

JANUARY 1992 GRAPEVINE

# What We Were Like

BY: BILL W.

## Fragments of AA History - Origin of the Twelve Steps

I well remember the evening on which the Twelve Steps were written. I was lying in bed quite dejected and suffering from one of my imaginary ulcer attacks. Four chapters of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, had been roughed out and read in meetings in Akron and New York. We quickly found that everybody wanted to be an author. The hassles as to what should go into our new book were terrific. For example, some wanted a purely psychological book which would draw in alcoholics without scaring them. We could tell them about the "God business" afterward. A few, led by our wonderful southern friend, Fitz M., wanted a fairly religious book infused with some of the dogma we had picked up from the churches and missions which had tried to help us. The louder these arguments, the more I felt in the middle. It appeared that I wasn't going to be the author at all. I was only going to be an umpire who would decide the contents of the book. This didn't mean, though, that there wasn't terrific enthusiasm for the undertaking. Every one of us was wildly excited at the possibility of getting our message before all those countless alcoholics who still didn't know.

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Having arrived at Chapter Five, it seemed high time to state what our program really was. I remember running over in my mind the word-of-mouth phrases then in current use. Jotting these down, they added up to the six named above. [1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol; 2. We got honest with ourselves; 3. We got honest with another person, in confidence; 4. We made amends for harms done others; 5. We worked with other alcoholics without demand for prestige or money; 6. We prayed to God to help us do these things as best we could.] Then came the idea that our program ought to be more accurately and clearly stated. Distant readers would have to have a precise set of principles. Knowing the alcoholic's ability to rationalize, something airtight would have to be written. We couldn't let the reader wiggle out anywhere. Besides, a more complete statement would help in the chapters to come where we would need to show exactly how the recovery program ought to be worked.

At length I began to write on a cheap yellow tablet. I split the word-of-mouth program up into smaller pieces, meanwhile enlarging its scope considerably. Uninspired as I felt, I was surprised that in a short time, perhaps half an hour, I had set down certain principles which, on being counted, turned out to be twelve in number. And for some unaccountable reason, I had moved the idea of God into the Second Step, right up front. Besides, I had named God very liberally throughout the other Steps. In one of the Steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees.

When this document was shown to our New York meeting, the protests were many and loud. Our agnostic friends didn't go at all for the idea of kneeling. Others said we were talking altogether too much about God. And anyhow, why should there be Twelve Steps when we had done five or six? Let's keep it simple, they said.

This sort of heated discussion went on for days and nights. But out of it all there came a ten-strike for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our agnostic contingent, spearheaded by Hank P. and Jim B., finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as "a Higher Power" or "God as we understand him." These expressions, as we so well know today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic. They have enabled thousands of us to make a beginning where none could have been made had we left the Steps just as I originally wrote them. Happily for us there were no other changes in the original draft and the number of Steps still stood at twelve. Little did we guess that our Twelve Steps would soon be widely approved by clergy of all denominations, and even by our latter-day friends, the psychiatrists.

This little fragment ought to convince the most skeptical that nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous.

It just grew--by the grace of God.

### From the Book

Resentment is the "number one" offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else. From it stem all forms of spiritual disease, for we have been not only mentally and physically ill, we have been spiritually sick. When the spiritual malady is overcome, we straighten out mentally and physically. In dealing with resentments, we set them down on paper. We listed people, institutions or principles with whom we were angry. We asked ourselves why we were angry.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, (Big Book) pg. 64.

### ? HUMOR ?

**Q:** How does an alcoholic get to the moon?

**A:** In a Fellow-ship!

-Julien M./ Bloomington, Ind.

I keep trying to make protein shakes, but they keep coming out as margaritas.

-Paul C./ Oceanside, Calif.



## Ogden Intergroup Central Office (ICOAA)

### ➤ Regular Office hours

Tuesday thru Friday  
**1:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

Saturday **12:00pm - 4:00pm**

**CLOSED:**

**Sunday & Monday**

Central Office Rep (IGR) meeting is held *monthly*  
at Central Office on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @6:00pm**  
(*unless otherwise posted*)

### \***Inter Group Representative Meeting Attendance**

- Four (4) District One groups were represented at the January IGR meeting.
- The following groups sent IGR's:  
Tuesday Morgan, Babes of Anonymity, Meat & Potatoes, Wednesday Night Stag Groups.
- Our next IGR/COR meeting is *planned* for Tuesday, **February 17, 2026 @ 6pm.**

\* aka Central Office Representative



... I want the hand of AA always to be there.  
And for that: I am Responsible

### **Central Office Hours**

**Effective January 3, 2026,**  
**new SATURDAY hours** are:

**12:00pm (Noon) to 4:00pm**

(Tuesday through Friday hours remain 1:30pm - 5:30pm)

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**TO: Central Office Committee**  
**From:** Randy C., (Central Office employee)  
**Date:** February 3, 2026  
**Subject:** Ogden Intergroup **Central Office Report for January 2026**

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**Sales Summary:** (Income = \$576)

- \*Books: 209 (\$ 405\*)
- Chips: 413 (\$ 171)

