



# The Beacon

May - June 2015

## The Beacon Statement

The Beacon is published to foster unity, facilitate communication among AA members and groups within the North Alabama area, and present the experience and opinions of individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism and recovery from it. Opinions in The Beacon are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous or the Huntsville Area Intergroup Association. We aim to be an instrument of carrying the A.A. message, and to publish AA related material, including personal stories of experience strength, and hope—as well as what we feel to be important information about what is happening in this area. All material is reviewed by the Beacon editor and the Huntsville Area Intergroup Association.

## The Beacon on the Web!

For those who have access to the “Web”, The Beacon is available via the internet. Just visit the AA District 20 web site at: <http://www.aahuntsvilleal.org> and click on the “NEWS” menu entry. Each issue will be posted (in PDF format) for download directly after publication.

---

## Beacon Submissions

To reach the editor with article suggestions, feedback, contributions and ideas: Email to: [beacon@aahsv.org](mailto:beacon@aahsv.org). Or drop off at The Beacon mailbox inside the Central Office, 3322 S. Memorial Pkwy, Bldg 600, Suite 603, or call 256-885-0323.

## **From the Editor:**

Please accept my apologies for not publishing the Beacon recently. The cancer treatment was overpowering, to say the least. But, I’m getting “back on track” now that the treatments are completed and I’ve been pronounced “cancer free” as of May 4th. A huge “thank you” to all who offered their thoughts and prayers during that four month period.

Two members have volunteered to become part of the “Beacon” team. Joe S. from Madison Hopeful Group and Sidney L. from Fellowship Group. We will soon get together and discuss details of Beacon preparation. Thank you both for volunteering to serve! Should a member have an article or input for the Beacon, please contact either of those individuals, or, as usual, contact me using the e-mail address shown on this page.

**Bill P., Editor**

## ***HAIA Answering Service***

### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

Following is a list of openings at the Central Office for volunteers to answer the A.A. “hotline”. The sobriety requirement is 90 days. To volunteer, call Brenda C. at 256-508-1454 or leave a message at the Central Office at 256-885-0323.

**Monday—6 PM to 8 AM ; Wed 8 AM to 10 AM ; Wed 2 PM to 4 PM ; Friday 8 AM to 10 AM; and Friday 12 PM to 2 PM.**

Should you wish to volunteer for the Monday night (6 PM to 8 AM) shift, you will need to contact Brenda C. so that she can pass the night-time Answering Service notebook to you.

Here's something Troy H. found on Silkworth.net

How do you justify calling alcoholism an illness, and not a moral responsibility?

Answer

Early in A.A.'s history, very natural questions arose among theologians. There was a Mr. Henry Link who had written "The Return to Religion (Macmillan Co., 1937). One day I received a call from him. He stated that he strongly objected to the A.A. position that alcoholism was an illness. This concept, he felt, removed moral responsibility from alcoholics. He had been voicing this complaint about psychiatrists in the American Mercury. And now, he stated, he was about to lambaste A.A. too. Of course, I made haste to point out that we A. A.'s did not use the concept of sickness to absolve our members from moral responsibility. On the contrary, we used the fact of fatal illness to clamp the heaviest kind of moral responsibility on to the sufferer. The further point was made that in his early days of drinking the alcoholic often was no doubt guilty of irresponsibility and gluttony. But once the time of compulsive drinking, veritable lunacy had arrived and he couldn't very well be held accountable for his conduct. He then had a lunacy which condemned him to drink, in spite of all he could do; he had developed a bodily sensitivity to alcohol that guaranteed his final madness and death. When this state of affairs was pointed out to him, he was placed immediately under the heaviest kind of pressure to accept A.A.'s moral and spiritual program of regeneration - namely, our Twelve Steps. Fortunately, Mr. Link was satisfied with this view of the use that we were making of the alcoholic's illness. I am glad to report that nearly all theologians who have since thought about this matter have also agreed with that early position. While it is most obvious that free will in the matter of alcohol has virtually disappeared in most cases, we A.A. 's do point out that plenty of free will is left in other areas, It certainly takes a large amount of willingness, and a great exertion of the will to accept and practice the A.A. program. It is by this very exertion of the will that the alcoholic corresponds with the grace by which his drinking obsession can be expelled.

Submitted by Troy H., Harvest Group

### Huntsville Area Alateen

Because alcoholism is a family disease, the following information is included for family members of alcoholics from ages 13 to 19:

Alateen meets on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Ave., SE, Huntsville,AL.

The full Al-Anon/Alateen schedule for Huntsville and surrounding areas can be found online at: [http://www.alnwfl-al-anon.org/\\_districtpages/area64\\_d13\\_meetings.htm](http://www.alnwfl-al-anon.org/_districtpages/area64_d13_meetings.htm)

Submitted by John & Sue Ann

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.  
And the best of all preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.  
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

The Lookout

## Gratitude

I try to hold fast to the truth that a full  
and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits.  
When brimming with gratitude,  
one's heartbeat must surely result in  
outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know.

