

# **aa founders day history**

## **A Critical Analysis of AA Founders Day History and its Impact on Current Trends**

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Summary: This analysis examines the history of AA Founders Day, tracing its evolution from a small gathering to a globally observed event. It explores the significance of commemorating Bill W. and Dr. Bob's contributions to the establishment of Alcoholics Anonymous and critically assesses the lasting impact of AA's founding principles on contemporary addiction treatment trends, including its strengths, weaknesses, and ongoing controversies surrounding its effectiveness and inclusivity. The analysis also considers how the celebration of AA Founders Day reflects and shapes the identity and future direction of the fellowship.

### **1. The Genesis of AA Founders Day: A Humble Beginning**

The history of AA Founders Day is intrinsically linked to the origins of Alcoholics Anonymous itself. While there isn't a precisely documented "first" Founders Day, the annual commemoration evolved organically from the early meetings and shared experiences of Bill Wilson and Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith (Dr. Bob). The early years of AA, characterized by small, intimate gatherings, laid the foundation for the tradition of remembering and honoring these founders. Understanding the context of their first meeting in Akron, Ohio, in 1935, and the subsequent development of the 12-step program, is crucial to appreciating the significance of AA Founders Day. The initial

focus was less on a formal celebration and more on a quiet reflection on the principles of recovery that Bill W. and Dr. Bob had pioneered. This informal commemoration, however, gradually grew in scope and importance as AA expanded globally. The early AA Founders Day history reveals a grassroots movement organically celebrating its core values and its founders' impact.

## **2. The Evolution of AA Founders Day: From Intimate Gatherings to Global Observance**

As Alcoholics Anonymous expanded its reach throughout the 20th century, AA Founders Day history reveals a corresponding evolution in the manner in which the anniversary was observed. What began as small, localized gatherings within individual AA groups transformed into larger, more organized events. The growth of the fellowship necessitated a more structured approach to commemorating the anniversary. This transition reflected the increasing influence and recognition of AA as a significant force in the field of addiction treatment. Regional and then international celebrations emerged, demonstrating the growing global impact of the 12-step approach championed by Bill W. and Dr. Bob. The standardization of the date (June 10th) further solidified the annual observance as a significant moment in the AA calendar.

## **3. The Symbolic Significance of AA Founders Day: Honoring Legacy and Shaping Identity**

AA Founders Day serves as more than just an annual commemoration; it's a powerful symbol of the organization's identity and legacy. The celebration reinforces the core principles and values upon which AA was founded. By honoring Bill W. and Dr. Bob, members reaffirm their commitment to the principles of recovery through the 12-step program, mutual support, and anonymity. The annual observance also provides a platform for reflecting on the collective journey of recovery, celebrating success stories, and offering support to those still struggling. The ongoing relevance of AA Founders Day history speaks to the enduring power of its message.

## **4. Critical Analysis: Strengths and Weaknesses of the AA Model in Contemporary Context**

While AA Founders Day celebrates the historical impact of the 12-step approach, it is crucial to engage in a critical analysis of its strengths and limitations in the contemporary context of addiction treatment. The strength of AA lies in its peer-support system, its spiritual emphasis, and its accessibility. The AA Founders Day history reminds us of its powerful impact on countless lives. However, criticisms persist regarding the program's suitability for all individuals struggling with addiction. The exclusive focus on abstinence, the lack of diversity in leadership, and the potential for triggering experiences within the 12-step setting are notable areas of concern. The celebration of AA Founders Day should encourage ongoing

discussions and adaptations to address these issues and ensure that AA remains relevant and inclusive.

## **5. AA Founders Day History and Contemporary Addiction Treatment Trends**

The history of AA Founders Day, and the program itself, has significantly influenced contemporary addiction treatment trends. While the 12-step approach remains widely adopted, the field has also witnessed the emergence of alternative and complementary treatments. Evidence-based practices such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) now often coexist alongside, or serve as alternatives to, 12-step programs. AA Founders Day, therefore, provides an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of addiction treatment, acknowledging both the successes and shortcomings of the AA model while promoting a more holistic and individualized approach to recovery.

