



The FYI

"Your voice to Area 31 Alcoholics Anonymous"

It's on your Phone or on the Web at:
[www.westernmassaa.org!](http://www.westernmassaa.org)



AREA 31 GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE
75 yr Celebration!
Saturday, September 14th, 2019
12noon to 4pm
Becket Congregational Church Parish House
22 YMCA Road Becket, MA



Potluck



AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

**SPANISH TRANSLATION &
ASL INTERPRETERS WILL BE
AVAILABLE!**

Western Mass Intergroup Group Donations - AUGUST, 2019

AMHERST MONDAY NIGHT
 THE NOT SO YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP (2)
 STACEY DODSON - 474 CHALLENGE
 EARLY SOBRIETY
 STEPS TO LIVE
 ENFIELD TUESDAY WOMEN'S
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENS GREENFIELD
 7AM IOPENER
 NOHO BIG BOOK STEP STUDY
 HOLYOKE GROUP
 MORNING LIGHT
 GRANVILLE
 LA LUZ DE UN MILAGRO
 FRIDAY NIGHT STEP GROUP
 MIXED NUTS GROUP
 SATURDAY NIGHT BEGINNERS
 SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE
 OPEN HAND GROUP
 CHARLES D. ANNIV DONATION 32yrs
 LYNN F - 474 DONATION MONTHLY
 TUES BIG BOOK STP STUDY (SPRINGFIELD)
 HAND O9F HOPE GROUP
 SHELBURNE FALLS GROUPS
 PAUL H. - 474 CHALLENGE

WEST SPRINGFIELD THURSDAY NIGHT
 HOLYOKE NOONTIME GROUP
 SUFFIELD MEN'S GROUP
 DEBRA L - 474 CHALLENGE (MONTHLY)
 EASTHAMPTON MEN'S (JULY & AUGUST)
 NOHO SUNDAY NOONTIME
 PIONEER VALLEY GROUP
 NOHO BIG BOOK STEP STUDY
 LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH GROUP
 FRIDAY NIGHT AA

Thank You For Your Generous Donations! Please place group name and service # on all checks.

Weekly AA Group Phone Coverage

DATE	GROUP NAME
AUG 31 - SEPT 6 →	HAMPDEN TUESDAY NIGHT
SEPT 7 - SEPT 13 →	HAND IN HAND
SEPT 14 - SEPT 20 →	HAZARDVILLE SATURDAY GROUP
SEPT 21 -SEPT 27 →	EYE OPENER GROUP
SEPT 28 - OCT 4 →	
OCT 5 - OCT 11 →	
OCT 12 - OCT 18 →	
OCT 19 - OCT 25 →	

MEETING CHANGES

**AS OF 8/20/2019 THE SUFFIELD MEN'S GROUP WILL BE MEETING
AT A TEMPORARY LOCATION...**

**SUFFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1408 MOUNTAIN ROAD, WEST SUFFIELD CT. TIME 8:00PM**

**AS OF 8/30/2019 TRIALS AND SMILES WILL BE CLOSING THIER
MEETING DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT.**

WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO AA

WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP BOOK STORE

BOOKS ON CD

NEW! Big Book 1st 165 pages for \$25.00 (English and Spanish)

Big Book Full Version with All Stories for \$55

Step Book of AA Full Version \$25.00

Living Sober CD \$15.00

AA Comes of Age - CD \$15.00

Pioneers of AA Old Big Book Stories - \$18.00

Grapevine CD's DVD's \$12.00

Bill & 12 Traditions CD - Bills Story DVD - Bill & 12 Traditions DVD

Three Legacies CD - Co-Founders CD—Other Grapevine CD's

DVD Movies

My Name is Bill W - \$20.00

Bill W and Dr. Bob—Broadway Play - \$20.00

To view more of our products please visit our on-line bookstore at:
www.westernmassaa.org - online bookstore. We also ship anywhere in the world!

