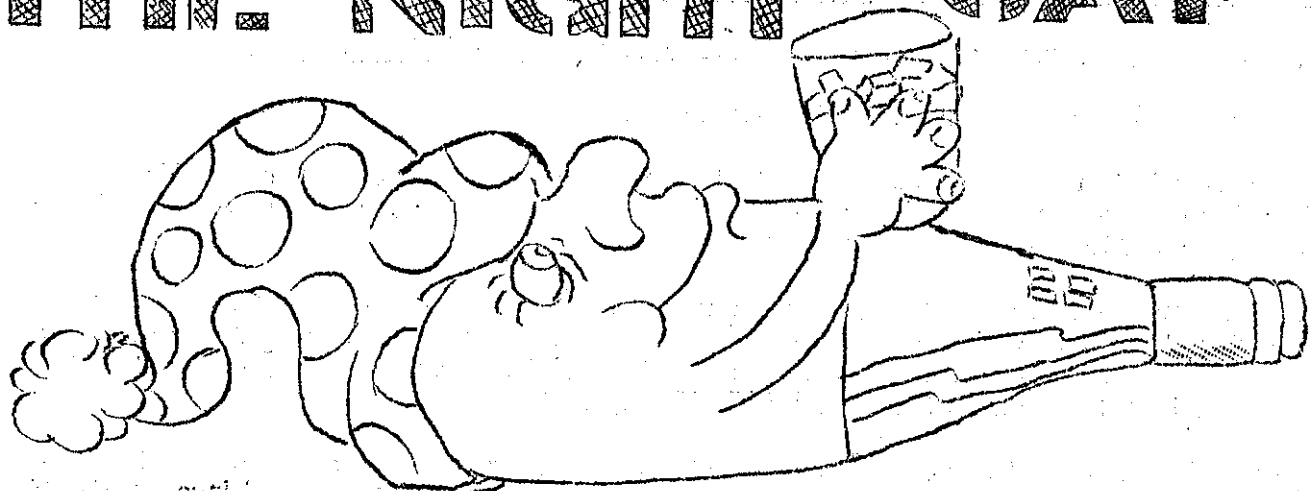


# THE NIGHT CAP



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

JANUARY 1978

NUMBER FORTY THREE

THIS IS THE BEGINNING. . . . .

. . . . . OF A NEW DAY!

## FUNDAMENTALS

1. To me, the 1st Fundamental is Surrender and Admittance.

Initially, I would not admit that I was an Alcoholic - I just didn't want to. I did admit I had a drinking problem - drank too much and too long and though I could stop for a time - just couldn't stay quit.

Some 14 to 15 years ago, during and following a 2 year seige in and out of the hospital, numerous cobalt and x-ray treatments, three sessions of surgery, my first wife died of cancer. It was no doubt that during this time, I graduated from a social, hard drinker to an Alcoholic. I seldom drew a sober breath and stayed well "smashed" most, if not all, the time.

This situation continued, after her death, for a period, but I didn't need AA. This was, to my of thinking and with what little knowledge I had of AA, for the Skidrow bums, the institution people and the "drunk tank" habitues of the city and county jails. I could, through will power and self determination quit any time when the situation required and I wanted to. I had done it thousands of times. It was easy.

The deciding occasion arose when I wanted to remarry and my bride-to-be insisted I stop drinking before we could be married.

I did, we were, but I couldn't stay sober. The old pattern came gradually back into my life. Hidden bottles, sneaked drinks in the kitchens and at parties, and out of town binges. Nothing new or novel, but the typical patterns of an Alcoholic.

It was gradually becoming more and more apparent to both Anne and me, particularly Anne, that I had to do something about my condition, I needed help, and maybe, just maybe, AA was my only hope. So I took the first part of the 1st Fundamental - I Surrendered.

(Continued ON Page Two)

2. This, of course lead me to the 2nd Fundamental - The Message.

How do we get it? Where does it come from?

As I mentioned, I was little informed about Alcoholics Anonymous. The bulk of this knowledge was that AA existed and that it evidently was a group of people who worked with Alcoholics and apparently helped some people.