## **6. The Ongoing Debate: AA's Effectiveness and Inclusivity**

The celebration of AA Founders Day inevitably sparks discussions concerning the ongoing debates surrounding the effectiveness and inclusivity of Alcoholics Anonymous. The efficacy of the 12-step program has been a subject of ongoing research, with varying conclusions. Some studies highlight positive outcomes for certain individuals, while others emphasize the limitations of the model. Similarly, concerns regarding inclusivity, particularly in relation to cultural and socioeconomic diversity, continue to surface. The AA Founders Day history reminds us that ongoing efforts are needed to improve accessibility and ensure that the program adapts to the diverse needs of those struggling with addiction.

## **7. The Future of AA Founders Day: Adapting to Changing Times**

The future of AA Founders Day hinges on the organization's ability to adapt to changing times and societal needs. Maintaining the core values and principles while embracing inclusivity and exploring new methods of support is crucial for ensuring its long-term relevance. The celebration of AA Founders Day should serve as a catalyst for reflection and innovation, promoting continuous improvement within the fellowship. This might include embracing digital technologies, diversifying leadership, and promoting greater collaboration with other organizations in the addiction treatment field.

## **8. Conclusion**

The history of AA Founders Day is deeply intertwined with the history of Alcoholics Anonymous itself, representing both its triumphs and its ongoing challenges. While the annual commemoration serves as a powerful symbol of recovery and community, it also necessitates critical reflection on the effectiveness, inclusivity, and adaptability of the 12-step model within the broader context of contemporary addiction treatment. By engaging in a thoughtful examination of AA Founders Day history, the AA fellowship can reaffirm its commitment to its founding principles while fostering a more inclusive and effective approach to recovery for all those in need. The continued evolution of AA's approach is vital to its continued success and its ongoing ability to serve those seeking help.

## FAQs

1. What is the date of AA Founders Day? While not initially a fixed date, June 10th is now widely observed.
1. Why is AA Founders Day important? It commemorates the founders and the principles of recovery, fostering community and celebrating success.
1. Is AA Founders Day celebrated globally? Yes, AA groups worldwide acknowledge and celebrate the day.
1. What are the main criticisms of AA? Concerns include its exclusivity, lack of diversity, and reliance solely on abstinence.
1. What alternatives exist to AA? CBT, MAT, and other evidence-based therapies are commonly used.
1. How has AA Founders Day evolved over time? From small gatherings to large, organized events reflecting AA's global growth.
1. How does AA Founders Day impact contemporary addiction treatment? It

highlights the program's impact and inspires discussions about its evolution.

1. What is the role of spirituality in AA and its celebration? Spirituality is a core tenet of the 12-step approach and is often emphasized during Founders Day.
1. How can AA adapt to remain relevant in the future? By embracing inclusivity, diverse approaches to recovery, and technological advancements.

## **Related Articles:**

1. "The Akron Experience: A Deep Dive into the First Meeting of Bill W. and Dr. Bob": This article examines the pivotal Akron meeting that laid the foundation for AA.
1. "The Twelve Steps: A Critical Analysis of Their Effectiveness and Applicability": An in-depth examination of the 12 steps, their origins, and contemporary relevance.
1. "The Role of Spirituality in AA Recovery: A Sociological Perspective": Explores the significance of the spiritual dimension within the 12-step approach.
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1. "AA and the Medical Model: A Critical Examination of Their Compatibility": An assessment of the relationship between AA's approach and the medical model of addiction treatment.
  
1. "The Impact of Technology on AA and Recovery Support Groups": Explores the use of technology in facilitating AA meetings and communication among members.
  
1. "The Global Reach of AA: A Study of its International Impact": Analyzes the expansion of AA across various cultures and geographic locations.
  
1. "The Future of Addiction Treatment: Integrating Evidence-Based Practices and Peer Support": Discusses the role of integrating different approaches to address addiction effectively.

**aa founders day history: Emotional Sobriety** Aa Grapevine, 2011 Volume Two of one of our most popular books. Sober AA members describe the positive transformations sobriety can bring as they practice the principles of the program in all aspects of their lives.

