

## That Service Work Thing

“Go early and stay late”, my first sponsor told me. At five days sober, I couldn’t imagine why I would want to do such a thing! “Like how early?” I asked, wondering if there was any wiggle room with this. “At least fifteen minutes, and do some service work while you’re there.” “Service work, what’s that?” I asked afraid to know. “Volunteer to make coffee, or help clean up after the meeting.” she said. My heart sank, that sounded boring



and tedious, and if I did that I knew I would have to talk to someone. The fear of having to speak to someone at a meeting immediately overwhelmed me. Drowning with that feeling, I was unable to come up with an excuse to get out of the service work thing, so I mumbled an “OK”.

Sure enough I ended up speaking to people making the coffee. They actually were happy in their task, and friendly to me. I wasn’t happy about having to help, but frankly I hadn’t known how to get out of it. After a while I was able to make the coffee on my own, and I knew how to stack the chairs just the right way. I was proud to have learned these difficult and tedious skills so quickly. People even thanked me for doing these things! Being thanked for doing something I thought I had to do felt surprisingly good. Soon I was thinking about how to be the person who made the best coffee. (Little did I know AA coffee cannot be improved upon – it is what it is.) People started to remember my name, and I found comfort in this. I started to enjoy coming early, I found I was able to corner a few members and quietly ask questions about AA and their program. Soon I became acquainted with some of the members with some significant time in AA. These members would throw a few tidbits of wisdom my way. “Stick with the winners kid.” And “If you didn’t drink today, than you’re a winner!” an old timer would say to me. I felt special with their attention.

Then came the day when someone asked me to chair a

## In The Spirit Of Peacefulness



Irritable. Restless. Discontent. These are the feelings described by those coming into AA and those who are about to go back out again. My experience and the experience of others has told me that when these feelings come up I better pay attention – these are the tell tale signs that I have grown stagnant in my growth in sobriety and I better take action. Back to basics is what we are told. Back into step work with a sponsor, pick up a new sponsee, volunteer for a service position – all of it will work. The result being that we expand our spiritual life.

In the winter of 2009, I was beginning to experience those three dreaded emotions. It was suggested to me that I also try out some different meetings. One Saturday in March 2009, I wandered into the 11th Step Candlelight meeting, at Unity of Savannah on Sunset Blvd. I hadn’t heard anything about this meeting, even though I saw it listed for as long as I can remember in the meeting directory. I was curious about it, but couldn’t find anyone willing to check it out with me.

### Intergroup Purpose

Our Intergroup serves as the servant of the member groups to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in ways that are not practical for the groups to do.

### Service Meetings

Intergroup	7:00pm	1st Tuesday
Corrections	7:00pm	2nd Tuesday
Treatment	6:30pm	3rd Thursday
Grapevine	7:15pm	last Tuesday
PI/CPC	6:30pm	3rd Wednesday
New Yrs Eve	6:30pm	2nd Tuesday
District	7:00pm	last Tuesday

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# Birthday Club

## Broad Highway Group

Michael R.	12/29/10	1 yr
Clark G.	12/17/10	1 yr
Chris Z.	12/06/10	1 yr
Katie W.	12/08/09	2 yrs
Jeff M.	12/22/08	3 yrs
Rudd L.	12/12/07	4 yrs
Ray M.	12/28/06	5 yrs
Bill W.	12/12/04	7 yrs
David H.	12/23/00	11 yrs

One way that members have been expressing their gratitude is by sending a donation to the Intergroup Office as their birthday approaches. You may send a dollar for each year of sobriety or whatever you can afford. Please mail or drop off to the Intergroup Office.

### Thank You and Congratulations!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation/Years \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

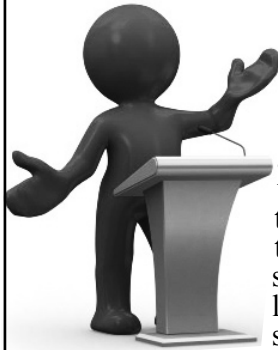
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meeting. "Who me?" I was stunned, "Can I do that I mean don't you have to have like a lot of time or something?" So there I was up in front, everybody looking at me, and oh yeah, me looking at all of them. I found out it was a pretty good view, and I realized I got more out of the meetings from that vantage point. I found I actually liked chairing the meeting. I tried it a few more times and I gained confidence, so I started really volunteering to do this a lot. I would crack a few jokes, and people actually laughed. I was actually having fun, and this type of service work beat emptying ashtrays.

responsible AA member, I also became a more responsible worker, and family member. I went from unemployed to a thriving self-employed person. For the first time I even had my own home, and my family would come and stay for extended visits. As the years wore on I let others participate in the service positions, I became a sponsor and suggested to my sponsee that they do service work. I still chaired meetings, and spoke every once in a while.

