

CAMEL COURIER

VOLUME 28 ◉ ISSUE 2 ◉ FEBRUARY 2014

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

District 11 – Area 34
coverage area includes:
Antrim, Benzie,
Grand Traverse,
Kalkaska, & Leelanau
counties.

Central Office
124 N. Division Street
Traverse City, MI 49684

◉ ◉ ◉

Hot Line
(231) 946-8823
24/7 Service

Business Line
(231) 946-6716

Business Office Hours
Mon – Fri 10AM - 5PM
Saturday Call for Appointment

Email
district11centraloffice@yahoo.com

Website
www.district11-aa.org

Spirituality in Recovery

My career in addiction treatment has spanned almost four decades and during that time there's been an extraordinary evolution of thought within this field. The growth of the behavioral health field is a testament to that evolution. Perhaps most telling is the development of the terms treatment providers use to refer to addiction and surrounding issues. We've gone from citing "alcoholism," "substance abuse," and "chemical dependency" to recognizing "substance use disorder" in this year's release of the DSM-5.

E.M. Jellinek published *The Disease Concept of Alcoholism* in 1960, and we have moved from treating this disease primarily with a medical, acute model of care to believing that the liver had more to do with the physiological part of the disease, to now recognizing it as a brain disease that is chronic, but for which treatment and recovery are possible.

From the beginning, some had the insight to recognize addiction as a three-fold disease—one that is physical, emotional and spiritual in nature. Those three components need healing in order for a lifelong journey of recovery to be truly realized. The term "dry drunk" or dry addict, which refers to someone who may have "cleaned up" physically and chooses not to use, but seems to remain an unhappy or emotionally unhealthy individual, speaks to the necessity of incorporating all three components into the recovery model. With that realization there has come a push in the last decade to really take a look at improving this "sixth sense" or "third spectrum," that spiritual aspect of our being, in

the treatment of chronic diseases.

What strikes me is that the sense of spirituality so aptly described in *Alcoholics Anonymous*, better known to those in recovery as "The Big Book," has survived through all text revisions since its first publication in 1939. So from that day to this, people who work in this field and offer recovery models foundationally steeped in the 12 Steps of *Alcoholics Anonymous* have fundamentally believed that spirituality is a cornerstone to the lifelong journey of recovery. On page 64 we find, "When the spiritual malady is overcome, we straighten out mentally and physically."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

BREAKING NEWS

TC GROUP has moved to 2419 Sybrandt Road – located off Cass Road just north of Airport Road (the same road where the old Sara Lee outlet store was). The meeting schedule remains the same. All meetings are now NON-SMOKING.

AL-ANON/ALATEEN

District 39

coverage area includes:

Antrim, Benzie,
Grand Traverse,
Kalkaska, Leelanau
& Manistee counties.

Al-Anon/Alateen

Family Groups - D39

PO Box 5132
Traverse City, MI 49696



Information Line

(231) 938-7399

Response within 24 Hours

Website

www.alanon-d39.org

Spirituality in Recovery (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This allows us to find a life that is "happy, joyous and free" (p. 133). However the Big Book also indicates that the road to happiness is one that must be "trudged." Doing the work to have this spiritually satisfying and fulfilled life while living successfully through a chronic illness isn't necessarily easy, but it yields great rewards. A 2010 study published in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*, found a strong connection between regular attendance at AA meetings, a greater sense of spirituality and fewer instances of alcohol use. A study published in 2013 in *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health* found "a more positive sense of spiritual well-being" in patients upon discharge from a residential treatment program.

There are still many in our field that hesitate to really embrace this spiritual component. Through my years I've found that the things we fight against the hardest are usually the simplest of solutions that lie in front of us. There are many debates that exist within the treatment community today: medication-assisted treatment vs. abstinence-based care, utilization of western medicine vs. eastern medicine, therapeutic communities vs. the Minnesota Model of care. With all of our different philosophical and research-based best practices, if as a field we could come to agreement on one thing--spirituality as an axiom

of recovery--perhaps we could walk forward together and display a united front to our communities and our nation.

BY Rebecca J.Flood • ADDICTION PROFESSIONAL • December, 2013

Central Office

Always Needs Volunteers

Whether you can help — in the OFFICE, handle
AFTER HOURS CALLS,
be on the 12 STEP CALL or RIDES LIST ...

PLEASE WE NEED YOU!!!

For More Information,
call **Susan N.**, Central Office's Volunteer Coordinator,
at (231) 645-1267.

