The Sobriety Gazette is a publication of Mid-Miss Intergroup. The purpose is to improve communication between local A.A. groups, inform and encourage participation in service opportunities and events that promote sobriety. Opinions expressed do not necessarily indicate endorsement by the Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

**Contact Us:**
Telephone 601-982-0081 4526
Office Park Drive Jackson, MS 39206
Mail Donations to: PO Box 16228
Jackson, MS 39236 Web Site
www.midmissintergroup.org
Email
midmissintergroup@gmail.com
Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday 10:30-6:30
Saturday CLOSED
Phone answered 24 hours a day

Don't forget Intergroup! Everyone Welcome! First Thursday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.
650 East South Street Jackson, MS
Please send a representative from your home group

**CELEBRATE Freedom from bondage to alcohols and drugs.........and self.**

**CELEBRATE moments of serenity and recovery.**

**CELEBRATE joy in life!**

**July 27**

Georgetown Annual Picnic
Morton, MS

**July 27**
Georgetown Annual Picnic
Morton, MS
Submit your recovery writing or story for a chance to win $25. You may identify yourself by first name only or group only.

Editor reserves the right to not publish any non-recovery writings. You may submit more than once. Your writing should be no longer than 500 words.

Submit to:

Share your writings- WIN $25

Writer’s Corner Focus Topics:

As I Traveled my First Sober Year

How an Old-timer (5 years or more recovery time) keeps his/her program working

My First Dealings with my Higher Power

Submit your writings to:
jbbr.seren.shel@usa.net or
midmissintergoup@gmail.com

or mail to  Central Office
4526 Office Park Drive
Jackson, MS  39206

or call the office if you have questions
601-982-0081
FOR THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE

By Vern W.

With a little over three years sober and a heart full of gratitude, I have decided to share some of my journey into service work, ever mindful that service will help perpetuate my sobriety.

I feel fortunate to have a sponsor with 40 years sobriety however I can tell you that I was over two years in and just completed my 5th step. Why so long? Well, for that I am responsible. My Sponsor told me from the very beginning about calling him on a regular basis whether or not I was having trouble staying sober. We do see each other twice a week at meetings, one of which I chair, and usually he is leading a book or 12 and 12 study at both meetings. I also must tell you I am not much on chatting on the phone. I always left that to my daughters and wife. None the less, after several weeks of reading the Big Book together, the time came to write my 4th step. Proclaiming completion, I tried to schedule my 5th step. Everything imaginable got in the way. For months. At first, I figured God was teaching me patience, of which I have very little. I grumbled and complained to anyone who would listen. For months. Stories abounded saying most complete their Steps within 90 days. I’m two years in. “Fire him...moved on...find another sponsor,” I was told. After many ignored hints at meetings about regularly calling my Sponsor, I finally asked him, “should I be calling? Are we at an impasse because I failed in this very basic instruction?” Well, with a nod and a wink, the answer was apparently yes. After a few calls we were soon together finishing my 5th step.

Now mind you I am retired with time on my hands. During this two year plus time, I had listened to the “Joe and Charlie” tapes three times, attended three Big Book studies, attended over 400 meetings in seven different groups, and participated in three 12 and 12 studies. I was well aware that one of the keys to my continued sobriety was service work, but my Sponsor told me that I could not sponsor anyone until I completed the 9th step. Well, for that, over time I discovered, I am responsible.

My Sponsor, though very experienced in starting and growing AA groups, he never shared with me anything about the greater AA community other than many state and national conventions he attended over the years around the United States. Prior to my alcoholic bottom I had a fare amount of experience in non-profit and professional organizations of varying types. I guess it therefore became natural that I wanted to learn more about how AA was organized and even find opportunity to do service work there.
Early on, my first service work as the newcomer, was making coffee in my home group. Then came chairing my home group meeting. Arriving early, making coffee, and chairing the meeting. That was my service life. I wanted to step it up a notch so I started going to our Central Office. That was where, after all, I learned about AA group locations after I got out of detox. The assistant manager there also gifted me my first Big Book. Surely I could do service work there. Through no fault of those two managers I didn’t seem to fit in. After all I was just a few months sober and could not qualify for prison or treatment center work.

