

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 groups.

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VOLUME THREE

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NUMBER FORTY

... MAY THE QUIET JOYS AND SMALL, SECRET MIRACLES OF THE
SEASON OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE ...

NEW SELVES UNFOLDING:

In my experience, a spiritual awakening was not found, by seeking it. Others claimed spiritual belief came with sobriety, and I wanted that belief so desperately that I almost missed it altogether.

Then a series of adversities set in. It seemed that everything I had was swept away. My emotional stability was so tested that a couple of times I considered suicide.

But at no time was a drink considered, even though craving for the taste of liquor hit me momentarily at times. However, the First Step and I have always been great friends. I repeated it every five seconds and thanked God each day for my sobriety - the only grace, maybe for that day.

Gradually, I began to see another part of me emerging - a grateful me, expecting nothing, but sure that another power was beginning to guide me, counsel me, and direct my ways. And I was not afraid.

Then, as this power began to unfold new selves within me, a greater understanding of my fellowmen began. With a new awakening each day - New strengths, new truths, new acceptance of AA people and people not in AA - a new world opened up. And every day it still does.

The adversities, loneliness, sickness, losses, and disappointments mean nothing now. I'm happy, because I came to believe - not only in God, but in the goodness in everyone.

- Barberton, Ohio -

(Excerpted from " Came To Believe ... The Spiritual Adventure of AAs Experienced by Individual Members")

27th Area Conference

The 27th Southwest Texas Area Conference was held in Brownsville, Texas, October 27th -30th. There were 341 conferees registered. Informative and rewarding meetings for AA members were scheduled through the days and evenings. Interesting and unusual Alanon and Alateen sessions included studies on Alanon hard-back books, Alateen and Alanon policies, the Alanon Delegate speaking, a late show of "Skits and Songs" which was shared by an enthusiastic capacity crowd of AAs, Alanons and Alateens.

During ample free time many conferees enjoyed trips to Padre Island, shopping and dining trips across the river to Matamores, Mexico, and exploring surrounding areas of the beautiful Rio Grande Valley.

The Area business meeting was held Saturday morning with 112 members attending. During the Delegate's session it was pointed out that the AA health of the area was very good. The redistricting of the Conference area would be completed early in 1978 with 20 districts where formerly there had been 8. In early 1976 there were 160 to 165 groups in the area and now there are 190 groups.

The delegate reminded everyone of the Southwest Regional Forum to be held in Amarillo, Texas, December 2nd-4th. The purpose of the Forum is to bring together servants and members of AA from seven states interested in the structure work of AA. Information concerning the Forum may be obtained from the Central Service Office or from the District Committee Members.

Reference was made to the unfortunate and increasing use of the AA Directory for non AA purposes. The delegate emphasized the directory is strictly confidential and not to be used outside the fellowship of AA.

The following were elected to the role of "trusted servants" for the area:
Area Delegate: "Skeeter" S., Port Lavaca; Alternate Delegate: Raul M., San Antonio;
Area Chairman: Clyde M., Victoria; Alternate Chairman: Orval L., San Marcos; and
Secretary Treasurer: Jimmy T., Victoria.

An important step forward for the area was the establishment of Area Committees. The Chairpersons will serve on an interim basis until December 31st, 1977. At this time the newly elected servants will consider the extension of the committees. Appointed were: Public Information - "Gentle Ben" A., San Antonio; Hospitals - Liz S., San Antonio; Penal - Wendy M., Austin; "Grapevine" - Tony F., Victoria and Eve S., Corpus Christi; Editorial - Mary Lou C., San Antonio and Bonnie R., Sequin.

Victoria will be the host city for the 28th Area Conference in 1978.

The Conference Committee of the Rio Grande Valley is to be commended for providing such an inspiring and fulfilling experience for everyone. The atmosphere of the entire conference was one of sharing, unity and unsurpassed AA fellowship.

- Margaret H. -

TO SHARE CHRISTMAS WITH A FRIEND IS TO SEE TWICE ITS BEAUTY. MAY THE MEMORY OF
+ + + GOOD TIMES AND QUIET MOMENTS ENRICH THE JOY OF THE SEASON + + +

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS:

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 7 p.m. in the Central Service Office.

Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Board will be elected at this meeting, and the assignment of Chairman to standing and ad hoc committees will be made.

* * * * *

The C. S. O. C. and District 1 meetings will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 7 p.m. in Club 12, 102 Thames Blvd.

Roland R. and Mary Lou L. were elected Chairperson and Co-Chairperson at the November meeting of the C. S. O. C. Liz S. was elected as a member of the Board.

* * * * *

The STARR (South Texas Area Round Robin) will meet at 8:15 p.m., December 11th in Club 12 (immediately following the C. S. O. C. meeting).

CORRECTIONS:

R. L. D., editorial assistant for the northwest quadrant of the city may be reached at: 699 - 0747.

OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS:

The Casa Del Sol Group which meets at 321 Frio City Road has reopened and now meets every Friday evening at 8:15 p.m. for "Open Speakers' Meetings".

