



TRUSTED SERVANTS

Intergroup

Chairman—Don W—Northside
Co-chairman—Ron L—Northside
Secretary—Phyllis K—HomeGroup
Treasurer—Pat C—Crawfordville
Literature—Pat C—Crawfordville
Website—Rob K—Pathfinders
Activities—Vacant
Membership—Vacant
Newsletter—Larry H—Central

District 5

DCM—Ed V—Happy Hour
Alternate DCM—Kathy Lynn—
Pathfinders
Secretary—Anne K—Happy Hour
Treasurer—Lisa F—Downtown

Standing Committees

CPC—Kevin K—Central
PI—Gerry W—Happy Hour
Treatment—Allison B—Central
Corrections—Danny P—Night Owl
Grapevine—Joe J—HomeGroup
Intergroup—Kathy Lynn—
Pathfinders
Accessibilities—Kayce M—Downtown
Archives—Bob S—Southside

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NFACAA—Area 14

Area Treasurer
C/O Connie D.
5205 North Sonora Terrace
Beverly Hills, FL 34465

The Message

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INTERGROUP 5, INC. July, 2004 TALLAHASSEE, FL

HISTORY OF LLOYD NEW HOPE AA GROUPS

AS TOLD BY RUTH R. February, 2000

Lloyd New Hope Group began on Wednesday, August 4, 1976.

Miss Emily Herman was a social worker in Jefferson County and I was a counselor at Detox in Tallahassee. Miss Emily was a spunky old lady who loved alcoholics. She thought we needed an AA group in Jefferson County and mentioned this need in Staff Meeting one morning in the Spring of '1976. I was in the process of trying to build a house in Lloyd Acres at the time and told Miss Emily that I would start a group as soon as I moved out there. Every week she would ask me when I was moving.

Miss Emily got tired of waiting on me, so one day she called to announced that the first meeting would be the next week and I would be there. I said "Yes, ma'am," as Miss Emily did not tolerate arguments. We commuted to the meetings for the next few months, but I drove. I never rode with her driving again. THAT was a Spiritual Experience.

The meeting was held in the train depot, which was being used as the Lloyd Baptist Mission at the time. Those in attendance were Aida S.; Clyde S. (half drunk), Miss Emily; Rev. Ovid Lewis, Pastor of the Lloyd Mission; Tracy S.; and me. Tracy came with his Bible in hand, ready to preach the Gospel to the fallen. The preacher spent the entire hour on the telephone trying to persuade a third man to come down—with no success. Needless to say, it was a very interesting meeting. Tracy was very disappointed--he never did get to preach_

The second meeting added Faye D., one of Emily's clients, Melvin D. and Doyle W. from Perry. Since the depot was used as a church, no smoking was allowed in the building. Therefore, Doyle would sit outside the screen door smoking while trying to hear what was being said inside. He later died drunk of lung cancer. Then, like Topsy, it just'growed'!

In December 1976, Tom & Ruth D. became members. Since Ruth and Aida were also members of the Lloyd Women's Club, they received permission for the group to move to the Women's Club Building with the promise to make repairs as needed.

(Continued Page 2)

District 5 News

Every group I have "seeded" was named New Hope. There is or was a sister group in Key West and one in Hobe Sound. They are named for the old New Hope in Miami, which was founded by Jim and Dora H. and her "babies" when they broke away from Friendship. I am Dora's great-grand pigeon.

I first heard Clarence, the Home Brewmeister, speak there in about 1964 when I was dry about a year or less--dry, not sober yet. It was New Hope's 5th anniversary. I still remember what he said. He and Dora had a major impact on my sobriety and probably the best you ever heard from me came from them, little Jack Carney in Key West and my head sponsor, Eddie Dion. All except Eddie knew Bill Wilson well, and all have gone on to that big meeting in the sky

At our first anniversary Dr. Gene M., who founded Twelve Oaks, spoke. He said he took the 12 Steps like medication--as prescribed—whether he believed it would work or not, and that, like other medications, it takes time for them to have maximum benefit.

