October ’06 Newsletter

The seventh annual Birmingham Intergroup annual event – this year with the theme Recovery Ain’t No Walk In The Park – was a success. The event was held Saturday September 23, 2006 at the West Homewood Park. A large crowd of AA and Al Anon members and their families enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs, the AA-Lympics, karaoke singing, a scavenger hunt for kids, a quiz of AA history for adults, and other food, fun, and fellowship with the financial proceeds to benefit the work of the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office. Congratulations to Jennifer W. for her leadership of the committee and to all members who worked to make the event a fellowship and financial success. More than $4,000 was raised for support of the BICO.

The Annual Conference Meeting

Last month we explored the role of the Delegate. The report prepared by our Area 1 Delegate after the April, 2006 Conference can be obtained by contacting the Birmingham Central Office or through the Area website. This month we will review what the Annual Conference Meeting entails as explained in Chapter VI of the AA Service Manual and we will cover some of the highlights of the reports presented and actions taken at the most recent Annual Conference Meeting.

The General Service Conference holds its annual meeting in New York in April. Just what kind of meeting is this? Delegates coming to their first Conference say it is beyond anything they have previously experienced in AA. The Conference spans six days but there is overwhelming evidence of the year-long work that has gone into the preparation of the agenda or program.

Delegates are provided with extensive reading material and come prepared for full-time attention to the agenda of the meeting.

Conference committees are of great help in winnowing out the material that belongs on the conference floor. These committees first meet early in the conference week and meet as often as needed for full discussion and majority opinion to present in the committee report. Committee actions are then reported to and decided by the Conference.

While no one can speak for AA officially, the Conference comes close to being AA’s voice. It cannot be an AA authority, but it can bring into free discussion problems and trends and dangers that seem to affect Fellowship harmony, purpose, and effectiveness.

The delegate’s reporting job back home becomes as important at the program for the conference itself. In addition to the personal notes of each delegate, a special edition of Box 4-5-9 which is a summary report of conference action is prepared for each committee member. Also, the Final Report is published in the summer and goes into detail on reports, discussions, workshops, and actions. Copies of this publication are available through your GSR or from the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office.

Source: AA Service Manual pages S79 through S85

“The Conference represents us, but can never rule us.”

Bill W in first edition of the AA Service Manual

How many of these can you identify?

OD OS CD NS OB OSS CSS CBB BG

Answer on page 2

SEVENTH ANNUAL WALK IN THE PARK A SUCCESS

NEW DISTRICT SERVICE COMMITTEE OFFICERS ELECTED

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New officers of the District Committee have been elected. The election was held at the District Committee meeting held in late September. The new District Committee Member for District 6 is Doug McC. The new District Committee Member for District 7 is Lawrence K of the Hoover Group. District Committee Members attend the monthly meeting held the first Saturday of each month at the Putt Hut and they attend AA group meetings throughout the district to help serve as a communications link between the groups and the district and area service committees. Vicky T of Prime Time is the Treasurer and Eason B of Highland Park is the new Secretary.

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AA Service Committee Meetings

**Intergroup**
Sunday, November 5, 2006
Workshop, 4:30 pm, Archives, Protecting AA’s History, refreshments
Intergroup Meeting, 6:00 pm
JAFI 2012 14” Ave South

**Public Information Committee and CPC**
Saturday October 28
at 10:30 am at The Fellowship House • 1625 12” Ave South
Robert G 746-5217

**Treatment and Corrections**
Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3:45 pm
at: JAFI 2012 14” Ave South

**District Committee Meeting**
(Districts 6 and 7)
9:15 AM Saturday Oct. 28 in the Putt Hut of The Fellowship House
1625 12th Ave South.
DCM District 6, Doug McC
DCM District 7, Lawrence K

**Trivia Question**

How many of these can you identify?

OD OS CD NS OB OSS CSS CBB BG

Answer on page 2
**Step of the Month – Step 10**

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

**Tradition of the Month – Tradition 10**

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

**Concept for World Service of the Month – Concept X**

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

### Financial Report – August 2006

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<th>Revenue</th>
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<th>Taxes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
<td>218.83</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>2,527.21</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Inventory Purchases</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
<td>790.00</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,131.13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11,167.46</td>
<td><strong>Difference</strong></td>
<td>2,036.33</td>
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**Total Expense:** 9,131.13

**Net Revenue:** 2,036.33

**Walking In The Park Financial Report 2006**

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<td>Raffle</td>
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<td>Shirts and Visors</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5,206.00</td>
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<table>
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<th>Expense:</th>
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<td>Printing</td>
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<td>Party Rental</td>
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<td>Food/Supplies</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Net Revenue:** 4,209.71

**Donations – July 2006**

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<td>Serenity Now</td>
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<td>Bessemer</td>
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<td>Live and Let Live</td>
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<td>Metro Big Book</td>
<td>250.00</td>
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<td>Vestavia</td>
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<td>Hoover</td>
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<td>Huffman</td>
<td>300.00</td>
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<td>Primary Purpose</td>
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Thank you for your support of the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office. Many groups are on the 50-20-20-10 Plan. Call 290-0060 for more information.

