

July 2020

# Pass it on



From the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

## The Great Email Address Hunt

Intergroup needs email addresses for newsletter subscribers and group contact people! The editors would like to email them each edition of *Pass it On* since paper copies are not available at this time. We have some addresses but are missing many. Please ask your friends to write to [passitonbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:passitonbirmingham@gmail.com). We need their names, the names of the groups they represent, and the best email addresses for receiving newsletters and other information from Intergroup.



Life on a new planet:

# zoom

## Can't Find Your Cat? BY: Bill M., Irondale Group

(Cat, Continued)

If you can't find your cat, get on a Zoom meeting. The cat will show up for the camera. I've seen more cat tails and butts than I care to remember on Zoom meetings in the past few months. There's definitely something magical about Zoom for our fur babies and for me too.

I was reluctant to get on Zoom for a few weeks. At first I was afraid of the technology (What do you mean I've got to learn to do something new?). But then I realized that I desperately needed a meeting, so I put the app on my phone. I joined my first Zoom meeting knowing that nobody could see me. All they could see was this little gray block-like stick figure. I could see and hear the others just fine, and it made me feel like I was in a real AA meeting. When it was my time to share, technology failed me. No matter what button I pushed, nobody could hear me talking. But I was grateful to see and hear what others were sharing, and I got that same sense of ease and comfort that happens at face-to-face meetings. I was hooked.

A tech savvy friend in the Fellowship helped me solve my audio problems, and I joined another meeting the next night. After experiencing the exhilaration of seeing my friends on the Zoom meeting, I went "all in" and activated the video on my phone. The fear of

being live on camera quickly disappeared, and I started feeling that spiritual connection from listening to others share.

In our local Zoom meetings, I've heard people from all over the country share their experience, strength and hope. A friend who lives in Tampa, Florida, and regularly attends several of our local Zoom meetings invited us to join him in Amsterdam, Netherlands, to hear him tell his story. Not only was he an incredible speaker, but hearing the accents of members from the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland Denmark, and several other countries was fascinating. I look forward to hearing him again soon as the keynote speaker for the Bavarian Roundup in Munich. Zoom has made this possible.

The most compelling aspect of Zoom meetings is the response from the newcomers. They seem to feel that same bond I felt in my first AA meeting when sober participants shared about how they got sober and described what worked for them. Hearing the newcomer speak of almost taking a drink but getting on a Zoom AA meeting instead is all the convincing necessary to prove this COVID-19 induced format works. I now include an unstable internet connection as part of trudging "the Road of Happy Destiny," hope to see you on the Zoomer soon, and plan to give you a hug when we get past this pandemic. Until then, keep recovering —and enjoy your cat.

## The Home Group. Zoom, and the Corona Virus

By: "Crockett"

I want to thank the powers that be and my Higher Power for developing the Zoom platform for conducting AA meetings. Having been sober since 1988, I shudder to think what the existence of Alcoholics Anonymous would have been had the pandemic occurred back then. It might have been its death knell.

The Zoom platform has allowed AA to continue to grow throughout this devastating illness. I have been able to attend meetings all over the country through this miracle of modern technology, greeting people from other towns and cities whom I normally would not have met. On July fifth, I will take a virtual trip to Germany for the 29th Annual Bavarian Roundup. A new friend will tell his story from there while I sit at this contraption I am typing on.

We survived World War II, Korea and Viet Nam. AA was very new during World War II, and the "old timers" generally didn't have to go off to war during AA's infancy. Now, however, all alcoholics fight this pandemic. Some groups have been able to meet in person, but the majority have not.

The people who know enough to start virtual meetings have done an amazing job in keeping meetings alive. Thanks to them, AA is 85 years old and going as strong as ever. We are even surviving the political and economic turmoil surrounding Covid-19. Hats off to all the people who keep Zoom meetings going!

### Birmingham Intergroup Central Office welcomes...

## Garland Clark & Tracy Chancellor

New Central Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 am—2pm

Wednesday 9 am—2 pm

Thursday 9 am-2 pm

Friday 9 am—2 pm

\*Saturday—bi-weekly

\*Available by appointment 1 day per week after work hours

Call in advance to schedule an appointment and to get information on which Saturdays will be open.

**(205) 290-0060**

### Tradition Seven and Our Support System

BY: Sarah M

We alcoholics pay our own way. Tradition Seven tells us " Every AA group ought to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions," and I believe we follow that guideline. Many members have recently lost their incomes, however. They may not be able to contribute to their home groups, central office, and AA as a whole. At the same time, some of us still have money, and we need to step up. Last month, *Pass it On* included a letter from the General Service Office that explained their three million dollar draw down from the reserve fund. This month brought another letter; some of you received it in your email. If you did not, follow this link to a clear, worthwhile video.

<https://vimeo.com/430834698>

Please watch the film. For more background, you may want to read the two-page letter:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f9d5d3e5-1c90-4e43-b1a7-65695a922b2e>

(See page 4 for our reports!)

# STEP & TRADITION OF THE MONTH

**Step Seven:** Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

**Tradition Seven:** Every AA Group ought to be Self-Supporting, declining outside contributions

## ***Updates from the Board of Directors***

(Adapted from email sent to the fellowship on June 27, 2020)

Sarah M.

