

# THE NIGHTCAP



Volume 32 Issue 04

April 2001

## The Unpopular Truth

### CSO Notes

In an on going effort to keep groups informed the following changes have and are taking place at your Central Service Office.

We just finished the remodeling to bring the Office into compliance with the American Disabilities Act using the funds for Tenant remodeling negotiated with our lease renewal. Our next phase will be to install the new carpeting donated to the office, sometime in the next 60 days. We have also put in a new phone system since the one that was here since 1979, finally went on to meet it's electronic higher power.

•A reminder you can contact us now by E-mail for information, or to order literature, or if you have something for the Nightcap. We also take complaints, compliments, and best of all suggestions.

•More will be revealed

Your Manager  
Bill T

### CSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Madonna M  
Louis R  
Corky C  
Ed C  
Randy S  
Andy L  
Judy F



My sponsor told me that being in service work was no way to win a popularity contest. The contrary in fact is most often true. He said that is was my fiduciary responsibility to uphold the Traditions and speak about our history and experience, which many times is in direct conflict with some people's preconceived ideas.

Recovery centers and hospitals, which treat persons who are "chemically dependent" many times claim that there is no difference between alcoholism and drug addiction; from their point of view, they're correct. These places deal in breaking through the individuals 'denial.' Denial is predominant in all forms of self-destructive disorders; if it weren't, who would engage in behavior that was so personally destructive? Breaking through this belief system is all that these centers are concerned with besides your money. Unfortunately many of their patients, carry this sentiment about drugs and alcohol beyond these centers and out into the world of 12 step programs.

Many well meaning members of AA also believe this untruth, and encourage non-alcoholic people to come into A A, making claims that by using our program of recovery they can recover. If this was true where are all of the pure addicts, pure gamblers, codependents, overeaters, etc.? If our program was effective in curing the ills of the world, our numbers would be 10, 20, 30 fold what it is now.

The truth, born out of our experience, history and literature is that we can help only the alcoholic or at the very least, someone who wants to quit drinking. Even with alcoholics our success ratio is dismal. Currently 80% of the fellowship has less than 5 years sobriety. The odds of an alcoholic obtaining a five-year chip are one in five. What luck could we have with someone who doesn't even meet our only requirement? (See Tradition 3)

Our history shows us quite clearly groups and members have tried to help people who suffer from every form of compulsive behavior known to man. Unless they meet our one requirement, experience has shown they leave A.A. and many times return to their past addiction or disorder. Would you advise someone with a toothache to see a chiropractor?

Many people on the other hand have gotten here through the back door. After time, and by attending our meetings they discover that they do have a problem with alcohol, and are able to recover, and also deal with their other character defects.

When we tell non-alcoholics that we can help them, we're gambling with their lives, not our own. This is at best is wishful thinking, and at worst, irresponsible and dangerous advice. We are also saying the other 12 step programs specifically designed for these people don't work. An arrogant and untrue statement.

Experience shows us that when we make statements and give advice not born out by our literature and history we are treading on dangerous ground and in many cases we cause more harm than good.

The honest and truthful advice of Alcoholics Anonymous is that we can only help people who want to quit drinking, and that if someone has another problem, there are over 200 Twelve Step programs available that also concentrate their efforts in a single purpose of recovery. We can't, nor have we ever been able to, help non-alcoholics and to encourage this belief is in direct conflict with our Traditions, Steps and experience.

The truth is not always pleasant, and the messenger is many times unpopular. What are the alternatives? What would the Master do? He'd probably tell the truth; he always has.

Mike K. Reprinted from publication of the Contra Costa Inter-group.

## MANAGERS MAILBAG

*Coming Fourth Edition of the Big Book Frequently Asked Questions.*

**Q. Why do we need a Fourth Edition?**

*A. As Bill W. wrote about the new stories in the Second Edition of the Big Book, "The main purpose of the revision is to bring the stories section up to date, to portray more adequately a cross section of those who have found help - the audience for the book is people who are coming to Alcoholics Anonymous now."*

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**Q. How many copies of the Big Book have been sold?**

*A. At the 2000 International Convention held in Minneapolis, a commemorative copy of the 20 millionth Big Book was presented to the chairman of the board of Al-Anon Family Groups at the Sunday morning meeting on July 2nd.*

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## IT ISN'T FAIR

Living with a seven and three year old, I hear the words, "It isn't fair like the faithful chant of a Greek Chorus, day in and day out. According to my Grandchildren, it isn't fair that I expect them to do chores, and it isn't fair that I discipline them for jobs not done. It isn't fair that we don't own a Play station (1 or 2), or that plans fall through, or that a teacher graded them on what they wrote down instead of what they meant.

Thanks to the wisdom of AA, I can tell my Grandkids that they're absolutely right: Life isn't fair.

Life just is. It's a boggling mix of justice and injustice, love and apathy, light and shadows, mountaintops and sewers, blessings and deprivations. When I fit my expectations to its reality, I'm better able to keep my footing in life, despite its struggling ups and its stunning downs.

But sometimes I lose my footing and hear myself muttering their complaint. It isn't fair, I gripe, that just not taking a stupid drink can require such effort at times! It's not fair that I must live with the "ism" of my disease, and I'll always have to go to meetings just to live a normal life!