I persisted. Kept asking questions about how AA was organized. Out of the blue, at a home group meeting, my sponsor nominated me to be GSR. Of course the handful there raised their hands. I had no earthly idea what a GSR was to do. After a quick visit back to the Central Office I learned the time and location of the next Area Assembly meeting. At my first Area Assembly I was also advised that AA is not organized, at least not like what I knew about organizations, rather AA had a structure. I can tell you that I felt pretty lost and confused. Two Area Assembly meetings later, I found there were several of those who attended didn’t have a clue what was going on either. For that I felt responsible.

By now I had attended three Old-Timers Conventions, one State Convention, and started reading the AA Service Manual which I bought for a few dollars. I had also heard about another group called Intergroup. Intergroup supposedly met once a month and was somewhat of, what I’ll call, a group conscience meeting for our Central Office. By that time I had been attending meetings at five different groups, attended by members with up to 40 years sobriety, and no one ever much mentioned Intergroup. My Sponsor even told me he doesn’t consider Intergroup to be AA. One of those meetings was the home group of the two Central Office managers. So now I’m wondering what in the world is this structure of AA and how can I contribute? My next step was to find out where and when Intergroup met and how maybe I could serve there. After all, I am retired, and have extra time. To move on with service; for that I felt responsible.

You might be asking why am I writing this. “Tell your story at the next speaker meeting not here.” Well, I’ve come to realize that AA is a unique volunteer organization. Not organized as such but has a unique structure. It’s purpose I believe, as when it was founded, is to reach out, and also be there for the still suffering alcoholic. Most people who I have come to know in AA meetings are there to help maintain their sobriety. There are also many who serve as sponsors and teach other alcoholics maintain sobriety and pass it on to new generations of newcomers. After all we were all newcomers in our journey. AA today reaches far beyond our individual groups. Though, without a doubt, the individual group remains the focus of most AA members.
Service outside of the Group is, without doubt, a matter of personal initiative, a personal calling if you will. We have really only one “right” as the individual. It is the right to be a member if we have the desire to stop drinking. The saying goes in our society that with rights comes responsibilities. For what then am I responsible in AA? To make sure AA is there for the still suffering alcoholic. Join in, take the initiative, get involved beyond the Group; know you are being responsible helping AA be there for the still suffering alcoholic.

THANK YOU VERN for your article and sharing your recovery!! Your name will be entered in the drawing for the $25 gift card. Please feel free to contribute again!!..........................the Ghostwriter

Submit your recovery writing or story for a chance to win $25.
You may identify yourself by first name only or group only.
Editor reserves the right to not publish any non-recovery writings. You may submit more than once. Your writing should be no longer than 500 words.
Submit to:

Share your writings- WIN $25
Faithful Fivers

Faithful fivers are AA members who pledge at least five dollars each month to support their local Central Office. This idea is catching on around the country. The plan came about when we remembered that many of us had spent far more than $5.00 a month on alcohol during our drinking days. As a Faithful Fiver, you support the efforts of Mid-Mississippi Intergroup to carry the AA message of hope to still-suffering alcoholics.

Mail your contribution to:
Central Office
4526 Office Park Drive
Jackson, MS 39206

June Faithful Fivers

Al H.
Jo Beth
My Father’s House
Karen M.
Nick G.
Anonymous

Whitfield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7-13</td>
<td>Primary Purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-20</td>
<td>Quest (Florence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21-27</td>
<td>Way Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28-Aug 3</td>
<td>Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4-10</td>
<td>Mannsdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 11-17 Madison/Ridgeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 18-24</td>
<td>Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 25-31</td>
<td>Beagle Pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1-Sept 7</td>
<td>Traditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 8-14</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 15-21</td>
<td>Swinging Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 22-28</td>
<td>4801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 29-10-5</td>
<td>Primary Purpose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Office is closed, the phone will ring to the AA Call Phone. Someone is ALWAYS THERE!
Do You Have to be Religious in Order to Follow the Twelve Steps?

