

The NIGHT CAP

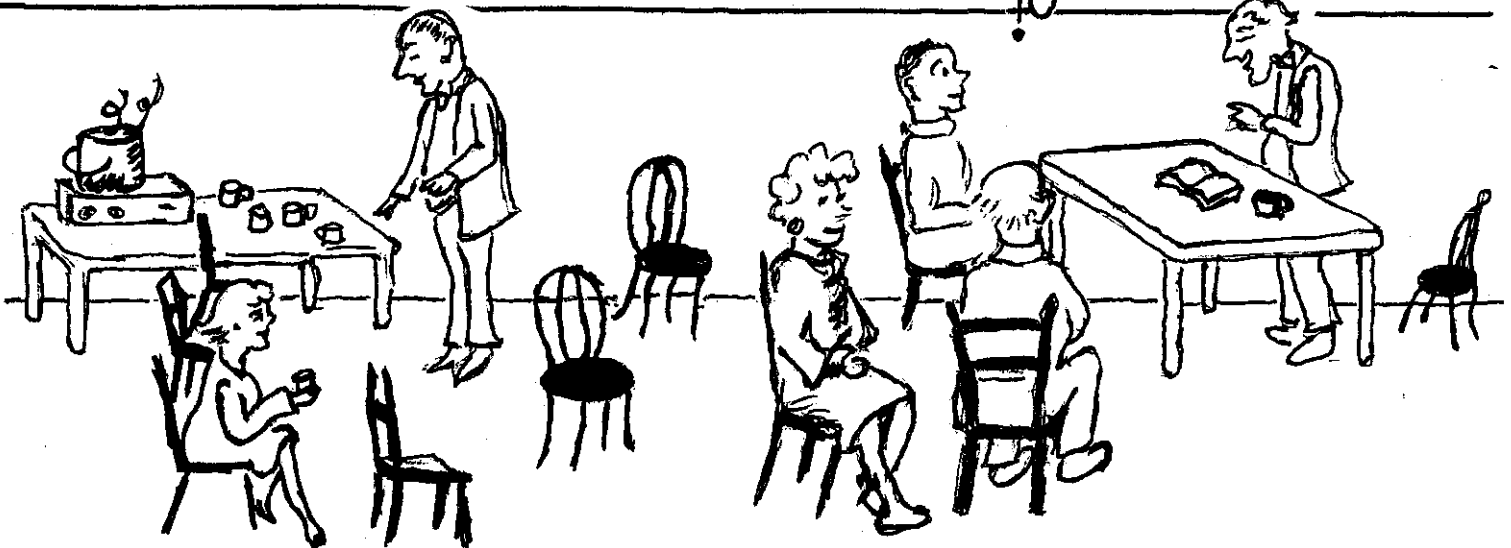
Published monthly by the San Antonio Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity of members in local and Southwest Texas area groups.

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AA COMES TO SAN ANTONIO

Early in April of 1945 Esther E. and a Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Houston contacted Dr. Everett H. Jones (now Bishop Jones) of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio for the purpose of starting a group of Alcoholics Anonymous. At Dr. Jones' invitation they came to San Antonio and met in his office.

Four people joined AA as a result of this meeting. On April 11 they rented the lower floor of an old building, formerly a store, at the corner of Fourth and Taylor Streets. This was the first permanent meeting place for alcoholics in San Antonio.

By the time I joined, on October 8, 1945, the original four had grown to seventeen members, a few of them "off and on". Of those seventeen, only one man, who asks to be anonymous, and I are living and dry, never having had a slip.

Our first meeting place had the bare essentials: A table for the speaker to stand or sit behind, facing the audience, and a number of chairs. There was a little gas plate for making coffee in a bucket which we drank from tin cups. There was a toilet off the kitchen for our use.

But I remember what a haven it seemed, as some of us would spend hours together staying sober and hoping for new "recruits". We had a telephone installed and put an ad in the paper giving our phone and Post Office Box numbers.

I was the third woman to join, but by the close of 1945 our group was increasing steadily as more men and women came in. By the end of 1946 it was apparent that we ought to branch out and form new groups.

How gratifying it is to have been able to participate in and watch the growth of our Fellowship for more than twenty-eight years. We must meet discouragements and disappointments, but we continue to "carry the message" to those who still suffer. There will always be AA.

-Zoe C.

Details of 29th Anniversary Celebration of AA in San Antonio, to be held Friday, April 5, at 6:30 PM are on Page 2.