THANK YOU

To all the January
Central Office Volunteers:

Alex	James	Lisa
Angie	Joseph	Rick
Charlie	Ken	Ruthann
Daniel	Kevin	Susan
Edwina	Kip	Susan N.
Greg	Linda	Tom
		Victor

RECOVERY ★ UNITY ★ SERVICE

Open Speaker Meetings at Munson Hospital Basement Saturdays (8:00pm)

Upcoming Speakers

February 1 Matt S.
February 8 Lynn G.
February 15 Liz B.
February 22 Genie A.
March 1 OPEN
March 8 Kal F.
March 15 Lynn P.
March 22 Ryan D.
March 29 Paul R.
April 5 Brian S.
April 12 OPEN
April 19 Jim J.
April 26 Jeff G.

**** Speakers Subject to Change ****

If you're interested in talking at an
Open Speaker Meeting, please contact
Brian S. at (231) 715-6866.

AA Archives - February

February 4, 1939 – Dr. Harry Tiebout, 1st Psychiatrist to endorse AA and use in his practice

February 9, 1939 - 400 copies of *Big Book* manuscript sent to Doctors, Judges and Psychiatrists for comments

February 8, 1940 - Bill and others dine with 60 rich friends of J. D. Rockefeller in NY

February 23, 1940 - 1st AA clubhouse opens at 334-1/2 West 24th Street in NYC

February 18, 1943 - During gas rationing in WWII, AA's are granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases

February 23, 1959 - AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the *Big Book*

February 3, 1981 - 1st issue of "*Markings*" AA Archives Newsletter is published

History is our Greatest Asset! We each arrived at the doors of AA with an intensive and lengthy "History of Things That Do Not Work!". Today, in AA and in recovery, our history has added an intensive and lengthy "History of Things That DO Work!" ... and We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it!

Note from the Editor

GRAPEVINE – (also known as “AA's Meeting in Print”) is the official international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous ... and it turns 70 this year.

I happened to find the first *GRAPEVINE* – Vol. I, No. 1, June, 1944 – online recently. The yearly subscription was \$1.50; and single copies were \$0.15. Today, a one year subscription costs \$28.97, and a single copy at TC's Central Office is available for \$2.50.

In any event, what caught my eye in the first publication (only eight pages) was this column appearing on the final page:

CONFERENCE ON ALCOHOLISM

On April 19th, a one-day conference on “Alcoholism, Prevention & Cure” was held in Lansing, Michigan, at Michigan State College. It was sponsored by the Michigan Temperance Foundation (!) and Yale University School of Alcoholic Studies, and the last speech of the day was on Alcoholics Anonymous. The speaker was a doctor from Detroit, a member of the Detroit group. We are told he did a swell job, and that the conference was followed by an A.A. banquet, at which some 75 A.A.s and their wives, from 8 different Michigan towns, AND Chicago, were present. That, of course turned into a regular A.A. meeting. These state-wide get-togethers seem to be gathering in frequency. The Public Health Commissioner of the State of Michigan addressed himself particularly to the A.A.'s present, and we think one remark of his is worth quoting: “You're listening here to doctors, psychiatrists, sociologists and educators . . . but don't pay too much attention to them! You people in A.A. are doing a fine job in coping with this problem directly. Keep on doing it in your own way!” Copyright © *The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*, June, 1944

DISTRICT 11 MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2014

The meeting opened at the Munson Hospital Cafeteria Dining Room #2 at 9:30 am with the Serenity Prayer, followed by the opening readings and roll call:

District 11 Statement of Purpose – Deanna D.
1st Tradition – Dave L.
1st Concept – Jodie S.
Declaration of Unity – Ted K.
Roll Call – 10 voting members

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary – Deanna D. December 2013 minutes were read and accepted as corrected.

Treasurer – Jodie S.

December 31st, 2013 balance \$2,423.87. Contributions=\$28.00 from: District 11 November Meeting and District 11 December Meeting. Expenditures=\$251.00. Prudent reserve=\$600.00. No travel balance to be reported going forward. Treasury report for January 2014 accepted. Please send all District 11 contributions to PO Box 1231, Traverse City, MI 49685.

Chair – Paul R. Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PI/CPC Committee. Phil S. Nothing to report.

Corrections Committee. Jerry H. is not present. Paul G. (Corrections Alternate) is in attendance. They are always in need of volunteers.