Join them- and bring a friend!

* * * * *

The Lambda Group (Gay) held its first meeting November 26th in the Thomas Jefferson Educational Building, First Unitarian Church, 807 Beryl.

The group will hold "Closed Discussion" meetings every Saturday evening at 8 p.m.

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The Harmonia (Bi-lingual) and The Bandera Groups have become inactive.

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AROUND THE AREA:

The Downtown Group has moved to its new location in Grace Lutheran Church, 504 Avenue E (3 blocks north of the Alamo).

The group holds "Discussion Meetings" on Monday and Tuesday evenings and a "Speaker's Meeting" is held on Friday evening. All meetings are at 8:15 p.m.

* * * * *

The Goliad Group held its first meeting at its new location 537 Avondale (between Hot Wells and Southcross Blvd.'s) December 1st at 8:15 p.m.

The group is issuing a very special invitation to join them for an "Open House" Sunday December 18th beginning at 1 p.m. An "Open Speaker's Meeting" will be held at 7:30 p.m. Take the opportunity to share in celebrating the Goliad Groups' new home in the special warmth of the Holiday Season?

* * * * *

"Gentle Ben" A. newly appointed interim Area Chairman of Public Information will serve as Chairman of the Month of December for the Park North Group.

The group meets every Friday evening in the basement cafeteria of Park North Hospital, 4330 Vance Jackson Road (behind Handy Dan) at 8 p.m. for "Open Discussion Meetings".

Everyone is urged to drop in for a "Friendly-Friday" during a month that promises to be especially exciting!

(Whenever you visit a Hospital group remember to round up any back issues of the "Grapevine" or "The Night Cap" so they can be passed along to the patients. Ed.)

* * * * *

The Audubon Group requests Your presence for a very special evening. The group will hold their annual Christmas dinner at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 17th.

Ham, turkey and all the usual Holiday accompaniments will be featured for the bounty-

AROUND THE AREA: (Cont. 'd from Page Three)

full buffet (if you have a favorite casserole recipe by all means bring a covered dish to share) and an "Open Speaker's Meeting" will follow.

There will be plenty of time to enjoy the fellowship and the evening will end with the traditional dance.

Follow the frolicking reindeer and have a good time!

* * * * *

The S.A.S.H. Group will hold their party on Monday evening December 19th at 7 p.m.

Everyone in the San Antonio Area is urged to make this the most memorable party ever by attending to enjoy the usual delicious dinner served in festive surroundings. Stay on to enjoy the music of a great combo composed of patients ... dine awhile - dance and smile!

Once again the Hospital Committee is asking that your group donate one or two "Big Books" or a copy of "Twelve and Twelve" for the patients in the hospital. Individuals may also contribute books.

The Central Service Office has on hand a good supply of "Big Books" at \$5.65. "Twelve and Twelve" is priced at \$4.00 - a small price for a gift that make a lasting impression on someone searching for the AA Way!

Tie a big red bow around your finger - so you won't forget the SASH Party!

* * * * *

Group 12 will host "Open House" throughout the Holidays at Club 12! Drop in any afternoon or evening between Christmas and New Year's for "munchies" and much good conversation - stroll around and admire the decorations ... stay on to chat with a new member, or linger awhile to reminisce with an "elder statesman" (or stateswoman-Typist) - Enjoy!

New Year's Eve will see Club 12 the site of the traditional dinner and

dance also sponsored by the group for the AA community. The evening will begin at 8 p.m. and last until the last Auld Lang Syne has been sung - the last balloon burst. Come early - stay late (Avoid the "still suffering alcoholic who drives)!" and celebrate another year of sobriety.

* * * * *

The Harmony Group which meets at 2208 N. Zarzamora invites you to join them for their Christmas Eve Party. The evening will begin with a short meeting at 7 p.m. followed by "Christmas Caloris" and cheering fellowship - double your Christmas Eve pleasure with this "Harmonious" beginning!

* * * * *

The 24 Hour Service Group will have an "Open House" beginning at 1 p.m. Christmas Day. The group, which meets at 1203 Fredricksburg Road, cordially invites all AA members and their Families and friends to drop by for a delicious snack and some friendly talk on your way to or from Grandma's house.

* * * * *

The annual New Year's Eve "Talk-A-Thon" will be sponsored by The Haven Group, 1640 W. Woodlawn, beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting until 3 a.m.

"Open Speaker's Meeting" featuring excellent area speakers will alternate with half hour intervals allowing everyone time to enjoy the delicious refreshments, and visit with friends.

Make The Haven your first stop of the evening - or the last on your way home ... enjoy a safe and serene New Year's Eve.

DURING THIS BUSY SEASON LET US PAUSE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER WHAT WE ARE TRUELY CELEBRATING - THE WARMTH OF FRIENDSHIP, THE STRENGTH OF LOVE, THE BIRTH OF HOPE.

