

KENTUCKIANA NEWS

Alcoholics Anonymous During War & Crisis

This edition of the Kentuckiana Newsletter is dedicated to how AA, through its principles and members has survived many catastrophes has survived and many of its members have remained sober. This historical evidence gives us hope that we will also grow and move forward in today's pandemic crisis.

Melanie P., Chair, Kentuckiana News

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Alcoholics Anonymous Begins & Grows During War Time

The World War I era is when Bill W. and many who would become key figures in Alcoholics Anonymous took their first drinks. Rowland Hazard served as a Captain, Jimmy B. in The Vicious Cycle shares his drunken AWOL story. Fitz M. tried to enter service but could not pass the physical. Dr. Silkworth served on the psychiatric staff of an Army Hospital.

When A.A. was new, the United States entered World War II. Bill W. sought to return to uniformed service but was declined. Many AA members did serve as the entire country participated.

Everything was rationed, including gas and paper. In some towns including Akron, local rations boards approved additional gas rations for 12th step work, but others did not. At the New York office, National Secretary Margaret (Bobbie) B. wrote to the Office of Price Administration (OPA) asking for national relief so AA would be given the same status as social workers and those on a 'preferred list' to receive additional gas rations to attend meetings and "call upon new prospects who remain a drag upon the community instead of an asset to the war effort."

The request was disapproved citing legal reasons and suggesting she seek to change the law. She did just that, drafting an amendment to place Alcoholics Anonymous in the "preferred mileage" classification.

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Responding, the OPA acknowledged the value of the work but disapproved the request stating that despite the importance of the work, members are not professionals.

Bobbie was equally as persistent in securing enough paper to continue publishing our Big Book through wartime rationing. Wood and paper were rationed and sales of our new book were exploding after the Jack Alexander article appeared in the Saturday Evening Post in March 1941.

Rationing required us to reduce the quality and weight of the paper. Bobbie was relentless in her efforts and wrote the War Production Board, Printing & Publishing March 27, 1944 asking for more paper to publish the book she described as the “indispensable backbone of AA, the nationwide organization that has brought recovery to 12,000 formerly hopeless alcoholics.”

Bill W. asked the Medical Director at U.S. Public Health Service for assistance and the combined efforts were successful getting five tons of paper. But sales were brisk and a few days later, Bobbie requested an additional 3 tons. This request was denied and ultimately we were directed to reduce margins and use thinner paper to get by. The 1st Edition - 8th Printing was produced on paper half as thick with reduced margins making it the littlest Big Book ever.

The efforts of Margaret (Bobbie) B. regarding paper and gasoline rations in addition to answering letters from alcoholics, including serving military members around the world are remarkable. She was an essential part of our flying blind period and an unsung hero that helped Alcoholics Anonymous thrive.

War and crisis like our own drinking stories are not always pleasant, but they often shape lessons for positive change. The U.S. presence in Germany following WWII helped carry the AA message. Master Sergeant Bob S. invited Americans and Germans in both languages to an open AA meeting at the Hotel Leopold in Munich in November 1953. From this meeting, a German named Max sobered up and began carrying the message in the German language.

During the Korean War, AA members who needed another alcoholic to stay sober sparked the fire that is today 32 meetings, an answering service and central office. By 1952 Ann M. (Foreign Group Secretary at GSO) was corresponding with eight Loners in Korea when she learned of a group starting. She put the loners and Grapevine subscribers in touch with the group and connected 15 A.A. members with no previous knowledge of each other.

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Members stayed sober through Vietnam and some, such as Dick G. co-founder of my home group and past chairperson of this newsletter, got sober while serving there.

In 1991 I experienced my own miracle. Deployed to Desert Storm unable to find another alcoholic to work with, mail began to flow in from Loners Internationalist. The volume grew to daily mail from AA members I had never met who took time to express our language of the heart. Many AA members in Desert Storm shared the same experience.

By 2009 in Afghanistan connection was substantially different. AA was available through email, online meetings, and telephone. Technology is an incredible tool to carry the message that continues to evolve and connect us today.