THE REASON YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS WORK

God in His wisdom selected this group of men and women to be the purveyors of His goodness. In selecting them through whom to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous or the brilliant. He went instead to the humble, to the sick, to the unfortunate. He went right to the drunkard, the so-called weakling of the world. Well might He have said to us:

"Unto your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientists or statesmen, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests or ministers have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics which I entrust to you.

"It must be used unselfishly; it carries with it grave responsibility. No day can be too long; no demands upon your time can be too urgent; no case be too pitiful; no task too hard; no effort too great. It must be used with tolerance for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed, and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect; lack of appreciation will be common; ridicule will be your lot; your motives will be misjudged. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs toward spiritual perfection, and remember, in the exercise of this power, I shall not exact from you beyond your capabilities.

"You are not selected because of exceptional talents, and be careful always, if success attends your efforts, not to ascribe to personal superiority that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of my gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, the power would have been entrusted to the physician and scientist. If I had wanted eloquent men, there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all talents with which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better men than you who would be available. You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and your long experience as drunkards has made or should make you humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere.

"Keep ever in mind the admission you made on the day of your profession in AA, namely that you are powerless and that it was only with your willingness to turn your life unto my keeping that relief came to you."

-Anonymous

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29TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
AA IN SAN ANTONIO

Everybody come to the First Presbyterian Church, 4th & Alamo Sts., on Friday, April 5, at 6:30 PM for a Pitch-In-Dinner and a great AA talk by Jack B. of Miriam, Kans., who gave such an impressive message at the AA convention here in June, 1972. Plenty of parking. Good food, fun & fellowship. Donation: \$1.25. Don't miss this memorable event!

5TH EAST TEXAS AL-ANON CONVENTION

Will be held May 10, 11 and 12, 1974, at the Gunter Hotel, San Antonio, TX, for Al-Anons, Alateens and AAs. The theme will be "Al-Anon, a Chain of Hearts and Hope". Speakers will be: Fred C., Port Arthur; Marcelene W., Lake Whitney; Linda O., Waco; Pat C., Austin and Joe L. (AA), Tyler. Dr. Gene S. and Margaret W., AAs of San Antonio, will be on the panel.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA CONFERENCE
9TH ANNUAL AA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

will be held April 6 and 7, 1974, at the Ramada Inn, Victoria, TX. Registration 9:30 AM Saturday, April 6. Registration fee: \$2.00. Opening Session: 10 AM. Room reservations may be made directly to Ramada Inn, 2702 Houston HiWay, Victoria, phone: 512, 575-8211. All GSRs and alternates, past delegates and interested AAs are urged to attend. Each Group should be represented.

Registration fee of \$6.00 includes all activities and the Saturday night dance. No Registration fee for Alateen. The Banquet Saturday is priced separately; tickets will be available at the Convention. Registration: Convention Committee, 866 Craven St., San Antonio, 78223.

We hope to see you all. It's a Family Affair!

-Bridget C.
Public Information Chairman

GROUP NEWS

OPEN DOOR, St. George's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 6904 West Ave.: The regular 8:15 PM Friday Open Discussion Meeting will not be held April 5th in order to help celebrate the AA Anniversary in San Antonio. The regular Open Discussion Meeting will resume April 12.



THE HAVEN, 1640 W. Woodlawn, will hold its regular monthly Bar-B-Que at 1 PM Sunday, April 14; the Open Speakers Meeting will be held at 3 PM on the second Sunday only. All other Sundays the meeting will be at 5 PM.

The April 5 10:15 PM Open Speakers Meeting is cancelled because of the San Antonio AA Anniversary; the regular Friday meeting will resume April 12.

DOWNTOWN GROUP, Sahara Club- 809 E Euclid, has cancelled the Apr. 7 Dinner & Bingo. It will resume on Sunday, May 5, at 1 PM. Poor Boy Bingo is held each Saturday at 8 PM.

GOLIAD GROUP, 1004 Avondale, will have its monthly Bar-B-Que Sunday, April 21, at 6 PM.

24 HOUR GROUP, 24 Hour Club, 1203 Fredericksburg Rd., will hold its monthly dinner and Bingo on Sunday, April 28, at 1 PM.

FRONTIER GROUP, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Southton Rd., now sponsors a dance the third Saturday of the month following the 8:15 PM Open Speakers Meeting. The first dance, held March 23, was so successful that it was decided to hold them regularly. The next one will be held Saturday, April 20.

An ALATEEN GROUP now meets at the ARC on Saturdays at 8:15 PM.