Then I made a big move, and suddenly I was in a city where I knew no one. I felt like a newcomer all over again. I felt nervous, self conscious, and uneasy going to meetings. Within a few weeks after my move I heard there was an opening as a GSR in one of my meetings. That's just what I need I thought, a commitment to keep me coming, and a great way to get to know people here. I jumped in, and gratefully was accepted as the groups new GSR. You know what? It worked! My uneasy feelings disappeared, and I met lots of really great people. I'm at it again; I cannot seem to get enough of service work. It get's me out of myself when I need to be; I feel a sense of accomplishment when I'm finished and I have fun! I finally learned how to stay sober in a happy fun way. I love this service work thing; I would never have imagined it!

*Anonymous*



Pretty soon I was volunteering for a variety of different positions at my meetings. I was the secretary, then the treasurer, then a guest speaker; I held lots of different service positions. I found I enjoyed

meeting people and I enjoyed being trusted! All the while making my sponsor happy by fulfilling my service work. I never knew I would enjoy being trusted by a group of people so much. During this time my professional and family life improved tremendously! As I became a more



## Newcomer Orientation

If you are a newcomer, this one's for you! We meet at the **clubhouse** every **Sunday at 2:00pm**. Not only will you find out how to stay away from the first drink, you will also benefit from going through the Steps and Traditions as well as learning a whole lot more about the whole world of **Alcoholics Anonymous** and why it is the way it is. That's every Sunday from 2:00 to 3:00 at the clubhouse, on Eisenhower.

**Q:** What's the difference between an alcoholic and a drunk?

**A:** A drunk doesn't have to go to all those meetings.

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Finally, one night I just made the decision and went.

I remember feeling an immediate feeling of peace come over me as I walked into the meeting room. It was new to me, yet very comfortable. At the time, I attributed it to the light green walls and comfortable chairs. As I settled in I noticed a few familiar faces, but most were people I hadn't seen before. I didn't know their stories, where they came from, or how long they had been sober. I noticed that it didn't really matter. What I did learn about was how; they were finding their path to God; defining their own Higher Power, and cultivating spiritual practices that were working in their lives. It was exactly what I needed to hear.

Fast-forward a few years to last night. I wandered into 11th Step Candlelight Group (of which I am now a member) at Unity. I felt an immediate feeling of peace come over me as I settled into the room and yes, I have decided that the color of the walls and the

comfortable chairs may play a part in that. I noticed more familiar faces (whose stories I now know), but still many are unfamiliar to me. I don't know their stories, where they came from or how long they have been sober. It still doesn't matter. The topic was about how to move through and expand when you feel you have become stagnant in your spiritual practices. I learned about how others were finding their path to God. Defining their own Higher Power and cultivating spiritual practices that are clearly working in their lives. I heard exactly what I needed to hear.

A wonderful sponsor once told me that if I wanted to stay sober, I should seek to be fed. I took that to mean that I am responsible for my own sobriety and spiritual growth. I need to ask for help and guidance and be willing to do the footwork, and then let God handle the rest. Most Saturday evenings, the footwork is just simply driving across town to Unity, where at 7:00pm God meets me at the door and handles the rest.

*Anonymo us*

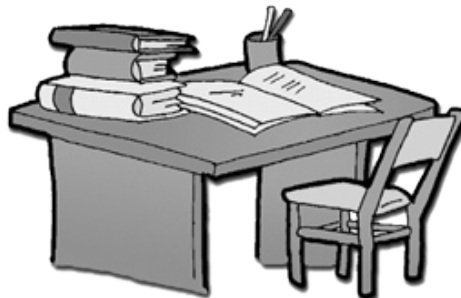
## Office Manager's Report

The office is in the best shape ever (or at least that is what I am told daily). I could not agree more. We now have almost everything A.A. has to offer. I would encourage everyone to come and check-out the bookstore. I will almost guarantee you that we stock something that you have never encountered before.

The theme of the December's newsletter is "Service". What a coincidence! We are always looking to help others by offering a unique service opportunity. Anytime the office is open for business (M-F, 9-6), we need volunteers. These volunteers are crucial as they are literally the first people that

someone looking for help talks with.

I would encourage everyone who has never been to the office/bookstore to come and see us and those people who have been here already, come on back.



"Dr. Bob was my constant companion and partner in the great A.A. adventure. As the physician and great human being that he was, he chose work with others as his prime A.A. vocation and achieved a record which, in quantity and in quality, none will ever surpass. Assisted by the incomparable Sister Ignatia at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, he – without charge – medially treated and spiritually infused five thousand sufferers.

"In all the stress and strain of A.A.'s pioneering time, no hard word ever passed between us. For this, I can thankfully say that the credit was all his."

