



AA TODAY

ROCKFORD AREA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2014 Volume 21, Number 2

Milestones

(Double digit AA birthdays in multiples of 5 years in March and April)

40 years

Jean W., Healthy Solutions, Eastside HOW

30 years

Gene S., Healthy Solutions;

25 years

Judi G., Eastside HOW; Rick K., Healthy Solutions; Greg E., Healthy Solutions; Lorraine Y., Upper Room; Judy O., Healthy Solutions

20 years

Bob P., Healthy Solutions;

15 years

Joe S., Eastside HOW, Healthy Solutions; Mike D., Eastside HOW; Gary R., Eastside HOW; Jack L., Downtown; Andy C., Fifth Ave.; Art T., Healthy Solutions;

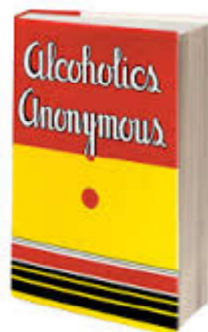
10 years

Matt G. Eastside HOW; Cindy P., HOW; Don H., Loves Park

As it was in the beginning

AA World Services marks anniversary of 'Big Book'

For the past few decades, the first editions of Alcoholic Anonymous' "Big Book" have been selling for thousands of dollars. A first edition, first printing copy from 1939 with the original dust jacket was advertised for \$28,000 in March online at biblio.com.



Well, now you can have a copy of the first edition without putting a dent in your 401(k).

AA World Services is commemorating the 75th anniversary of the "Big Book" by publishing a replica of the first edition, which includes the distinctive yellow, red and black dust cover.

It also is printed on the same bulky paper used in 1939. The text in the replica is just as it was when the "Big Book" first was printed.

AA World Services began taking pre-orders for the edition in November and the book becomes available this month.

A World Services spokesman said 200,000 had been printed and 100,000 were pre-ordered by AA members before the Feb. 28 deadline. "We're really happy," she said of the pre-order sales.

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Did you know?

■ Rockford AA Intergroup is seeking reliable volunteers to answer phones from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Volunteers can pick the days that are convenient for them and can work one day a month or once a week. The requirements are one-year sobriety (or with sponsor's approval) and a good knowledge of the program to answer questions from callers. Interested in some 12th Step work? Call Joyce at 815-968-0333.

■ You can join thousands of other AA's on June 6-8 for Founders' Day in Akron, Ohio. Information on costs, reservations and schedules are online at foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org.

6-MONTH FINANCIALS (in \$)

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Starting balance	(527)	(579)	(1,611)	(2,220)	81	5,066
Income	2,419	3,277	1,453	2,834	1,665	1,981
Disbursement	2,471	4,309	2,061	531	561	2,277
Prudent Res. Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	(579)	(1,611)	(2,220)	81	5,066*	4,770

PRUDENT RESERVE: \$5,886.50 (end of February) *Bookkeeping miscalculation

Board election results

The Rockford Area AA Intergroup recently had its elections. Officers elected were Kevin D., chairman; Jo S., vice-secretary; John B., vice-treasurer; and Pat G., director at large. The positions of secretary (Becky M.), treasurer (Patti S.) and directors at large (Linda W. and Brett T.) were not up for election this year. Outgoing chairman Ray G. was a dedicated trusted servant and his efforts were greatly appreciated.

Board of Directors

Chair: Kevin D.
Vice-Chair Empty
Secretary Becky M.
Vice-secretary Jo S.
Treasurer Patti S.
Vice-treasurer John B.
At Large Pat G.
At Large Linda W.
At Large Brett T.
Office Mgr Joyce K.
Newsletter Editor Doug G.

Group Donations

Thank you to these groups that contributed for your generosity:
 Augury
 Downtown
 Eastside H.O.W.
 Healthy Solutions
 Muddy River
 Upper Room
 Belvidere Travelers
 Belvidere Bridge
 Loves Park Group

February, March office statistics

Phone calls 133
 Visitors 78
 Meeting info 78
 Literature/coin sales visitors 23
 12-step calls 10
 Miscellaneous 65
 Al-Anon calls 2
Answering Service 112

YOUR CONNECTIONS TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Rockford Area AA Intergroup, 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford, IL 61108; 815-968-0333

Email: RockfordareaAA@gmail.com

WEBSITES

Rockford Intergroup: rockfordaa.org

District 70: district70aa.org

District 71: aadistrict71.org

AA World Services: aa.org

Intergroup volunteers

Thank you to these volunteers who've given of their time in handling afternoon office responsibilities:

Nancy B.	Steve C.
Maggie	John E.
Gail N.	Lori F.
Ray G.	Don H.
Les H.	Theresa K.
John M.	Pete N.
Chris O'M.	Lori T.
Jeanne M.	Don Z.
Shirley Ann N.	Curt B.
Gary D.	Denny S.

