

# Intergroup Concerns



Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Edition 2022: September, October, November

## Peoria Area Intergroup

329 East Lake St., #4

Peoria, IL 61614

Aapeoria.org

[peoriaintergroup@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peoriaintergroup@sbcglobal.net)

[.net](http://peoriaintergroup.net)

## 24-Hour Hotline

(309)687-1329

### Office Hours:

Mon – Fri, 9am to 5pm

Sat – 9am to noon

Sun – closed

Closed Holidays

### Holiday Closings:

September 5, Labor Day

November 24, Thanksgiving

*During the pandemic, our hours may fluctuate. Please call for updates.*

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## She Answered the Phone

She answered the phone at Intergroup. Years sober and long an Intergroup volunteer she answered the phone at 9:00 on a Thursday morning. I had been calling since 7:00. The phone rang and rang. I persisted until finally at 9, Pat F. said “Intergroup, this is Pat”!

“Where the devil have you been” I asked. I’ve been calling for hours”. This is not the best way to reach out for the help of AA, but it was the best I had. I did not say devil. I used the hell word.

She soothed me, comforted me, directed me to a meeting within 45 minutes and asked me to call again. I did.

That’s the message. That’s the entire message of AA. I reached out. The hand was there. The hand was firm and constant. I called her to let her know I had gotten to the meeting though I was confused about a front door that was locked and needing to go around the back near a donut shop. This AA place was between a bar and a restaurant that certainly sold alcohol.

*(Continued on p. 12)*

## From the Desk of Peoria Area Intergroup:

Hello Friends! I hope that you are all enjoying this beautiful weather.

We had a great time at our Open House/Dunk Tank event at the end of July. Our fellowship showed up! It was a beautiful day. We had many members come who have never been to the Intergroup. There were a few children who came with their parents. Members kept giving the kids tickets for the dunk tank, and the kids were amazing. They dunked everyone!

We are starting to plan our big annual event (February 18<sup>th</sup>). We will be celebrating at Marlene's Event Barn again. We have good food, music and fun planned. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer.

Having fun in the fellowship is a gift I didn't expect when I came into AA. Thank you all for your participation and friendship.

We are always looking for volunteers for the office. We currently have Friday 9am - 1pm or 1pm - 5pm shifts available and are always in need of substitutes. Give the office a call if you are interested.

*In love and service, Jane P.*



"No, it hasn't been a year, but he has potential!"

## AA Intergroup Association Preamble

In solemn affirmation of the letter and spirit of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and placing all our activities under the guidance of a Higher Power, the various groups of Alcoholics Anonymous hereby establish an Intergroup Association.

The purposes of the Association are:

1. To perform those functions which are common to the aims of all groups of Alcoholics Anonymous.
2. To assist in the education of the general public concerning the disease alcoholism and the role of A.A. in combating the disease.
3. To assist alcoholics and their families.
4. To maintain a conveniently located office in which paid workers and volunteers are available to carry the A.A. message.
5. To act as a clearing house for the circulation and exchange of information among all the A.A. groups of the Association.
6. To receive inquiries from those seeking help and refer them to the appropriate group where sponsorship can be arranged, or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.
7. To publish and distribute, at regular intervals, up-to-date list of meetings and other information about local A.A. services.

### I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that:

### I Am Responsible

#### Elected Board Members

**Chairman of the Board:** Matt B.

**Vice Chairman:** Susan M.

**Treasurer:** Dick S.

**Secretary:** David Hays

**Director at Large:** Dawne Mc.

**Director at Large:** Bob B.

**Director at Large:** Bill C.

**Director at Large:** Darren D.

**Director at Large:** Steve R.

**Office Manager:** Jane P.

#### Office Volunteers:

Mark R., Fred L., Judy L., Heather, Melanie, Bob B., Steve R., George Pu., and Julie G.

Thank you to all those listed above. We also wish to thank all the intergroup representatives for your service to PAIA and tending to the needs of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## Service Opportunities in District 6

**Archives:** Have an interest in AA history and the idea of preserving our history? George P. has plenty of opportunities for volunteers! (309) 643-0092.

