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HOW July 5, 2004

"CHARMING" IS THE WORD FOR ALCOHOLICS

Down at the very bottom of the social scale of the AA society are the pariahs, the untouchables and the outcasts, all underprivileged and all known by an excoriating epithet.. relatives.

I am a relative. I know my place. I am not complaining. But I hope no one will mind if I venture the plaintive confession that there are times, oh, many times when I wish I were an alcoholic. By that, I mean I wish I were an AA. The reason is that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist, it has been my privilege to meet many people who are considered charming. I number among my friends, stars and lesser lights of stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet; I know ladies and gentlemen of both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House; I've broken bread with kings, ambassadors, and ministers; and I say, after that catalog which could be extended, that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to any person I have indicated.

I asked myself why I consider so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in AA. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few.

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The AA people are what they are, and they were what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor and an awareness of the universal truth.

They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But when they have found their restoration, they are still as sensitive as ever; responsive to the beauty and the truth and eager about the intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions.

They are imaginative, and that helped make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imaginations on to greater efforts. Others guzzled only to block out unendurable visions that rose in their imaginations. But having found their restorations, their imagination is responsive to new incantations, and their talk abounds with color and might, and that makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed of a sense of humor. Even in their cups they have been known to be damnably funny. Often it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made them seek their escape in the bottle. But in finding their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to laugh at themselves, the very height of self-conquest. Go to the meetings and listen to the laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candlelight.

And they are possessed of a sense of universal truth, that is often a new thing in their heart. The fact that this 'at-one-ment' with God's universe had never been awakened within them is sometimes the reason they drank. They have found a power greater than themselves which they diligently serve. And, that gives them a charm that never was elsewhere on land and sea; it makes you know that God Himself is charming, because the AA people reflect His mercy and forgiveness.



STEP

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

For us, the prospect of gaining a new perspective was unbelievably painful. It was only by repeated humiliations that we were forced to learn something about humility. It was only at the end of a long road, marked by successive defeats and humiliations, and the final crushing of our self-sufficiency, that we began to feel humility as something more than a condition of groveling despair.

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TRADITION

"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

- 1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
- 2. Should the *Grapevine* sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
- 3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
- 4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
- 5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
- 6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

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CONCEPT

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

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TREATMENT: GROUP COMMITMENTS

HOW

ALCOHOPE

Meeting Open to AA Community 5925 37th St, Vero Beach, FL 32966 778-7215

TUESDAYS	SATURDAYS		
Candlelight	July 6	Sebastian Freedom	July 10
Easy Does It	July 13	South Vero	July 17
Free & Easy	July 20	Vero 12 & 12	July 24
Friday Young People	July 27	Barefoot Bay	July 31
Indian River Men's	Aug 3	Candlelight	Aug 7
Midnight Oil	Aug 10	Discovery Women	Aug 14
New Awakening	Aug 17	Easy Does It	Aug 21
Noontime Recovery	Aug 24	Friday Young People	Aug 28

Alcohope and CEBH meetings are sponsored by the Treatment Committee of the Indian River Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous and should be conducted in keeping with AA guidelines.

If your group would like to participate in the rotating commitment for carrying the AA message into these facilities, please contact the Treatment Committee Chair, Judy Whalen.

778-4044

IN LOVING MEMORY

Alcoholics Anonymous was saddened to learn this week of the passing of one of its members, Someone Else. Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else had been with us for many years and did far more than one person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, an activity to volunteer for, a committee meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest contributors to AA. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else sometimes appeared superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much from Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. We can't depend on Someone Else any more. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow—but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the thing Someone Else did?

Anonymous

CENTER FOR EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CEBH - Meeting Closed to Public

1190 37th St, Vero Beach, FL 32960

563-4666

MONDAYS						
Friday Young People's	July 5	South Vero	Aug 2			
Indian River Thursday	July 12	Friday Young People	Aug 9			
Noontime Recovery	July 19	Indian River Thursday	Aug 16			
Safe Harbor Women's	July 26	6 Indian River Women Aug				
		Noontime Recovery	Aug 30			

CEBH is a speaker/discussion meeting. Our format (as with Alcohope) is for two people to go to the facility, a meeting leader and a speaker. Unlike Alcohope, however, this is NOT a public meeting. A copy of the AA Preamble and How It Works are at the front desk. Please return them after the meeting. Once the leader opens the meeting in the usual way, the speaker will share his/her experience, strength and hope as it pertains to alcoholism., making sure to leave adequate time for questions and answers. The meeting is closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Group commitments are currently needed for the CEBH meeting on Mondays at 7PM.

