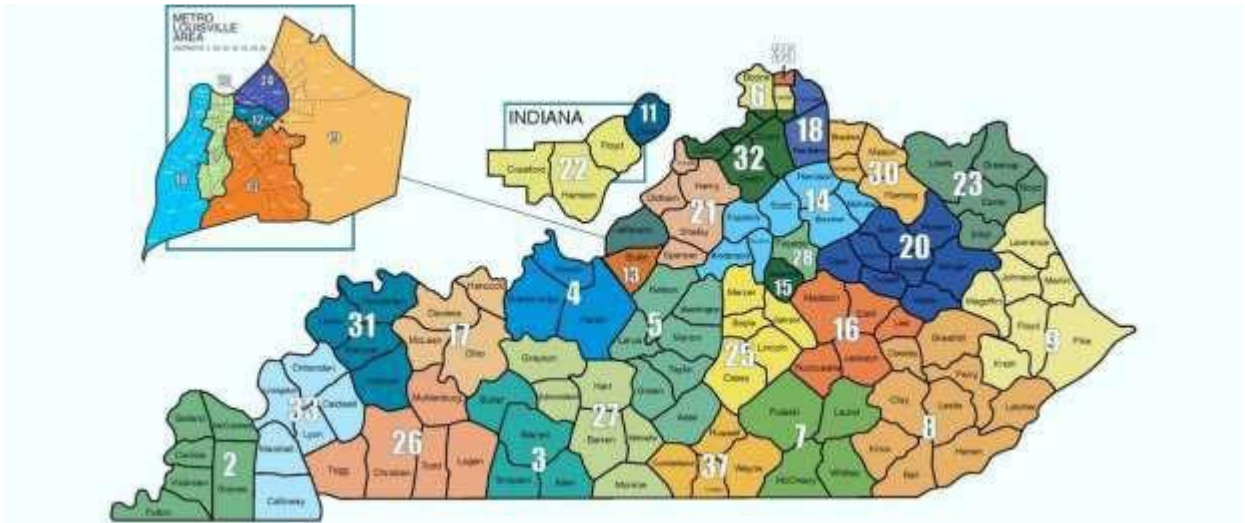


## KENTUCKIANA NEWS FALL 2021

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### A Message from the Chair...

Welcome readers to the first digital edition of the quarterly Kentuckiana News. If you want to continue to receive the Area 26 newsletter, click [SUBSCRIBE](#). Thank you to Chris S. and Misha M. for all the time and effort put in to launching our digital edition.

- Yours in service, Melanie P.

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### *About Kentuckiana News*

Kentuckiana News is published quarterly and is for all AA members. AA member stories, opinions and news are welcome - submit your information to [Kentuckiana@area26.net](mailto:Kentuckiana@area26.net).

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# KNL FALL 21 – NO MATTER WHO LOVES ME, LEAVES ME OR DIES

Where do I start? At the beginning of 2020 I was preparing to get a new job being a Medical Transportation driver. But the company kept needing me to get more and more information and certificates, and I couldn't understand why it took this long to get a job.

Where do I start? At the beginning of 2020 I was preparing to get a new job being a Medical Transportation driver. But the company kept needing me to get more and more information and certificates, and I couldn't understand why it took this long to get a job.

Then I got the flu. It just seemed to be one thing after the other and I didn't understand what was happening until it came out about COVID-19 hitting the country and shutting everything down. AA meetings included. I realized that it was GOD that had kept me from that job to protect me from the possibility of me getting the virus. Then they started doing Zoom meetings instead, which I thought was a great idea. I started doing Zoom meetings for my homegroup until I had to stop because I was 'Blessed' with a job at Kroger in May 2020.

Life seemed to be going pretty well in spite of the COVID except for losing two of my nephews 3 weeks apart in Tennessee. My mom and I were being very cautious, wearing masks, social distancing, etc. But we never thought that it would come into our home from a loved one that was NOT aware that they had it.

In October mom and I started getting sick. To me it felt like the SUPER FLU. We both got tested when a friend ended up in the hospital with COVID and Pneumonia. My mom tested positive and I tested negative even though I was having some symptoms too. Fast forward a little, mom got so sick and weak that I had to call EMS and she was diagnosed with COVID & Pneumonia too. I have to share with you how grateful I am to have built a STRONG PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with GOD, because my mother never came back home.

