



# The Nightcap

THE NIGHTCAP IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
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NO. 12

## IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

There's one frightening thing in the 12 & 12 in the chapter on Tradition One that gives me cause for concern. It says:

"Without unity, the heart of A. A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, 'What a great thing A. A. might have been!'"

Why "might have been"? Unless I do my part to maintain and enrich the fellowship, it could eventually weaken and become ineffective. Now that I am no longer a "still-suffering" alcoholic, I need to get busy and energetically give of myself in order to keep what I have. But how?

Mmm. Let me think. Well, here are a few ways that I've been told will help:

1. Be present at meetings
2. Be available to help newcomers
3. Give of my time and resources
  - a. Support my home group
  - b. Contribute to the Central Service Office through the Buck-A-Month or Individual Contribution Plan.
  - c. Contribute to the General Service Office using the "Birthday Plan"-- One dollar for every year's sobriety.
  - d. Attend A. A. conventions and conferences whenever possible.
  - e. Take time to talk to the newcomers and explain to them how they can actively help keep A. A. alive and well.
  - f. Get involved in service work like being secretary or treasurer of my group, by setting up chairs for meetings, making coffee, etc.
  - g. Volunteer to work at the Central Service Office, detox--anywhere an alcoholic needs help.

I personally believe that I need to do my part. I don't want A. A. to ever disappear. I need this fellowship and I'm determined to help keep it alive!

It would be a sad day if I ever heard someone say "What a great thing A. A. MIGHT HAVE BEEN."

Jeanne W.

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## HALLOWEEN DANCE

The Halloween Dance was a success. The Central Service Office made a little money--not much but a little profit is better than a poke in the eye.

The main thing is that everyone had a good time and it kept the kids off the street tricking & treating.

Your Central Service Office thanks all concerned and a special thank-you to  
Sunny M.

NEW EDITOR

The next issue of the NIGHTCAP will have a new editor. I've enjoyed working on the newsletter and have one pleasant memory. Once someone scribbled on a renewal form "Keep up the good work". Oh, I have had lots of complaints which I ignore and have long since forgotten. But I do remember that one scribbled note "Keep up the good work". That person made a friend and all of a sudden I began to see the many good qualities he had. I never gave him too much thought before but now I go out of my way to say "hello".

The new editor will need your help and encouragement. The NIGHTCAP is supposed to be a newsletter about A. A. activities. Someone needs to report this information so our readers can be informed. Do you have time?

Al D.

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THANKS

I guess I should say something in the way of thanks to Roland R. for preparation of the heading of the NIGHTCAP. If you will notice, he finally got the emblem correct. How can you complain to someone that does the work free of charge?

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CAN YOU SPARE A BUCK-A-MONTH?

That's all it takes to subscribe to the NIGHTCAP and we need your support. This is another way you can do service work and keep up with what is going on... See heading for mailing address. (Excellent Christmas gifts)

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FOR MEMBERS OF A. A. ONLY

COSTS ARE INCREASING...OUR FELLOWSHIP IS GROWING...MORE SERVICES ARE NEEDED  
----WE NEED YOUR INDIVIDUAL HELP-----

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRIBUTOR \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
103 RENNER DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

DID YOU KNOW THAT..

Showering, shaving and combing your hair cuts into your drinking time?

Yogi Berra said, "You can see a lot just by looking."

Will Rogers said, "You can be on the right track and still get run over if you just sit there."

A member of A. A. said he had been sober ever since he found out how!

It takes more brains to fill out the IRS forms than it does to make the money.

I think it most peculiar  
But something we should praise,  
That almost all our famous men  
Were born on holidays.

WHAT'S GOING ON

New group meeting in the Triangle Club, 2002 Pleasanton Rd, close to Sears, Southside. Phone # 923-9727.

TRIANGLE GROUP MEETINGS

Wednesdays 8:15 PM Begin/Open Disc.  
Thursdays 8:15 PM Study/Open Disc.  
Sundays 11:00 AM Open Speakers  
Sundays 6:00 PM Open Discussion

Mondays 8:15 PM Ladies for Sobriety (Ladies only)

Noon time coffee break meetings, Mon-Sat

ALAMO HEIGHTS GROUP has moved to a new meeting place. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1300 Wiltshire Blvd.

