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**Literature Hours:**  
Tues. & Thurs 12-4  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday/mo  
5-7pm

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We are back in action!

Please notify me  
with any Info!

Thanks

Carol T.

**Sponsorship: Is it a dying art?**

*\*There is no way of checking the probable "large number who have failed" because of the lack of proper effort by their sponsors.\** Reprinted from GRAPEVINE – NOV/87.

The following 10 points was known as the "Chicago System" of Sponsorship:

1. Responsibility is the first principle of good sponsorship; the sponsor is the one who assumes responsibility for the person seeking help. If one is unable to devote the time and attention essential to good sponsorship, one should not undertake such an assignment, at least without a strong co-sponsor.
2. Sponsorship must be approached with the most serious attitude. A.A. is a life or death matter to the alcoholic seeking help; if we fail, the new man or woman has been denied the good chance he could have had with another sponsor. Prepare yourself for the first call on a prospect by rereading the chapter "Working with others" in the Big Book.
3. Visit the new prospect as soon as possible after he calls for help; presenting the recovery program to him at the psychological moment he reaches for it may be the factor that saves his life.
4. On your first visit, tell the prospective A.A., frankly and simply, some of your own story – with enough pauses that he may chime in with some of his own experience and reactions. Let him ask questions. Explain how A.A. works, but keep your presentation brief and simple. Do not wear out your welcome. When he becomes restless take your leave, making an appointment to see him again as soon as practicable.
5. In presenting the program to a prospect, don't thrust your personal views upon him. Tell him about the A.A. program as it is presented in the Big Book, and let him do his own interpreting, especially in regard to the spiritual aspects. He will get the views of many other A.A.'s, in addition to yours, at meetings and in conversations. Out of all that, with what guidance you can give him, he will find a way to apply A.A. principles to his own life and problems.
6. Be prepared to sacrifice much of your time for a considerable period to give the prospect the greatest possible chance. Make yourself available to him daily for counsel and companionship.
7. See that the prospect becomes acquainted with many other A.A.'s, so that he may get a broad picture of the A.A. program and find his own interpretation and application of its principles. Make the prospect truly your friend. Give of yourself without stint of trying to help him. Invite him to your home, preferably for a meal.
8. See that your prospect immediately gets a copy of the book "**Alcoholics Anonymous**"; it is best that he buy a copy. Ownership of the book once was a virtual symbol of A.A. membership; regular reading and rereading of the book is recommended practice for every A.A. as a tool of recovery.
9. Do not take on, in your enthusiasm, more prospects than you can handle. A.A. is strong medicine. It affords the recovered alcoholic a unique opportunity to serve his fellow man. The temptation to run up a big score of saved souls is strong. But one new member a year well sponsored is a better result than fifty given the once-over lightly.
10. Emphasize the importance of regular attendance at meetings, by precept and example. Even if you have grown careless about going to meetings, it is your responsibility to accompany the prospect to several such (and this may save you from a relapse).

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

Group	Date	Member	Sobriety	Info
Alliston Group		Ken B	1 yr	T.B.C. Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>
Back to Basics Group	Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	Cassandra	5 yr	Belated Happy Birthday!
Keep It Simple Gr	Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christine	3yrs	Happy Birthday
Sunday Niters for Uptighters	Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Randy G.	17yrs	Happy Birthday
Victory Group		Rose R.	25 yrs	T.B.C Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>
World Famous Bradford Group		Nick	20 yrs	T.B.C. April 3rd



*Happy Birthday to those celebrating milestones of sobriety... those 24hrs add up!*



## Tradition Three

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Editors Note:

"A.A. will work for people who believe in God  
 A.A. will work for people who don't believe in God  
 A.A. will not work for people who believe they are God."



### **Barrie A.A. Central Office Twelve Step Work**

**February 2007**

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(Weather Conditions for February: frigid cold, snow, generally poor)

### Responsibility Paragraph

I am responsible for my own actions. No one makes me do what I do. If my work is poorly done, it is my responsibility to improve. If I misbehave, it is my responsibility to correct my behavior. It is time for me to stop blaming others for the way I act and start taking responsibility for my actions. I am who I am because of the choices I make. Responsibility is the key to my success. If it is to be, it's up to ME.