No. While it's true that the 12 Steps were originally based on the principles of a spiritual organization, the world isn't the same as it was in 1935 when AA and the 12 Step program was founded. The word "God" was eventually replaced with "Higher Power" to be more accessible to everyone, regardless of faith traditions or beliefs. A Higher Power doesn’t have to be God; it could be nature, the universe, fate, karma, your support system, the recovery group itself, medical professionals or whatever you feel is outside of and greater than yourself/your ego. What you believe to be a Higher Power is a very personal thing.

In Step One: What Does it Mean to "Admit Powerlessness?" 

Admitting powerlessness is not the same as admitting weakness. It means asking for help, leaning on others and relying on your support system. It means admitting—and accepting—that you're living with a disease that alters your brain. It might seem backward, but when you can admit that you don't have power, you can actually access the power you need.

How Long Does it Take for the Twelve Steps to Work?

With the Twelve Steps, there is no hard and fast timeline. The Steps are meant to be addressed in sequential order, but there's no one "right" way to approach them. Sometimes people need a break between Steps, sometimes people need to spend longer on one Step than another, some people never stop working the 12 Steps because they become part of life.
THE POWER TO CARRY IT OUT AND TO PRACTICE IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS
Step Twelve—— by Ann W.

Step Eleven: “On awakening let us think about the twenty-four hours ahead. We consid-
er our plans for the day. Before we begin…” we say the Third Step Prayer: “God, I offer my-
self to you - to build with me and to do with me as you will. Relieve me of the bondage of self,
that I may better do your will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear wit-
tness to those I would help of your power, your love, and your way of life. May I do your will
always!” (Step Three) We meditate that our thinking “be divorced from self-pity, dishonest
or self-seeking motives. Under these conditions we can employ our mental faculties
with assurance…. Our thought-life will be placed on a much higher plane when our thinking is
cleared of wrong motives.”

“In thinking about our day we may face indecision. We may not be able to determine which
course to take….. We relax and take it easy. We don’t struggle…. We conclude this peri-
od of meditation…” reviewing Steps One and Two.

What do I have control over today? What/when do I not have control? What will make me
crazy if I try to control it?

“As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right
thought or action.” Is the situation manageable or unmanageable? (Step One) Does it
make us crazy? (Step Two) How is self involved? (Step Three)

We can use slogans: KISS, Easy Does It, Live and Let Live, How Important Is It? We can
ask for God’s Will in the moment. We can pray the Serenity Prayer. We can ride the wave of
emotions rather than fight or react negatively to it. We can call our sponsor or another person
in AA. We can go to a meeting.

“When retire at night we constructively review our day. Were we resentful, selfish, dishonest
or afraid? Do we own an apology? Were we kind and loving toward all? What could we
have done better? Were we thinking of ourselves most of the time? “
What did our thoughts and actions affect? We take a mental inventory.
(Step Four)

Who/what do I resent? Why am I afraid? What part of self was hurt or threatened? Where
was I to blame? What is the nature of my wrong?

Do we need to talk to someone about these issues? (Step Five)
Have we kept something to ourselves which should be discussed with another person at
once.
By practicing Steps 1-5 daily, we find that we continue to identify our character defects (Step Six) which is “necessary for spiritual growth and the beginning of a lifetime job.” It allows “recognition of the difference between striving for objective - and perfection.” We then find that our defects have lessened and occur less frequently. We have achieved a degree of humility (Step Seven) which is ‘the avenue to true freedom of the human spirit” and allows “a change in attitude which permits us to move out of ourselves.”