My conclusion: Experience has taught us, that we can stay sober and even grow and thrive spiritually during war and crisis. *Roger W., Chair, Area 26*

The Bombing of the World Trade Center

During an AA workshop held in April, 2020, Greg M., past General Manager of the General Service Office, New York, shares his experience during the World Trade Center bombing and hurricane Katrina.

On September 11, 2001, Greg arrived at the General Service Office at his usual time and it the day began as any day would; answering calls and letters, meeting with Department Heads, and other routine activities, when someone came into the office and told them about the bombing of the World Trade Center. He remembered four or five people ran to the television to watch the horror and from the southside of the GSO office you could see smoke billowing from the trade centers.

Greg met with the Department Heads and they decided to close both the GSO (affectionately known as the God box) and Grapevine Offices at 10:30 that day. Employees needed to try to get home to their families. But traffic was at a standstill and transportation was shut down. Greg shared one employee had to walk 20 miles to get home that day. A few employees did not leave the office because their spouses worked in or near the WTCs. At about 6:00PM that nice a husband of a woman who worked at GSO came into the office covered in white soot and exhausted from the long walk. Greg saw the emotional and loving moment when the couple realized they both were safe.

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Greg left the office to see if he could find a train home. As he walked along 125th and Martin Luther King streets, he said the streets were full of people, but the only noise he heard was from sirens. People were silent, many with their heads down. It was an eerie, emotional experience. He was able to catch a train and got home to his family.

The next day, when Greg returned to work, the phone was ringing off the hook with worried people. GSO was closed that day and a skeleton crew was there. On Thursday, the office opened again. He shared it was eerie to watch F14s screaming down the Hudson River and Hudson Parkway was full of ambulances. He and the staff spent most of the day answering calls from AA members.

It was a couple of weeks before the Red Cross contacted GSO wanting help setting up AA meetings for alcoholics who could not attend regular meetings. Greg stated the GSO does not do 12-step work, but provides services, which support that work. He contacted the Intergroup for help. A couple found a bus in which to hold AA meetings. AA meetings were set up in the building Red Cross set up for housing displaced people. First Responders began using this space as a hang out to take breaks from the long hours and tragic work. The ad hoc AA meetings went on from early October until Christmas and for some reason stopped.

One of Greg's friends, who was at ground zero, shared a little of what he saw in the AA meetings: Sometimes the meeting room was empty and sometimes 6 or 8 showed up. Once a person came in sobbing uncontrollable. Sometimes people just came in for solace and quiet.

In May or June of following year, the GSO Archives received gifts of gratitude. For example, workers crafted the AA emblem on a steel beam from the trade towers; the logbooks of all the participants who showed up to meetings; and the chalk board used as a sign-in log inside the meeting room.

The smell of stench hovered over city for many many months. But now we see what comes out of that disaster. A healing experience for many. It was a tragic but AA people from all walks of life were there able to help keep many members sober during this disastrous time.

Greg was at the GSO when hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi in 2005. Even before flooding stopped, GSO phones were ringing off the hook with members living in the southern part of the country

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wanting help. Flooding was so massive people had no place to stay and many had to moved out, in some cases to other states. AA members, whose homes were not destroyed welcomed these displaced people into their homes; some stayed over a year.

GSO was in constant contact with intergroups and sent many books and literature and money to help. We finally got a call from the Baton Rouge Intergroup to tell us to STOP! We were told there was no place to store these resources and there was enough money. The fact was, AA members were so caught up in trying to address the immediate needs of housing and eating. They were grateful for our efforts and appreciated our prayers and thoughts.

Although GSO is not involved in 12-step work, it serves as a contact network helping AA members get in touch with one another.

About six weeks after the hurricane, Greg visited New Orleans to observe the damage and talk with members. Even with all the devastation he found the spirit of AA alive; members taking care of each other.

AA Members Recover After Hurricane Katrina

Irving D., past Delegate, Panel 53, Louisiana, was on the ground in New Orleans during hurricane Katrina and shared his experience during a workshop on April, 2020.

Irving D. began his story by thanking those who invited him and expressed deep gratitude for recording what he was about to share. He shared AA had not documented or recorded any of the history of this historical event.

