

# CWCO Newsletter

**CWCO would like to thank all the A.A. Groups that have so generously donated money and time to keep the services flowing!! Visit us at our updated site [www.yakimaaa.com](http://www.yakimaaa.com)**

## Bill Wilson Edition

### A spiritual program for recovery

In November 1934, Wilson was visited by old drinking companion Ebby Thacher. Wilson was astounded to find that Thacher had been sober for several weeks under the guidance of the evangelical Christian Oxford Group. Wilson took some interest in the Group, but shortly after Thacher's visit, he was again admitted to Towns Hospital to recover from a bout of drinking. This was his fourth and last stay at Towns hospital under Doctor Silkworth's care. It was while undergoing treatment with the The Belladonna Cure that Wilson experienced his "Hot Flash" spiritual conversion and quit drinking. According to Wilson, while lying in bed depressed and despairing, he cried out, "I'll do anything! Anything at all! If there be a God, let Him show Himself!" He then had the sensation of a bright light, a feeling of ecstasy, and a new serenity. He never drank again for the remainder of his life. Wilson described his experience to Dr. Silkworth, who told him, "Something has happened to you I don't understand. But you had better hang on to it". Wilson joined the Oxford Group and tried to help other alcoholics, but only succeeded in keeping sober himself. During a failed business trip to Akron, Ohio, Wilson was tempted to drink again and decided that to remain sober he needed to help another alcoholic. He called phone numbers on a church directory and eventually secured an introduction to Dr. Bob Smith, an alcoholic Oxford Group member. Wilson explained Doctor Silkworth's theory that alcoholics suffer from a physical allergy and a mental obsession. Wilson shared that the only way he was able to stay sober was through having a spiritual experience. Dr. Bob was familiar with the tenets of the Oxford Group and upon hearing Wilson's experience, "began to pursue the spiritual remedy for his malady with a willingness that he had never before been able to muster. After a brief relapse, he sobered, never to drink again up to the moment of his death in 1950". Wilson and Dr. Bob began working with other alcoholics. After that summer in Akron, Wilson returned to New York where he began having success helping alcoholics in what they called, "a nameless squad of drunks" in an Oxford Group there. In 1938, after about 100 alcoholics in Akron and New York had become sober, the fellowship decided to promote their program of recovery through the publication of a book, for which Wilson was chosen as primary author. The book was given the title *Alcoholics Anonymous* and included the list of suggested activities for spiritual growth known as the Twelve Steps. The movement itself took on the name of the book. Later Wilson also wrote the Twelve Traditions, a set of spiritual guidelines to insure the survival of individual AA groups. The AA general service conference of 1955 was a landmark event for Wilson in which he turned over the leadership of the maturing organization to an elected board.

Wikipedia- Bill Wilson biography



**Bill Wilson (right) and Bob Smith in a rare photograph.**

### *AA History in April*

- ✚ April 1<sup>st</sup> 1939 - "Alcoholics Anonymous", AA's Big Book was published.
- ✚ April 7<sup>th</sup> 1941 - Ruth Hock, Bill W.'s secretary, reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.
- ✚ April 12<sup>th</sup> 1942 - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.
- ✚ April 16<sup>th</sup> 1940 - A sober Rollie H. caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.
- ✚ 1958 - The word "honest" was dropped from "an honest desire to top drinking," in the AA Preamble

### News from CWCO

**We succeeded in surviving another month thanks to all your generous donations. Thank you! Please continue to keep us in mind each month at you group conscience's the bills keep coming every month**

**CWCO Volunteers Needed!**

Volunteers are needed to answer phones and staff the Central Office desk! There are many shifts with nobody to help out at the Central Office, and many opportunities to be the voice at the other end of the phone line when someone is in need of a meeting, and calls for help.

## Bill W. of Alcoholics Anonymous Dies

By JOHN W. STEVENS

William Griffith Wilson died late Sunday night and, with the announcement of his death, was revealed to have been the Bill W. who was a co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. His age was 75.

