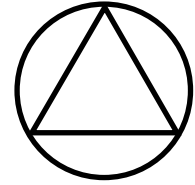


# The Post

## POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT

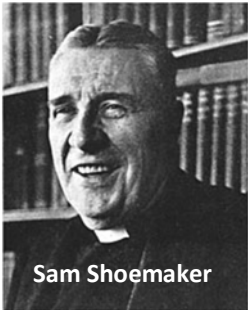


May/June 2018

Volume 14 Issue 5/6

### HISTORY FEATURE - MAY

SAM SHOEMAKER



Sam Shoemaker

It is an odd numbered month so to continue the trend the following article will focus on another non-alcoholics who helped AA in its early years. This month we will focus

Sam Shoemaker. Sam Shoemaker was an Episcopal priest who was for a time the leader of the Oxford Group in America. It was at his church where Bill attend the Oxford Group until the "drunks" started their own meetings. Shoemaker's involvement with early AA was described by Bill as one of the many channels used by Providence to create Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill also stated he had "absorbed most of the principles that were embodied afterward in the Twelve Steps" from Sam Shoemaker and his Oxford Group. So how did Sam Shoemaker come to know and influence them? Let's take a look.

Sam Shoemaker was born in 1892 in Baltimore, Maryland to a wealthy dairy farm family. At 14 Sam was sent to an Episcopal boarding school in Rhode Island. It was there he first became introduced to missionary work. Sam graduated boarding school in 1912 and enrolled in Princeton. There his passion for missionary work continued to grow along with the new interest of personal evangelism. With the blessing of the bishop of Maryland, Sam Shoemaker went to China to start a branch of the YMCA and teach business courses. While in China (1918) Sam Shoemaker had chance meeting with the founder of the Oxford Group, Frank Buchman. Buchman advised Sam to look inside himself and to talk about his personal experiences when talking to others about religion. Buchman also introduced Sam to the 4 absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. Shoemaker quickly realized his

inadequacies in each of the four absolutes and decided to let God guide his life. Sam believed in the Oxford Group and became a member.

On his return from China, Sam was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal church and returned to Princeton for about one school year. The next year Sam entered Seminary school in New York to complete his journey to priesthood. After his graduation and ordination, Sam set off with Buchman and two other men to explore the meaning of Christian discipleship in missions and hospitals throughout Europe and the Middle East. It was during these travels Sam was called back to New York to become the rector of Calvary Church. Following a two-year trial period, he became the official rector. For the next eleven years he managed to combine the interest of the Church with the life style and program of the Oxford Group. It was during this time Rowland Hazard returned from Europe with ideas given to him by Carl Jung. He found the Oxford Group and then Ebby T. Ebby then introduced Bill to the Oxford Group and the meetings at Calvary Church.

It was at Calvary Church Bill listen to Sam Shoemaker speak. Sam practiced the idea of sharing personal experiences and talking of his own "sins" when talking to members. This idea captivated Bill. The keys to open the alcoholic prison described to Bill by Dr. Silkworth were being out laid out before him at these meetings. These early meetings grew Bill's hope. Bill believed Sam Shoemaker's path crossing with his was not a coincidence; Providence intervened.

Bill states in A.A. Comes of Age "the early A.A. got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgement



Calvary Church

Shoemaker speak. Sam practiced the idea of sharing personal experiences and talking

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### CONTACT US

Montgomery Area  
Intergroup Central Office  
**Office Hours:**  
Monday 10 A.M.–2 P.M.  
828 Forest Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
**24/7 Answering Service**  
(334) 264-4122

### E-MAIL ADDRESS

[Intergroup@centralalaa.org](mailto:Intergroup@centralalaa.org)

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*Continued on page 6*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



### INTERGROUP MONTHLY MEETING

**SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2018**

8:00AM @ LEGACIES GROUP

3412 ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

### DISTRICT 8 MONTHLY MEETING

**SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2018**

9.30AM @ LEGACIES (**NEW TIME**)

3412 ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

### ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

**JULY 13-15, 2018**

MORE INFO ON AREA 1 WEBSITE

[HTTP://WWW.AAAREA1.ORG/](http://www.aaarea1.org/)

CLARION INN & SUITES HOTEL

1577 S. COLLEGE STREET, AUBURN, AL 36830

### DAILY REFLECTIONS GROUP MEETING CHANGES

ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED WHILE THE GROUP SEARCHES FOR A NEW MEETING PLACE

### **MORE EVENTS & INFO:**

[HTTP://WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG/UNITY/UPCOMING-EVENTS/](http://www.centralalaa.org/unity/upcoming-events/)

### **PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

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[Intergroup@centralalaa.org](mailto:Intergroup@centralalaa.org)

Post Editor

[Post.Editor@centralalaa.org](mailto:Post.Editor@centralalaa.org)

Post Subscription Requests or Questions

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Editor/Coordinator—Oni S..