When hurricane Katrina roared into New Orleans, Louisiana, it flattened and flooded the city. Many people were dislocated, injured or killed; looters and violence swept through the streets. There was no serenity.

The entire AA system within New Orleans completely collapsed. As Irving shared there was no AA pamphlet on how to continue AA twelve-step work, meetings, or support during a catastrophe. The building that housed the central office, was completely flooded; the only remaining resource was the central office phone service, which had been transferred to a person's home phone. The current delegate at the time had lost everything. Alcoholics were left to fend for themselves. *Continued on page 6, AA Members...*

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Offers to help immediately came in from the General Service Office and other areas of the country to provide money, books, pamphlets and on the ground help, but there was no place, organization or AAs available to store supplies, no way to contact or organize people to distribute resources.

Finally, about eight AA folks agreed to meet and discuss what to do. We met at the home of Angela G. who had a gas cooker and fed us a wonderful meal of gumbo.

It took six weeks to find a place to begin meeting. It was in a Sheraton hotel, which was the only place with electricity. An AA group in California had reached out and offered to pay for rent and expenses for us and we took them up on it. The small group decided to print flyers and nail them to electric poles and everywhere we could think of to try to contact alcoholics.

From around the country \$30,000 was collected and donated to us, but Irving said the checks and money were sent back with a note that AA New Orleans were financial capable of handling their expenses and would let them know if they needed financial assistance in the future. Many people offered to come down to help us, but we had no place to house them as many of us lost our own homes and were displaced.

The Deep South Convention was scheduled to occur during this time and people wanted to cancel it. Irving said no, we need to make it happen to help AAs. We do not quit. The convention was held in a high school auditorium. The Louisiana State Convention was held there as well.

The bottom line is we had to go back to the basics of what we're about in AA: helping one drunk at a time. In AA we can get distracted by all kinds of things but cannot let those distractions keep us from carrying the message.

AA Pioneer Serves at Ft. Knox, KY - WWII

On December 7, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor the United States entered World War II. The resources of America were directed toward the effort and every citizen supported the effort however they could whether in uniform or civilian life. Fort Knox, Kentucky quickly expanded training capacity. Clarence S. decided he should join the Army and contribute to the war effort. Clarence took his last drink on February 11, 1938 and fifteen months later organized the first A.A. group in Cleveland, Ohio. His story appeared in the first three editions of our Big Book titled, Home Brewmeister.

In August 1942 he applied to the Selective Service for Officers Candidate training and after being accepted, enlisted on September 21, 1942. A farewell party and dance hosted by the Gordon Square Group on October 3rd preceded shipping off to Fort Knox. The West Side groups who considered him an acclaimed pioneer for his work in Cleveland presented him with a service wristwatch as a gift. The large crowd wished him Godspeed and enjoyed his parting speech.

The fact that he was willing to serve in uniform at 40 years old is a testament to an entire generation. At least 300 A.A. members served in the military during World War II. Obviously, this included many who were older than the average service age of 18-25. The first young people's A.A. groups would not start for about another year.

The Cleveland Central Committee published parts and whole letters from service members in a section called, "News From the Camps". Clarence wrote that the going was tough and that he wished he was 15 or 20 years younger.

In December 1942 they published a letter from Clarence in its entirety. He thanked the committee for the second edition of the newsletter and felt it was more than justified if other service men enjoyed it as he did. In the letter, Clarence shared that he had received a special leave one night to speak at the Louisville Group, the only meeting he had attended since leaving Ohio. He also reported that the Louisville boys brought a couple of fellows down to Fort Knox so he could talk to them. He hoped he did some good. It is amazing he found time for 12th step work during long days of military training.