Birmingham Intergroup Central Office Board of Directors continues to monitor the global COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the need for a local Intergroup Office, but our biggest concern is for the safety of employees, guests, and volunteers.

### **General Updates:**

- The office has begun reopening on a limited schedule. Board Members and volunteers are staffing it now. (*Note: That has now changed!*)
- We ask all visitors who have experienced any symptoms of Covid-19 over the past 14 days to stay out of the office. If you are feeling unwell or have encountered someone positive for Covid-19, please come by after your symptoms have resolved and you have seen your doctor. Dedicated to maintaining a safe environment, we continue to assess the ever-changing impact of COVID-19.
  - \* Birmingham Intergroup Central Office follows local and state guidelines on Covid-19 safety precautions, including PPE.
- The Board will announce weekly Hours of Operation via email each Sunday until it hires a part-time employee. At that time, the Board will announce permanent hours. (*Note: See page 2*)

We will continue to make every possible effort to provide a local office to meet the needs of the community, including the surrounding Districts. Committed to keeping the membership updated on all changes, the Board of Directors appreciates and thanks you for your continued support.

The board of directors has emailed documents to Intergroup representatives, GSRs, and others in the fellowship: a letter of intent, a statement on open board meetings, and a description of the B'ham Recovery Community Facebook page. If you would like to review the material, please follow this link:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:8692a49f-81a6-4aa7-86c6-c44887d3def9>

**The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Birmingham Intergroup Central Office Board of Directors.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PASS IT ON NEWSLETTER EDITORS:**

**NOTE:** Sarah M. is having trouble inserting links! If you cannot get to what you want, please email the newsletter and she will send you documents.

- ⇒ We are thinking ahead to our August issue! We may have a full board of directors by then, a member might write about dealing with fear, an editor may share guidance from the *Grapevine* archives, and we really want to hear from you! As you see, we are at the daydream stage today. Please send questions, experience, strength and hope to: [passitonbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:passitonbirmingham@gmail.com)
- ⇒ You have options if you are struggling to stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic and want information on in-person and Zoom meetings.
  - Navigate to the website: <https://www.birminghamaa.org/>
  - 2. Look up the B'ham Recovery page on Facebook. It provides information about Zoom and in-person meetings.
  - 3. Volunteers answer the Central Office phone when the office is closed.  
Call (205) 290-0060.
  - 4. Email us at [passitonbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:passitonbirmingham@gmail.com). We can send directories.

***Financial Reports, Submitted by Mary G.***

<b>Birmingham Central Office Financial Report</b>							
<b>June, 2020</b>							
		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Cash on Hand							\$ 30.00
Bank Account							\$ 3,738.47
Saving Account							\$ 7,939.65
CD Account							\$ 4,845.85
<b>Income</b>							
Books & Literature							\$ 652.90
Chips& Medallions							\$ 120.00
Donations							\$ 610.25
Interest							\$ 0.07
							\$ 1,383.22
<b>Cost of goods Sold</b>							
Books & Literature							\$ 554.22
Chips & Medallions							\$ 7.92
Chips & Medallions							\$ 54.35
							\$ 616.49
<b>Gross Profit</b>							<b>\$ 766.73</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Dues& Subscriptions							\$ 77.00
Insurance (annually)							\$ 1,400.00
Legal & Accounting							\$ 45.00
Office & Supplies							\$ 26.95
Copier							\$ 104.98
Rent							\$ -
Telephone & Internet							\$ 133.60
Utilities							\$ 465.53
<b>Total Expenses</b>							<b>\$ 2,253.06</b>
<b>Net Income</b>							<b>\$ (1,486.33)</b>

**Intergroup Central Office Group/Individual Donations**

<b>Year to Date</b>							
<b>Group/Individual</b>	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	
5 Points Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00				
AA Individual / David			\$ 20.00				
AA Individual / Emris G.				\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	
AA Individual/Jeanne B				\$ 50.00			
AA Individual / Judy C	\$ 0.50		\$ 53.00				
Bessemer Group		\$ 37.50					
Buster's Group				\$ 180.00			
Calera Group	\$ 185.13						
Colonnade Group	\$ 200.00						
Coosa Valley Group	\$ 25.00						
Day By Day Group						\$ 200.00	
DownTown Group				\$ 500.00			
Eastern Group		\$ 150.00					
Hope on Highlands	\$ 25.00						
Huffman Group		\$ 142.00				\$ 100.00	
Irondale Group	\$ 120.00	\$ 0.70					
Keep It Simple Group		\$ 316.44					
Leeds Group	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.20				
Metro B.B. Group	\$ 925.00						
MetroBB/2 AA Individual						\$ 50.00	
Mon.Night Live Group	\$ 95.13						
Moody Crossroads		\$ 105.24					
Mt Olive Group		\$ 60.00					
North Jefferson Group		\$ 40.57				\$ 100.00	
Pelham Group	\$ 50.00						
Primary Purpose Group			\$ 232.50				
Riverchase Group		\$ 254.00					
Serenity Now Group		\$ 900.00					
Spiritual Kindergarten						\$ 110.00	
Sunrise Meeting	\$ 268.70			\$ 259.75			
Trace Crossings Group	\$ 3.20						
Trussville Group		\$ 25.00					