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Steps—Joni G.

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The Traditions—Vicki S.

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Your District 8 online

[www.aaarea1.org](http://www.aaarea1.org)

Your Area 1 online

[www.centralalaa.org/unity/intergroup/literature/](http://www.centralalaa.org/unity/intergroup/literature/)

Literature at Central Office

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of character defects, restitution for 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". Sam and Bill had a long and close friendship until Sam's death in 1963. Sam Shoemaker's journey allowed him to be in a position of service. He is an example of non-alcoholics striving to be a spiritual tool for the God they serve. Many lives have been

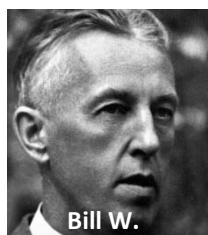
saved and much suffering has been avoided simply by him being willing to sacrifice his will for his God's will. A fine example of spirituality whether alcoholic or not.

*Trei J., Strange Camels Group*



**HISTORY FEATURE - JUNE**

**BILL & DR. BOB**



Bill W.

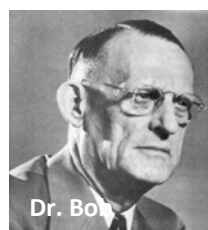
Since we celebrating 83 years this month the article should focus on our first meeting. Most have heard how our fellowship grew from two men meeting in Akron, Ohio in May 1935. One man did not want to start drinking again and one wanted to stop drinking but could not. They meet, they talked for a few hours and then they left. Upon leaving neither had an

idea that over 80 years later their little talk would have been a launching point for a world-wide fellowship. A fellowship in which its roots still believes in one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic as equals.

Bill sobered in late 1934. In early 1935 he began working with other alcoholics from the Oxford Group. His message at that time was focused on his sudden spiritual experience he had will under Dr. Silkworth's care. This strong-arm method was not sobering up any of his fellow group members. Dr. Silkworth advised Bill to stop with his evangelistic approach. Silkworth knew us well. He explained the ego of the alcoholic is strong and it needed to be broken. His suggestion was to explain how the alcoholic had an obsession that condemned them to drink and an allergy that condemned them to insanity or death. After the state of hopelessness was accepted, then the spiritual solution could be accepted.



Dr. Silkworth



Dr. Bob

In Akron, Bob was still drinking. According to Dr Bob and the Good Old-Timers, it was in early 1935 that Henrietta Sieberling organized a Wednesday night Oxford Group meeting in T Henry William's house. The meeting was started with the purpose of helping Dr Bob. Dr. Bob had tried repeatedly to stop drinking using the Oxford Group in addition to other

methods. He could not put it down. He believed he could benefit from this Group and their spiritual teachings. They always seemed to have something he did not have. In his story Dr. Bob stated he "gave the matter much time and study for the next two and half years, but still got tight every night...". Ann also became interested in the Oxford Group and its teaching. Dr. Bob credits her interest that keep his interest alive.

In April 1935 Bill returned to Wall Street and was sent to Akron in May to mediate a proxy fight for the National Rubber Machinery

Co. As Bill seemed to do he built his opportunity up as a great come back to his former life. He had invested a lot of his energy and emotions into this fight. When his dreams were quickly lost to say Bill was discourage is an understatement. He heard the excitement and clatter of the bar in the Mayflower and was tempted to enter. He did not go in but had another thought. The thought of I need another alcoholic, not only for me to help but for them to help me. He telephoned clergy men until he found a potential prospect. Well, technically he found Rev. Tunks who found Norman Sheppard who then referred him to Henrietta Sieberling. Bill introduced himself to her as an Oxford Group member and "rum hound". She met with Bill at her gatehouse with the hope he could talk to Dr. Bob.

When Bill first contacted Henrietta, she tried to set a meeting up that day with Dr. Bob. Henrietta called Dr. Bob's house but he was not interested to talk to anyone for he had come home drunk, went up stairs and passed out. Henrietta rang him again the next day. Bob was hung over and did not want to go but he did not want to be rude so he agreed to meet with this man.



Henrietta Sieberling

He had Ann agree that they would meet for only fifteen minutes. Bob and Ann arrived at 5:00; they did not leave until 11:15 that night. Bill tried Dr. Silkworth's suggestion and focused on the physical and mental aspect of our illness. Bob knew Bill was talking from experience. No judgement, no preaching. He knew Bill understood what it felt like to not want to drink but could not stop. Bob opened up and fifteen minutes became six hours of the war stories and how to stop drinking.