**Corrections:** Do you have a desire to help with corrections? Contact (309)687-1329.

**Grapevine:** Darren D. is the chairperson. AA's International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous is our connection to the world of AA. Call (309) 360-8186 to find out more.

**Hospitals & Institutions Committee:** Kevin H. chairs this committee and has been working hard at connecting local AA with treatment centers during the pandemic.

**Intergroup** is looking for volunteers! Call Jane P. at (309) 687-1329.

**Public Outreach:** Call intergroup for more information.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community:** does not have a chairperson. If you are interested in helping connect AA with the professional community, we need you!

**Unity & Fellowship** needs your help. They are looking for volunteers to put together events in District 6 that would involve members of all AA clubs and meetings.

**Workshops Committee:** a chairperson is needed to put on informative, fun workshops for the community.

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## Schedule of Service Meetings 2022

### **Peoria Area Intergroup at 329 E. Lake Street, #4, Peoria**

Steering Committee Meeting: September 15, 2022, at 6pm

Board/Steering Committee Elections: October 20, 2022, at 6pm

Steering Committee Meeting: November 17, 2022, at 6pm

**Unity & Fellowship:** Meeting held the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm at 329 E. Lake Street, #4, Peoria.

**District '6' Meetings:** Third Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm except when there are Area meetings. Hybrid (In-person & Zoom) meetings. Locations to be announced.

**Southern Illinois Area 21:** March, June, September, and December. Locations, dates, and times to be announced.

# Peoria Area Intergroup After Hours Coverage

*The following groups have volunteered to take care of the 24-hour AA hotline when the intergroup office is closed:*



- New Beginnings ..... Sept 1 – Sept 7
- Sunnyland Phoenix ..... Sept 8 – Sept 14
- Chillicothe Riverside ..... Sept 15 – Sept 21
- Lakers..... Sept 22 – Sept 28
- Morton Stone Jug ..... Sept 29 – October 5
- Wake Up Call ..... October 6 – October 12
- Share Clean Air ..... October 13 – Oct 19
- Alano Valley ..... October 20 – October 26
- Hilltop ..... October 27 – November 2
- Pioneer ..... November 3 – November 9
- Pekin Celestial..... November 10 - 17
- New Beginnings ..... November 18 – 24
- Sunnyland Phoenix ... November 25 – Dec 1
- Chillicothe Riverside ..... Dec 2 – Dec 8

*After signing up, be sure you have the most recent copy of the 12-step volunteer list and a current AA meeting list.*

***Thank you for being the “face” of AA when our office is not open.*** We are so lucky to have volunteers available to answer our phones 24/7. When anyone calls for help, the hand of AA is there to answer the call.

*When you see the sign-up sheet at your group, please volunteer. You never know how much it can help the still suffering alcoholic.*

## Last Quarter Intergroup Activity:

June	
Visitors	110
Phone Calls	91
E-Mails	159
12-Step Calls	5
July	
Visitors	94
Phone Calls	71
E-Mails	188
12-Step Calls	6
August	
Visitors	64
Phone Calls	56
E-Mails	112
12-Step Calls	3
TOTAL	
Visitors	268
Phone Calls	218
E-Mails	459
12-Step Calls	14



# Sober Anniversaries



## June 2022:

George Pa.....34 yrs  
 Tammy Q..... 2 yrs  
 Peter S.....36 yrs  
 Bill W .....34 yrs  
 Kyle W ..... 2 yrs  
 Terry S ..... 1 yrs  
 Daryl F ..... 6 yrs  
 Jeff H .....43 yrs  
 Mindy J..... 3 yrs  
 Kathy V.....5 yrs  
 Nathan H ..... 1 yrs  
 Erin ..... 1 yrs  
 Liz R .....34 yrs  
 Jeff E.....9 yrs  
 Matt K.....4 yrs  
 Wendy J.....30 yrs  
 Keith R..... 1 yrs  
 Chef John.....38 yrs  
 Karen S ..... 1 yrs  
 Teresa O ..... 16 yr  
 Monte.....12 yrs  
 Les .....2 yrs  
 Amy O.....4 yrs  
 Robert A ..... 1 yrs  
 Jamie .....8 yrs  
 SRD .....9 yrs  
 Ed Q.....4 yrs  
 Donnie B.....7 yrs  
 Steve L.....21 yrs  
 Chris .....4 yrs  
 Gary B.....29 yrs  
 George Pu.....30 yrs  
 Jackie N ..... 8 yrs  
 Cyndy B .....38 yrs  
 Jon M.....32 yrs

