

the Westword

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June issue/2007

"Our Primary Purpose: Attraction Rather than Promotion" - Pat L. Area 78

I came into the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous after watching my Mother for 3 years. In the opinion of the family she was a "Hopeless Alcoholic" and as much as we loved her we could not help her. She went to an AA meeting one evening and met some ladies who were almost exactly like her and to our surprise (in spite of all our efforts) she stopped drinking and stayed stopped through many very traumatic experiences in her life. Her sister was very attracted by what she saw and asked her to help her daughter. My cousin joined AA and in spite of all her family's cajoling she too stopped drinking. I watched this with great interest and 2 years later made the telephone call to my cousin that saved my life. I was very attracted by the life I had seen these two women achieve in sobriety and "wanted what they had".

We need to carry this idea of attraction to many levels in our Fellowship, particularly when we refer to our Primary Purpose. Tradition 5 and Tradition 11 must be our guidelines when we speak about "Carrying the Message to the alcoholic who still suffers and Attraction rather than Promotion at the level of Press Radio and Film" – but what about in our Communities? When I am out and about in the community in which I function and attend social gatherings, many people are very aware that I do not drink. I am a business woman who is active in my professional community and am often asked why? My response is always the same "I have found a way to live without drinking alcohol and if you would like to talk more about it – here is my number, please call me". With all the notoriety that we are receiving today from celebrities who are searching for what we have – I believe we must be compassionate, kind and understanding because they do not know any different and are only looking for help.

Our Public Information Committees at all levels must continue their work in sharing the proper information about our Fellowship and our 11th Tradition that states the importance of our anonymity. As Bill Sees it Page 255 says "To reach more alcoholics, understanding of AA and public good will towards AA must go on growing everywhere". Our Cooperation with the Professional Community Committees must be available to provide assistance to professionals who do not know who we are and who we are not. "We need to be on still better terms with medicine, religion, employers, governments, courts prisons, mental hospitals and all enterprises in the field of alcoholism" and what a wonderful resource we can be for someone they see who has a *Drinking Problem*.

Each and every one of us must be an example of sobriety in action and many of those who do not want to be labeled as "an alcoholic" will be attracted by what they see. In our communities we should strive for the ideals that we review each and every day in our books and our literature. If we are to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers – what message are we carrying? Are we carrying a message of recovery from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body into a place of usefulness or are we carrying a message of selfish and self centered egotism? "Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego manifestations of our own people".

My family, friends and some business associates know that I am a member of AA. I have stressed to them the importance of my anonymity and that I am available to them at any time, anywhere to assist anyone who has a drinking problem. Personally, I would like those who are in recovery to be kind, considerate, non judgmental and open minded. Love and Tolerance are our guides. With these traits foremost in our minds who could help but be attracted to what we have. Are these extravagant expectations – Likely Yes..... Shall we strive for them – Why Not? As you will note As Bill Sees it is one of my favorite books. Below it's title it simply says the AA Way of Life and a truly subscribe to that.

Page 278 refers to speaking up with out fear. This was a major accomplishment in my life because of the connotation that went along with that of a woman who drinks too much. She was of low moral character and an embarrassment to those around her. Today I can tell anyone that I have met the most courageous women in my life around the meeting rooms of AA and that I am proud to be a member of AA. We have had the courage to change our lives and the lives of those who were affected by our drinking. Who would not be attracted to us? When I speak before semi public gatherings I wish to convince audiences that our alcoholism is a sickness we no longer fear to discuss with anyone.

Page 316 talks about the spirit of anonymity and giving up our natural desires for personal distinction as AA members.

Our 12th Step Responsibility is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers and we should go to any length that is required. That means attending meetings and welcoming the newcomer (even when we are not having a great day), answering the telephones (even when we are busy) doing a twelfth step call (even when it is inconvenient) and being an example of Hope and Sobriety. We will attract those who wish recovery by watching us.

Please don't stop carrying the message, you may be the only example of the Big Book that someone in despair, reaching out for help and stumbling in the darkness may ever see.