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And much of the time, I could argue my position quite successfully. The pain of people's lives really just isn't fair.

But neither is recovery - not if "fairness" means receiving one's just rewards.

There was nothing in my drinking-life that earned me the mercy of recovery. There is nothing in the hopeless insanity of addiction that explains the miracle of sobriety. I have no long list of past good deeds that totaled up qualify me for what I now have: freedom from alcohol, serenity, a faithful community of recovering friends, a life of purpose and integrity.

No, recovery isn't fair. The fact that I lived long enough to claim my miracle, isn't fair. The fact that my Grandchildren trust me enough now to complain to me, isn't fair. That I can touch other lives now in ways that comfort instead of wound, isn't fair. The love of God isn't fair.

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So my Grandkids are absolutely right: Life isn't fair. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

# AN ANTONIO

Weekend in SA with AA  
 April 27, 28, 29, 2001  
 HOTELS AND SUITES

## WALKING DISTANCE

from Suites - 830 N. St. Marys  
 527 1900 - Ask for the special rate for Weekend in S.A.  
 Points San Antonio Riverwalk - 110 Lexington  
 0 288 3927 -- 210 223 9461 -- Fax 210 233 9267

to Travelodge -- 405 Broadway  
 222 1000 -- Fax 210 229 9744

## FREE PARKING INFORMATION

We have entered an agreement with The Bank of America to provide free parking at No. St. Marys parking from 6 PM through Sunday. Enter from North St. Marys - exit on the east side of the Municipal Auditorium.  
 Enter - 1 and 1/2 blocks east of the Municipal Auditorium.  
 ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE OR THEFT.  
 YOUR CAR AND HIDE ALL VALUABLES.

## STA WEEK

It's a very special time of the year in San Antonio. Why not celebrate it a few days early and visit our local A.A. Groups and have a little Fiesta fun? So what is Fiesta San Antonio? It is a day celebration held every April to honor the memory of the Alamo as well as recognize and celebrate San Antonio's rich diverse cultures. This year marks the 109th. Visit our web site at [www.fiesta-sa.org](http://www.fiesta-sa.org) for a schedule of events, or contact Flesta San Antonio Commission, Inc - 2611 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78215-1022, or call toll free 1 877 723 4378

## BE FINANCIALLY SELF-SUPPORTING

There are many A.A. Conferences held around the world, and one of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are A.A. Meetings. Conventions and conferences are special events which require a substantial amount of money. This Conference is funded primarily through registration fees, plus contributions from individual A.A. members and A.A. Groups. The majority of these contributions are in the form of food, drinks and scholarship money. No baskets are passed. Attendance is voluntary and as responsible A.A. members, "we pay our own way".

A Way Of Life That Is  
 Incredibly More Wonderful  
 THEME FOR THE 2001 WEEKEND IN SA WITH AA

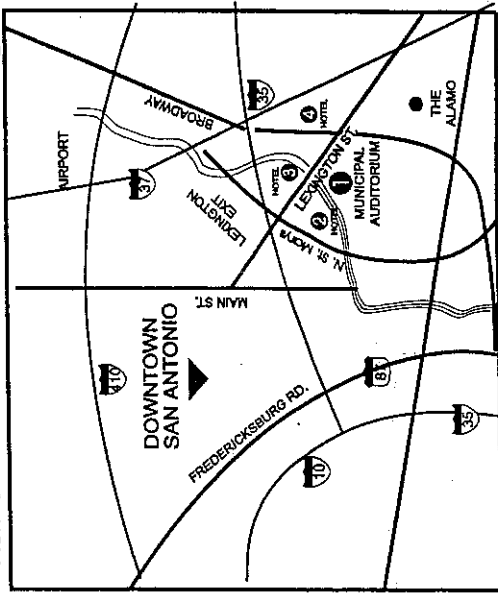
SCHEDULED EVENTS  
 MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM - 100 AUDITORIUM CIRCLE

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2001  
 2:00 PM Registration Opens  
 5:00 PM Semi-Marathon Meetings Begin  
 7:30 PM Patty O. (AA) Laguna Beach, CA

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2001  
 9:00 AM Registration Opens  
 9:00 AM Semi-Marathon Meetings Begin  
 10:00 AM Ed C. (AA) Washington, D.C.  
 11:30 AM Hispanic Speaker (AA)  
 1:30 PM Janet D. (AFG) Pittsburgh, PA  
 3:00 PM Talent Show  
 7:00 PM Jack D. (AA) Pittsburgh, PA  
 8:30 PM DANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2001  
 8:30 AM Taco Cowbell Breakfast with  
 side order of Sharing  
 10:15 AM Gene G. (AA) Punta Gorda, FLA

Visit our Website -- [www.AAinSA.org](http://www.AAinSA.org)



# SAN ANTONIO REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 BADGE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ A.A. ALANON  
 BADGE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ A.A. ALANON  
 PRE-REGISTRATION (Per Person) \$20  
 (\$5. Savings)  
 DOOR REGISTRATION (\$25 Per Person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 DANCE (Per Person) \$ 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL {Check} {Credit Card} \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card { VISA } { MC } { AMEX }  
 {DISCOVER} { DINERS } { Carte Blanche }  
 Card Member Name (Please Print or type) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number (Please Print or type) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you are using a credit card to register you may choose to complete the registration form and:

Fax it to 210 493 3946  
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:  
 CHAIRMAN, WEEKEND IN S.A.  
 3607 TRAILWAY PARK  
 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247 - 2938

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION

# GROUP FORUM

## GROUP UPDATES

The Schertz Cibolo Women's meeting has change from Sundays at 5PM to Mondays at 7Pm.

