

*December 2021*



# **NECS Bulletin**

4833 S Sheridan Rd Ste. 410

Tulsa, OK 74145

Monday—Friday: 9am—5pm; Saturday: 9am—1pm

24 Hour Phone: 918-627-2224

Website: [www.aaneok.org](http://www.aaneok.org)

Email: [necs@aaneok.org](mailto:necs@aaneok.org)

## **Happy Holidays from NECS**

The Central Service Office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, & New Years Day.

However, A.A. doesn't shut down for the holidays! All regularly scheduled meetings will take place as usual, and many groups hold "Marathon Meetings" or "Alcathons" on holidays, so there's no reason for anyone to be alone. Check with your group or on our website for more information throughout the month.

## **Board of Trustees**

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## **HELP US HELP THE NEXT SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC**

We need your help to keep our directory up to date! Please take a moment to check your group's information on our website, and contact us with any updates or corrections. We want to be sure that newcomers are getting accurate meeting information—showing up for your first meeting and finding nobody there is extremely disheartening—please help us prevent this situation! Even if you have updated your information with your DCM or Registrar, PLEASE double-check it on our website, as this is what is reflected in the Meeting Guide App.

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# We Need Your Help!

We are in desperate need of volunteers, as well as to get our volunteer list up to date! Our volunteers are *vital* to the function of the office, and volunteer opportunities include:

- \* Helping us verify our existing volunteer list
- \* Taking 12-Step calls from struggling alcoholics
- \* Taking the 24-Hour Hotline overnight/weekends/holidays (requires 2 years sobriety)
- \* Speaking at other local groups/events
- \* Answering Chat requests on our website (requires 6 months sobriety)
- \* Helping out in the office—answering phones, pricing & stocking merchandise, light cleaning, etc.
- \* Helping out at NECS events, such as the Chili Cookoff, Parking Lot Party, Soberfest, Open House, etc.

If you are interested in being of service, please fill out a volunteer form online <https://www.aaneok.org/members/online-forms/volunteer-form/> or stop by the office to fill one out in person!

**IF YOU'VE SIGNED UP BEFORE BUT HAVEN'T HEARD FROM US IN A WHILE—OR IF YOUR INFORMATION HAS CHANGED—PLEASE FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE FORM AGAIN!**

## **Woody's Gift**

*Why would a man leave his warm home on Christmas Eve to drive 17 miles in the snow?*

I finally came to the end of myself. I knew for certain I no longer had to pretend to look good for anyone. I was completely exhausted and worn out from pretending. I surrendered. Though I didn't know it at the time, this would become the best day of my life.

Looking into the mirror as I sat at the bar ordering my third martini, I experienced what might be called my "moment of truth." For the first time, I was convinced I no longer wanted to go home to my family drunk anymore. I paid for my martini, guzzled it down and left the bar.

I didn't know what to do or where to go. I lived in Loveland, Colorado, but that day I was drinking in Greeley, about 20 miles away. So I decided to drive to nearby Fort Collins to find out if I could get help for my drinking problem. I had heard about AA and I knew I could probably find their phone number in the telephone directory. I located the numbers in the phone book. I dialed and a man answered.

"Blacker's radiator shop," he said. I nervously told him that I must have dialed the wrong number.

"What are you looking for?" he replied. I told him I was trying to contact AA.

"You've got the right place," he said. We talked and I admitted for the first time in my life that I had a drinking problem and I needed help. The man invited me to his place of business and gave me directions to get there.

After I got to his shop, he locked the door and flipped the "Open" sign over to "Closed." I wondered what I had walked into. He introduced himself as RB and looked me square in the eye and said, "How can I help you?"

"I can't quit drinking on my own," I replied. RB sat down and shared his experience, strength and hope with me. He described his association with AA and told me that he had not had a drink in quite a few days. He said he owed his sobriety to AA.

