



Conscious Contact

Prescott Area Intergroup: Serving Central Yavapai

February 2024

240 S. Montezuma St. # 108 Prescott, AZ 86303

Office hours: Monday thru Friday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

This issue is devoted to all AA's who are involved in the ongoing process of opening their hearts and minds to other alcoholics, and in so doing, carrying on the tradition of one alcoholic helping another.

February 1997, Valentine's Day Issue



***BY: ANONYMOUS | MORTON, PA.**

After spending a last few days with the sponsor he loved, he passes on that love to other men in AA

With 32 years sober and with the same sponsor for over 20 years Johnny called to tell me it was time, the docs had sent him home, and we both cried our hearts out. At that point I knew I had to go South to say goodbye. In the 20 years he took me through the Steps, showed me how not to drink under any and all circumstances and let me be part of his family. When things were bad and I wanted to leave my wife, he told me she was a keeper and I made a commitment to her and God. (Cont. on page 2)

Second Step Prayer

GOD, I'm standing at the turning point right now. Give me your protection and care as I abandon myself to you and give up my old ways and my old ideas just for today. AMEN (Page 59 BB)

- **INSIDE:** *Big Book article // You'll Need to Know This...IF you're planning to attend the 2025 AA International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada*
- **NEXT MONTH:** *The next Arizona Fellowship of the Spirit (FOTS) Conference is coming to Prescott!*

(Cont. from cover page) When I was asked to speak at an AA round-up 900 miles away, Johnny showed up to support me. When I celebrated 30 years sober, he flew up and surprised me--talk about unconditional love.

As time went on, he retired and moved south with his lovely wife. I would stay in touch by phone and visit. But then things started to go bad for me. I had stopped hanging out with most of the friends I had in AA. I simply was not feeling happy in my sober life, work life and married life. In fact, I was close to throwing it all away when I got the call he was dying.

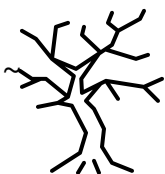
My wife and four other sober men got in the car with me and drove 18 hours south. When we arrived, Johnny was alive and happy to see us all. I got to give him his 44 year coin with this family and friends all around him. The next day we said goodbye to my sponsor for the last time. The way Johnny loved me was like no other. His commitment to AA, his family, and friends was strong right up to his last breath and then onto the Big Meeting.

Now back north I am in love with my wife again and working on our marriage. I feel like I am back connected to some AA men and have another sponsor who shows the same unconditional love and commitment to AA. And I want to stay sober to give back what was given to me.

I was so lucky to have Johnny in my life for so long, and now I have to step it up and give back to others the way he gave to me. That's why I sponsor a few men and I am so honored to have them in my life. Sponsees help keep me sober one day at a time.

Thank you to Johnny's entire family for letting me be part of their family and letting us be there for such a spiritual experience. It's hard for me to believe that someone could love me as much as I loved him.

* Story: "The Death of a Sponsor" February 2024 ~ **AA Grapevine**



APRIL, 1939

THE BIG BOOK

Less than four years after Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met the book “Alcoholics Anonymous: The Story of How More Than One Hundred Men Have Recovered Alcoholism” was published. This book having sold 40,000,000 copies in 70 languages has been called by some the most significant spiritual book of the twentieth century, thanks to Bill Wilson’s relentless efforts. AA member Hank P. helped Bill in writing and publishing this book about the program of recovery from alcoholism.

In October of 1937, Bill had the idea of expanding the work they were first doing in the Oxford Group (a Christian Fellowship) to help alcoholics recover. Bill had grand ideas for AA hospitals, paid missionaries to spread the word of recovery throughout the United States, and writing a book about their recovery. He had marginal support for these projects in Akron and a little more in New York. At that time those were the only places the nameless drunks in recovery were doing their work. The book, Alcoholics Anonymous was the only one of these endeavors that came to fruition.

Hoping to raise money while writing the book Bill and Hank P. set out to raise money from men of wealth in New York. They were able to get a small contribution from John D. Rockefeller Jr. Much of the Rockefeller money went to Dr. Bob in Akron to keep him from losing his house and enable him to do his work with alcoholics. Rockefeller told them that money could spoil this movement and they should be self-sufficient. They raised little other money to publish the book.

