

Pikes Peak Pint

The Pikes Peak Pint is a monthly AA-oriented newsletter that serves Colorado Springs and the surrounding communities.

April 2009

Area Meeting Additions, Deletions, and Changes (all meetings are non-smoking)

To include new meetings, changes or cancellations, deliver or email them to our service office.

All Meetings at DOWNTOWN GROUP, 7 E. Bijou, Room 25 (above Zeezo's) PLEASE ENTER AND EXIT THROUGH REAR OF BUILDING!

NEW: Fellowship Hall Mtg / Mo – Th: 9:30am, noon, 6pm, 8pm / open, handicap /

NEW: Fellowship Hall Mtg / Fri 9:30am, noon, 8pm / open, handicap /

NEW: Fellowship Hall Mtg / Sa – Su: 10am, noon, 4pm, 6pm /

NEW: Fellowship Hall Women's Beginner Mtg / Thu 4:30pm / open, handicap /

NEW: Fellowship Hall Podium Mtg / Fri 7pm / open, handicap /

For all meetings at Fellowship Hall: 2375 N Academy, #100 (South of Maizeland near Shlotzkeys), Entrance on North end of Bldg

NEW: The Doctor's Opinion / Fri 7:00 pm / open, BB Topic / St. Francis Med Ctr, Conf Rm 5, 6001 E Woodmen (at Powers)

NEW: Central Group Women's / Tue 5:30pm / open, handicap / 2011 E. La Salle (Park Plaza Bldg, at La Salle and De Paul)

NEW: Primary Purpose / Mo & Fr 5:30 pm, Wed noon / closed / Meridian Point Churce, corner of Garret and Meridian, Falcon CO

CHANGE: Easy Does It / Tue 4pm / open / 3047 Jet Wing Drive (Hancock & Academy behind Mission Trace)

CHANGE: Northwesters / Mon 5:30 pm / open discussion handicap / United Methodist Church, 6460 Flying W Ranch Rd (at Wolf Ranch Rd)

DELETE: Downtown Early Bird / Wed 6:15 am / open, Big Book / 7 E. Bijou, Room 25 (above Zeezo's)

DELETE: AA Strong / Tue noon / open / Evans Army Hospital, 4 West, Fort Carson



Letters to the Editor

Write to The Pint at pint@coloradospringsaa.org

This month: Are YOU the next Chair of the Pikes Peak Pint?

The Pikes Peak Pint is in need of a new chairperson. We are looking for someone with access to a reliable computer and internet connection, with some basic MS Word and Excel skills (you don't need to be an expert, you will be trained). If you are interested, or have questions, send an email to pint@coloradospringsaa.org.

The May 2009 edition will be my last as I move on to different service in the spirit of rotation. If no one offers to take over the Pint soon, we may go without publication of the Pint for a while until someone else rotates into this position.

Thanks,
Tom R., Pint Chair

Email sobriety anniversaries, announcements, letters to editor and email subscription requests to the Pikes Peak Pint:

pint@coloradospringsaa.org

Or deliver to the local AA Service Office.

Local AA Service Office:

1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Phone: 719-573-5020

Email: serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

Website: www.coloradospringsaa.org

Your Area Service Office and Intergroup would like you to know how very much we appreciate your personal contributions!



In the month of February we had
1 Birthday contribution,
3 Personal contributions and
6 Grateful Giver contributions!

Thank you!!

Intergroup Information and Contribution Addresses

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Call the Service Office for committee chair phone numbers.