GROUP 12, Club 12, 102 Thames: The 90-Day or Less Beginners Meeting is held each Sunday at 3 PM. Alanon Beginners meet at the same time and place. A General AA Beginners Meeting is held every Sunday at 4:30 PM. The monthly dinner and Bingo will be on Saturday, April 27, at 7 PM.

ST. AGNES: Va a haber una junta el Miercoles, en el edificio contra la iglesia católica de St. Agnes, la calle Ruiz número 804 para los que hablen español.

ST. AGNES: (Spanish Speaking), Bldg. across street from St. Agnes Catholic Church, 804 Ruiz St., holds Open Speakers Meetings each Wednesday at 8:15 PM.

BREES GROUP, Sunset Ridge Church of Christ, 2367 Brees, holds a Closed Discussion on Thursdays at 8:15 PM. Alanon meets at the same time and place. Birthdays are celebrated at an Open Meeting the last Thursday of each month.

STEPPING STONES, First Presbyterian Church, 4th at Alamo, meets every Thursday at 8:15 PM in the Corral Room for Open Discussions. This is a new Group centrally located for all. Entrance is on 4th St. Everybody come!

FIFTH CHAPTER, Club 12, 102 Thames, holds Closed Discussions on Tuesdays at 8:15 PM. Please come and support this meeting- we owe it to the newcomers! -D. L., Sec'y.

HARMONY GROUP, 2208 N. Zarzamora, holds a Closed Discussion on Thursdays and an Open Speakers Meeting on Saturdays at 8:15 PM. Alanon has Open meetings on Thursdays at 8:15 PM.

HIGHLAND GROUP, Aldersgate Methodist Church, 504 Kayton, has Open Speakers meetings on Wednesdays at 8:15 PM.

HOPE GROUP, Alpha Home, 111 Queens Crescent, has Open Speakers and Open Discussion Meetings on alternate Thursdays at 8:15 PM.

KING WILLIAM GROUP, St. Benedict's Hospital and Nursing Home, Ground Floor Dining Room, 323 E. Johnson, holds a Closed Discussion every Tuesday at 8:15 PM.

LAUREL HEIGHTS, Christ Church, 301 W. Russell, meets on Sundays at 5 PM for Open Discussions.

Gladys H. is the Night Cap Group News Reporter. Call her at 822-1958 with news of Anniversaries, special events and other items of interest by the 20th of the month prior to event.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

AREA INTERGROUP MEETING TITLE CHANGED TO :
SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA ROUND ROBIN (AA STARR)

Due to the fact that a surprising number of new, and OLD, AA members (including this chairperson) had failed to realize the literally thousands of miles encompassed by the Southwest Texas Area, and because we plan in 1974-75 (gasoline shortage permitting) to urge the attendance of whole groups, rather than inviting one of their members to San Antonio as a speaker at our monthly AA meetings, the Central Service Office Committee has unanimously decided to change the name of the "Area Intergroup Meeting" to the more descriptive title of "Southwest Texas Area Round Robin" - "AA STARR".

Starting at Brownsville (please get a Texas map!), the SW Texas Area reaches all the way up the Rio Grande River to Del Rio, over to Sanderson, Alpine and Ft. Stockton; cuts across to San Angelo and Brownwood. From there it drops back down to San Saba, Lampasas and Killeen. Continuing down, it takes in Hearne, Bryan, Brenham, Columbus, Eagle Lake and Edna, then follows the Gulf Coast to Rockport, Port Aransas, Corpus Christi, and on back to Brownsville. All other coastal and inland groups in counties, towns and cities within this huge interior of these outlined boundaries are also included in this SW Texas Area, far too many to list in our limited space.

And for all this vast territory there is only ONE Central Service Office! It is located right here in San Antonio at 109 Lexington Ave. and employs only one Secretary. Along with other secretarial duties, phone calls and referrals, this secretary provides AA assistance to the one hundred-plus SW Texas Area AA Groups consisting of several thousand members. Donations received at our Round Robins go to the CSO to help defray its operating expenses.

All AAs, Alanons, Alateens and any other persons interested in coping with the disease of alcoholism are urged to attend this month's OPEN AA STARR, to be held Sunday, April 14 at Club 12, 102 Thames, San Antonio, at 8:15 PM. The Seguin AA Group will take their turn conducting the Round Robin with Nolte S. as Chairman. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. See you there. -Edna McG., Chairman

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held Sunday, April 14, at 7 PM at Club 12. All GSRs are reminded to plan to attend, or make sure that their Group is represented.