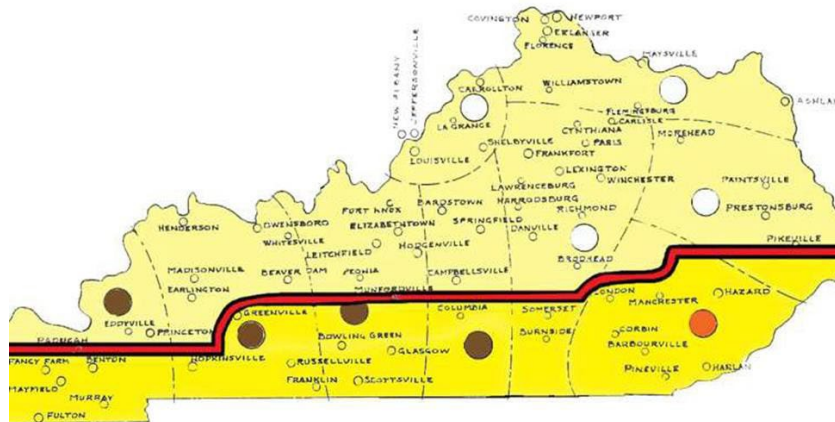
But the miracle part of this story is that GOD had already prepared me for her passing months before this. I just didn't know how or when. So when me & my family were allowed to go see her at the hospital while she was still coherent, I prayed and told her that I was ok with whatever decision that she made, I had peace. And since she didn't want to be put on any type of respirator, or etc. They just kept her comfortable until she took her last breath on November 4, 2020. The nurse that was with her shared with me that "out of all the patients that she had taken care of and died from COVID, that MY MOM was the MOST PEACEFUL one of them all". That spoke very strongly to my spirit and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that my mom is in HEAVEN W/GOD and other LOVE ONES, no longer here to suffer anymore. Do I miss her, of course I do but I am at PEACE because SHE is at peace.

So with that being said I understand why AA talks about ACCEPTANCE so strongly and that no matter who LOVES me, LEAVES me or DIES, I don't have to take a drink. Please use your support group, trust the GOD of your understanding, work the steps, talk to your sponsor and KEEP COMING BACK, IT WORKS IF YOU WORK IT!

Vickie W., Sobriety date: 8/7/1995

# KNL FALL 2021 – AA HISTORY KY 1960-1969

During the 1960s, A.A. meetings continued to grow in Kentucky and alcoholics could attend meetings in greater Louisville and southern Indiana any day of the week. The 1960 Gateway Directory identified 28 meetings; only three were held during the daytime.



The Area 26 Directory for 1968-1969 provided a map of the nine districts identified within Area 26.

Between 1960 -1963, eight new groups were formed in the Louisville area.

- Jeffersontown – Sundays 3pm, Gateway July 1960
- East Broadway – Saturdays 8pm, Gateway December 1960
- Group 19 – Sundays 6pm, Gateway March 1962
- Hikes Point – Thursdays 8pm, Gateway April 1962
- Beargrass – Tuesdays 8pm, Gateway July 1962
- Bethlehem – Fridays 8pm, Gateway July 1962
- 11<sup>th</sup> Step Group – Tuesdays 8pm, Gateway January 1963
- Couples Meeting – every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, Gateway January 1963

Although the Central Intergroup was well established in Louisville, it was not until 1960, an area meeting was started, including all the towns in Central Kentucky. It met once a month with a potluck supper. It wasn't successful for long because the smaller towns had trouble accommodating the larger groups. There were several attempts, through the years, to start an intergroup. Markings VOL. XXI • No. 1 – 2001, A.A. Lexington, Kentucky – a Brief History

In Lexington, Kentucky, the first daytime meeting was started in the early 1960s. It was held on Saturday afternoon at Raymond L.'s house on Vine Street. After a fire destroyed this place the meeting was moved to Gratz Park. Kim U. also had a Saturday afternoon meeting at his home on Second Street. After the Token Club moved to the Bell House, a Wednesday morning group was started there, but it was several years before the other daytime meetings opened.