Standing Committees

Corrections:

Bart B. - Chair
Vice Chair Open
corrections@coloradospringsaa.org

Public Information:

Heidi G. - Chair
Vice Chair Open
pi@coloradospringsaa.org

CPC:

Joey – Chair
Larry S. - Vice Chair
cpc@coloradospringsaa.org

Treatment:

Nate G. - Chair
Casey C. – Vice Chair
treatment@coloradospringsaa.org

Local Service Committees

Program:

Danielle W. – Chair
Greg W. - Vice Chair
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

Pint:

Tom R. – Chair
Vice Chair - Open
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

Volunteer:

Sharon A. – Chair
Vice Chair open
volunteer@coloradospringsaa.org

Nightwatch:

Thea S. – Chair
Melissa - Vice Chair
nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Web Site:

Courtney B. – Chair
Vice Chair open
webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org

Archives:

Curt N. – Chair
Vice Chair Open
archives@coloradospringsaa.org

WHERE to SEND CONTRIBUTIONS:

Area Service Office:

Make checks payable to Area Service Office
(Cash OK, but do not mail). Include group name on check.

Send to:
Colorado Springs Area Service Office
1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

GSO:

Make checks payable to General Fund.
Include Group name and number on check.

Send to:
General Service Office
Box 459 Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Area 10:

Make checks payable to Area 10.
Include group name, number, and District number on check.

Send to:
Area 10 Treasurer
12081 W. Alameda Pkwy. #418
Lakewood, CO 80228

Districts:

Make checks payable to DCM by name (not Dist. #).
Include Group name, number and District number on check.

Send to DCM or to Service Office.

	Rep	District	Email
Kathy A.	7		dcm7@coloradospringsaa.org
Alt. Josh H.			
Al T.	26		dcm26@coloradospringsaa.org
Robert M.	27		dcm27@coloradospringsaa.org
Shari A.	28		dcm28@coloradospringsaa.org

Pink Can Contributions:

Make check or Money orders to
Area 10 Corrections Committee.

Include Group Name and Number.

Send to:
Pink Can Contributions
P.O. Box 1307
Englewood, CO 80150

A.A. was founded on the premise that it would be self-supported through member contributions.

For the past 49 years, contributing a single dollar has been almost a tradition.



1960...10¢
 1970...20¢
 1980...35¢
 1990...50¢
 2000...\$1.00
 2009...\$1.75



1960...25¢
 1970...65¢
 1980...\$1.65
 1990...\$2.00
 2000...\$3.00
 2009...\$4.90



1960...22¢
 1970...35¢
 1980...90¢
 1990...\$1.10
 2000...\$1.20
 2009...\$2.09

Today's dollar has only 16 cents of the purchasing power of a 1960's dollar.



1960...\$1.00
 1970...\$1.00
 1980...\$1.00
 1990...\$1.00
 2000...\$1.00
 2009...\$2.00

Acknowledging these economic facts,
 why not responsibly compensate

BY DROPPING IN
2 BUCKS FOR 2009?

For those who can't afford it, the important thing is to keep coming back.

This poster is unofficial. It has not been published by General Services.

Group Contributions – Thank you!!

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Feb. '09
Apex	\$1,035.20	
Back to Basics	\$650.00	
Basket Talk Q and A	\$0.00	
Beacon Light	\$400.00	
Big Book Action	\$1,063.27	\$276.48
Big Book Study UPH	\$400.00	
Black Forest	\$631.00	\$185.00
Breath of Life	\$270.00	
Broadmoor	\$550.00	
Brown Baggers	\$40.41	
Celebrating Diversity	\$0.00	
Central	\$0.00	
Clean Air Group	\$162.74	
Clean Slate	\$1,489.79	
Cripple Creek Natural High	\$75.00	
Above The Bar Group	\$0.00	
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$480.00	
Down By The Creek	\$89.00	
Downtown Group	\$1,323.54	
Drylander's Group	\$94.00	
Easy Breathing Group	\$254.50	
Easy Does It	\$0.00	
Ellicott Group	\$300.00	
End of the Road	\$100.00	
Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Far North Group	\$0.00	
Fountain of Sobriety	\$20.00	
Foxhall Group	\$150.00	
Freedom From Bondage	\$50.00	
Friday Night 12 x 12	\$42.00	
Friday Night Live	\$25.50	
Friday Women's Group	\$769.46	\$109.16
Gals of Woodland Park	\$0.00	
Gift of the Heart	\$0.00	
Good Ole Boys	\$450.00	
H.O.W.	\$50.00	
Half Pint Group	\$240.00	
Happy Hour	\$666.11	
Hilltop AA Meeting	\$0.00	
High Noon	\$204.50	\$16.00
Hugo Group	\$150.00	\$100.00
Into Action	\$365.50	
Keep it Simple	\$90.00	
Lake George Group	\$369.17	