Thank - you Rick for asking me to make this presentation and thank-you all for making the gift of recovery attractive to me.

I am responsible,
When anyone, anywhere, reaches of
for help, I want the hand of AA
always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.

CALGARY AA CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

#2, 4015 1st Street S.E.

Calgary, Alberta, T2G 4X7

Phone (403) 777-1212 Fax (403) 287-6540

Email: centraloffice@telus.net

Office Hours

Mon to Thurs 8:30am to 1:00pm, 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Fri 8:30am to 5:30pm, Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm

Closed Sundays and Stat Holiday Weekends

NOTE: Closed June 30, July 2

New Meetings

Big Book Study, Open Women
Monday 7:30pm
11419 - 8 St. SW (upstairs, at left)

Came To Believe, Open, Discussion
Sunday 7:30pm
Rm 200L, 200 Haddon Road SW
(upstairs)

Come and See, Open
Sunday 7:00pm
St. Joseph's Church
640 19 Ave NW

Walking Eagle, Open, Step & Tradition
Monday 8:30pm-9:30pm
Knox United Church (Harris Room)
506 - 4 St SW

New You Sailor Bill's, Open Mixed,
Step & Tradition
Tuesday 7:30pm

Main Floor Meeting Room,
Bowness Sportsplex 7904 43 Ave NW

Innisfail Saturday Night, Open, Mixed,
Non-Smoking, Big Book Study
Saturday 8:00pm
Lions' Church, north end East Gate Mall

Sowing The Seed, Open
Tuesday 7:30pm
Mustard Seed Creative Centre
(basement)
106 - 11 Ave SE

Special Forum In Yellowknife NWT July 14-15

Could really use literature, mostly they need oral cassettes/CDs. Best would be Big Book and 12x12 tapes: One can purchase (tax charitable receipt available) or donate.

Prices are as follows:

Big Book cassettes, no stories, set	\$32.00
Big Book cassettes or CDs, complete set.....	\$95.00
12x12 cassettes, set.....	\$32.00
12x12 CDs, set	\$34.50
AA Comes of Age, cassettes, set	\$32.00
Pioneers of AA cassettes, set	\$26.75
Grapevine cassettes, various, each	\$14.40
Grapevine CDs, various, each	\$16.00

Changes to Meetings

Airdrie Sunday Morning Breakfast
Speaker now starts at 10:00am
Breakfast following
Rm 207 Best Western Regency Inn
Edmonton Trail, Airdrie

Los Vientos (Spanish)
Fri, Sat 7:00pm, Sun 5:00pm
Forest Lawn Physiotherapy
(Basement) 1803 - 35 St SE

Step By Step
Tuesday 8:00pm
Christ Church, 3602 8 St SW
New Room: North Door, Downstairs

Strathmore Thursday Night 12x12
Thursday 8:00pm
Now meets at the
Strathmore Full Gospel Church

Cancelled Meetings

Black Diamond (Oil Fields Hospital)
Sunday 8:00pm

First Things First
Thursday 7:00pm

Inside Out
Tuesday 7:30pm

New You
Wednesday 8:00pm

Properties Group
Thursday, 8:00pm

Sailor Bill's
Tuesday 7:30pm

EXPENSIVE UNHAPPINESS

from Kansas City, Missouri

I'm twenty years old. Looking back, I see that I was an alcoholic at fifteen, when I took my first drink. The boys I ran around with drank for the fun of it and to be smart- but always stopped before they had too much. I drank because I liked the effects of alcohol and never knew when to quit. I always wound up drunk. At fifteen I spent my first night in jail for being drunk.

When I was seventeen, I heard of AA but did nothing about it. When I was nineteen, I finally came into AA, and only through the Fellowship have I been able to gain self-respect, happiness, and a confidence in the future.

There are many young people- younger than myself- who need AA. If they will give it a chance to work for them, they will save themselves many years of sickness, despair, and expensive unhappiness.