## June 2022:

Matt B .....5 yrs  
 Tony M.....22 yrs  
 Lee L.....27 yrs  
 Chris S .....3 yrs  
 Ken T .....30 yrs  
 Joe K.....1 yrs  
 Stephanie M.....1 yrs  
 Tammy .....3 yrs

## July 2022:

Sherol J.....28 yrs  
 Frank .....1 yrs  
 Denny.....4 yrs  
 Jon F.....2 yrs  
 Cecil.....23 yrs  
 Dawn K.....1 yrs  
 Mike S .....2 yrs  
 Tom O .....30 yrs  
 Emily C .....15 yrs  
 Matt N.....29 yrs  
 Brandon V .....9 yrs  
 Taylor .....6 yrs  
 APS.....1 yrs  
 Marzi .....10 yrs  
 Gena W .....43 yrs  
 Aly M.....21 yrs  
 Phil O.....10 yrs  
 Mary B.....31 yrs  
 Bill H.....3 yrs  
 Ed Y .....2 yrs  
 Julie M.....3 yrs  
 Amy A.....9 yrs  
 Sam C .....2 yrs  
 Austin S .....1 yrs

## July 2022:

Mary S..... 2 yrs  
 Bob B..... 16 yrs  
 Marcia K..... 2 yrs  
 Julie M.....43 yrs  
 Joe C..... 6 yrs  
 Mike W..... 16 yrs  
 Tom C.....46 yrs  
 Ben P..... 1 yrs  
 Patty A.....40 yrs  
 Maynard.....20 yrs  
 Robin S..... 1 yrs  
 Bob (horse trainer) 12 yrs  
 John M ..... 9 yrs  
 Paul T ..... 2 yrs  
 Tom H.....18 yrs  
 Molly F ..... 1 yrs  
 Jo .....1 yrs  
 Tim D.....1 yrs  
 Mike S ..... 2 yrs  
 Matt N.....29 yrs  
 Alex R ..... 2 yrs  
 Frank P ..... 1 yrs  
 Steve Hu.....16 yrs  
 Johnny F.....34 yrs  
 John C.....7 yrs  
 Dawn K.....1 yrs  
 Nancy .....10 yrs  
 Marzi .....10 yrs  
 Phyllis C.....34 yrs





# Sober Anniversaries



## August 2022:

Brandon G..... 2 yrs  
 Mz. Kelly ..... 33 yrs  
 Andrew M..... 6 yrs  
 Frank H ..... 29 yrs  
 Hal b..... 15 yrs  
 Tucson Jim ..... 38 yrs  
 Bobby..... 3 yrs  
 Bryan N ..... 1 yrs  
 Fred..... 38 yrs  
 Brian N..... 3 yrs  
 Tom ..... 15 yrs  
 Tom K..... 14 yrs  
 Brad M..... 12 yrs  
 Peggy ..... 14 yrs  
 Terry VS ..... 27 yrs  
 Brad L..... 2 yrs  
 Barb E ..... 5 yrs  
 Dennis H ..... 13 yrs  
 Tanya ..... 27 yrs

## August 2022:

Leia O ..... 27 yrs  
 Chad C..... 14 yrs  
 Mark..... 34 yrs  
 Dean H ..... 33 yrs  
 Scott L ..... 27 yrs  
 Danny F ..... ? yrs  
 CJ..... 2 yrs  
 Nick K ..... 12 yrs  
 Jim C..... 12 yrs  
 Dan M ..... 3 yrs  
 Bobbie..... 1 yrs  
 Dennis B..... 43 yrs  
 Flint R..... 16 yrs  
 Nick C..... 7 yrs  
 Josh ..... 9 yrs  
 Eric H..... 2 yrs  
 Bob J..... 46 yrs  
 Vinita..... 7 yrs