The Keep it Simple Group which meets at Trinity Methodist has folded.

The New Downtown Group has added a Midnight candlelight meeting on Fridays.

Until further notice the Fort Sam Group is still meeting in its old location (2797 Stanley Road, Roadrunner community center)

### NEW GROUP

The Fort Sam HOSPITAL Group will begin meeting at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) On third Floor West The Health Promotions Center in Conference Room B-3-358 Mon. -Wed-Fri, Noon.

The Acceptance Group has added an Open, Friday Night 7PM meeting held at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (off Kitty Hawk in Universal City) Family members encouraged to attend.

The New Downtown Group is now open 24 Hours on weekends from 7 AM Friday morning till Sunday Midnight

The Sunrise Group now meets only on Fridays at 7AM 115 Shannon Lee-next to Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
The TGIF Group at St. Matthew's Episcopal in Universal City is now a 12:30 meeting

Meeting Schedule Correction;  
Wings Eagle Group meeting at 7PM not 8PM as listed

## WORKSHOPS

*The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety*  
The Wednesday night Women's Big Book Group is bringing Polly P to San Antonio for a One-day workshop for men and women.

Saturday September 29th  
9-5 PM, Leon Springs Dance hall  
Pre Registration \$10.00 Further information call 820-3573 Pre -Registration Forms can be obtained at the Central Office

Alcoholicos Anonimos Distrito 1F  
Workshop Starting at noon 14 April  
11550 Topperwein Rd  
Registration \$ 3.00  
1-3 PM Sharing session and food  
3-330PM social  
3:30-5:30 PM 3 legacies presented by Grupo Esperanza, Grupo Unidad, and Santa Fe, Grupo Gratitud.

New Downtown Group  
1501 East Commerce St (223-0591)  
Barbecue Dinner Sat April 14th 1PM-?  
Music and Fellowship-  
6PM Speaker Mickey S from Abilene  
\$5.00 Donation

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Winners Club Casino Night  
May 12th 9PM-1AM  
Tacos -Beef and Chicken Fajitas  
Will be served

New Downtown Group Birthday Night  
First Tuesday 7:30 to 9:30

10 April Club 12 Board of Directors meeting

April 14th Club 12 dance 7:30-Midnight

April 20th Club 12 dance 7:30-Midnight

April 21st ARC Alumni 2001 Retreat  
Calaveras Lake Call the ARC  
(210-633-0201) To sign up

## THINGS WE CAN NOT CHANGE

AL D passed away on 19 March 2001 his sobriety date was 11-16-66  
He was long time member of the Valley-Hi group.  
During my last conversation with him he said with a smile that "maybe this will be my last retirement from the Central Service Office" then he added "then again you never know." That was rather uncharacteristic since most people who knew him would call him direct and brief, you always knew where you stood. He was a friend, and mentor to me. A good member of Alcoholic Anonimus. A loving family man.

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- 4 Alamo Travelodge - 405 Broadway  
210 222 1000 - Fax 210 229 9744

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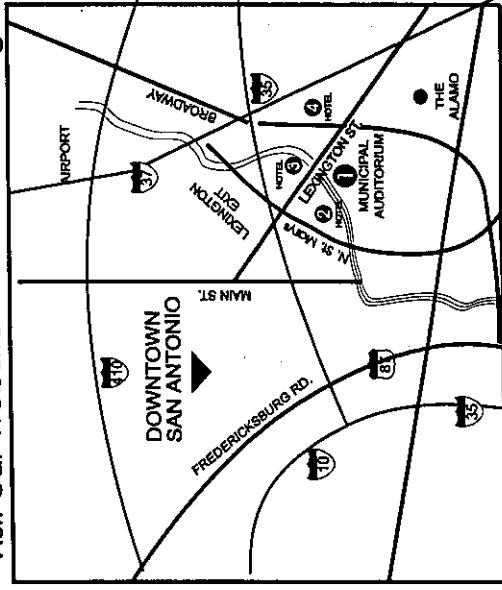
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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

BADGE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ A.A. ALAMON

BADGE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ A.A. ALAMON

PRE-REGISTRATION (Per Person) \$20  
(\$5. Savings)

DOOR REGISTRATION (\$25 Per Person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DANCE (Per Person) \$ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL {Check} {Credit Card} \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card {VISA} {MC} {AMEX} {DISCOVER} {DINERS} {Carte Blanche}

Card Member Name (Please Print or type) \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number (Please Print or type) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you are using a credit card to register you may choose to complete the registration form and:

**Fax it to 210 493 3946**  
**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:**  
CHAIRMAN, WEEKEND IN S.A.  
3607 TRAILWAY PARK  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247 - 2938

# Group Forum

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Music and Fellowship-  
6PM Speaker Mickey S from Abilene  
\$5.00 Donation

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Winners Club Casino Night  
May 12th 9PM-1AM  
Tacos -Beef and Chicken Fajitas  
Will be served

