



NATURE COAST JOURNAL

JUNE 2022



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

“CARRY THE MESSAGE” WITH A GRAPEVINE SUBSCRIPTION (SEE PAGE 4)

The Grapevine first appeared in 1944 and soon was being called the “meeting in print.” Personal stories have always been the heart of the Grapevine. There were also news and notes, book reviews and magazine reprints, and pieces written by non-AAs, including some well-known literary figures. Burning topics of the day were: the place of women in AA, returning veterans, and cross-addiction.

The Grapevine was in fact appealing to "alcoholics everywhere" and in 1945, at the request of the groups, it became the national journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Four years later, when the Grapevine's readership had expanded to include members in Canada and Europe, it was named **The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous**, a designation which remains to this day.

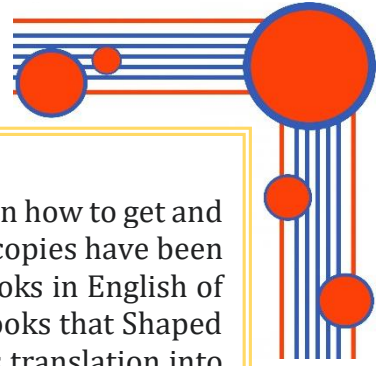
Help a struggling alcoholic (or keep one sober) by gifting a subscription. (See page 4.)

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Nature Coast Intergroup and District 28 Business Meetings are held on the first Sunday of the Month at 4:30 pm at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church
2540 West Norvell Bryant Highway,
Lecanto, FL 34461
District 28 Meeting immediately follows Intergroup

HISTORY



THE BIG BOOK

The Big Book is the basic text of Alcoholics Anonymous, AA's guide on how to get and stay sober. Since its first appearance in 1939 more than 30 million copies have been sold. *Time* magazine judged it one the best and most influential books in English of the 20th century and the Library of Congress called it one of the “Books that Shaped America.” The world-wide influence of the book is confirmed by its translation into more than 70 languages.

On April 10, 1939, a somewhat shaky, often fearful group of men and women somehow brought the book Alcoholics Anonymous to publication. In May 1938, when Bill W. began work on the first draft, he, Dr. Bob, and the other 100 original AAs had all been sober no more than a few years. Bill was to author what we now refer to the first as the “first 164 pages” with input from Dr. Bob and other members. In addition, the early members realized the book would need a “story” section. The stories would have a dual purpose: to allow the newcomer a way to identify with fellow alcoholics and to provide testimonials (evidence) to the effectiveness of the AA program. The Akron and New York AA groups wrote stories and in early 1939 the book was completed.

The book still lacked a title. The Akron and New York groups had been voting for months on possible titles. This had become an after-the-meeting form of amusement and a topic of great interest. The title ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ had appeared early in the discussion, but we do not know who first used these words. After the New Yorkers had left the Oxford Groups in 1937, they often described themselves as a ‘nameless bunch of alcoholics.’ Perhaps from this “nameless bunch” it was a short jump to ‘Alcoholics Anonymous.’ Dozens of titles were considered, but in the end, it came down to Alcoholics Anonymous or The Way Out. At this point, one of the A.A.s visited the Library of Congress to research the number of books titled The Way Out versus those called Alcoholics Anonymous. There were 12 with the former title, none with the latter and the problem was solved. And so, the book got its name, and our society became known as Alcoholics Anonymous.

While the title of the book is actually Alcoholics Anonymous, members of AA fellowship affectionately refer to it as the Big Book. The story goes that it got that name from the physical size of the original book. Cornwall Press had been highly recommended to Bill Wilson, so Bill and Hank P. (author of the personal story “The Unbeliever” in the first edition of the Big Book) went to Cornwall to see the printer. There they were told that the book would probably be only about four hundred pages when printed. Since Bill & Hank had a price of \$3.50 in mind for the book (\$5 at that time would get you \$100 of goods today!) that seemed a bit skimpy. To make it seem

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THE BIG BOOK

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that the buyer was getting their money's worth, they picked the cheapest, thickest paper the printer had and requested that each page be printed with large margins surrounding the text. This made for an unusually large book. Thus, the book came to be nicknamed the "Big Book."

A new edition of the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) is in the works. The 2021 General Service Conference recommended that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect the current membership. Those working on the new edition were to keep in mind the 1995 Advisory Action stating that: "the first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices remain as is".

