The Post

POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT

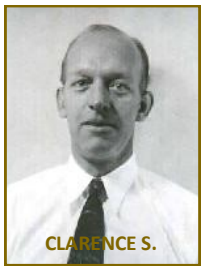
January 2016 **Volume 12 Issue 1**

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SEPARATES FROM THE OXFORD GROUP

By 1939 there were three cities with A. A. groups. They included Akron, Cleveland and New York. In 1937 the fledgling band of alcoholics that became Alcoholics Anonymous began the process of separating from the Oxford Group1 in New York, a process completed by the end of 1939 in both Akron and Cleveland as well. This occurred despite the fact that AA's steps 2-12 came almost exclusively from the principles of the Oxford Group.2 What caused the separation?

There are two primary reasons. The first is that alcoholics do not like to be told what to do or what to believe, along with the Oxford Group insistence on acceptance of the whole belief system.3 In addition, alcoholics did not accept the idea of "checking" or receiving guidance from several Oxford Group members at once. In A. A. parlance this became known as taking someone else's inventory.4 The second is that the Oxford Group movement refused to accept alcoholics as a separate class or sub-group, seeing alcoholism as a symptom of the world's problems rather than a distinctive problem. Oxford Group members also could not understand why alcoholics wanted to remain anonymous rather than promoting the spiritual change publicly, which violated what would later become Traditions 6, 11, and 12 in A. A. 5

This quickly created tension, as the "regular" Oxford Group members saw the alcoholic members as "not maximum," an Oxford Group term for those not really devoted to the Oxford Group mission. The separation process began when Oxford Group leaders ordered alcoholics staying at the Calvary Rescue Mission to not attend meetings in Bill W.'s home in April of 1937, since he was no longer "maximum" due to concentrating on alcoholics.6 By August of 1937 Bill and Lois and New York A. A.s quit attending Oxford Group meetings altogether, recognizing that A. A. had in fact established itself as a separate organization, and also recognizing that A. A. could bind itself to no person or organization, the principle behind Tradition 6.7


CLARENCE S.

Cleveland separated in May of 1939 because many alcoholics felt unwelcome at the Oxford Group meetings. In addition, the many Catholic A. A. members in Cleveland refused to have anything to do with the Oxford Group.8 This led the Cleveland alcoholics to start their own meeting, divorced from the Oxford Group. As Clarence S recalled the separation, "I made the mistake of telling the [Akron Oxford Group] people the address [for the new A. A. meeting.] They invaded the house [on May 11, 1939] and tried to break up our meeting. One fellow was going to whip me! All in the spirit of pure Christian love!"9

The "alcoholic squad" Oxford Group members in Akron separated in October of 1939 to form a specific A. A. Group. This coincided with the appearance of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* which did not mention the Oxford Group due to what would become Tradition 6, and also due to Frank Buchman's [the founder of the Oxford Group] appearance of supporting Adolf Hitler. In addition, the Oxford Group moved to large public meetings rather than the small group concept that had worked so well in earlier days. This finalized the split between A. A. and the Oxford Group due to practical, spiritual, and philosophical differences between A. A. and the Oxford Group.

Mike B., Prattville Downtown Group.

1 The Oxford Group, later known as Moral Rearmament, is discussed at length in several articles and book length narratives. Look at a short article by Karl Olsson, "Frank Buchman, the Oxford Group and the Four Absolutes: Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love,," which may be found at http://www.lumunos.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Faith@WorkII.pdf See C. Irving Benson, *The Eight Points of the Oxford Group*. London: Oxford University Press, 1938.
2 Bill W., "A Fragment of History: Origins of the Twelve Steps," *Grapevine* (July 1953), that may also be found in *The Language of the Heart*. See also *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, page 39, at the bottom of the page, for "the important thing is this: the early A. A. got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgment of character defects, restitution of harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Groups and directly from Sam Shoemaker, their former leader in America, and from nowhere else."
3 AAWS, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, 1980, page 157.
4 AAWS, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, 1980, page 157-8.
5 AAWS, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, 1980, page 158-9.
6 See *Bill W.: The Absorbing and Deeply Moving Story of Bill W., Co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous*, by Robert Thomsen, 1975, page 231. There are other sources as well, including Ernest Kurtz, *Not* God, 1979, and Mel B., *New Wine: The Spiritual Roots Of The Twelve Step Miracle*, 1991.
7 Bill W., *AA Comes of Age*, 74-75.
8 AAWS, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, 1980, page 163-164.
9 AAWS, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, 1980, page 164.

