



Literature Hours
Tues.&Thurs.
12-4p.m.
Mon. & Fri.
4-7p.m.

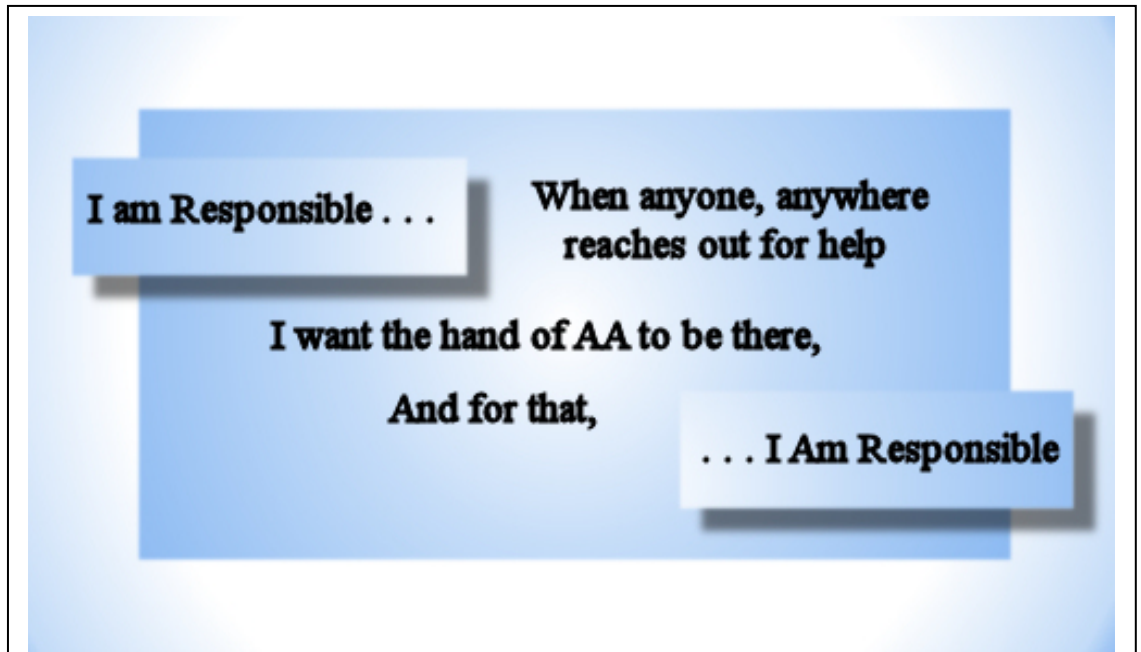
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Next
Barrie & Area
Intergroup Meeting
2nd Friday in June
7:00 pm
Central United
Church
54 Ross Street,
Barrie

Georgian Bay South
District 8
District Committee
Meeting
2nd
Sunday, at 1:30 pm
St. Georges Church
Corner of Burton
Ave and Granville
St, from 1:30



Overheard after a meeting

Frank B. was sharing with us on what someone told him what the difference between being grateful and gratitude was. Pass it on! He said that being grateful is like going onto a busy freeway from a ramp and someone gives you the right of way, lets you in. We become grateful, no? Gratitude is when WE let someone in. Frank wrote more in an email I wish to share with you. "WE must give it away in order to keep it!", Therefore, Practice Gratitude

Hi Ben,

A few things learned from others, nothing is "mine".

Gratitude and grateful are two words which seem similar or even identical and seemed to be used interchangeably.

However, in A.A. I see a distinct difference between these two words.

I am grateful that "someone" shows up to open the door to the meeting.

I am grateful that "someone" puts on the coffee.

I am grateful "someone" sets up the chairs for the meeting.

I am grateful that I'm greeted at the meetings and made to feel as if I belong by "someone".

I am grateful that I "someone" becomes my sponsor and spends time with me.

To name only a very few !!!

Gratitude is when I become that "**SOMEONE**",

Thanks Frank.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

If your group members want any announcements please pass on the information necessary to your intergroup representative so we can post them. Thank you!

E-mail: newslettereditor@barrieaa.com



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



Intergroup News Keeping you informed!

(Reprinted from A.A. Central office/ Intergroup Guidelines with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Also available online at “www.aa.org” next go to “A.A. Literature”, next go to “A.A. Guidelines” “Central Intergroup offices”.

GETTING UNDER WAY

Here’s a suggested plan that has worked well. Each group in the community is asked to send both a representative and an alternate representative to a special meeting to form a central office committee (also called a steering committee in some places). In large communities, it is sometimes necessary to divide the group into zones, with a zone representative serving several groups. Once formed, the committee takes over the responsibility for the project and outlines its aims and purposes for approval by the participant groups. Such an outline might cover these points:

- 1) Listing of all groups in the community that want to participate.
- 2) A reminder that financial support is voluntary and not a condition of membership (in keeping with A.A. tradition).
- 3) A clear explanation that responsibility for the maintenance of the service office rests with the groups. Therefore, each group should name a central office representative and an alternate to serve a specified term as the connecting link between the group and its central office.
- 4) A summary of the functions of the central office and an explanation of how it will be staffed and operated.
- 5) A discussion of how the service office will handle such vital matters as inquiries from newcomers, relations with the press, and similar duties.
- 6) Assurance that the service center will be operated in keeping with A.A.’s Twelve Traditions.