The HAVEN GROUP is having the 11th Annual Talk-A-Thon, December 31, New Years Eve, beginning at 7:30 PM. 30 minute intermission between each meeting. Last meeting at 2:30 AM. Refreshments--Everyone invited.

GOLIAD GROUP now has a Brown Bag Meeting, Monday-Saturday at 12:00 Noon. Wednesday 8:15 PM meeting has been changed from an open discussion meeting to a Big Book Study meeting. Also, GOLIAD GROUP will have Alkathon meetings on Christmas eve and New Years eve beginning at 8:15 to ?. Light refreshments will be served.

GROUP 12 has started a Big Book Meeting on Sundays at 8:15 PM. It's BYOB--Bring Your Own Book. Also the Happy Hour meeting at GROUP 12 at 5:30 PM has been changed from 3 days a week to 5 days a week, Monday-Friday. Closed Disc.

SASH GROUP: Don't forget the Annual Christmas Party, Monday, December 13 at the San Antonio State Hospital. A. A. Meeting 7:00 PM, Dinner 7:30 PM and dance 8:00-10:00 PM. Free! It is still not too late for anyone wishing to contribute to this party. Send contributions to:

SASH A.A. GROUP  
4622 CLARK AVE #240  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78223

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING, Dec 7, 1982 at the Central Service Office, 103 Renner.

8TH ANNUAL BORDER CONFERENCE, Del Rio, Tx, Dec 3, 4 & 5, 1982. Registration headquarters, Ramada Inn. Meeting in the Wardlaw Agricultural Complex.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE (GSR) meeting will be held at Club 12, Sunday, December 12, 1982 at 7:00 PM.

21st ANNUAL SOUTHEAST TEXAS AREA GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, Jan 14, 15 & 16, 1983. Spindletop Sheraton, Beaumont, Tx.

VILLA ROSA MEETINGS

Dec 7 - 24 Hour Dec 14 - Santa Fe  
Dec 21 - Alamo Heights Dec 28 - 24 Hour

Jan 4 & 11 Stepping Stones  
Jan 18 - Broadway Jan 25 - Northwest

SALLY MEETINGS

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Open Door

Jan 5, 12, 19 & 26 Tejas Group

DETOX MEETINGS

Dec 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Oblate Group

Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27 Haven Group

FRONTIER (ARC) MEETINGS

Dec 4, 11, 18 & 25 Summit

Jan 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Callaghan Rd

SASH MEETINGS

Dec 6, 13, 20 & 27 Lytle Group

Jan 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Goliad Group

9TH ANNUAL LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY JAMBOREE, January 7, 8 & 9, 1983. South Padre Island, Tx. Hotel reservations must be in by December 11, 1982--Hilton Resort Hotel. In San Antonio, for reservations, call 223-9191. For information contact Juan S. 512-546-9250.

THE DAY I BECAME RESPONSIBLE

To begin with, I don't like the word "responsible." It makes me feel uncomfortable. I see a big, overbearing hulk pointing the finger at me and saying "You are responsible!" The finger then points to a wrecked car, a broken marriage and self-will run riot.

That's enough to get anyone drunk. Who wants responsibility, anyway? Who wants to feel obligated to fulfill the constant expectations of others?

Not me, Buster. You can forget it. I'm interested in Numero Uno--that's right--Number One--and that's ME. Even after I joined A. A., I felt this way. I loved to hear "This is a selfish program" because it relieved my conscience--it erased some of my guilt.

Ah! That's the key word--guilt...Guilt for not having been responsible. In my opinion, one of the worst things I can do to another person (or to myself) is to make them feel guilty. It is a paralyzing emotion--it is a useless emotion.

So, what can I do about feeling guilty, especially feeling guilty about my reluctance to accept responsibility?

Well, here's what happened to me...believe it or not...

By nature I am a procrastinator. My slogan is "Always put off 'till tomorrow whatever you don't have to do today." Don't do your laundry until you're down to your last pair of skivvies...So, when I got into A. A., I followed the same routine I had always followed before--avoid responsibility--put it off 'till tomorrow--take the easier, softer way...