I spent most of one Sunday afternoon with an old AA member ( some 23 years of sobriety ) who works with my wife. I talked, he listened, made a few comments, enlightened me some on AA, The Steps and then told me his story ( some of it ) and what AA had done and how it worked for him.

He concluded the afternoon by asking why I didn't go to a meeting with him the next evening. I still would not admit that I was an Alcoholic, only that I "felt I had a drinking problem". His reply was " that 's good enough to start on". So what could I lose? AA had evidently worked for him and it just might for me. And if I didn't like it, I could quit.

3. This then brings us to the 3rd Fundamental - The Meetings.

I walked into that first meeting, reluctant, a bit frightened and not at all sure that I wanted to be there. I was both amazed and impressed with what greeted me. These people were not derelicts or old "has beens", but, rather, well dressed, happy smiling folks, who greeted me, seemed happy I had come and immediately made me feel welcome and accepted.

I had been told to " sit and listen with an open mind" and this I did for many meetings to follow.

These meetings are the "Center of AA". It is here that you meet other Alcoholics and share with them your experiences and hopes. Before long I could not help but make the observation, to myself of course, "If they can do it, so can I."

The Beginners meetings at Club 12 were especially good for me, for it was there, during those first 90 days, that I over came the fright, unassuredness and doubts. This was a small group of new members, some 10 to 12 men and women, all with short periods of sobriety, who were just as frightened, confused, and shy as I was, and together, with the aid and assistance of two older members who conducted the meetings, we all began to grow up just a bit. The 30, 60 and 90 day chips were a joy to receive and most of us felt some accomplishment with each. I frankly resented being " thrown out" at the end of the 90 days.

The Speakers Meetings also played an important role in my AA education and helped a great deal. Although many of the stories were quite different than mine, some parts of all of them fit my life pattern and I could see and feel many similarities.

The Discussion, Step and Big Book Meetings, both open and closed, became a big part of my life, an important part, as did the conferences, workshops and the International Convention in Denver, that I was fortunate to be able to attend. This latter experience is one I'll never forget.

Fairly early, the desire and compulsion to drink was removed and little by little I eased into the second part of the 1st Fundamental - Acceptance

(Continued on Page Three)

FUNDAMENTALS (Cont'd from Page Two)

I could now admit and accept that I was an Alcoholic.

- Hod C. -

(This is the first of a two part series of articles on the Fundamentals of Alcoholics Anonymous. Watch for the second in next month's edition of THE NIGHT CAP)

+++++ I CAN WASTE IT OR GROW IN ITS LIGHT AND BE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS?

NOTICE!

NOTICE!

NOVICE!

District 1 and the Central Service Office, San Antonio will conduct a GSR Workshop for the GSR's of District 1 on January 14th, 1978 at the ARC on Southton Road.

One of the highlights of the workshop will be the showing of the new filmstrip from the General Service Office, "Circles of Love and Service". Using photos, sketches, and graphics the film shows how the parts of AA fit and work together from home group to area assembly, General Service Conference and Board.

All Area DCM's and their GSR's are cordially invited to attend, as well as other interested members of AA.

Registration will be from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be available at a cost of \$1.50 to \$2.00. In order to obtain a head count for preparation of food, please advise CSO, 109 Lexington, San Antonio, Texas 78205 or phone 226-2523 not later than January 7th, 1978.

Let's have a good turn out! See you there.

- Hod C. -  
(DCM - District 1  
Sector A )

BUT WHAT I DO WITH THIS DAY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE I HAVE EXCHANGED A DAY OF MY LIFE  
+++++ FOR IT +++++

WEDDING BELLS! ! !

The sweet sound of wedding bells are pealing for "Gentle Ben" A., Interim Area Chairman of the Southwest Texas Texas Area (PIC) and Elva Ellen L. of Kendalia, Tex.

The Marriage Ceremony, Reception and Dance will be held in the Terrace Ball Room, third floor of the El Tropicano Motor Inn, 100 Block of Lexington Ave. (across the street from the Central Service Office), San Antonio, Texas 78205.