GROUP REPRESENTATION AT A CENTRAL OFFICE

Service centers usually have no authority on their own account; they derive it from the participating groups. Local group representatives reflect the groups’ conscience in the service center operations. In most communities, a central office committee or steering committee is set up to handle the administrative activities of the service office. The steering committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and deals with general policy and plans. Periodically, the steering committee reports to group representatives on central office problems and accomplishments. It is extremely important to keep a two way flow of information going between the central office and groups.

More suggestions you might consider, based on local experience with A.A. newsletters and bulletins.

- Scheduling a “theme issue,” centering on some aspect of the A.A. program and using excerpts from Conference-approved material(with proper credit) relating to the theme. • Asking for and publishing letters from your A.A. readers. Carrying highlights of minutes from various committee meetings—central office steering committee, institutions, public information, etc.
- Including committee financial reports and records of group contributions.
- Running occasional appropriate cartoons. (If these are from the A.A. Grapevine or Conference-approved pamphlets, please remember that illustrations, too, are copyrighted, and the proper credit should accompany any of these that are used.)
- Running a “Calendar of Events” feature.
- Conducting a subscription campaign (perhaps making announcements at group meetings), to build paid readership.



A.A.'s 'Big Book' celebrates 70 years!!



Printed in 58 languages, the volume has been credited with saving lives of millions of people worldwide!

Gail L.'s hands rest on the old red book on a table in front of her. The book, she tells you, saved her life and gave her "a life worth saving." It is "God's story of his love for the alcoholic," she says.

Seven decades ago this month, Alcoholics Anonymous, also called the Big Book, was published. For 70 years it has helped millions of people worldwide support each other while protecting their identity — thus the avoidance of last names. Sometime this year, it is expected that the 30 millionth copy will be sold..

And as Gail, archivist at the Akron Alcoholics Anonymous office, sits over a first edition of the book known and cherished by recovering people since its publication in April 1939, she talks of the power of its words. "It is a design for living that really works," said Gail, 60, sober for 31 years and archivist in Akron since 1983.

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron on June 10, 1935. Next year will be the 75th anniversary. Every year in June, Akron hosts Founders Day and more than 12,000 people from around the world converge to remember the founding of the A.A. movement. Founders Day events this year are June 12-14.

While A.A. does not keep formal membership lists, the group estimates there are nearly 2 million members worldwide who gather in nearly 115,000 groups, including about 1.2 million members in the United States who meet in nearly 54,000 groups.

The first-edition book, one of 4,800 first printings, is kept in a safe at A.A.'s office at 775 N. Main St. The rare copy was signed June 10, 1948, by A.A. co-founders Dr. Robert Smith of Akron and New York stockbroker Bill Wilson. An Akron member donated the book. Also kept in the safe is Dr. Bob's copy of the manuscript. The book has been printed in 58 languages, according to a spokeswoman at the A.A. General Services offices in New York City.

Gail said the book is really a history text. She said Wilson wrote most of the first 164 pages, which are still in the most current edition. Included on those pages are the 12 steps that have become the basis of the A.A. program. Following the first 164 pages are individual stories, three-fifths of them Akron people who told of their "strength, experience and hope" and their recovery to sobriety through A.A., she said. Many of the 18 personal stories included in the first edition were written by a sober, former newspaper reporter named Jim, an A.A. publication said. He, along with Smith, sought out stories of local people with good sobriety records. The newspaperman's story was included as well in a chapter titled The News Hawk. The fourth edition, which came out in 2001, includes two stories of Akron people, Gail said.

Gift from God

The Rev. Samuel Ciccolini, executive director of Interval Brotherhood Home, a drug and alcohol treatment facility in Coventry Township, said the book, studied by those in recovery, is nothing short of a miracle. "To me, the Big Book is an inspiration of God," said Ciccolini, 66, known to many as Father Sam. IBH will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2010. "You see its enduring, life-saving value and you know it had to be more than two recovering men that were that brilliant that put something together. It had to be in God's hands," he said. Ciccolini said he recalls two alcoholics coming to talk to his class when he was a student at Akron's St. Peter's School in the mid-1950s.

The two recovering men each carried a copy of the Big Book, he said. Ciccolini recalls each man holding it up and saying, "This book saved our lives." Later, when he was a theology student, he said he read the book. "What it has done to save lives is immeasurable," Ciccolini said. The foreword to the first edition begins: "We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book."

The book originally sold for \$3.50. It goes for \$6 now and will increase to \$8 on July 1.

Akronite Scott D., 61, a member of A.A. for a dozen years, has taken part in a men's Big Book study group since then. He said the group meets once a week and goes over the first 164 pages, including the chapter Dr. Bob's Nightmare that tells Smith's story.

"We read the book and discuss it," he said. Scott said a passage that "registers in my head is we have but a daily reprieve based on the maintenance of our spiritual condition."

Gail said when she started going to A.A. meetings, she began reading right away. "I fell in love with the book." Gail said that when the book was written, the Akron A.A. community pushed to call it The Way Out and the New York group thought it should be called simply Alcoholics Anonymous.

The New York group won that argument. Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Tradition Five Checklist

Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

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