THE AREA 31 SERVICE COMMITTEE FALL ASSEMBLY & BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12th, 2019

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 2019

Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament

127 Holyoke Road, Westfield MA

Saturday

10:00am to 4:00pm

AREA INVENTORY



Sunday Area Service

Business Meeting

ELECTIONS!

1:00pm to 5:00pm



AA HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

- Aug 1,** 1943 – Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect anonymity withholds address.
- Aug 3,** 1954 – Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hospital after 50th detox.
- Aug 8,** 1879 – Dr. Bob born in St. Johnsbury, VT.
- Aug 9,** 1943 – LA groups announce 1000 members in 11 groups.
- Aug 11,** 1938 – Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book.
- Aug 15** 1890 – E. M. Jellinek is born, author of “The Disease Concept of Alcoholism” and the “Jellinek Curve”.
- Aug 16,** 1939 – Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia admit first alcoholic to St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio.
- Aug 18,** 1988 – 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Aug 19,** 1941 – 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver.
- Aug 25,** 1943 – AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA.
- Aug 26,** 1941 – Bill writes Dr Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated.
- Aug 28,** 1954 – 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond W.

Other significant events in August for which we do not have a specific date:

- 1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade Court to parole Ebby T. to them.
- 1939: Dr. Bob wrote and may have signed article for Faith magazine.
- 1941: 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim.
- 1981: Sales of the Big Book passes 3 million.

Thanks to Billy C. and Nancy O. for this list, used by permission.

PASSING THE BASKET ... OR PASSING THE BUCK?

When I was newly sober in AA, fourteen years ago, I seldom attended a meeting without taking a pamphlet to read. I always had at least two cups of coffee, and if there was anything to eat, I ate.

When the basket was passed, I always put a quarter in it – for two people, my wife and me. If we could truly stretch a dollar as far as I must have thought, the financial world would be beating a path to our doorsteps to learn AA's remarkable brand of economics.

Most of us decry the fact that more than forty percent of the Groups do not support the Fellowship. When it comes to AA's being self-supporting, many fail to recognize one important aspect: If we aren't willing to pay our own way at a meeting, how can we expect the Group to support the Fellowship? What we need to realize is that we *are* the Groups, and we *are* Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have seen AA's spend more money at a coffee shop than they would ever think of putting in the collection at a meeting.

Early in my sobriety, it was explained that it was imperative for me to get my priorities in order. Learning to become responsible was one of them. This financial buck-passing certainly seems to run counter to responsibility.

If we want “the hand of AA always to be there,” we each need to assume our own share of responsibility. If money and spirituality do mix in the basket, as the “Twelve and Twelve” says, then how much better they will blend when money is used to perpetuate AA by making more Twelfth Step work possible.

We, who have had so much given to us freely – in love, with no strings attached – sometimes forget that this also is an area where we have to give it away to keep it.

One of the Promises in the Big Book is freedom from “fear of economic insecurity.” Long ago, one of my sponsors suggested that if I stayed sober and tried to live along spiritual lines, my needs would always be met. Today, I can honestly say that never has there been an instance where I have given of myself, financially or otherwise, and have not been compensated many times over.

Our family has never lacked anything because we accepted our responsibility to help carry the message. God has given each of us a share of the responsibility. He has given each of us tools to work with and the ability to use them.

Let's all of us assume our “share”; so that we may all reap every-increasingly the fruits of selflessness and love in service to our Fellowship.

... AA Grapevine, June 1983

AT WITS END! (from the Grapevine)

A woman walks into a store and asks for half a pound of ham, one pound of turkey, and 5 oranges. The clerk responds by saying "ah, you must be the town drunk."

Taken aback the woman says "why would you think that?" The clerk looks at her and says, "because this is a hardware store."

Big Book Quote

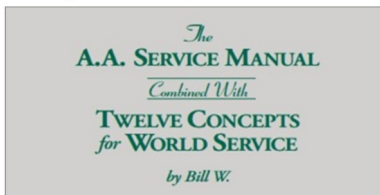
"At the end of each day ... I hope that I can say a short prayer of gratitude for another day of sobriety.