New Downtown Group Birthday Night  
First Tuesday 7:30 to 9:30

10 April Club 12 Board of Directors meeting

April 14th Club 12 dance 7:30-Midnight

April 20th Club 12 dance 7:30-Midnight

April 21st ARC Alumni 2001 Retreat  
Calaveras Lake Call the ARC  
(210-633-0201) To sign up

## THINGS WE CAN NOT CHANGE

AL D passed away on 19 March 2001 his sobriety date was 11-16-66  
He was long time member of the Valley-Hi group.  
During my last conversation with him he said with a smile that "maybe this will be my last retirement from the Central Service Office" then he added "then again you never know." That was rather uncharacteristic since most people who knew him would call him direct and brief, you always knew where you stood. He was a friend, and mentor to me. A good member of Alcoholics Anonymous. A loving family man.  
His presence will be missed.

**1 YR**

Ernest O  
Jennifer D  
Cory M  
Donna S  
Scott S  
Frank F  
Greg LO  
Chico A  
Marylou E  
Kenia C  
Scott B  
Robert K  
Adam F  
Donna G  
Deidra B

**2 YRS**

Jack L  
Bill S  
Laura D  
Susanne C  
Marion S  
Raymond G  
Donna G  
Arthur  
Tony B

**3 YRS**

Beth L  
Jeff McI  
Judy T  
Bill M  
Easton L  
Jose G  
Nancy S

**4 YRS**

Bob M  
Terry Z  
Bob F  
Dean S  
Jim T  
Tom W  
Grady H

**5 YRS**

Laurie L  
Carroll P  
Gerry M  
Joanne M

**6 YRS**

Adellee C  
Adelee L  
Todd K  
David J

**7 YRS**

Adrienne A  
Marc W  
Don G  
Pam K  
Doug C

**8 YRS**

David P  
Daniel W  
Jimmy E

**9 YRS**

Beck M  
Candy F  
Susie G  
David G  
Lisa L

**10 YRS**

Debbie R  
Jurrett G  
Scott S  
Robert S  
Katie M  
Lynne P

**11 YRS**

Debbie B  
Lance S

**12 YR**

Sharon M  
Ana A  
Richard H  
Lisa L  
Marcy S

**13 YRS**

Robert B

**14 YRS**

Jo Anne G

**15 YRS**

Rodney B  
Ed K

**16 YRS**

Grace C  
Nancy J. K  
Grace C  
Ernest L

**17 YRS**

Rodney W  
Paul F  
Thomas P

**18 YRS**

Greg K  
Trish D

**21 YRS**

Jim Burke

**22 YRS**

Charlie K

**23 YRS**

Eleanor S

**25YRS**

Jo Anne J

**26 YRS**

Nancy P

**33 YRS**

Herb G

**41 YRS**

Bob G



# APRIL 2001

## Service opportunities and events For San Antonio

- 1 April SAMSO Steering Meeting Club 12 4PM
- 1 April SAMSO ARCHIVES Committee meets 7:15 St. David's Episcopal Church 1300 Wiltshire
- 2 April SAMSO Grapevine Committee meet at Jim's' Restaurant 410 & Blanco 7 PM
- 3 April New Downtown Group birthday Night 7:30-9:30
- 4 April SAMSO Correctional Facilities Committee meets Club 12 7 PM
- 10 April Club 12 Board of Directors Meeting
- 11 April SAMSO Cooperation with Professional Community and Public Information Committee meets Club 12 PM
- 14 April SAMSO Hospital & Institutions Meeting -Club 12 -10 AM
- 14 April New Downtown Group Barbecue 1 PM-?
- 14 April Distrito 1 F 3 Legacies Workshop 11550 Topperwein Rd Noon-5:30 PM
- 14 April Dance Club 12 7:30PM to Midnight
- 19 April CSO Board meets Any member can attend
- 20 April Dance Club 12 8 PM to Midnight
- 21 April ARC Alumni Retreat Calaveras Lake
- 22 April SAMSO/ Inter-district Meeting 6:30 COR Meeting 5:30- Districts 16-19-1A meet 6PM St. Andrews Episcopal Church 6110 NW Loop 410
- 24 April Birthday Night-Valley Hi,- Windcrest,-Santa Fe- New Acceptance-Life Support
- 25 April Birthday Night -Oblate- Women's Big Book-Northwood
- 26 April Birthday Night : Goliad-Devine- Ft Sam -North San Pedro -Stahl Rd
- 27 April Birthday Night: Pearsall (Come as you are)- SW Loop-Colonies North El Libro Grande Rush Hour-Group 12- Marymont
- 28 April Birthday Night Schertz-Cibolo-Lambda-Winners club
- 29 April Birthday Night -New Life Group (Birthday Night open speaker)
- 30 April Birthday Night Alamo Heights.

## WHAT ARE WE WILLING TO DO TO STAY SOBER TODAY??

This question is asked to most new people when they first come into the doors of the Fellowship. Usually we are at the end of our rope, our whole world is coming down around us. We feel that much it is falling ON US. Many of us feel hopeless and beyond help. We sit and talk with people in The Program; we hear a message of hope. We see happy people, people who look like they have normal' lives. "What do I have to do to get this?", we cry, "can I buy this?" "Tell me what I have to do, I'LL DO ANYT'HING!!" We have a simple Program for recovery.

