey present and presented March 2022 report; report was approved.

QUARTERLY FINANCE Report | Ralph H. | Ralph not present. No report.

DCM | Sherry R. | DCM@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Sherry present. No report.

ALTERNATE DCM | Becky P. | ADCM@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Becky not present, but did attend Pre-Conference Area Assembly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROGRAM CHAIR | Oni R. | PROGRAM@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Oni present, no report.

ARCHIVES CHAIR | OPEN | ARCHIVES@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Open Position.

CORRECTIONS CHAIR | **Danielle H.** | **CORRECTIONS@CENTRALALAA.ORG** | Danielle present. Reported that more men are needed to take a meeting to Maxwell Federal Prison and Tutweiler would like for meetings to resume. The next committee meeting is Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 am at Legacies Group.

CPC CHAIR | OPEN | CPC@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Open Position.

GRAPEVINE CHAIR | Zyna C. | GRAPEVINE@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Zyna present; gave information on website and reported that there are now AA podcasts.

INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE | John I. | INTERGROUP@CENTRALALAA.ORG | John present. Reported that Central office is fully staffed and that the mail issue should be corrected. Please continue to include Suite A on all mailed correspondence. Next Intergroup meeting is May 7, 2022 at 8 via Zoom.

LITERATURE CHAIR | OPEN | LITERATURE@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Open Position.

PI COMMITTEE CHAIR | Debra G. | PI@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Debra not present, no report.

TREATMENT CHAIR | Dave H. | TREATMENT@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Dave present. Next meeting is April 23 at 10:30 at Legacies.

WEBSITE CHAIR | **Ismenie N.** | **WEBCHAIR@CENTRALALAA.ORG** | Ismenie present. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24 at 4 pm via Zoom-see link in Upcoming Events on district website. Email Ismenie with any upcoming events.

OTC CHAIR | Ashley B. | OTP@CENTRALALAA.ORG | Ashley present. No report.

GSR SHARING & ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: District Secretary, Archives, CPC and Literature open positions.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OPEN SHARING: The Tradition 3 Group is now meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the First Christian Church on Taylor Rd.

CLOSING | *Sherry R.* | There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT DISTRICT 8 MEETING: Saturday, May 7, 2022 @ 9:30 am *Hybrid* at Legacies Group and Virtual (via zoom).

NEXT AREA ASSEMBLY: Friday-Sunday, July 8-10, 2022.

24-HOUR HOTLINE: (334) 264-4122 **MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP** CENTRAL OFFICE AT: 828 FOREST AVENUE, SUITE A MONTGOMERY, AL 36106 TEL: (334) 264-4122 Intergroup@centralalaa.org

DISTRICT 8 DISTRICT 8 TREASURE P.O. BOX 6094 MONTGOMERY, AL 36106 ALABAMA / NW FLORIDA AREA 1

ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY ATTN: AREA 1 TREASURER, 2135 INTERSTATE DR. BOX 209, OPELIKA, AL 36801 AAarea1.org

WRITE YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE POST!

CONTACT THE EDITOR TO SUBMIT MATERIAL, MAKE SUGGESTIONS, AND JOIN THE EFFORT TO CARRY THE MESSAGE THROUGH THE POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT. SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS AND ARTICLES TO: Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

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Intergroup Minutes

April 9, 2022

Groups represented:

Strange Camels, Legacies, Happy Hour, Primary Purpose, PDG, Clanton, Thorsby

8:02 am Opened with Serenity Prayer

Introductions:

Traditions: Tradition 4 (long form) was read by JoAnn S

<u>Central Office Manager</u>: John I. We are fully staffed. All appears to be well with the mail. If you had a check returned please resend it and include Suite A in address. All issues with AT&T have been resolved.

Secretary Report: Carroll I- Accepted

Treasurer Report: Cushing P – Accepted. Contributions are down. MTD (\$543.74) YTD (\$716.70)

Board Report: Jo Ann S - The next meeting will be 4/24/22. 1:30 pm in-person at Legacies

<u>**The P.O.S.T.</u>**: Allison K. (Not Present) 1st post edition is out. March should be close behind. Still need writers for traditions and history. James A will be stepping down from doing the layout, and a replacement is needed. Please take these needs to your group as Allison needs help!!</u>

<u>24 hour Hotline</u>: Vicki S. All positons filled at this time. If you are willing to serve contact Vicky 334-324-7770

<u>Website Report</u>: *Position open.* Given by Ismenie. The Web Committee met on Sunday, March 27, 2022 and reviewed technology needs of AA members, and groups within the District. We also discussed plans to address those needs with resources already on hand. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 4:00 pm via Zoom. The link for this meeting will be listed under "Upcoming Events" on the website. You're invited to attend. Please email all your group announcements, "eating meetings" anniversaries, special events to: <u>Webchair@centralalaa.org</u>. We'll be happy to post them for you.

<u>12th Step List Committee</u>: *Position open.* Scotty G is updating our list. Tallassee meetings are closed, Tradition 3 reopened information on the website; Selma 2 AA groups are active, information on the website; We Stopped in Time open information on the website.

Anniversary Committee: *Position open* 78th Anniversary was successful and a lot of fun. Thank you Mary Joyce.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Group Announcements:

Primary Purpose – Speaker Meeting on Saturday PDG – Eat and Meet with Speaker on Saturday 4/16/22, 4:30

For The Good of Groups

Next Area Assembly

Date Friday-Sunday, July 8-10, 2022. Clarion Hotel and Suites, 1577 S. College St, Auburn, AL 36832.

The next Intergroup meeting will be 5/7/22. At 8 am on Zoom

Responsibility Declaration

The meeting closed at 8:44 am

Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office 828 Forest Avenue Montgomery, AL 36106