Ben and Elva are extending a warm invitation to all their many friends in the AA family to join them in this happy occasion which will take place at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, January 21st, 1978.

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

BE A GOOD ELF TO YOURSELF!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NIGHT CAP! ! !

SO THE LITTLE ELF CAN COME OUT OF HIDING?

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! ! !

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

STAT'S: 11/16/77 - 12/16/77

AA	46
Information	21
Alanon	0
Students	3
PIC	4

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS:

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet on Tuesday, January 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Central Service Office.

\* \* \* \* \*

The C. S. O. C. and District 1 Meetings will be held on Sunday, January 8th at 7 p. m. in Club 1w, 102 Thames Blvd.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

The Goliad Group, 537 Avondale, will hold its regular monthly barbeque, Sunday, January 15th at 6 p.m. followed by an "Open Speakers Meeting" at 7:30 p.m. All other Sunday meetings are held at the usual time of 8:15 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

Group 12 will hold its monthly dinner and games night on Saturday, January 28th at 7 p.m. in Club 12.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Frontier Group will sponsor its regular monthly dance Saturday, January 28th following the "Open Speakers Meeting" 8:15 p.m. at the ARC (Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center)

\* \* \* \* \*

The 24 Hour Service Group, 1203 Fredricksburg will hold its regular monthly dinner on Sunday, January 29th at 1 p.m.

Spaghetti and garlic bread are featured for this month's menu ( a Welcome change after all that turkey hash!) and the price is only \$2.00 for adults and \$1.25 for children.

Join the group at "24" for a pleasant Sunday with old friends - and new!

NEW GROUPS:

The Caldwell Group meets every Saturday evening at 8 p.m. in the basement of the First Methodist Church (Corner of Fox and Thomas Streets) in Caldwell, Texas.

Kati S., secretary of the group reports they are running a small advertisement in the weekly paper. A news item covering their meeting was also featured, but they are still having a struggle. Anyone in the Caldwell area - or planning to visit - is urged to come and bring a friend!

For more information call Katie at: 567-4877, or write; Rt. #1, Box 364, Caldwell, Texas, 77836.

\* \* \* \* \*

AA and Alanon meetings are now being held every Thursday evening at 8:15 p.m. on Kelly AFB in the Main Chapel.

These groups are very much in need of area support - so round up a car-load and tootle over! (You need not have on-base identification - Simply notify the entrance gate guard that you are attending the meeting. )

\* \* \* \* \*

A "late breaking" new group is the San Benito Group which meets every Wednesday evening, 8:00 p.m. at 300 N. Reagan, San Benito, Texas.

The group holds an "open Speakers meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. All other meetings are "Closed".

WHEN TOMORROW COMES TODAY WILL BE

G O N E

F O R E V E R

CHANGES:

The Esperanza Group which formerly met on Wednesday evenings now meets every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. for "Closed discussion meetings". Esperanza is a bilingual group for women. All area women are invited to participate and share their unique problems and experiences in a strongly supportive atmosphere.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Marymont Group is now holding meetings in a new meeting room located in the annex building behind the Church of the Reconciliation.

Members of the group financed and did the functional work in constructing the meeting room; they would enjoy showing off their "handy-work" to you- and your friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Fort Sam Group is now showing a series of excellent films on Alcohol Abuse at their Monday night meetings. Everyone interested in the illness of alcoholism is invited to attend these "Open Meetings" held at 8:15 p.m. every Thursday.

! THANK !

The SASH Christmas party is now just a beautiful memory . . . and the Chairpersons, Committee people, and hospital staff would like to thank everyone in the area for making it such a splendid success.

Group contributions of gift books, food and volunteer help, as well as the participation of the many area AA members who came to celebrate will surely create a lasting impression for all - most particularly SASH patients.

Thanks again for this terrific display of AA generosity!

- Jane M. -

ANNIVERSARIES:

The Villa Roca Group will celebrate their 6th Anniversary on January 10th at 8:15 p.m. in the hospital gym.