## August 2022:

Barb M ..... 5 yrs  
 David W ..... 2 yrs  
 Laura B..... 28 yrs  
 Dirk N ..... 19 yrs  
 Tom P..... 15 yrs  
 Bryan N ..... 1 yrs  
 Rita ..... 44 yrs  
 Renda..... 39 yrs  
 Max Z ..... 2 yrs  
 Nickey B ..... 37 yrs  
 Jackie U ..... 8 yrs  
 Dean H ..... 33 yrs  
 Danny F..... 6 yrs  
 Scott L ..... 27 yrs  
 Don H..... 13 yrs  
 Kim M..... 38 yrs  
 Pete SS..... 37 yrs  
 Diana..... 1 yrs  
 Larry E ..... 29 yrs

Celebrating Years of Sobriety	
June	602
July	669
August	979
<b>TOTAL YEARS</b>	<b>2,250</b>

The First Beginners Chip



Congratulations!



# Peoria Area Intergroup Association

## ASSETS (as of 31 May 2022)

Checking.....	\$6,287
Prudent Reserve .....	\$8,281
Accounts Receivable .....	\$319
Inventory.....	\$8,124
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$23,011</b>

## LIABILITIES (as of 28 Feb 2022)

Credit Card.....	\$381
Vendors.....	\$0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$381</b>

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## 2022 Total Year to Date (as of 31 August 2022)

### INCOME

Group Contributions.....	\$9,135
Walk in & Misc. Contributions.....	\$1,336
District 6 Rent .....	\$400
Dividend Income.....	\$-11
Spring & Fall Event Revenue.....	\$11,308
Literature / Merchandise Income.....	\$9,996
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$32,164</b>

### EXPENSES

Advertising.....	(392))
Bank Charges .....	(0)
Credit Card Fees.....	(279)
Miscellaneous .....	(180)
Spring & Fall Event Expense .....	(5,234)
Illinois Sales Tax .....	(516)
Insurance .....	(0)
Literature Expense.....	(5,243)
Office Supplies / Newsletter.....	(2,009)
Contract Labor .....	(10,200)
Postage .....	(86)
Rent.....	(3,040)
Phone / Comcast.....	(1,463)
Tax Prep .....	(101)
Website.....	(288)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$29,031)</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$3,133</b>



# Peoria Area Intergroup 2022 Budget

Even though Intergroup has their own fundraiser once a year, they still rely heavily on group donations to balance the budget and serve AA members in the community. Without group contributions, the Intergroup office would experience a shortfall each year.

	<b>Annual</b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
Group Donations .....	\$12,000
District 6 Rent.....	\$600
Fundraiser Revenue .....	\$12,000
Gross Literature Income Group.....	\$9,000
Gross Literature Income Walk-In .....	\$11,000
Miscellaneous.....	\$2,100
	<b>Total Income \$47,700</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
Literature Expense & Sales Tax .....	\$16,000
Fundraiser Expenses.....	\$2,500
Fixed Costs .....	\$21,340
Variable Costs.....	\$2,250
	<b>Total Expenses \$45,300</b>

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“Self-support begins with me because I am part of us—the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A.”

Twelfth Step work is the lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic. Without it, the Fellowship would wither and die. Yet, even at its simplest level this vital contact between one alcoholic and another involves an investment of time and money.

*(From the pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Work*



## I Did Not Want to be an Alcoholic

I came into the rooms on 2-28-2001 and did not "want" to be an alcoholic, and I did not do the work necessary to stay in recovery. After 2 1/2 years I went into relapse. I had quite the final drunk and it ended with my husband driving home from Okeechobee, Florida (21 hours straight) for the second time in a month, because my neighbor and my sponsor called him to let him know I was drinking again and "safe" in detox. They told him he might want to come home. He wasn't expecting me to be home, nor was I expecting him to be coming home (no one warned me... lol). When I came out of the bathroom, TWO glasses of whiskey in hand, and saw his face my HP absolutely said to me, "You are a REAL alcoholic. You cannot put this stuff down". Since then, when I introduce myself in a meeting, I say, "My name is Merry. I am a real alcoholic." I do not say that so you will remember me. I say that so I will remember me, as an alcoholic. If you want to know what a "real alcoholic" is, you may read all about me and maybe about yourself, on page 31 in the Big Book.