For the three weeks Bill and Bob worked with alcoholics and went to Oxford Group meetings. During this time Ann requested Bill moved in with Dr Bob and her. Like most of do, Dr. Bob came up with a plan. He decided his presence was required at a medical convention in Atlantic City. Bill and Ann were unsure of this idea and their misgivings were proved correct. Dr. Bob began drinking on the train ride to New Jersey and continued to drink almost the entire time there. He managed to make it to a friend's home near Akron. Ann was notified about Bob and sent Bill to fetch him. This was Bob's last drunken binge.

On June 10, 1935 Bill gave Bob his last drink to "steady him" prior to surgery. Our fellowship celebrates this date as the day it began. For these two men their fellowship was created about a month earlier. Bill not wanting to drink again; Bob desperately wanting to stop. Every time I read or think of how Bill and Bob



**STEP FIVE**

**ADMITTED TO GOD, TO OURSELVES, AND TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR WRONGS**

In the 4th step, I attempted, to the best of my ability, to take an objective look at myself and recognize my character defects. When that was finished, it was time to do something about them. Our literature stresses how important Step 5 is for long-term sobriety and peace of mind. The Big Book says if we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. The book also emphasizes how important it is that we talk to the right person. For various reasons, I didn't want to confide my 5th step to my sponsor at that time so looked for someone else to hear my story. I was told if a suitable person wasn't available, the step could be postponed as long as I wasn't using it as an excuse to delay or avoid. I needed to be entirely honest if I was to continue on this road of recovery, so it was vital to trust this individual implicitly. I didn't want to leave anything out, especially those deep dark secrets I had never told another soul and kept me isolated from my fellows. Initially, I had some dumb ideas of who should hear my 5th step but eventually asked another woman in the program (who became my sponsor) with long-term sobriety if she would hear all about my defects of character. I had an understanding from the 4th step on what the trouble had been (me) and understood the importance of this

step. She was someone I felt comfortable with and trusted.

It was difficult at first letting someone see the entire truth as I had this image I had always tried to portray. She understood what I was doing though and could not have been more kind, gracious, helpful, and understanding. What I thought would be a short 30-minute talk turned into many hours with lots of coffee! When we were finished, I felt a tremendous sense of relief, most likely because I had finally done it! But actually, relief that I could finally stop living alone with my problems and share what had been in my head and heart for so long without any judgment or condemnation. That terrible sense of isolation started to dissipate. I followed the instructions in the Big Book to return home and review what I had done. I didn't leave anything out except what I hadn't yet recalled. It was at that time in my sobriety that I truly began to feel more a part of AA and closer to God and my fellow man. The fifth step wasn't as hard as I feared -- imagine that.

Joni G., Prattville Downtown Group



<http://www.centralAA.org/recovery/twelve-steps/>

**TRADITION FIVE**

**EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE —TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS**

Long form- *Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose-that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

- Our purpose is to pass on the message of sobriety.
- The only way to keep this gift from God is to constantly give it away.

Singleness of purpose, sobriety, is the foundation of all the traditions. When I know my purpose, my focus becomes clear. I can carry the message of hope at any stage of recovery. Two challenges that can prevent me from passing the Light is my ego

and fear. I must rely on God for the removal of those road blocks. The principle is unnatural to me at first. It has been my nature to only do for you if I receive in return.

"And he will know that his own life has been made richer, as an extra dividend of giving to another without any demand in return."—*As Bill Sees It*, p 69

You gave me the best gift with no strings attached, that was the cure for my terminal uniqueness. It is my privilege to pass that along to the next suffering alcoholic.

Vicki S., The Legacies Group



<http://www.centralAA.org/unity/the-twelve-traditions/>

**The Daily Reflections Group:  
All Meetings Are Cancelled  
While the Group Seeks A  
New Meeting Facility**

**REMINDER OF DISTRICT 8'S TWO WOMEN'S MEETINGS**

**FELLOWSHIP GROUP**  
Sundays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Grace Church at Bell Road  
5 Bell Road, Montgomery, AL 36117  
<http://www.centralAA.org/fellowship-group/>

**AUTAUGA S.O.S. GROUP**  
Saturdays 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
178 East 4th Street, Prattville, AL 36067  
<http://www.centralAA.org/autauga-sos-group/>