Grapevine. Rick T. Report sent via email.

"I have compiled a list of Open Speaker Meetings in District 11 and will start by having a meeting picked at random to attend, and have a free raffle for a subscription to the Grapevine. If anyone has or knows of a speaker meeting please let me know if they are willing to have me there to do this. I will start with a giveaway bi-monthly. I have not received the back issues of the magazine that I ordered by mail on 12/10/2013 so I'm wondering if the Treasurer has received canceled check yet, please let me know by email. Also I'm still waiting on the free stuff from the Grapevine that I have ordered online and by mail. I'm going to call and speak with someone if not received soon. I will try to start a Grapevine/Li Vina Display as soon as I can put the items together to build it, hopefully done by March sometime."

Treatment Facilities. Dave L. Nothing to report.

Special Needs. Sharon M. She has started to inquire at meetings if there are any special needs, and the answer is "YES."

1. The Central Office is not handicapped accessible.
2. Signers are wanted/needed for open talks/meetings. She has contacted Disability Network regarding same.
3. An updated list of potential drivers for pick-up/drop-off of folks who otherwise cannot get to meetings.
4. Home based meetings for those who are house bound.

Paul R. suggests that a sign-up sheet be distributed at groups for people who would be willing to drive or host home based meetings. He asks Sharon M. to bring a flyer to the next meeting that can be passed out to groups around the district.

DCM REPORTS

Antrim. Dave L. Buttons have been created by Rick T. for the Northern Michigan Inter Area Spring Roundup 2014. Cost is \$1.00/ea. Proceeds to support the Roundup.

Benzie. Open position, no report.

Grand Traverse. Paul R. He is still not receiving a very positive response from the Grand Traverse group conscience meetings he has attended in regard to group/district unity. However, he does have more group conscience meetings to attend. He suggested that groups could announce and remind folks at meetings about the district meeting and that anyone is welcome to attend.

Kalkaska. Mel H. Distributed the Blizzard Weekend flyer to everyone in attendance. As a reminder, the event will take place January 24-26, 2014.

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DISTRICT 11 MEETING MINUTES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Leelanau. Ted K. Nothing to report.

WMAA (Area 34) Report

Dave L. attended the Area 34 meeting on December 15, 2014 in Cheboygan, MI.

Workshop session topic of discussion about how WMAA 34 and the service committees can help home groups.

Ideas brought up will be put together and made available at future meetings.

Kenny Katz (Outgoing Area 34 delegate):

A lot of support shown for the recent MCYPAA convention in the Traverse City area. Approximately 500 people attended.

He expressed his gratitude for having served as Area 34 delegate to the GSO.

He turned over the delegate position to new Area 34 delegate Russ Larsen.

New Business: The 2014 budget will be reviewed and discussed at the January WMAA meeting on January 19, 2014 in Comstock Park, MI.

GROUP INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

Paul R. – TC Group is in transition and will be moving to new facility once one is found. He is focused on maintaining unity within the group because change is not easy.

Jodie S. – The Joe & Charlie Meeting at West End on Wednesday at 7:00 PM needs support. She also suggested that any groups who are planning AA activities or events can send the information to her, and she can post them on the Central Office website.

Paul G. – The Men's Stag at St. Michael's Lutheran Church on Sunday at 8:00 PM still needs support.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Schedule Format Change.

Jodie S. - She will get in contact with Rick T. to further discuss the meeting schedule changes. She is now the Central Office Webmaster, and is willing to make meeting schedule changes, and also add county schedules.

District 11 2014 Budget.

Last month Geri H. suggested that the GSRs take the projected District 11 2014 budget back to groups to review. No feedback regarding the same. **MOTION:** GSRs to present the projected District 11 2014 budget to groups and bring comments, questions and/or concerns back to District Meeting in February. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul G. – St. Michael's Lutheran Church would like to host a District 11 event/workshop in the late Spring of 2014. Jodie S. suggests that we do it the weekend of June 13, 2014, and hold the district meeting on June 14, 2014, followed by a potluck and a delegate report. Dave L. will contact Russ L. (Area 34 delegate) to save the date. Paul R. suggests that we present a flyer to distribute around the district. **MOTION:** Hold our District 11 Meeting on June 14, 2014, with a district function to follow. Motion passes unanimously.