After we talked awhile, he said there were four other men that I should probably talk to if I "was serious about doing something about my drinking." The men's names were Harry, Ken, Rudy and Woody. I shook RB's hand and set out to find Harry. I ended up spending the afternoon with Harry, Ken, Rudy and Woody. They shared their stories with me so I might be better able to decide if I wanted what they had.

Here's what I remember most: These five men stopped everything they were doing that December afternoon to try to help someone they had never met before. They cared. And their caring was something I would come to understand—but not that day. This instant friendship with these men was the beginning of my sobriety.

Woody, in particular, took me under his wing. I began to see him every morning for coffee in his little locksmith shop behind his home. I sat in my car every morning waiting for him to come out to open his place of business, Woody's Lock and Key.

He never once appeared to get irritated or tired of my ranting and confused babbling. I had no idea he had had plenty to experience listening to other drunks. He always impressed me by saying that he had sobriety through AA one day at a time. He said that even though he had the price of a bottle of whiskey in his pocket he no longer wanted it. The craving and terrible obsession for alcohol had been lifted. I certainly wanted what Woody had.

The next meeting of AA in this area was three days away on Christmas Eve back home in Loveland, which was 17 miles south of Fort Collins. Woody was insistent about taking me to this meeting, if I was willing to go. I was very willing and yet, for some reason, I told Woody I would meet him there. We bantered back and forth for some time before Woody finally consented to meet me at the 8 o'clock meeting. I'm sure he thought I would not show up. Drunks like me very seldom tell the truth. But I kept my word.

It was snowing as I walked up the steps and entered the meeting hall for my very first AA meeting. As I entered the room, I immediately saw Woody and felt relieved that I knew at least one person.

I couldn't understand why this beautiful little man would leave his family in Fort Collins on a snowy Christmas Eve and drive 17 miles in the dark to see if this person he knew nothing about would show up to the AA meeting. I didn't know it that day, but I had had my last drink.

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Several years would pass before I understood the depth of caring of Woody and other people in AA. This understanding happened when Woody died. I was new and still too selfish and self-centered to attend his funeral.

Much later, the day finally arrived when I would kneel at Woody's grave with tears in my eyes. I made my amends. I apologized from the depths of my soul for not saying goodbye.

I'll never forget that December afternoon Woody took me aside and talked to me. This is how sobriety begins, and how AA continues to work, by one alcoholic talking to another. Woody had unselfishly helped me to freedom.

Richard M.  
Dillon, Mont.

From the *Grapevine* October 2017

## Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



**1** Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



**2** Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



**3** Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



**4** Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



**5** Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



**6** If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



**7** Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



**8** Worship in your own way.



**9** Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



**10** Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



**11** Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



**12** "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

# Group Contributions

November YTD

12 & 12 Group		340.00
AA of Checotah	50.00	211.97
Acceptance Group		78.75
Acceptance/Ponca City		50.00
Awakening Group NS	1,250.00	3,889.00
Awakening Group Smoking		350.00
BA Action Group	300.00	1,400.00
BA Promises Group		130.00
BA Wisdom Group		825.00
Before & After		84.00
Beginners BBS		80.00
Bill's Group		80.00
Bottoms Up/Tahlequah		192.20
Brookside Men's Group		550.00
Claremore Easy Does It		257.92
Claremore Pioneer Group		50.00
Cornerstone Group		1,000.00
Desire Group		500.00
District 40		500.00
Downtown Group/Tulsa		500.00
First Step Group		1,000.00
Fresh Start/Owasso		44.00
Gratitude Group		500.00
Grove Nooners Group		200.00
Happy Hour Group/Tulsa		687.50
House on Jamestown	92.00	203.17
Inola Big Book	25.00	25.00
Lambda Unity		360.00
Last Call	162.34	1,428.88
Last Chance		202.00
Locust Grove		4.88
Mannford Nomad Group		30.00
McAlester Broken Bottle		108.85
McAlester Noon Group		311.02
Midtown Men's Group		229.75
Muskogee Donut Hole		1,743.00
Muskogee Happy Hour		10.00
New Beginnings		305.00
New Haven	114.24	939.95
Oak Park AA Group		275.00

