

NORTHERN KENTUCKY INTERGROUP

THE MESSAGE

OCTOBER, 2023

AA Unity.

“The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us.”

Common Goal

We are folks who would not normally mix. Yes, that is true but we do have a tri-fold common goal. We not only want to stay sober, we also want to help other alcoholics and we want to be happy. Fortunately, these three goals blend together well and all of us remember what we were like before coming to AA and what we like early on.

Before I arrived in AA, I believed 100% that everyone was wrong and I was right. I thought I was experiencing some bad luck and it would pass. They just needed to leave me alone! It was impossible for me to imagine how totally wrong I was.

Then AA came along, I didn't want to be here and I was in no way like you AA people. I have no idea when, why or how the light came on to allow me to finally hear what was being said, but it did and with the Steps and everyone's help the changes started happening. If the guys around me were not sharing their experience, strength and hope, I wouldn't have finally heard what I needed to hear. It's not only the person giving the lead but also the person sitting next to you before the meeting starts that shares from the heart what's going on at this moment in their life and what they are doing to keep their ship afloat. That's just how it works!

I was in a discussion meeting 2 days ago and there was a guy on one side of me celebrating 30+ years in the program and on the other side a guy who had 6 days. They both shared what's going on in their life at that moment and both were things I needed to hear. I don't connect to what everybody is saying at AA meetings but I always always leave with a more connected feeling towards my Higher Power and those great people that shared their hearts with me.

Because of the program, I'm able to not only listen but share my experiences in hopes of staying sober and staying happy while helping another alcoholic. With these three goals we can hope to keep the AA program going for generations to come. Thanks AA.

-Mick S, Hardrock

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HELLO! You have just opened a copy of Northern Kentucky's
A.A. Newsletter—*The Message*.

Inside you will find stories from local A.A. members, information about where to go to find help, service work opportunities, information on the twelve steps, upcoming events and more!

Please send your submissions Rhonda O. at nkymessage@yahoo.com

Enjoy reading and please pass it on!

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This newsletter is prepared for your enjoyment and is not endorsed by or affiliated with the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, its hope is to practice the principles of A.A. and become an additional tool for maintaining sobriety. Thanks for making *The Message* self supporting through your contributions.

Local Northern Kentucky Recovery Houses

Grateful Life Center	Erlanger	859.359.4500 (Men)
Brighton Recovery Center	Florence	859.292.9390 (Women)
Residential Treatment Center (WRAP, Droege, York Street)	Erlanger	859.491.4435

WHO TO CONTACT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY INTERGROUP

1545 SCOTT STREET

COVINGTON, KY 41011

(859) 491-7181

OFFICE HOURS: 10-5 (M, T, TH, F) 12-7 (W) +24 HOUR HOTLINE

EMAIL: MANAGER@NKYAA.INFO

WEBPAGE: [HTTP://NKYAA.INFO](http://NKYAA.INFO)

DCMs AND MONETARY DISTRIBUTION ADDRESSES:

DISTRICT 6 TREASURER, PO BOX 18731, ERLANGER, KY 41018

DISTRICT 18 TREASURER, PO BOX 721874, NEWPORT, KY 41072

DISTRICT 35 TREASURER, PO BOX 15462, LATONIA, KY 41015

DISTRICT 32 TREASURER, PO BOX 1585, FLORENCE, KY 41022

Area 26 Treasurer, P.O. Box 50542, Bowling Green, KY 42102

AA WORLDWIDE, PO BOX 2407, JAMES FARLEY STATION, NY, NY 10116-2407

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

DISTRICT 6—1ST WED., LAKESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6:30 PM

DISTRICT 18—1ST THURS., 1ST PRESBY CHURCH, 220 S. FT. THOMAS AVE, 6:00 PM

DISTRICT 32—1ST MONDAY, ST. ELIZABETH FLORENCE CONF ROOM- LOWER LEVEL, 6:00 PM

DISTRICT 35 - 2ND WEDNESDAY, 1545 SCOTT BLVD, COVINGTON, KY 6:00 PM

IF ANY OF THIS INFORMATION IS FOUND TO BE OUTDATED OR INCORRECT, PLEASE EMAIL
CORRECTIONS TO NKYMESAGE@YAHOO.COM

Northern Kentucky Intergroup Meetings

3rd Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Central Office, 1545 Scott Street, Covington, KY

Send a representative (IGR) from your home group. Tell us what's new! Share what's happening at your meetings.

