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# Central Jersey Intergroup

## CJI NEWS

### Too smart for AA? It took him years to get that he simply needed meetings

A recent letter to the Grapevine said, "You can't be too dumb for this program, but you can be too smart." This stuck a note with me because it told my story exactly. Maybe I should say, "I thought I was too smart." I presently have been sober 37 years, and I'm grateful that I dumbed down. This is my story:

I started my career working for an electronics company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, after leaving the Navy in the late '50s. My drinking had progressed to a point where my marriage was being affected. I managed to keep my job and suffer through this difficult marriage for several years with controlled drinking. I had become an instructor at this company, teaching customers how to use electronics equipment, so I was too smart to be an alcoholic. Alcoholics were those who were not smart enough to control their drinking, especially skid-row bums and those without an education.

My drinking reached a point where my wife threatened a divorce if I did not do something. My trouble was her, not the drinking! I finally agreed to talk to a couple guys she'd tricked me into seeing. They, of course, were in AA, and I met them for a discussion. I agreed to go to a few AA meetings. I was then in my late 20s. I think I went to about three or four meetings and remember not identifying or fitting in at all. In fact, at the first meeting, I remember saying my name and that I was there to observe only! I would not identify myself as an alcoholic.

Central Jersey Intergroup



"Encourage,  
 Enrich,  
 Empower"

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**Hit your knees... not the bottle!**

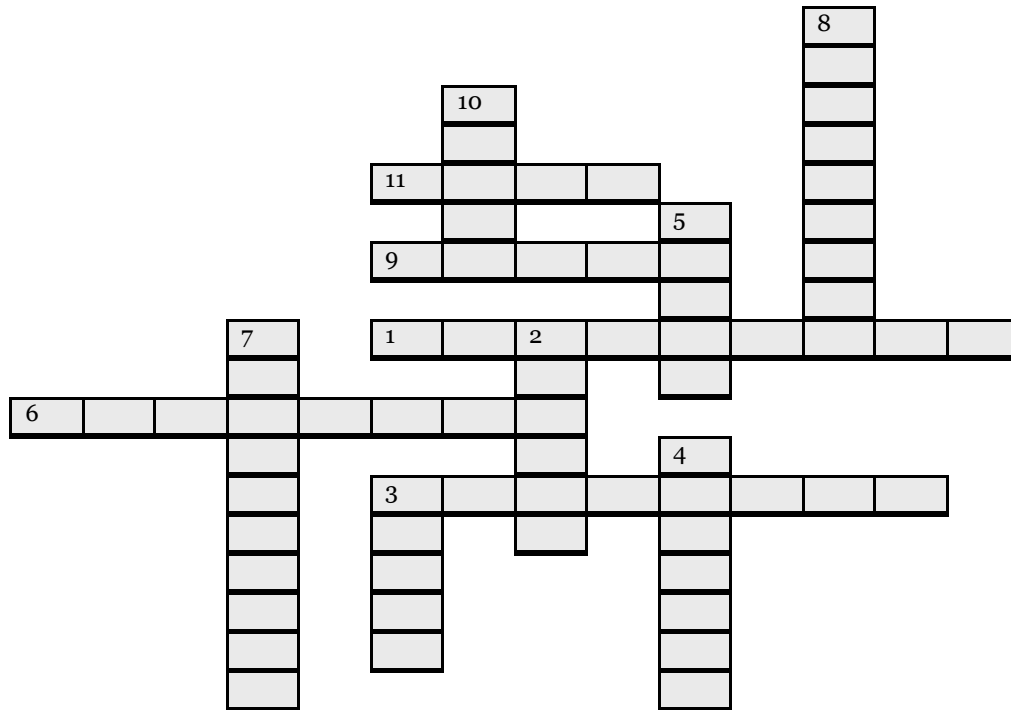
**The shortest sentence in the Big Book is, "It Works."**

**I always look for the hardest way to do the easiest thing. (Jay M.)**

**The chains of alcohol are too light to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.**

# RECOVERY

Please complete the crossword puzzle below



**Across:**

- 1. STEP ONE ADMISSION
- 3. MATERIALIZE IF WE WORK FOR THEM
- 6. HALF \_\_\_\_\_ AVAILED US NOTHING
- 9. BIRTH PLACE OF AA
- 11. THINE, NOT MINE BE DONE.

**Down:**

- 2. NEEDED TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN
- 4. ALCOHOLISM IS AN INCURABLE AND FATAL ONE
- 5. THE A IN HALT
- 7. STEP FOUR #1 OFFENDER
- 8. AA MAGAZINE
- 3. IS WE ARE WILLING TO GROW ALONG SPIRITUAL LINES
- 10. THE FIRST ONE GETS YOU DRUNK

**You can take the rum out of fruit cake, but you still have fruit cake!**

**When you are in a rut, STOP digging. (Ron C.)**

**There is no pain in change the pain comes from the resistance to change. (Antonio E.)**

**Having a resentment is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to die.**

**When is the last time  
you helped clean up  
after a meeting?**

**Service IS Many  
Different Things.**



## August Contributions

Turtle Cove #6888424524	\$32.00
Group #635757	\$94.50
Pennington Wed Night	\$33.00
Cranbury Mon/Thurs	\$90.00
Friday Night Florence Big Book	\$100.00
Venture to Help #131320	\$50.00
Traditions First Group	\$66.00
Hamilton Sq. Mixed Nuts Group	\$320.00
Thumbs up Group	\$140.00