Describing what it was like he said,

"My daily schedule never runs less than sixteen hours and in many instances longer. The pace is terrible and I am losing considerable weight, which I can ill afford to lose. In addition to my regular basic training which all troops take, I am a squad leader; also act on occasion as instructor on trucks, rifle range, maps and map drawing, first aid,

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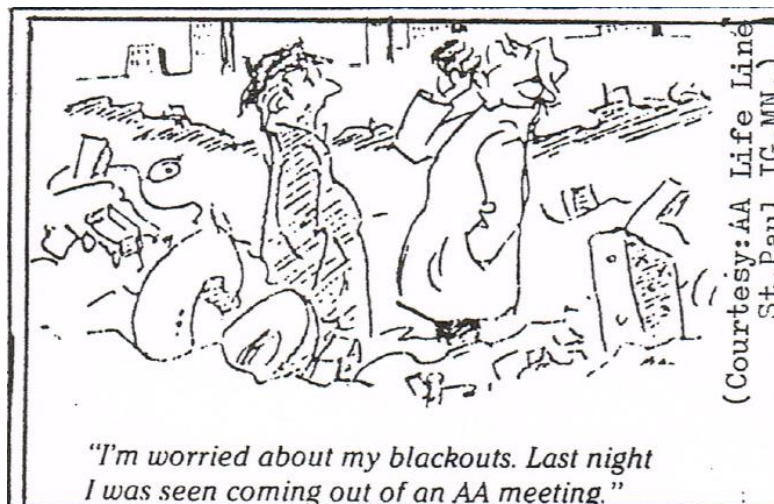
sanitation, 45 cal. Pistol, 30 cal. M.G. and Thompson M.G., scouting and patrolling, drill, and various and sundry other things. Also I attend officers' preparation school Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 to 9:30 and Saturday afternoons from 12:30 to 5:30. Other nights, of course are taken up with study and squad reports and various other details.

When I am ready for bed I then do whatever is necessary in cleaning my clothes and self and trying to keep some semblance of order with my clothes and other minor possessions.

Sunday is the only day I can hope for any respite. However, today I am corporal of the guard and have been somewhat occupied by that assignment since 12:30. The real work begins about 8:30 tonight which is about one hour from now, and I must get my guards on their posts and see that they are relieved all night until 6 a.m. tomorrow. Then I must go right on without any sleep tonight, so I imagine I will be a little weary by tomorrow night when I have about three hours of homework to do. So it goes.

I am certainly thankful for all the blessings I have received since becoming associated with A.A. The principles of A.A. have taught me how to live and in so living I have found on countless occasions that seeming impossible things have come to pass. My feeble efforts at trying to live this plan of life has taught me much that has stood me in good stead in many circumstances. My many happy memories of my association with all my fellow A.A.'s in Cleveland is a source of much pleasure to me here."

Clarence wrote a published letter again in January 1943 thanking everyone for New Year, Christmas, and birthday wishes. He reported that he may get a furlough soon or be sent home indefinitely due to age. He was in the 38 to 45 year old category. Ultimately he left the Commonwealth and returned to civilian life after five months of training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Roger W., Chair, Area 26



From *Kentuckiana News* May/June 1985

From The Mailbag....



My Friend Hiliary:

I hardly know how to write this letter to you, as I know that I should have written to you much sooner. I am very sorry for being so neglectful to a friend like you.

I am still dry, and it is running into two years, and you told me that you would send me a Token if I wrote to you and told you about it. I am sure feeling fine and I sure hope that this letter finds you the same. I miss the old Kentucky Home, but being a soldier I guess that I will have to do my best until I get back State-side.

I have been doing a little AA work on the side here as I am forever on the lookout for someone who might need help, and as you well know, the Army is full of them.

I have another Sgt. with me now, but I am without literature, and if I had some, I think that I could make my little group of two grow. I don't have the address of the New York Office to send for literature, so I am turning to you again, as I always do for help, that you so readily give me. If it weren't for you, I think I would still be beating my head against a stone wall. I sure hope that I can gain some of the "know how" of AA, such as you have acquired in your stay in the Organization.

Well, Hiliary, I am stationed in Japan on the Northern-most island of Hokkaid, and it sure is a sin-town, and if AA is needed anywhere it sure is needed here, and I think I can do some good. I see so many of them that may be asking for help soon and I have told my Company Commander, and he is all for it. As I said before, I have already contacted this one sergeant in the outfit and I have him on the list, so I think with him I will be able to build up a group here and help the unfortunates, just as you helped me.