[\*= all printed material]

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| ○ Brass     | 67 (\$ 142) |
| ○ Aluminum  | 342 (\$ 24) |
| ○ Tri-Plate | 4 (\$ 5)    |

**Office Activity:** Hours: 103

- Emails: 144
- Calls/Msgs: 37
  - Calls to our Answering Service: 0
- Walk-Ins: 86 (average weekly walk-ins = 17)

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**Contributions:** **\$ 5,590**

- Groups (16) groups \$ 1,970
- Individual Contribution (s) **\$ 3,620**

**(Prudent Reserve):** {Goal \$8,400 / 4 mos. Operating Expenses x \$2,100 per mo.)  
(ending) January 2026: \$ 7,596 (+ 25.6%) 3.6 months

**(Operating Funds):** (ending) January 2026: \$ 1,938.20

My gratitude for the job as your Central Office employee.

-Randy

Most of the time  
We's don't even Know...  
that there are others here  
who are trying to grow, too.

-Bob M. 121/21/2014

## **Suggested Contributions** (from pg. 13 of AAWS Pamphlet F-3)

- **District One**  
P.O. Box 953  
Brigham City, Ut 84302
  - **-OR-**
  - **District 11**  
PO Box 461  
Bountiful, Ut 84011
  - **Area 69 of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
PO Box 18134  
Kearns, Utah 84118
  - **(General Service Office) GSO**  
PO Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407
  - **Intergroup Central Office**  
3480 Washington Blvd #108  
Ogden, Utah 84401
- 10%  
10%  
30%  
50%

Intergroup Central Office-Ogden	January	TOTAL
2026 (Year-to-Date) Group Contributions	2/3/2026	2026
BYOB Group	190.00	190.00
Courage to Change Group	200.00	200.00
District One	180.00	180.00
Grupo Primer Paso de Ogden (SP)	15.00	15.00
Huntsville Group	65.00	65.00
It's in the Book	116.25	116.25
Meat & Potatoes	111.00	111.00
Meeting in the Mountain (VC)	344.00	344.00
Our Primary Purpose Group	95.15	95.15
Recovery Together Group	200.00	200.00
Sat Men's Brotherhood	26.00	26.00
Serenity Happy Hour (Sunday)	110.12	110.12
The Way Out	41.26	41.26
Wed Night Stag	96.50	96.50
Wed. Night Alumni - ORMC	50.00	50.00
Women's Circle of Hope	129.92	129.92
<b>Groups Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,970.20</b>	<b>1,970.20</b>
Individual Donation(s)	3,620.00	3,620.00
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$5,590.20</b>	<b>\$5,590.20</b>

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This is confidential information, for use only within A.A.

## **Excerpt from the Quarterly Report from GSO**

**Fourth Quarter 2025**

### **GSO Financial Results**

Contributions were 11% less than budget, and gross literature sales were 6% greater than budget. Literature gross margin was almost exactly the same as budget...

...As of September 29, 2025, operating cash on hand was \$344K versus accounts payable of \$1.931M, resulting in a short-term deficit of \$1.587M.



## District One Meeting Minutes for January 14th, 2025

### ①OPENING:

Mike R. called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The GSR Preamble was read by Bob, followed by the 12 Traditions read by Carrie. New GSRs Mike, Sunday Night Alumn Group, and Adam, Bridgerland Group, were recognized. Jim, Michelle J., and Troy were recognized as interested A.A.s. Donny G., Area 69 P.I. Chair, was also recognized. Roll call and the contributions basket were passed around at this time. Sam P. presented the December Meeting Minutes, which were reviewed and a motion to accept was raised. The district body voted to accept the meeting minutes.

### ②REPORTS

- Public Information - Hailee A. reminded the District of the upcoming service opportunities in District 1 this year. Dates and committees to volunteer for will be announced later this year.
  - SJS
  - Usara Recovery Days
  - The Annual Surgical Conventions
- Corrections - Bob Y. Announced that the corrections committee visited the Weber County Youth Center to explain our corrections presentation and leave pamphlets. For those who would like to attend training days for Brigham Jail the dates will be February 3rd and 5th at 9am and 7pm both days. Training days for Weber County jail is the 4th Friday of each month at 4pm. Contact Bob Y. for an application to either training. More information to be received about Cache Valley's process/procedures for taking meetings into the jails.
- Grapevine - Patrick F. has been visiting rehabilitation facilities and asking if they have a subscription for the Grapevine at their facility. He also provided the cost structure of a Grapevine subscription, both physical and digital. There is a "Carry the Message" initiative to which members can contribute for those who can not afford the grapevine; visit [aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message](http://aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message) for more information. Patrick also plugged the Grapevine Podcast and shared one of the Grapevine quotes with us: "Now I have come to believe that my drinking insanity is only one form of the craziness to which we AAs are prone. I call it Insanity A. Insanity B is finding out what works for you-and then not doing it." ~ From 2005 article "Insanity B" by Don H.
- Treatment - Matt A. advised of a meeting etiquette packet which is circulating around the treatment facilities. He will be acquiring some for the district's review.
- Ogden Intergroup - Mike L. gave a report listing the number of in person visits, website hits, and a treasury report. The Ogden Intergroup will also be hosting the 5th Annual **Big Ass Holiday Party Smorgasboard Extravaganza**. January 31st from 12-4pm. This event is a potluck so bring something to share.
- Treasurer - Judy Y. reimbursed Ogden Intergroup for the purchase of books. All other items will be listed in the January report at the February district meeting.