Dr. Gene S. will be the featured speaker and the meeting will be followed by a gala party . . . plenty of luscious refreshments and warm fellowship!

Circle the date - plan to attend!

\* \* \* \* \*

The Highland Group issues a special invitation to all to help them celebrate the 27th Anniversary!

Mike D. will chair the meeting at which Dr. Gene S. will speak on Wednesday, January 25th at 8:00 p.m. Let's all join in this happy celebration of one of our "pioneers"!

---

I HOPE I WILL NOT REGRET THE PRICE I  
+ + + + + PAID FOR IT! + + + + +

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The new Meeting Directories will be put together during January. Any changes in location or the type of meeting should be phoned in to the Central Service Office!

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CONVENTION NEWS:

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Jamboree will be held January 6 - 8 in the Fort Brown Memorial Center, Stockley Hall, Brownsville, Texas.

No registration fee is required for this fine conference! For further information write: Secretary of Jamboree, P.O. Box 2221, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 16th AA General Service Conference Celebrating Its 38th Year West of the Mississippi will be held January 20 -22 in the Galvez Hotel, Galveston, Texas.

A \$5.00 registration fee will admit members to all meetings and the dance.

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

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DEC.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DEC.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	15.00	180.00	Open Door	0	40.00
Audubon	0	100.00	Park North	10.00	75.00
Brees	0	85.00	Reality	5.00	45.00
Broadway	10.00	130.00	Reliance	0	80.00
Downtown	0	60.00	Sally	0	0
First Step	0	0	SASH	5.00	45.00
Ft. Sam Houston	20.00	200.00	Santa Fe	0	10.00
Frontier	20.00	180.00	Sahara	0	0
Goliad	0	86.00	St. Agnes	0	0
Group 12	50.00	650.00	Serenity	10.00	110.00
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	75.00	300.00
Harmony & *Harmonia	0	40.00	Sunset	15.00	180.00
Highlands	50.00	270.00	Trinity	0	10.00
Hope	0	0	The Haven	0	65.00
Laurel Heights	15.00	165.00	24 Hour	10.00	80.00
Marymont	25.00	100.00	Universal	10.00	40.00
Northeast	0	120.00	Valley Hi	0	165.00
N. San Pedro	10.00	90.00	VA Hospital	0	70.00
Northwest	20.00	295.00	Villa Rosa	0	275.00
Northwood	0	135.00	Wesley	15.00	52.50
			Windcrest	0	90.00

AREA

Bandera	0	20.00	Kerrville	0	70.00
Bridge (N.B.)	10.00	120.00	*Men's Stag	0	10.00
Canyon Lake	0	15.00	Women's Serenity	0	80.00
El Toro (Port Manfd)	0	8.00	New Braunfels	0	12.00
Floresville	0	60.00	Pearsall	15.00	60.00
*Grupo Victoria (NB)	0	15.00	Seguin	0	30.00
Hill Country Group	0	15.00			

\*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 \_\_\_\_\_

# NEW LOCATION OF THE DOWNTOWN GROUP

EAST END OF BLOCK, AVE. E. & McCULLOUGH (NEXT TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH)

## MEETINGS

## NOTICE!

MON - 8:15 PM	DISCUSSION	THE DOWNTOWN AA GROUP IS NOW IN NEW, LARGER QUARTERS AND WILL BE EXPANDING SERVICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (CUSTODIAN, OPEN DURING THE DAY, MEETING HALL FOR ALL AAs, ETC.) WATCH FOR FURTHER NOTICES BY CIRCULAR AND ITEMS IN THE "NIGHTCAP". PLEASE COME SHARE WITH US AT MEETINGS AND HEAR ABOUT OUR FUTURE PLANS !
TUE. - 8:15 PM	DISCUSSION	
8:15 PM	ALANON	
FRI. - 8:15 PM	SPEAKERS	
SUN. - 3:00 PM	STEPS	

**THE "DOWNTOWN" AA GROUP IS NOW REALLY DOWNTOWN !  
IN THE CENTER OF SAN ANTONIO !**