November YTD

ODAT		1,308.56
Original Westside		1,014.60
Owasso Group		95.00
PATS Group	122.00	450.00
Primary Purpose		248.00
Pryor GTO Group		300.00
Ripcord/Muldrow		318.69
Rose Garden	72.00	1,023.25
Sallisaw Serenity		450.00
Sapulpa Helping Hand		300.00
Serenity Harbor		1,996.56
Skiatook Broken Brain		300.00
SOS Group	915.00	3,330.00
South Bixby AA		214.00
Southside Traditions		268.75
Sunday Morning Group	50.97	50.97
Sunrise Group		1,908.79
Tahlequah Eastside Group		30.00
Tanglewood Sand Springs		500.00
The Friendship Group	20.00	220.00
The Promises Group/Grove		139.98
Tulsa Big Book		1,159.25
Tulsa Group	20.00	294.47
Turley Big Book Group		15.00
Vinita Downtown	100.00	200.00
Wagoner Big Book		103.81
We Agnostics	72.52	119.06
Women's Connection		262.50

**November Contributions: \$4,367.12**

**YTD Contributions: \$44,172.38**

**Thank you for supporting**

**YOUR NECS!**

**Faithful Fivers are members who donate \$5 a month to Northeast Central Service as an act of gratitude. Please consider becoming a Faithful Fiver! We will list your name in our monthly newsletter.**

**Birthday Contributions**

Ross R.—34 years

Anonymous

**Faithful Fivers**

Jay M. Diana K.  
 Mark H. Marcia L.  
 Justin D. Betty M.  
 Billy R.

**In Memory Of**

Fred S. (2020)—\$2180  
 Bob P. (Oil Capitol)—\$200

**Example of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities:**

**50% to Central Service**

**10% to District**

**10% to Area**

**30% to GSO**

(Reprinted with permission from AA World Services/Self Support Pamphlet)

Donations can be mailed to these addresses (preaddressed envelopes are available at the Office):

<b>NECS</b>	<b>District 30</b>	<b>District 40</b>	<b>OK State</b>	<b>GSO</b>
4833 S Sheridan Suite 410 Tulsa, OK 74145	P.O. Box 14083 Tulsa, OK 74159	P.O. Box 701092 Tulsa, OK 74170	P.O. Box 18415 OKC, OK 73154	P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

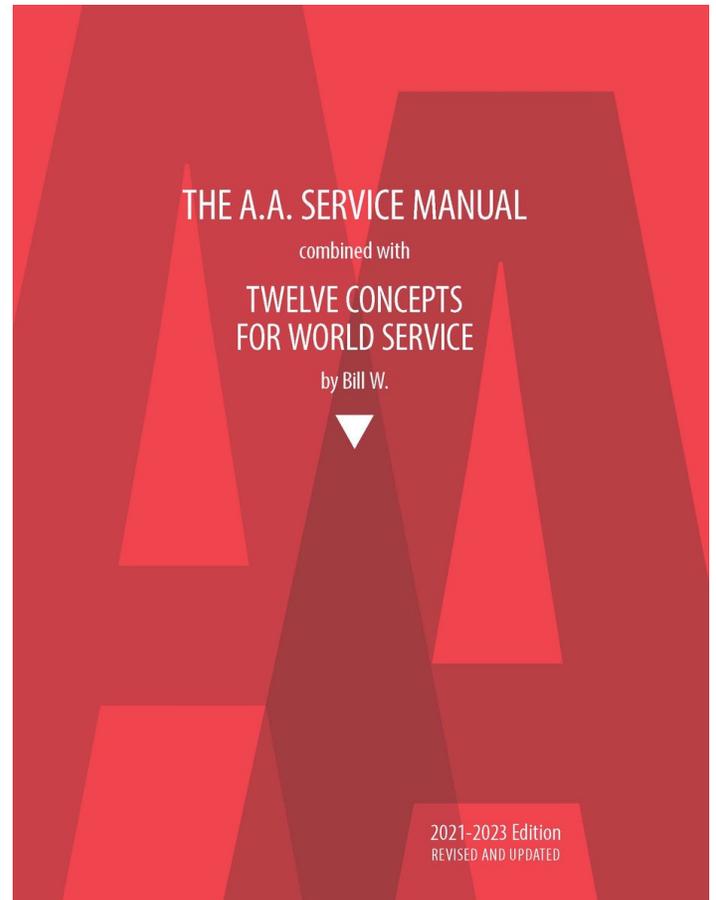
# NEW FROM AAWS & GRAPEVINE!