GETTING OUT OF SHAPE?

After joining AA, I gained quite a bit of weight. A friend told me it was because I didn't get as much exercise as I used to. "But I never exercised while I was drinking," I protested. "Sure you did," he countered. "The exercise program you were on had a number of routines: Hitting the bottle; Bending the rules; Stretching the truth; Running into trouble; Jumping to conclusions; Stepping on toes; Dodging responsibility; Pushing your luck; Carrying a grudge; Throwing fits; and picking up the pieces."

----Don A., Lakeville, AR Both Reprinted from The Grapevine March 2004 Copyright 2003 by the AA Grapevine, Inc.



Y L... and Pass It On!

NEED SUPPORT OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Monday 6PM

Newport Club ~ Outside Room

Thursday 7PM

The Source Mission 1872 Commerce Ave. Vero Beach

HELP WANTED
Indian River Central Office
PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO SPEAK AT
(NON) AA MEETINGS
in the community
SIGN UP SHEET AVAILABLE
AT YOUR GROUP OR CALL
MARTY P. ~ 299-3296

NEW AWAKENING GROUP

NEEDS SUPPORT Monday through Friday

OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS 7:30AM CHURCH OF CHRIST 33rd Ave & Route 60

NEW GROUP

WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM **VERO BEACH STEP & TRADITION** CLOSED 12x12 BYOB* DISCUSSION SALVATION ARMY DINING HALL 2655 5th ST SW

(Corner of 27th Ave and 5th St SW) Entrance to building on 5th St SW side * Bring Your Own Book

WAKE UP GROUP

MEETS TUESDAYS 7-8AM ROSELAND METHODIST CHURCH (LIBRARY)

OPEN DISCUSSION 12962 ROSELAND ROAD

LAKEWOOD PARK GROUP

Annual Anniversary Celebration Friday, July 23rd Bring a dish if you wish Food and Fellowship at 6:30PM ~ Speaker at 8 United Methodist Church ~ Turnpike Feeder Rd

NEEDS SUPPORT

NO B.S. **WOMEN'S GROUP**

MEETS TUESDAYS 7-8:30PM **NEWPORT CLUB** TV ROOM

SOUTH VERO GROUP FRIDAY NIGHT 11:30PM **OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING NOW MEETS** AT 10:30PM

NEW!

(OPEN DISCUSSION / SMOKING) MEETING

> SUNDAYS ~ 7PM **NEWPORT CLUB**

NEW! **NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP**

Meets at Roseland Fire Department 8025 129th Court, Roseland OPEN DISCUSSION/ **SMOKING MEETING** WEDNESDAYS @ NOON

48th ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION 60th SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 4th - 8th, 2004 The Adams Mark Hotel Jacksonville Rooms @ \$89/Night Phone 1-800-444-2326

VERO BEACH GROUP

Information Available at Central Office.

SUNDAYS 8PM - OPEN DOUBLE SPEAKER MEETING ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NOW NON-SMOKING

FCYPAA

Fundraising Pig Roast and Hawaiian Luau Longpoint Campgrounds - Pavilion #4 (one mile north of Sebastian Inlet) Saturday, July 31st * 8AM to 10PM \$5 CONTRIBUTION Canoe Rental and Camping Available FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP Questions? Call Mardi at (772) 559-2624 or visit our website at: www.fcypaa.org or contact Longpoint Campgrounds at (321) 952-4532



JULY BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY AA BIRTHDAY!

To publish announcements of birthdays being celebrated by your Group's members each month, please bring list of names and numbers of years to Central Office and put in filing cabinet in folder labeled "HOW Editor," send via email to irhow@yahoo.com, or use link from website at indianriveraa.freeservers.com.