Anything else good that happens is a bonus."

"Life--It Happens," White Rock, British Columbia, May 2005

No Matter What: Dealing with Adversity in Sobriety

Area 31 Service Committee



*The Service Manual Meeting
3rd Wednesday of the month
@ 7:30pm*

*The Concept Meeting is on the
1st Thursday of the month
@ 7:30pm*

Grace United Church 474 Pleasant
Street, Holyoke MA (1st floor)
www.area31aa.org

District 5 Workshop

September 21, 2019 at the Hitchcock Academy
10 A.M to 1 P.M.
2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA
(corner of Brookfield Road and Route 20)

Attraction Through Action



Topics are:

Who is missing from the rooms of A.A.?
Keeping A.A. Relevant
Practicing our Principles

Food will be provided by the District
Please park on the grass where directed.



Bill W.

From the words of Bill W. & Friends Facts

Actually we were fooling ourselves, for deep down in every man, woman, and child, is the fundamental idea of God.

It may be obscured by calamity, by pomp, by worship of other things, but in some form or other it is there.

For faith in a Power greater than ourselves, and miraculous demonstrations of that power in human lives, are facts as old as man himself.

Alcoholics Anonymous, "We Agnostics," p. 55



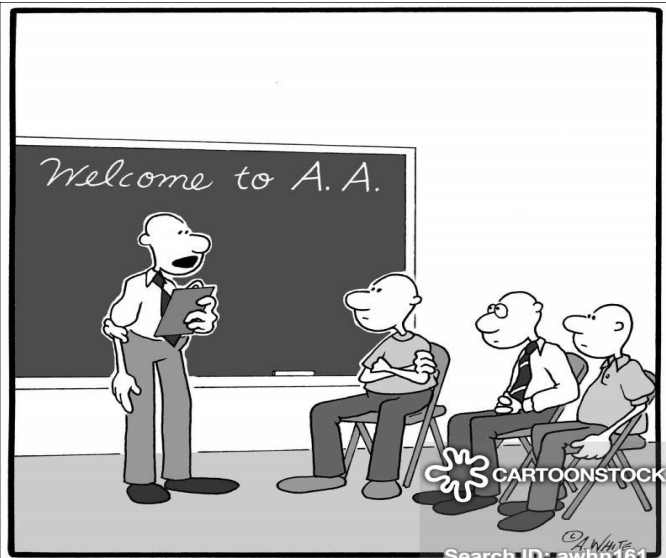
THOUGHT TO PONDER



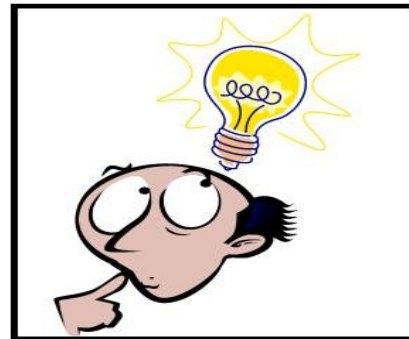
Faith is like a muscle, the more we use it, the more it grows.



RULE #62



"Next week's guest speaker is a stand-up comedian. There'll be a two drink minimum."



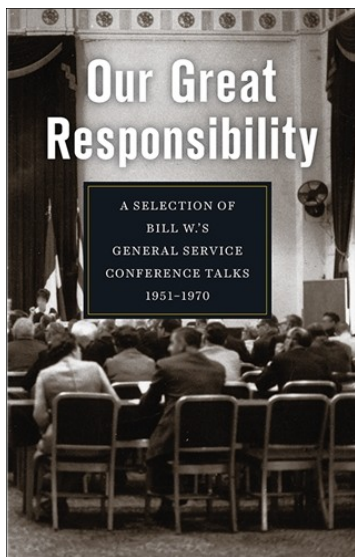
AA-related 'Alconym'

