

'I am an Alcoholic.' Who Said it First?

Who was the first to start a meeting or a qualification with the statement, "I am an alcoholic"? How did the worldwide custom begin? As late co-founder Bill W. used to observe, "Nobody invented A.A., it just grew." And so probably did its classic introduction at meetings.

"Many members ask us these questions," says a G.S.O. staff member. "Unfortunately, only a few of the early-timers are left, and not many of them are able to provide plausible theories. So we can only speculate."

According to an early friend of A.A., the late Henrietta Seiberling, the expression dates back to meetings of A.A.'s forerunner, the Oxford Group Movement, which had its heyday in the early 1930s. Mrs. Seiberling, a nonalcoholic who had sought spiritual help in the Oxford Group meetings, introduced Bill to A.A.'s other founder, Dr. Bob, then struggling to get sober in the Oxford Group.

At small meetings, the members knew one another and didn't need to identify themselves. But in the large, "public" meetings, where there was "witnessing" along the lines of an A.A. talk today, personal identification became necessary. Chances are that someone at some time said, "I am an alcoholic," but Mrs. Seiberling wasn't sure. Nor did she remember that the phrase was used at early A.A. meetings in Akron, before publication of the Big Book. In fact, she said, the word "alcoholic" was rarely uttered, at least in Akron. People referred to themselves as "drunks" or "rum hounds" or "boozers" or other choice epithets reminiscent of the Temperance Movement that gained adherents during Prohibition.

An early New York A.A. first heard the expression as "I am an alcoholic and my name is...." According to his recollection, that was after World War n, in 1945 or 1946. And it is a matter of record that, in 1947, a documentary film entitled, *I Am an Alcoholic*, was produced by RKO Pathe.

From then on, as Bill might say, the custom "just grew."

• A.A. Videos for Young People

The trustees' Committee on Public Information is seeking video/digital submissions from the Fellowship for a video designed to carry the A.A. message of recovery to young people. For guidelines and copyright release forms contact the P.I. desk (publicinfo@aa.org); deadline November 30, 2007.

• Putting Gratitude into Action

The premium that A.A. members put on gratitude led to the custom of designating November as "gratitude month." (In Canada, it's October.)

This practice started in the 1940s, when the General Service Board held small "gratitude dinners," which were replaced in the 1960s by bigger and more elaborate "gratitude luncheons." These affairs, which Bill W. would address, were occasions for A.A. members to express their appreciation for the program. More important, it was A.A.'s opportunity to meet with members of the media to thank them for their sympathetic coverage.

Why November became Gratitude Month in the U.S. is uncertain. It may have something to do with Bill W.'s mistaken notion for a time that his sobriety began in November, instead of its actual start date of Dec. 11. Or, it might be that Thanksgiving is in November.

Some groups will hold Traditions meetings in November to remind themselves of the rich heritage of A.A. Others conduct topic meetings on the various aspects of gratitude, such as "gratitude is not passive" or "giving it away." During the year, many members of the Fellowship send a gratitude gift of one or two dollars for each year of sobriety on their anniversaries to their local intergroup or to the General Service Office.

Of course, individual A.A. members express gratitude for their sobriety in quiet ways throughout the year. Showing up early to set up a meeting or taking a meeting into a detox are ways of demonstrating gratitude for a life-saving program of recovery. The A.A. member who takes a call in the middle of the night from an alcoholic who needs to talk is expressing thanks for Alcoholics Anonymous.

G.S.O. files contain correspondence from A.A. members who have written for no other reason than to talk about why they are grateful for A.A.

Michael M., in Sparks, Nevada, says in one letter: "The program of A.A. has given me the hope and sanity that alcohol had taken from me so many years ago."

Enclosed in a letter from Bob H. of Neudorf, Saskatc is a quote from Austin R., an alcoholic priest in recovery, who said: "the one imperative to happy, permanent, effective sobriety for any A.A. member is the simple virtue of gratitude." As Bill W. wrote in a letter in 1959, "if you carry the message to others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given you."