HOME GROWN

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Would you like to volunteer or contribute to The POST?
To get involved, contact us at
mgmicc.posteditor@gmail.com

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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montgomery.intergroup@yahoo.com

Contributions for print subscriptions are encouraged.

For email subscriptions contact:
ThePOSTSignUp@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



INTERGROUP MONTHLY MEETING
Saturday, February 6, 2016
7:45am @ Legacies

DISTRICT 8 MONTHLY MEETING
Saturday, February 6, 2016
9am @ Legacies

PREA TRAINING
Jan 24, 2016 1:15pm
Alabama State University, Montgomery , AL

DISTRICT 8 SERVICE FAIR
Saturday, February 6, 2016 Starting 10:30am
(following your District 8 Business meeting)
http://www.centralalaa.org/service-fair/

WEBSITE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 23, 2016 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Turenne PharMedCo Executive Conference Room
355 Industrial Park Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36117
http://www.centralalaa.org/website-committee

HUNTSVILLE ROUNDUP: BACK TO BASICS
February 5, 2016 – February 7, 2016
Holiday Inn Huntsville - Research Park
5903 University Drive
Huntsville, AL 35806
http://www.eventbrite.com/e/huntsville-roundup-2016-tickets-18505326931

32ND ANNUAL GULF SHORES JUBILEE
February 26, 2016 – February 28, 2016
Erie Meyer Civic Center
1930 West 2nd Street
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
http://www.gulfcoastjubilee.com/

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and the GSRs of District 8.
We welcome your assistance!
To get involved, contact us at
mgmicc.posteditor@gmail.com

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Your District 8 online!

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Your Area 1 online!

www.centralalaa.org/unity/intergroup/the-post/
Get The POST online!

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The following is a complete list of registered trademarks and service marks that symbolize Alcoholics Anonymous, its work and its purpose: A.A.; Alcoholics Anonymous; The Big Book; Box 4-5-9; The Grapevine; A.A. Grapevine; GV; Box 1980, LaVina.



December Birthdays

HomeGroup	D.O.S.	Year(s)
Chisholm		
Bill N.	12.27.82	33
Mark K.	12.13.91	24
Theresa G.	12.13.93	22
Michael C.	12.18.14	1
Millbrook Primary Purpose		
Sonny P.	12.4.14	1
Fellowship		
Brandon W	12/24/13	2
Buddy W	12/23/14	1
Ed J	12/23/88	27
Jeff W	12/18/07	8
Ken W	12/20/90	25
Libba H	12/21/13	2
Robert C	12/01/08	7
Rod L	12/27/14	1
Happy Hour		
Vicki B.	12.03.99	16
James B.	12.07.04	11
Brandon W.	12.23.13	2
Legacies		
John V.	12.03.11	4
Bill W.	12.12.79	36
Jason P.	12.29.14	1
Prattville		
Charles R	12.19.14	1
Josh L.	12.28.14	1
Tammy G.	12.05.10	5

Total years of sobriety: 231 years

Celebrating an AA Birthday?

At your next business meeting ask your GSR to send in their birthdays to

The Post

mgmicc.posteditor@gmail.com

STEP 1

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives had become unmanageable.