**FAITH =
For All I Trust
Him.**



New from Grapevine: Cartoon Book "Take Me To Your Sponsor"

Sobriety can be tough sometimes, which is why recovering alcoholics can always use a good laugh. In AA, members learn to not take themselves too seriously, to be happy, joyous and free. Luckily, sobriety can be pretty darn amusing. Two of the most beloved departments of Grapevine are the "At Wit's End" jokes and the cartoons, all contributed and drawn by AA members. This book contains some of the best laughs of the last few years, dealing with meetings, sponsorship, dating and marriage, friends and coworkers, character defects and more. We hope this book brightens your day and gives you some hearty, well-earned laughs.



Our Great Responsibility

1st AAWS Publication in 30 years!

A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference talks, 1951 – 1970. Timeless and timely, these 16 selected talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.

Only...
\$10.00



Bill W. speaking at a General Service Conference, circa 1950.

Western Mass Intergroup

\$4.74

ONLINE DONATION CHALLENGE

Visit Westernmassaa.org home page and scroll down to online donation and follow the directions.

In keeping with the Spirit of the General Service Office's NEW 2019 \$8.06 financial challenge to the AA fellowship we are asking our AA fellowship to help us, help you, to help others.

For a ***Personal Online Donation of only \$4.74*** (That's about a few Coffee's) you can be part of helping ***Your Intergroup*** to continue to provide the vital services to AA as a whole.

You can make it as a one time donation, or sign up for monthly donations, we accept any donations in any amount up to \$3,000.

Our mission to make sure that when a newcomer calls someone is there to answer the phone, also sell groups their literature, and provide a meeting list, full staff, a website, and much more!

For more information call Kevin or Joy at the Intergroup office during business hours! at 413-532-2111 Thank You

This is an **ONLINE DONATION CHALLENGE**, but if **YOU choose to mail in your donation**, we accept them also. Please visit the website on our **HOME** page for the donation link.

Area 31 Service Committee News

The Area 31 Service Committee meets 2nd **Wednesday of the month** at the Grace United Church (front entrance) 474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke.
Please urge your Home-Group to elect a GSR and have a voice in Area 31 AA.

Is your group looking to have the Grapevine or Archives boards at your next AA function for anniversary?
Please let the Archives or Grapevine Committee know a month in advance.
Grapevine & Archives email - a31chair@gmail.com.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ARCHIVES** - 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- GRAPEVINE** - 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- PUBLIC INFORMATION** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm
- CPC** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm
- WM Round-Up** - 1st Weds following 2nd Tues,
- WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP** - 2nd Thurs, 7:30pm,
- WMIG STEERING COMMITTEE** - Last Thurs, 7pm (please check with office to confirm)
- AREA 31 - 12 CONCEPTS OF AA** - 1st Thurs, 7:30pm
- ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE** - 4th Weds - 7:00pm
- AREA 31 WEBSITE COMMITTEE** - 4th Weds - 7:00pm

(All Meetings Above Meet at the Grace United Church
474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke MA

- INSTITUTIONS** - 1st Wednesday, 7pm, Providence Hospital, Holyoke
- BERKSHIRE INTERGROUP** - 2nd Monday, 7pm, 152 North St. suite 30C, Pittsfield, MA
- WESTERN MASS YOUNG PEOPLES** - 2nd Sat, 6pm, Serenity Club, 143 Main St., Springfield

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

- DISTRICT 1** - 3rd Thursday, 7:30pm, Sacred Heart Church
35 Everett Street, Springfield
- DISTRICT 2** - 2nd Monday, 7pm, Grace United Church, 474 Pleasant St Holyoke
- DISTRICT 3** - 3rd Friday, 7pm, Old Court House, Lee Town Hall - Lee, MA
- DISTRICT 4** - 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Holy Father Parish, 29 Sugarloaf St. S. Deerfield
- DISTRICT 5** - 1st Monday, 7:30pm, Union Church of Christ, 52 Center St, Ludlow
- DISTRICT 6** - 3rd Monday, 7:30pm, Western Mass Hosp, 91 East Mountain Rd, Westfield

AA Service Manual & Tradition Meetings

AREA 31 - AA SERVICE MANUAL MEETING - 1st Thurs, 7:30pm

Join us in learning the rest of the 36 Spiritual Principles!