Victor - The purchaser/literature representative for the Central Office. He is present to voice a need for better communication between groups and the Central Office. How can we help make this happen? Ted K. suggests the possibility of a liaison between District 11 and the Central Office. A discussion followed. **MOTION:** Create an opening on District 11 Agenda for TC Central Office Liaison report. Motion passes unanimously. Victor is willing to be the liaison. YAY!

Mel H. – He has received the flyer for the Northern Michigan Inter Area Spring Roundup 2014. He will distribute the flyer to the contact list.

The meeting closed at 11:00 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Munson Hospital Cafeteria Dining Room #2, Traverse City, MI.

Yours in love and service, Deanna D., District 11 Secretary

Central Office's website continues to improve under the supervision and maintenance of our new Web Master, **Jodie S.** Please visit our website for various AA and Al-Anon/Alateen recovery announcements, meeting schedules (printable), and other pertinent information:

www.district11-aa.org

CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

of January 8, 2014

(MINUTES to be approved at the February 12, 2014 Board Meeting)

Board Members present: Rick (Chair), Ken (Treasurer), Victor (Literature Purchaser), Jodie

Others present: Phil, Kip, Mike

The Board Meeting commenced at 5:40pm by Rick with a moment of silence followed by the *Serenity Prayer*.

Chairman Announcement:

Chairman Rick received applications from two individuals who want to become Board Members. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Victor to accept the applications submitted by Phil and Mike. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Mike read the Minutes of the December 11, 2013 Board Meeting. Victor submitted an amendment under the "Literature Buyers Report" to strike "approximately 50%". Phil moved to accept. Seconded by Jodie. Motion carried to accept the Minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Ken mentioned that Victor inventoried all books and merchandise at Central Office and Ken has been entering the information into the computer for Year-End Taxes. Ken explained the process he is undertaking as Treasurer and how all his efforts are entered into QuickBooks. He further discussed the possibilities of changing accountants for Central Office. Finally, Ken pointed out changes to both the November and December Treasurer's Reports. Phil moved to accept Treasurer's Report as amended. Seconded by Victor. Motion carried.

Chairman Announcement:

Chairman Rick received one more application from a prospective Board Member. A motion was made by Jodie and seconded by Phil to accept the application submitted by Kip. Motion carried.

Webmaster Report:

Jodie volunteered to become the new Webmaster. She mentioned some of the changes/additions that she would like to implement on Central Office's website. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Kip to accept Jodie as the new Webmaster. Motion carried.

Round-Up Report:

Jodie mentioned the Round-Up Committee has taken the necessary steps to become autonomous from Central Office and District 11. She will be providing the Central Office Board with documents from the IRS and the State of Michigan showing that the Round-Up Committee has acquired a tax-exempt non-profit status.

Camel Courier Report:

Art has resigned as Editor. Mike has volunteered to become the new Editor. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Victor to accept Mike as the new Camel Courier Editor. Motion carried.

Volunteer Coordinator Report:

Susan was absent. No Report available.

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CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEETING M I N U T E S

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

IT Report:

Ken presented his findings of changing the Central Office telephone carrier. The package includes Broadband internet access and three phone lines – keeping the same numbers for the Hotline and Business line, and adding a toll-free number. This service would increase the monthly telephone bill by over \$30 per month. After much discussion, a motion was made by Phil and seconded by Jodie to approve the telephone service provider change. Motion carried.

Literature Report:

Victor said things are going well and that he is staying within the spending limits for purchasing literature.

Old Business:

There was none.

New Business:

*Motion by Ken to present Victor with a \$100 gas card to cover his travel expenses for 2013. Seconded by Kip. Motion carried.

*Motion by Ken to change insurance brokers for Central Office's "Business Insurance Policy" to Tompkins Insurance in Traverse City, MI.

*Central Office Annual Meeting commenced. (see attachment)

A motion was made by Kip, seconded by Victor to adjourn the regular Board Meeting, and open the Central Office Annual Meeting. Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

The next Central Office Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 5:30pm at the Central Office.

These MINUTES were prepared by Mike H., Acting Secretary



CENTRAL OFFICE ANNUAL MEETING

January 8, 2014

M I N U T E S

Board Members present: Rick (Chair), Ken (Treasurer), Victor (Literature Purchaser), Mike (Camel Courier Editor), Kip and Phil.

Others present: None.

The Annual Meeting commenced at 7:00pm by Rick.

Rick asked current Officers if they would like to continue serving in their position in 2014.