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Feb. '09
Little Log Group	\$0.00	
Living Free	\$20.00	
M.A.G.	\$875.00	\$200.00
Motherlode	\$0.00	
New Beginners	\$605.92	
New Women's	\$595.91	
Northwesters	\$633.00	\$100.00
Outright Mental Defectives	\$51.42	
Pass It On	\$0.00	
Pathfinders	\$31.00	
Penrose Discussion	\$60.00	
Plug in the Jug	\$110.00	
Pre-Dawn Meeting	\$149.31	\$77.68
Progress Not Perfection	\$236.81	\$46.00
Recovery in Action	\$0.00	
Rule #62	\$0.00	
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$504.00	
Security Eye Opener	\$47.00	
Serenity Riders	\$1,117.95	
Serenity Sisters	\$235.05	
Silver Key Seniors	\$150.00	
Sisters Not Saints	\$250.10	
Solutions at Noon	\$1,108.80	
Steel Magnolias	\$440.00	
Sunday Morning Speaker	\$354.00	
Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate)	\$187.00	
Survivors Group	\$107.00	
Taking Steps	\$458.00	
Then and Now	\$44.86	\$29.57
Thursday Mens	\$300.00	
Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$100.00	
Ute Pass Breakfast	\$63.00	
Veterans for AA	\$400.00	\$300.00
Walk the Talk	\$3,610.25	\$300.00
Walking on Water	\$820.00	
We Are Not Saints	\$872.50	
Wed. Afternoon Ladies	\$0.00	
Wed. Westside Womens	\$140.30	\$29.70
Westside Eye Opener	\$961.05	
Womens Step Study-WP	\$15.00	
Woodland Park Beginners	\$30.00	
Woodland Park Book Study	\$328.00	\$150.00
Young People	\$875.00	
Totals:	\$29,937.92	\$1,919.59
Total	\$29,937.92	

Thank you for your contributions. Support your group and support our service office!

7th Tradition

An extra dollar in the 7th Tradition basket just for your home group will help us meet our 2009-10 budget goals for Intergroup and the Area Service Office.

Intergroup Financial Reports

Financial reports are given to the Intergroup representatives at each monthly Intergroup meeting.

They are available upon request at the Area Service Office.

MILESTONES in SOBRIETY
April 2009
 Join us in celebrating member milestones!

Big Book Action			Steel Magnolias			Walk the Talk		
Lesley T.	19	yrs	Joan S.	24	yrs	Tom H.	23	yrs
Carrie P.	13	yrs	Tony L.	14	yrs	Bob M.	23	yrs
David S.	8	yrs				Craig C.	20	yrs
Rachel J.	5	yrs	Solutions @ Noon			Ken C.	18	yrs
Cameron M.	3	yrs	Sandy S.	21	yrs	Jim J.	16	yrs
Mike	3	yrs	Jeanne F.	17	yrs	David M.	5	yrs
Mischelle M	1	yr	Bill J.	14	yrs	Rachel N.	5	yrs
			Carrie P.	13	yrs	Karen B.	4	yrs
Taking Steps			Dan D.	6	yrs	Terry C.	4	yrs
David S.	8	yrs	Pat O.	4	yrs	Amber T.	4	yrs
Cameron M.	3	yrs				Frank	3	yrs
			Kirk W.	3	yrs	Alan L.	2	yrs
Serenity Riders			Cameron	3	yrs	Bill S.	2	yrs
Buzz B.	25	yrs	Mike	1	yr	Friday Women's Group		
Sandy S.	21	yrs	Randy	1	yr	Heidi G.	8	yrs
Bill J.	14	yrs				Sharon A. H.	4	yrs
Bob B.	7	yrs	New Woman Group			Jan H.	4	yrs
Dan D.	6	yrs	Jeanne F.	17	yrs			
Dave B.	3	yrs						



Step 4

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Self appraisal which attains any real accuracy is unquestionably a difficult process. We all find it so easy and pleasant to view ourselves through a rosy hue of complimentary half-truths and so hard and unpleasant to take a look in the uncompromising and glaring light of the unvarnished truth.