Dr. Paul: “I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment… I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes.”

“…what corrective measures should be taken?” In (Step Eight) we are careful about “obstacles to honest lists: “reluctance to forgive, non-admission of wrongs to others, purposeful forgetting, avoiding extreme judgments.” Are we willing to make direct amends? (Step Nine) - For direct amends a “tranquil mind is the first requisite for good judgement; good timing is important.” Do we need to make amends? When we were wrong, did we promptly admit it? (Step Ten) - “Self searching becomes a regular habit.” We “admit, accept, and patiently correct defects.” We avoid “emotional hangover - excesses of negative emotions - anger, resentments, jealousy, envy, self-pity, hurt pride.” “Self-restraint” is our “first objective.” It becomes a “regular part of everyday living.”

By practicing these principles, we are better able to demonstrate sobriety for other alcoholics, family members, and persons with whom we come in contact in our daily lives. (Step Twelve) “Joy of living is the theme of the Twelfth Step. Action is its keyword.” It results in “giving that asks no reward, and love that has no price tag.” We have “a new state of consciousness and being” in which “understanding is key to right attitudes and right action key to good living.” We find that we are “happy, joyous, and free.”

THANK YOU ANN W. for your article and sharing your recovery!! Your name will be entered in the drawing for the $25 gift card. Please feel free to contribute again!!..........................the Ghostwriter
Abstinence Stage

It is commonly held that the abstinence stage starts immediately after a person stops using and usually lasts for 1 to 2 years [1]. The main focus of this stage is dealing with cravings and not using. These are some of the tasks of the abstinence stage [2]:

- Accept that you have an addiction
- Practice honesty in life
- Develop coping skills for dealing with cravings
- Become active in self-help groups
- Practice self-care and saying no
- Understand the stages of relapse
- Get rid of friends who are using
- Understand the dangers of cross addiction
- Deal with post-acute withdrawal
- Develop healthy alternatives to using
- See yourself as a non-user

WORK CORNER

Select three of these and WRITE about how you use these in your recovery.

Which are harder for you than others?
Where Did the Twelve Steps Originate?

Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, the two men behind AA, drew their inspiration for the Twelve Steps from the Oxford Group who advocated that all problems rooted in fear and selfishness could be changed through the power of God by following the "Four Absolutes," a moral inventory of "absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love," and through public sharing/confession. The Oxford Group also believed in the work of American psychologist William James, particularly his philosophy of pragmatism and "The Will to Believe" doctrine (by changing the inner attitudes of the mind, we can change the outer aspect of life), and William Silkworth, MD, one of the first medical professionals to characterize alcoholism as a disease.

When AA was founded in 1935 by Bill W. and Dr. Bob as a fellowship of alcoholics working together to overcome their drinking problems, the 12 Steps acted as a set of guidelines for spiritual and character development—a blueprint for recovery. The Twelve Steps serve the same purpose today. As described by Alcoholics Anonymous, following these guidelines "as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole."

What's the Purpose of the Twelve Steps?

The purpose is to recover from compulsive, out-of-control behaviors and restore manageability and order to your life. It's a way of seeing that your behavior is only a symptom, a sort of "check engine" light to discovering what's really going on under the hood.

How and Why Does it Work?

According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, "Twelve Step facilitation therapy is a tried-and-true proven approach." (There's a reason, after all, why people still "work the Steps" more than 80 years later.) How does it work? People are encouraged to take an honest look at themselves, then deconstruct their egos and rebuild, little by little. Why does it work? The Steps encourage the practice of honesty, humility, acceptance, courage, compassion, forgiveness and self-discipline—pathways to positive behavioral change, emotional well-being and spiritual growth.
# Financial Statement of Donations