Addendum by Rowena and Melvin D.:

Up until this time, alcoholics and spouses met together. After the move to the Women's Club in December the first Al-Anon group was formed by Aida, Ruth D., and Melvin. There were many times when only two were present, leaving one to be the chairman and one to be the group; but when there were five Wednesdays in the month, the fourth one was an open Al-Anon meeting and they managed to get many interesting speakers telling the "other side of the story."

In the beginning, Lloyd received much needed support from Thomasville and from Perry, but for several years there still might be only two or three people in the meetings. Then other alcoholics & Al-Anon from Monticello and Lloyd and from Tallahassee and other nearby towns were attracted to this meeting in the country and still attend, many choosing Lloyd as their home group.

For many years the group's anniversary was celebrated with fish fries. As many as 200-300 people from Florida and Georgia attended, and we got the best speakers we could find, mostly from places outside the district. They were so much fun even though many times it rained and we had to meet in the small building which had no air-conditioning at the time. At one of these our speaker came in a suit and tie, but it wasn't long before he started peeling off everything he could. He said, "When I speak I get hot." It must have been 100° in there and crowded but no complaints were heard. At another, where a man named Jim W. from Fort Walton Beach spoke outside on a pretty day, there was quite a bit of competition from a bird in the tree overhead. These fish fries have since been discontinued but leave wonderful memories behind.

Sadly some of our members have died including Tom and Ruth D., who were very instrumental in keeping the AA meeting going during the lean years, Doyle W., Ruthie G., Nancy F., Carrie Q., and Larry B. Ruth R. has moved to Virginia. They are sorely missed, as each one contributed so much to the group. But we have gained many new friends along the way who add their experiences, strengths and hopes.

From its small beginnings, the meetings at the Lloyd New Hope Groups usually include 15-20 alcoholics and 8-10 al-anons. Many people have found release from the degradation and *pain of* alcoholism and have received the gift of serenity due partly to what they learned in Lloyd. This would not be possible without the *foresight of* our early members.

Do you know the history of your group? Please send me your stories of the beginnings and updates of your struggles as you trudge the "Road of Happy Destiny"

They themselves are makers of themselves by virtue of the thoughts which they choose and encourage; that mind is the master weaver, both of the inner garment of character and the outer garment of circumstance, and that, as they may have hitherto woven in ignorance and pain they may now weave in enlightenment and happiness—James Allen—

How are resentments removed? Neglect, Reflection, Investigation, Benefit/Cost Analysis, Forgiveness. And, of course, there is the old standby, **Prayer**. After the discussion of each step in the Big Book, a number of methods to alleviate or remove problems are set forth. The persistent and fundamental tool "suggested" to us is prayer.

On June 10, 1935, Robert Smith, a physician from Akron, Ohio, took his last drink. He and William Wilson, better known as Dr. Bob and Bill W., had no idea that the date would later mark the beginning of what some consider one of the most important movements in the 20th century: Alcoholics Anonymous. Wilson later wrote an account of their philosophy — that only an alcoholic could help another alcoholic quit drinking — and the lives of other alcoholics that is referred to as the Big Book, the movement's bible.

Now Sotheby's is planning to auction what it says is Wilson's master copy of the working draft of "Alcoholics Anonymous," the Big Book's disarmingly straightforward official title. Its value has been estimated by the auction house as \$300,000 to \$500,000. The sale, scheduled for Friday, has created excited speculation among collectors and scholars about who will buy it, and a debate about its value and rightful place.

Given the enormous impact of a book that in its fourth printing alone has reached more than 19 million people, some believe that Sotheby's is offering a priceless historical document. That status, some argue, means that it should be placed in an archive accessible to scholars and ordinary people rather than on the auction block.

"I think these things really belong to the fellowship of A.A.," said Eileen Giuliani, executive director of the Stepping Stones Foundation, which maintains the home and the documents of Wilson and his wife, Lois Wilson, as a museum in Bedford Hills, N.Y. "Documents like this belong in archives."

Bill Pittman, a historian who has written extensively about the history of A.A., said he, too, was concerned that the manuscript's sale would make it inaccessible to scholars. He said the Sotheby catalog incorrectly stated that Wilson's annotations were among the multitude of annotations on the typewritten manuscript. Mr. Pittman said he viewed the manuscript last year when the owner took it to a rare-book dealer. But Selby Kiffer, a senior vice president at Sotheby's, said the manuscript did indeed contain Wilson's annotations. He said experts had spent weeks going through the 161-page manuscript, which contains thousands of annotations by many people.