Mon. Night

Lorain

7:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church
5100 Ashland Ave.

- 5th. Jeff W.**
- 12th. Bonnie L.**
- 19th Louis R.**
- 26th Lois K.**

Fri. Night

Faith Group

11:00 PM

1741 N Ridge Rd.

- 2nd. Wendy C.**
- 9th. Sandra S.**
- 16th. Bill F.**
- 23rd. Opal A.**
- 30th. John J.**

Mid- Night

Elyria Group

Sat. 12:00 PM

St Mary's Church
4th & Middle Ave.

- 3rd. Clint B.**
- 10th. Mary M.**
- 17th. Brain**
- 24th. Cowboy**

G.S.R./D.C.M. Meeting: The Multi-District meeting is held at **11 AM** on the **1st. Sunday** of the month. This meeting is for the General Service Rep's. (**G.S.R.**) of each Group and the District Committee Member's (**D.C.M.**). If you want to learn more about service attend this meeting. (**Dec. 2nd., 2007**)

The Lorain Inter-Group Meeting is the **1st. Sunday** of the month at **12:30 PM**. It is very **Important** that all the **Secretaries** of each **Group** attend this meeting. We **urge your Attendance** (Be Informed, Be Active) (**Dec. 2nd., 2007**)

Advisory Board Meeting: The meeting will be held at **6:30 PM** on the **3rd. Wednesday** of the month, at the **Inter-Group Office**. (**Nov. 21st., 2007**)

Lorain Inter-Group 50/50 Raffle Winner: Sam H. \$91.00, Sold by C/O.. Just another way you can Help support the Lorain Inter-Group

The sign on the front of the Office needs to be changed to Lorain Inter-Group if any A.A. Group or any one member would like to volunteer to change the sign, Please call the Office 440-246-1800

Need A. A. Volunteers to Speak, Lead and or Assist at the Lake Point Nursing Home on Monday's 7 PM. Contact Coretta Farley. 308-1714

The Lorain Inter-Group is looking to fill a new position on a temporary basis, 16 hours per week. The person should have at least three years of continuous sobriety. Must also have computer skills. The clerk position will assume the duties of the Office Manager but will not do any of the purchasing. If you are interested in this position write a letter to the Advisory Board, At 577 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. 44052. Before the next Advisory meeting Nov. 21st., 2007.

Concepts 11: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, Induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Promise 11: We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.

Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on Attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film.

Grafton
Wed. Night

8:30 PM

Grafton Fire Station
1050 Novak Rd.

- 7th. Bill M.**
- 14th. Chrissy M.**
- 21st. Tom S.**
- 28th. Mark W.**

Elyria St.

Mary's Group

Sun. 8:00 PM

1741 N Ridge Rd.

- 4th. Mo W.**
- 11th. Laurretta W.**
- 18th. Doug Z.**
- 25th. Lynnette V.**

Oberlin

Breakfast

Sun. 10:00 AM

Concord Manor
95 E. Vine St.

- 4th. Disc.**
- 11th. Jim W.**
- 18th. Jimmy K.**
- 25th. Andy B.**

Anniversary

• 41 years •
November 16th.

Elyria Friday
Night

8:00 PM

Lake &
Lowell St.

- Lead •
- Fellowship •
- Food •
- (Bring A Covered Dish)

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• List Your • Anniversary •

- Nov.1st. Joann B. 5yrs.
- Nov.4th. Margaret 5yrs.
- Nov.14th. Kaye A. 22yrs.
- Nov.15th. Christy G. 1yr.
- Nov.16th. Jeannie C. 26yrs.
- Nov.19th. John W. 22yrs.
- Nov.25th. Curtis N. 52yrs.
- Nov.27th. DC M. 18yrs.
- Nov.28th. Clyde McC. 36yrs.
- Nov.29th. Scott C. 18yrs.
- Nov.30th. Mike H. 23yrs.