We hear about 12 Steps. We hear about a Program of change. We hear about getting active in The Program. We see this in action. We see the evidence of how well it works in the faces of those people who are helping set up the meetings: laughing, smiling, setting up chairs, making coffee, and cleaning up afterwards. "I want to help too". we say. We find ourselves around people talking and living their Program. They help us, we help them. We find ourselves working The Steps and putting them into our lives. Somewhere a long the line we realize that we are relaxed, we realize that we are actually starting to enjoy life. Eventually we find a balance of activity and meetings that allows us for "fit into" to the world and our personal lives too

Then, gradually something happens. It may take only months but usually it takes a few years. We cut back on what got us those "normal" feelings that we could'nt get from the bar or from the doctor. We eventually end up going backward instead of forward. And we end up going "back out"

The cry of "I'll do anything" comes and its starting all over again, **but** will we ever have another chance to come back? Some do, others dont, some go to the grave, others **the** institutions and others back to The Program. What about you? Stay!!!! IRA Sober.

# Where Have 12 Step Volunteers Gone?

The most frustrating thing about answering Central office's phones is not finding an AA member willing to take a Twelfth Step call for some sick alcoholic who has phoned us for help. Sometimes it takes up to 20 calls to identify just one willing volunteer. Some of the responses we hear when a live member actually does answer the phone: 'What's a Twelfth Step call? ..... 'How did you get my phone number?' 'Do you mean you actually want me to talk to someone who's still drinking? The saddest response came from a member who exclaimed, 'No, I can't do it; I'm busy all day. Today is my sobriety anniversary.' Other negative answers we get include: 'The number has been disconnected'. 'I'm no longer a member of that group'...'I don't attend meetings anymore.'

But occasionally, something wonderfully happens, as when we called upon an AA who answered our request for help by saying, 'Thanks for calling me—I was really feeling down and sorry for myself. I'll make the Twelfth Step call immediately.' One response like that offsets 500 of the negative kind and helps to keep us going.

The challenge of locating willing volunteers isn't new. It seems we had similar though less critical challenges years ago. Nor is the solution to the problem necessarily with the AA groups. Intergroup needs to educate the groups and their members about what we are and do. This need is confirmed by information our Intergroup receives from officers of our member groups.

The numbers tell a sad but interesting story. Presently we list over 400 groups in our Meeting Book. At the end of the first quarter of this year, only 30% of the groups had given Intergroup the names, addresses and telephone numbers of group officers (who also are group Twelfth Step contacts). Moreover, 20% of the group officer information for Intergroup records was received back in 1999, and worst of all, 75-80% of the groups hadn't provided the requested group officer information in more than two years. Part of the solution lies in the power of repetition. AA being what it is, a fellowship with an astonishing turn over of people, means that Intergroup needs to tell its own story continuously. It's no accident that AA is a program of repetition. I still want to hear another member remind me yet again I don't have to drink, and it's the first drink that will get me drunk.

The need for volunteers, and for up to-date Twelfth Step lists from individual groups, is shared by the 499 intergroups and central offices around the U.S. and Canada. Excerpted and adapted from Box 459

## Tradition Four: Have I, Do I, Am I?????

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome and El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths - his lengths, not mine - to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

## Trust.....

Most of us came to AA with disappointments and broken promises. We had lost our faith in people and God, and we trusted no one, including ourselves. We had to learn to trust again. Trust takes time because it has to be earned through continuous sobriety—earning by example. For many of us, coming to AA allowed us, for the first time in a long while to let ourselves trust other people.

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## **LAST RESORT???**

In some ways Alcoholics Anonymous is like a good consumer product, but frequently the new owner/member had difficulty getting it to perform as advertised. If this happens, the old rule of thumb applies:

"When all else fails, read the directions."  
In this case they're in the book.

## **MY DILEMMA , IN MY OPINION**

Getting out the Nightcap is no picnic! If we print jokes people say we are silly, If we don't we are too serious. If we clip things from other sources, we are too lazy to write them ourselves, if we don't we're stuck with our own stuff. If we make a change in another fellows article we are too critical, if we don't we are blamed for poor editing.

We share our experience strength and hope here. That which doesn't come from our General Service Conference Approved Literature, such as the Big Book is our opinion. Yours may differ—and that we will publish articles with differing opinions. If you have an opinion that you'd like to see expressed here write it and submit it. We want to "edit" the Nightcap not write it.

Bill T

**SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2001 MEETING**

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**In Attendance:**

**District 16 DCM** – Barbi H. (Treasurer)

**Archives Chair** – Tom H.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community – Public Information Chair** – Glenn C.

