

THE NIGHTCAP



JANUARY 2001

CSO Notes

What Can I Do?

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

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE**
- The Board of trustees has voted that effective 1 Jan 2001 The CSO will discontinue Office credit to all individuals, groups, and institutions. We will honor cash, money orders, checks, every major credit and debit card.
- A reminder you can contact us now by E-mail for information, 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

CSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



What can I do? I'm only one person out of close to two million members of AA. So I see and hear things that don't seem right sometime -at a meeting or at a conference. That's not my problem, let someone else handle it! Ever feel that way? Its called apathy.

At my home group, I can be a good member by showing up for the weekly meetings and the business meetings and by taking my turn at the different tasks necessary to keep my group going. Also, I can keep an eye open for problems and speak up when I do see one instead of looking the other way.

Also, I can get a good understanding of the Twelve Traditions and the Twelfth Concept and the General Service structure by serving as a General Service Representative for at least two years, by reading the General Service Manual and by going to some 12 & 12 Study groups. This should give me a general idea of how things should be.

When I go to a meeting and hear a speaker on drugs or sex or overeating or some other addiction with barely a mention of alcohol, I can get up and walk out, as I've seen some members do. Or better yet I can sit through it and then get up and make a comment. I can thank the speaker for sharing and then mention that I do not relate and explain that this is a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and remind him/her of our 3rd and 5th Traditions. After the meeting, I can tell him/her of an anonymous group more suited to his/her problem. I can hand the Chairman a 12 Traditions Illustrated pamphlet.

At a business meeting, if I know a Tradition and I know that it is about to be broken, it is my responsibility to speak up. The others may not realize it or be afraid to say anything.

The Traditions are the blueprint for our groups and should be followed to the best of our knowledge. There should be no interest in seeing how we can get around a tradition.

I attended a conference recently and there was a small registration fee to help cover costs. I paid the registration fee and wore my badge and ribbon with pride but a large number of attendee's simply did not pay. This did not stop them from drinking coffee and losing coffee, eating snacks and taking up the best seats in the auditorium for the big meeting. "You can't keep anyone out of an open AA meeting," was the most often heard excuse. Or, "I'm only staying for a short time:" Maybe they don't know what it costs to put on a conference. Maybe they confuse an AA meeting at a conference with a regular AA meeting and perhaps they hear "no dues or fees" and have somehow missed the "self supporting through our own contributions part.

How about going to a conference and parking your vehicle on the patio or sidewalk so you can keep an eye on it? Multiply yourself by 300-400 and you can see the problem. Wow, congestion -no places to sit or walk! What can I do? I can park my vehicle in a parking lot and then walk over to the patio area to great old and new friends.

Ever see a tapist at an anniversary or a conference with a huge table stocked with tapes from God knows what outfit? Ever see OUR "BIG BOOK" or "TWELVE & TWELVE" tape cassettes for sale under a different cover? These tapists need to know that we won't put up with it.

What can we do? I can be a good example, I can speak up, I can complain to the right people, I can study the Traditions, I can write an article in the local AA newsletter . . .and so can you.

Joan A., Akron

Managers mailbag NIGHTCAP LETTERS, FAXES, E-MAILS

The Nightcap always has and will continue to solicit responses from its readers on most any topic, and or issue concerning AA, The Central Service Office, Recovery and or Service. Plus a few things in between. We do not edit them as not to change the flavor of the article.

C.S.O.

Subject: important notice

I just opened my December 2000 issue of the Nightcap. I am amazed to discover that the Board of Trustees have decided to discontinue credit to groups. The groups I attend have had credit accounts with CSO for years without failing to remit payments timely.

Many retail businesses extend credit to their customers. When they do not receive payments from their clients they take action on those clients only. They do not penalize their loyal, faithful and responsible customers.

Is this a case of throwing the baby out the window with the bath water or Cutting off your nose to spite your face?

I am requesting the Board of Trustees rethink their decision and return credit to the responsible groups in the San Antonio metro area.

Please reprint this in the Nightcap.

Arley H

Dear Nightcap:

Prayer at the close of meetings.

I have been sober now for over 29 years. I sobered up in San Antonio, Texas at the tender age of 30 years, 2 month, 2weeks & 2 days. By the grace of God, as I understand him, I have not taken a drink containing alcohol since that day. I pretty much did what my sponsor suggested back then & still do. I tell you that so you will know that I have seen a lot of AA meetings sober. I know, without a doubt that I have averaged between 2 & 3 a week in that 29 years. That's a lot of meetings! I have seen lots of changes! I have seen changes come & go. I have seen some changes come & stay. I have seen some changes come & get worse. I consider this one of those changes.