Unselfishness • Love

MOVED: St. Agnes Thur. Night 8:00 PM 1741 N. Ridge Rd. **Sheffield Township (NS)** Moving to St. John Lutheran Church 1140 West River Rd. Elyria Near Circuit City & I Hop Pancake House.

Action for the Day: The only limits to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and active faith.
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Prayer for the Day: I pray for the courage to believe. I'll not let doubt into my heart. I can recover. I can give myself totally to this Simple Program.

Thought to Ponder : Today, I will ask for God's guidance and help in every area of my life. I will not try to solve all my difficulties at once. I am not expected to handle more than my share. I will work on one or two things and leave the rest to God.

Anniversary

• 36 years •

November 11th.

Elyria Sunday

Night

7:30 PM

St. Jude's School

594 Poplar St.

• Lead •

• Prizes •

• Fellowship •

• Cake & Ice cream •

Children's Christmas Party:

Schedule of Events

Nov.20th. • Return raffle tickets and money

To Lorain Inter-Group office By 12:00 PM

Nov.30th. • Last day ticket Request Form

returned to Troy

Dec.2nd. • Pick up Children's Tickets after central office meeting

Dec.2nd. • Go to Sam's

Dec. 7th. • Dance at St.Anthony's

Dec.9th. • Stocking Stuffing 1:00 PM 15704 Trinter, Vermilion OH.

Dec.10th. • Order Pizza

Dec.16th. • Christmas Party

9:00 AM •15704 Trinter for Transporting

10:00 AM •Set-up at St.John's Hall

12:00 PM•Costume people at Hall

1 :00 PM•Party Starts

4:00 PM•Clean-up starts

5:00 PM•Transport stuff back to 15704 Trinter

Place: **Lorain Inter-Group, Inc.**

577 Broadway Ave.,Lorain , Ohio

Hope you will help us to make this year party the best yet. If you have any questions about the **Schedule** contact:

Troy or Brenda (440 365-9018)

(440 506-1744)

The Compass House, Inc.

Proudly Presents...

(Our Sixth Annual)

“Twelve Step Day”

DeLuca's Place in the Park,

Lorain, Ohio

9:30 AM, Saturday

November 10, 2007

Lead Speaker Valerie D.

Richmond, Virginia

\$25.00 Advance Donation

\$30.00 at the Door

More Info: 440 246-5111

HELP NEEDED

A.A. Men & Women

To carry the message to other

Alcoholics in the

Lorain

County Prisons

& Jails:

Mondays thru

Thursdays

Requirements:

1 yr. Sobriety

(if you would like to help)

Please Call:

Russ Walker

440 668-6650

Area 54 NE Ohio

General Service

GRATITUDE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 18, 2007

12:00 – 4:00 PM

St Patrick's Church

357 N Main St

Hubbard, OH 44425

Speaker at 2:30 PM – Jeff Y,

Area 54 Delegate

Hosted by AA Districts 7, 8 & 48

COME SHARE RECOVERY

WITH US!

Bring a covered dish – meat and drinks will be provided. Group contributions will be appreciated.

Donations at the door

Contact: Joel T., District 7 DCM

Visit the Area 54 web site at <http://www.aaneoh.org>

Survivors List:

Groups in need of **Support**

to stay afloat Please Attend,

Contribute, Be Active, Help Chair,

Be a Secretary,

Be Responsible

Elyria St. Mary's

Sun. 8:00 PM

Friday Night Faith

Fri. 11:00 PM

Arid Club, 1741 N. Ridge Rd.,

Sheffield Township

UAW Big Book Study

Thurs. 10:00 AM

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

523 E. Broad St. & Winckles St

Elyria

We Need You!!Don't let them Close

HELP SUPPORT the groups.