If it is possible for you to do so, I would appreciate it if you could send me some literature that you think I might need to get a group started.

How is everything at the Club? Give my regards to everyone, as I sure miss the place. I used to go in about every Sunday, or should I say weekend - and also to the meetings that were held in the Police Station.

I am a Sgt. First Class now, and I hope to make more in the time to come. I am going to get right to work now, as it only takes two to make a group. It took me a long time to understand but I know now that it is the only thing, and even though I haven't been able to go to meetings or be close to the other members in AA, I have absorbed enough of the program's teachings to keep going on the straight and narrow.

I was in the library the other day and I found a book that was written by a member of AA, and it was very good. It was all about the alcoholic, and was explained in fine fashion - the last chapter was devoted to AA - it explained what the organization was and what it was trying to do for the alcoholic. The name of the book is "Here's To Sobriety". It was certainly good.

Well, I think I have rattled on long enough, so I will close for now. Will sure appreciate anything that you can send to me in regard to AA. So - with my best regards to you, I am as ever your

AA friend, Sgt. CARL E. M.

(Needless to say, Token and literature were shipped "post-haste" to above writer).

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AA Through Other Epidemics

I reached out to Michelle M. at the General Service Office Archives to find out how AA fared during past epidemics. She shared the following (November 4, 2020):

"I searched archived electronic records, including personal correspondence between members and the G.S.O., A.A. newsletters, and more and summarized my findings below. The flu of 1957-1958 and 1968-1969, as far as I can determine, did not cause closures of in-person A.A. meetings, such as what we are experiencing in the present. Despite serious setbacks caused by the 1957 and 1968 flu, A.A. meetings and events continued to take place. I don't believe that there were any specific containment or organized measures world-wide, as in the mandates set forth today, that would have affected meetings.

I can share that our own co-founder Bill W. was ill for several months from a recurrent flu in early 1969 (he and Lois were also ill with the 1958 flu). The flu, combined with him falling off his roof, marked the period of his decline in health. During the period of the 1968-1969 flu, G.S.O. office Staff continued to work but many were out due to being stricken with the flu. Members would write to the office, sharing that they were unable to 'perform particular duties' because they had been ill with the flu. However, A.A. conferences and other events continued on.

The grave public health response now, including suspension of social gatherings, is a more measured containment strategy coordinated worldwide, than we have ever experienced in decades. The voluminous news articles concerning cancellation of A.A. meetings in the midst of this pandemic is a novel experience for A.A. Fortunately advanced technology is making it possible to host online meetings for groups and members and the 'A.A. hand' continues to extend to our membership."

From the Gateway, 1956, #36

A Shot Of "Old A A" May Be The Thing!

A distraught woman poured out her troubles to Dr. Frank Nolan about her alcoholic husband.

"Has he tried A.A.?" the sympathetic doctor asked her.

"He must have", she said, "He has drunk everything else".

The Ask It Basket

Q: What was the second city in Kentucky to have AA meetings?

A: In February, 1946 Lexington became the second city in KY to hold AA meetings. Here is the story:

In January 1946 newly sober Carolyn M. returned to her hometown for an extended visit. To her dismay there were no meetings of Alcoholic Anonymous. She placed an ad in the local newspaper asking for people who had a drinking problem and wanted to quit to call her. She received several calls. It was decided to have a large introductory meeting. The Speakeasy Club, a group practicing public speaking, agreed to sponsor the meeting.

On February 3, 1946 the front page of the Sunday Herald headlined "Three speakers from Cincinnati and an equal number from Louisville will explain the theory and practice of Alcoholic Anonymous at a public forum to be held at 8 o'clock Wednesday night in the Commissioners' Chambers at City Hall." A follow up article on February 7 stated 200 people had attended. It gave a summary of how AA works, the Twelve Steps and that 25,000 people had recovered.

Thus the first AA group formed in Lexington. It consisted of "Chunky" V., Dave S., Joe J., Clark W. and Clarence B. All were prominent citizens and the organization was off to a good start. For many years these men were referred to as the Big Five. Each February an anniversary was held to celebrate this beginning.