**aa founders day history: The Book That Started It All** Alcoholics Anonymous, 2010-09-03  
The Book That Started It All Hardcover

**aa founders day history: Drunks** Christopher Finan, 2017-06-27 Reveals the history of our struggle with alcoholism and the emergence of a search for sobriety that is as old as our nation. In Drunks, Christopher Finan introduces us to a colorful cast of characters who were integral in America's moral journey to understanding alcoholism. There's the remarkable Iroquois leader named Handsome Lake, a drunk who stopped drinking and dedicated his life to helping his people achieve sobriety. In the early nineteenth century, the idealistic and energetic "Washingtonians," a group of reformed alcoholics, led the first national movement to save men like themselves. After the Civil War, doctors began to recognize that chronic drunkenness is an illness, and Dr. Leslie Keeley invented a "gold cure" that was dispensed at more than a hundred clinics around the country. But most Americans rejected a scientific explanation of alcoholism. A century after the ignominious death of Charles Adams came Carrie Nation. The wife of a drunk, she destroyed bars with a hatchet in her fury over what alcohol had done to her family. Prohibition became the law of the land, but nothing could stop the drinking. Finan also tells the dramatic story of Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, who helped each other stay sober and then created AA, which survived its tumultuous early years and finally proved that alcoholics could stay sober for a lifetime. This is narrative history at its best: entertaining and authoritative, an important portrait of one of America's great liberation movements and essential reading for anyone involved in the addiction community.

**aa founders day history: Writing the Big Book** William H. Schaberg, 2019-09-24 The definitive history of writing and producing the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, told through extensive access to the group's archives. Alcoholics Anonymous is arguably the most significant self-help book published in the twentieth century. Released in 1939, the "Big Book," as it's commonly known, has sold an estimated 37 million copies, been translated into seventy languages, and spawned numerous recovery communities around the world while remaining a vibrant plan for recovery from addiction in all its forms for millions of people. While there are many books about A.A. history, most rely on anecdotal stories told well after the fact by Bill Wilson and other early members—accounts that have proved to be woefully inaccurate at times. Writing the Big Book brings exhaustive research, academic discipline, and informed insight to the subject not seen since Ernest Kurtz's *Not-God*, published forty years ago. Focusing primarily on the eighteen months from October 1937, when a book was first proposed, and April 1939 when Alcoholics Anonymous was published, Schaberg's history is based on eleven years of research into the wealth of 1930s documents currently preserved in several A.A. archives. Woven together into an exciting narrative, these real-time documents tell an almost week-by-week story of how the book was created, providing more than a few unexpected turns and surprising departures from the hallowed stories that have been so widely circulated about early A.A. history. Fast-paced, engaging, and contrary, Writing the Big Book presents a vivid picture of how early A.A. operated and grew and reveals many previously unreported details about the colorful cast of characters who were responsible for making that group so successful.

**aa founders day history: Alcoholics Anonymous** Bill W., 2014-09-04 A 75th anniversary e-book version of the most important and practical self-help book ever written, Alcoholics Anonymous. Here is a special deluxe edition of a book that has changed millions of lives and launched the modern recovery movement: Alcoholics Anonymous. This edition not only reproduces the original 1939 text of Alcoholics Anonymous, but as a special bonus features the complete 1941 Saturday Evening Post article "Alcoholics Anonymous" by journalist Jack Alexander, which, at the time, did as much as the book itself to introduce millions of seekers to AA's program. Alcoholics Anonymous has touched and transformed myriad lives, and finally appears in a volume that honors its posterity and impact.

**aa founders day history: Twelve Concepts for World Service** Bill W., 1962

**aa founders day history: *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Trade Edition*** Bill W., 1953  
Twelve Steps to recovery.

**aa founders day history: *The Best of Bill*** A A Grapevine, Incorporated, Bill W, 1955 A handsome collection of five of AA cofounder Bill W.'s most powerful Grapevine essays sharing his thoughts on faith, fear, honesty, humility and love.

**aa founders day history: When Man Listens** Cecil Rose, 2008-07-09 Reprint of an edition published in New York in 1937 by Oxford University Press.

