

PASS IT ON

SPRING 2024

BICO – Birmingham Intergroup & Central Office
181 West Valley Avenue, Suite 233– Birmingham, AL 35209 - 205.290.0060
birminghamaa@gmail.com – birminghamaa.org

PASS IT ON CREATES NEW MISSION

PASS IT ON is committed to delivering timely, relevant Intergroup news and information to A.A. groups and individuals. Columns featured in PASS IT ON align with and represent Intergroup’s monthly agenda reports. PASS IT ON strives to fulfill a vital role in A.A. District One, Areas 6 and 7, to further strengthen the communication and function of our A.A. community. To that end, individual and group submissions are welcomed and encouraged! Submit to copyeditor@passiton.org

BICO REPORTS TO AA COMMUNITY

For the past two years, the Board of Directors for Birmingham Intergroup Central Office has been working hard to improve our Central Office, bookstore, and answering service to improve quality and ensure that you all can trust that Intergroup is providing its best. While we are continuing to strive for better service, we are sure that any of our efforts could improve. We are aware that some of you may not feel ready, based on past failures, to participate with Intergroup or its Central Office. We want you to know that as a board, we have heard from you, and we are confident that past failures are corrected and improved. Here are a few advances we have implemented:

- A new, clean, safe, professional office and bookstore.
- An annual effort to update and keep current our groups’ mailing list and contact information.
- Meeting schedules are available on birminghamaa.org and the meeting guide app. An open meeting contact list in hard copy will be available for newcomers and other interested people May 1, 2024.
- Independent and certified accounting procedures have been simplified in easy-to-follow reports for each month and for year-to-date. A private CPA firm is reviewing and certifying our finances monthly.

Thank you for your continued support,

Freddie Crews Jr.
Chairman/President
BICO Board of Directors

NEW CENTRAL OFFICE



CENTRAL OFFICE TO HIRE FULL TIME STAFF

Central Office is currently seeking a *full-time office worker*. For information, contact Central Office at 205-290-0060 or stop by 181 W Valley Avenue, Suite 233, Birmingham, AL 35209, for job description and application.

BICO – Birmingham Intergroup and Central Office

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

BICO NEEDS TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS. Requirements: 5 years sobriety, a history of A.A. service, and willingness to serve Intergroup and the Central Office in supporting the work of A.A. in general, (Areas 6 & 7) in particular. Serving on the board is a three-year commitment. Usually there is one meeting a month. The CENTRAL/INTERGROUP OFFICE exists to aid groups in their common practice of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. By providing Alcoholics Anonymous meeting listings, the office receives inquiries from those needing help. Staff may have a twelfth stepper contact callers or refer callers to nearby A.A. group meetings where they may find sponsors.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SERVING: Resumes are reviewed by BICO and submitted to Intergroup for approval.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE: BICO is forming a Finance Committee to work with our treasurer and president to develop budgets and forecasts for the future. The plan is to publish financial information in PASS IT ON such that members can get a thumbnail idea of the financial health of the Central Office. Another focus of the Finance Committee is to increase contributions from groups in Areas 6 & 7 to BICO by visiting area groups to present BICO objectives and dreams. Financial management and budgeting experience is preferred.

ANSWERING SERVICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: Some groups cannot fulfill their commitment to the answering service. Contact the Central Office if your group would like to serve a month (or two) in that capacity.

BICO FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF February 29th, 2024

Beginning with this issue, BICO will publish a quarterly report of income and expenses.

BEGINNING BALANCE FOR REGION'S CHECKING FOR FEBRUARY	\$12,734.84
ENDING BALANCE FOR REGION'S CHECKING FOR FEBRUARY	\$13,058.40
ENDING BALANCE FOR FEBRUARY REGION'S SAVINGS	\$09,002.66
TOTAL DEPOSITS FOR FEBRUARY (cash, checks & credit cards)	\$04,973.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY	\$04,649.49
TOTAL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY	\$01,252.64
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS FOR FEBRUARY	\$ 9.00

INFLATION REACHES A.A.

For the first time in a decade, the price of chips and medallions is going up.

Chips will now be \$.75 apiece and Medallions will now cost \$3.00 each.

GRAPEVINE REPORT

AREA 6 & AREA 7 GRAPEVINE AND LITERATURE MEETING NOW IN PERSON AT NEW LOCATION

The first Saturday of each month @ 10:30 am
Southside Baptist Church – 1016 19th Street South]
Birmingham – enter on 10th Street Court

TAC REPORT UPDATE

As of March 24, 2024, all speaker meetings that occur on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday at Bradford Health Services (Main Campus) are suspended until further notice.

Jennifer Gibson, Director of Alumni Relations, is working on a new schedule to allow A.A. groups to “Carry the Message” as we have done in the past. This same suspension of meetings occurred in 2019, with a change in Bradford’s Board of Directors. This 2019 suspension lasted only a few months. Dave A. (Area 6 DCMa) along with Clayton C. (Area 7 TAC Chair) and McWayne F (Area 7 TAC Chair) will be working with Ms. Gibson and the other fellowships to create a schedule that will be useful to the clients of Bradford and the Fellowship of A.A.

CALENDAR

BICO PUBLISHES OPEN MEETING GUIDE FOR NEWCOMERS. For all groups, there is a new open meeting guide to help newcomers get involved with A.A. throughout the metro area. The guides will be available by May 1 for \$.50 apiece at the Central Office.