In AA we have taken what some theologians and most people in and out of AA consider a perfect prayer & desecrated it in the name of improving it or adding humor to it or *fixing* it or personalizing it or making fun of it or worst of all misusing it. Now when the Lord's Prayer is said it is covered up with trash before & after until the trash buries the prayer.

The Lord's prayer in meetings is what I call a *traditional* thing, not to be confused with an AA Tradition. There are a lot of *traditional* things in AA today that are not written in stone. The Lord's Prayer at the end of the meeting is just one. Yet in our preamble we clearly state *We are not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution. We do not wish to engage in any controversy. We neither endorse nor support in any causes.* I think with this trash before & after the Lord's Prayer we are violating all of what the preamble says.

In the purest form of our society we have absolutes. One is don't drink, one is go to meetings, one is prayer & meditation and there are more. When in doubt, go back to the absolutes. The Lord's Prayer is a sectarian prayer and should not be used in AA meetings. It is a Christian prayer that Jesus Christ gave to his

Disciples when they asked Him to teach them to pray. I have friends who are from other faiths that reject the Lord's Prayer. They should not have to be exposed to it at every meeting. To them it is controversial & offensive!

Now let's do what Dr. Paul suggested. Let's get out of the problem & into the solution. Here is III) suggested solution. Bring it up in your group conscience. You can drop the Lord's Prayer and add the serenity prayer or the prayer on page 99 of the 12 & 12. You can also just stop the adding on at the beginning & the end. If you do this you can preface the prayer with the request to not add anything at the beginning or the end. Finally you can just not participate in the prayer.

We have carried this one way too far just like we did when we drank. The Lord's Prayer is unrecognizable as it is performed now! Let's get back to the basics.

Corky S.
Into Action Group
College Station, TX

The greatest way to
appreciate your sobriety
is to
imagine yourself without it.

I SUFFER FROM ME

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT	NOV00	Nov-99
4005 Sales	\$ 5,037.00	\$ 3,981.00
4006 Cost of Sales	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 2,261.00
Gross Profit	\$ 3,110.00	\$ 1,720.00
CONTRIBUTIONS		
4010 Nightcap Contributions	\$ 39.00	\$ 48.00
4020 COR Meeting Contributions	\$ 36.00	\$ -
4030 Group Contributions	\$ 2,038.00	\$ 1,459.00
4040 Memorial Contributions	\$ 35.00	\$ 10.00
4050 Individual Contributions	\$ 21.00	\$ 609.00
4060 Birthdays	\$ 90.00	\$ -
Total Contributions	\$ 2,259.00	\$ 2,126.00
OTHER INCOME		
4110 Interest Income	\$ 29.00	\$ 35.00
4120 Office Kitty/Misc	\$ 65.00	\$ 36.00
Total Other Income	\$ 94.00	\$ 71.00
Total Income	\$ 5,463.00	\$ 3,917.00
WAGE RELATED EXPENSES		
5010 Salaries	\$ 2,548.00	\$ 3,040.00
5020 Payroll Tax	\$ 195.00	\$ 232.00
5030 Contract Labor-Clerical	\$ -	\$ 50.00
5040 Travel Allowance	\$ -	\$ 50.00
5060 Micellaneous	\$ -	\$ 9.00
5050 Employee Training	\$ -	\$ -
Total wage related expenses	\$ 2,743.00	\$ 3,381.00
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES		
5110 Rent	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 855.00
5120 Utilities	\$ 159.00	\$ 18.00
5130 Telephone	\$ 193.00	\$ 154.00
5135 Answering Service	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00
5140 Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 151.00	\$ -
5150 Insurance&Taxes-Bi-Annual	\$ 749.00	\$ -
Total Occupancy Expense	\$ 2,339.00	\$ 1,049.00
OTHER EXPENSES		
5210 Office Supplies, Clerical	\$ 129.00	\$ 99.00
5211 Office Supplies, Non-Clerical	\$ 100.00	\$ -
5215 Postage	\$ 99.00	\$ 17.00
5216 Freight	\$ 35.00	\$ -
5225 Equipment Lease & Main	\$ 152.00	\$ -
5270 SWB Yellow Pages	\$ 47.00	\$ 45.00
5310 Nightcap Print. & Post.	\$ 287.00	\$ 502.00
5415 Accounting Service	\$ 300.00	\$ 138.00
5425 Credit card /Misc	\$ 34.00	\$ -
Total Other Expenses	\$ 1,183.00	\$ 801.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,265.00	\$ 5,231.00
NET LOSS	\$ (802.00)	\$ (1,314.00)

Wherever or whenever we begin our journey into recovery, the very first thing we have to do is achieve abstinence. For me, that meant getting the vodka and valium which had sustained me for so many years out of my system. That done, I was then "sober." But I didn't have sobriety, not for quite a while.