To volunteer, call 815-968-0333

Love With No Price Tag

From a 1982 Grapevine magazine

After five years on the program, many of the old wounds and fears that have been buried so deep for so long are surfacing.

I have run into a silence -- a point in my life where words no longer satisfy my need to understand. As I did on that day five years ago, I have reached out, in my confusion, to a God that I have not understood.

But a certain understanding has come, and I have been given a greater freedom from myself. In the light of my experience, a *loving* God is the only concept to give lasting meaning and purpose to my life.

The principles of love and service are truly paths to the principles of God, but they do not in themselves fill my need. I recognize that need in me that only a *loving* God can satisfy. Without His love, my life does not make sense, especially when I have all that I think I want, and still yearn and struggle with an unexplainable restlessness.

It is, and always has been, my choice as to whether I accept that principle or reject it. I will not put a price tag on free will, so I will not blame God for man's behavior.

Only unconditional love can fill the need for unconditional love. However, my resistance to that principle has been rooted in my lack of understanding what I believed was being denied me. I was taught to resist by indifference and rejection, but need brought me to AA and its source of power.

Many old ideas of good and evil also have made my approach to a loving God difficult. ("What is evil but good tortured by its own hunger and thirst.") Though distant from the goal, I have found an approach through the Twelve Steps. They have irresistibly drawn me outward from myself. My need for approval made me a taker. But when we are taking, there is soon little left to take from.

When I have time for compassion for others, then, I hope, there will be some for me when I need human compassion. I am responsible, but I am powerless without love from Him and from you.

Once again, only love can fill the need for love. In that light, a *loving* God makes more sense than any other concept I have embraced. And I surrender to that love. I can no longer resist it. It is my need.

-- D. J.

Alameda, California

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AA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(To submit calendar items, call 815-968-0333)

APRIL

12: Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

19: Bunny Hop, Freeport Alano Club, 225 N. Cherry. 8 p.m. \$3 members, \$4 nonmembers.

MAY

1: Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

1: District 70 meeting, 7 p.m., 4506 Highcrest Road, Rockford

3: SOWANI (SOuthern Wisconsin And Northern Illinois), 5:30 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. speaker, Rockton Community Center, 320 W. Main St.

3: Spring Fling, speaker/dance, Alano Club, 5:30 p.m. \$5. Speaker: Mike B., South Beloit. MMAAC.org

10: Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

16-18: 63rd annual Area 75 Conference, Racine (Wis.) Marriott. Info: area75.org

17: Spring Meet in the Middle Poker Run. Speaker: Karen R., Machesney Park. 3:30 p.m. MMAAC.org

18: Fourth annual Woman to Woman AA Luncheon. (closed meeting) Hoffman House Restaurant, 7550 E. State St. \$22 tickets by mail. No tickets sold at the door. Send checks to: PO Box 15661, Loves Park, IL 61132. Info: Janet, 815-222-9009, Anne, 815-397-5715, Linda 815-978-1674. midwest-wtw.org.

JUNE

5: Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

5: District 70 meeting, 7 p.m., 4506 Highcrest Road, Rockford

6-8: Founder's Day, Akron, Ohio. 79th

anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous. foundersdayregistrationakronaa.org.

14: Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

20-22: Midwest Motorcycle AA Convention. Emerald Acres Campgrounds. Pearl City. MMAAC.org

JULY

3: Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

12: Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

Note: Flyers for many of these events are available for printing online at rockfordAA.org.

NEWS & NOTES

Meeting discontinued: The Augury Group in Loves Park has discontinued its 8 p.m. Sunday meeting.

Anniversary: Fifth Ave. Group will mark its 25th anniversary this year and is planning a celebration in the fall.



A.A. BIRTHDAYS

(in years)

AUGURY

MARCH

16: Joe O'H.

3: Nicole W.

APRIL

17: Bob H.

BELVIDERE ALANO

None received

BELVIDERE BRIDGE

None received

BELVIDERE

TRAVELERS

MARCH

31: Dave S.

3: Jeff K.

APRIL

None received

CENTRAL GROUP

None received

DOWNTOWN GROUP

MARCH

29: Sue B-W.

23: Steve H.

2: Yvette S.

APRIL

36: Linda W.

31: Judy W.

28: Rebecca M.

26: Jerry H.

24: Doug G.

23: Bob K.

15: Jack L.

3: Cary P.

EASTSIDE H.O.W.

MARCH

36: Warren A.

36: Patti K.

34: Mark L

23: Terry P.

23: Dan P.

23: Richard C.

22: Paul W.