The retired Wall Street securities analyst had expected to die or go insane as a hopeless drunk 36 years ago but — after what he called a dramatic spiritual experience — had sobered up and stayed sober. He leaves a program of recovery as a legacy to 475,000 acknowledged alcoholics in 15,000 A.A. groups throughout the United States and in 88 other



William Griffith Wilson

other alcoholics. She is a founder of the Al-Anon and Alateen groups, which deal with the fears and insecurity suffered by spouses and children of problem drinkers.

Mr. Wilson last spoke publicly on July 5 of last year in a three-minute talk he delivered after struggling from a wheelchair to the lectern at the closing session of A.A.'s 35th anniversary International convention in Miami, attended by 11,000 people. He had been admitted three days earlier to the Miami Heart Institute, his emphysema complicated by pneumonia.

Last Oct. 10, he was under hospital care for acute emphysema and was unable to attend the A.A. convention.

This principle and its enormous implications, touches every aspect of our lives. Anonymity is humility at work. To maintain the humility of our Society we shall constantly take stock of our temptations and of our defects. The spirit of anonymity calls upon each of us for personal sacrifice in every level of our Fellowship's undertakings. Only through such willing sacrifices can we AAs meet our responsibilities to ourselves, to the victims of alcoholism everywhere, and to society as a whole. Here we clearly see that only sacrifice can fulfill responsibility; that only high responsibility can lead to mutual trust; and that only mutual trust can be the foundation for great love—each of us for the other, and all of us for God. Bill W., The Language of the Heart pg 320

### CWCO Service Meetings & Committees

Name	Date	Time
Roundup Comm.	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon.	6pm
Treatment Comm.	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.	6pm
Corrections Comm.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.	6pm
CWCO Group Rep	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	6:15pm
CWCO board Meet.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	7pm
Dist. 20 Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.	6pm
Treatment & PI/CPC		
Training panel	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.	6pm
Dist. 6 Comm.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.	6pm
PI/CPC Comm.	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.	5:30pm
CWCO Vol. Comm.	Last Wed.	6pm
Workshop Comm.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.	6pm

## The Origins of Our Service Structure

US Servicemen were responsible for bringing AA with them to Europe, i.e.. Western Germany, after World War II. They were Loners on the various American and Canadian Army and Air force bases. They remained so until an Act of Congress (Senator Howard Hughes 1970) brought Treatment centers to bases such as Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, Nurnberg, Landstuhl and others. Then AA grew by leaps and bounds. The US Service men had always been affiliated with GSO New York. All groups were registered there and the literature and information came from New York. As the groups and the Intergroup grew the idea came up to be part of the US and Canada Conference Structure. The first known letter was in 1977. In the answer to the letter GSO New York suggested that they form their own Service Structure. The suggestion showed that there were not enough AA members in the Intergroup to form such a structure. Letters continued to go back and forth. In 1980, The English-speaking Intergroup became affiliated with GSO Great Britain which caused a big riff in some AA Groups. I believe it is necessary to know that when Bill W. and Lois came to Europe in 1950, Bill foresaw the possibility of the growth in the AA groups in Germany and Continental Europe. He told the members in Great Britain, at the time, that should these groups want to become a part of the whole of AA, to accept them into the General Service Structure of Great Britain. It was in 1950 that Bill W. was working on the Conference Structure of AA. As Bill was a great promoter, he could see the possibility of such a need in Germany and the Continent. As is known, the General Service Conference is the Practical means by which the group conscious can express itself in matters that concern the fellowship as a whole.. Delores R. Archives-Region 15-CER

### Oh, what to write about....

- ✚ Your experience at a convention
- ✚ Recovery related humorous event and stories
- ✚ Tell us your story
- ✚ Something that baffles you
- ✚ Any recovery related story is welcome
- ✚ Funny recovery cartoons
- ✚ Inspirational photos and drawing
- ✚ Upcoming events

To submit- drop off at Central office or Contact Amilynn