**ALSO, GET THE LATEST MEETING SCHEDULE AT [WWW.CENTRALAA.ORG](http://WWW.CENTRALAA.ORG)**

## THE NEXT ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY JULY 13-15, 2018

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AUBURN, AL 36830

### IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY SO GRATEFUL

My name is Adam and I'm an alcoholic. I never thought I'd be grateful to say that. I never thought I'd get to enjoy life at all, much less sober at 22. What I can tell you though is that my life is so great today, thanks to a Higher Power and the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I was growing up in Lowndesboro, Alabama, my parents did everything to give me a normal life. I grew up with two older brothers who drank like I did, and they seemed to always be getting in trouble. From an early age I knew what drugs and alcohol did to people and I knew I was never going to let it happen to me. Sometime around 12 years old though something changed, I think I needed relief from the way I felt. I really think I was alcoholic my whole life. I had a lot of friends and was always playing sports and had stuff going on, but nothing ever seemed good enough. I never felt like I met the expectations of others, and my life seemed to be missing something. It was only a matter of time before I found that relief from alcohol. From the time I was 14 all I could think about was drinking or doing something else to make me feel better. I was always waiting on the weekend so I could hopefully black out.

By the time I was a senior in high school I was drinking every weekend and most weekdays. I'd go to school hungover and think it was normal. I was using substances other than alcohol whenever I could. I just knew as soon as I got out of Lowndes County everything would be alright. When I graduated and moved to Auburn things really took off. I had arrived. I was in a fraternity so everyone around me was drinking like I was, the only difference being that somehow they could put it down and study. I was drinking instead of going to class daily. I didn't know why but I just couldn't show up for anything. My friends were all very concerned, I just thought they were lame or didn't know how to have a good time like me. In hindsight I can see clearly that I had an obsession that I couldn't beat.

Alcohol and other things consumed every thought I had. I so vividly remember the cycle of that awful feeling--waking up and immediately stressing about where and how I was gonna get what I needed. My friends were all having fun, but my life was a miserable wreck. They didn't want to be around me, and that's when I began to isolate myself. I thought that one day I'd be able to "figure it all out", but each day I would say to myself "alright, it's gonna be different this time." But that never came. Finally I accepted the fact that this was just how life was for me.

I hope I never forget how hopeless I was. I had gotten to such a dark place mentally that suicide seemed like the best idea. I spent a lot of time in therapists and doctor's offices looking for answers. I would never get completely honest with them, so they continuously wrote me prescriptions that I thought were my solution. I love when Bill W. writes in his story about the "combination that soon landed him on the rocks" because that was exactly my experience.

"How did I get here?" is the question I'd often ask myself. I don't know how or why but one day I had just had enough and I was willing to try something different. I ended up asking for help and went up to Warrior for a little while. When I got out of treatment on my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, I was absolutely sure that my life was over. I thought I would never have fun or enjoy life again. Not that I was having much fun anymore anyways, but still, the idea of getting sober this young sounded so horrible. Luckily, it has not been horrible at all.

After a few relapses from trying to figure it out myself, I surrendered to the program. I kept coming back, I got a sponsor, and I did whatever was suggested, even if I didn't really want to. My sponsor took me through the book and we did the work. I was told to trust God, clean house, and help others so I did. Slowly, I started to feel better. I got involved in service work (it's the secret). I got a job and started being a family member again. For the first time in my life I felt like I was useful to other people.

Today, the obsession to drink has been removed from me. It isn't a solution for me anymore. I get to work full time job and I'm finishing school. I get to be a family member, a sponsor, a productive citizen of society. All of this was only possible through working the 12 steps. I have more fun now than I've ever had in my life. I get to travel and go to concerts and do all kinds of things I didn't think I could anymore. My relationships are so much better than they have ever been. This is only scratching the surface of what my life is like now. I'm so grateful for what Alcoholics Anonymous has given me.

Adam C., WSIT (We Stopped In Time)

HOME  
GROWN

*continued from page 8*

found one another I get goose bumps. I know without a doubt Bill and Bob were alcoholics of my type. The attraction of the bar in the hotel must have been overwhelming for Bill. He received a miracle when he made those phone calls. Bob's miracle was the willingness to listen the next day, if only for fifteen minutes. I do not believe people in A.A are miracles but I do believe we receive them. I believe this program is a miracle and it was given to us by God. God gave me a solution. All I have to do is

be willing to pick the tools and put them in to action by being willing to share my experience, strength and hope with someone who is willing to listen.