People Who Normally Wouldn't Mix

"If you like everyone in AA, you haven't gone to enough meetings yet!"

Is this cynical – or just honest? The Traditions do not tell us we have to be best friends with every person in the Fellowship. But we are encouraged to place "principles before personalities," and to practice "love and tolerance."

"Our common welfare should come first." What does this mean in practice?

We see that without substantial unity there can be no A.A., and without that, without AA, there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm A.A. we humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole." (Bill W., 1947)

"Unity" does not mean "conformity." We can legitimately hold different opinions about the best way our home group can operate - where money from the basket should go, whether someone who's used drugs in the past is welcome at an AA meeting, whether we should re-write the opening readings in gender-neutral language, say the Lord's prayer, the pros and cons of treatment centers, or how many meetings a week is best to stay sober.

If we look around the world, however, how often do we see people listening, compromising, and focusing on win-win solutions? More often, don't we hear people shouting each other down and claiming to have "the Truth?" If we disagree, can we still show respect?

It has been ego-deflating for me when I realize after a meeting that a person I don't care for shared something that hit home and helped me. Maybe I misjudged them? Sometimes a certain member, for whatever reason, irritates the heck out of me – like fingernails on a chalkboard. My temptation is to jump in and give my "share" to disagree and undermine what that person just said. Not my most mature impulse! Why do I feel the need to prove I'm right and they're wrong?

We alcoholics need each other. People put up with my irritating character defects. Can I do the same for them? If I focus on gratitude and strive for a "beginner's mind," I have less risk of becoming a source of disunity and chaos.

-Kevin P.
Northside Tuesday Night Group

Rule 62

I was addicted to soap once.
Now I'm clean.

There is no point in going to an acupuncturist, if you don't pin your hopes on him for full recovery.

My wife traumatically ripped the blankets off me last night.
But I will recover

My wife says I'm addicted to auctions but she's wrong.
I stopped after going once... going twice...

My wife said she's leaving me because of my addiction to anti-depressants.
Guess I won't be needing those any more.

Reprinted from Area 86 FOCUS Newsletter.

What is AA Unity? Why Do We Need It/ How Do We Foster It?

Unity

What is Unity all about and why is it so important to us here in Alcoholics Anonymous? As it states in Tradition one: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity". If we can not recover together in unity our fellowship dies we all may die along with it.

My Favorite article on Unity was written by a past trustee from an address on Unity at the Delegates' Luncheon, during the 35th anniversary convention, Saturday, July 4, 1970 .

"UNITY seems to me to express very well that quality which sets our Fellowship apart. For society at large has so many problems which either spring from or are aggravated by lack of unity. Yet I think that this Unity concept is frequently misunderstood, both in and out of AA. One thing I'm sure it doesn't mean is that you must agree with me! I believe that we all have a moral obligation to speak our minds and stand up for our convictions. Any so-called unity which attempts to stifle dissent is no unity at all, in my opinion. I think we must not only listen to other views, we must actively solicit and encourage them. Only so, I believe, can an informed group conscience speak. Once it has spoken, then all of us must go along on truly basic issues. Consider, for example, our Traditions of anonymity and self-support. Few subjects in AA have been discussed so thoroughly over the years. Many members have questioned or disagreed with these concepts — and have voiced their views vigorously. Yet when the overwhelming majority of us supported these Traditions, almost all of the dissenters went along.

-This is the meaning of Unity, as I understand it. May it always be so!" Bob H

I think if we continue to be aware of how important Unity is to our fellowship we will continue to go on saving lives. So what do we do to foster Unity today and for the future? It's simple. Experience has shown me that if I work the steps of my program, if I support the spirit of the traditions and I practice the principles of our spiritual Concepts both within and outside my AA life I will be doing my part to foster unity and so help ensure the future of AA. Simple, But not easy.

-Yours in Love and Service Dale S Thursday Night Group Milton Ontario

In Alcoholics Anonymous we are brought together by one common bond. We are suffering, in pain, and are looking for a new way of life. In Alcoholics Anonymous we unite as a whole, work the steps and then the traditions, and soon enough we discover this new way of life. We learn the absolute miracle of how this program functions and stays alive, which is through nothing more than UNITY.

Tradition One tells us that our personal recovery depends upon it. Unity is imperative to our sobriety, we have to act as a whole, not as individuals. No one person is ever in-charge and no one person makes any decisions for anyone or for A.A. as a whole. We ALL come together whether at a group, district or area level. We make decisions together, allowing our Higher Power to be the group conscience.