The book was published on April 10, 1939, by the Works Publishing Company (AA members and supporters) at the Cornwall Press in Cornwall, New York about 60 miles north of the city. Bill and Hank did not have the money to get the books from the printer. They needed to borrow some money from Charles Towns, the man who owned the de-tox Bill went to three times.

The 4,730 copies of the first printing of the book took some time to sell and a second printing was published in March 1941, which added the appendix called Spiritual Experience. Additional editions were published in 1955, 1976 and 2001. We are presently waiting for the 5th edition and a “plain language” translation. The basic text of the book (first 164 pages) remains basically the same. The book became known as the “The Big Book” because of the large size and thickness of the paper.

During World War II, to save on paper the 7th printing of the book was reduced in size. The dimensions have remained the same, since 1945.

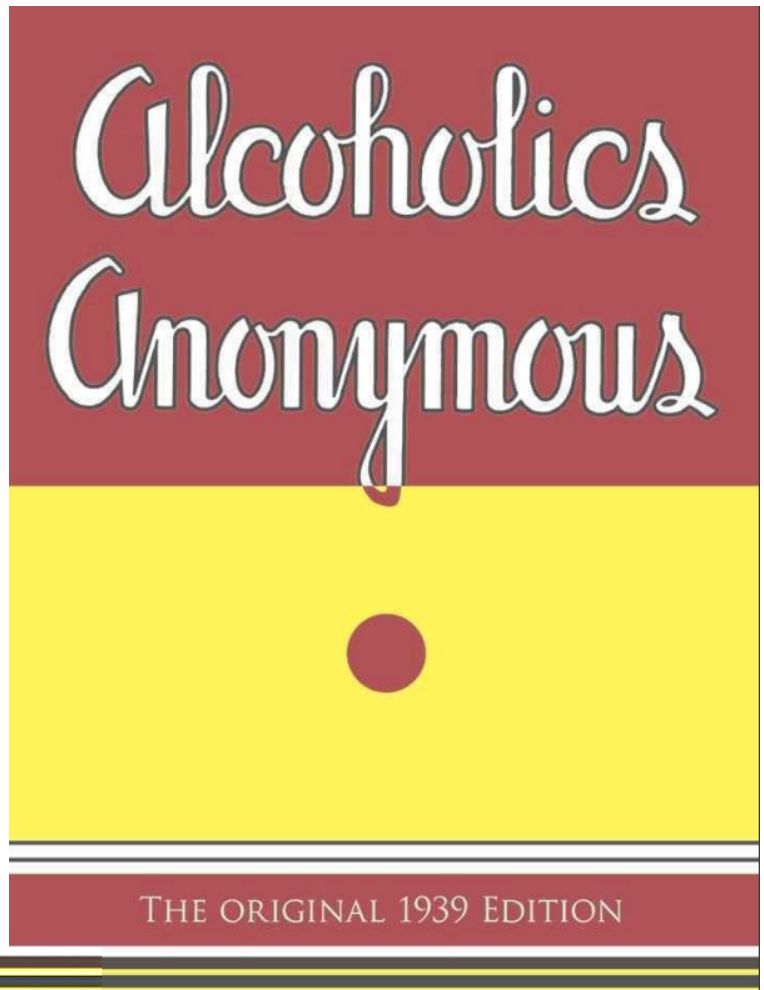
Though the New York group broke away from the Oxford Group in 1937, the Akron members remained with the Oxford group when the book was published. The Akron group had a contingent from Cleveland who were Catholic. They were under pressure from the church not to attend a Protestant group.

These men decided to have their own meeting in Cleveland on May 11, 1939 and called it Alcoholics Anonymous after the name of the book. This was one month after the book was published which they used as the basis of their program. Dr. Bob saw the success the Cleveland men were having and in December 1939 started having their own AA meetings away from the Oxford Group, first at his house then in the King School, in Akron, OH.

The Book Alcoholics Anonymous became and remains today the textbook for recovery from alcoholism.

Sources for this article: "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "Writing the Big Book" by William Schaberg.

ARTICLE BY DAN S. PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ



Remembering Sandi S., who died a "beyond perfect death, beautiful and peaceful," on Thursday, February 1. WE are grateful for her outpouring of love, as well as a graceful and serene attitude in the face of a truly awful disease. She died well into her thirtieth year of sobriety, and will truly be missed.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held on Saturday, January 20th, was quite successful.