The 4th Step is, indeed, a real challenge to honesty with oneself. In this way, it is both preparation and a complement to the 5th Step. To make the "searching and fearless moral inventory" called for in the 4th Step, one must first of all be searchingly and fearlessly honest about himself. The degree of honesty one can achieve will determine the accuracy and therefore the usefulness of the moral inventory.

One practical way of starting this very practical Step--or at least a way that helped one newcomer--is to prepare a record sheet with two columns, one headed, "Liabilities" and the other, "Assets."

Under "Liabilities" can be listed personality deficiencies and faults, such as intolerance, selfishness, indecisiveness, fear, indolence, a bad temper, impatience and a whole host of other qualities which most everyone at this early stage discovers he has in abundance.

Under "Assets," if any, can be listed the opposite positives--tolerance, generosity (and this does not mean giving the poor bum a dime for a cup of coffee and feeling noble about it for two blocks), thoughtfulness of other people, humility, patience, and a few other attributes. Few persons, if honest, ever work up much of a list on this side of the ledger for their first moral inventory.

The actual process of deciding what to put in each column consists of asking oneself some pointed questions. Am I tolerant of other people's peculiarities, other creeds, other colors, other races, other opinions? Or do I dislike somebody because of the way he combs his hair or ties his tie? How many favors will I do other people without expecting one in return? Will I really go out of my way to help someone, or only when it's convenient? Do I feel superior to others? Am I impatient of others' shortcomings, while being very patient about my own? Am I honest, or do I practice deceit and double-talk, and then excuse myself afterwards with some fancy rationalizing? Am I kind, considerate, gentle?

The more questions one asks himself along this line the clearer become the entries he should make in each column.

If this is the first moral inventory one has taken of himself, or at least the most honest one, he will find it the most trying. But he also will find that in itself it will give him a certain feeling of relief. Finally he has begun to face facts. Finally he has worked up enough courage to face himself as he really is, and not as he has been dreaming he is. This is a courageous step forward. It is another step onto the path to sanity, stability and happiness.

The first inventory should not be the last by any means. In fact, the principle and the technique of the moral inventory become a vital part of the new life. The first is the most difficult. Subsequent inventories show where progress has been made, where more effort still needs to be placed. If an inventory be taken at regular intervals, one has at hand a guide for keeping on the beam.

The moral inventory is one of A.A.'s most effective techniques. Of course, as with other A.A. techniques, its effectiveness depends on how well it is used. The inventory will not work by itself. The benefit comes about through the efforts made to change that which the inventory reveals should be changed.