PIC 10/15/77 - 11/14/77:

John H. spoke to 92 students during three hour long presentations to Health classes of Samuel Clemens High School.

ALL THE EARTH QUIETLY ANTICIPATES THE
NEW BIRTH OF LIGHT AND HOPE THAT IS
+++++ CHRISTMAS +++++

INMEMORIUM:

Elfrieda Costanzo, San Antonio, October, 1977

The mother of Mike Y., San Antonio, October, 1977

E. S. "Zed" Emerson, San Antonio, November, 1977

Betty Zeiger, San Antonio, November, 1977

The Central Service Office would like to thank all those who have made memorials. These gifts are deeply appreciated and will enable AA to further carry the message.

TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WE EXTEND
SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT
THEIR BEREAVEMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY
REFLECTIVE THOUGHTS UPON THE HAPPINESS
+++++ SHARED +++++

STAT'S: 10/18/77 - 11/16/77

AA	128
Information	74
Alanon	13
Students	5
PIC	3

The Central Service Office has received copies of "The AA Group - Where It Begins" a comprehensive report of the 27th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous held April 18th - 23rd in New York.

Copies are available to groups and individual members, as well, and are \$2.00 each. This Final Report of the 1977 conference is of interest to all members of AA, and of particular interest to members in positions of service.

Christmas shopping? Make the Central Service your first stop when shopping for that hard-to-please AA, Alanon, or Alateen on your list!

Along with a full supply of fascinating literature Beth J. has stocked the office with a splendid array of stocking stuffers. Serenity prayer pendants, key chains, and bracelets are always a favorite. Tiny coffee pots on chains or as lapel pins make a great gift for the Alanon in the family.

AA lighters and paper weights are available, as well as budget pleasing gifts of stationary and "One Day At A Time" pocket pens.

Drop in for a cup of coffee and take your time when browsing through our Christmas boutique, or call Beth for a suggestion.

WHEN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE BECOMES PART
OF OUR LIVES, EVERY DAY WILL BE CHRIST-
MAS, AND EVERY NIGHT WILL HOLD THE
+++ + PROMISE OF DAWN +++

AILING:

Art C. recuperating from surgery following a broken leg. He's at Northeast Baptist Hospital.

FROM A SIMPLE SMILE TO LIFT THE SPIRIT
TO THE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT THROUGH A TIME
OF NEED - THE GREATEST GIFTS WE HAVE
TO GIVE ARE THE FREE GIFTS OF OURSELVES

\$\$\$\$ BUCK -A- MONTH \$\$\$\$\$

BE

AN

ELF

TO

YOURSELF...



SUBSCRIBE

TO THE NIGHT CAP!

\$\$\$\$ BUCK - A - MONTH \$\$\$\$\$

FINANCIAL CENTER
SAN ANTONIO
CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
RECEIVED NOVEMBER 15, 1977

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	15.00	165.00	Open Door	0	40.00
Audubon	0	100.00	Park North	10.00	65.00
Brees	0	85.00	Reality	5.00	40.00
Broadway	20.00	120.00	Reliance	0	80.00
Downtown	0	60.00	Sally	0	0
First Step	0	0	SASH	5.00	40.00
Ft. Sam Houston	20.00	180.00	Santa Fe	0	10.00
Frontier	20.00	160.00	Sahara	0	0
Goliad	0	86.00	St. Agnes	0	0
Group 12	50.00	600.00	Serenity	10.00	100.00
Grupo Del Sol	0	0	Sharing	0	70.00
Grupo Esperanza	0	21.00	Spiritual Life	0	0
Grupo Unidad	0	67.50	Stepping Stones	0	225.00
Harmony & *Harmonia	0	40.00	Sunset	15.00	165.00
Highlands	20.00	220.00	Trinity	0	10.00
Hope	0	0	The Haven	25.00	65.00
Laurel Heights	15.00	150.00	24 Hour	0	70.00
Plymouth	0	75.00	Universal	0	30.00
Northeast	50.00	120.00	Valley Hi	45.00	165.00
N. San Pedro	10.00	80.00	VA Hospital	0	70.00
Northwest	25.00	275.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	275.00
Northwood	0	135.00	Wesley	7.50	37.50
			Windcrest	30.00	90.00

AREA

Bandera	0	20.00	Kerrville	20.00	70.00
Bridge (N.B.)	10.00	110.00	*Men's Stag	0	10.00
Canyon Lake	5.00	15.00	Women's Serenity	0	80.00
El Toro (Port Manfd)	0	8.00	Luling	0	25.00
Floresville	10.00	60.00	New Braunfels	0	12.00
*Grupo Victoria (NB)	0	15.00	Pearsall	10.00	45.00
Hill Country Group	0	15.00	Seguin	0	30.00

*Disbanded Groups

BUCK-A-MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM

DETACH AND MAIL

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave. Suite 215, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Please enter my contribution to the BUCK-A-MONTH for _____ months. Donation is enclosed on the basis of \$1.00 per month.

NAME _____ STREET _____

CITY

STATE

ZIP