The January 1960 edition of the Gateway announced the first quarterly for 1980 was to be held at the Kentucky Hotel, 5<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street (Muhammad Ali Boulevard), on Saturday, January 23, 1960. The speakers were Rufus S. and his wife from Fayetteville, Tennessee. Back in the 1960s, a drunk had few places to go to get off the street. Many were taken to Dr. Stanton Baker on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. There he would give them a shot of B12 and send way. If the person had nowhere to stay, he would pay \$2.00 a night for a room at a hotel on Garvin Place. \*Interview and timeline given by Bob W., March 20, 2019

On May 11, 1960, The Courier-Journal reported the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of A.A. coming to Louisville. The event was to be held on May 12 at the Token Club (439 Baxter) and it was open to the public. The meeting featured several speakers who spoke briefly and Bill W., the co-founder of A.A. spoke at several sessions. The paper reported there were about 700 A.A. members in Louisville.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1962, the 18<sup>th</sup> Southeastern Conference was held in the Kentucky hotel's Flag Room. The theme for the conference was, "Isn't it wonderful to be sober?" Governor Bert T. C. stated, "Kentucky has not done as much as we should have," for combating alcoholism. He said the Division of Alcoholism of the Department of Health and institutions such as the Western State Hospital were steps in the right direction. The 45-bed Alcoholic Ward at the Hopkinsville Hospital had cured 50 percent of its patients. The article reported there were 20 A.A. groups in Louisville, an estimate of 500 members; world-wide, the article stated there were over 300,000 members. \*Courier-Journal August 17, 1962

The September 1962 edition of the Gateway reported the annual membership and voting privileges at the Token Club cost \$48.00 or \$4.00 monthly; adjust for inflation, this would be \$411.16 a year in 2020.

The November 1962 edition of the Gateway reported on a new program about alcoholism began in the Louisville courts – films and talks about the workings of AA and what can be done to help an alcoholic were provided in sessions held Monday through Friday at 7:30pm, Police Court at 6<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson.

In March 1963, Gateway celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and in August 1963, the last known issue of the Gateway was published. \*Louisville Intergroup Archives

On May 20, 1963, Oldtimers Night was celebrated at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Bill A., Bob D., Art L., Bettye R., Hilary S., Tip H., Ernie A., Bob W., Ed C., Bob W.(2), Zeke M., Charles H., Buford M., Ida Mae G., Chester J., Carl O., Gene D., Charlie R., Mary Hall M., Arthur A., Bill B., Irwin M., Bud C., George & Sally, George S., Helen & Leon S., Bill C., John F., Billie D., Mike E., Chuck C., Chet I., Garret H., Elizabeth & Doc K. and Gene C. were acknowledged for their many years of sobriety.

The Talbot House opened April 1965; it was named after recovering alcoholic Matt T. who devoted his sober life to helping other alcoholics. "A temporary home for men who have lost their families, jobs and self-respect because of drinking." A bed was \$2.50 a day. \*Courier Journal April 25, 1965

In the last 1960s, the Central Office address was 319 West Jefferson Street, room 214. The greater Louisville area had only one district – District 1, which was comprised of 43 meetings and four special meetings (Breakfast meeting, Quarterly meeting, Token 3 and Shelbyville). District 1 covered Carrollton, La Grange, Louisville, New Albany and Jeffersonville. \*directory from Area 26 Archives

Currently Area 26 archives has no record of when Area 26 came into being. The archive has documentation that states for a while the Louisville Intergroup and Area 26 were tied tightly together, but eventually they were split apart becoming two different organizations.

Melanie P.

# KNL FALL 2021 – HE BECAME SOBER IN VIET NAM

Like all military operations before and since, the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous worked during the Vietnam War and members stayed sober through that time. There are a few Grapevine articles that capture some of those inspiring stories. One man who reached out for help and got sober while serving in Vietnam was Dick G. I am not sure where Dick was from but he returned to Fort Knox where he retired, settling in Radcliff, Kentucky.