## Group Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>June 1 2019</th>
<th>YTD 2019</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>June 1 2019</th>
<th>YTD 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4801</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>MORTON GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA UNLIMITED</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>MONTICELLO GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEPTANCE-SWING BRIDGE</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>NATCHES DOWNTOWNER</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEACON GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>NORTHEAST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEAGLE PACK</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$188.00</td>
<td>ONE DAY AT A TIME</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIG T2</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>PRENTISS GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$14.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOSCH HAUER BEGINNER</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>PEARL HOPE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARTHAGE AA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>PELAHA CHIEF 2 STEP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>PHILADELPHIA UNION</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLINTON CROSSROADS</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>POSITIVE FLOW</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLINTON RAYMOND ROAD</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>PRENTISS GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFFEE LOVERS</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>PRIMARY PURPOSE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORNERSTONE MCCOMB</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>QUEST FOR SOBRIETY</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>RANKIN COUNTY BIG BOOK</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIREHOUSE GANG</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>RANKIN SERENITY</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST GROUP OF MADISON</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>RIDGELAND</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>SERENITY OF PURPOSE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIENDSHIP HOUSE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>SHALOM</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGETOWN</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>SOLUTIONS</td>
<td>1400.00</td>
<td>$1400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SOUTHGATE SERENITY</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SOUTHSIDE</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>$375.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERGROUP</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>$944.05</td>
<td>SUMMIT</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAYWALKERS</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>TERRY GOIN' HOME</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMBDIA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>TRADITIONS</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA NUNCA DE TARDES</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>TRADITIONS</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LYNWOOD WOMEN</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>VICKSBURG GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON COUNTY</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>VIDA NUEVA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON RIGELAND</td>
<td>1540.00</td>
<td>$1540.00</td>
<td>WAY OUT</td>
<td>154.07</td>
<td>$624.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIANKSALE GROUP</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$125.55</td>
<td>WE BELONG</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Books for Prisons - Central, Quest**

**Books for Treatment Centers - way Our, Georgetown**
Many whose lives are impacted by the family disease of alcoholism find hope again once they place their faith in a power greater than themselves. This is Step 2 of the 12 Steps:

**Step 2**
Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Many members of Alcoholics Anonymous or Al-Anon Family Groups come into the program with a strong faith in God, and with the encouragement of other members of the fellowship soon learn to apply that faith to the situations in their lives created by alcoholism.

With the wisdom provided by the program, the friendship, and support of other members, the healing process begins with the help of a loving God, as they understand him.

**Agnostics and Atheists and Step 2**

Others who are introduced to the 12-step programs are agnostics or atheists, who reject the concept of a deity. Many are turned off by even the mention of the word "God" and some bristle at even hints of anything spiritual. But, as it says in the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous," in the chapter entitled We Agnostics, "we beg you to lay aside prejudice..." and give the program a chance.

The 12-step programs are spiritual, not religious. There is no mention of religious beliefs, doctrine, or dogma in the meetings or in the approved literature. Members are not required to accept someone else's concept of God, only to trust that there is a power "greater than themselves" however they wish to describe it or understand it.

It seems to be a spiritual truth, that before a higher power can begin to operate, one must first believe that it can. You have to believe it, to receive it. Millions of program members through the years, who finally "came to believe" have found themselves amazed to find that power at work in their lives in seemingly miraculous ways.

**The Faithful and Step 2**

For those who are strong in their religious faith, Step 2 can also present a challenge. If you have a conviction as to the nature of God, it can be disconcerting to hear "higher power" being used rather than "God." You may have difficulty in accepting the nature of that higher power for other members of the group. Hearing that it's okay to use a doorknob for a higher power if that's how you understand it, can be hard to accept. You may even find it offensive.

However, to give a 12-step program a chance, you need to restrain that reaction and not let it block using the 12-step process. Religious prejudice can get in the way.

**Experiences of Step 2**

Members of various 12-step groups have shared their experience, strength, and hope on each of the steps. Here are some of their stories.
Experiences of Step 2

Members of various 12-step groups have shared their experience, strength, and hope on each of the steps. Here are some of their stories.

