

**October-November 2020**

**Pass it on**



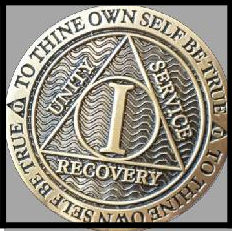
From the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

2020 Women's AWAAY CONFERENCE – Zoom Format  
Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM  
FREE OF CHARGE!! (Donations kindly accepted and will benefit the Central Office)  
For More information, please visit [www.awaay.org](http://www.awaay.org) or email [info@awaay.org](mailto:info@awaay.org)

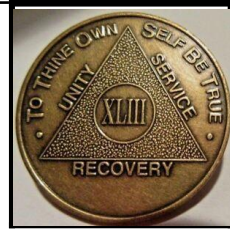
**New Website, Same Address!**

Check it out: [www.birminghamaa.org](http://www.birminghamaa.org)

It is linked to the MeetingGuide App and also has a function that will direct you to a zoom meeting from the website!



Grateful for the  
Chips we Hold.



Thanks to the following people who shared their sobriety dates. Many of us can't be together to get chips and hugs, but maybe it helps to see ourselves in print and maybe inspire others to keep "trudging the path of happy destiny," one day at a time. (BB 164)

- Karen K. July 22, 2019---1 year
- Erin S. March 12, 2016 – 4 years
- Sarah M. -Starting Over Group--May 26, 2011 – 9 years
- Jason C. April 22, 2011 – 9 years
- Adrienne C. -Trussville Group--August 5, 2006 – 14 years
- Jan F. October 4, 2004 – 16 years
- Jeannine B. – June 30, 2002 – 18 years
- Brett W. – August 3, 200 – 20 Years
- John H. – Riverchase Group – March 17, 1977 – 43 years!



**Second Call for Trusted Servants!**

**The Board of Directors still needs to fill three positions this year. The service resume (page 4) deadline is now October 24. Please consider submitting one!**

**Though District 7 has a new DCM, Susan B., from Plug in the Jug, it still needs a secretary and an alternate DCM**

**Step Ten:** Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

**Tradition Ten:** Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the AA name ought never be brought in to public controversy.

## Poets' Page

### Beneath the Suit of Armor

BY: Brad G.  
December 1980

The shining suit of armor, so powerful, so strong,  
for sure the person inside could not do any wrong.

A man so worthy of such attire must be sure in all his dealings,  
but I wonder if the Knight inside has any human feelings.

Of course not, not a man so bold, whose very life is weaved with danger.  
But I feel inside, without his suit, this Knight would be a stranger.

God gave men feelings, and Knights are men, so it's curious to me,  
how does he show his feelings when the armor is all you see?

Well, the Knight in shining armor grew old and not so agile,  
and the suit which had protected him had become thin and rather fragile.

The Knight was ordered to retire his shining suit of steel,  
and that was an awful moment which no one else could feel.

His heart beat loud, as if to say, "Please Knight, set me free.  
You've kept me hidden all these years, please let me out to see,  
if I'm the only heart that hurts, please Knight, let me see."

Too much pride, too much fear made the Knight ignore his heart.  
He hadn't loved, or shared, or cared, and was not about to start.

He died with his suit beside him which had hidden all his fear.  
And lying upon the face plate, was a solitary, shining tear.

He is free, I thought, as I wiped my cheek,  
and his heart will hurt no more,  
for his suit has indeed protected him from what God  
.....had in store.

### 365 Days at A Time

BY: Anonymous

365 days since I had my last drink  
A year ago no deeper could I possibly sink  
I thank all of you for the part that you've played  
Sobriety no longer need be delayed  
Each has touched me one way or another  
You are in sobriety my sister and brother  
God as I know Him made this dream come true  
And your love and kindness have carried me through  
Many difficult days that I lived by the hour  
No doubt I've been blessed by my HigherPower.  
Each of the meetings has been a gift to me  
To provide me with joy and to be fully free  
I thank each of you for the love you share  
May we all live in peace under God's sacred care

### *God hath not Promised Skies always Blue*

BY: Annie Johnson Flynt (Excerpt)

God has not promised skies always blue,  
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through.  
God has not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow peace without pain.

But God has promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

Submitted by "Crockett."

Read entire poem at [Women of Christianity](#)

## My AA “Infrastructure” Weekend

BY: Sarah M

Up until this spring when the Central Office closed and the Steering Committee fell apart, I did not pay much attention to the way things worked behind the scenes in AA. Fires draw crowds, however, and I started attending all sorts of “infrastructure” meetings. Many members did the same. We watched and participated in some conflict-ridden interchanges. They led to committed individuals turning the Steering Committee into the Board of Directors, beginning to rewrite the bylaws, and re-opening the office.

Many groups meet every month to take care of AA business. (See Box, page 5) The ones I attend need help. Participation has dropped back to pre-crisis levels. Here is what happened on Sunday, October 4.