Unity is what makes our home groups' so important, after all, the groups are the voice of A.A. As it says in our literature, unity is the heartbeat of A.A. without it we would implode. I think with unity being such an important part of sobriety it's necessary to foster it for the sake of all members, old and new. The more we foster unity and continue to teach it to the newcomers the better chance AA has for survival and thus for each individuals' sobriety. I truly believe that as members we have this responsibility.

There is a saying that I really like: "Stay in the middle of AA". When we come into Alcoholics Anonymous, we see all the faces and happy people and we may feel as though we don't belong, this is not for us. We might even feel resentful because we are suffering and in pain and everyone here seems the opposite. That is when the gift of service plays a huge role in sobriety. Getting involved, going against our instincts of isolation. Pushing through to meet new people. Listening, talking and learning to relate to others until eventually we are making friendships, and staying sober through the unity of those friendships. Identifying with other alcoholics.

Service work can be as easy as greeting at the door at your home group, making coffee or passing along a Grapevine. Whatever way you start to pass the message, is service work. Teaching that to a new member is fostering unity and keeping the heartbeat to this amazing way of life open and available for anyone who may need it in the future.

-Kimberley C. District 16 DCM

By myself but not alone

I have always spent the majority of my time alone. As a kid we moved to NKY from Dayton, OH when my mother remarried to a neighborhood that was still under construction and there were no kids there yet. Shortly thereafter tragedy struck when my father died an alcoholic death by his own hand. That was my introduction to God and needless to say not the best beginning of a relationship.

What I have come to understand now is that day God didn't wake up and decide to take some kids dad from him. My dad, like everyone else, had self will and chose to act on it in the most selfish way imaginable.

However, what God did as a result of that unfortunate incident is wrap me up in His loving arms and held onto me tightly for the next 35 years. Protecting me from the world around me, my disease and myself just long enough for the seeds of His grace that were planted in my heart at my first AA meeting could burst through the soil to produce the fruit of the abundant life that I have today.

All those years that I spent isolated from the world, by myself, thinking I was keeping safe from the enemy I was never alone. He was guiding me, keeping me safe and sound until I finally surrendered. Thus becoming useful to Him by realizing my primary purpose is to help others find a relationship with a power greater than themselves so that they too can know the freedom from the bondage of self that I have today.

God bless this program for allowing God to work miracles through it.

-Andrew M.

Google Says....

What does Unity mean in AA?

Unity is imperative to our sobriety, **we have to act as a whole, not as individuals**. No one person is ever in-charge and no one person makes any decisions for anyone or for A.A. as a whole. We ALL come together whether at a group, district or area level.

What is unity in recovery?

Unity is a **bond that describes how using the "it takes one to know one" mentality will connect us in recovery**. Being there for one another in the spirit of service allows you to comprehend that we keep going because we have one another to lean on in the good time and the bad times.

Why is unity important in recovery?

Everyone's ability to recover from addiction is wholly dependent on fellowship and service. A group of people with a potentially fatal disease with the like-minded goal of recovery—fellowship. Helping each other achieve their individual goal by helping others to do the same.

10:52 AM
10/15/23
Cash Basis

Northern KY Central Office
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2023

	Sep 30, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Petty Cash	111.00
10200 · US BANK OPERATIONS	4,052.32
10300 · US BANK CORRECTIONS	2,733.94
10400 · U S Bank PRUDENT RESERVE	8,002.25
Total Checking/Savings	14,899.51
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	730.83
Total Accounts Receivable	730.83
Other Current Assets	
11500 · Undeposited Funds	134.65
12000 · Inventory- LITERATURE	19,031.18
12002 · Inventory- GRAPEVINE	561.04
12050 · Inventory- WHERE & WHEN	204.91
12070 · Inventory- COINS	4,343.68
Total Other Current Assets	24,275.46
Total Current Assets	39,905.80
TOTAL ASSETS	39,905.80
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	-717.51
Total Accounts Payable	-717.51
Total Current Liabilities	-717.51
Total Liabilities	-717.51
Equity	
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	6,260.70
39004 · Beginning Balance Equity	6,273.68
39005 · Retained Earnings	29,533.98
Net Income	-1,445.05
Total Equity	40,623.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	39,905.80

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Intergroup terms are nearing their end and there are several positions which need to be filled: Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

If you feel called to serve or would like to nominate someone for these important roles in the Northern Kentucky Intergroup, please contact Josh at jshbutts7@gmail.com or attend the next Intergroup meeting at Central Office on Wednesday, November 15, 6 p.m.