**Central Service Office Liaison to SAMSO** – Judy F.

**District 17 DCM** – Steve J. (Secretary)

**Hospitals / Institutions Chair** – Bob T.

**Absent:**

**District 1A DCM** – Lynne G.

**District 18 DCM** – Gil C.

**District 1F DCM** – Frank E.

**Grapevine Chair** – Martha H.

**District 1E DCM** – Len A.

**District 19 DCM** – Bill T. (Chair)

**Corrections Chair** – Marvin Q.

**SAMSO to Central Service Office Liaison** – Vacant

Meeting called to order by **Barbi H.** at 6:30 PM with Moment of Silence and Serenity Prayer.  
**Teri S.** - Read the Traditions. New GSRs: None, New DCMs: None

**Announcements:** **Judy F.** introduced herself as the Hospitality Chairperson for Weekend in S.A, which is to be held April 27-29 at the Municipal Auditorium. The Hospitality Committee would like to hear from the Groups on how they want to participate. The Committee can use food and/or money and will be signing up volunteers at meetings in the weeks to come. Judy is available any time for questions, comments, or to let her know how the Groups decide. Judy can be reached at 832-9068 or e-mail at [jfinger2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jfinger2000@yahoo.com).

**Presentations:** New Spanish District: The District has 4 Groups and 3 Committees. The Correctional Committee takes meetings to the Dominguez Unit. The LaVina Committee visits Groups in order to motivate the AA fellowship to buy subscriptions. The Public Information Committee is working with two Radio Stations. The District meets every 2<sup>ND</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of the month at 12:00 PM at 1917 Castroville Rd. (435-2947). The District celebrated their 1<sup>ST</sup> Anniversary on March 24<sup>TH</sup>.

**Central Service Office Liaison to SAMSO – Judy F.** – Asked the GSRs to have the Group CORs call the Central Service Office to give Name/Group information. The format of the COR meeting is changing – the CORs will be running their own meeting.

**SAMSO Liaison to Central Service Office** – Vacant

**Chairman's Report** – **Barbi H.** for **Bill T.** – No Report.

**Secretary's Report** – **Steve J.** – Asked for a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the *Nightcap*. **Louis** made the motion; seconded by **Teri S.** All approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – **Barbi H.** – Submitted the report for February. Donations were \$256.15 with expenses of (\$76.58) for a balance of \$3,993.76, of which the five Standing Committee Chairs, leaving an available balance of \$1,743.76, earmark \$2,250.00 for Area Workshop attendance. The (\$76.58) credit on expenses was due to an H&I Committee credit (\$143.84) for funds not spent at the Winter SWTA Workshop in Kerrville. A motion was made by **Mike C.** to accept the report as given. **Bob T.** seconded the motion. All approved.

**Archives** – **Tom H.** – The Committee will be receiving some new materials (30-40 years old) as the result of a discussion with an AA member. **The Archives Committee holds its meetings on the 1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of each month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 1300 Wiltshire, at 7:15 PM. Tom can be reached at 696-5228, or email at [teh543@sprynet.com](mailto:teh543@sprynet.com).**

**Correctional Facilities** – **Bob T.** for **Marvin Q.** – The Committee is doing well, but is always in need of more people. **The CFC Committee holds its meetings on the 1<sup>ST</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Alanon room at Club 12 at 102 Thames at 7:00 PM. Marvin can be reached at 365-9973.**

**Grapevine** – **Martha H.** – (Absent – *No Report*). **The Grapevine Committee holds its meetings on the 1<sup>ST</sup> Monday of each month at Jim's at 410 and Blanco at 7:00 PM. Martha can be reached at 344-6588, or email at [JHernden@aol.com](mailto:JHernden@aol.com).**

**Hospitals / Institutions** – **Bob T.** – Bob stated that two of the facilities are suffering from lack of participation by the AA Groups. The Safe Haven facility has been visited only twice since October – both times by the same Group. The Zero Tolerance Unit has not been visited since October. Bob stated that he was considering dropping the above two facilities from the H&I list, due to the lack of participation. This generated a lot of discussion, centered along the fact that the AA membership needs to take a hard look at their "Primary Purpose" before any meetings are dropped due to lack of AA member participation. The GSRs will discuss the issue with their Groups and the issue will be discussed further at the next Inter-District meeting. **The Hospitals/Institutions Committee holds its meetings on the 2<sup>ND</sup> Saturday of each month at the Winner's Club (Snack Bar Area) at 11 AM. Bob can be reached at 628-7340 (Pager), or e-mail at [anotherdrunk@r67.net](mailto:anotherdrunk@r67.net).**

**Cooperation with Professional Community / Public Information Chair** – **Glenn C.** – The Committee is in the process of supporting the "American Counseling Association Convention", being held March 15-20 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. The Committee will be participating in the UTSA Health Fair at the 1604 Campus on March 21<sup>ST</sup> from 10AM – 4PM. They will also be participating in the UTSA Health Fair at the Downtown Campus on April 19<sup>TH</sup> from 10AM – 2PM. Glenn reiterated the Literature Rack proposal from the last meeting.

Whenever the Committee is asked by New York to support an event, New York sends a complete package of materials (both English and Spanish) – which include 2 display racks. Glenn currently has 12 racks of materials from past events. While some of the larger Groups are participating in the "Adopt a Literature Rack" program, where Literature racks are placed within the community; the startup cost for a Group is \$65.00. Glenn suggested that the Literature racks from past CPC/PI events be put to good use by donating them to smaller Groups for that cannot afford the \$65.00 startup cost. The only cost the Group will be that of maintaining the Literature - ~2\$ per month. Glenn asked for and received unanimous approval from the GSRs for the proposal. To date, 4 Groups have requested Literature Racks, leaving 8 available. Any Groups interested in receiving a donated Literature rack for use in the "Adopt a Literature Rack" program can contact Glenn. The CPC / PI Committee holds its meetings on the 2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday of each month Club 12 at 102 Thames at 7:00 PM. Glenn can be reached at (H) 342-2330, (Pager) 220-9281, or email at GlennC3663@aol.com.