YOUR STORY IS NEEDED IN THE NEW EDITION OF THE BIG BOOK

A new edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous is in the works. The guidelines on how to send in your story follow. The **Deadline is October 31, 2022.**

We suggest you send your story through the [Story Submission](#) page on the A.A. website. Here is the link: <https://www.aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th>

NOTE: You must attach a signed copy of the Copyright document form and send it with your submission. This is an important step; please make sure you return the completed form.

If you prefer to send your story by regular postal mail, here are the instructions: Postal Mail: Attn: Literature Assignment, 5th Edition BB, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

The words "5th Edition BB" should be written on the envelope and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.

Please be assured that your anonymity will be maintained if your story is selected for publication.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

We create AA when we decide to adopt the AA way of life and make it our own. We voluntarily do the things we do to promote AA's common welfare and because we do this, because we are willing to help our fellow alcoholic achieve sobriety, we ensure our own recovery from the disease of alcoholism.

Please help to create the JOURNAL by sending in your stories, poems, articles, anniversary lists, and the like to news@NCintergroup.com . We will also consider original artwork and cartoons. A good laugh in any format is always welcome!

We will do our best to respond to every email and will make every effort to include your contributions in an upcoming issue of the JOURNAL. We look forward to hearing from you.

WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

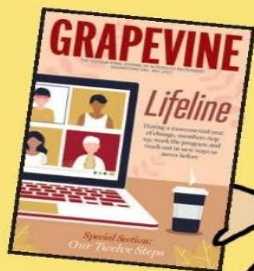
GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for:

- Sponsees • Newcomers • Prisons • Detoxes • Doctor's Offices • Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in. Carry the Message, it's easy!

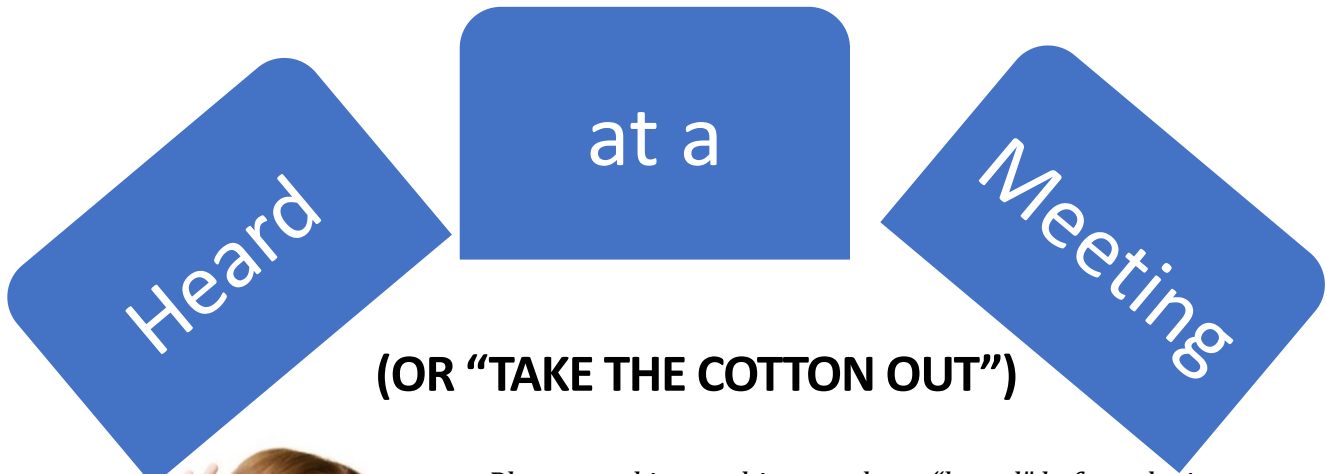
Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started and see our new Carry the Message video at www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine



Join in. It's easy!

2022
**CARRY
THE
MESSAGE
PROJECT**

Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started.



Please send in anything you have "heard" before, during, or after at a meeting. "Heard" can include things observed ("seen"), things you have learned, anything you take away from a meeting. Send in what you "hear" to news@ncintergroup.com. Thanks much!

My name is ... and I am a **thankful** alcoholic.

Sobriety is God's gift to you and how you live your life sober is your gift to God.

I have three pillars in my program-myself, God, and the group

I was great at telling everyone about myself and then I started listening.

Religion is for people who want to get to heaven; spirituality is for people who have been thru hell.

Not everyone who needs this program gets it.

How many meetings a week do you need? Just keep cutting back until you drink!

You don't know what you don't know so keep coming back.

The first drunk is the best drunk; it's all downhill after that.