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**********	NOONTIME RECOVERY		NEW AWAKENING		ODAAT	*
W.	Celebrates Last Friday		Celebrates Last Wednesday		Celebrates Last Friday	☆
<i>×</i>	Al H.	1	Donna H.	2	James R.	1 🕌
Â.	Gary B.	1			Danny C.	1 🖟
*	Judi S.	2	HIBISCUS MONDAY NIGH	-IT	Irene C.	2
\Rightarrow	Leonard O.	6	Manny C.	15	Adam B.	2 🖈
*	George S.	25	Bud Ň.	16	Kathy T.	3
Z.	June:		Stanley G.	27	Sherrie Mc	8 *
₩ ₩	Andrew B.	1	Gus B.	28	Frank Z.	13 🗼
♣	Brenda L.	5	Pat C.	29	Dan N.	13 🥋
*	David G.	13	Howard G.	50	Lisa C.	14 🙀
\Rightarrow					Debbie C.	15 🖈
\Rightarrow	SOUTH VERO GROUP		DISCOVERY WOMEN'S	;	Don S.	16 🖈
*	Celebrates Last Wednesday		Missy D.	1	Bridget C.	16 🛣
M	Bill S.	1	Sally V.	1	Jane B.	16 ★
*	Rob R.	2	Judy D.	21	Richard B.	20 🗼
₩	Julie L.	7			Bobbi B.	22 🗼
\Rightarrow	Jim P.	9	VERO 12 &12		Gene B.	22 🧩
*	Donna A.	13	Celebrates Last Thursday		Suzie S.	23 🖈
×	Carole H.	15	Donnie J.	1	Bill V.	23
×	Dutch V.	19	Jeremiah D.	2	Ted M.	24 ★ 31 ★
₩ ₩	Web S.	20	Kelly W.	2	Kay D.	31
♣	Dave N.	26	Joe E.	12		♣
*			Cliff S.	18	KING'S HIGHWAY	*
\Rightarrow	SURFSIDE		Mark L.	19	Jeanie B.	16 🛦
\Rightarrow	Rich P.	2			Ben	17 🖈
***	Diane H.	13	INDIAN RIVER MEN'S		Ivan P.	23 🖈
7	Eddie A.	16	Alan P.	3		-A-
7	Pat C.	29			ROSELAND METHODIST	ERS 🛣
₩ M	Howard G.	50	INDIAN RIVER WOMEN	l'S	SUNDAY NIGHT BEGINNE	23 ★
♣			Charlotte	14	Ivan P.	23 ₩
A	BAREFOOT BAY					- €
*	Bill B.	3	BEACHSIDE BEGINNER	RS	HAPPY	₩
*	Dale R.	8	Margaret R.	1	AA	*
\Rightarrow	Diana D.	14	Diane H.	13		\Rightarrow
\Rightarrow	Mary B.	21			BIRTHDAY	/
*	June:	_	SERENITY HOUSE			· ♦
☆	Claire K.	1	Roseanne McC	5		☆

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STEP 7: A LIFETIME SUPPLY

Coming into AA and finding the acceptance and love I'd sought in a bottle was a relief beyond description, but reading the Steps was a shock. Fortunately for me, my home group did not hammer the Steps into newcomers. Rather, they talked a lot about the Slogans and the need to not drink a day at a time. I needed that.

During a discussion of Step Seven, I made the statement, "If my shortcomings and character defects are removed, there will be nothing left!" I need not have feared. What I've learned since then is that I have more than a lifetime's supply of character defects. My Higher Power and I can't get rid of them all in my allotted time on this earth.

More importantly, I've learned that if I simply let go of a character defect--release it--my Higher Power will replace it with a character asset. As I release anger I find that I am friendlier. As I release hate I become more loving. As I release fear I become more secure. I don't have to go out looking for friendliness, love, security, or any other trait that I desire. I just have to give up the feelings that are manifestations of my character defects and the good automatically flows into my life. . . . And I used to think that I would become hollow without my character defects!