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**District 1A – Mike C. for Lynne G.** – The District is planning a Workshop to be held the 1<sup>ST</sup> weekend in June. There will be a roundtable discussion with SAMSO and SWTA Service Committee Chairs participating.

**District 1E – Len A.** – (Absent – No Report)

**District 1F – Frank E.** – (Absent – No Report)

**District 16 – Barbi H.** –The District is doing well – looking for ways to spend their extra money.

**District 17 – Steve J.** – The District is discussing ideas for a Workshop to be held in Mid-Summer.

**District 18 – Gil C.** – (Absent – No Report)

**District 19 – Bill T.** – (Absent – No Report)

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**Old Business** – None

**New Business – Translation Equipment:** At the March Steering Committee Meeting, the idea of purchasing Translation Equipment for SAMSO was discussed – as a way to better communicate between all of the Districts and Service Committees within SAMSO. The Spanish Community wants to become more involved at all levels of SAMSO and the equipment will enhance their ability to do so. After presenting the information to the Inter-District members, it was determined that more information was needed before taking the issue back to the Groups. **Louis** made a motion for the Steering Committee to research Cost/# of Units information and provide the data at April's Inter-District Meeting. **Karen C.** seconded the motion. All approved.

**Adjourned** – 7:30 PM with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted:

Steve J. – SAMSO Secretary

## Lack of power was Prof. Langley's dilemma

While reading "We Agnostics" in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, have you ever wondered who Professor Langley was?

The passage on Page 51 reads: "... American newspapers were afraid to print an account of the Wright brothers' first successful flight at Kitty Hawk. Had not all efforts at flight failed before? Did not Professor Langley's flying machine go to the bottom of the Potomac River?"

Professor Samuel Langley, unlike the Wright brothers, was highly educated and received funding to develop an airplane. Langley launched his first manned aircraft from a catapult in October of 1903. It broke a wing and a reporter said it flew "like a handful of mortar." In December 1903, his aircraft crashed into the Potomac River, nine days before the Wrights' success. Lack of power, that was his dilemma. Some people believe he would have succeeded if he had used a different way to launch the aircraft. He instead used his "tried and true" method and failed.

"We Agnostics" asks me to consider changing my opinions.

This shows me that book knowledge only will get me so far. It also tells me that what has worked for me yesterday won't necessarily work for me today.

Laura S., Denver

	Feb '01	YTD -01
Acceptance		
Alamo Hts		
Broadway		
Came to Believe Grp		
Community		
Colonies North	\$197.76	197.76
County Line		
Depot Grp		
Entire Abstinence		
First things First	\$707.00	\$707.00
Family		
First One Today	\$10.00	\$10.00
Fort Sam Houston		
Freedom Group		
Free at Last	\$10.00	\$20.00
Gollad		
Generic		
Grupo El Libro Grande	\$10.00	\$25.00
Grupo Esperanza	\$30.00	\$30.00
Grupo Unidad		\$20.00
Grupo y Paz	\$20.00	\$30.00
Halt Group		\$60.00
Highland		
Hondo		
Keep It Simple Group		
Kelley Special		
La Quinta Tradicion		
Lavernia		
Lambda	\$100.00	\$100.00
Legal Professions		
Laurel Hts Group		
Marymont		
New Life		
NorthEast Group		
Nueva Vida		
North San Pedro Group	\$38.00	\$108.00
Oak Hills Group	\$567.51	\$567.51
Oblate Group		
Pereriales Valley Group	\$119.20	\$119.20
Pearsall		
Pleasanton		
Poteet(Strawberry)		
Road Of happyDestiny		\$218.00
Rush Hour Group	\$130.30	\$318.02
SA North Womens		
Schertz-Cibolo	\$200.00	\$200.00
Serendipity Group		\$150.00
SW Loop Group		
Spirit of Hope		
Stahl Rd Grp		
Sunrise		
Tezel Rd Women		
Travis Park		
Twelve	\$360.00	\$720.00
Utopia Grp		
Universal City		\$120.00
Valley HI	\$40.00	\$80.00
Windcrest		\$25.00
Womens Big Book		
Woodlake	\$20.00	\$40.00
AREA		
Boerne Noon	\$200.00	\$200.00
Bulverde		
Blanco		
New Braunfels(Area)		
BB Study (Kerrville)		
Total	\$2955.65	\$4261.37
Memorials		
Birthdays	\$531.00	\$531.00