Since that time, I have had the same sponsor and grand sponsor and home group, Pekin Celestial. That doesn't mean that I have always liked what was suggested; it means that I wanted what they had. I try to be honest, open-minded, and willing (HOW).

My sponsees go through the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions using the Big Book, 12 x12 and many other publications. Eventually, we will go through the Concepts (I hate to admit that I am not as fluent in the Concepts as I could be.).

I know if I need help, I have some strong women who know me quite well. The Program gives me access to many other women that I am able to call on for help in any situation both here and in Florida.

Here are a few of what the STEPS and those women have taught me:

1. To catch myself in dishonesty and admit it. Learned how to love others, and because of that I can be more unselfish with my time. I know that gossip is never helpful to anyone, and I walk away. I have learned to listen to the needs of others and communicate my needs without cussing. These are products of the Four Absolutes out of Akron, Absolute Honesty, Purity, Love and Unselfishness. I do not pretend to be "absolute" in any of them.
2. I have learned not to gloat over praise nor be discouraged when given criticism or suggestions.
3. It is nice to be content in my own skin, and by that, I mean I don't have to be someone else for anyone else.
4. I have learned to forgive and forget (mostly).
5. Also, and not least, I have been given the ability to pray and meditate. I had a hard time sitting still and now I am able to because I know it works.

There are so many more things that y'all have taught me, both the newcomer and the old-timer, and I cannot thank you enough.

My prayer is that you find HOPE and GRATITUDE every day, which will help you live a life of serenity.

*Merry W.*

Just for Fun...

## Our Recovery

Z E S O P R U P Y R A M I R P T E  
F Z F N G W S H L M C A A B S O X  
C W A M E N D S O O D C T S P F H  
G O J Z S R O J U N C X E I X A I  
I J U E E X A R F E E N H R Q V G  
E Q U M M Q A E P Q G S V J O K H  
M P J M L G A T S N W R T H J B E  
G Z O Z E R A Q I O Q B G Y P J R  
N I B H L N M L L H M G R S U P P  
I K G E C Q L L C C T J A Q K M O  
N U S E G I E C X S R Q T L N E W  
E S E V W F L S H R O U I D A E E  
K S E R E N I T Y A K C T R J T R  
A O L S N C N X X B N Y U A C I C  
W W I S D O M V I F B G D B C N Y  
A R S S E L R E W O P X E J U G S  
G J M Q S O B R I E T Y Q M Q S P

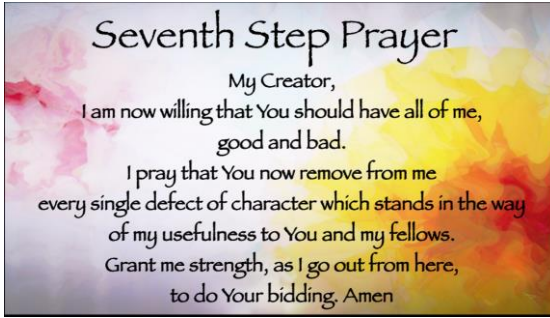
awakening  
powerless  
sobriety  
hope  
wisdom  
acceptance

amends  
willingness  
primary purpose  
higher power  
change  
serenity

fearless  
honesty  
meetings  
gratitude  
courage  
fellowship

## Volunteer for the 12 Step Call List!

When our volunteers answer our 24-hour phone line, we may have a need to connect the caller with a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for additional help. If you are looking for some service work, please consider being a volunteer for the 12-step call list. Please call (309)687-1329 for more information.



### She Answered the Phone - cont'd

Pat F. laughed at my antics. Said she would meet me at a meeting at another location...with a viable front door. She gave me a copy of Living Sober. I was dazzled at the varying types and sorts of folks at meetings. All types. All sorts. All welcoming and saying I should come back. I read Living Sober and called Pat and said what do I do now.