*Trei J., Strange Camels Group*

HOME  
GROWN

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## April Birthdays

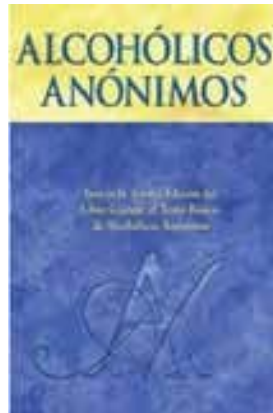
<b>FELLOWSHIP GROUP</b>		
IRENE K	04/24/81	27 YRS
RAYMOND G	04/08/08	10 YRS
TRACY A	04/26/15	3 YRS
WADE P	04/10/12	6 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46 YRS</b>
<b>PRATTVILLE DOWNTOWN GROUP</b>		
CRAIG H	4/3/2016	2 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 YRS</b>
<b>LEGACIES GROUP</b>		
SHERRY R	4/1/05	13 YRS
BONNIE C	4/10/15	3 YRS
VICKI S	4/4/13	5 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21 YRS</b>
<b>WE STOPPED IN TIME GROUP</b>		
CUSHING P	4/7/1988	30 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30 YRS</b>
	<b>TOTAL FOR APRIL 99 YEARS!</b>	

## May Birthdays

<b>HAPPY HOUR GROUP</b>		
CALLIE	5/16/2017	1 YEAR
ED A	5/1/2017	2 YRS
<b>PRATTVILLE DOWNTOWN GROUP</b>		
PAUL D	5/1/1994	24 YRS
JEAN M	5/6/1992	26 YRS
ELEANOR S	5/30/1979	39 YRS
SANDY A	5/8/2007	11 YRS
SCOTTIE	5/9/2012	6 YRS
RALPH H	5/15/1996	22 YRS
MIKE O	5/14/2012	6 YRS
JIM J	MEMORIAL DAY 2007	11 YRS
ONI S	5/29/2013	5 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 YRS</b>
<b>LEGACIES GROUP</b>		
LISA H.	5/13/15	3 YRS
ALISON J	5/19/06	12 YRS
AMANDA B	5/19/91	27 YRS
JOE M	5/2/10	8 YRS
JODY M	5/24/04	14 YRS
JASON B	5/28/05	13 YRS
STEVEN S	5/4/06	12 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89 YRS</b>
<b>FELLOWSHIP GROUP</b>		
ANDREA S	5/18/2015	3 YRS
BILL AB	05/01/82	36 YRS
BROOKE B	05/07/17	1 YR
CHRIS L	05/17/17	1 YR
ED B	05/15/94	24 YRS
FAY OC	05/30/86	32 YRS
JASON J	05/13/15	3 YRS
JOHN W	05/14/13	5 YRS
LAURA D	05/15/17	1 YR
TRISH B	05/05/17	1YR
RAY H	05/14/07	11 YRS
TOM C	05/24/11	7 YRS
MICHAEL P	05/12/05	13 YRS
DAVID S	05/21/10	8 YRS
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146 YRS</b>
	<b>TOTAL FOR MAY 385 YEARS!</b>	

CELEBRATING AN A.A. BIRTHDAY? AT YOUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING ASK YOUR G.S.R. OR GROUP SECRETARY TO SEND IN MEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO THE POST. [Post.Editor@centralalaa.org](mailto:Post.Editor@centralalaa.org)

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Alcohólicos Anónimos es una comunidad internacional de hombres y mujeres que ha tenido un problema con la bebida. Es no profesional, automantenida, multirracial, 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.

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Tel: (334) 264-4122

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<http://www.AA.org>

>> para mas informacion y recursos en Espanol

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



## MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A.® GROUP MEETINGS

Updated: April 21, 2018

Group / Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>MONTGOMERY</b>							
<b>12 Steps Group of AA</b> Heritage Baptist Church 1849 Perry Hill Road, 36106 (Meeting in Room 127)		C-D-ST-BG 6p					
<b>A Vision for You Group of AA</b> Baptist Health Training Entrance 2010 Normandie Dr., 36111			O-D 7p				
<b>Chapter 9 Group of AA</b> CAP Auditorium 1153 Air Base Blvd., 36108						O-D 1:30p	O-D 1:30p
<b>Chisholm Group of AA</b> 1409 Federal Drive, 36107	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-S 6p
<b>Fellowship Group of AA</b> Grace Church at Bell Road 5 Bell Road, 36117 (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
<b>Happy Hour Group of AA</b> 3466 Eastdale Circle, 36117 (Next to Fortis College)	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p C-D - 6p	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p C-L - 6p	C-D - 6:30a C-L - 12p C-D - 6p	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p O-BG - 6p	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p C-D - 6pm O-S - 7p (1st Friday)	C-D 12p	C-D - 12p O-D - 6pm
<b>The Legacies Group of AA</b> 3412 Atlanta Highway, 36109 (Enter off Forest Hills Drive)	C-D - 12p C-D - 6p	C-L 12p	C-D - 12p O-S - 8p	C-D 12p	C-D - 12p C-D-CL - 8p		C-D 9a
<b>Living Sober Group of AA</b> Mental Health America 1116 South Hull Street, 36104	C-D 6p		C-D 6p				
<b>Sole Purpose Group of AA</b> 22 North California Street, 36107	C-D 7:30p			C-L 7:30p			C-D 7:30p
<b>Strange Camels Group of AA</b> Immanuel Presbyterian Church 8790 Vaughn Road, 36117	C-L 7p	C-D 7p		C-D 7p			
<b>Tradition Three Group of AA</b> Bradford Health Services 386 St. Luke's Drive, 36117	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a		
<b>We Stopped in Time Group of AA</b> Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2810 Atlanta Highway, 36109 (Enter at back off Dunn Drive)		O-D-YP 8p				O-D-YP 8p	
<b>CLANTON</b>							
<b>Clanton Group of A.A.</b> Trinity Episcopal Church 503 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. S, 35045	O-D 7p			O-L 12p		O-D 7p	
<b>GREENVILLE</b>							
<b>Camellia City Group of AA</b> Greenville Housing Authority 601 Beeland St, 36037 334-437-2015 or 334-662-7129	C-D 7p			C-D * 7p			
<b>HOPE HULL</b>							
<b>County Hope Group of AA</b> Hope Hull United Methodist Church 305 Wasden Road, 36043 (Silver trailer behind church)		O-D 6p					
<b>MAPLESVILLE</b>							
<b>Maplesville Group of AA</b> Highway 139, PO Box 231, 36750					O-D 8p O-S 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri.		C-D 8p