### Mark Your Calendar

**Ontario Regional Conference 2007**  
Fairmount Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON  
16, 17, 18 March 2007

**31st Annual Barrie Spring Roundup  
"Just for Today"**

Collier Street United Church  
112 Collier Street, Barrie  
21 April 2007

**The Usual Suspects**

**First Annual 12 Step Weekend**  
Red Pine Motor Inn & Convention Centre,  
497 Victoria Street East, Alliston  
11, 12, 13 May 2007

Check the web:

[barrieaa.com](http://barrieaa.com)

for a detailed listing of events

### RAIN

a poem by **Mike W.**  
Young Peoples Group

It is such a pleasant sound,  
As it lands, on the ground,  
As it falls,  
Hear it tap on the walls,  
Rain,  
We know well,  
That nice fresh smell,  
You can bet if you walk in it,  
It makes you wet,  
It may drive you insane,  
All of this  
Well describes  
Rain!

### MORNING PRAYER

God direct my thinking today so that it be divorced of self pity, dishonesty, self-will, self-seeking and fear. God inspire my thinking, decisions and intuitions. Help me to relax and take it easy. Free me from doubt and indecision. Guide me through this day and show me my next step. God give me what I need to take care of any problems. I ask all these things that I may be of maximum service to you and my fellow man in the name of the Steps I pray.

*AMEN*

Dear Friends:

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Nell Wing died on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. after a lengthy illness. Nell was 89 years old. As most of you know, Nell was Bill W.'s secretary and assistant for 17 years and a close friend and long-time companion to Lois W. She worked at the General Service Office of A.A. from the beginning of 1947 until her retirement at the close of 1982, starting as a receptionist and later becoming secretary of A.A. World Services, Inc. Additionally, she served as G.S.O.'s first archivist for the last ten of her years at the office. The Archives opened in 1975. We would like to take a moment to celebrate Nell's life and share the following: From Markings, November/December 1983, when Nell announced her retirement in print: "I hope to stay nearby; and never lessen interest in this fellowship, nor loosen the close bonds of friendship with my A.A. and Al-Anon friends. I'm forever grateful for this marvelous experience that began for me on March 3, 1947, at 415 Lexington Ave., New York City, in 3 small rooms of the Central Terminal Building. I have enjoyed and treasured every moment of it. I won't say 'goodbye' just want to extend my love and thanks to each one of you dear friends." Please join all of us at the General Service Office in extending our heartfelt condolences to Nell's family.

Thank you,

Amy Filiatreau, Archivist AA World Services, Inc. [filiatreau@aa.org](mailto:filiatreau@aa.org)

## ASSETS

*Strive for:*

FORGIVENESS  
 COURAGE  
 SELF-FORGETFULNESS  
 HUMILITY  
 MODESTY  
 SELF-EVALUATION  
 HONESTY  
 PATIENCE  
 LOVE  
 SIMPLICITY  
 TRUST  
 GENEROSITY  
 ACTIVITY  
 PROMPTNESS  
 STRAIGHT FORWARDNESS  
 POSITIVE THINKING  
 HIGH MINDED THINKING  
 TOLERANCE  
 PRAISE, DON'T BLAME

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## LIABILITIES

*Watch for:*

RESENTMENT  
 FEAR  
 SELF-PITY  
 SELF-JUSTIFICATION  
 SELF-IMPORTANCE  
 SELF-CONDEMNATION  
 DISHONESTY  
 IMPATIENCE  
 HATE  
 FALSE PRIDE  
 JEALOUSY  
 ENVY  
 LAZINESS  
 PROSCRASTINATION  
 INSINCERITY  
 NEGATIVE THINKING  
 IMMORAL THINKING  
 CRITICIZING  
 LOOSE TALK & GOSSIP



## The Home Group - Do We Need It? Do Your Have One?

Is membership in a home group going the way of sponsorship?

If you don't have a home group I believe you are missing what the old-timers felt was the key to recovery.

The General Service Office Staff have for a long time expressed that the Home Group is the Heartbeat of AA and this has made a great impression on me. Indeed, I believe that just as surely as we are aware of, sensitive to, and in need of our own heartbeat, I believe each of us needs a home group.

It all began in the home group...didn't it? Not all of us readily identified that mysterious group of people who were trying to help us get sober as our Home Group. In fact I am painfully aware that the commitment needed to be part of anything escapes many of us in the early stages of recovery. To many their A.A. is their HOME GROUP! If this is so what should the Home Group be to the member and why should a member have a Home Group?

When we took those first faltering steps to recovery many of us would have stumbled and fallen once again, if we had to make what was to be a miraculous change by ourselves. In my case the first rays of hope came from those sometimes loving, sometimes cantankerous old geezers at the meeting.

A long time before I believed, or even heard what they told me, I began to understand that there might be a chance simply because I thought if they could do it, so could I.

But most of all because of the TRUST that develops through the meetings of a Home Group, it is where we might begin to care about someone else so that we might begin to love again in A.A. and among our friends and family . . .

Think About It.

*Submitted by: Tom S.  
 (Friday- Golden Anniversary Group)*