**aa founders day history: *The James Club and the Original A. A. Programs Absolute Essentials*** Dick B, 2011-07-26 Early Akron AAs wanted The James Club to be the name of their fellowship. The Bible's Book of James was their favorite; they also studied it, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and 1 Corinthians 13. These three Bible segments were considered absolutely essential to their program. This book takes each verse in James, the Sermon, and 1 Cor 13, and shows the influence of such verses on A.A. language.

**aa founders day history: "Pass it On"** Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, inc, 1984-01-01 The story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world/

**aa founders day history: *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*** Samuel Shem, Janet L. Surrey, 1990 Drama / 3m, 3f (w/doubling) / Unit set Newly revised edition! From the author of the best-selling novel, *The House of God*, this critically acclaimed version which played Off-Broadway in 2007, tells the amazing story of the two men who pioneered Alcoholics Anonymous, and of their wives, who founded Al Anon. During the roaring '20s, New York stockbroker Bill Wilson rides high on money, fame, and booze. In '29, both he and the market crash and he becomes a hopeless drunk. Dr. Bob Smith, a surgeon

**aa founders day history:** *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel García Márquez, 2022-10-11 Netflix's series adaptation of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* premieres December 11, 2024! One of the twentieth century's enduring works, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a widely beloved and acclaimed novel known throughout the world and the ultimate achievement in a Nobel Prize-winning career. The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Rich and brilliant, it is a chronicle of life, death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the beautiful, ridiculous, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America. Love and lust, war and revolution, riches and poverty, youth and senility, the variety of life, the endlessness of death, the search for peace and truth—these universal themes dominate the novel. Alternately reverential and comical, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* weaves the political, personal, and spiritual to bring a new consciousness to storytelling. Translated into dozens of languages, this stunning work is no less than an account of the history of the human race.

**aa founders day history:** *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* Alcoholics Anonymous, 1980 A biography, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest.

**aa founders day history:** *Quit Like a Woman* Holly Glenn Whitaker, 2020-01-09 \*The book that inspired Chrissy Teigen and Sex and The City's Miranda to quit drinking\* \_\_\_\_\_ 'An incredible read' - Chrissy Teigen 'Has the power to change your relationship with your entire life' - Glennon Doyle 'This thoughtful, moving book will help a lot of people get to a healthier place' - Johann Hari \_\_\_\_\_ We live in a world obsessed with drinking. We drink at work events, lunches, book clubs and weddings. Yet no one ever questions alcohol's ubiquity. In fact, the only thing ever questioned is why people don't drink. It is a qualifier for belonging. As a society, we are obsessed with health and wellness, yet we uphold alcohol as some sort of magic elixir. It is anything but. When Holly Whitaker started to look for a way to recover, the support systems she found for recovery were archaic and patriarchal. Urging drinkers towards a newfound humility is great if you're a man, but if you're a woman and not in a position to renounce privileges you never had, a whole other approach is needed. Honest, witty and trenchant, *Quit Like a Woman* is at once a ground-breaking look at drinking culture, a call to arms, and a celebration of learning how to claim everything life has to offer.

**aa founders day history:** *Distilled Spirits* Don Lattin, 2012-09-18 Chronicles the experiences of the author, a religion reporter, and his friendships with Aldous Huxley, Gerald Heard, and Bill Wilson, three men who had profound effects on the religion and spirituality of the twentieth century.

**aa founders day history:** *Ebby* Mel B., 2013-11-05 This is both a fascinating history of the formative years of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as the bitter-sweet tale of the troubled man Bill W. always referred to as my sponsor. In 1934, Ebby Thatcher called an old drinking buddy to tell him about the happiness he was finding in sobriety. His friend's name was Bill Wilson, and this book is the story of their life-long friendship. Deeply informative and moving, a valuable contribution to the history of A.A. A 'must' reading for anyone interested in one of the more fascinating chapters in A.A.'s history.--Nell Wing, Retired A.A. Archivist and Bill Wilson's Secretary

**aa founders day history:** *How It Worked* Mitchell K., 2018-06-30 This is the story of Clarence H. Snyder and how A.A. came to Cleveland Ohio. Clarence started the 3rd A.A. group in the world. His sponsor Dr. Bob S., a Co-Founder of Alcoholics Anonymous along with Bill W. Clarence started and initiated many practices that are used today. (he wrote a pamphlet on Sponsorship and initiated beginners classes. His Cleveland Central Bulletin predates The A.A. Grapevine ) Clarence asked his sponsee Mitchell K. to write the factual history of A.A. in Cleveland so that the ordinary man could read and understand it.