I learned about Dick while researching the history of AA in Kentucky for a SSAASA presentation I was asked to give in West Virginia. Researching for Kentucky related articles in the Grapevine Digital Archives I discovered dozens of articles between 1976 and 1983 under various names; Dick G., Richard G., R.C.G. or R.G from Fort Knox or Radcliff, KY. Asking around about him I found out it was indeed the same person and many people around here knew him well.

I learned he was a co-founder of my homegroup, Traditions Group in Elizabethtown Kentucky. He was among those who left the One Day at a Time Group which split off to start Traditions Group. Various old-timers had slightly different stories about the beginnings of this group but one constant was that there was some sort of difference of opinion or resentment that led to many members starting their own group. Dick was apparently a very active member of the group that started as a result of some resentment. Because of the name they chose, Traditions Group, one can guess the conflict may have been related to our Twelve Traditions and how we practice them.

Dick G. got sober in Vietnam in 1973 with the help of a sponsor who was a civilian working in the country. To those who I spoke with around there, he had shared about the many other AA members that rotated in and out sober in AA or who were introduced to AA while serving there. I never got to meet Dick but only because I was not aware he was around when I arrived in the area in 2010. Dick lived in Elizabethtown Kentucky until he died sober in 2012. It is a powerful lesson to me that our long time members would be happy to share stories if we ask but if we wait it may be too late. Talk to them, they want to share with you.

Roger W.

# KNL FALL 2021 – BERTHA FROM LOUISVILLE KY

In 1968 a story written at the 8th Tri State AA Convention at the Ken-Bar Inn, Gilbertville, Ky by an African American woman from Louisville Kentucky for the A.A. Grapevine. They published that story in March 1969 and later would include it in the 3rd Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous with the title, "Another Chance."

In the Grapevine article and the version printed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1976) she introduced herself as an Afro-American alcoholic. In her story she said, she believed some of the Negroes were afraid to go to other meetings and wanted them to know they did not have to be afraid.

Her story was included to help reach people of color and she encouraged them to give A.A. a try and that they would find that we are really human beings, and we will welcome you with open arms and hearts. She asserted that AA people had gone through some of the same things that you might be going through now.

It is interesting that as time goes by, language changes which we have discussed around much of our literature recently. By the time the Big Book was revised again, the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2001), editors had changed the language of Bertha's story to "I am an African-American alcoholic..." and that she felt "some of the African Americans" were afraid to go to meetings. Regardless of your feelings about changing the words in the personal story section of the Big Book, it has gone without controversy or discussion for over 20 years. Is this a good example of language changes to reach the intended audience in our current times? That is an interesting question to consider. I know that Bertha was an A.A. pioneer of the 1960's and 1970's era that has made an impact on Alcoholics Anonymous literature and that a personal story of a local member was published in millions of copies of a book in an effort to reach suffering alcoholics like herself. Some say we should not have hero's in A.A. but I consider her a very inspiring character in our history.

Roger W.

# KNL FALL 21-OPINION: CHANGES TO THE BB

When I first entered AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), and picked up the BB (Big Book) I was not impressed by the 1930's English style that was used by the author. What I did like, was reading the stories in the back of the BB, where I found different styles of writing technique. And, as I moved through the book, reading became easier. Now, I am used to the author's writing style, which, in my opinion, gives authenticity to the BB. It is important to focus on that point.

There is now talk of changing the BB to make it easier to understand due to the lower education of the people who have come to AA to get what we have, that is, a solution for alcoholism.

There is a downside to changing the wording of the BB. The best phrase describing this downside is: "Lost in Translation". This happens when different words, and phrases, are used in an effort to simplify, and convey, the meaning of other words, and phrases, that are deemed too difficult for people to comprehend. Invariably, during such efforts, the true intent or meaning of the phrase is lost, or, is actually made more ambiguous.

An example of the changes in wording is shown in the different versions of the Holy Bible. This can be seen by comparing a verse of scripture in one version, say King James, with another version, like the American Standard. You will find different wording that is trying to describe or convey, the same idea. There is only one Holy Bible, but there are many Bible versions trying to convey the information in it.