District 11 Central Office, Inc. Officers for the year 2014 are as follows: Rick (Chairperson), Ken (Treasurer), Rick (Assistant Treasurer), Kip (Secretary). Board Members are: Victor (Literature Purchaser), Jodie (Webmaster), Mike (Camel Courier Editor), Dale and Phil.

No further business at the Annual Meeting.

A motion was made by Victor, seconded by Mike to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm with *The Lord's Prayer*.

The next Central Office Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 5:30pm at the Central Office.

These MINUTES were prepared by Mike H., Acting Secretary

Calendar of Events - February, 2014

February 1, 8, 15, 22 Open Talk at Munson Hospital basement, 1105 Sixth Street, Traverse City, 8:00pm. Please contact Brian S. (231) 715-6866 if you would like to be a Speaker.

February 7-9 41st Annual East Central Region Conference of Delegates, Hyatt Regency Schaunberg, 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL, For More Information: Call (847) 605-1234 or view flyer: <http://members.kconline.com/district43/flyers/41stEctrlConfDel.pdf>.

February 8 District 11 Meeting, Munson Hospital at the Cafeteria Dining Room #2, 1105 Sixth Street, Traverse City at 9:30am. For More Information: Email area34.district11@gmail.com.

February 8 Oakland County AA Tradition Skit, 1:00-3:00pm Meetings, 3:00-4:00pm Snacks, 4:30pm Skit, 5:00-6:00pm Fellowship. For More Information: view their website at <http://www.aoaklandcountymi.org/index.html>.

February 12 Central AA Office Board Meeting, 124 N. Division Street, Traverse City at 5:30pm. All AA and Al-Anon/Alateen members are welcome. For More Information: Call (231) 946-6716.

February 16 Western Michigan Area 34 Assembly. For More Information: view their website at <http://www.wmaa34.com/>.

February 21 Charlevoix Alano Club, 106 Mason Street in Charlevoix, Potluck Dinner, 6:30pm, Speaker @ 7:15pm.

February 21-23 Men's Garage Group Cabin Fever, Holland, MI. For More Information: Email ggcabinfever@gmail.com.

February 28-March 2 Area 33 RoundUp, Adoba Hotel, 600 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, MI. For More Information: Email mrmatt4911@yahoo.com, or view <http://march-roundup.org/>.

Do you have an upcoming AA or Al-Anon/Alateen event in your area?

Please email information to mthotis@aol.com, and enter "Camel Courier" in the Subject Line.

Central Office Treasurers Report of December, 2013

Checking Account Balance	\$ 3,155.86
Total Deposits	\$ 5,469.61
Before December Expenses	\$ 8,625.47

Expenditures for December 2013

Rent	- 735.00
Volunteer Coordinator	- 440.00
Telephone	- 140.65
Postage	- 64.51
Literature	-3,082.60
Office Supplies	- 105.64
Copier Service	- 125.00
Total Expenses for December	\$ -4,693.40
Checking Account Balance	\$ 3,932.07
CD Saving	544.99
CD Saving	513.36
Sales for Dec. 2014	3,771.22
Sales Tax Due	226.27
Donations to Central Office	1,471.15
2013 RoundUp Fund Balance	5.25

Contributions Received in December

West End Group
MCYPPA
Suttons Bay Sunday 7PM
Bayview Westland
Harbor Springs Thursday AM
Copemish AA
Misc. Anonymous
Provemont Group Lake Leelanau
Norwalk 3rd Tradition Group
Bob Israel

✧ Report compiled by Ken W. ✧

High Fives, Back Slaps & a Big THANKS to

ART G.

for his hard work and dedication at Central Office – over two years as a Board Member and Editor of the *Camel Courier*.

Central Office - January 2014 Call Log

- * **56** Females & **76** Males contacted Central Office
- * **70** by phone & **65** walk-ins & **19** after hours calls

INQUIRING ABOUT:

- * **31** Conference Approved Literature
- * **11** Non-Conference Literature
- * **05** Al-Anon Literature
- * **06** Pamphlets
- * **19** Gift Items
- * **00** Special Items
- * **33** AA Meetings in District 11
- * **03** AA Meetings in Other Areas
- * **01** Al-Anon Meetings
- * **03** Other Alcoholism Resources
- * **02** Other 12 Step Programs
- * **07** Ride to Meeting
- * **02** 12 Step Call
- * **02** Drinking Problem—Self
- * **00** Drinking Problem—Family
- * **00** Drinking Problem—Other
- * **25** Other

Could You Ever 'Thank' Your Addiction?