**aa founders day history:** *Slaying the Dragon: The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America* William L. White, 2014-07-01 This is the remarkable story of America's personal and institutional responses to alcoholism and other addictions. It is the story of mutual aid societies: the Washingtonians, the Blue Ribbon Reform Clubs, the Ollapod Club, the United Order of Ex-Boozers, the Jacoby Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Women for Sobriety. It is a story of



addiction treatment institutions from the inebriate asylums and Keeley Institutes to Hazelden and Parkside. It is the story of evolving treatment interventions that range from water cures and mandatory sterilization to aversion therapies and methadone maintenance. William White has provided a sweeping and engaging history of one of America's most enduring problems and the profession that was birthed to respond to it -- BACK COVER.

**aa founders day history: *Key Players in AA History*** Bob K, 2015-01 Today, there are over two million members of Alcoholics Anonymous. It's a life-saving fellowship. But who started it, and when? Most people know about the co-founders, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, who met in 1935 and formally launched AA. But who are the other key players in the history of AA? Well, there's Dr. William Silkworth, Bill's doctor at Towns Hospital. And Marty Mann, one of the first women in AA, and the founder of the National Council on Alcoholism. And Clarence Snyder, who started the first AA meeting in Cleveland. And many more fascinating men and women. *Key Players in AA History* by bob k not only tells us about these people, but in the process also provides a fresh understanding of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The book is well researched and a true pleasure to read. As Ernie Kurtz and Bill White put it in the Foreword: The profiles crafted by bob k are drawn from multiple sources and presented in an engaging manner accessible to all those interested in the history of AA. So let the stories begin.

**aa founders day history: *Carl Jung and Alcoholics Anonymous*** Ian McCabe, 2018-03-29 The author visited the archives of the headquarters of A.A. in New York, and discovered new communications between Carl Jung and Bill Wilson. For the first time this correspondence shows Jung's respect for A.A. and in turn, its influence on him. In particular, this research shows how Bill Wilson was encouraged by Jung's writings to promote the spiritual aspect of recovery as opposed to the conventional medical model which has failed so abysmally. The book overturns the long-held belief that Jung distrusted groups. Indeed, influenced by A.A.'s success, Jung gave complete and detailed instructions on how the A.A. group format could be developed further and used by general neurotics. Wilson was an advocate of treating some alcoholics with LSD in order to deflate the ego and induce a spiritual experience. The author explains how alcoholism can be diagnosed and understood by professionals and the lay person; by examining the detailed case histories of Jung, the author gives graphic examples of its psychological and behavioural manifestations.

**aa founders day history: *The Steps We Took*** Joe McQ, 2015-01-01 The words of this book's title are said aloud every day by thousands of people meeting together to help each other recover from addiction.s the addictions may be to alcohol or cocaine, gambling or food, violence or sex, but the path to recovery is the same. The exciting thing about the Twelve Steps is that they teach us how to live. Once we know the design of living and the principles of living a successful life, we find that we not only get over the problems we see, but we avoid many other problems we would have had. To me, the miracle is that all this was boiled down into twelve simple Steps that anybody can apply. This is a book of plain-spoken wisdom for people with addictions and people who love them. Joe McQ has been a student of the Twelve Steps for more than three decades. He, like tens of thousands of others, lives them every day, one day at a time. In *The Steps We Took*, Joe takes us through them, one Step at a time, and helps us understand how they work-and how they can change our lives.