### *I attended two meetings*

#### **TAC (Treatment and Corrections)**

meets at 3:45. LaRon B. is the contact person and committee chair ([sfaa.gsr@gmail.com](mailto:sfaa.gsr@gmail.com)). He has been doing all the work since I began representing my home group, and I think he was in charge for several years before that. He has kept track of what seems like every jail, prison, and treatment center in the area, monitored volunteers, chaired meetings, taken minutes, and much more. It is his time to rotate off.— and his work will make it easy for the next person.

Many committee members act as speakers and take meetings to jails and treatment centers. Before the pandemic, this meeting was often full of people. When the jails and treatment centers stopped accepting outsiders, however, the committee did not meet for a while. Now some treatment centers are opening to in-person meetings and providing Zoom platforms, so AA members can once again volunteer to carry the message. Now this meeting needs participants.

We received two invitations with Zoom information, but we did not have enough people present to hold elections. This group needs Chairs and Vice Chairs for both District 6 and District 7. It also needs a Secretary and a Treasurer. Please go to the November meeting; learn another way to share the message, and consider volunteering.

**Intergroup:** Meets at 5:00. Contact person is Anita M. ([rnsbkes@gmail.com](mailto:rnsbkes@gmail.com))

I have represented my home group at these meetings for a couple of years. This committee has many responsibilities! It works closely with Our Central Office

( Birmingham Intergroup Central Office-BICO). This committee also sponsors the Answering Service— vital to people who need to talk to another alcoholic and to anyone who is looking for a meeting. If you look at the top of this newsletter, you will see that Intergroup sponsors it as well. When we once again gather in groups, Intergroup will revive its Special Events Committee: Picnic in the Park is not dead, just a temporary victim of Covid.

Each group (we have about 79) is expected to send a representative to Intergroup, but until Central Office had to reorganize, there seemed to be only eight or nine people at meetings. Attendance grew during the re-formation, but it has gone down again. In October, we did not have enough participation to elect new officers. Please come in November, even if you are not an official representative. Officers needed: Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary.

### *I heard about two meetings:*

**The Web committee** meets at 1:00.

Contact Michael S. to get on the email list. ([mdstewart1@me.com](mailto:mdstewart1@me.com)) The new website is up and running. When I attended these meetings in the past, I found a group of creative, problem-solving people. They invited me to help with the committee descriptions on the new website.

### **The Grapevine/Literature Committee**

meets from 2:30—3:30. Tripp W. is the contact person ([trippwojohn@gmail.com](mailto:trippwojohn@gmail.com)). They are reading the *Service Manual* together. The title may sound like a big snore, but the book is full of history, reasoning, and stories about what works. It was my first source for understanding the committee system of AA, and it will provide material for future editorials. This group elected officers at their meeting. Tripp is the new chairperson, and Mike W. is the new secretary.

**NOTE:** Some committees are related to Districts 6 and 7; others are related to Intergroup. We can talk about the distinctions in another newsletter. **Feel free to submit an article!** For more information, refer to the [Election Update](#) newsletter.

### **Take the Survey!**

Please take this survey about the Central Office before October 24 so Intergroup members can discuss the results November 1.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VMQQTDP>.

**Service History Resume for Board of Director nominees**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date and Homegroup:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Group Service positions with years of service:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

District Service positions with years of service:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Area Service positions with years of service:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special skills, education, and/or business experience that will make you a suitable candidate for the Board of Directors:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup> Step work including: Carrying meetings to facilities, 12<sup>th</sup> step calls and sponsorship (this can be a yes or no) can be listed if you like.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Interested candidates should submit their Service History to the Central Office no later than **October 24, 2020**. Service Histories can also be submitted to members of the Board of Directors or returned via email ( [MarkLitvine@gmail.com](mailto:MarkLitvine@gmail.com)). For mail in, please send the Service History to:

Birmingham Intergroup Central Office  
RE: Service History  
242 West Valley Avenue, Suite 211  
Homewood, AL 35209



**From “Infrastructure” Article.**

Anyone who participates in local “Infrastructure” Meetings knows that weekends are busy. Four committees and the Board of Directors meet on the first Sunday of each month; the Archive committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday; the Service Committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday along with the Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community (PICPC). Right now, all groups except the Board of Directors are still meeting on Zoom. Traditionally, to participate in any committee (except for the Board of Directors) AA members would attend their home group’s business meeting /group conscience and ask to represent that group on one or more of these committees. **Anyone can attend as an interested observer, however, and every committee needs participants.** To learn more about any of them, go to the AA website ([www.birminghamaa.org](http://www.birminghamaa.org)). Redesigned and lovely, it is easy to navigate and packed with information

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office Board of Directors.

***We Want to Hear from You!*** Please send questions, poems, drawings, articles, experience, strength, and hope to :

[passitonbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:passitonbirmingham@gmail.com)



**Monday Night Live  
Speaker Meeting**

**Monday, Oct. 26, 2020**

**7:00 PM CDT**

**Via Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 405 308 098**

**Password: 520059**