Is this concept as far fetched as some of you may be thinking? How on earth can I 'thank' my addiction and how does it deserve a 'thank you'. Bear with me here for a minute and let that thought mull around in your head while I tell you why I am asking it.

I asked this question a while back to some fellow recoverees with what could only be described as 'mixed reactions' and no-one seemed to grasp what I was aiming at. As we all know, anyone who has lived through active addiction will know that there isn't anything positive that it brings.

Sure we all had (or have) 'quick fixes' but the long-term problems far outweigh the short term benefits. If you don't believe me, get a piece of paper and write them all down – the pros vs cons – and get back to me!

But here's the deal. If (or when) you end active addiction you begin to live your life in a far more orderly fashion,

more rigid structures are put in place and you become more determined as a person.

You are dedicated to carrying on something you have started (the only thing that most 'addicts' have completed is a prison sentence), you can deal with situations in better, more rational manner, you are more patient, a better listener, empathic, sympathetic, honest and hard working.

Your health improves, you are trustworthy, maybe better with money, more organised, you have more natural energy. You are more able to interact with peers, your self-confidence/self-esteem/self belief and self-worth improves, you are more intimate with others feelings, your overall behaviour improves... need I go on?

You see, reading the title, most of you would have thought "No Way!" but the more you delve into the person you have become (or the person that you hope to become if abstinence is a new concept to you) then take a minute to sit back and believe that it's not as mindblowing as you may have first thought.

We would all honestly hope to have lived through life living with the characteristics I listed above, but recovering from active addiction has made you finally able to be that person.

It's not easy, but it's worth it if you are honest.

So take a moment out of your lives and say thanks to your addiction. It's (rightly or wrongly) made (or is making) you a better person.

Plus, without an addiction to recover from, how else are you going to get two birthdays a year!

As always, "Make a decision to have a great day, misery is always an option".

BY Matt K. • www.recoverystories.info • January, 2014



About the *Camel Courier*

Articles printed in the **Camel Courier** are the opinions expressed by individuals and not necessarily those of Central Office, the Board of Directors, or AA as a whole.

If you have an AA announcement, a meeting change you want others to know about, an upcoming AA event, a new meeting you want to get started, an anniversary, or a story to tell ...

please submit
via snail mail to:

Camel Courier, c/o Central Office
124 N. Division Street,
Traverse City, MI 49684

or email to:
mthotis@aol.com
and enter "**Camel Courier**"
in the Subject Line.

All items are subject to editing.
Deadline for submission is the 25th
day of every month.

Published monthly, the
Camel Courier is free online at
www.district11-aa.org, or can be
picked up at Central Office.

Announcing the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*

A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. The book is priced at \$12.00.

The official publication date of the first printing of our Big Book, as noted by the United States Copyright Office, was April 10, 1939. There were 4,730 books printed, with red cloth binding, wide columns, thick paper (which was why it was called the Big Book in the first place), and a red, yellow, black and white dust jacket, which came to be known as the "circus cover."

To commemorate this historic printing—and the book's 75th anniversary—the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition, a faithful replica of the original, to be published in April 2014. This edition is published in the original English-language text only.

Central Office's Literature Purchaser, **Victor**, plans to pre-order as many of these replicas as he has orders for. These orders can be placed by an individual or by a group.

Orders need to be placed by **February 7, 2014**. If you're interested, please call Victor as soon as possible at (231) 640-4392.

MCYPAA UPDATE

Join the MCYPAA 36 Host Committee Business Meetings (held monthly):

Unitarian Universalist Church, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy., Flint MI, 48507

Flint will be hosting the 2014 MCYPAA Conference at the Auburn Hills Marriott - Pontiac

For dates and times please contact:

Karina L. mercyme90213@gmail.com . . . or . . . Austin S. FreshStart11513@gmail.com

"In my view, there isn't the slightest objection to groups who wish to remain strictly anonymous, or to people who think they would not like their membership in A.A. known at all. That is their business ... and this is a very natural reaction. "However, most people find that anonymity to this degree is not necessary, or even desirable. Once one is fairly sober, and sure of this, there seems no reason for failing to talk about A.A. membership in the right places. This has a tendency to bring in other people. Word of mouth is one of our most important communications. "So we should criticize neither the people who wish to remain silent, nor even the people who wish to talk too much about belonging to A.A., provided they do not do so at the public level and thus compromise our whole Society."

- - Bill Wilson "As Bill Sees It"