Said to the newcomer at his first meeting: We have good news and bad news for you. The good news is that you can get and stay sober in these AA meetings. The bad news is that we are your new friends.

I came to AA because I got tired of the high cost of low living.

I didn't have a problem with my alcoholism but everybody else I knew did!

AA is the spiritual kindergarten of like-minded lunatics.

Seven days without a meeting makes a recovering alcoholic weak.

Please send in items you have heard at meetings. They might be inspirational; they might be humorous. Send them to news@ncintergroup.com

7th TRADITION

**For District and Intergroup contributions,
please write your group number on the check.**

**Make check payable to “District 28” and mail to:
District 28, PO Box 640914, Beverly Hills, FL 34464**

Make check payable to “**Nature Coast Intergroup**” and mail to:
Nature Coast Intergroup, PO Box 2634, Crystal River, FL 34423

**For Area and G.S.O. contributions, please write
“District 28” and your group number on the check.**

Make check payable to “**NFAC**” and mail to:
North Florida Area Conference, PO Box 10094, Jacksonville, FL 32247

Make check out to “**General Service Board**” and mail to:
G.S.O., PO Box 2407, James A. Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407

Come celebrate: **The Miracles Group’s
4th Anniversary**

Friday, July 29th 6pm – 7 pm
Presbyterian Church
20641 Chestnut Street, Dunnellon, Fl.

Open Discussion topic: *What was going on in your life 4 years ago?*

Pizza and coffee provided.

Finger foods appreciated.



MUSICIANS WANTED



**IF YOU HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF SOBRIETY
AND PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CONTACT:**

**QUENTIN B. CELL: 561-386-0843
EMAIL: quentinl@earthlink.net**

WOMEN NEEDED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

Female AA volunteers are needed to bring the Alcoholics Anonymous message to women inmates at the Citrus County Jail. If interested, please email your name and phone number to news@ncintergroup.com.



YOUR TWO CENTS

Send in yours and we may share it. The following lines are the thoughts of one of our members after an AA meeting.

**SEEK FORGIVENESS FOR MYSELF, 😊
A HAPPY AND USEFUL WHOLE EGG!**

Make a study of my past as to what I have learned not just about what I have suffered.

Feed the strengths learned from bad past, ultimately the strengths will pull us through our weaknesses.

Self-evaluation is the jumping off point for personal growth. (I tend to look at myself through 100X magnification mirror at my enlarged pores, scars, lines, wrinkles and other imperfections. I need to remove the magnifying glass and accept wrinkles of my life as lessons learned.)

Choose your human environment. Everyone wishes for the basics of a healthy, loving, and happy family.

Plan ahead and figure out a new response where normally I would cry, yell, hit back, run, etc.

Choose to be Good. My life is not just about me but everyone I now touch.

Give others the benefit of the doubt.

Try to disable replay buttons.

Embrace my values, morals, ethics and religion.

Divine intervention and connectedness are feelings of being loved despite experiences or misbehaviors.

Tolerating the discomfort (gunfight at the OK Corral – peace comes at a price)

Facing up implies that I take responsibility; confrontation implies that they take responsibility.

Find compassionate benevolence. WORK, WORK, WORK.

**“Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like,
what happened, and what we are like now.”**

Send your stories, poems, articles, and anniversary lists to: news@ncintergroup.com

Your submission could appear in an upcoming issue.

WORKING ON A GROUP HISTORY

Group histories are used to provide information on the evolution of AA in the area and are a source of information for new members. Use the “A.A. Group History Questionnaire” to gather information from your older members. Photographs of the interior and exterior of the meeting location should be taken. No people should be in the photos to ensure anonymity.

INTERVIEWING OLD TIMERS

The District 28 Archives Committee is interested in having interviews of A.A. members with 20 years or more of sobriety. These “old timers” should also have a connection with the District 28 area.

Hopefully, conversations will capture what A.A. was like in the District 28 area for the new person 20 plus years ago. The idea is to sit down with people and record these threads, things remembered and their impressions of the fellowship.

We have put together several questions to guide the conversation that we can share with you. *For more information on how to do a group history or how to conduct an interview, email your request to news@ncintergroup.com.*

Your help is greatly appreciated!

**VISIT NCINTERGROUP.COM
FOR THE LATEST
MEETING LOCATIONS AND TIMES,
NEWS AND OTHER RESOURCES**



Steps | Traditions | Concepts

STEP 6

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

TRADITION 6

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

CONCEPT 6

“The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.”