<http://www.centralAA.org/recovery/AA-meeting-list/>

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

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Group / Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>MILLBROOK</b>							
<b>Primary Purpose Group of AA</b> Church of the Nazarene 3251 Browns Road, 36054 (In the Fellowship Hall)		O-D 6p		C-D 6p			
<b>PRATTVILLE</b>							
<b>Autauga S.O.S. Group of AA</b> St. Mark's Episcopal Church 178 East 4th Street, 36067	O-L 12p	C-D 12p		C-D 12p	C-D 12p	C-D-W 10a	
<b>Daily Reflections Group of AA</b> Prattmont Baptist Church 814 Smith Avenue, 36067		O-D 8p		C-D 8p	O-D-YP 8p	O-S 8p	
<b>Prattville Downtown Group of AA</b> 326 West 5th Street, 36067	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-CI - 6:30p	O-D - 12p C-ST - 6:30p
<b>SELMA</b>							
<b>5th Tradition Group of AA</b> West End Baptist Church 504 Cahaba Rd., 36701					C-D 6:00p		
<b>Selma Group of AA</b> Dallas County Courthouse 105 Lauderdale Street, 36701	O-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	O-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	O-D 12:30p		O-D 6p
<b>Braveheart Group of AA</b> St Paul's Episcopal Church 210 Lauderdale Street, 36701	C-D 6p		C-D 6p				
<b>TALLASSEE</b>							
<b>Ray of Hope Group of AA</b> Kent Community Center 2872 Kent Road, Kent, AL 36078	O-L 7p		C-D 7p		O-D 7p		C-D 3p
<b>12&amp;12 Group of AA</b> E. Tallassee United Methodist Church 101 Central Blvd, Tallassee 36078		O-ST * 7p					
<b>UNION SPRINGS</b>							
<b>An A.A. Group</b> Bradford Health Services 102 Conecuh Ave, West, 36089 (In Bullock County Hospital)	O-D 7p		O-D 7p				
<b>WETUMPKA</b>							
<b>Free World Group of AA</b> Elmore County Extension Office 340 Queen Anne Road, 36092 (Metal Outbuilding)							C-D 7:30p
<b>Wetumpka Group of AA</b> 103 West Tuskeena St., 36092	C-D * 7p						O-D 6p

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.

LEGEND			
O = Open Meeting Anyone interested in the A.A. program may attend.		C = Closed Meeting Limited to those with a drinking problem and a desire to stop drinking	
D = Discussion Meeting	Sp = Speaker Meeting	L = Literature Study (BB, 12/12, etc.)	St = Step Study
Cl = Candlelight Meeting	W = Women's Meeting	LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgendered	BG = Beginners Meeting
Sm = Smoking Permitted	YP = Young People & Young at Heart	* = Al-Anon Meets Simultaneously	** = Alateen Meets Simultaneously

Montgomery Intergroup Central Office  
828 Forest Avenue, Suite A, Montgomery, AL 36106  
Open Mondays from 10 am until 2 pm.

<http://www.centralAA.org/recovery/AA-meeting-list/>

**CONCEPT V**

**THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD SERVICE STRUCTURE, A TRADITIONAL "RIGHT OF APPEAL" OUGHT TO PREVAIL, THUS ASSURING US THAT MINORITY OPINION WILL BE HEARD AND THAT PETITIONS FOR THE REDRESS OF PERSONAL GRIEVANCES WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.**

My experience with concept V has taken shape in recent history. At the beginning of the year the Young Peoples in A.A. won the bid to host the next ALCYPAA event in Montgomery, AL. While the group was very excited, we knew that there was work to be done and that we would have to call on the experience of others to help accomplish it. We began by holding a meeting to elect members to service committees. After our service committees were in place we held meetings and the group conscious voted on the various matters that would affect the conference as a whole. It was often that our votes were not unanimous. In those instances the "minority opinion" was allowed to state the reason they felt the vote should have gone in another direction. This was the "Right of Appeal".