Now consider our BB. It has been translated into other languages, which cannot be avoided. However, the BB was first written in English. All other language translations are made from that foundation. AA is based on that strong foundation. So does it make sense to change the underpinning of AA, or, for a sponsor to work with the newcomer alcoholic and explain to those who do not understand. I personally believe in educating that newcomer, rather than "dumbing" down the BB.

There is another option to take, in place of changing the big book, and that is to produce a "workbook" for the BB. Actually, to me this is better than changing the BB, but it is not better than educating the newcomer with one on one help from a sponsor. This workbook, in my opinion, would not replace the valuable personal experience of a sponsor, who, most likely, will still be needed as a guide and clarifier. The additional cost of producing the workbook, as well as storage and distribution costs, will add a significant drain to our current, and future, expenditures.

Please note that I used the Bible as an example. Our BB is similar in that, (1) it is translated into many languages, and (2) it is available, and used, in many countries. The two differences are, (1) the BB is complete, and, (2) it originated here in America.

Mike C.



*Note the Kentuckiana Newsletter does not endorse any opinions expressed by authors of the articles published within the newsletter. If you would like to respond to opinions, please send your email to [Kentuckiana@area26.net](mailto:Kentuckiana@area26.net). Please include the title of the article to which your email applies.*

# KNL FALL 2021 – THE SPIRIT OF ROTATION

Ever since my reinvolvement with Alcoholics Anonymous in May of 2011 in my current community, I have observed that two Group Moderators held that position for a long time in some of groups. In some cases, moderators held positions for about around 20 years.

I noticed, under the “guidance” of these long-term moderators that most of the meetings were not centered around Alcohol but by any topic that skirted around Alcoholism.

This has since been corrected.

Recently, an outstanding man, who came from New York, started to change the structure to that which AA originally had recommended. Recovery in a High Noon Group has taken off again and the faces are fresh skinned and alive. The other group did not survive the Covid Pandemic.

The Covid Pandemic surely took its toll on us but this man never gave up his absolute faith in the AA Program, he has played a large part of resilience that we now enjoy we march into the future.

Rick V.

# KNL FALL 21 – FOUR WORDS

These are the four words I hold on to in my sobriety.

The first is Fellowship: learning from my fellows, sharing with them and the wonderful support we give to each other and those new coming in to AA.

The second is Anonymity: having the safety that what I share is not going to spread around like a bad rumor in school. I think not only for myself but of others, we would not want a movie made about ourselves.

Third is Love: a feeling that is awesome when you have never had that before, knowing I am loved for who I am and the changes I am trying to make for the better, and not for what I have to give. Feeling welcomed and not judged is a wonderful thing.

The last is Laughter: in most meetings either in person or online there is laughter at some point, being reminded that it is okay to laugh at times instead of crying and being stuck on myself.

These four words remind me of the fall colors and changing from one season to the next, like the colors on the trees and the changes in temperature, I too have changed for the better. I enjoy sitting outside and seeing the start of a new season and changes that are yet to come my way. I get to reflect back on this journey so far from where I was and the people, places and things I took for granted and didn't take the time to enjoy. So happy FALL everyone! Take time to enjoy the small things and remember to smile and laugh.

Linda B, District 23

# KNL FALL 2021 – OUT OF A RESENTMENT

On Nov 3, 2017, at about 11:45 to 12:00 P.M., the AA Group “High Noon” was viciously attacked and thrown out of a Clubhouse. With the protection by the Police Department, a COUP was established, a new order and a new Group of the 12:00 P.M. time frame, was instituted by the President of the Clubhouse.

There was no communication before hand from the Clubhouse in one of our Group Conscience Meetings, nor had any officials notified us in writing according to the bylaws of the Clubhouse that there was a real problem. The simple reason was not buying Clubhouse coffee.

The ruthless attack and vindictiveness of the President of the Clubhouse acting on his own authority was unquestionably insanity directed to certain members of the “High Noon Group”. This was unacceptable behavior.

We have since been reestablished in a Different Clubhouse in a different city. Maimed but not dead, we recovered with some wonderful new beginnings for some of our newer members. Our membership continues to grow to full capacity which tops out at 69 People.

We truly thank our former Clubhouse for their wisdom and knowledge to let us go and spread the message of Alcoholics Anonymous Recovery.

Rick V.