Bessemer 75th anniversary - April 27, 2024

Fellowship 4:30pm

Food 5:30

Speaker 7:00

824 9th Street North, Bessemer, AL 35020

2024 A.A. Technology Sharing Sessions – Tuesday, April 30 – 6:00pm Central Time

- A monthly opportunity for A.A. technology and web trusted servants to share their experience.
- Technologies that are helping carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.
- Zoom Meeting ID: 876 9307 6500 – Passcode: 709533 – Link: <https://tinyurl.com/tsszm>

AREAs 6 & 7 Founder's Day – Saturday, June 8th

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church – 5514 Double Oak Lane, Indian Springs

Food, Fellowship, and Fun

Fellowship at 2:00pm – Ralph D., Plug in the Jug & Regina V – Variety Hour

Heard at a meeting: “Sometimes I have brown chip days, but I don’t have to drink over them.”

BICO PICNIC IN THE PARK - Black Creek Park Fultondale – Saturday, September 17, 2024

11:00am – 4:00pm

2024 AWAAY WOMEN’S CONFERENCE - Saturday, November 2, 2024 – 9:00am – 4:00pm

Planning meetings are being held on Wednesdays at 5:30pm via Zoom. To participate in planning, contact Jochelle C. at 205-586-0063, or sign on to Zoom at www.awaay.org.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM - December 6 – 8 – Biloxi, MS

Rita N., Forum Committee Chair

731 445-4601 – ezduzit83@yahoo.com

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE

BROKEN PROMISES

Anonymous

Promises, Promises! Not THE promises, what we know as the 9th step promises from the Big Book. I’m talking about the word PROMISE itself. I take that word very seriously. To me it is a sacred oath, a word of honor, like wedding vows. It is a heavy-duty important commitment. In relationships, promises hold more weight than a casual yes or no, I’ll do that or not do this.

People let me down so often that I used to constantly try to elicit promises from them, thinking that would be a guarantee that things would go like I wanted, and the person would treat me right. But with my first husband, it got to the point that he had heard me say, “But, you PROMISED!” so many times, he finally answered, “I don’t HAVE to keep my promises to you!”

I was crushed! Devastated! The thought that promises didn’t have to be kept was shocking to me! I was scared to death about how I was going to live without people living up to their promises. It felt like my whole world was ripped apart. Although I don’t remember this clearly, I’m quite sure I got good and drunk for days after that. I divorced that man, but I started seeing how other people broke their promises too, they just didn’t say it like that.

Of course, I broke a lot of my own promises too, even the ones I made to myself. The first definition of a promise is to “give one’s pledge to do or not do something.” The second definition is “ground for hope.” That was the driving force behind my clinging to that word – my hope for the future, that it would be to my liking. So, when a promise was broken, my hope in the future dissolved, and I had to drink to tolerate whatever bad situation I’d gotten myself into.

Many years later, I found that in AA, people actually kept their promises – my sponsor said what she meant, and meant what she said. I found people to be honest and forthright, either keeping promises or not making them. I learned that it was all about the honesty concept of the program. And when people still let me down in that area, at least the program itself kept its promises, at least the Big Book kept its promises, and best of all, I was introduced to a God who cared what kind of life I wanted to live, how I wanted to be treated, and ALWAYS kept His promises, which keeps me SOBER.

So, actually, this is not so much about promises as it is about honesty, about honoring commitments, having integrity, being trustworthy... and me being someone who can be trusted to keep my promises... When I brought this up at a meeting, my sponsor said that promises are a function of the ego, and therefore, subject to change at any moment. I resemble that remark!

What’s your experience with promises, either kept or being broken, and how did that affect your drinking, or your sobriety? What have you found about the honesty concept of the program – has it surprised you that people can be honest? Have you struggled with that yourself? PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSES TO COPY EDITOR @ PASSITON.ORG.

Heard at a meeting: *“Today is a gift. That’s why they call it ‘the present.’”*

WORDS

Jim M.

There are a lot of words in the Big Book. I have to pay attention to the words! They have taught me a new life, maybe not a millionaire's life, but one where I can feel comfortable in my position of life today. And the word 'acceptance' seems to always preface whatever I'm up to, either mundane living or creative thinking. And the best word for me, 'patience.' I remember a lady at a meeting who said that her sponsor drilled that word into her head. Patience on every step is required for me, even after so many years.

Another big word for me is the everlasting "NO." It sets the bar on anything I think I'm capable of doing and reminds me not to wait for a rooster to lay an egg.

All in all, each and every word leads to an awakening of who I am and where I am. This leads to the final word of 'spiritually' assisting others having trouble reading the words in the Big Book. All credit for me to understand any of the words must be given to the grandest word, called 'sponsor.' And his biggest word is 'meetings.' That's where all the words come together in a message of experience, strength, and hope. What wonderful words!

Heard at a meeting:

"I knew I was getting better when I began contemplating homicide and not suicide."

LOOKING BACK

Anonymous

Of all the things that I have lost,
and all the things I never had at all,
tis's and twas's
was's and then's.
Dump them in
the deep OH WELL.
Do I care,
or squeeze a tear?
Sometimes frown in the mirror?
Perhaps.
Yet.
Now
is the time
my heart rejoices
and screams my soul
ALIVE!

VOLUNTEER PASS IT ON STAFF

copyeditor@passiton.org
layouteditor@passiton.org
Area 6 Reporter@passiton.org
Area 7 Reporter@passiton.org
Dave A. – Technical Support
Freddie C., Jr. – BICO President

CONTRIBUTE TO PASS IT ON

We welcome your submissions of short stories (400 – 600 words), poems, one-liners, photographs, artwork, and especially, news of A.A. events open to all. Submit to copyeditor@passiton.org