Every day I ask God to help me overcome my impetuosity and devil-may-care attitude and imbue in me a sense of gratitude for the wonderful blessing of sobriety I have received.

P.S., October 1948

Valuable 12 Step Opportunities

"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics."

Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 89

Members needed to carry the message to **Bowden Institution**
(security clearance required).

More info: Brenda G. (403) 309-8323 or email: corrections@area78.org

Members needed to carry the message to the
Remand Centre and Calgary Young Offenders Centre

Both require security clearance & min. 1 yr sobriety

More info: Marilyn L. (403) 239-4923

Central Service Office would like **Telephone Monitors**

One shift per week Monday to Friday

9:00am to 1:00pm or 2:00pm to 5:00pm

More info: Mathew (403) 777-1212 or email: centraloffice@telus.net

Calgary AA would like members for the **12 Step List**

More info: Doug (403) 990-9914 or Mathew (403) 777-1212 or email:
centraloffice@telus.net

Bridging The Gap is looking for contacts willing to work in the
North East of Calgary or in centers outside of Calgary

More info: Mathew (403) 777-1212 or email centraloffice@telus.net

Calgary Archives needs your old Grapevines:

Hi all. In cataloguing all our Grapevines for Archives we found we are missing a few from a few years. We thought with all our AA friends out there they might have the missing issues. We are hoping to have donated the following from AA history.

1951 - Feb, Mar, May, Jun, Sep, Oct, Dec	1958 - Whole Year
1952 - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sept, Oct	1961 - Aug
1953 - Jan, Feb, Apr, May, Oct	1965 - Aug
1954 - Sep, Oct, Nov	2002 - Aug, Oct, Nov
1955 - Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep	2003 - Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jul, Aug, Sep, Dec
1956 - Jul	2004 - May, Aug, Sep, Oct, Dec



CHECK THIS OUT



Valuable Service Work Opportunities Up For Grabs!!!

Calgary Intergroup is looking for AA members to partake in the following positions of **Secretary and Special Event's Chair**

Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at the Intergroup Meetings

Special Events Chair is responsible for all the fun events that happen through Calgary Intergroup (Dances, BBQ's, Parties, etc)!!!!

If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested, please call Central Office (777-1212)

CGSC is looking for someone to fill the position of **Registrar & Introductory Service Seminar Chairs** if you are interested please attend the next CGSC Meeting (last Monday of the month) or call Central Office (777-1212)

Calgary Archives is looking for the following:

- AA members with more than 30 years sobriety willing to do oral histories.
 - Group willing to submit histories of their groups.
- If you're interested in being a part of our Archives contact Tim-273-2846

Please Note:

Central Office will be closed Sat. June 30 and Monday, July 2 for Canada day weekend

Upcoming Events

Brooks Roundup

June 16, 2007

Deadline for Banquet tickets June 4

Info: Donna 362-6359, Dave 362-7251 or
Al/Laurie 362-4482

Acme Pot-Luck & Speaker Meeting

June 16, 2007

Acme Seniors Association, Main Street

Pot-Luck 5:30pm, Speaker 7:30pm

3rd Saturday of each month

Previously: Morrin Pot-Luck & Speaker

District 86 Roundup

June 22-23, 2007

Strathmore Curling Rink

Info: Bob 816-8887, Shirley 934-7876

Tim 934-0059

Okotoks Monday Night Group Campout

July 13-15, 2007

Hogg Park on the Highwood River

Info: Ivan 803-8255 or Marty 938-2246

Edson & District Roundup & Campout

July 20-22, 2007

Pinegrove Hall, Edson

Info: Jessie 780-712-3093 or

Wayne 780-723-3128

Acme Pot-Luck & Speaker Meeting

July 21, 2007

Acme Seniors Association, Main Street

Pot-Luck 5:30pm, Speaker 7:30pm

3rd Saturday of each month

Previously: Morrin Pot-Luck & Speaker

Crowsnest Pass Camp Out

July 27-29, 2007

Castle River Rodeo Grounds

Info: Norma-Jean 563-5318 or

Doug/Michelle 562-2466

Consort Campout

July 27-29, 2007

Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park

Info: 577-3082 or 577-2613

If you would like to publish a recovery related story to the Westword, simply drop it off at Central Office or e-mail it to: westwordeditor@gmail.com