In either case, the absence of Wilson's annotations does not reduce the document's value, said Mr. Pittman, the director of historical information at the Hazelden Foundation in Center City, Minn. Although Wilson was the primary author, there were many drafts and many comments from a wide variety of people involved in the project, he said. The book authorship is stated as "the story of how many thousands of men and women have recovered from alcoholism."

"It's the most important piece of A.A. history to be sold, ever," said Mr. Pittman, who worked for several years at the A.A. archive in New York City. He said the margin notes and last-minute changes before the master copy went off to the printer provided valuable insights into how the Big Book evolved. Still, he said, he thought the document was overpriced. "I think someone should buy it and give it back to A.A. and let researchers like myself look at it," Mr. Pittman said. "I don't want someone to buy it and sell each individual page."

Ms. Giuliani said, she too, thought the manuscript's price put it out of the reach of serious researchers and was out of line with what A.A. material usually cost.

In many ways the argument about Bill W.'s manuscript is familiar, occurring whenever price tags are attached to valuable historical items. The first edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous" was published in April 1939, and only the personal stories attached to the basic text have changed over the years.

The 1938 document being auctioned was consigned to Sotheby's by an A.A. member, Joseph B. (He asked that only the initial of his last name be used.) His aunt was also an A.A. member, who knew Wilson personally, he said, and she gave Mr. B. the manuscript back in 2001. The 1978 inscription on the manuscript is from Wilson's wife, who died in 1988, to a "Barry" (who some historians say is the writer Barry Leach, who wrote a biography of Lois Wilson).

Along with the manuscript, Sotheby's is offering a second-edition Big Book that Wilson inscribed in 1958 to "Grace," Mr. B.'s aunt, and four LP albums of A.A. lectures.

Mr. B. said his efforts to find interest in the document within Alcoholics Anonymous "ran into a lot of brick walls, a lot of dead ends." So, he said, he turned to Sotheby's to establish its provenance and find a buyer. "Not being a rich man, there was some money to be made, but that was not my main reason," Mr. B. said. "It's beyond words for me." As an alcoholic in recovery since 1976, he said that Wilson "saved my life." He found it thrilling, he added, to imagine Wilson cobbling together the Big Book. "I hope it ends up in a proper setting, an academic setting," he continued. "I think Sotheby's can provide that venue."

Early drafts of the Big Book went out to dozens of people, from alcoholics to psychologists, who sprinkled the margins with their ideas, feelings and experiences. As the manuscript being auctioned by Sotheby's shows, the book was a vigorous exercise in group-think, with a jumble of different handwriting crossing out words, circling phrases, excising passages.

The first chapter tells Bill W.'s story. Wilson was born in East Dorset, Vt., in 1895 and died of emphysema in 1971. He met Dr. Bob, the co-founder of A.A., during a 1935 business trip to Akron. Desperate for a drink, he contacted a local minister who put him in touch with Dr. Bob, a general practitioner and an alcoholic with a failing practice. The two talked for hours, and the idea of a fellowship of alcoholics helping alcoholics was born.

The Big Book was published four years later, but the first sales were slow. It took off only after a March 1, 1941, article in The Saturday Evening Post about Alcoholics Anonymous and its "freed slaves of drink," as the writer Jack Alexander put it.

"What really matters for us is the final version of the Big Book, which helped millions of people to recover," said Judit Santon, the archivist at the General Service Office of A.A. in New York City, home to the largest A.A. archive in the world with half a million pieces of personal correspondence and primary documentation.

Much of the interest in the manuscript has come from "traditional book and manuscript dealers," Mr. Kiffer of Sotheby's said. As far as anyone knows, he added, the highest price tag for a single A.A.-related item has been for first-edition copies of the Big Book, signed by Wilson, which have gone for as much as \$25,000.