The well attended BBQ buffet, paid for entirely by private donations (no group/Intergroup funds were used), was arranged by the tireless efforts of both Kelly M., and Beryl L., who deserve a hearty thank you!

Simply put, it's important to recognize our volunteers, who truly ensure that the Intergroup doors stay open—*we could not function without you!* Sincerely, Greg S.

THINKING OF ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN CANADA? PLAN AHEAD IF YOU...

Have a DUI or Other Conviction

Don't Let It Block You From the 2025 International Convention in Canada.

The convention will run July 3-5, 2025, with new and stricter rules about crossing the border in effect. You might want to check aa.org for updates on the upcoming convention, as special permission to * enter Canada with a DUI or other criminal record is needed. **“Even if a person is now sober and will not be drinking alcohol while in the country, if they are considered inadmissible to Canada because of a past DUI they will be at risk of a border refusal unless they have obtained special permission to enter.** This permission process can take four-to-five months to get either a TRP or CF permit, but it can take longer if there are a lot of people applying for them.

Special permission to enter Canada with a DUI or other criminal record is available by getting a **Temporary Resident Permit (TRP)** or **Criminal Rehabilitation (CR)** certificate. The General Service office estimates that there will be close to 50,000 AAs attending the International Convention. Most of them are expected to be from the U.S., and many of them probably have been convicted of a DUI, DWI, drug possession, and a host of other crimes.

— excerpt from The Beacon newsletter, Worcester Area Intergroup, MA.

Please keep the following information in mind:

"*A Canada TRP can take a while to obtain, so it is best to apply well in advance of your intended travel date."

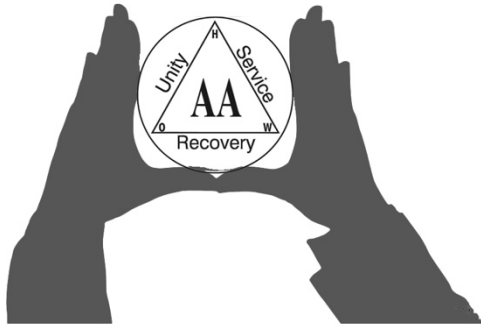
Keeping risks to a minimum by being assessed at a Canadian Port of Entry:

If you live in the U.S. you may travel to a Canadian Port of Entry and ask to be assessed. You must bring all documents related to your criminal history in support of your claim of being rehabilitated. See which documents you need [[Document Checklist - Rehabilitation \(PDF, 33 KB\) \(PDF, 179.76KB\)](#)]. An immigration officer at the port of entry will review them to determine if you can be deemed rehabilitated and allowed to enter Canada.

If you are not deemed rehabilitated, you will have to apply for [individual rehabilitation](#) at a visa office. If you are not sure you will be deemed rehabilitated at the point of entry, or if you need a visa to enter Canada, you should apply for individual rehabilitation.

Assessment of deemed rehabilitation at a Port of Entry is a completely different process from applying for rehabilitation at a visa office. Visit the website of the office where you will be submitting your application for a list of requirements.

Note: if you do not want to risk being denied entry to Canada or subject to other enforcement action, you should apply according to the visa office's instructions before approaching the Port of Entry. A fee is required.



From the Service Board

The Intergroup Service Board wishes to thank all the groups and individuals for their support during 2023, both in time and money

Hugh H., Chairperson

Personal recovery depends upon AA unity and the Intergroup is a good way to work together.

Last year we successfully absorbed the Shoestring Roundup into the Intergroup in order to benefit from our nonprofit status. This allowed the event to be held at Yavapai College. The Roundup is on target for this year July 26-28, again at Yavapai College. The PISR Planning Committee meets at Unity Church in Prescott, 5:30 PM on the third Friday of each month.

The Prescott Area Intergroup is a membership organization and the members are the AA groups within Districts 14-140 and 14-142 that are properly registered at the office on South Montezuma Street. It's a form that is pretty quick and simple to complete. And please update any changes so that our meeting schedules can be current and accurate. Our website prescottaa.org has lots of good and useful information.

A practical benefit of membership is our ability to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance to a facility that requires such. These are usually churches or schools that require a Certificate from any group renting or using space. Again, a group must be properly registered at the Intergroup office to be eligible for this benefit.

Registered groups can also have a vote at the Intergroup Committee meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM at Safe Harbor. Be sure to elect an Intergroup Representative for your group.

Here's to a New Year and the opportunity to be of service -