22: Spence S.

22: Dave J.

21: Michelle F.

19: Steve B.

19: Allen W.

13: Marty M.

14: Tamara T.

15: Gary R.

15: Joe S.

15: Mike D.

9: Lisa M.

8: Jess G.

7: Rod F.

7: Clare R.

6: Chris S.

6: Jill S.

5: Tanya S.

2: Kim E.

3: Brenda V.

3: Nicole W.

2: Chris H.

1: Todd P.

1: Mark C.

1: Kyle

APRIL

53: Jerry B.

40: Jean W.

37: Russ S.

27: Tim K.

26: Ellie H.

25: Judi G.

23: Jim S.

23: Rory B.

19: Shannon N.

19: Lori F.

18: Paul E.

16: Scott P.

14: Carol B.

13: Frank B.

10: Matt G.

10: Cindy P.

8: Jeremy P.

6: Natalie P.

6: Sally R.

5: Sherri R.

5: Steve U.

5: Barb M.

5: Matt M.

3: Sheila P.

2: Josh S.

2: Kalia R.

2: David S.

1: Andre G.

FIFTH AVENUE

March

36: Mike B.

29: Jim S.

23: Bob M.

22: John I.

15: Andy C.

13: Shawn H.

8: Dewey P.

3: Steve M.

April

29: Dave S.

28: Rebecca M.

23: Bill F.

22: Karen W.

18: Lori C.

12: Michelle N.

6: Alisa F.

5: Joe L.

5 O'CLOCK SHADOW

None received

HEALTHY SOLUTIONS

MARCH

36: Jo S.

34: Tom B.

33: Patti S.

31: Fred E.

30: Gene S.

25: Rick K.

25: Greg E.

23: Terry P.

24: Chris M.

18: Doug C.

15: Joe S.

7: Gwen W.

4: Steven S.

4: Steve S.

2: Ted A.

2: Will K.

2: Brian M.

1: Bob S.

1: Tom C

APRIL

40: Jean W.

26: Jerry H.

25: Judy O.

24: Peg. W.

22: Cindy Ma.

20: Bob P.

18: Brad J.

15: Art T.

9: John L.

8: Jeremy P.

6: Gerald L.

3: Jane T.

3: Mike F.

2: Tom M.

2: Joe M.

1: Jessica G.

LOVES PARK GROUP

MARCH

12: Kjell L.

10: Don H.

MCFARLAND GROUP

MARCH

36: Patti K.

APRIL

37: Russ S.

MEDINA GROUP

None received

MUDDY RIVER

None received

NEW ATTITUDES

MARCH

29: Jim S.

23: Steve H.

19: B-Bert

16: Shawn H.

13: John W.

12: Kim R.

6: Carl H.

6: Mike R.

6: Celeste L.

6: Fred L.

APRIL

26: Jerry H.

23: Jim S.

7: Mark F.

4: Jillerin S.

2: Nancy L

2: Joe M.

1: Tammy D.

Continued on

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A.A. BIRTHDAYS

Continued from Page 5

NEW BEGINNINGS

None received

NEW**HORIZONS**

None received

OVER FIFTIES**GROUP**

None received

PECATONICA GROUP

None received

PRIMARY PURPOSE**MARCH**

29: Jim S.
 23: Terry P.
 19: Julie K.

APRIL

26: Jerry H

RAINBOW**RECOVERY**

None received

ROSCOE RECOVERY**MARCH**

7: Dawn F.

APRIL

24: Doug G.

18: Art Mc.

8: Connie S.

UPPER ROOM**MARCH**

7: Bob Z.

6: Steve C.

3: Sharon M.

APRIL

34: Jerry K.

25: Lorraine Y..

24: Mo C.

22: "Ca" Dave

18: Ken B.

16: Julie O.

5: Ruben A.

2: John P.

'Big Book'

Continued from Page 1

Special editions at Intergroup office

You can buy copies of the anniversary "Big Book" at Rockford Area Intergroup's office. The price is \$11.28. A limited number is available so don't delay. They would make a nice present for AA birthdays or an ideal gift to show appreciation of someone in the program.

A loss for AA community

Several members of Rockford's AA community have died in recent months. One was my dear friend Pam H. from the Downtown Group.

Pam, who was sober 14 years, was as fine an example of a sober woman in AA as I had ever met.

In her early days of sobriety, she worked through sizable legal and financial problems. I recall the day she got her driver's license back and was so excited that she passed it around the meeting. And when she got that license, she began driving others less fortunate to meetings to make up for the times she had been given rides.

Through the years, Pam stayed active in AA, chairing meetings, volunteering for service work at her home group, sponsoring women and taking meetings to nursing homes. She even allowed some homeless newcomers to stay at her house, which is something not many of us would do. She also worked tirelessly on District 70 committees for several years, and was known for her unequalled ability to sell 50-50 raffle tickets.