A thriving market exists for Alcoholics Anonymous items, in the same way that people collect Elvis Presley or Civil War memorabilia, said David C. Lewis, a physician and founder of the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University. Social historians or any collector of Americana, as well as members of 12-step programs would also find the manuscript intriguing, Dr. Lewis said. "It's basically priceless," he said of the document being sold by Sotheby's. Susan Cheever, the author of "My Name Is Bill" (Simon & Schuster, 2004), a biography of Wilson, agreed. "This is one of the 10 or 20 most important books written in the 20th century, probably the most important nonfiction book," she said. "This guy, with 'Dr. Bob,' figured out how to save alcoholics. They changed the way we think about human nature."

Events and Happenings

Current Events

July 21—District 5 monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.
August 4—Intergroup 5, Inc. monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.

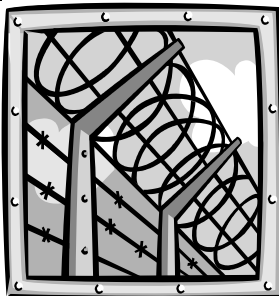
Future Events

If alcohol were to write its beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:

1. Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour in a meeting with their fellow alcoholics -- they are my best workers.
2. Blessed are those alcoholics who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked -- I can use them.
3. Blessed are the touchy who stop going to meetings -- they are my missionaries.
4. Blessed are the trouble makers -- they shall be called my children.
5. Blessed are the complainers -- I'm all ears to them.
6. Blessed are those who are bored with the discussion leader's mannerisms and mistakes -- for they get nothing out of his experience, strength and hope.
7. Blessed is the A.A. member who expects to be invited to his own home group -- for he is a part of the problem instead of the solution.
8. Blessed are those who gossip -- for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.
9. Blessed are those who are easily offended -- for they will soon get angry and quit.
10. Blessed are those who do not contribute to carry on A.A.'s work -- for they are my helpers.
11. Blessed is he who professes to love A.A. but hates his brother and sister -- for he shall be with me forever.
12. Blessed are you who, when you read this and think it is about other people and not yourself -- I've got you too!

You can always tell an alcoholic,
but you can't tell him much!

Worry doesn't prevent disaster; it prevents joy.
We're not human beings sharing a spiritual experience...
but spiritual beings sharing a human experience.
We are without a defense against the first drink;
our defense must come from a power greater than ourselves



When we were using, we didn't have relationships, we took prisoners & held hostages.
God will not close one door without opening another.

June 2004 IG5 Treasurers Report

<i>Beginning Balance</i> \$2462.40	
Income	
Apalachicola Bay Serenity	25.00
IG5 Meeting	16.00
Open Door	30.00
Central	150.00
Picnic	185.50
Total Contribution	406.50
Expenses	
Rent	\$229.50
Office Supervision	220.00
Answering service	121.55
Printing/Newsletter	37.65
Postage	37.00
Internet Host	23.70
Liability Insurance	306.30
Telephone	39.69
Total	1015.39
<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>\$1853.51</i>
Literature Report	
<i>Beginning Balance</i> \$659.77	
Income	
Sales	84.69
Tax	6.11
Total	\$90.80
<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>\$750.57</i>

Trust God!

Just for today I will try to live through this day only & not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.
Just for today I will be agreeable. I will look as good as I can, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticize not one bit, not find fault with anything & not try to improve or regulate anybody except myself.

NEWSLETTER

Please submit articles, anniversary notices or announcements for "The Message" to the Intergroup office or send email message@intergroup5.org by the last Wednesday of each month. Maybe by next month it will be working! If you have questions, call 391-4077 or call the office 224-1818.

WANTED

Volunteers to chair the Intergroup Membership and Special Events committee or answer phones in the office. If you are willing to be of service, please notify Tom A., Coordinator, (850) 224-1818

Happy A.A. Anniversary May

Keep Coming Back Without a Drink!

Central Group—Doug W 1, Donalee 1 Andrew C 1, Blair D 1, Eric 2, Jeff W 6, Van J 9, Nancy F 13, Sabrina 15, Eddie 18 Stanley 19, Bob H 30

Powder No Puff—Margaret B 3, Valerie 10, Betty L 10

Happy Hour and Living Sober—Andrew C 1, Blair 1, Carla 9, Jack S 12, Melanie L 14, Michael R 16, Paul P 17, Bobby J 24

July Phone Report

60—Meeting Information
6—Miscellaneous
17—General
2—Agency
5—Al-anon
15—Miscellaneous
(85 Calls Received by Volunteers)