AREA 31 TRADITIONS MEETING

3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm both meetings held at the Grace United Church,
474 Pleasant in Holyoke (home of the WM Intergroup)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Western Mass Intergroup 24 Hour Christmas Alcathon

**Dec
24th
at
6pm**



**Dec
25th
at
6pm**

**Grace United Church
474 Pleasant Street
Holyoke, MA**

**Meetings on the Hour
Last meeting starts at 5:00 pm
Food and Fellowship all Night
Bring a dish to share - Donations Welcome**



Big Book

O	R	V	W	V	D	O	C	P	D	O	C	T	O	R	S	R	O	H
L	X	H	O	W	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	D	E	M	K	F	C	I
H	S	M	T	W	E	L	B	A	T	I	R	R	I	U	P	L	R	G
P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S	D	A	W	O	R	K	S	E	E	K	H
S	A	J	V	G	N	I	N	E	K	A	W	A	T	G	R	O	G	E
S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	P	Z	Z	S	N	M	S	F	M	C	R
E	U	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	T	E	Z	C	X	E	K	D	P
L	N	P	I	W	T	X	Z	Z	S	M	P	I	P	U	C	Y	Y	Y
T	S	R	K	A	V	N	E	R	T	F	T	O	N	N	T	L	R	O
S	T	I	G	Z	C	Q	E	N	E	S	Q	M	C	P	I	A	O	S
E	C	N	I	R	O	T	E	T	O	C	A	R	R	D	O	U	T	T
R	E	C	T	T	V	S	I	N	N	N	O	A	F	Y	N	T	N	O
Q	F	I	P	D	E	N	G	O	A	O	Y	V	J	D	O	I	E	R
A	E	P	P	R	Z	A	H	G	N	E	C	X	E	P	F	R	V	Y
B	D	L	O	N	X	K	E	N	R	J	Q	S	Z	R	Z	I	N	L
I	F	E	W	G	H	A	A	S	P	E	T	S	I	P	Y	P	I	T
L	C	S	E	W	B	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	N	D	J	S	Q	M
L	P	J	R	L	M	S	I	L	O	H	O	C	L	A	L	N	S	M
S	C	W	E	N	P	V	I	M	J	U	M	A	M	E	N	D	S	Y

ACTION
 AGNOSTICS
 ALCOHOLISM
 AMENDS
 AWAKENING
 BILLS
 DEFECTS
 DISCONTENT
 DOCTORS
 HIGHER

HOW
 INVENTORY
 IRRITABLE
 MEDITATION
 OPINION
 PERFECTION
 POWER
 PRAYER
 PRINCIPLES
 PROGRESS

PROMISES
 RECOVERY
 RESENTMENT
 RESTLESS
 SOLUTION
 SPIRITUAL
 STEPS
 STORY
 UNMANAGEABLE
 WORKS

WILDCATS GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous MONDAY MORNING 11TH STEP



AGAWAM UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
459 MILL STREET
Agawam, MA

**OPEN
11th Step
READING
6:00am**

8/28/2109

STEP 11 Pray and Meditate

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out

**56th ANNUAL
Massachusetts State A.A. Convention
November 8th-10th, 2019
with Al-Anon & Alateen Participation**

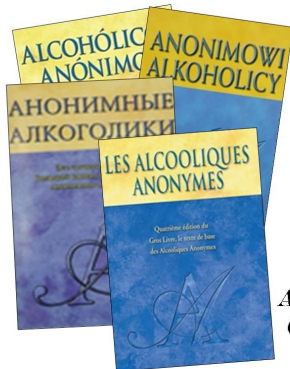
A Vision for You!