The first meetings were held on Thursday night at Christ Church Episcopal located on Market Street. They were open speaker meetings. One of the members began inviting members to their home after the meeting. This was the beginning of the first rift and growth of AA in Lexington. Alma S. started a meeting on Tuesday night above the Fayette Cigar Store on Main Street. In the early fifties the groups decided to come back together and start a clubhouse that would accommodate their needs. In 1953 The New Club opened in the old Cassius Clay home in Duncan Park at Fifth and Limestone .

The above came from Mary P's history of Lexington. Check with the Area 26 Archives for the whole story.

Adversity Plus Sobriety

I remember back in my drinking days when I'd celebrate good times and bad times with a drink. Along with sunny days, rain, snow or clouds. It was almost as if I needed a reason to drink and I could always justify it for one reason or another.

Happy celebrations were always quite an excuse to drink in my world. Holidays, weddings and birthdays were accompanied with excessive drinking and the impending hangover to follow. Good times....or so we thought.

So, if good times were a great time to get our drink on what about bad days? Sickness, deaths, cloudy days, or maybe I'm just in a bad mood. Drown those sorrows, right?

Fast forward some days sober and what do we get? Real adversity. Death or job loss, loss of money in stock market or even worse. Like your candidate losing the election! Just kidding about that one but you get the idea.

I was sober but a year and my father-in-law passed away. He was a really good dude and I loved and respected him immensely. Since I was somewhat newly sober it was mentioned to me that if I can get through this without drinking it would be quite an accomplishment. My reaction was why in the hell would I drink then? The family had to deal with this and my drunken stupid ass wouldn't help the situation. That's all they needed was to babysit me. Instead of being a burden I can be a contributing adult in the room, not a drunken emotional crying idiot.

You see life happens even after we get sober. Good and bad. Celebrations and funerals. The really cool thing is what we can add to the situation. If it's a wedding we can still have fun. I can still dance badly and make people laugh and be pleasant. I can stay the entire time and not be an embarrassment to my wife and family. If someone is sick and needs a ride to the doctor I can do that and not worry my family with driving while impaired. I can comfort someone without needing anything in return.

In sobriety my brain has returned, I can deal with the emotions of happiness and sadness. It's no longer emotion over intellect but is now intellect over emotion. I'm so much better equipped now to handle these shit storms because they are going to happen. The tools of the program including my friends, sponsor, steps and my Higher Power are what this alcoholic need! *Tim L, KY Jaywalkers*

He Finally Decided to Take AA Seriously

On November 13, 2020 I had a cup of coffee with Richard T. and he shared his story with me. Melanie P.

Richard was one of 15 children. He said he was a middle kid and could never get attention. He learned early that if he couldn't get attention, "I'll make attention!"

His family was very combative. His dad did not communicate and paid no attention to the kids.

In his teens his way of getting into attention was to drink, take drugs and get into trouble. He mostly got high in those days because "alcohol wasn't hip" in the crowd he ran with. At the age of 18 he was sent to drug re-hab for two years, but due to a lawsuit the drug rehabilitation center was closed. He was only there for 18 months. Richard didn't want to return to the crowd he had hung around in the past, and on the outside, he looked to others like he had his life together.

At 21 he started drinking and said that was his identify within his family, "I was the drunk in the family, I was the party boy." He stayed away from drugs because he knew it would lead him to criminal behavior.

My brother went to college and thought because he had a four-year degree he was the smartest man alive. He would say he was going to be president someday.

He later got married and had three children - two died and the daughter that lived was mentally handicapped. He was "addicted" to his children. He wanted to be the best father he could be; to give them love and attention, which he never got from his own father. His wife became jealous. He continued drinking but he would never drink until the kids went to bed. He said he didn't want to encourage their drinking or lead them to alcoholic drinking.