STEP REFLECTIONS



Powerless-Surrender - Following your Directions.....thoughts surrounding my experience with the first step. I swore off drinking many times prior to AA, and in AA is where I finally surrendered. My experience was coming to meetings, service work,taking the steps with a sponsor ,but not staying sober in between the meetings. I could not imagine getting through a day, or a morning without some form of alcohol. That terrified me. How do you go to the grocery store or take your kids to school, or have a conversation without it ?

I heard the solution shared daily while sitting in a meeting. I hung out with you between the meetings, but was dying inside. What would you think if I told you I was lying about my sobriety? How could I get up and get another silver chip in front of you? These are thoughts I battled with daily while sitting in the meeting. But one day was different, for whatever reason, when I cried out on my knees to this God that you had. I went out of town that same day to an AA convention with a crew of sober people. It was there I picked up another beginners chip and began this journey of recovery.

And a few 24 hours later it is still...Powerless-Surrender-Following your Directions -WE

Grateful,
Vicki B., Happy Hour Group

HOME GROWN

Get The POST in your email!

ThePOSTSignUp@gmail.com



MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A.® GROUP MEETINGS

Meeting Schedule: December 28, 2015

Montgomery Intergroup Central Office 24/7 Hotline 334-264-4122

Group/Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MONTGOMERY, AL							
12 Steps Group of AA Heritage Baptist Church, Rm 127 1849 Perry Hill Road		C-D-ST-BG 6p					
A Vision for You Group of AA Meadhaven Auditorium 2007 East South Blvd			O-D 7p				
Chapter 9 Group of AA CAP Auditorium 1153 Air Base Boulevard						O-D 1:30p	O-D 1:30p
Chisholm Group of AA 1409 Federal Drive	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 O-D-Sm 8p	O-D-Sm 6p	O-S 6p
Fellowship Group of AA Grace Church at Bell Road 5 Bell Road (Corner of Bell Rd & Atlanta Hwy)	C-L & BG * 6p	C-D-BG * 6p		C-D-BG * 6p	C-L & BG * 6p	O-S 6p	C-D * 2p C-D-W 6p
Happy Hour Group of AA 3466 Eastdale Circle (Between Indian Spice store and Fortis College)	C-D 6:30a 12p & 6p	C-D 6:30a &12p C-L 6p	C-D 6:30a C-L 12p C-D 6p	C-D 6:30a & 12p C-L 6p	C-D 6:30a 12p & 6pm O-S 8p 1st Friday	C-D 12p	C-D 12p O-D 6pm
The Legacies Group of AA 422 Coliseum Blvd Across from Eastbrook Flea Market	C-D 12p & 6p	C-D 12p	C-D 12p O-S 8p	C-D 12p	C-D 12p C-D-CL 8p		C-D 9a
Living Sober Group of AA Mental Health Building 1116 South Hull Street	C-D 6p		C-D 6p				
Sole Purpose Group of AA ***All Meetings are SMOKING*** 22 North California Street	C-D 8p	C-L 8p	C-D 8p	C-L 8p	C-D 8p	C-D 8p	C-D 8p
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. Luke's Drive Bradford Health Services building	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a		
We Stopped in Time Group of AA Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church (rear entrance, downstairs) 2810 Atlanta Highway	NEW!					O-D 8p YP	
AUTAUGAVILLE, AL							
Autaugaville Group of AA Church of Christ, 2408 Hwy 14 West				O-D 6p			O-D 6p
CLANTON, AL							
Clanton Group of AA Trinity Episcopal Church 503 2nd Ave. S, Clanton, Al 35045	O-D 7p			O-L 12p			
GREENVILLE, AL							
Camellia City Group of AA Greenville Housing Authority 601 Beeland St, 36037 334-437-2015 or 334-662-7129	C-D 7p			C-D * 7p			

Continued on reverse side.

http://www.centralalaa.org/recovery/aa-meeting-list/

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MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A. GROUP MEETINGS