Within my first 7 days, at Pat's direction, I attended meetings in 3 locations, met smiling faces whose names I would forget, and believed you when you said I belonged.

Why? Why did I? Why did I persist? Why did I accept help? Why was I motivated? Ah...Who is motivating me...that's the message you all are trying to give me with your Serenity Prayer and Our Father and daily reading. This Design for Living wasn't made up by a bunch of men out east. It's a Divine Design. I learned that as I listened to your stories, before and after meetings. Standing out on the parking lot or grabbing coffee after a meeting. Some of your feelings matched mine. Some of your family issues were my family issues. We are the same. We are different. We are one. We are AA.

Within my first months Pat encouraged me to chair a meeting, attend Group Conscience and volunteer at Intergroup. I belong.

*Jan O.*

## Upcoming Events (more information available at [aapeoria.org](http://aapeoria.org), calendar of events)

### New Beginnings Hog Roast

Saturday, September 10, 2022  
Headstart Community Center  
233 Leadley Avenue, East Peoria, IL 61611  
Eat @ 5:00 pm; Speaker @ 7:00 PM  
Pulled Pork provided, bring a dish to share  
Big Screen TV Raffle – tickets available now

### National AA Technology Workshop 2022

September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Hybrid Event – Seattle, WA  
Online Registration: \$25

### New Beginnings Campout

September 23-24, 2022  
Quail Meadow Pavilion  
Jubilee State Park  
13921 W Route 150  
Brimfield, IL 61517  
Reserve your spot in “Loop A”

### Pekin Serenity Golf Outing:

October 1, 2022  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Parkview Golf Course, Pekin

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## Potluck Speaker Meetings:

Canton Downtowners – last Monday of Month  
New Beginnings Breakfast Mtg – Every Saturday  
New Beginnings Potluck – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month  
New Beginnings Pizza – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Month  
Marshall Putnam – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Month  
Pekin Celestial – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Month  
Hilltop – will announce - Saturday of Month



## 12 Traditions Workshop

*Share Clean Air is holding a monthly Traditions Workshop. This workshop will cover one tradition per month. There will be open discussion and members are encouraged to bring the Twelve and Twelve book and other material (Grapevine, Bill W articles, etc.) that relate to how each tradition was formed and why. The workshop is being held on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM.*

Share Clean Air  
4700 N. University  
(behind Joann Fabric)



## The Gift of Desperation

When I was first introduced to AA at the age of 24, I had a sneaking suspicion I belonged. I knew I had similar humiliating stories, but I felt I was in some way better than and/or worse than everyone else in the meetings. I wouldn't have been able to describe that to you at the time but looking back I now see this has been my problem for many years. After a few meetings, I decided I was going to do things my way. It only took a couple of years before I was forced into the program by the law.

Scared of the impending consequences, I took the program serious for the first time. I went to a lot of meetings, started chairing, and getting involved in other AA functions. I got my first sponsor and worked some steps. I ended up getting over a year of sobriety but the moment I started to get overconfident and think I didn't want to be an alcoholic anymore; thinking I was somehow better than or worse than everyone else, eventually I drank again.

This would be my story for many years. Every time I came back, I thought I was serious about wanting to get sober, but I would eventually drink again. It would get worse every time I went back out. When the book says, "pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization," I understand those words. Each time I would go back to drinking, I never could've comprehended the physical, mental, and spiritual hell I would experience. I often thought I knew what I was in for, but I was wrong. It was always so much worse than anything I could've imagined. Yet, I would still get sober for a time and again return to drinking. Unintentionally, I was becoming more and more like everything they talk about in the Big Book.

In September 2020 at 46 years old, I reached the lowest place I'd ever experienced in my life. I believe the grace of God came into my life and gave me yet another chance. This time however, I came to believe I needed to cooperate with my Creator in order to be given a new life. I had been given the gift of desperation.

I realized, through the step work I've done, this feeling of being worse than or better than everyone was a form of self-pity and resentment. My ego wanted to be separate from everyone else. I realized I'm just an average alcoholic. An alcoholic that needs the same solution that has worked for millions of people. Through this surrender, I have gained a whole new perspective on life. I've learned that my attitude needs constant adjustment. I am learning how to take responsibility for my life today. I have learned how much of a victim I've played my whole life and how this has only caused me pain and struggle. AA teaches me what dangers to look for and how to handle my emotions. I'm now a part of, not separate. I certainly experience where some days are better than others, but I've come to understand, that's just life. A new life I'm truly grateful to have been given.