NEW GRAPEVINE PODCAST! The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour. Featuring AA members Don and Sam. Starting on October 4, 2021 with a new episode each Monday.

Each week Don and Sam will interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual “meeting after the meeting” manner. Special features will enhance each episode.

To hear the podcasts go to [aagrapevine.org/podcast](https://aagrapevine.org/podcast)

The new 2021-2023 A.A. Service Manuals are finally here! Only the large print size is currently available. \$5 each



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**AAWS is still dealing with the worldwide printing shortage & delay, and expects to see intermittent backorders for the foreseeable future. We appreciate your patience, as some titles may not be available for extended periods of time. AAWS is also seeing an 11%-12% increase in the cost of goods, so we may see price increases in the near future.**

**Most of the titles that have been backordered should be in stock by mid December, however the hard back version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is currently unavailable and is not expected to be back in stock until approximately January 18th.**

# OKLAHOMA GRATITUDE PLAN

Started in Oklahoma, stays in Oklahoma and used to benefit all 12th step work in the State of Oklahoma.

## HOW THE OKLAHOMA GRATITUDE PLAN WORKS:

On your A.A. birthday (or that of a friend) you send the Oklahoma State Office \$1.00 (suggested) for each year of sobriety.

Although it is your own expression of gratitude for each year of sobriety, your group can also benefit by posting your group number either on the envelope or on your check.

Sounds simple, IT IS. It also came about in just as simple a process. In 1990, the State Office started receiving some inquiries about making birthday contributions to the state as well as to the national office. In addition there were some contributions received at the State Office earmarked as a "Birthday contribution". Thus the idea was started.

## REMEMBER

The Gratitude Plan is for everyone ... active newer members filled with gratitude at the miracle of sobriety, and Old Timers who may be less active, but still want to help carry the message.

Participation in the Gratitude Plan is a privilege. Only by staying sober do we earn the right to have a part in it.

NOVEMBER IS GRATITUDE MONTH. Did you send in your contribution on your last A.A. birthday? If not, send it today.

Have questions? Email the Gratitude Committee Chair: [gratitude@aaoklahoma.org](mailto:gratitude@aaoklahoma.org)

**OKLAHOMA STATE GRATITUDE PLAN**

Please make checks payable to: "Oklahoma State Committee" (3 ways to use this envelope)

1) **Individual Gratitude Contribution:**  
This is my personal contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ showing my gratitude for my \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) or my \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) of sobriety.  
My Name \_\_\_\_\_ My Sobriety Date (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_ District (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
My E-mail address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
My Home Group \_\_\_\_\_ Group's Service ID No. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**SUGGESTED INDIV. GRATITUDE CONTRIBUTION: \$1.00 for each year of sobriety**

2) **Group Contribution:**  
Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group Service ID No. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
This is a group contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Area 57

3) This is a **Memorial Contribution** in remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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PO Box 18415  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154



**Oklahoma State Committee**  
Post Office Box 18415  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0415