Group/Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAPLESVILLE							
Maplesville Group of AA Highway 139, PO Box231, 36750					O-D 8p O-S 3rd Fri.		C-D 8p
MILLBROOK							
Primary Purpose Group of AA Church of the Nazarene, Fellowship Hall 3251 Browns Road		O-D 6p		O-D 6p			
Millbrook Serenity Group of AA 3420 Edgewood Rd (House to the left of the Church)		O-D 7p					
PRATTVILLE							
Autauga S.O.S. Group of AA St. Mark's Episcopal Church 178 East 4th Street	C-D 12p	C-D 12p		C-D 12p	C-D 12p	C-D-W 10a	
Prattville Downtown Group of AA 326 West 5th Street	O-S 6:30p	O-BG 6:30p	O-D 12p C-D 6:30p	C-D 6:30a C-L 6:30p	O-ST-S 6:30p	C-D 12p O-D-Cl 6:30p	O-D 12p C-ST 6:30p
SELMA							
5th Tradition Group of AA West End Baptist Church 504 Cahaba Rd 36701					C-D 6:00p		
Selma Group of AA Courthouse Alabama Avenue & Lauderdale Street	O-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	O-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	O-D 12:30p		O-D 6p
Selma Men's Group of AA St Paul's Episcopal Church 210 Lauderdale Street	C 6p		C 6p				
TALLASSEE							
Ray of Hope Group of AA 2872 Kent Road, Kent	O-L 7p		C-D 7p		O-D 7p		C-D 3p
12&12 Group of AA E. Tallassee United Methodist Church 101 Central Blvd, East Tallassee		O-ST * 7p					
UNION SPRINGS *All Meetings Smoking*							
Union Springs Group of AA Presbyterian Church (Office Building) 203 East Hardaway Street	O-D 7:30p				C-D 7:30p		
WETUMPKA							
Free World Group of AA Elmore Co. Extension Office, metal bldg Highway 14, Queen Ann Road							O-D 6p
Wetumpka Group of AA 103 West Tuskeena St.	C-D * 7p						

Legend

O = Open Meeting *(for anyone interested in the AA program)*

C = Closed Meeting *(attendance limited to those with a desire to stop drinking)*

D = Discussion — Sp = Speaker — L = Literature Study (BB, 12/12, or Other) — St = Step Study
Cl= Candlelight — W = Women's Meeting — LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgendered — BG = Beginners
Sm = Smoking — YP = Young People & Young at Heart — * = Al-Anon Meets Simultaneously — ** = Alateen Meets Simultaneously

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

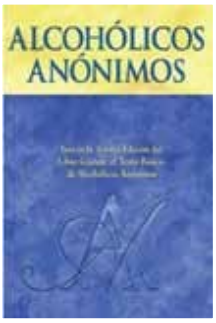
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¿QuéesA.A.?

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 y mujeres 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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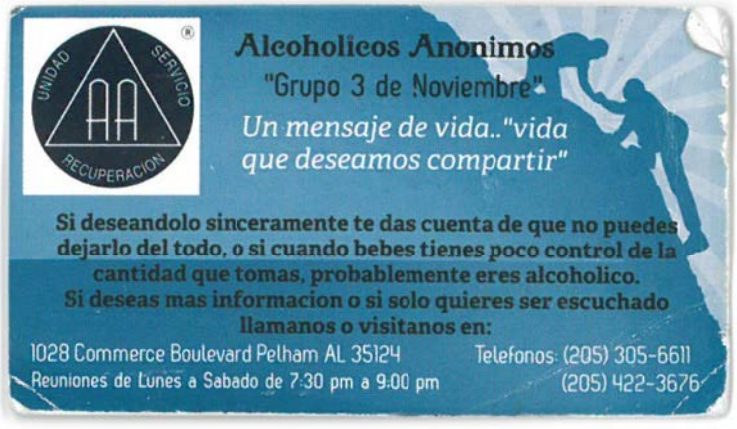
Nuestra oficina Central, localizada en Montgomery, AL, tiene recursos en Español como literatura y folletos. Abierto los Lunes de 10:00 - 2:00pm.