As a result, I was feeling more and more guilty and I was unable to deal with this guilt because I had not taken action to do so. The action my sponsor told me was to work on Step Six and Seven, to sincerely ask for relief from this defect of character, this agonizing, destructive guilt.

It was paralyzing my spiritual progress, I thought, so I decided to follow his advice and pray for a way out.

The answer finally came. The message I received from my sponsor and through meditation was loud and clear: "Get busy. Help others. Do service work. Be enthusiastic. Call people. Be available. Give of yourself."

Hey, buddy. Wait a minute. When do I eat and sleep? Well, it wasn't that bad. My sponsor had told me that attitudes are not changed by thinking, but that attitudes are changed by ACTION. ACTION is the magic word.

As I did these simple actions, I began to lose the relentless feeling of guilt and to begin feeling I was a dynamic part of the fellowship of A. A. It was a long, gradual process--but there came a day, a wonderful day when I woke up one morning and I could truthfully say without fear or anxiety or guilt: "Today I am responsible." I now have the privilege of doing service work. I am willing to be available to help others. I have stopped avoiding the opportunities to repay what I have been given so freely. I understand that the most important part of the word responsibility is "response" to the needs of others. Response to their needs guarantees my continued daily reprieve from the slavery of alcoholism.

TODAY I AM RESPONSIVE AND I AM RESPONSIBLE.

SACSO

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OPEN HOUSE\*\*OPEN HOUSE

Of course, it is always "open house" at your Central Service Office, but for you people that need a special invitation this is it. You are all invited to come to the December Open House at your Central Service Office located one block south of the intersection of IH 10 and Vance Jackson. Visit and have a cup of coffee. There will be cookies, fruitcake and chocolate too! Drop by and bring a friend. We're open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday.

IN MEMORIAM

BILL W., a long time member of the VALLEY-HI GROUP, died November 9, 1982 in Alabama. Bill was a steady influence of this mostly transient group. He helped many newcomers get on the right track. We will miss him. Our condolences to his family.

HOYT A., a member of the old SAHARA GROUP when it was on East Euclid, died in Corpus Christi on November 5, 1982. He was a residence of Fort Worth. Hoyt's many friends in San Antonio will miss him.

JANE V., a member of the NORTHEAST GROUP died recently.

CSOC (GSR) REPORT

The Central Service Office Committee met at Club 12 on November 14, 1982. The election to select four new members to the Administrative Board of the Central Service Office was held. Those elected for two-year terms were: Red K., Melissa B., John S. & Jean E.

Gloria M. accepted the duties of Secretary, CSOC.

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MEMORIAL MEETING

Group 12 will have a Memorial Meeting for all members of A. A. who died in 1982. This will be the 11:00 AM meeting the 3rd Sunday in January 1983. Groups or individuals are requested to notify Nelda T. 826-5012 or Louis Van D. 341-6443 of deceased members. Or notify the Secretary of Group 12, 344-8981.

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The Central Service Office will be closed December 24th & 31st.

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
1	Richard G.	1	Young People	19	Jack L.	10	Haven
4	David P.	1	Haven	23	Edward P.	6	Windcrest
8	Alice E.	1	Ft Sam Houston	28	Bill V.	1	Ft Sam Houston
13	Johnny A.	7	Windcrest	30	Rosemary B.	8	Windcrest
19	Lester S.	1	Haven	31	Michael C.	4	Haven

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Richard "Dick" E. of Seguin has located that invisible line you step over into alcoholism. He says it runs around Robstown, Texas.

Also, when Dick was trying to make amends for a case of beer he stole, the bar owner asked for wholesale price but Dick insisted he stole it retail...

Alcoholics can control their drinking about as good as crossing a finger...



NEWS FROM GEORGIA

To all our friends in San Antonio and a few in Lytle:

We wish a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. We sure do miss you and think of you often. We refer to, "Someone in San Antonio said..." so much, people in Georgia wonder if we ever think of anyone outside of San Antonio. We love you and miss you very much. (Even Larry Y.)

ALBERT & VERTA COODY  
RT 1, BOX 91  
DANVILLE, GA 31019

(Albert & Verta are in town for a couple of days visiting. We knew they were coming and was going to meet them with a brass band until we found out the band wanted money. We settled for a guitar and vocal solo of "The Eyes of Texas" by Jim D. ed)

103 RENNER DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

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