The “Pass It On” newsletter is published monthly by the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office. It is mailed to all groups and is available to individuals for a $10.00 annual donation.

### Nominations

Birmingham Intergroup Central Office Steering Committee is now accepting nominations for the Steering Committee. This is the Board of Directors for the Central Office. Suggested requirements are three years of sobriety and two years elected service work. The deadline is October 30. Please call the Central Office with any nominations after first making sure that your nominee will be willing to serve.

### Trivia Question

**Answer:**

Intergroup Basket 19.00
Anonymous 484.76
Serenity Now 400.00
Bessemer 30.00
Live and Let Live 31.33
Metro Big Book 250.00
Vestavia 250.00
Hoover 633.90
Huffman 300.00
Primary Purpose 128.22

These are the codes for the types of meetings in most meeting directories.

- Open Discussion
- Open Speaker
- Closed Discussion
- Non-smoking AA Meeting
- Open Big Book Study
- Open Step Study
- Closed Step Study
- Closed Big Book Study
- Beginner Meeting

Thank you for your support of the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office. Many groups are on the 50-20-20-10 Plan. Call 290-0060 for more information.

We also solicit your contribution of announcements, group events, anniversary celebrations, AA sobriety birthdays, cartoons, articles on alcoholism and recovery, and other items of interest to our readers. The deadline for submission is the 10th of each month. Email tbaer mojo@aol.com for more information.
"The Professor and the Paradox"

John P., Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
(p. 336 in 2nd edition.)

"Says he, 'We A.A.s surrender to win; we give away to keep; we suffer to get well; and we die to live.'"

According to a talk John gave on Founders Day 1978 in Akron, he entered A.A. in February of 1949.

He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and had a thick southern accent. He described himself as having always been shy, sensitive, fearful, envious, and resentful, which in turn lead him to be arrogantly independent, a defiant personality. He believed he got his Ph.D. degree principally because he wanted to either outdo or defy everybody else. He published a great deal of scholarly research, perhaps for the same reason.

He finished graduate school at the age of 30, and taught English at the University of Alabama for 21 years. That is where he was working when he entered A.A. He later taught at Kent State University in Ohio. He joked in a talk he gave in 1978 about teaching Shakespeare with a southern accent, and having taught freshman English to Jim Nabors, television’s Gomer Pyle. Had he known Nabors was going to teach the class.

He began as a social drinker, in his early twenties, and did not experience any problems with drinking until well after he finished graduate school. But as the tensions and anxieties of his life mounted, and the set-backs from perfection began to increase, he “slipped over the line between moderate drinking and alcoholism.”

John said “there are all kinds of drunks: melancholy drunks, weeping drunks, traveling drunks, slap-happy and stupid drunks, and a number of other varieties.” He was a self-aggrandizing and occasionally violent drunk.

His crises came when, during a drunk, he became “violently insane” and landed in the City Jail. Soon after he was ready for A.A., he said his 1978 talk that he did not know why his story was removed from the third edition, perhaps the New York office thought he had died.

He also joked about how having your story in the Big Book could sometimes cause problems. He told how after he had talked at a state A.A. convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, he overheard a man say that he was a fake, a liar, and a thief. The man thought he had stolen every word of his story out of a story in the Big Book which the man had just read the night before.

He discusses four paradoxes in his story. (A paradox, he explains, is a statement seemingly self-contradictory; a statement which appears to be false, but which, upon careful examination, in certain instances proves to be true.) The four paradoxes are, (1) we surrender to win, (2) we give away to keep, (3) we suffer to get well and (4) we die to live.

John updated his story for the January 1968 A.A. Grapevine. In the update he said that in A.A. we don’t just quit drinking. “We learn to change our self-centeredness, to stop running away from things we don’t like, and to remove or at least adjust our emotional shortcomings. We do these things by taking seriously and honestly our Twelve Steps, the nearest thing to a ‘cure’ for alcoholism that anybody has yet discovered. We learn to do these things not by just memorizing the Steps (though that is a good idea), but by attempting to live and act them each day of our lives. And eventually, often when we least expect it, we discover that as a result of all this we are happy and contented and full of thanksgiving -- some-thing I once knew (or thought I knew) I could never be, without drinking.”