*Greg B.*

## Spotlight on History

### What's a Jag?

Webster's Dictionary: a state or feeling of exhilaration or intoxication usually induced by liquor

The airfield in nearby Manchester, was the scene of the infamous “jag” by Bill and Ebby T. in 1929. Bill would write in the big book p.9 “There was that time we had chartered an airplane to complete a jag!” as he reflected in November 1934 awaiting Ebby’s arrival to his apartment in Brooklyn. Lois would also write about the episode in her memoirs, Lois Remembers in the chapter titled: Ebby and the Mountaintop, “Whenever his work took him near Albany, Bill would stop in to see his old friend Ebby, and they always got drunk together. On one of these sprees a brilliant idea hit them. Ebby had heard that a new airfield was about to be opened by the Equinox House in Manchester, Vermont. They hired a plane, wired the time of arrival to Mrs. Orvis, owner of the hotel, and stocked up well for the flight. This was a gala day for Manchester. Mrs. Orvis called out the band to greet the first plane to arrive at the new airport and the town fathers all gathered at the airfield. The plane flew in; the band played lustily; the welcoming committee got on the ready; and Bill and Ebby stepped down from the plane and fell flat on their faces, dead drunk.” [published in Lois Remembers: Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. 1979 pages 76-77]

Lois kept a copy of the letter Bill had written the next day to Mrs. Orvis’ son Franklin:

Dear Mr. Orvis

Until I found that I could not reach you on the phone I had been minded to call upon you and apologize for the disgraceful happenings of yesterday.

I do not know what I said or did but it is painfully evident that I had done you grievous wrong. I certainly merit nothing but your contempt and feel that a situation has been created which cannot be lived down.

Though you perhaps prefer I do not call on you I would like you to know how keenly I feel about the matter and if you can bring yourself to doing so I shall appreciate it to no end if you will accept this my most sincere apologies.

I do not know whether your mother was present at the field or not--in any event I hope that she will also accept this apology-

Sincerely,

In his later writings about emotional sobriety, Bill W would often use the term “Emotional Jag” when referring to being drunk with emotion.





## Contributions Needed!

Our newsletter would love your AA related:

- Cover Stories
- Writings, poems
- Jokes, AA Quips
- History/Trivia
- Experience Strength & Hope
- Events, Updates

Please send your contributions to

[peoriaintergroup@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peoriaintergroup@sbcglobal.net)

## Meeting Guide App



For our most up to date meeting list, download the Meeting Guide App for free!

Or visit our website  
[www.aapeoria.org/meetings](http://www.aapeoria.org/meetings)

## Sobriety

Something I wanted but was scared to try.  
The only thing that would end my suffering  
was to die.

But wait! Look at the end of the tunnel, I  
think I see a light! Is that AA? Yes! I can  
continue to fight!

Who are these people trying to help me?  
I'm worthless, a fraud, can't they see?

Maybe, just maybe they see something I  
can't. Squirrels in my head, can't think, just  
comes out a jumbled rant.

OK, I'll get a sponsor and work a step or  
two. Who does this lady think she is? Do  
they know how much she's asking me to  
do?

I am working hard every day. OK maybe  
this is the way.

Maybe this AA step work isn't all that bad.  
I'm beginning to feel new emotions, peace,  
and happiness, something besides sad.

Where have those squirrels gone My mind  
is clear, finally alone! Doing what they tell  
me by golly I think I have grown.

I have a minor setback and the negative  
thinking comes back strong. God bless  
these AA's quick to tell me I'm wrong!

They tell me to help someone else and get  
off the pity pot. Wow, imagine that  
working with others helps a lot!

Feel so funny how hard I once fought.  
Doing so little I received more than I ever  
sought.

My life has come full circle and the  
promises have come true! Do the work  
and it can happen for you too!

*Tanyia*