### Self-Support

In the pamphlet "*Self-Support: When Money and Spirituality Mix*" our General Conference suggests that, after your group pays for its expenses, the money left over should be divided as follows in districts where an Intergroup exists:

Intergroup 50%  
General Service Office 30%  
District 10%  
Area 10%

In our district/area consideration is also given to the New Year's Eve gathering and the Georgia Prepaid Convention.

*"Some one ought to do it, but why should I?"*

*"Some one ought to do it, so why not I?"*

Between these two sentences lie whole centuries of moral evolution.

*Annie Besant*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Folks we are just a few weeks away from a New Year's Eve Bash!*

Next meeting December 14th! Let all know; The second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm/Clubhouse the New Years Eve Committee meets! We need support in the following areas....

- \* Food - We need a kitchen crew - **contact Geoffrey D. 912 661-2096**
- \* Set up/take down - Just need a couple of folks to help with the execution the day of the party, and the following day for clean up! **contact Gary T 912 323-6232**
- \* Currently Emily B. is taking the lead for the decorations. Theme this year..."Gifts of Sobriety"

News to share with all groups!  
**Speaker - MICKEY B.!!!!**  
Santa Monica, California!



*Music by a local DJ!*

Current funds in the New Years Eve account are around \$1,900.00

Thank you to all the groups that continue to support year round! And we are still continuing to receive donations!

Send all Donations to:  
PO BOX 13436  
Savannah, Georgia 31416

Thank you for letting me serve!!

*Sandra W.*



# Say Yes...to A.A!

How many times have we heard it? Whenever anyone asks you to do something in A.A. always say "yes".

I think it's another one of those suggestions that sound like a good idea, and it catches on like when everyone joins in to say "We think not" during the reading of "The" promises as though these were the only promises. Really?! Google "The Promises" and up pops the Ninth Step Promises as though they are iconic.

Or, how about "90 in 90" or "no relationships during the first year". Sure these are pretty good ideas but I haven't seen them in the big book, however, they seem to take on a life of their own and become sacred after a while.

Anyway, the reason I'm writing this today is that I've noticed that a lot of people say "yes" either because their sponsor told them never to say "no" to AA, or because they are afraid to say "no".

My experience recently has been that many of those willing to say, "yes" for whatever reason, don't show up when it's time to show up.

Maybe they had good intentions when they said "yes", but perhaps something better came along after saying "yes" to A.A. Or maybe they just forgot. Or maybe they didn't care.

I don't know for sure but this I do know, that many people who are saying "yes" are failing to be committed to their intention and have lost the resolve to be in integrity to themselves.

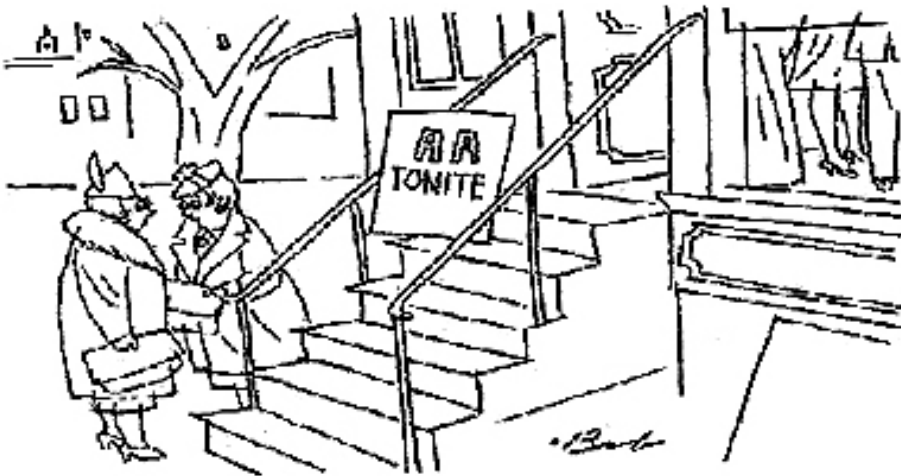
So next time when someone in AA asks you to do something, please think about it first. Ask yourself, "Do I have the time to serve for this obligation and responsibility or am I just afraid to say "no"? Do I need to put this on my calendar right now? Am I willing to find a replacement if the unexpected happens? Do I know someone else who may be more qualified or more available than me...and if so, am I willing to let them know about this opportunity that has just opened up?"

Our willingness to be honest with others and ourselves when we need to say "no" might be a blessing to the person who just asked you to volunteer so that he or she will have sufficient time to ask someone else.

"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible." I am responsible for showing up.

In A.A., "gratitude" is an action word.

*Anonymous*



*Isn't wearing women's clothing taking anonymity a bit far Bert?*

# Intergroup Gratitude Breakfast

Our Gratitude Breakfast was held on Saturday Morning November 12 from 8:00am – 10:00am at Steward Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 520 Washington Avenue.

