

K.I.T.—KEEP IN TOUCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to your Area 62 State Newsletter



Browse through the website and find many interesting areas—KIT, Conventions, Meeting Locations.

The KIT newsletter is distributed at each Area Assembly. Deadline for the next issue is **February 1, 2006.**

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES,
DISTRICT HAPPENINGS OR
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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KIT (Keep in Touch) presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism. Opinions expressed here are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous or the South Carolina Area Assembly.

Please do not be concerned if your story did not appear in this issue of KIT. Your story or article may be incorporated in a future issue. If for any reason the KIT Committee has decided not to publish an article that has been submitted, we apologize.

The KIT Committee members would like to thank everyone for taking the time to write an article for this publication. If you have any questions or comments regarding the publication of KIT, please contact a KIT Committee Member. We welcome your feedback.

What events are happening in your district or group between March 2006 and June 2006 that you would like published in the next KIT???

P.R.O.G.R.A.M.

People Relying On God Relaying A Message

S.T.E.P.S.

Solutions To Every Problem Sober

S.L.I.P.

Sobriety Losing Its Priority

A.C.T.I.O.N.

Any Change To Improve Our Nature

K.I.S.S.

Keep It Simple, Sweetheart

H.A.L.T.

[Don't get too] Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired

H.O.P.E.

Happy Our Program Exists

H.O.W.

Honesty, Open-mindedness, Willingness

S.P.O.N.S.O.R.

Sober Person Offering Newcomers Suggestions On Recovery

G.O.D.

Good Orderly Direction or Group Of Drunks

B.I.G. B.O.O.K.

Believing In God Beats Our Old Knowledge

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

October 20- 23, 2005
Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Ravinia-Atlanta, GA

2006 AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2006, 10:00AM
The Holiday Inn—Coliseum, Columbia

2006 SC STATE CONVENTION

March 3-6, 2006
The Landmark Hotel—Myrtle Beach

2006 SC AREA ASSEMBLY

March 11-12, 2006
The Holiday Inn—Coliseum, Columbia

Heard at meetings...

If you don't change, your sobriety date will!

We wouldn't worry so much about what people thought of us if we knew how seldom they did!

The things most people show an extraordinary interest in are usually none of their business.

Just onx kxy

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quixt wxll xxcxpt for onx of thx kxys.

I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrxfxctly. It is trux that thxrx xrx forty-onx kxys that function wxll knough but just onx not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs, it sxmxs to mx that our fllowship is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr-not all thx pxoplx arx working propxrlly. You may say to yoursxlf, "wxll, i am only onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak a program."

But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx, bxcausx any program, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxxy mxmbxr. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr, and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in thx fllowship, and am nxxdxd vxry much."

Submitted by Iain Brown

AA...ALCOHOLIC IN ACTION

If I want to become a winner like Lance Armstrong, I need not show up at the Braves stadium and practice baseball all day. I also cannot show up at Lance's training camp without a wheel on my bicycle. Therefore I need to learn to participate on the training team. How are they preparing? What is the course they ride on like? What direction should I go in? Should I speed or pace myself? How do the gears on my bike operate?



You get the picture. The team already has the experience and knowledge to win the race. I surely don't want to start by myself. I don't know anything about it. I've been on a tricycle riding into the ditches. I need the team's help.

For me, our Fellowship is a Team of WE's.

When I first came in I had to get off my tricycle and learn to follow others to the road. In that process I have learned I cannot do it alone. I will wreck every time.

So I accepted that I had to get humble and follow the direction of my coaches (sponsor & group).

No longer so busy trying to get out of the ditch, I decided to stop showing up at baseball fields and started showing up around other bicyclers that take a trail everyday. To get the training wheels off, I became willing to participate with others, opened my mind to suggestions, and reached out for advice when I started to wobble and swerve. Most of all, I had to reach out when I felt myself falling.