* * * IN MEMORIAM * * *

Serenity Group, in memory of the mother of Jim B.

Northwood Group, in memory of the son of Nita B.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES: March was a busy and rewarding month for members of the PIC. Lee Ray C. and Sue C. spoke to students at Roosevelt High School. "Gentle Ben" A. filled a request for a bilingual speaker to talk to a group at St. Martin de Porres Church on March 7.

On March 18 LaRee M. spoke to two classes of 50 students each at MacArthur High School. Charles B. addressed two classes of 46 students at Churchill High School; Rick C. and Whitey M. on March 20 devoted a full day speaking to 5 classes with a total of 170 students.

Pat B. told of the AA recovery program at a dual meeting in cooperation with the Alcoholic Treatment Program at MacArthur High School on March 27. March 11 Frost U., Whitey M. and Gene L. spoke to Sunday School classes at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. LaRee M. talked to 4 classes totalling 1600 students on March 19 at MacArthur. March 25 Regina S. spoke at Roosevelt High School.

NEW LITERATURE
FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

Problems Other Than Alcohol (Excerpts) is now available in the Central Service Office and also the entire article by Bill W. for 6¢ each.

23D ANNUAL TENNESSEE STATE CONVENTION OF AA will be at Statler Hilton Airport Inn, Municipal Airport, Nashville, Tenn. May 17-19, 1974. For information write: Tenn. State Convention, P.O.Box 2763, Nashville, Tenn., 37219.

Central Service Office News continued on page 5.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE NEWS (Cont'd)

CHANGES TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SAN ANTONIO MEETING DIRECTORY DATED AUGUST 1973

ALANON/ALATEEN GROUPS

AA GROUPS

ADDITIONS:

EL CARMEN (Bilingual) meets in recreation bldg. behind El Carmen Catholic Mission, 18487 Martinez-Losoya Rd. Open Discussions on Thursdays, 8:15 PM.

GRUPO MONTAÑA (Bilingual), 728 E. Mountain, Seguin, TX. Open Speaker Meetings on Thursdays, 8 PM.

24 HOUR GROUP, 1203 Fredericksburg Rd., has added a Closed Discussion meeting on Mondays at 8:15 PM. See Directory for other meetings.

ALAMO GROUP, 2011 N. Alamo, holds Closed Discussion Fifth Step Meetings Mondays 8:15 PM.

THE STEPPING STONES, Corral Room, First Presbyterian Church, 408 4th St., is a new Group holding Open Discussion Meetings on Thursdays at 8:15 PM.

CORRECTIONS:

GRUPO UNIDAD (Spanish Speaking), Unity Club, 111 NW 24th St., has Open Speaker Meetings Saturdays, 8:15 PM.

WESLEY (Bilingual) has moved to 2025 Monterey and holds Open Speaker meetings Thursdays and Sundays, 8:15 PM.

CHANGES:

90-DAY OR LESS BEGINNERS MEETING, Club 12, 102 Thames, has been changed from 4 PM to 3 PM every Sunday.

GENERAL BEGINNERS MEETING, Club 12, 102 Thames, Sundays at 4:30 PM.

DISCONTINUED:

GROUP 12 YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING, Club 12, Mondays.

ADDITIONS:

EL CARMEN (Bilingual) meets in recreation bldg. behind El Carmen Catholic Mission, 18487 Martinez-Losoya Rd., Thursdays at 8:15PM.

FRONTIER ALATEEN, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Southton Rd., Saturdays at 8:15 PM.

DISBANDED: NORTHWOOD ALATEEN

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE SECRETARY

As you know, the Central Service Office here in San Antonio was started in 1949 as a service office for all of the groups in the Southwest Texas Area. During this time there were four Secretaries: Otto (Doc) B., deceased; Edra F., Hobie G. and your present Secretary, Corrinne A. What a busyplace it is- and growing all the time! Your No. 4 Secretary will be leaving as soon as a replacement is obtained, but no later than May as a ten year old grandson is now living with us and needs my attention.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Fellowship for your confidence over these past many months. It's a warm and friendly office, dedicated to handling the business of AA and I know you will all want to come in when you have an opportunity and give the new Secretary the same vote of confidence you gave me. Love you all.

-Corrinne A., Secretary

THE NIGHT CAP wishes to thank our friends and readers for the articles, cartoons and items of interest being sent to us. We still need material of all kinds pertaining to AA. Send to: THE NIGHT CAP, Lexington Bldg., 109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215, San Antonio, TX, 78205.