Rob opened the Breakfast with a few words of Gratitude from Bill W. along with an AA Blessing for the food, each other and our Higher Power.

We had 25 volunteers that made the breakfast go like clockwork and that didn't even include all the people that stayed and helped us put the room back together again for the church.

The breakfast was delicious, fulfilling and there was virtually no waiting line except for maybe the first five minutes before we were actually ready to serve which was exactly at 8:00am. Cooks and servers were very efficient!

The AA meeting was excellent



and the raffle was enjoyed by all.

Our Intergroup committees and our General Service Committees received good exposure and some new volunteers.

Over 120 tickets were sold, however, because it was early in the morning and a rather chilly day some of our members decided to stay in bed, therefore, we suggest having it as a brunch next year and starting it at 10:00.

*Bryan G.  
Breakfast Chairperson*



**January 27-29, 2012**  
32nd Annual Hilton Head Mid- Winter Conference  
"Love and Service"  
Crowne Plaza Resort  
Hilton Head Island, SC  
Seventeen speakers!  
Golf Tournament Sat. 10:00 \$58.00  
Conference registration: \$30.00  
[www.hiltonheadmidwinterconference.com](http://www.hiltonheadmidwinterconference.com)

**June 8th ,9th ,10th, 2012**  
77th Founders' Day 2012  
Akron Ohio, Birthplace of AA  
Registration begins March 1, 2012  
[www.akronaa.org](http://www.akronaa.org)  
IG office: 330-253-8181  
AA Speakers from across the country, History of the Big Book, Old Timers' Panel, Step Panel, Al-Anon AA Meeting, Fellowship, The Big Meeting, Spiritual Panel, Sunday Morning Meeting, Motorcade, Dance Dance Dance! Bus Tour & more.

Tell us about your story; or have your home group highlighted; announce an A.A. event or meeting update; celebrate a sobriety birthday, or share your comments. Getting published is something you should not miss!

## MO AND SCHLEPP

I DO A LOT OF SERVICE WORK. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE TO "GIVE IT AWAY-TO KEEP IT"



I HAVE A FRIEND WHO HAS BEEN SOBER 21 YRS. HE SHOWS UP ONCE A YEAR TO PICK UP HIS ANNIVERSARY CHIP



WHERE IS THE MAXIMUM SERVICE IN THAT?



## Attention Newcomers

Beginning on Thursday, December 1 Miss Evelyn, formerly of Harlem in N.Y. and currently a resident of Rincon and member of the New Horizon Group, will be facilitating the next 12 step series at the *All in One Group*.

Her experiences with life in general and her A.A. program should not be missed.

For a period of 12 weeks, Miss Evelyn will do one step each week and will share her experience for 20 minutes after which everyone else will have an opportunity to share their experience with the step she is on that week.

Y'all come! Seating is limited so plan to arrive early on Thursdays at 7:30pm at Unity of Savannah, 2320 Sunset Blvd. near Victory and Skidaway near Cary Hilliards. See you there!

## In Addition .....

The Newcomer Orientation Meeting on Sundays at 2:00 at the clubhouse is not to be missed! Rarely seen footage of Bill W. and the History of AA is shown every 12 weeks. We also have an opportunity to review 30 second T.V. spots for AA.

Each week we do a Step and a Tradition and discuss many topics related to AA but not necessarily discussed during regular group meetings.

## Kindness

*is a language which the blind can see, and the deaf can hear.*

**Intergroup Office Hours M - F 9:00-6:00**

### Need A Delivery?

Are you in need of literature but cannot get to our office?

Why not give us a call during office hours **9-6, M-F**, and we'll see what we can arrange.

## Our Principles

**Step Twelve:** Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**Tradition Twelve:** Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

**Concept Twelve:** The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

## Financial Snapshot

August, 2011

Group Contributions:	\$1,262.26
Literature Sales:	1,479.08
Gross Income:	\$2,741.34
Office Expense	\$ 752.65
Literature:	3,527.00
TotalExpenses	\$4,279.65

**Net Income: (\$1,538.31)**

*(Editor's note: Because of the way our deadlines fall we will always be reporting this snapshot two months behind.)*



*I sought my soul,  
But my soul I could not see.  
I sought my God,  
But my God eluded me.  
I sought my brother,  
And I found all three.*

## Need a Gift?

Why not check out your Intergroup Bookstore!! We've got dozens of great ideas and gift certificates in any amount for any alcoholic on your list.



**Come on in!**

Monday to Friday  
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**You'll be glad you did!**

## SIG Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to submit an article for publication in our newsletter please send it to [signewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:signewsletter@gmail.com) by the first day of every month, for inclusion in the following month's issue. Articles submitted cannot be returned. Please make a copy before submitting

Word count between  
400-500 words.

Upcoming themes are:

**January: The Family  
of Alcoholics**

**February: Anonymity**

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