HAPPY AA BIRTHDAY

May

272

Stan R. 2 yrs
Anneliese W. 18 yrs
Phil D. 21 yrs

ABC

Mike M. 3 yrs
Rick F. 3 yrs
Byron L. 8 yrs
Karen C. 17 yrs
Tim S. 26 yrs

Crossroads

Tony S. 31 yrs

Desperation

Greg S. 1 yr
Richard M. 1 yr

Edgemont

Michael 3 yrs
Dave R. 5 yrs
Gaurav 6 yrs
Bill F. 7 yrs
Tom W. 9 yrs
Susan C. 12 yrs
Fraser G. 35 yrs

Glenmore

Don N.....2yrs.
Don W.....2yrs
Frank C.....2yrs.
Sid H.....2yrs
April H.....3yrs.
Cindy H.....4yrs
Rick C.....9 yrs.
Jim H.....10 yrs.

Fireside

Carolyn S. 15 yrs

Irricana Recovery

Ron Mc. 15 yrs

Link

Brenda B. 12 yrs

Highland Park

Verona S. 18 yrs

MAAT

Jerard D. 17 yrs
Melvin S. 19 yrs
Gary O'B. 25 yrs

Midnapore

Terry H. 2 yrs
Brad W. 2 yrs
Michelle C. 2 yrs
Peter W. 3 yrs

Marlborough Park

Brian 6 yrs
Jackie 26 yrs
Johnny 31 yrs

New Beginnings

Brooke S. 1 yr
Jill M. 3 yrs
Maryln S. 4 yrs
Clarence L 12 yrs
Dennis F. 13 yrs
Bernie P. 18 yrs

Northlanders

Neil F. 3 yrs

Open Door

Bea G. 26 yrs

Step By Step

Wayne R. 15 yrs

Tue Morn Ladies

Verna S4 yrs
Gaye6 yrs
Marjorie C.....23yrs

Wed Morn Eye Opener

Bill M. 44 yrs

June

Desperation

Mike H. 14 yrs

Drawing Board

Jennifer W.....2 yrs.
Cindy C.....3 yrs

Highland Park

Arlene W. 32 yrs

Link

Bob C. 12 yrs
Lorna G. 14 yrs
Jeff S. 22 yrs

Marlborough Park

Carlene 1 yr
Ron S. 12 yrs
Emilian D. 20 yrs

Midnapore

Wayne L. 5 yrs
Ron O. 13 yrs
Tammy G. 15 yrs

Northlanders

Garfield A. 12 yrs
Ray M. 25 yrs

Wed Morn Eye Opener

Carol E. 12 yrs

STAMPEDE IS COMING !

Central Office would like cedar planking, hay bales.... anything 'cowboy' to dress us up for Stampede Week!

Should be delivered, set up and picked up after Stampede Week. (not a permanent donation)



TELEPHONE MONITORING



Group Monitoring

Thank you to all who signed up as late night monitors!
If you would like to serve in this capacity call Doug @ 990-9914

SUNDAY AM BREAKFAST

Downtown Ramada Inn
708 - 8th Ave SW
Breakfast - 9:00am
Speaker - 10:00am

Group Speaking

Buffet Breakfast - \$11.00
Healthy Start Breakfast - \$9.00
Toast & Coffee - \$4.00
Coffee - \$2.00

DOWNTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT SPEAKER

801 - 7th Ave SW
(Fortis Building
North Tower)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: There is on-street parking only. We have not been allowed in the underground lot for some time now, due to verbal abuse of the security personnel. In fact, this abuse continues, and if it doesn't stop we will lose the meeting altogether

Jun 2: Knox Knooners
June 9: Knox Knooners

Thanks to Joe S. (DCM) and District 73 for hosting the meeting