T. D.
Manhattan, NY

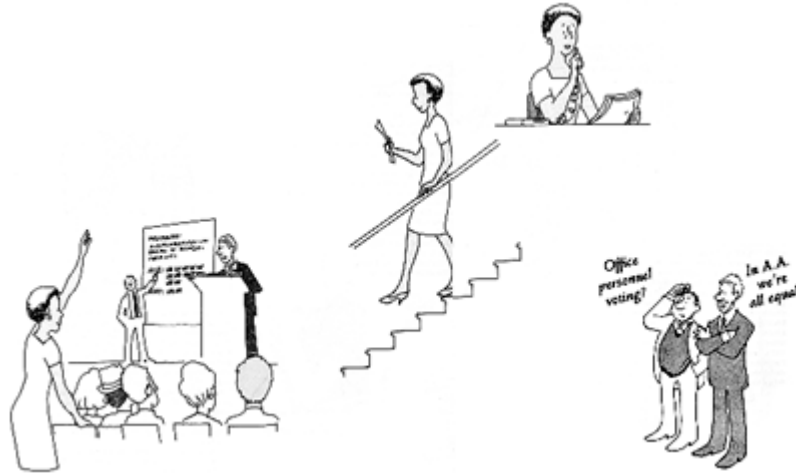
February, 1946

Concept

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

4

Excerpts from AA Grapevine Archives and 12 Steps / 12 Traditions / Checklists



Concept Graphic from Southbay AA .org website

Tradition 4

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Promise 4

No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others

Sharing is a Two-Way Street

DO YOU REMEMBER the first time you became aware, even vaguely, that it was possible to recover? I do. It was in the kitchen of the first AA group I ever attended.

The man who had brought me to the meeting was named Max. He was a sweet man, although I did not believe a word he said. He put a cup of coffee in my hand, but I could not hold it. It flew up in the air and spilled all over the floor. What did Max do? He patted my shoulder and poured me another. (Back in the barroom when I spilled a drink, I did not get another one free.) In that one gesture, he gave me my first glimpse of what I would later recognize as the amazing truth that living was available. However far down the scale Max had gone in his drinking history, his experience directly benefited me.

And that was a promise written in Chapter Six of the Big Book. "No matter how far down the scale we have gone," it says, "we will see how our experience can benefit others." But it took me quite some time to understand how my own experience could possibly serve as an example for anyone.

When I first became eligible to speak, I used to think that my power of example lay in my theatrical presentation--lots of arm-waving, pulpit poses, and rolling r's. I just loved being "on." I was so glad that the important business of carrying the message was also a means of displaying my up-to-then unappreciated talents. Pity the poor newcomers who had to put up with me in those days!

Secretly, I was sure "carrying the message" was an esoteric something that would be revealed to me only after many years of sobriety. How many years? Well, my overworked imagination pulled numbers out of the hat like nine, thirteen, eleven and a half. It didn't take that long, but it was a while before I understood that the AA message was simply one of hope--that there was a way out of the booze problem.

Once I became a regular on the speakers' circuit--and I was very good, so I thought--there was a brief period when I worried about my drinking story. It wasn't dramatic enough. It did not compare well with the blood-and-thunder stories that seemed to be common then. I feared that I was falling short of required standards. At any moment, I expected, the group chairman would take me aside. "Because you do not have a blood-and-thunder story, son," he would say, "you can no longer attend AA meetings. I mean, not anywhere!" (Even though I knew nothing about our Third Tradition, thank goodness we had it.)

There are far fewer horrendous stories nowadays, as a result of AA's success in steadily raising the bottom of the alcoholic. AA has made it possible for the alcoholic to seek help early, thanks to the diversified efforts of our public information committees all around the world.

I would have worried less about my undramatic story if I had remembered one suggestion I was given in the beginning--to identify and not compare. The identification would be with the speaker's feelings rather than with the chronology or extent of drinking bouts. I thought I was what people in those days called a high-bottom drunk, until I realized I was identifying with some pretty rough-and-tumble characters at one of our clubhouses. My life had not followed the route theirs had, but when they talked of despair and isolation, when they spoke of their longing for something better than they had, only to leap into another debauch, I knew exactly what they were talking about.

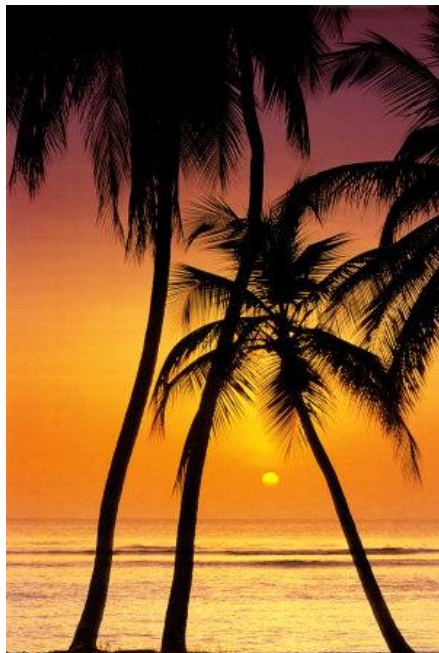
Subsequently, when speaking, I tried to share those very feelings, so that I, too, might benefit others. But my grandiosity kept getting in the way. Curiously enough, even my grandiosity eventually became a source of benefit to one alcoholic--myself. One night, after I had given an especially pompous AA talk, a supersophisticated person came up and told me that he had identified with my story. I did not like anything about him and wanted to get away from him. I was upset for some time, until I eventually figured out why. He had identified with me, yes, *but I had identified with him.*