### ③DCM and DCMC Reports

- DCMC Mike R. - Gave a report on the meetings he's been attending. Mike also advised the body that Shari R. has stepped down from her DCM position at this time.
- DCM Shari R. - attended a Wednesday night meeting at the Women's Retreat House in Pleasant View. They are looking for meeting support. There is a meeting almost every day at the retreat house. These are listed in the Meeting Guide App. The women of the house do not normally leave to attend other meetings. It would be good to have members attend who have a generous amount of sobriety. I invited them to the district as interested AAs and said I would pass along the request for support. Shari also attended several meetings in the district, but regrets to inform the body she will have to step down from the DCM position due to a conflict with her new evening job.



**④ GSR REPORTS & OPEN DISCUSSION**

Josh reported the Keep it Simple group has volunteered to provide hospitality for the 2026 Area 69 Standing Chair Workshop

- Carrie from the Treamonton group advised their attendance has been waning and welcomes support to their meetings. Their meeting has also voted to start passing around a Pink Can to support corrections.
- Jonathan from the Meat and Potatoes group advised that their group still has strong support. They have recently digitized their business documents via Google Drive. The meeting is also starting to send a 2nd basket around for collections specifically for contributions to GSO.

**⑤ OLD BUSINESS**

- Open Positions: C.P.C., Communications, and Literature chairs. 4 DCM positions are also open at this time. It is requested we have at least one DCM from Logan and one from Ogden.
- 2026 Standing Chair workshop - Keep it Simple group to work with Michelle J. to coordinate hospitality and food.

**⑥ NEW BUSINESS**

- Presentation on Concept 1 - Jonathan provide a presentation to the district body on Concept 1:
  - Concept 1 short form: "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."
    - What this means in terms of AA's upside down service triangle is that groups make the decisions, not the trustees or board members at GSO.
  - GSR's Job is to be the voice between the groups and the general service structure. Raising matters to the district, area and GSO. These matters are then returned to the groups so their group conscience can vote through their General Service Representative.
  - The origins of this concept stem from the founding of the 1938 Alcoholic foundation, which has since been renamed the General Service Board. The board had looked to the AA co-founders for leadership, but this concept was formed to provide the future of AA through the collective conscience of the AA groups. This allowed the AA groups themselves to advise the trustees once Bill and Bob were gone.

**⑦ UPCOMING EVENTS**

- District Meeting
- PRAASA
- Area 69 Committee Meeting

650 E 700 S Brigham City Feb. 10th  
Honolulu, HI Feb. 27-Mar. 1  
3733 West 400 North Salina March 14th

**⑧ CLOSING**

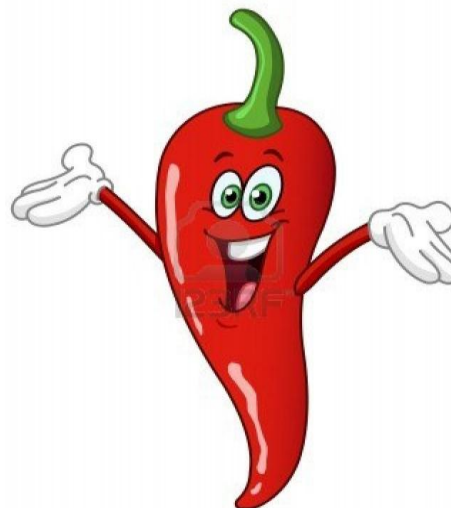
A motion to close the meeting was entered and the meeting was closed with the Responsibility Statement.

➤ **District One** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Boys & Girls Club  
650 E 700 S  
Brigham City

➤ **District 11** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 PM  
South Davis Recovery Club  
25 N. 200 W.  
Bountiful

Information listed **below** is presented **solely** as a service to our readers,  
**NOT as an endorsement** by Intergroup Service of Northern Utah AA **or** AAWS.  
For any additional information, please contact the event sponsor.

**Tuesday Morgan Group**  
**CHILLY CHILI COOK OUT**



**FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

**THE JENSEN PAVILION, UP LINE CREEK ROAD**

**2425 LINE CREEK ROAD, MORGAN, UTAH, 84050**

**(OFF OF MORGAN VALLEY DRIVE BETWEEN MORGAN AND PETERSON)**

**12 NOON till 3 OR MAYBE 4 ISH**

**SUGGESTED DONATION 3 DOLLARS PER PERSON (more or less)**

**CHILI AND TAMALES SERVED, SIDE DISHES ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED.**

**Out of respect to others; "No" Dogs Please**

**QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL or TEXT, MIKE L. 801-645-9538 or ERIC J. 801-430-9353**