Pam opened her home to AA members every New Year's Day for a black-eye peas party. "Eating black-eye peas brings you good luck," she always said.

In her final weeks when she was too ill to work, she still managed to help an elderly AA member move to a new apartment and feed my cats each day while we were on vacation.

Pam will be missed and long remembered.

– Doug G.

Are your group's birthdays missing?

If your group's birthdays are not on the list, contact your group chairman or Intergroup representative.



ANDERSON

JAPANESE

GARDEN EVENT

Thursday Meetings

First Thursday of the month @ 5:15

APRIL 24th

AUGUST 7th

MAY 1st

SEPTEMBER 4th

JUNE 5th

OCTOBER 2nd

JULY 3rd

FOR INFO CALL TOM H. 815-509-8933

Movie Night

First Friday of month

Time: 9:15 pm

Hosted by the UPPER ROOM

COME WATCH MOVIE ON THE
BIG SCREEN,
RECOVERY THEME
FREE POPCORN
FELLOWSHIP

4 INFO CALL TOM @ 815-509-8933



4th ANNUAL WOMAN to WOMAN AA LUNCHEON

(A CLOSED MEETING)
*No children allowed at event

Sunday, May 18th, 2014

Hoffman House Restaurant
Located in Holiday Inn
7550 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

GUEST SPEAKER

Doors open at 12:00 pm

Lunch served at 1:00 pm

\$22.00 per person

Tickets will be mailed to you.

To sit together you must order together

Banquet tables seat 8

No tickets sold at the door.

For information call:

Janet C.
815-222-9009

Anne G.
815-397-5715

Linda W.
815-978-1674

Please complete and mail before May 9th, 2014.

Make checks payable to: Women's Luncheon Committee

Send order form to: P.O. Box 15661, Loves Park, IL 61132

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of tickets: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____ Hearing impaired

Select Meal: ___ Vegetarian ___ Chicken ___ Prime Rib

This flyer can be found on our website @ www.midwest-wtw.org

IF NOT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD ...

(Real headlines for news stories across the U.S in recent months)

- Suspected DUI driver on I-5 attracts 14 911 calls
- DUI Suspect Asks: 'Am I On 'Cops''
- Man charged with DUI after driving wrong way on Kennedy
- DUI Suspect on How Much He'd Had to Drink: 'I Stopped Counting'
- Suspected DUI driver strikes, kills person in wheelchair
- Police: DUI Suspect Tried to Bury Beer in Snow
- DUI laws under increasing scrutiny in Wisconsin
- Mom, son face DUI charges on same night in Naperville
- Woman booked for DUI after hit-and-run with motorcycle in Lynnwood
- Memphis firefighter arrested for second DUI, then resigns
- Alleged DUI Driver Hits 2 Children, Father on Girl's Birthday
- DUI Suspect Bites Off Booking Room Camera, Police Say
- State Highway Patrol trooper drove drunk, police say
- Anderson police make DUI arrest after 30-foot flagpole knocked down
- Bloomfield Woman Arrested For Being Drunk At AA Meeting
- Police: DUI Suspect Flees Traffic Stop, Wrecks Stolen Car
- DUI suspect was fast asleep in running car, troopers say
- Woman charged with DUI after pickup crashes into indoor pool
- Victorville woman dies in fiery San Bernardino crash, DUI suspected
- Police: DUI driver had stolen forklift
- Moped driver charged with DUI
- Drunk Man Says He Was Trying To 'Drive It Off': Cops
- Police: Man charged with DUI after running 5 red lights
- DUI suspect rear-ends man, asks him if he's drunk too, say police

(To read these stories online, use Google.com and search for the headline)

They Died Sober

Local AA members who have died recently:

- Russ L., 32 years, Healthy Solutions
- Cliff S., 25 years, various groups
- Danny K., 20 years, New Beginnings
- Pam H., 14 years, Downtown
- Mike A., 6 years, New Attitudes

Note: To submit the name of an AA member who died sober in the past six months, email information to rockfordareaAA@gmail.com.

Faithful Fivers

Help pay for the printing cost of the newsletter and other Rockford Area Intergroup expenses by enrolling in the Faithful Fiver program. By pledging at least \$5 a month, you will provide much-needed financial help. You will get a copy of each newsletter in the mail or by email. Call 815-968-0333 for information.

Quote of the Day

"When we early AAs got our first glimmer of how spiritually prideful we could be, we coined this expression: 'Don't try to get too damned good by Thursday!'"

AA co-founder Bill W., *"Humility for Today"*
The Best of Bill