Sharing, as I had yet to learn, is a two-way street. I may not always want to hear what somebody else has to say, but I owe it to him (or her) to listen. And I owe it to myself, because I never know from what unexpected quarter I may receive the benefits promised in the Big Book.

W. H.
Manhattan, NY

December, 1980

*No matter how far
down the scale
we have gone,*



*we will see
how our experience
can benefit others*

AA Thought for the Day

An Open Gate

The Fellowship of AA has said that no matter what was out there,
they would stand by me and help me through.
More importantly, a Higher Power of my own understanding
would be there with me,
and they could show me the way to tap into that power.
They were holding that gate open,
but I was going to have to take the action and step across.
- Anonymous

Area 10 - Group Histories **CONFIDENTIAL (AA Members ONLY)**

The Archives committee is requesting approximately five members from each group to write their memory of their group's history, in two pages or less.

Please consider providing as much *detailed* information as you are comfortable for the future benefit of an historian or members interested in your group history.

I. General Information (sample questions, feel free to change):

1. Your name, contact info, service position, etc. (Are you the Group Archivist?):
2. Date:
3. Group name:
4. District #:
5. Location/town:
6. Approximate date Group was founded:
7. Group # (if available, is your Group registered with GSO?):
8. Group name changes & background:
9. Location, time, days, changes, etc.:
10. Meeting format changes, e.g., Big Book, Open/Closed, etc.:
11. Founders & early members of Group: (if applicable, contact info, who might know them?)
12. Current & past Old-timers of Group: (Contact information)
13. Past service positions (GSRs, Secretaries, other positions):
14. If you have an Old-timer AA needs to interview (mp3 format, please), please let us know. *Get sample questions at our webpage: coloradoaa.org/committees/archives.*

II. Collect, Organize & Scan (anything & everything):

Collect, consolidate, organize, index & scan (pdf) old notes, minutes, phone lists, meeting formats, etc. Collect both computer (text/Word and pdf) and paper/notebook files. Consolidate to one location, scan the paper files and organize them with your computer files, consolidate into 1 master computer folder (name it by your group name & district number) broken down into subdirectories (e.g., year, group conscience minutes, histories, phone lists, etc.). Consider making a CD for your group members and one for Area 10 Archives. Save it, add to it and pass it on to the next Group Archives Chair or GSR. For Records, please email or send us ONE master electronic (computer) file only! **No Scanner?** Set an appointment and come use ours (it belongs to the fellowship!). Confusing? Please call me!

III. Group Histories:

Ask everyone in your Group to contribute! Typed or handwritten, one page or ten. Highlights, lowlights, earliest memories of my group, group demeanor, leaders, rulers, attitudes toward newcomers, attitudes towards traditions, towards outside issues, how founded, group involvement in service, activities, conflicts, disagreements, resolutions, etc. Be general or specific, names or anonymity, it's up to each group. There is no right or wrong, just our perception of what happened. Consider doing this as a work in progress, so keep asking group members! The more detail and flavor, the better; and the more participation, the better! For Histories: please send us your printouts and email us one master computer file.

We may already have some of your history down at Area 10 Archives. Ask us, we'll check.

Email ONE (1) master file to: archives@coloradoaa.org

Please email us with ANY suggestions, questions or comments.

The Last Word

Thanks to Ebby and all who made possible the
good life I have - from Bill W.