In October 1993, Richard quit drinking for nine and a half years. In 1995 he was divorced. He joined Alcoholics Anonymous but did not stay with it. He received counseling and believed he had fixed the "isms." But in 2013 he went back to drinking. He was in Gattlnburg, TN with his oldest daughter when he took his first drink. "I drank once then didn't for a couple weeks. I could drink like a social drinker and I thought I had it." Within a year I was drinking like an alcoholic. "I finally got it!"

Richard was very successful in real estate for a while. At one point he was in the top 1% in sales - he looked good on the outside, but in 2008 he quit the real estate business for a couple years. He explained there is a lot of rejection in the business.

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In 2010 one of his daughters committed suicide. Richard said, "I felt so much remorse and self-hatred over his daughter's death. Children rely on us to keep them safe." He drank to run away from his troubles.

In 2018 he got sober again. He went to meetings and hung around AA. Richard strongly believes in God and Jesus, and had problems with what he felt was the idea of a "watered-down" god taught within the rooms of AA; the idea that god could be a tree or a door knob. He went on a cruise and go so lonely he began drinking again and stayed drunk for five or six months. In October of 2018 he asked Joe K. to be his sponsor and Joe said, "No." He knew Richard was not ready to get sober. Richard continued to drink and found himself driving in blackouts.

He was sufficiently terrified. Finally got a number and called it. After 9.5 years plus four 1-year periods of sobriety, Richard now takes his alcoholic disease seriously and takes the simple suggestion offered by AA. This time Joe K agreed to be his sponsor and his sobriety date is October 11, 2019. *Melanie P.*

Area 26 Corrections Committee During COVID-19

In a conversation with the Chair of Area 26 Corrections, Buddy G., I asked him what effect COVID-19 is having on getting the AA message out to the inmates in the jails & prisons.

Buddy responded nothing was happening at this time. Before COVID, he was able to deliver materials, AA Big Books and pamphlets, to the jails and prisons. But now, he has been denied admittance to these facilities. He has received many emails from the prisons and jails, but he stopped receiving those after access to the facilities was halted.

Buddy received a couple of letters from the Corrections Director in New York, who wanted to know what everyone else was doing and what was going on in Area 26 Corrections. When he told New York that nothing was happening, they responded that was the case with them, also.

Buddy said his contact at the jail, tested positive for COVID and is on quarantine. The staff, and most of the 80 to 90 inmates also tested for Covid-19.

When asked about the future of Corrections, Buddy said that will depend on what happens with COVID-19. *Mike C.*

A Day in the Life of Your Archives Committee Chair

What is it like to be Archives Committee Chair?

In 2017, I did not even know Area 26 had an Archives Committee or a Repository. The Repository is where Area 26 keeps, preserves, and displays all things pertinent to Kentucky A.A.

I was a GSR for my homegroup in Lexington and at my first District 28 Committee meeting I heard them ask if anyone wanted to be District 28 Archives Chairperson. This piqued my interest. I found out Peggy S. was the Area Chairperson and went to visit her at the Repository.

My interest soared from there!

Peggy had the Repository set up beautifully. There are three rooms, and each had its own purpose. There is the Kentucky Room, the Bill & Dr. Bob Room, and the smaller room is used for an office and storage. Peggy gave me a set of keys and I could come and go as I please. I discovered I could not get enough, I was there, a lot.

Peggy let me redo some of her displays. There were dozens of boxes filled with speaker tapes that needed to be catalogued and displayed. It took a while, but that task is completed.

There were Area 26 Committee Meeting minutes from 1951 to the present that needed to be scanned and put into a pdf format to enable researchers to view, search and print whatever topic they were interested in. It took a while, but that task is also complete.

I found many things of interest tucked away in files that I put in frames and displayed on the walls.

There is always something to do at the Repository. I find peace and serenity within its walls. Especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic the Repository has become my meeting place. I can get to work and listen to speaker tapes. If the speaker is particularly engaging, I can transfer the tape to a MP3 format and store it digitally. I try to bring my drill, it seems I always discover something that needs to be framed and hung. Sometimes, I just sit and enjoy the surroundings. If I do not accomplish anything (it is rare that I do not), I get that connection, I know I am in the right place.