When I achieved abstinence, I got rid of the "alcohol," but I still had the "ism." And that's what I continue to work on today, even after 12 years in the program. It's my "ism" that trips me up every time! The "ism" covers all of my character defects, all of the attitudes, outlooks, behavior patterns, resentments and fears of my life's experience which have needed to undergo gentle and persistent healing and transformation.

Often I have shared that for me "ism" stands for "I Suffer from Me!" For in truth, if my perceptions are in error, if my conscious contact with my Higher Power has been disturbed, than I am bound to find myself wrapped up in feelings of discomfort, "dis-ease", and regret. I have done all of this to myself, I Suffer from Me. No one else really has the power to do what I can do to myself, if I allow faulty thinking and faulty action to take over.

I believe that sobriety is a state of body, mind and spirit. And the greatest of these is spirit. From it all else flows. How many times I have listened to newcomers say that they just can't get the spiritual part of the program, or that they just haven't found their Higher Power yet. It seems they've been looking everywhere except within.

One time an old timer in the program said to me, "Remember, religion is man-made, but spirituality is God-Given. You can turn your back on the one, but never on the other. In the complete trust and the ability of a small child to love and to accept life wholeheartedly, is the essence of the Spirit within. Though you may seek to ignore its presence, spirituality is with you always. And so is the gift of recovery. You were born with it. Recovery is the process of getting back in touch with your own potential — through your spiritual connection. Though you may turn away from it, or seek to find it 'out there somewhere', you really already have it within yourself...Your challenge is to believe that you have it." And so, I came to believe. Maybe that is what they mean when they say that recovery is an "inside job."



"Annie"

Winners Club, Inc. (210) 680-5496
5723 Kenwick — San Antonio, TX 78238
TO ALL CONCERNED
FROM GRADY HORNSBY

12/26/00

I UNDERSTAND THEIR MAY BE SOME CONCERNED MEMBERS UPON HEARING THAT THE WINNERS CLUB IS CLOSING. I WANT TO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CLOSE THE WINNERS CLUB. YES WE ARE FACING VERY HARD TIMES, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. I AM COMMITTED TO DO MY PART TO SEE THE WINNERS CLUB CONTINUE TO BE A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE MANY THAT COME HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO COME SEE THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS.

PRESIDENT/MANAGER
 GRADY HORNSBY

You may have noticed that the January issue of the Nightcap is a bit late this month. I must confess that I look forward to putting together each and every issue with relish and dread at the same time, but this month a has been a bit more stressful than usual. Two days after Christmas, through as yet an unidentified source, my house and all its contents were destroyed by fire. The family members although trapped for several minutes managed to escape and treated for smoke inhalation and are safe. I cannot adequately put to paper nor vocally come up with the appropriate words to express my family's gratitude for the support, donations, of every imaginable kind. Through this fellowship and program I have always been more comfortable in giving, doing what I can for others, I am very unaccustomed to being on this end of the spectrum. From myself and the family to the Fellowship Thank you and God Bless!!!!

Bill T

"Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity." Gilda Radner

**DO NOT FEEL
 TOTALLY,
 PERSONALLY,
 IRREVOCABLY
 RESPONSIBLE
 FOR EVERYTHING.
 THAT IS MY JOB.
 LOVE,
 GOD.**

**J
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1 YR
Nedsa B
Kurt P
Zelma C
Eugene R
Carlos G
Nico H
Michael L
William D
Natalie P
Steve M
Jim V