828 Forest Avenue, Suite A
Montgomery, AL 36106
Tel: (334) 264-4122
montgomery.intergroup@yahoo.com
http://www.aa.org

>> 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 mgmicc.posteditor@gmail.com.



DISTRICT 8 MINUTES GLOSSARY

These are the acronyms used in the District Minutes

PDG:	Prattville Downtown Group
CPC:	Cooperation with the Professional Community
OTP:	Old Timers Picnic
DCM:	District Committee Member
PREA:	Prison Rape Elimination Act
D8:	District 8
GSR:	Group Service Representative
GVR:	Grapevine Representative
PI:	Public Information
POST:	Power of Sober Thought
CRO:	Court Referral Officer
VBS:	Vacation Bible School
CAPS:	Chemical Addictions Program (It is actually CAP but it is verbalized often as CAPS)



Comin' to (or already at) your home group!

The District 8 Literature and Grapevine Committee is exited to announce the used AA Literature/Grapevine Collection Drive. *Please place all of your old and/or unused conference approved AA material into these boxes for donation to you district.*

An Alcoholic you may never meet is already thanking you!

TRADITION ONE

Our common welfare comes first, personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

I thought the newcomer was the most important person in AA?

The traditions are to the group as the steps are to the individual. We are speaking of AA groups which may or may not include meetings as one of its services. A group functions the best when it is unified and focused on a single set of objectives for all its members.

In AA there are no big I's and little We's. Each member is an important and equal part of the group / whole.

What about Meetings? Groups are responsible for making sure the hand of AA is there when someone reaches out for it. Meetings are a place where people interested in an alcoholic free way of life many come to learn, meet like minded people and if the meeting allows it ask questions.

Besides meetings a group may facilitate a telephone hotline, visits to hospital, institution and facilities, cooperation with professionals including the judicial system, and support of other AA groups and service structures.

This tradition mentions the group (our common welfare) and personal recovery. What about the principals also called the program of recovery? AA groups came about as a result of the publication of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and Clarence Snyder who started the first AA group. Dr Bob focused on individual religious instruction and Bill W on making the movement visible. The first AA group used the book as its foundation and provided a way for any alcoholic who sought it to find away to sobriety. The program of recovery is the foundation of AA and not a component of it.

It is suggested that every AA member have a home group because we can do together what we could not do ourseleves.

Av F.

HOME GROWN

THE CONCEPTS *(THE WHAT?)*

We often hear of our three legacies of "Recovery, Unity and Service" which remind us that our Fellowship is based on 36 fundamental principles – 12 Steps for our Legacy of Recovery, 12 Traditions for our Legacy of Unity and 12 Concepts for our Legacy of Service. These three legacies led to the creation of our historic symbol of the triangle within the circle. This inspirational symbol was first unveiled at the 20th International Convention and was flying above the stage at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis in 1955.

CONCEPT ONE: The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

A.A. world services are those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole, e.g., the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, aiding new groups, sharing group experience, a monthly magazine, and translations of our literature into other languages.

These services were at first performed by a service office under the direction of a General Services Board which looked to the co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob for policy leadership. But Bill wondered, "When we are gone, who would advise the trustees?" Bill asserted that the principles of Tradition Two are clear, "The A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only." Thus, this Concept I is rooted in Tradition Two. The groups assumed the responsibility for world services at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955.

Refer to "The A.A. Service Manual" for a complete explanation of the Twelve Concepts.

Ralph D., Prattville Downtown Group

HOME GROWN





Saturday, February 6, 2016 Starting 10:30am

(following your District 8 Business meeting)

Come and learn about the different committees serving the groups of District 8:

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee

Corrections Committee

District 8 Website Committee

Grapevine Committee

Literature Committee

Archives Committee

Old-Timer's Picnic Committee

Program Committee

Public Information (PI) Committee

Treatment Facilities Committee

Intergroup (to include Phone Hotline and The POST)



For information contact Myles W