Sisters In Sobriety

Closed Women's

12 Step Discussion Group

2nd Anniversary

Celebration

Wednesday

November 14, 2007

Food at 7:00 pm

Lead at 7:30 pm

Firstmerit Bank

Center Ridge Road

North Ridgeville

Arid Fellowship Club

GRATITUDE SATURDAY

November 17th.

“All Niter”

1741 N. Ridge Rd.

Sheffield Township

Open Nov. 17th. 10:00AM

Lead: 5:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Dance: 8:00 PM

FUN • DANCE • FUN

Cost: \$5.00 Per/Person

\$7.00 Couples

\$1.00 off Ticket

(If You Bring Can Good's)

Close Nov. 18th. Midnight

Thanks for attending the district/intergroup presentation of the Delegate's Report on Saturday. It was my pleasure to meet you. The text of my report can be found at <http://area54.org/57gsc.pdf> for those of you who asked. (Jeffrey A. Your Delegate Area 54, Panel 57)

Compass House Alumni & Friends Breakfast

Last Saturday of the month.

Breakfast @ 9:00 am Lead @ 10:00 am

Cost Only \$4.00

*To submit information for the news letter please contact: **Russ Walker** or **Jim Parks** via: **Call**, ***email** or leave the information at the **Inter-Group Office** before the **25th.** of each month.

Committee Chairs

Unity LiveWire Committee

Russ Walker.....327-1308
 *e mail russ8859@aol.com
 Jim Parks.....385-5687
 *e mail parkspphoto@adelphia.net

Reporter

Bobbi Matear.....537-4280

Internet Committee (aaloraincounty.org)

Mike Smeck.....522-2163
 e mail webmaster@aaloraincounty.org
 Donna L.....574-3464
 e mail queendlawson@yahoo.com

Schools

Ellen B.....322-5306
 e mail irishmimil@comcast.net

Archives Committee

Kevin Sexton.....323-9217
 e mail bigbook@alltel.net

Correctional Committee

Russ Walker.....327-1308
 e mail russ8859@aol.com
 Maureen Leach.....967-6305
 Coretta Farley.....308-1714

District Committee

District #19a (Sheffield Lake, Avon Lake, Sheffield, Avon, N. Ridgeville, Eaton, Columbia, Grafton Meetings)
 DCM. MaryAnn Schulz.....453-4115
 e mail maschulz.oh.rr.com

District #19b (Lorain City Meetings and some in Vermilion)
 DCM. Craig Warren.....989-2786
 Alt. Edwin Tories.....989-0362

District #20a Vacant. (All of Elyria City Meetings a Carlisle)
 DCM.Judy Sexton.....322-2619

District #20b (All Meetings at ARID Club)
 DCM.Judy Sexton.....322-2619
 Alt.Marilyn Oliver.....284-9834

District #20c (LaGrange, Penfield, Brownhelm Tnsp., Amherst, Henrietta Tnsp., S. Amherst, Kipton, Oberlin, Camden Twp., Pittsfield Twp., Brighton Twp., Wellington Meetings)
 DCM.Donna Lawson.....574-3464

Board Of Directors

Chairperson Tom Ortiz.....315-8600
 Vice-Chairperson Troy Smith.....365-9018
 Treasurer Bill Post.....933-4153
 Secretary Donna Lawson.....574-3464
 Office Managers George Schmidt.....288-8935
 Sam Hensley.....288-4942

Advisory Board Members

Tom Banks.....309-3226
 Bill Jackson.....935-3251
 Terri Poznako.....225-6897
 Russ Walker.....327-1308
 Mark Potter.....452-5946

Rents: Month of Sept., 2007

1. We Care Tuesday Morn. Disc.
2. Tuesday Night Central
3. Mid-Week Morning Disc.
4. Strength In Sobriety
5. Friday Men's Disc.