Shelly B
Easton L
James W
Judy W

2 YRS
Bob T
Chuck F
Barbara J
John H
James K
Jesse L
Linda M
George M
Ronald McC
Billie B
Albert B
Tracy B
Stephanie C

3 YRS
Larry A
Christine W
John S
Judy V
David L
Maria C
Felix A

4 YRS
Robert B
Patricia D-W
Mary H

5 YRS
Kristy S
Ray C
Randy R
Teri H
Teri H
Teresa M
Melissa S
Ken S

6 YRS
Charlie H
Ana Maria H
Teri W
Johnny E
Richard S

Bill S
Mike M
Randy B

7 YRS
Pat G

8 YRS
Randy R
Fabian F
Joe D

9 YRS
Louis N
Diane S
Tommy S
Louis R
Jim V
Chris D

10 YRS
Bruce B
Ray P

11 YRS
Cheri G
Laura M
Jack L
Paul T
Travis H

12 YRS
Jesse G
Joesph S II

13 YRS
David K
Butch W

14 YRS
Renee' Z
Les B
Mary Alice W

17 YRS
Suzanne C

18 YRS
Arn G
Peggy C

21 YRS
Evelyn L

25 YRS
David G
Garth

26 YRS
Ed H

27YRS
Inga B

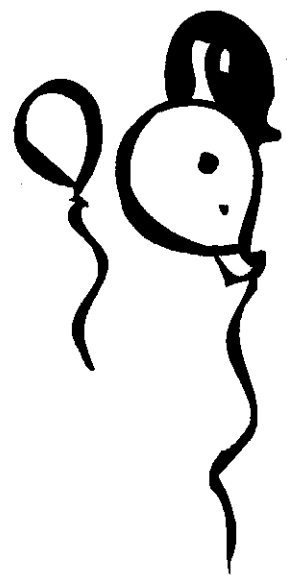
28YRS
Donna M

29YRS
John A
Bob M

36 YRS
Arley H

38 YRS
Bob M

40 YRS
Gene S MD



Anyone interested in helping to support these events can contact Glenn. The CPC / PI Committee holds its meetings on the 2ND 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.

District 1A – Kimberly for Lynne G. – The Halt Group on Tezel Rd. has started a new Steps and Traditions Meeting at 7 PM on Thursdays. The Winner's Club will likely close within a few months, due to lack of support. The Winner's Club currently hosts 40 Meetings per week.

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

District 1F – Frank E. – The District has 10 Groups, active Committees, and an Inter-Group Office. The Inter-Group Office Phone Number is (210) 533-9770.

District 2G – Alberto A. – District 2G is a new Spanish District that is forming and pending approval from the SWTA. The District has 3 Groups (Unity, Big Book, and 3 Legacies) and 3 Committees (PI, CFC, and La Vina). The 3 Legacies Group will be hosting a South Texas La Vina Meeting on the 14TH of January at 10 AM.

District 16 – Barbi H. –The District is doing well. The Lambda Group will be open Christmas Eve until midnight and will open New Year's Eve at noon and stay open into New Year's Day. Group 12 is planning to host a Workshop in February.

District 17 – Steve J. – The District is doing well. The District has changed it meeting place from Jim's at Bandera , to IHOP at Bandera at 5 PM on the third Sunday of each month.

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

District 19 – Bill T. – The District has taken on a Service Commitment to the NIX Hospital. The Life Support Group will be holding its 2ND Anniversary on January 9TH – the Speaker will be Bill W. The Archives Committee will have a display setup at the Anniversary. The Alternate DCM for the District has resigned – the District is looking for a new Alternate DCM.

Old Business – None

New Business –

(AGENDA ITEM: Increasing Standing Committee Earmarked Funds from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for 2001 Calendar Year). Barbi H. provided clarification on the agenda item by stating that each year, SAMSO sets aside \$1,500 in order for the 5 Standing Committee Chairs to attend the two South West Texas Area (SWTA) Workshops that are held each year. This equates to \$150 per Committee Chair per SWTA Workshop. Of the \$1,500 set aside for this purpose for the 2000 calendar year, only \$150 was used. Since \$1,350 of the funds remained unused, the Steering Committee is asking the Groups to set aside an additional \$1,650 for the 2001 calendar year. This will result in a total of \$3,000 being set aside – allowing the Standing Committee Chairs to attend all 4 SWTA Meetings held during the 2001 calendar year (\$150 per Committee Chair per SWTA Meeting), instead of only the 2 Workshop Meetings. After discussion on the item, David A. made a motion to vote on the item. The motion did not generate a "second", so the motion died. Liddy G. made a motion to take the item back to the Groups for their input. Karen C. seconded, and Mike C. called the question. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The agenda item will be taken back to the groups and discussed further at January's Inter-District Meeting.