	One month Ending		Two months ended	
	Feb'01	Feb'00	01	00
<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS STATEMENT</b>				
Sales	\$4,523	\$5,345	\$ 11,186	\$ 11,857
Cost of Sales	2,134	3,112	\$ 6,721	\$ 6,709
Gross Profit	2,389	2,233	\$ 4,465	\$ 5,148
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				
Nightcap Contributions	63	105	\$ 123	\$ 256
COR Meeting Contributions	9	13	\$ 22	\$ 23
Group Contributions	2,955	1,708	\$ 4,262	\$ 3,683
Memorial Contributions	-	0	\$ -	\$ -
Individual Contributions	531	592	\$ 574	\$ 738
Birthdays	34	0	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	3,592	2,418	\$ 9,446	\$ 9,848
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Interest Income		13	\$ 9	\$ 47
Miscellaneous	26	33		
Income from AA in SA	-			
Total Other Income	26	47	\$ 9	\$ 47
Total Income	6,008	4,699	\$ 9,455	\$ 9,895
<b>WAGE RELATED EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	2,548	3,019	\$ 5,096	\$ 6,187
Payroll Tax	194	231	\$ 338	\$ 473
Contract Labor-Clerical	-	50	\$ -	\$ 100
Travel Allowance	-	50	\$ -	\$ 120
Micellaneous	-	20		
Employee Training	-	0		
Total wage related expenses	2,742	3,370	\$ 5,434	\$ 6,880
<b>OCCUPANCY EXPENSES</b>				
Rent	855	855	\$ 1,710	\$ 1,710
Utilities	166	165	\$ 683	\$ 306
Telephone & Answering system	204	190	\$ 402	\$ 334
Repairs & Maintenance	222	0	\$ 526	
Total Occupancy Expenses	1,448	1,234	\$ 3,321	\$ 2,350
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
Office Supplies, Clerical	100	29	\$ 450	\$ 268
Office Supplies, Non-Clerical	100	83		
Postage & Freight	111	37	\$ 146	\$ 116
Equipment Lease & Main	152	152	\$ 304	\$ 304
SWB Yellow Pages	47	45	\$ 94	\$ 90
Nightcap Print. & Post.	225	282	\$ 494	\$ 268
Accounting Service	426	138	\$ 576	\$ 276
Depreciation	250	0	\$ 500	\$ 326
Bank and Credit Card Fees	160	0	\$ 263	\$ -
Total Other Expenses	1,573	766	\$ 2,827	\$ 1,648
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 5,764</b>	<b>\$5,371</b>	<b>\$ 11,632</b>	<b>\$ 10,893</b>
<b>NET income</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>(671)</b>	<b>\$ (2,177)</b>	<b>\$ (998)</b>

## **"HELLO...IS THIS A.A.?"**

Every day an alcoholic who still suffers reaches out to us for the first time by phone. Since the A.A. Hotline requires answering 24 hours a day, and the Central Service Office is only open 9-5 Monday through Friday, that first phone contact is often with an after-hours telephone volunteer, a member of our fellowship, like you. **Phone service work is full-fledged twelve-step work**, our first opportunity to "carry the message". Believe it or not, answering service operators previously took those calls that were often a first link to recovery! We know that only another alcoholic can reach the one who still suffers. Our collective decision to take on this responsibility was made in September of 1997. Ongoing fine-tuning has made phone service work both convenient and rewarding.

The "Telephone Service Committee" was created to serve as the response team during hours that the Central Service Office is closed. A variety of shift times are available (5-10 PM week nights, 9AM-1PM weekends, etc.). Six months continuous sobriety is suggested for volunteering, but that can be waived with backup support from a sponsor. The duty-time itself is easy. **This is the only Twelve Step work you can do in your pajamas!!**

The A.A. Hotline number is automatically transferred from C.S.O. to your home phone. You simply answer your phone, "Hello, may I help you?" during your shift. Only the C.S.O. and phone committee will have your home phone number, and you do not have to make Twelve Step calls either on the phone or in person. There is a list of Twelve Step Volunteers that you use to refer someone who needs more attention; the alcoholic who still suffers or the fellow member on the verge of a slip. The amount of involvement on a particular call is up to you. You will find, however, that the majority of your calls are meeting information requests from court-referred, new arrivals, or visitors to our city. Yours will be the first friendly voice they hear!

There is an ongoing urgent need for Telephone Service Volunteers. **The C.S.O. also needs daytime in-office phone volunteers for the 9-1 and 1-5 shifts.** The signup sheets are filled monthly. Instructions, guidelines, and related program reference numbers, such as Al-anon, are included in your volunteer packet. Experienced phone committee volunteers are available for advice. You are not in it alone. Without this critical twelve-step work our A.A. Hotline would be answered by impersonal voice mail.

### **What if your first contact with A.A. was an answering machine?**

**Call the Telephone Service Committee Ed. E. at 641-6895 or David W. at 738-0307, to ask questions or to take a shift on an individual basis. Ask your C.O.R. or G.S.R. if your group is involved. When someone reaches out for help, let the hand they find be yours.**



The Nightcap is about, by, and for members of the A.A. fellowship. Opinions herein expressed are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or the Nightcap. (Exceptions: Quotations from A.A. books, pamphlets and the 12 Steps and/or 12 Traditions are reprinted with the permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.; the A.A. Preamble, slogans, etc. are reprinted with the permission of The Grapevine, Inc.)

# NIGHTCAP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS CHANGE \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSCRIPTION COST: \$3.00 for 1 YEAR  \$6.00 for 2 YEARS  \$9.00 for 3 YEARS  OTHER

**PLEASE PRINT:**

**HOME PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:**

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE**

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**8804 TRADEWAY**

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAN ANTONIO, TX, 78217**

**CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE OF SAN ANTONIO, TX  
8804 TRADEWAY  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78217**

**(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2807  
SAN ANTONIO, TX**