Come by and visit the 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month from 1-4:00PM eastern time. It is Open House day! Or you can call Peggy (859) XXX-XXXX or me (858) XXX-XXXX and we will open up especially for you. 3499 Lansdowne Dr, Lexington, KY 40517. Please wear a mask.

Rick P., Area 26 Archives Committee Chairperson

We Are Not a Glum Lot! Sobriety in Adversity

L N B D G E D P L D D A E N E A J P L Z C S M E S
 U O D E Q N P O E O B E O L P G D C T X C P E C E
 F I I W W V I V O S Y I M P B L A M E O I I D N L
 R T S Y O I I L O T T E R O U A N R N N S R I A F
 E A P D D E L L F A S E M F N Y E S U S L I T N I
 W M A T C A U D R F C R E B T S C G E O T T A E S
 O R I E N T L T E I A S E I R I T N A E C U T T H
 P O R P E E S A A R R B S D O A E R R N U A I N N
 T F R L R U T T M O M R O U N V C R A D A L O I E
 N S Y E R E I N M V E E S V I U O E C T G M N A S
 O N C F S O S E O V E D N T G R O W Y J E F N M S
 N A D J N T R U D C N U C T S I T U A T I O N U R
 E R I F D I L A M E S E I N S P I R A T I O N E S
 M T F W B Q K E M T F I R E S O L U T I O N S Y E
 O M F I X K D A S F I J D Z I Y Y Q Z A E E O R L
 N M I Q W Q W U E S P O G A W R K R T E N M V E P
 E E C N A R E L O T R W N I B R R T O T K I Z V I
 H T U S G N I M O C T R O H S A I I M T C J J O C
 P H L V Y L S U O R O G I V J T N E T T N K C C N
 H O T R E D N E F F O R Z G U Q N D O A Y E Z E I
 U U I A D M I T T E D J L D L T T R O F B K V R R
 M G E S S E N T I W Y I E R U A Y X Y N I L P N P
 B H S E C N A T P E C C A S E R E N I T Y Q E H I
 L T C U N N I N G V U N A C C E P T A B L E R V S
 E S R E Y A R P U B C B L M D D T E L J C J I L W

ABANDON
 ABSOLUTELY
 ACCEPTANCE
 ADMITTED
 ADVERSITY
 AMENDS
 APPRECIATION
 ATTITUDE
 BAFFLING
 BEWILDERMENT
 CONSCIOUS
 COURAGE
 CUNNING
 DEMONSTRATE
 DIFFICULTIES
 DISCONTENT
 DISPAIR
 EFFECTIVENESS

EMBRACE
 FRUSTRATION
 GROW
 HUMBLE
 INSPIRATION
 INVENTORY
 IRRITABLE
 MAINTENANCE
 MALADY
 MEDITATION
 OFFENDER
 PHENOMENON
 POWERFUL
 PRAYER
 PRESUMPTION
 PRINCIPLES
 RECEIVED
 RECOVERY

REMORSEFUL
 RESENTMENT
 RESOLUTION
 RESTLESS
 SELFISHNESS
 SERENITY
 SHORTCOMINGS
 SITUATION
 SPIRITUAL
 TERROR
 THOUGHTS
 TOLERANCE
 TRANSFORMATION
 UNACCEPTABLE
 UNDERSTOOD
 UNMANAGEABLE
 VICTORY
 VIGOROUSLY
 WITNESS

Area 26 Repository can come to you!

The present committee created a PowerPoint that was presented at the July Area 26 meeting.

Email or call the area 26 Archives Chair if you would want a virtual workshop in your District or Home Group



Kentuckiana Newsletter Information:

The Kentuckiana Newsletter is for all A.A. members. The newsletter includes both articles written by people like you and some fun and information about what is going on in Area 26. We are always looking for articles from individuals in the fellowship. A general guideline for length of articles is about 500 words. Please share your experience, strength, hope, jokes and thoughts with all of us.

The Committee meetings are held during Area 26 quarterly business meeting weekends. All AA members are welcome to participate. If you would like to write an article or would like us to know about an event coming up in your home group or district, please contact the Chair, Melanie P. at Kentuckiana@area26.net.