However, to give a 12-step program a chance, you need to restrain that reaction and not let it block using the 12-step process. Religious prejudice can get in the way.

Experiences of Step 2

Members of various 12-step groups have shared their experience, strength, and hope on each of the steps. Here are some of their stories.

Carol tells of how she was raised in a family who was active in their church. When she attempted sobriety, she returned to find that the God in my religion has a special face he shows only to drunks. And I found Him in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. He is there, waiting for us to ask for his help. Faith is the foundation of my AA life."

Sox was prompted to attend a meeting by reading the "This is AA" pamphlet. "I called one of the major clubs in my area and was directed to a meeting that night. But it was obvious to me that I had turned to God first, and then took Step 1. I knew that my life was insane and power greater than myself, but until that moment, I had always resented God for butting in where He wasn't wanted. Now, sure enough, He led me to where I needed to be."

Buddy, an Al-Anon member, says, "At my first meeting, after reading some of the literature, I made the comment that I had a problem with the 'higher power' references. After that meeting, a long-time member came up to me and said, 'I'm not saying to forget your religious beliefs, but just put them on hold for a while and give Al-Anon a chance.' There was great wisdom what she told me. And if she had not told me that, I probably would have never come back and it would have been me who missed out on so much that God has to offer. The wisdom, help, friendship, encouragement, and spiritual growth that I have found in Al-Anon, I would have missed because of my religious prejudices. So, my suggestion to newcomers is the same that I received: put your religious beliefs, or unbelief on hold, and give Al-Anon a chance. Because Al-Anon is not a religious program, but a spiritual one."
The meeting brought to order by Chairwoman Hope @6:40pm, Serenity Prayer recited; Traditions read by Randy B.

SECRETARY REPORT

My Father’s House is 7:00pm, not 7:30pm, and will be corrected in Treatment Center Report.
Motion to accept the minutes moved and accepted.

TREASURER AND CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT

Treatment center volunteers, in some cases, are not showing up for their commitments. Volunteers are also calling the Central Office for replacements too late for anyone to respond to the requests. My Father’s house in particular had no shows last month. This should be viewed as unacceptable considering our service Traditions.

Reports in general are surfacing that people are not showing up for their group service commitments.

Two service opportunities have surfaced. Currently there is no men’ prison service. A volunteer to chair this effort is needed. The Salvation Army has also requested volunteers to host meetings at their Presto Lane facility.

TREATMENT CENTER REPORT

Sandi is new treatment center chairperson. She will contact old chairperson for details.

Harbor House, men and women, meet Saturdays at 7:00pm. My Father’s House, men only, meets Tuesdays at 7:00pm. Whitfield, men and women, meet Sunday, Monday and Thursday, at 7:00pm. For locations details and visitor requirements call Sandi or Randy B.
Your Trusted Servants

Chair: Hope M.
Awohoper66@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen M.
kmacon@granthampoole.com

Secretary: Vern W.
52woody.v@gmail.com

Corrections: Randy B.
rbissell55@gmail.com

Treatment Centers: Tonja M. & Sandi S
tonja.mangum1981@gmail.com

Newsletter: Ghostwriter
jbb.eren.shel@usa.net

IT/WEB: Michael G.

Office Manager: Paxton P.
paxtonpeters@yahoo.com

Asst. Office Manager: Randy B
rbissell55@gmail.com

Intergroup Liaison: Cory F.
Forsythec1983@gmail.com

Harbor House  (Men and Women)  My Father’s House  (Men only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Harbor House</th>
<th></th>
<th>My Father’s House</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Mannsdale</td>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Primary Purpose</td>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Way Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Quest for Sobriety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THANKS of our Webmaster Michael!!!!!!!

Our website and meetings scheduled are currently up to date. Any changes, please let us know.

midmissintergroup.org

You can’t change what has already happened, so don’t waste your time thinking about it. Move on, let go, and get over it.