**aa founders day history: *Making Known the Biblical History and Roots of Alcoholics Anonymous*** Dick B., 2006 One-of-a-kind bibliography, research, and history resource containing explicit information about author Dick B.'s 16 years of research: (1) Collecting over 25,000 books and materials on the roots of A.A. (2) Using them in the publication of his 26 titles, more than 120 articles, and over 30 audio talks. (3) Describing where he went for the history, where it is located, who was interviewed, and what it contains. (4) It lists titles Dick used in his writing; all of the background titles involved in A.A.'s use of the Bible, Quiet Time, Oxford Group life-changing program, Anne Smith's Journal, Rev. Sam Shoemaker's teachings, religious literature AAs read, the United Christian Endeavor Movement, Carl Jung, William James, William D. Silkworth, Richard Peabody, Emmet Fox and many other New Thought influences. (5) It lists all the books in A.A. founder Dr. Bob's library and collections--a list found nowhere else. (6) It contains manuscripts from

archives and libraries and personal collections all over the U.S. and England. (7) There is a huge collection of temperance books and literature described. (8) Topical books by A.A., about A.A., about alcoholism, about spirituality, about the Bible, religion, and clergy. (9) Included are records of Dick's notes and interviews. (10) Almost this entire collection of materials has been donated to and can now be found and studied at Griffith Library, which is part of The Wilson House (birthplace of Bill W.) in East Dorset, Vermont. Taken together, this reference volume and the actual materials in the Griffith Library, constitute the largest and most complete record of early A.A. historical materials in the world today, other than the Library of Congress items.

**aa founders day history: Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age** Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 2014-10-09 A.A. co-founder Bill W. tells the story of the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous from its make-or-break beginnings in New York and Akron in the early 1930s to its spread across the country and overseas in the years that followed. A wealth of personal accounts and anecdotes portray the dramatic power of the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery — unique not only in its approach to treating alcoholism but also in its spiritual impact and social influence. Bill recounts the evolution of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service — those principles and practices that protect A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service — and how in 1955 the responsibility for these were passed on by the founding members to the Fellowship (A.A.'s membership at large). In closing chapters of *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, early friends of A.A., including the influential Dr. Silkworth and Father Ed Dowling, share their perspectives. Includes 16 pages of archival photographs. For those interested in the history of A.A. and how it has withstood the test of time, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* offers on the growth of this ground-breaking movement. *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* has been approved by the General Service Conference.

**aa founders day history: The Good Book and The Big Book** Dick B, 2011-08-05 *The Good Book* and the *Big Book: A.A.'s Roots in the Bible* is the most popular of Dick B.'s 42 titles. It traces the precise A.A. Big Book and 12 Step language that came from the Bible. Christians and AAs alike acclaim this title's thorough review of early A.A. sources showing the Bible's role in A.A.'s recovery ideas. This book demonstrates how God helps alcoholics recover if they want His help.

**aa founders day history: Heroes of Early Black AA** Glenn Chesnut, 2017-07-02 The stories of the first heroic black men and women who joined Alcoholics Anonymous, told wherever possible in their own words, recorded freely and frankly. The story begins with St. Louis (January 24, 1945); followed by Chicago (March 20, 1945), along with the factory and foundry towns which spread eastwards as suburbs. Later that same year (April 1945) came the story of Dr. James C. Scott, Jr., M.D., the black physician who founded the first black A.A. group in the nation's capital, and was the first black A.A. member to get his story in the Big Book. The book concludes with the story of Joe McQuany (March 10, 1962) of the Joe and Charlie tapes, the most famous black figure in A.A. History. The lives of thousands and thousands of alcoholics around the world were saved by listening to recordings of his careful page-by-page explanation of the message of the Big Book. The powerful spiritual messages of all these brave men and women struck the hearts of everyone who heard them speak.

**aa founders day history: Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition** Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 2013-12-04 Known as the Big Book, the basic text of Alcoholics Anonymous has helped millions of people worldwide get and stay sober since the first edition appeared in 1939. Opening chapters articulate A.A.'s program of recovery from alcoholism — the original Twelve Steps — and recount the personal histories of A.A.'s co-founders, Bill W. and Dr. Bob. In the pages that follow, more than 40 A.A. members share how they stopped drinking and found a new healthier and more serene way of life through the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Whether reading passages at meetings, reading privately for personal reflection, or working with a sponsor, the Big Book can be a source of inspiration, guidance and comfort on the journey to recovery. This Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* has been approved by the General Service Conference.