Source: Silkworth.net website

Center Point Anniversary
October 22, 2006
Center Point Courthouse Annex Building
1:30 P.M. – Fellowship
2:30 P.M. – Alateen Speaker Cody G.
3:00 P.M. – Al Anon Speaker Cathleen B.
4:00 P.M. – Dinner
5:00 P.M. – AA Speaker Ben L. North Pratt

ADAMSVILLE’S 26TH ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, NOV. 5, 2006
TO BE HELD AT THE “OLD SANDUSKY SCHOOL” ON PRATT HIGHWAY (OLD 78)
3:00 P.M. - Fellowship • 4:00 P.M. - Dinner
5:00 P.M. - A.A. Speaker, Tim D., Opp, Alabama
Covered Dish or Dessert Welcomed.
For more information contact:
Joe J. - 798-0121, Paula W. - 436-4520, Robby H. - 786-7236

I Am Responsible...

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.
Riverside Roundup XXIII
October 26-29, 2006
Joe Wheeler State Park • $20.00 registration to Riverside Roundup, 505 Sanders Street, Athens, AL 35611 • Joe Wheeler State Park 1-800-544-5639
See also shoalsaa.org/events.htm

10th Annual Celebration by the Sea
October 20-22, 2006
Boardwalk Beach Resort 850-234-3484
$20 Registration to PO Box 18726, Panama City Beach, FL 32417
miwen@knology.net

Gulf Coast Roundup
November 3 – 5, 2006
Ft. Walton Beach Ramada Plaza Beach Resort • Okaloosa Island Hotel
800-447-0010 • Registration $20.00 to Gulf Coast Roundup, Post Office Box 397, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549

Emerald Coast Jamboree
January 25-28, 2007
Ramada Plaza Beach Resort • Ft Walton Beach, FL • edjamoree@cos.net
$20.00 registration • PO Box 875, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549

Monteagle Roundup
November 17-19, 2006
Dubose Conference Center
Monteagle, TN • Local contact Tim B 835-1447 or tbaermojo@aol.com
Room and all meals $90.00-$120.00
PO Box 381, Duluth, GA 30096

Friends of Bill W. Spiritual Weekend
November 10-12, 2006
The new speakers are Jay P. from Myrtle Beach, SC and Charlie B. from New Orleans, LA.
$15.00 registration by October 20
Goodwyn Community Center near Perry Hill Road, Montgomery, AL
Post Office Box 70343
Montgomery, AL 36107
For more information contact Eunice 334-269-9264

Brooklane AA and Traditions Group
AA Meeting for the Deaf
Monday Night Open Discussion at 7:00 PM • 512 Quebec Street
McDonald’s Chapel, AL 35224

Group Anniversarys
Center Point Group Anniversary
October 22, 2006 • Center Point Courthouse Annex Building • 1:30 PM Fellowship • Alateen Speaker Cody G.
2:30 PM • Al Anon Speaker Cathleen B. 3:00 PM • Dinner 4:00 PM • AA Speaker Ben L. North Pratt 5:00 PM

Surrender Group 11th Anniversary
Saturday, November 18, 2006
2:00 PM • Dinner 3:00 PM
Speaker Fred W. Meridian, MS
Pot Luck Supper • 2130 11 Ave North Salvation Army Cafeteria

Howling for Sobriety Leeds Group 28th Anniversary Celebration
October 21, 2006 • Leeds Walking Track on Highway 119
11:00 AM Costume Contest • 1:00 PM BBQ Pork and Chicken, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs • 2:00 PM Speaker Tim D. from Opp, AL
Theme: A Halloween Day in the Park

AA Birthdays - Primetime

Group Birthdays
Hueytown Group Birthdays
Wade W. – 1 yr., 10-1-05
Ken M. – 10 yrs., 9-2-96 (correction from last month)
Cory K. – 9/19/04 • Spin G. – 10/1/90
Mark K. – 10/11/99 • Petior P. – 10/13/01
Richard B. – 10/21/98 • Brad A. – 10/23/88
Bob A. – 10/24/97 • Beau W. – 10/27/04

Alabaster Group Birthdays
Matt R. – 2 yrs. • Bruce L. – 2 yrs.

Please send anniversary lists to tbaermojo@aol.com or contact the Central Office.