So, how does it work? Daily. On a daily basis I choose not to drink--or to fear, hate, be angry, or indulge in any other defect that's raising its ugly head. They're all there waiting, and when given a chance they charge into the center of my life and try to take over. But when I work Step Seven I find that my life is filled with good, and people actually like to be around me--something they never did in my drinking days.

C. from Katmandu Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., July 1995 Reprinted with permission

SPIRITUAL RECYCLING

I have never been able to identify with the way the *Twelve and Twelve* talks about character defects as things that need to be "removed." It just sounds so negative, like having your teeth out. What do you do when they're all gone? I'm not even entirely sure what a defect *is.*

So the problem for me is, how do I take Step Seven in a way that makes sense, and makes a difference in my life?

I've had to back off the idea of "Deadly Sins" and look at some of the other ways our literature describes character defects. I find it useful to identify ways in which personal change can bring my life into closer alignment with the bigger AA picture. In particular, I consider what changes in me would place me in a better position to be of maximum use to others. When I ask that question, then Bill W.'s use of the word "handicap" becomes more personally relevant. What handicaps get in the way of right relations and make it difficult for me to be of use?

Before I can "humbly ask" God to remove "defects," I must have some idea of what those words mean to me, based on my experience with them.

Step Seven shows me that the misuse of natural desires makes me useless and unhappy. I've never met a truly useful person who was genuinely unhappy. As I became useful in AA, I began to move out of that awful isolation we AA's talk about. And being out of the isolation, I was exposed. It was a long overdue experience for a person who had lived in an emotional foxhole since childhood. My initial contact with the real world meant getting active with my group, and it was an emotional roller coaster. I'd never been able to be a member of anything, and my emotional handicaps came bursting forth. The resulting conflicts made me quickly and painfully aware of a lot of things I had been running and hiding from all my life.

When I look at how fear and self-seeking affect my desire for sex, society, and security, most of the mystery that used to surround the idea of "defects of character" goes away. For example, I think not

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so much in terms of having lust "removed" as in coming to a more conscious and responsible attitude regarding how I allow my sex drive to find expression. I don't ask God to take anger out of my life but to show me how best to express it or let it go.

You might think that surely anyone would want to be rid of something like envy. What possible good can come from desiring what others have? Well, when I was new, I was really envious of people who had long-term sobriety. I envied people who could be spontaneous and who were useful and well-liked. So it was how I responded to envy that mattered. What did I do with it? Did I just sit back and hate people who were useful and effective in AA? The willingness to change came when I was able to identify and own the cause of my discomfort. Then I could ask humbly. Without this willingness, I would have turned into a chronic and terminal bleeding deacon, running around trying to get people to see it my way. Of course I have tried that over the years, and the result was always that I ended up bored and alone.

Had I not learned to stop running around making things happen, I might have stayed with the old idea that getting active has to do only with what goes on around and outside me, instead of coming to see that it refers as well to what is going on *inside*. That calls for more calm, thoughtful reflection on human relations. Am I a worker among workers, a friend among friends? Maybe "active" means taking a night off from meetings to stay home with a good book or a friend. Maybe my group really will get along without me for one night. If my "busy-ness" is a defect, maybe it's also a part of who I am. It need not so much be removed as toned down and redirected. My defects are the boundaries of just what I am capable of and capable of becoming at any given moment. Boundaries that I am unconscious of become barriers.

Maybe I am overly concerned with how people see me. But if I didn't care what people thought at all, I would have nothing to shoot for, no spiritual objective. Maybe anger is a dubious luxury and maybe it's a real human emotion that I've always avoided because I was afraid of it. Maybe my anger needs not to be removed so much as brought into alignment with the new spiritual objective of right relations. Seen in that light I can ask for knowledge of whether to express it or let it go.

I have a more meaningful understanding of Step Seven today based on experience. I can freely and enthusiastically point others to this Step without that queasy feeling I used to have about it. I don't see Step Seven as being about removal so much as realization. I'm all God has to work with--I have to be enough. Nothing goes to waste in the spiritual recycling process we call Step Seven.

Jim N., West Springfield, MA Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., July 1997 Reprinted with permission

The Paradox of Surrender

By not hiding my defects, I find them hidden.

And by revealing my faults, I see them dissolve.