Meeting changes/updates/need support:

Circle of Miracles meeting Monday-Friday from 5:30-6:30 at Promises Club.

Thursday Night Taylor Mill Group needs support. Taylor Mill Methodist Church, 5160 Taylor Mill Road. 7:30 every Thursday. First & Third week speaker meeting; all others open discussion.

No Longer Belles of the Bar, Women's Meeting, Mondays, 7 pm at Central Office, 1525 Scott Boulevard.

Beginners Meeting, Fridays from 1:30-2:30 pm, PIER Recovery Community Center, 1002 Monmouth Street.

Seeking Spirituality 11th Step Meeting, Tuesday, 6-7 pm, Movement Church, 415 E. 8th Street, Newport.

Effective April 1, 2023, the Alano Club in Florence went non-smoking. The Club could use support. Stop by!

Anniversaries! September and October

Congratulations to all who celebrated anniversaries in the last two months. Below are a few who chose to be recognized in this issue. Please let us know of any

November or December anniversaries and we'll add them in the next edition.

Submit anniversaries to nkymessage@yahoo.com.

September

Women's Emotional Sobriety

Sandy B., 35 yrs.

On Awakening

Paul F., 16 yrs.

Tony P., 15 yrs.

October

Women's Emotional Sobriety

Tammy C., 36 yrs.

Dawn L., 8 yrs.

THE MESSAGE format change Complete!

Effective immediately, The Message has moved to an online format which can be accessed through Intergroup's page at www.nkyaa.info/news. Those who still wish to receive it in print are asked to contact Mick S. at 859-609-0433 or mick3131us@yahoo.com. Arrangements will be made to continue to send it via US mail for those who prefer the print version.

Intergroup Service Opportunities

Our central office web site is undergoing an update. Please have your group check to see if your meeting is listed accurately. If it is not, please contact Josh B. at 859-380-6831 or jshbutts7@gmail.com as soon as possible with the correct information.

Does your group have an intergroup representative? Does your rep attend the monthly meeting? Intergroup reps from our groups meet the third Wednesday of each month from 6-7 pm at NKy central office, 1545 Scott St., Covington, Ky. If you have questions, please contact Josh B. at 859-380-6831 or jshbutts7@gmail.com. **Current INTERGROUP REP terms are nearing completion, please consider filling one of these positions by contacting Josh or attending the next meeting on November 15, 6 pm at Central Office: Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.**

Events

November 3-5, 29th Annual Buckeye Roundup. Holiday *Inn Cincinnati Airport. Printable Flyer: <https://aacincinnati.org/event/29th-annual-buckeye-roundup/>

November 18, 6:30—11:45 pm, 82nd Annual Thanksgiving Banquet sponsored by Cincinnati Area Intergroup @ Oasis Conference Center.

Save the Date:

February 16-18, 2024 Kentucky AA State convention, The Clarion, Lexington, 1950 Newtown Pike. Register online at www.kyaa2024.com. Early Registration \$25 until 12/31/23. For more information contact Samantha 859.490.0472 or kentuckyaacon2024@gmail.com.

The Central Office Mission Statement

The Central Office of Northern Kentucky, in partnership among AA groups in the community, has as its primary purpose: To assist these groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

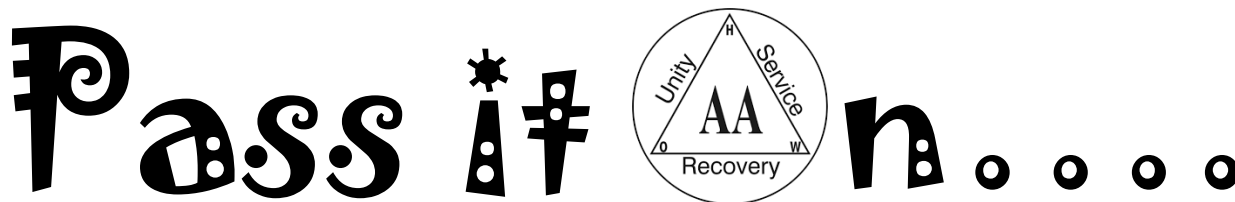
As a means toward accomplishing this end we receive, distribute and follow-up 12-step calls, answer inquiries about AA and cooperate with local public information committees. The Central Office also maintains information about local hospitals and recovery facilities for alcoholics. We make available local AA meeting directories and a newsletter. We also order, sell and distribute AA literature.