# Live and Let Laugh

A BEGINNER was asked what had been his favorite drink. "Brother," he said, "I didn't have any favorite drink. I'd drink anything that was too thin to chew!" Pasadena, California

IT SEEMS that an alky job-seeker was asked, "Do you prefer whiskey, brandy, beer, gin or rum?" He replied, "Yes." The Tom-Tom

In Connecticut, a police sign warns motorists: "He who takes one for the road will get a trooper for a chaser."

Ten items a drunk would like to have with him on a lonely island: Scotch, rye, vodka, gin, vermouth, brandy, wine, vanilla extract, perfume, hair tonic. Leclerc AA Group

Wife to husband, absorbed in newspaper: "Pretend I'm a bartender, talk to me!" Anonymous

SPEAKING of taverns, there's a not very nice one somewhere that has a sign over the bar which reads: "We accept resignations from AA." Perhaps we should tell the owner that we get all his dissatisfied customers?

## New Meetings

NEW OPEN BIG BOOK MEETING ON SUNDAYS@6:00PM AT RIDER UNIVERSITY'S GILL MEMORIAL CHAPEL

New Men's Step Meeting at Hightstown Borough Hall, Friday at 6:30PM

NEW BIG BOOK OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING TUESDAYS @ 7:00PM IN BLAWENBURG, NJ.

**Officers**

**2010-2011**

- Chair – Connie Y.
- Co-Chair – Jami D.
- Treasurer – Roseanne F.
- Financial Secretary – Rebecca C.
- Recording Secretary - Justine D.

**Committee Chairs**

**2010-2011**

- Answering Service – Fred D.
- Computer— Mike McA
- Correctional Facilities - Tom/Kathy
- Hospitals & Institutions – Chuck D./Audrey P
- Literature - Open
- Meeting List – Tom
- Newsletter – Scott S.
- Public Information – Open
- Steering – Chris C.
- Unity – Bob M
- Web Site— Mike McA

**Trustees**

- Bill D.
- Maureen RR.
- Wendy L.
- Chris P.
- Jeff L.

“Our leaders are but trusted servants. They do not govern.”

Tradition Two

Continued from page 1

**Too smart for AA? It took him years to get that he simply needed meetings**

Of course you know the outcome. We went through the divorce and my troubles were gone, right? This was in the mid-60s and the Apollo Program was in full swing. The company I was working for designed the communications equipment for the Apollo spacecraft. I became the instructor for those using this equipment. Now I was really smart! I couldn't be an alcoholic with these brains. Also, they wanted to transfer me to California to teach the astronauts, flight controllers and engineers. I got rid of my wife and now I got rid of the state of Iowa that caused all my problems.

IN 1966 I headed for California and a new life. I was obsessed with controlling my drinking. After all, I was a smart guy, and anyone with my smarts could do that, right? My drinking continued and progressively worsened. I started missing work and getting into trouble on business trips to the space centers in Houston and Florida. I would lose the rental car and get kicked out of bars. I would wake up in parking lots after a fight. I would not be allowed on flights leaving the Los Angeles airport because I was drunk. The only reason I kept my job was because I was protected by the "good ole boy network." I still would not give up! I was too smart to have this happen and, above all, too smart for AA.

In 1970, I received my third DUI and had to spend time in the Los Angeles County Jail. Wow . . . a smart guy like me? Can't be! I obtained a leave of absence from my company to do the time. I was crushed. This must be a mistake.

My experience in the jail did not wake me up. I still felt that I was not an alcoholic, but a victim of bad luck. In fact I was in a cell with a wino and tried to convince him to go to AA. He might have a problem. When I sat down for the interview for my jail job, I said I was an instructor for the astronauts. I figured for sure I would be assigned to the office near the head of the jail to do bookkeeping or give advice. I finally got the word: I was assigned to the kitchen chopping lettuce and cabbage! My ego was shot. Me? A smart guy? Unbelievable!

Finally, the day came when I was to be released. Several of us got caught playing Poker, which was not allowed. The guard said that we would get 30 more days. I was due to be released at midnight, and I lay in my bunk that night praying to God to please let me out. If he would let me out, I would quit drinking and shape up. Well, I did get released, but my first thought was, I have two hours before the bars close.

My experience in jail did not wake me up. I was in a cell with a wino and tried to convince him to go to AA. He might have a problem.

I continued to drink for two more months, and it got worse. The day came when I finally hit bottom and couldn't take anymore. I realized that I was an alcoholic and had to quit: March 9, 1971. I had remarried and my brother-in-law was in the program. I gave him a call and asked if he was going to a meeting that night. He picked me up and I went to the meeting in La Puente, California, that night. It was the beginning of a new life for me.