**Sheraton Framingham Hotel
1657 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01701**

Online Convention and Hotel
Reservations at:
<https://aamastateconvention.org>

CAN YOU SPEAK A 2nd LANGUAGE?



**CAN YOU SPEAK
RUSSIAN?
WE NEED YOU!**

**CAN YOU SPEAK
POLISH?
WE NEED YOU!**

**CAN YOU SPEAK
ANOTHER LANGUAGE?
(FRENCH, SPANISH, ECT)
WE NEED YOU!**

**WANNA HELP PASS THE AA MESSAGE?
TRANSLATORS ARE NEEDED TO HELP!
CONTACT US AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE!
413-532-2111
Tues - Sat 9am to 1pm - Thurs till 5:30pm**

WESTERN MASS




Meetings are held the last Sunday of the Month

Providence Behavioral Health Hospital

1233 Main Street Holyoke, Ma. 01040

3:00 p.m.

Your service is needed!



Western Mass Intergroup

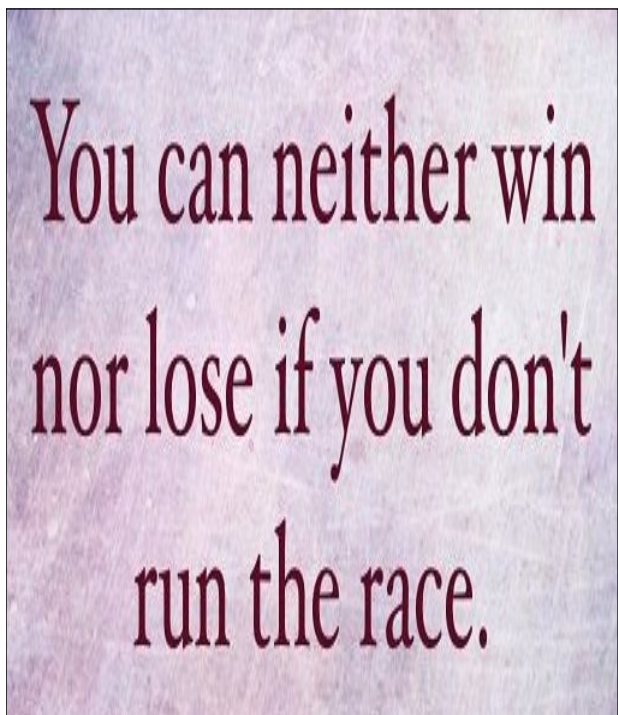
474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke MA 01040
Office Phone: 413-532-2111
Website: www.westernmassaa.org
E-mail: intergro4@aol.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 1pm
Thursday until 5:30pm

Intergroup Officers & Staff

Charlie R - Chair	Kevin L. - General Manager
Ron G - Treasurer	Joy F - Store Manager
Marc - Secretary	Renee D - Office Staff
	Eddie K - Office Staff

If you have Questions or Comments you may reach us at the contact information above.
Thank You for your support.

Monthly Thought



WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP is a body made up of representatives from all AA groups in the area (Area 31). It has met on a monthly basis since it was established in 1953. Each AA group elects, annually, one of its members (one year of sobriety recommended) to serve as its representative on this important committee, and, an alternate to regularly attend its meetings (one year of sobriety recommended). Its main responsibilities are to:

1. Coordinate AA activities among its various groups and to help weaker groups in anyway possible.
2. Maintain 24 hour AA telephone coverage
3. Publish regularly updated schedules of group meetings in the area
4. Provide a program which will promote regular visits between groups.
5. Provide an inventory of AA Literature for the convenience of local groups and committees in an office which also serves as a communication and information center
6. And, to act upon any suggestions be any group, through its representatives, that would be of potential benefit to our area groups.

WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP MEETS ON THE 2nd THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE.



am responsible...

**When anyone, anywhere,
Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A. A. always
to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.**

Quote of
the
Month