Once we commenced to elect trusted servants to committees I wasn't sure quite what to expect. We were given guidance from an elder statesman on how to proceed. We nominated trusted servants and drew their names from a hat of which a two-thirds majority vote made the decision. This format is known as the

Third Legacy Procedure. The entire process took several hours. Though emotions ran high as the night drew on it was amazing to see how important it was to the host committee that the elections be taken seriously.

After our committees were in place we set forth to plan our convention. In each committee there have been some decisions to vote upon. Most recently we voted on the theme of the convention. The planning committee came up with three themes to be discussed and voted on by the host committee. After the vote had been cast the chairperson asked if the minority vote would like a chance to speak thereby offering the "Right of Appeal". We do this because the minority opinion is recognized as a vital tool in keeping a well informed majority in A.A. Without the option to hear the minority opinion we run the risk of letting the group be run by "the tyranny of the majority".

This is just my experience that's helped me understand Concept V and how it plays a vital role in keeping A.A. as a whole unified and informed.

Travis M., WSIT (We Stopped In Time)

<http://www.centralAA.org/service/twelve-concepts/>



**HELP WANTED ... GOOD HOURS ... GREATER BENEFITS**

**Montgomery Intergroup Central Office has an opening for a Monday volunteer.**

*One year sobriety and hotline experience preferred. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. one (1) Monday per month.*

**Responsibilities** include but are not limited to; answering calls from members, potential members, family members and referral sources. Individual and group sales of AA literature, updating meeting lists and assisting with 24hr hotline list, etc.

**Benefits:** *Surrounded by great literature and happy customers, helping the newcomer, being of service.*

**If interested contact Jo Ann Sterling via text (334)202-5657**

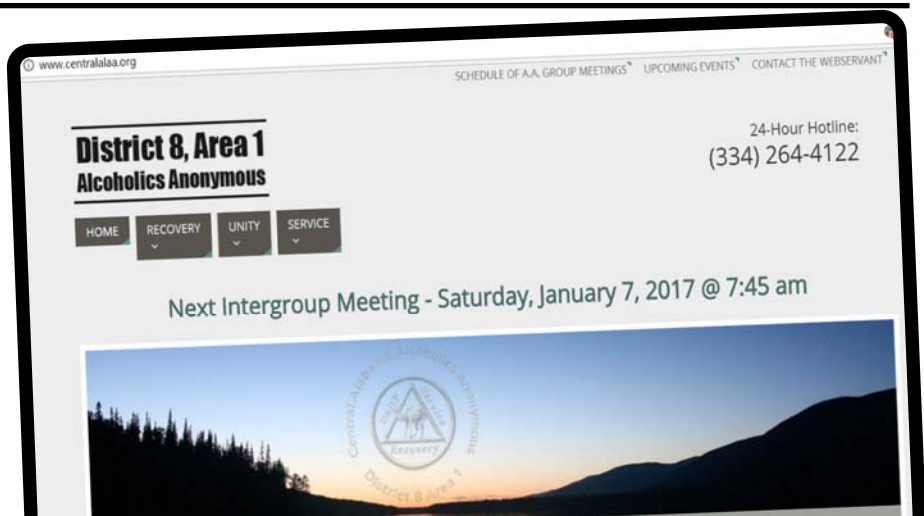
**NEWS - EVENTS - MEETINGS**

**DON'T FORGET OUR WEBSITE**

**WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG**

<http://www.centralAA.org/>

**UNITY - SERVICE - RECOVERY**



## STEP SIX

### WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE GOD REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF CHARACTER.

After recognizing and acknowledging many of my character defects, behaviors, and attitudes that were no longer working in my life and causing harm to me and others in Steps 4 and 5, I thought I was totally willing to give them up. Well, of course I was ready! Being ready was one thing; being entirely willing is another. There isn't much written in the Big Book on Step 6 so it helped to supplement this step with reading in the 12 and 12. I realized maybe I wasn't quite as ready (or willing) as I thought to let go of some of these "defects". Some of them had been what I considered survival skills, had gotten out of control, and weren't working for me any longer (if ever).

There was fear involved in changing, but I made an honest effort. Being entirely ready meant I was ready for a change and would depend on God to help me. There are times I forget to let God do his work and think I can just will these undesirable traits away.