I have found for me, the process of sobriety only works when I remember I am not the only one trying to stay sober. I am not the only one that has felt the way I feel. I need to remember I still lack vital experience with the course. My past experience always landed me in the ditch every time. So I reach out for the WE.

Uncomfortable, inadequate, foolish as I sometimes feel, I have reached out for help to read the map which keeps me on course.

And guess what? Coaches love to coach and a winning team loves to show teammates how they can all win.

Putting deposits in the bank (the steps, meetings, a sponsor) allows me an opportunity to remove the training wheels. Albert Einstein said, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." And with that I can say, action (keeping moving) is the key in recovery.



What a blessing to find a team taking action—lending helping hands to ditch dwellers. Before I knew it, I was part of the team and enjoying a smoother course. The training wheels are off (I have taken the 12 steps and have a sponsor) and look forward to seeing where I can lend a helping hand to pull someone else out of the ditch.

What has "WE" in the program meant to you? Share your experiences with others on how the action of reaching out kept you on the course. Thank you for my sobriety.

Submitted by Kim S., Chapin and Mary Beth D., Columbia

Alcohol Always Lied to Me



I Drank for Courage... and woke up night after night horrified.
I Drank for Sophistication... and became crude.
I Drank to find Peace... and ignited a war within myself.
I Drank to be Friendly... and became argumentative and nasty.
I Drank to be Sexy... and turned people off.
I Drank so that I could Relate to Others... and I babbled.
I Drank to put down Loneliness... and found myself retreating more and more into my shell.
I Drank to Relax... and woke up tense.
I Drank to be Entertaining... and became an obnoxious clown.
I Drank to Live More Fully... and contemplated suicide.
I Drank for Adventure... and discovered disaster.
I Drank to be more Honest... and insulted my friends.
I Drank to Quiet my Nerves... and woke up with hangover jangles.
I Drank to Feel Better... and ended up sick and throwing up.
I Drank to have Fun... and passed out in the middle of the party.
I Drank to Pep Myself Up... and ended up exhausted.
I Drank to feel Successful... a Big Shot... but ended up a failure.
I Drank for Security... and became afraid of my shadow.
I Drank to Feel Better about Myself... and ended up hating me.
I Drank to prove I could handle Alcohol... and ended up knowing it controlled me.



Anonymous

History of Walterboro AA Group—Walterboro, SC



Emmanuel (Manny) B., who was a downtown Walterboro merchant, and Elmer C., another Walterboro resident, had learned about the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and together they attended their first meeting in Columbia, SC in the late 1940's or early 50's. Shortly afterwards they started a meeting in a trolley or railroad car which had been converted into a restaurant and owned by Ed H. on US Hwy 15N. A "shed room" was then built next to the restaurant to be used as a meeting place.

In 1952, Cecil and Ruby H. who had attended some of those earlier meetings in the "shed room", formed the Walterboro AA Group, which first met in Douglas Hall at the Bethel Presbyterian Church. In addition to Cecil and Ruby H., others joining the group were Owen Y., Jesse S., Henry McC., and Ralph D. In 1960 or '61, the group moved to the "Beach House" located in downtown Walterboro on Jefferies Blvd.

In about 1962 or '63 the group moved to a site on US Hwy 15N, about five miles north of Walterboro. During this time, many people from the St. George area began to attend the Walterboro Group. After about a year, the group became known as the Walterboro-St. George AA Group.

In June 1973 the members from St. George left to form their own group. The St. George AA Group first met, and continues to meet, at the American Legion Hut in St. George, SC. Because of the brotherhood and deep love for one another formed in those early years, the members of the Walterboro AA Group and the St. George AA group have always maintained a close bond and to this day visit each other's groups regularly. Following the formation of the St. George Group, the local group reverted to the name of the Walterboro AA Group.