In losing face, I get grace, and the way up I see is down.

In making amends, I am amended. And in dispensing right, right is dispensed to me.

By giving it away, I keep it. And in not possessing it, it is mine to keep.

By thinking well of others, I think well of myself.

And in serving others, I am served.

In powerless, power comes, and through weakness, strength.

By dependence, independence grows. And in believing as a child, I grow up.

By releasing my life and will, I am released. And by losing my life, I save it.

By giving up, I am lifted. And by letting go, I let God come.

By not justifying myself, I am justified.

And by admission, I am admitted.

T.C., Richmond, CA Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., June 1974 Reprinted with permission

In the Rooms...

AA slogans, sayings, and assorted inspirations:

The Steps prevent suicide; the Traditions prevent homicide.

The only thing alcoholics do in moderation is the 12 steps!

The elevator is broken - take the steps!

It's alcohol-ism, not alcohol-wasm.

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Gossip hurts... and sometimes kills.

Pain is necessary; suffering is optional!

If nothing changes, nothing changes.

If you do what you always did, you'll get what you always got.

Some things have to be believed to be seen.

Feelings aren't facts!!!

In AA, first we remove the anesthesia, and then we operate.

Fellowship is the meeting after the meeting.

Let us love you until you learn to love yourself.

Isolation is the dark room where we develop our 'negatives.'

We're as sick as our secrets.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.

Compare and despair.

Don't compare your insides to other people's outsides.

Utilize... don't analyze.

Let go or get dragged.

If you're spinning your wheels, try getting out of the driver's seat.

HALT: Don't get too Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired.

Don't drink even if your ass falls off.

If your ass falls off, pick it up, put it in a paper bag, and carry it to a meeting.

Remember the cost of your last drink when observing the 7th tradition.

Take an action, then let go of the results.

Carry the message, not the mess.

Don't tease your disease.

If you get hit by a train, it's the engine that kills you... not the caboose.

Relapse is NOT a requirement.

Relapse begins long before you pick up the drink.

SLIP: Sobriety loses its priority.

If you hang around a barbershop long enough, eventually you'll get a haircut.

Those who matter, don't mind; those who mind, don't matter.

Expectations are preconceived resentments.

Serenity isn't freedom from the storm; it is peace within the storm.

Don't speak unless you can improve on silence.

You don't need to "find God;" He isn't lost.

Tell it to your sponsor, or you will be telling it to a bartender.

I thought I wanted to commit suicide, but all I needed was a hamburger.

Surrendering means you don't have to fight any more.

I didn't use alcohol; alcohol used me!

You can be just as crazy sober as you were drunk, only you'll remember it the next day.

Seven days without a meeting makes one weak.

Contributed by Mary McP

CANADA, HERE WE COME???

Things you should know about getting ready for the 2005 Toronto Convention



I thought my sobriety and my newly found past reputation made me immune to travel problems. So I was quite surprised to find out that I needed to do anything at all in order to be allowed to visit Canada for the International Convention in 2005.

It all started in 2003 with a simple drive across the border from Maine to the province of New Brunswick. My mother, a traveling nurse who was on assignment in Madawaska, and I were heading into Canada for dinner. When we pulled up to the customs station and presented our identification, we were invited to park the car and come in for a chat. The immigration officer politely informed me, with my mother standing at my side, that I was inadmissible to Canada because of unresolved possession of controlled substance arrests. I was quite surprised. My mother was quite amused. She just smiled and said, "Speaking for myself, I know my record is clean because I recently had to have a clearance run to be relicensed as a nurse."

To be sure, this is not the first time that my past has come up and caused inconvenience. The good news is that these unexpected encounters with the past remind me that recovery works. I tend now to react with an almost spontaneous, "that's interesting" rather than "holy _____, what now?" I have a sneaky feeling that doing the Steps of this program has resulted in my seeing the difference between "I or someone made a mistake" and "I am a mistake." I now prefer to live in the former. I used to dwell in the latter.