**aa founders day history: The History of Gay People in Alcoholics Anonymous** Audrey

Borden, 2014-06-03 The History of Gay People in Alcoholics Anonymous documents and honors the ways thousands of LGBT people have carried Alcoholics Anonymous' message. This illuminating chronicle includes interviews and documents that detail the compelling history, recovery, and wisdom of gay people in AA. The book examines the challenges AA faced as the fellowship endeavored to become a more inclusive and cohesive community. The first-person accounts narrate the important work of influential gay and straight AA members that led key events in AA's history. The author includes material on the steps and traditions of AA, and on becoming an ally to LGBT people on the road to recovery. Topics in The History of Gay People in Alcoholics Anonymous include: the gay origins of AA's Third Tradition a comparison of treatments for alcoholism and homosexuality compelling portraits of sober gay life in the 1950s and 1960s the debate in AA over meetings for gay alcoholics interviews with members and co-founders of the first gay AA meetings the history of the first gay AA/Al-Anon conference interviews with pioneering gay addiction professionals the history of AA pamphlet "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" Alcoholics Together, and why a parallel AA organization for gay alcoholics formed in southern California strategies AA's gay members developed to make their meetings simultaneously safe and public—and why some of them are still necessary today much more The History of Gay People in Alcoholics Anonymous is an enlightening book for members of the LGBT and heterosexual recovering community, alcoholism and addiction professionals, as well as physicians, counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, clergy, historians, sociologists, educators, students, and anyone interested in learning more about AA or this aspect of the community's history.

**aa founders day history: Bill W** Robert Thomsen, 2010-08-12 Robert Thomsen's biography describes the story of Bill W., a stirring spiritual odyssey through triumph, failure, and rebirth, with vital meaning for men and women everywhere. This is the story of a man whose discovery and vision have changed the lives of millions of people throughout the world. Robert Thomsen's biography takes readers through the events of Bill W.'s life, all the while detailing Bill's growing dependence on alcohol. Thomsen writes of the collapse that brought Bill to the verge of death and of the luminous instant of insight that saved him. This turning point led Bill to the encounter in 1935 with Dr. Bob and the start of what was to be a new beginning for countless others who despaired of finding rescue and redemption. Every night at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings around the world, a speaker says, Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. This describes the story of Bill W., a stirring spiritual odyssey through triumph, failure, and rebirth, with vital meaning for men and women everywhere.

**aa founders day history: Daily Reflections** A a, Aa World Services Inc, 2017-07-27 This is a book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members. It was first published in 1990 to fulfill a long-felt need within the Fellowship for a collection of reflections that moves through the calendar year--one day at a time. Each page contains a reflection on a quotation from A.A. Conference-approved literature, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, As Bill Sees It and other books. These reflections were submitted by members of the A.A. Fellowship who were not professional writers, nor did they speak for A.A. but only for themselves, from their own experiences in sobriety. Thus the book offers sharing, day by day, from a broad cross section of members, which focuses on the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, Unity and Service. Daily Reflections has proved to be a popular book that aids individuals in their practice of daily meditation and provides inspiration to group discussions even as it presents an introduction for some to A.A. literature as a whole.

**aa founders day history: I Am Responsible** , 2005 I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible. Read this special collection of Grapevine stories on the impact of AA's Responsibility Declaration for both individuals and the Fellowship as a wh

**aa founders day history: When Early AAs Were Cured and why** Dick B., 2006 Dick B.'s latest exploration of, and report on the solid evidence that early AAs were cured of alcoholism and said so for the first decade after their founding. This title tells HOW. It explains the many reports of

religious healings through the ages, the many in or observers of A.A. who proved that they were cured, the myths about God, alcoholism, and no cure, and the key origins, roots, and elements of the early Akron Christian Fellowship where the cures occurred. A book for believers who know God's power and want to know how it was applied in the healing of alcoholism by A.A. pioneers

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90 years of aa founders day picnic 1935-2025 june 7th 11:00 am 3:00pm  
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