What does Central Office do?

- Aids the family members of suffering alcoholics by telling them of Al-anon and providing a meeting schedule for them.
- Easy access to literature, coins and AA approved books at reasonable prices.
- Office is available for meetings during the day and evening hours.
- Updates to *Where and When* kept current and published at least four times annually.
- Inform groups and AA members about upcoming event dates and times.
- Keep current and updated web page for information on meetings and events in our local area.
- Prints flyers for groups' local events at a discounted rate.
- Aids in organizing fundraiser for correction committee.
- Supports districts, groups, and members with information in regards to establishing registered groups and home groups.
- Provides out of town or visiting AA members with current information regarding meeting dates and times.
- Provides an open door for information to homeless and passersby about a solution to their problem with alcohol.
- A person (not a recording) answers the phone to provide information to the suffering alcoholic, family members, and other AA members regarding a solution 24 hours a day.
- Provides location for library of historical AA literature.

Next Intergroup Meetings—November 15, December 20

We hope you've found this edition of *The Message* enjoyable, informative and insightful. As we are called to do in AA, please



Faithful Fivers

What is a 'faithful fiver?'"

A Faithful Fiver is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous who voluntarily participates to contribute a minimum of \$5 each month toward the support of their Central Office, assisting its efforts of carrying the message.

The idea of Faithful Fivers is based on the fact that many of us wasted many times this amount of money each month during our drinking careers.

It is the Faithful Fivers that can assist in getting the Central Office of Northern Kentucky over the hump each month instead of wondering how we are going to meet our financial obligations. The contributions are also tax deductible.

AA History Tidbits

- 1940** JANUARY: AKRON GROUP FINDS NEW HOME AT KING SCHOOL
AA'S FIRST WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, VESEY STREET, NYC
FIRST AA CLUBHOUSE, 334 ½ WEST 24TH STREET IN CHELSEA, NYC, WHERE BILL AND LOIS LIVE FOR A WHILE AND BILL MEETS FATHER ED DOWLING, WHO BECOMES HIS SECOND SPONSOR
SEPTEMBER: FIRST MEETING OF TOLEDO AA GROUP
- 1941** MARCH 1: JACK ALEXANDER'S *SATURDAY EVENING POST* ARTICLE BRINGS AA NATIONAL RECOGNITION; MEMBERSHIP JUMPS FROM 2,000 TO 8,000
[RUTH HOCK](#) RECEIVES COPY OF SERENITY PRAYER, PUBLISHED IN THE *NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE* IN JUNE AND ATTRIBUTED TO THEOLOGIAN REINHOLD NIEBUHR
BILL AND LOIS MOVE INTO A HOME OF THEIR OWN IN BEDFORD HILLS, NY, WHICH THEY CALL STEPPING STONES
- 1942** START OF FIRST PRISON GROUP, SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA
- 1943** BILL AND LOIS MAKE FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR OF AA GROUPS
- 1944** ONSET OF BILL'S DEPRESSION, WHICH LASTS FOR 11 YEARS; TREATED BY DR. HARRY TIEBOUT
MARCH: FIRST WOMEN'S PRISON GROUP MEETS AT CLINTON FARMS, CLINTON, NEW JERSEY
JUNE: PUBLICATION OF FIRST ISSUE OF THE A.A. GRAPEVINE, AA'S "MEETING IN PRINT"
INSPIRED BY MARTY M., NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION ON ALCOHOL SET UP AT YALE UNIVERSITY
- 1945** DR. SILKWORTH AND TEDDY R. BEGIN WORKING WITH ALCOHOLICS AT KNICKERBOCKER HOSPITAL IN NYC, TREATING 10,000 OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS
AFTER "THE LOST WEEKEND," AN OSCAR-WINNING FILM ABOUT A STRUGGLING ALCOHOLIC, HOLLYWOOD OFFERS AA \$100,000 FOR RIGHTS TO FELLOWSHIP'S STORY AND IS TURNED DOWN IN KEEPING WITH TRADITIONS SIX, SEVEN, AND EIGHT
- 1946** The Twelve Traditions published
- 1948** DECEMBER: DR. BOB'S LAST MAJOR TALK IN DETROIT
SUMMER: DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER; RETIRES FROM PRACTICE
- 1949** American Psychiatric Association recognizes AA
June 1: Anne Ripley Smith dies

THE MESSAGE
October, 2023



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Organization
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Covington, KY

N.KY Steering Comm
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Covington, KY 41011