In about 1977, the members of the group had some differences of opinion as to the conduct/management of the group and it split. Those who left the Hwy 15N site started meeting at the Bethel Methodist Church and retained the name of the Walterboro AA Group. Those who remained at the Hwy 15N site called themselves the Big Book Group. After meeting for a year or less at the Methodist Church, the group met for several months in a white house at the bottom of the Hargo House hill near the corner of W. Washington St. and Brown St. and thereafter moved, in about 1978 to a former "truck stop/juke joint" site located about 3 miles south of Walterboro on US 17A. In about 1986, the group moved to a house on the corner of S. Lucas Street and Carn St., which had been recently purchased by Gerald C.. This site became known as the "Blue House".

In about 1986, several members of the group formed the Four A Corporation (a non-profit corporation) and acquired a cinderblock building and lot on Sanders St. which it renovated and leased to the Walterboro AA Group, the Beginners Group, the Free Life NA Group and the Walterboro Al-Anon Group. It should be noted that the Walterboro AA Group had become so large that a sub-group, known as the Beginners Group, was formed to accommodate and guide the newcomers. These newcomers developed their own group loyalty and after several years established their own group and changed it's name to the New Life Group which continues to meet in the cinderblock building.

Although strictly speaking, this is only a history of the Walterboro AA Group, it would be unconscionable not to mention our dear Walterboro Al-Anon Group which has played such an important part in our group and individual lives. The Walterboro Al-anon group held it's first meeting in March 1957 and has been meeting continuously ever since.

(continued from page 4)

24) What is "Rule 62"?

- A. That new members can't share until they have 6 months sobriety
- B. Let's not take ourselves too serious
- C. Every A.A. member must do service work
- D. For the love of God, NO MORE RULES!

25) What was the name of the printing company that first published the "Big Book"?

- A. Works Publishing
- B. Hazelden
- C. A.A. Printing
- D. New York Press

26) Which one of our co-founders wore glasses?

- A. Dr. Bob
- B. Bill W.
- C. Both of them
- D. Neither of them

27) Where did Bill W. get the basis for the 12 Steps?

- A. Being a religious man, he took an attribute from each apostle
- B. He wanted the same number of Steps as there were Traditions
- C. He just started writing down what he did to stay sober
- D. From the Bible, Book of Corinthians

28) What magazine broke the first big story about Alcoholics Anonymous?

- A. The New Yorker
- B. Time
- C. Saturday Evening Post
- D. Better Homes and Garden

29) Who wrote that article?

- A. Jack Alexander
- B. Bill Wilson, himself
- C. Otto Lielenthal
- D. Jimmy Olson

30) Where did the first A.A. group call home?

- A. New York, New York
- B. Akron, Ohio
- C. Boston, Mass
- D. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

31) Who was given the one millionth copy of the Big Book?

- A. Dr. Bob's son, Bob Smith Jr.
- B. Richard Nixon
- C. Elvis Presley
- D. Saturday Evening Post writer, Jack Alexander

32) Which co-founder had tattoos?

- A. Are you kidding me, neither of 'em
- B. Both of them
- C. Bill W.
- D. Dr. Bob

D B, 32 A, 31
- B, 30 A, 29 C, 28 D, 27 A, 26 B, 25 D, 24
- A, 23 C, 22 B, 21 B, 20 A, 19 C, 18 D, 17
- A, 16 B, 15 D, 14 A, 13 G, 12 D, 11 B, 10
- A, 9 C, 8 D, 7 A, 6 B, 5 D, 4 A, 3 B, 2

a i r T A A d s r e w n A

Test your AA I.Q.

Contributed by TriCounty
Intergroup—Charleston



The following are some questions you can answer to test your knowledge about the Big Book, 12&12 and other little and well known things from AA history. The answers can be found on page 3.