Of course, that doesn't

work. I beat myself up

periodically that some of those defects are still hanging on. I have to get sick and tired enough of them and have faith that God could remove from me any defect of character just as he did my obsession for alcohol. I realize I am still a work in progress and have a long way to go.

Progress not perfection, I keep trying...with God's help. Step 6 is about being aware of my character defects, being willing to have God remove those things that block me from the sunlight of the spirit, and taking any action necessary to turn my will and life over to the care of God as I understand Him. I have to be content with patient improvement. I'm careful not to use that as justification or rationalization but try not to beat myself up today that I'm not perfect.

Joni G., Prattville Downtown Group

<http://www.centralAA.org/recovery/twelve-steps/>

HOME  
GROWN

## TRADITION SIX

### AN A.A. GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE OR LEND THE A.A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY, AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.

My lofty ideals can cloud this tradition. Save the world! While in actuality I don't manage money, property, or prestige very well left to my own devices. I too was a bankrupt idealist when I

first got sober. I don't fare well with temptations of these types by myself, but with the help of other A.A.'s I can understand the importance of Tradition 6.

The miracle is in the drunk talking to another drunk not having our name on a building.

Vicki S., The Legacies Group

<http://www.centralAA.org/unity/the-twelve-traditions/>

HOME  
GROWN

## CONCEPT VI

### ON BEHALF OF A.A. AS A WHOLE, OUR GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE HAS THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR WORLD SERVICES, AND IT TRADITIONALLY HAS THE FINAL DECISION RESPECTING LARGE MATTERS OF GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE. BUT THE CONFERENCE ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT THE CHIEF INITIATIVE AND THE ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN MOST OF THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE EXERCISED PRIMARILY BY THE TRUSTEE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE WHEN THEY ACT AMONG THEMSELVES AS THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

In all honesty the long form of Concept VI looks like a legal document outlining the finance responsibilities of a large corporation.. Which in some ways it is exactly that. Since I never took any classes in business I needed to look to the short form of Concept VI for some perspective.

**"God has the ultimate responsibility for our service while we have the active responsibility for carrying the message."**

-Concept VI (short form)

Upon reading this I was able to breath a sigh of relief for a couple reasons. The first being that I could understand the language it was written in. The second reason had a much deeper meaning. Concept VI completely relieves me of the need to worry. So often when I speak to a newcomer I place the unrealistic expectation on myself that it is somehow my responsibility to get

them sober on my experience I've shared. I can't help but worry. It's my natural state of existence. However, Concept VI states that my only responsibility is to carry the message whenever and wherever I am asked to do so. God is the ultimate authority in getting those people sober not I. Though this is only sufficient as a personal application of the concept in my life.

Concept VI long form as explained in the 12 concepts pamphlet, though our operation is a spiritual one our world service is a large business operation. The analogy used to describe our world service is that the groups are stockholders, the delegates are proxy-holders, the board of Trustees are the directors of a holding company. The holding company, the General Service Board, actually owns and controls A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine who carry out the services. Without a proper business structure our spiritual aim would be lost and the finances poured into it would be misplaced.

Travis M., WSIT (We Stopped In Time)

<http://www.centralAA.org/service/twelve-concepts/>

HOME  
GROWN





# Prattville D:ö:wnt:ö:wn Gr:ö:up

Eating Meeting

Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>



4:30 P.M. – Fell:ö:wship

5:00 P.M. – Eat

6:00 P.M. – Raffle

6:30 P.M. – speaker



OPEN MEETING – ALL ARE INVITED

Bring y:ö:ur fav:ö:rite dish ö:r  
dessert!



Prattville Downtown Group  
326 W. Fifth Street, Prattville, AL 36067



**July 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2018**

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[www.musiccityroundup.com](http://www.musiccityroundup.com)

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registering for the Roundup  
does not guarantee a room at  
hotel.

You must register to enter  
the ballroom no  
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# 37<sup>th</sup> Music City Roundup

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Name(s) on Badge(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: POB 17068, Nashville, TN 37217

Must mail by 6/26/2018 or no guarantee

Please Save the Date

## Prattville Downtown Group's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**September 8, 2018**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
178 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Prattville, AL

**AA Speaker:**  
**Dale J.**

More details to follow.

This is an OPEN event.

ALL are welcome to attend.

There will be food, fellowship and fun!



## Riverchase AA Group

27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>

Riverchase United Methodist Church 1953 Old Montgomery Hwy  
Hoover, Al. 35244

4:30 Social hour

5:30 BBQ, & Sides, bring your favorite desert!

50/50 Raffle

6:30pm Speaker Garland B. an original Riverchase member

Sobriety Count down

AA Archives Display

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