Now this is the best part. You see, I was too smart for AA, but in the La Puente AA Group, I found those who taught me that you can't be too dumb. What I learned in this group about life and sobriety came from people who were skid-row bums, train hobos, a junkyard worker, a blacktop worker, gasman, swimming pool worker, etc. I knew nothing about life and how to stay sober. They were my instructors in life and sobriety. That was 37 years ago, and I will never forget the people who saved me and my career.

"AA is a program for alcoholics from Yale or from jail," as the letter writer said.

Gary S.  
Primghar, Iowa

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 7, 2011 - 6:30pm**

THE HIGHTSTOWN MEN'S STEP UP GROUP'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY @ THE 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN HIGHTSTOWN.

**October 8, 2011 - 7:30pm**

SEA ISLE CITY GROUP'S 29th ANNIVERSARY in SEA ISLE CITY, NJ

**October 9, 2011 - 2:00pm - 5:00pm**

DISTRICT 16 FALL WORKSHOP will be held in Absecon, NJ

**October 10, 2011 - 7:00pm**

THE 4TH DIMENSION BIG BOOK STUDY GROUP IS CELEBRATING ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE EWING MUNICIPAL BUILDING

**October 15, 2011 - 8:30am - 12:00pm**

Day of Sharing  
(at Carlslake Community Center)

**November 18, 19, & 20  
Waves of Sobriety Roundup**

The Grand, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May NJ visit Cape Atlantic intergroup @ [www. Caigrp.org](http://www.Caigrp.org)

Male Prison Volunteers Needed for Trenton State Prison

Start Date, Time, and Format to be Determined.

One Year Sobriety Required.

For More Information Please Contact

Tom D. Prison Chair

609-283-0533. LEAVE MESSAGE

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF UPCOMING EVENTS PLEASE REFER TO THE CENTRAL JERSEY WEB SITE.

[www.centraljerseyintergroup.org](http://www.centraljerseyintergroup.org)

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER CHAIR AT THE ABOVE SITE FOR ANNIVERSARY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS.

**DISTRICT 22 & 23  
MONTHLY GSR  
MEETING**

**Place:** Divine Word Seminary  
101 Park St.  
Bordentown, NJ

**Time:** Every Third Monday of the Month at 8 PM.

**District 22 – Allentown, Bordentown, Florence, Hamilton Square, Hamilton Township, Mercerville, Roebling, Yardville**

**District 23 – City of Trenton – Not including the AA Club.**

**District 22 & 23 holds a meeting every month to keep GSR's and the home group up to date on matters affecting them, Area 45 and AA as a whole. If your meeting falls within one of these districts please let the GSR for your home group know about this meeting time. If your group does not have a General Service Rep and would like to have someone come to your monthly meeting and explain this role or you have any other questions please use the contact information below.**

**District Committee  
Member:**

**Jason D. 609-775-5452**

# Anniversaries

Orville H. 49 years	Randy S. 23 years	Sue F. 15 years	Ray 8 years
Dorothy B. 31 Years	Anthony V. 23 years	Matt F. 15 years	Randi J. 8 years
Ann Z. 29 years	Larry 23 years	Connie 15 years	Doug 7 years
Nancy 29 years	Louise R. 22 years	Lori L. 14 years	Bob 7 years
Joe J. 27 years	Glen M. 22 years	Tony J. 14 years	Tom R. 7 years
Art 27 years	David K. 21 years	James B. 14 years	Matt K. 7 years
Bob P. 26 years	Kristen K. 21 years	Andy A. 14 years	Gary M. 7 years
Peg 26 years	Bob B. 21 years	Lisa B. 14 years	Chris R. 7 years
Matt F. 25 years	Brian H. 20 years	Pat H. 12 years	Fred D. 3 years
Beth T. 25 years	Tom L. 20 years	Steve H. 12 years	
Curt K. 24 years	Anthony B. 18 years	Mathew A. 12 years	
Jim N. 24 years	Dan D. 18 years	Tony O. 10 years	
Sonia N. 24 years	Barbara 16 years	Bob G. 10 years	
Paul B. 24 years	Jeff L. 15 years		

## Celebrate One Day At A Time!

### Meeting Changes

- THE 8PM SAT. NITE HOW IT WORKS GROUP (HIGHTSTOWN) HAS MOVED
- TEMPORARY LOCATION CHANGE FOR THE HIGHTSTOWN MEN'S STEP-UP GROUP WILL BE TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON MAIN ST, HIGHTSTOWN...click for complete info..
- THE THURSDAY "ONE DAY AT A TIME" LIVING SOBER MEETING HAS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION STARTING OCTOBER 6TH (Slackwood Presbyterian Church in Lawrence) AND HAS A NEW TIME..CLICK FOR COMPLETE INFO...
- The THURSDAY 7:30PM CSW WOMEN'S CLOSED STEP meeting in Hamilton Square is no longer active...click for more info...
- THE PHOENIX GROUP (EWING) IS RISING AND FLYING TO A NEW LOCATION BEGINNING OCTOBER 1ST..click here for more...
- THE MUSTARD SEED GROUP IS RE-OPENING and Needs Support!

**For Additional information on meeting changes please visit [www.centraljerseyintergroup.org](http://www.centraljerseyintergroup.org)**