Rents: Month of Oct., 2007

1. Lorain Consolidated
2. Tuesday Night Central
3. Mid-Week Morning Disc.
4. Mon. Happy Hour
5. Friday Men's Disc.
6. Sat. Morn. Disc.
7. Blue Monday



Phone Line Report:

Month of Oct., 2007

12 Step Calls.... 12
 Sponsorship..... 3
 Al-A-Non..... 5
 Meeting Info.... 124
 General Info.... 82
Total:.....226

Financial Report

Listed below are the Profit & Loss spread sheet, the group donations and the rents for the month of September, 2007.

Expenses		Donations	
1. Rent	\$ 675.00	1.....	\$1,032.47
2. Columbia Gas	\$ 432.00	2.....	\$ 930.77
3. All Service Telephone	\$ 140.88	3.....	\$ 952.78
4. Ohio Edison	\$ 158.70	4.....	\$ 402.95
5. Century Telephone	\$ 98.25	5.....	\$ 0.00
6. House Managers	\$1,363.20		
7. Pay Cor Fees	\$ 58.23		\$3,318.97
8. Live Wire Printing	\$ 49.00		
9. Windstream Yellow Pages	\$ 18.30	Donations/Rent	\$3,318.97
10. Fauver,Keyse-Walker & Donovan (Attorney Fees)	\$ 678.24	Donation	
11. Office Cleaning	\$ 40.00	Pig Roast	\$1,655.00
		Expenses	\$3,711.80
	\$3,711.80	Gain Sept. 2007	\$1,262.17

When making Donations to the Lorain Inter-Group, Area 54, Multi-District, or the General Service Office in New York. PLEASE put your Groups General Service number on the Donation. You can find your Groups General Service number in the meeting schedule or on the internet at aaloraincounty.org under A.A. Meetings. Please put your Area & District numbers on the donation, it also helps to identify your Group. Make all checks or money orders payable to Lorain Inter-Group. If you don't have a General Service number under your Groups information in the meeting schedule you can contact your District Committee person listed in the LiveWire to help you get registered.

Donations for the month of September, 2007

1. Blue Monday
2. Back To Basics Big Book Lorain
3. Monday Night Lorain
4. Elyria Men's Stag
5. Elyria Monday Closed Disc.
6. We Care Tuesday Morning
7. Crazy But Sober Big Book Study Avon Lake
8. S.I.O.G.A.
9. Mid-Week Morning Disc.
10. Stepping Into Sobriety Group Lorain
11. Wed. Morn. Disc. (Wellington)
12. Lorain Wednesday Group
13. Grafton Wednesday Night
14. Strength In Sobriety
15. Vermilion Thursday Disc.
15. Vermilion Thursday Disc.
16. Compass House Group
17. Oberlin Group
18. Birmingham Dinner Group
19. Friday Morning Survivors Lorain
20. Friday Night Amherst
21. Friday Night Avon Lake Group
22. Wellington Friday Group
23. Spanish American
24. Serenity Hall
25. Amherst Saturday Group
26. North Ridgeville Men's
27. Anonymous
28. Saturday Morning Recovering AA Women Oberlin
29. Lorain Central Office 50/50 Raffle

Donations for the month of October, 2007

1. Blue Monday
2. Sat. Morn. Disc.
3. Mon. Happy Hour
4. Sunday Night Sobriety
5. We Care Tues. Morn.
6. Mid-Week Mor. Disc.
7. Conscious Contact
8. Serenity Hall
9. Friday Men's Disc.
10. N. Ridgeville 1st. step
11. Amherst Sat. Group
12. LaGrange Mon.
13. Elyria Sunday Night
14. Amherst Thurs.
15. Tuesday Night Central
16. Lorain Consolidated
17. Who Me
18. Midnight Elyria
19. Vermilion Tuesday Disc.
20. Vermilion 12 & 12 Disc.
21. Friday Night Amherst
22. Oberlin Women's Closed Group
23. Elyria Men's Stag
24. Attitude of Gratitude

• The Word of God Is Power Over Fear •