The border agent was very helpful in finding out exactly what happened. It seems that the Canadian Immigration Agents have access to parts of the FBI criminal database. While doing an electronic search on my passport, they discovered three past arrests that were of interest to them. One was a resolved DUI charge from 1987, which in and of itself was not a problem. The other two were records of separate arrests in 1985, about a week apart from each other, for possession of a controlled substance. These showed up in the FBI records as having no final disposition.

Since my record was clean from 1987 on, we were allowed to go have dinner in Canada. The agent did, however, let me know in no uncertain terms that I needed to get this cleared up in the FBI records if I planned on coming back to Canada in the future.

After what I thought was an appropriate amount of grousing and whining when I got back home, I decided that I really did want to clean this up. Also, after remembering that I had a great time at the conventions in San Diego in 1995 and Minneapolis in 2000, I really did want the chance to go to the International Convention in Toronto in 2005.

I contacted our local courts to find out what happened. To make a long story short, the city filed my arrest for possession. At the time, the county handled all cases of this type. So the county filed an arrest a week later. The city did not record this in their records. Therefore, I had two arrest records for the same incident with two different dates. This was compounded by the fact the disposition of neither case was modified from open when the case was dismissed a few months later. On top of that, the city and county have changed computer systems three times in the past eighteen years and none of the records showing the case was dismissed were available in computerized form. Of course, the computer records from the city and county are propagated to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) files and these are sent on to the FBI.

What did I do? Well, I got the paperwork from the city. I got the paperwork from the county. I called the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to find out what they had on record. I got that paperwork too. They have assured me that when I get the disposition filed on the cases that have been dismissed, these will be forwarded to the FBI systems.

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In the meantime, I have also started the work of documenting and presenting this to the Canadian Immigration Service to make sure that my records are in order for the inevitable day when I, passport in hand, cross the border again. I am trusting, but I am also doing the paperwork. I am not waiting until the last minute. I am following up.

So, yes, I am amazed that somehow I got a chance to find out that I might not have been allowed into Canada to attend the International Convention of AA in 2005 due to clerical errors that occurred over fifteen years ago. I am even more amazed that this came as a result of visiting my mother, whom I now like, and that I even had the patience and good humor to deal with the necessary bureaucracies to get this cleared up as a natural course of business. It also feels wonderful to care enough about others and our Fellowship that I want to be able to attend another International Convention. I am mostly pleased that somehow the program and Fellowship of AA have allowed me to move from "why me?" thinking to "why not me?" thinking and have given me a chance to add to an already wonderful story of recovery. After all, it is quite a blessing that with some thought, writing, meditation, and working with others we get to change inconveniences, troubles, and problems into just other aspects of our stories to share with one another. Nowhere in our literature are we told that problems will disappear, only that spiritual growth will allow us to rise above them. My hat is off to you for showing me how to rise and I am hoping to see you in Toronto in July 2005.

Don M., Louisville, CO Copyright ® The AA Grapevine, Inc., July, 2004 Reprinted with permission.

ANNOUNCING...



The Dream has come true . . .



Sixty years of the AA Grapevine in an accessible, searchable database*.

Visit http://www.aagrapevine.org

* Current year excluded







Indian River Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous 855 Centre, Suite 4, Miracle Mile P.O. Box 1776

Vero Beach, FL 32961 772-562-1114 unce

URL: www.indianriveraa.freeservers.com E-MAIL: info@indianriveraa.freeservers.com

<u>STEERING COMMITTEES</u> <u>STANDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd...)</u>

Elizabeth T ARCHIVES: TREATMENT CHAIR: CHAIR: Sue L Judy W CO-CHAIR: WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Dutch VN TELEPHONE COORDINATOR: Dutch V Darcie A **CORRECTIONS WOMEN:** TREASURER: Richard E Petra D **UNITY CHAIR:** Nancy T

SECRETARY: Lin C WHERE & WHEN: Cynthia G

CORRECTIONS MEN: John K AREA LIAISON DISTRICT 6: Bill K

D.J. I

DESK COORDINATOR: Sue L

HOW EDITOR: Darcie A <u>DELEGATES AT LARGE:</u>

PROOFREADER: Dutch VN Rich K
LITERATURE: John H
PUBLIC INFORMATION: Marty P
John H

INVENTORY CONTROL: Paul H

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