Adjourned – 7:35 PM with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted:

Steve J. – SAMSO Secretary

Printed as submitted

COR MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Virginia B

Serenity Prayer: Virginia B.

Statement of Purpose: Bill T.

Traditions: Eric C.

New CORs: Randall H.: 1st Things 1st Peter C. Group 12

Vicki S made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Nightcap. Eric seconded and they were accepted.

Bill T. and Randy S. gave the financial report.

After Hrs Phone Duty: Kim C. explained the reason she is no longer the Chairperson of this committee was due to family illness. She reiterated the importance of this committee and the service it performs.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: Vicki S. suggested this would be a great opportunity for the CORs to chair this meeting. The main concern from other CORs present was that there are not enough CORs interested in coming to the meeting to actually pull it off. Much discussion followed. An Ad Hoc committee may or may not be formed to look into a call down to all CORs to see if there is enough interest to pursue.

The basket was passed and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Kim C and Virginia B expressed their gratitude to have been able to serve as CSO Board members the last two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia B

**SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2000 MEETING**

In Attendance:

District 16 DCM – Barbi H. (Treasurer)

District 19 DCM – Bill T. (Chair)

District 2G DCM – Alberto A.

Corrections Chair – Liddy G.

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

Central Service Office Liaison to SAMSO – Randy S.

District 17 DCM – Steve J. (Secretary)

District 1F DCM – Frank E.

Archives Chair – Tom H.

Hospitals / Institutions Chair – Bob T.

Absent:

District 1A DCM – Lynne G.

District 18 DCM – Gil C.

SAMSO to Central Service Office Liaison – Judy F.

District 1E DCM – Len A.

Grapevine Chair – Martha H.

Meeting called to order by **Bill T.** at 6:35 PM with Moment of Silence and Serenity Prayer.

Chris - Read the Traditions. New GSRs: **Doug** – First Things First Group, **Kathy** – Alamo Heights Group

New DCMs: None

Announcements: None.

Presentations: None.

Central Service Office Liaison to SAMSO – Randy S. – The CSO Board has 3 new members – **Judy F.**, **Ed C.**, and **Corky S.** New Officers have also been elected. The CSO Board is finalizing new lease arrangements for the office.

SAMSO Liaison to Central Service Office – Judy F. – (Absent – *No Report*)

Chairman's Report – Bill T. – No Report.

Secretary's Report – Steve J. – Asked for a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the *Nightcap*. **Liddy G.** made the motion; seconded by **Mike C.** All approved.

Treasurer's Report – Barbi H. – Submitted the report for November. Donations were \$267.96 with expenses of \$504.05 for a balance of \$3,858.88, of which \$1,350.00 is earmarked for Area Workshop attendance by the five Standing Committee Chairs, leaving an available balance of \$2,508.88. A motion was made by **Glenn C.** to accept the report as given. **Kathy** seconded the motion. All approved.

Archives – Tom H. – Will be placing materials into the climate controlled storage facility. In the process of selecting materials for placement in the display cases at CSO. **The Archives Committee holds its meetings on the 1ST 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.**

Correctional Facilities – Liddy G. – An official from the Three Rivers Federal Corrections Facility attended the last CFC Meeting. Liddy introduced **Marvin Q.** as the new CFC Chair – starting 01-Jan-2001. Marvin can be reached at 365-9973. **The CFC Committee holds its meetings on the 1ST Wednesday of each month in the Alanon room at Club 12 at 102 Thames at 7:00 PM. Liddy can be reached at 495-1234, or email at rdgray@swbell.net.**

Grapevine – Martha H. – (Absent – *No Report*) – **The Grapevine Committee holds its meetings on the 1ST Monday of each month at Jim's at 410 and Blanco at 7:30 PM. Martha can be reached at 344-6588, or email at JHernden@aol.com.**

Hospitals / Institutions – Bob T. – The Temporary Contact Program is in need of volunteers. Bob provided information sheets on the program to the attendees. More H&I representatives from the Groups are also needed; there are currently only three Group representatives. Bob received a complaint from the Campbell Griffin Unit that an individual was handing out cigarettes to the inmates. The same institution also complained about the use of profanity by AA members during the meetings. Bob reminded everyone to use common sense when taking meetings to institutions. Bob is available to give presentations on the H&I Committee to Groups.