March 21 was the anniversary of the death of Ebby Thacher in 1966 . . .
Here is a dedication that Bill Wilson wrote in an AA book that he gave to
Ebby at the Long Beach International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in
1960:

"Dear Ebby,
No day passes that I do not remember that you brought me the message
that saved me - and only God knows how many more.
In affection, Bill"
Ebby Thatcher's Eulogy

By Bill W.

In his seventieth year, and on the twenty-first of March, my friend and
sponsor "Ebby" passed beyond our sight and hearing.

On a chill November afternoon in 1934 it was Ebby who had brought me the
message that saved my life. Still more importantly, he was the bearer of the
Grace and of the principles that shortly afterward led to my spiritual
awakening. This was truly a call to new life in the Spirit. It was the kind of
rebirth that has since become the most precious possession of each and all
of us.

As I looked upon him where he lay in perfect repose, I was stirred by
poignant memories of all the years I had known and loved him.

There were recollections of those joyous days in a Vermont boarding school.
After the war years we were sometimes together, then drinking of course.
Alcohol, we thought, was the solvent for all difficulties, a veritable elixir for
good living.

Then there was that absurd episode of 1929. Ebby and I were on an all-night
spree in Albany. Suddenly we remembered that a new airfield had been
constructed in Vermont, on a pasture near my own home town. The opening
day was close at hand. Then came the intoxicating thought: If only we could
hire a plane we'd beat the opening by several days, thus making aviation

history ourselves! Forthwith, Ebby routed a pilot friend out of bed, and for a stiff price we engaged him and his small craft. We sent the town fathers a wire announcing the time of our arrival. In midmorning, we took to the air, greatly elated -- and very tight.

Somehow our rather tipsy pilot set us down on the field. A large crowd, including the village band and a welcoming committee, lustily cheered his feat. The pilot then deplaned. But nothing else happened, nothing at all. The onlookers stood in puzzled silence. Where were Ebby and Bill? Then the horrible discovery was made -- we were both slumped in the rear cockpit of the plane, completely passed out! Kind friends lifted us down and stood us upon the ground. Whereupon we history-makers fell flat on our faces. Ignominiously, we had to be carted away. The fiasco could not have been more appalling. We spent the next day shakily writing apologies.

Over the following five years, I seldom saw Ebby. But of course our drinking went on and on. In late 1934 I got a terrific jolt when I learned that Ebby was about to be locked up, this time in a state mental hospital.

Following a serious of mad sprees, he had run his father's new Packard off the road and into the side of a dwelling, smashing right into its kitchen, and just missing a terrified housewife. Thinking to ease this rather awkward situation, Ebby summoned his brightest smile and said, "Well, my dear, how about a cup of coffee?"

Of course Ebby's lighthearted humor was quite lost on everyone concerned. Their patience worn thin, the town fathers yanked him into court. To all appearances, Ebby's final destination was the insane asylum. To me, this marked the end of the line for us both. Only a short time before, my physician, Dr. Silkworth, had felt obliged to tell Lois there was no hope of my recovery; that I, too would have to be confined, else risk insanity or death.

But providence would have it otherwise. It was presently learned that Ebby had been paroled into the custody of friends who (for the time being) had achieved their sobriety in the Oxford Groups. They brought Ebby to New York where he fell under the benign influence of AA's great friend-to-be, Dr. Sam Shoemaker, the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church. Much affected by Sam and the "O. G." Ebby promptly sobered up. Hearing of my serious condition, he had straight-way come to our house in Brooklyn.

As I continued to recollect, the vision of Ebby looking at me across our kitchen table became wonderfully vivid. As most AA's know, he spoke to me of the release from hopelessness that had come to him (through the Oxford Groups) as the result of self-survey, restitution, outgoing helpfulness to others, and prayer. In short, he was proposing the attitudes and principles that I used later in developing AA's Twelve Steps to recovery.

It had happened. One alcoholic had effectively carried the message to

another. Ebby had been enabled to bring me the gift of Grace because he could reach me at depth through the language of the heart. He had pushed ajar that great gate through which all in AA have since passed to find their freedom under God.



Bill and Ebby