- As Bill Sees It, p. 37

### *Can't Get to a Meeting?*

3,000+ AA Speaker tapes (also Al-Anon)

<http://www.recoveryaudio.org/>

AA Speakers (listed alphabetically)

<http://www.recoveryaudio.org/aa-speakers-list>

## Old Timer's Prayer

God, keep me from thinking I must share in every meeting, no matter the topic. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details and give me wings to get to the point. Remind me to guard confidences and to keep still when I feel it is necessary to speak up for someone's own good.

Release me from the need to straighten out everybody else's thinking and program. God, I ask for the grace to listen to newcomers. Please help me to remember the patience with which others listened to me when I was new.

Please seal my lips to giving advice, and help me to remember to share only my experience, strength, and hope. Remind me that my purpose is to fit myself to be of maximum service to You and to the people around me. Help me to remain teachable. Teach me (again) the lesson that, occasionally, it is possible that I may be wrong; and remind me, please, of the freedom that I gain when I am able to promptly admit I am wrong and make amends where necessary.

Help me to remember the difference between making amends and just saying, I am sorry. Help me to be a worker among workers, a friend among friends. Please keep me from being a bleeding deacon, and help me to walk the path towards being an elder statesman/stateswoman. Keep me ever mindful that I cannot manage my own life through my own unaided will. I know that I am not a saint; please show me the way to seek You so that I may continue to grow along spiritual lines.

Remind me, please, of Rule 62 to not take myself so damn seriously. (It is so easy to take myself way too seriously.) Keep me free of gossip, character assassination, and judgment. Remind me that because I am not perfect, although I have humbly asked, my character defects and shortcomings still arise unexpectedly, to cause damage to others and to myself.

Help me to walk with faith and acceptance, to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people, and give me the grace to tell them so. Help me to see that You love each of Your children, and that You do not need my opinion of them or suggestions on what they might deserve.

Amen

## The 164 and More Web Site

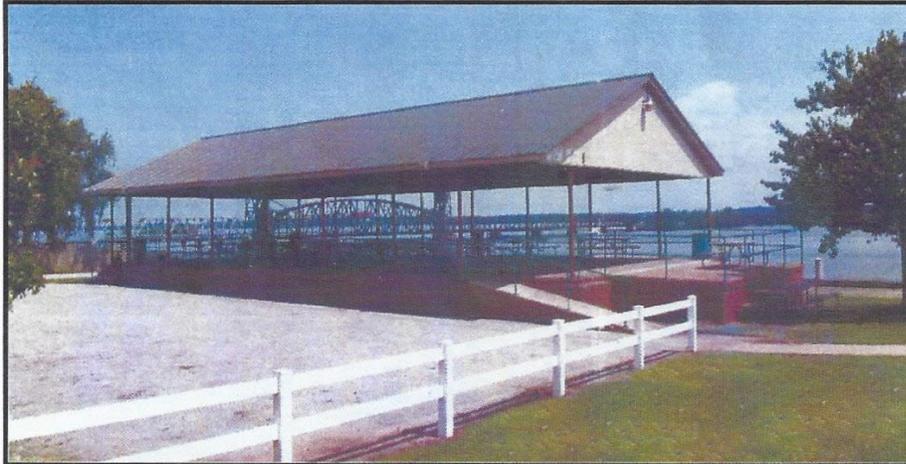
Use <http://www.164andMore.com> to search the Big Book and the 12&12.

Type the first few characters of your word-of-interest into the search box in the upper right corner. As you type, words are displayed which match your keystrokes. The more you type, the more precise the results. Simply click on a word and all references in the Big Book and the 12&12 appear!

# FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC

at Rhodes Ferry Park, Decatur, AL

**JUNE 7th, 2015**



Directions to Rhodes Ferry Park:  
Highway 31 or I-565 to Decatur, Alabama; Right on Wilson Street NW after the bridge, right on Oak Street NW takes you straight to parking lot.

**Come Celebrate Alcoholics Anonymous  
50/50 Raffle**

**Hot Dogs, Burgers, Boston Butts,  
Water, Coffee and Soda Available**

**PLEASE BRING A TASTY SIDE-DISH**

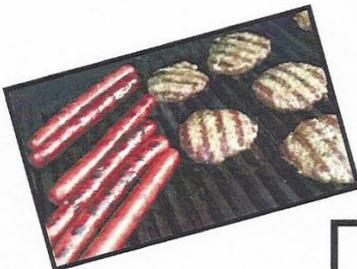
**Speaker: Robby K., Birmingham, AL**

**12 pm: Fun and Fellowship**

**12:30 pm: Lunch**

**2 pm: Speaker**

**3 pm: 50/50 Raffle**



**Please Call for Help:**

**Susan: 256-425-7320**

**JD: 256-693-1328**

# HAIA Picnic

**Sunday August 16,  
2015**

**From 12:00 to 6:00 PM**

at the  
**Green Mountain Nature Trail  
5000 Green Mountain Rd. SE  
Huntsville, AL 35803**

**Park and pavilion are open to  
us beginning at 9:00 AM**

**Lunch at 12:00 PM**

**Speak (TBD) at 2:00 PM**

**50/50 Raffle**

**HAIA will provide  
meat and soft drinks**

**Please bring a side dish or  
dessert to share**

**Donations accepted**

**Enjoy the day and walk on the  
beautiful nature trail around the  
lake**