- 1) Who were the two people who started up our fellowship?
 - A. Jack A. and Diane P.
 - B. Bill W. and Bob S.
 - C. Sonny and Cher
 - D. Frank A. and Gene K.
- 2) How many A.A. members were there when they wrote the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous"?
 - A. 100
 - B. about a dozen
 - C. 2, just Bill and Bob
 - D. over a thousand
- 3) What did the 'W' stand for in Bill W.?
 - A. Woodruff
 - B. Wine'o', an old nickname
 - C. Watson
 - D. Wilson
- 4) How many pages were there in the original Big Book, without stories?
 - A. 100, one page for each member
 - B. 164
 - C. 132
 - D. 325
- 5) What is the "Grapevine"?
 - A. A small magazine put out by A.A.
 - B. A song by the Four Tops
 - C. A method of doing a 4th step
 - D. A name given to the holding of hands at the end of the meeting
- 5) What is a sponsor?
 - A. A local business who sponsors your involvement with A.A.
 - B. A person who leads the meeting
 - C. The person with the longest amount of sobriety at a meeting
 - D. A person who helps you work a program
- 7) When did Bill W. and Dr. Bob meet?
 - A. 1945
 - B. 1939
 - C. 1935
 - D. 1901
- 8) Who was the nun who really helped A.A. in the Akron hospitals?
 - A. Sister Ignatia
 - B. Sister Teresa
 - C. Mother Superior
 - D. Gidget
- 9) When did Dr Bob get sober?
 - A. February 14th
 - B. June 10th
 - C. July 20th
 - D. July 21st
- 10) Why are we anonymous?
 - A. If somebody relapsed they didn't want people to think it was because AA didn't work
 - B. To keep ego's in check, nobody can be "Mr./Mrs. AA" if they are anonymous
 - C. Being an alcoholic was a disgraceful thing when AA started
 - D. All of the above
- 11) How did Bill W. and Dr. Bob meet?
 - A. They met when Bill fell asleep on the train, heading to a job interview
 - B. Bill was visiting relatives when they asked him to help a friend of theirs
 - C. In 1935, when Bill was in Akron on business
 - D. Dr. Bob was Bill's physician
- 12) What is the name of the book written about Bill W.?
 - A. Pass it on
 - B. As Bill Sees it
 - C. The Story of A.A.
 - D. Bill's Story
- 13) What book was written about Dr. Bob?
 - A. The Good Doctor
 - B. Dr. Bob and the Canton Drunks
 - C. Bob S., Dr. Drunk
 - D. Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers
- 14) What was the name of the group that Bill was a part of before founding A.A.?
 - A. Toastmasters
 - B. The Oxford Group
 - C. The Matt Talbott Group
 - D. Moderation Management
- 15) What was the name of the A.A. number 3?
 - A. Bill D.
 - B. Grennie
 - C. Joe
 - D. Ebby
- 16) What is the name of Bill W's wife and a founder of Al-anon?
 - A. Grennie
 - B. Nancy
 - C. Anne
 - D. Lois
- 17) In what war did Bill W. fight in, and really get involved in his drinking?
 - A. World War II
 - B. Korea
 - C. World War I
 - D. He never was in a war
- 18) When the A.A. convention was in Seattle where was the opening ceremony held?
 - A. Kingdome
 - B. The Convention Center
 - C. Seattle Center
 - D. Seattle has never had a convention
- 19) Did Bill W. ever do hard drugs?
 - A. Yes, but only while he was drinking
 - B. Yes, after he sobered up
 - C. No, he only did prescription drugs
 - D. No way
- 20) Where was A.A.'s first central office?
 - A. Times Square, New York
 - B. Grand Central Station, New York
 - C. Dr. Bob's house in Ohio
 - D. Annapolis, Maryland
- 21) What was Dr. Bob's wife's name?
 - A. Nancy
 - B. Lois
 - C. Anne
 - D. He wasn't married
- 22) When did A.A. first "come of age"?
 - A. At the St. Louis Convention in 1955
 - B. When Bill W. passed away
 - C. When an A.A. group was formed outside of the U.S.
 - D. When A.A. turned 50
- 23) What was the "Stepping Stones"?
 - A. The original name of the 12 Steps
 - B. Name of the first group
 - C. A group of radical A.A.'s who branched off to form their own recovery group
 - D. The name of Bill W. and Lois's first house

(answers on page 3)