** Note that the Location/Time of the H&I Committee meeting has changed. *

The Hospitals/Institutions Committee holds its meetings on the 2ND 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.

Cooperation with Professional Community / Public Information Chair – Glenn C. – The Committee has been active. He received notification from GSO that the Committee will be asked to cover both "*The American Physical Therapy Association Convention*" – February 15-17, 2001 and "*The American Counseling Association Convention*" – March 15-20, 2001. Both events will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. New York will be sending the display booth, and materials. More information on these events will be provided as it becomes available.

Dr. Bob

As far as Dr. Bob, the man, is concerned, there is a probability that many people took his conservative appearance to mean a conservative nature. His youthful rebellion against authority, however, does not suggest innate conservatism. In adult years, he took Smitty and Sue to it number of different church services so they could make up their own minds. It was ironic that a doctor should have included a Christian Science church in the search. He was an M.D. and surgeon, yet he once took Smitty, who was suffering from an allergy, to a homeopath, who treated the illness with minute doses of the substance that had caused the allergy in the first place. Bob was open to the possibility of spiritual healing as well.

Later, he proved equally open-minded about the need for changes within himself, to correct character defects that, in his view, he had developed as an only child. These included impatience with himself and others—he wanted what he wanted right now—and an inclination to be intolerant and think only of himself. We have only to look at his record of service to A.A. and its members in order to see the changes in those areas.

"Dealing with till those alcoholics, he heard and saw a lot of different viewpoints," said Smitty. "He learned to adjust."

Though Dr. Bob was never political, Smitty did note that there was one famous office-holder whose very name was enough to evoke a howl of pain and outrage from his father. But Dr. Bob was a Vermonter, after all. And, as was said in those days after the 1936 election results, "As goes Maine, so goes Vermont."

Friends saw Dr. Bob as becoming more openly gracious and softer as the years passed. The Dr. Bob of the late 1940's was not the same man who met Bill Wilson in 1935. He was a man in process—growing throughout the rest of his life in the very program of recovery he did so much to help develop.

If one is not convinced regarding Dr. Bob's

nonconforming, nonconservative nature, there is the story of the early A.A. who called on Clarence S. He thought he had stumbled into the first hippie hang out. Clarence was operating the phonograph; Bill Wilson was reclining on the floor playing his violin; and Dr. Bob was shuffling to the tune of 'Japanese Sandman,' which he loved. Dr. Bob once said that all he ever wanted was "to have curly hair to tap-dance, to play the piano

That is hardly a portrait of a "rigid" personality. So it may not be surprising that Dr. Bob's initial doubts about the ambitious new projects were so quickly overcome. Once the idea of a hospital to be run by the Fellowship was approved, Dr Bob and other members began looking around for an old house that could be converted into a hospital for drunks. As Dick S. later put it, they were sure they "could pick one up in which new men could be inoculated with the A.A. germ."

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers
pp. 126-127
reprinted by permission

The novice asked the Master, "What is the way upward?"

And the Master replied, "You will hit it by descending lower."
- Chi Ch'en as quoted by J. Wu



GROUP FORUM

GROUP UPDATES

Life Support Group 2nd Anniversary
9 January Alamo Hts Presbyterian
Church 6201 Broadway 7pm
Speaker: Bill W Discusses the
Traditions.

Until further notice the Fort Sam Group
is still meeting in its old location (2797
Stanley Road, Roadrunner community
center) The date for the move to
Brooke Army medical Center is yet to
be announced (again).
Ft Sam will be holding its potluck
birthday night Thursday Jan 25th

WORKSHOPS



TIPS ON MAKING 12TH STEP CALLS

When a 12th Step call is received, we begin with the assumption that another human beings' life is at stake, literally. This means that, without delay, This call is to be answered at once.

1st- Arrange for another A. A. member to go with you.

2nd- Have a quiet time, read Chapter 7 in the Big Book.

3rd- Maintain anonymity.

4th- Talk to the prospect alone, if possible.. that is without his family or friends there.

5th- Congratulate him on wanting to do something about his drinking problem.

6th- Give him some A. A. literature.

7th- Note well what the Big Book says at the bottom of page 94: "On your first visit, tell him about the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. If he shows interest, lend him your copy of the book."

8th- Each of you tell him "what you used to be like, what happened, and what you are like now.

9th- If he wants to talk, let him.

10th- At the top of page 95, it advises, "Give him a chance to think it over.

Sometimes a man is anxious to proceed at once, and you may be tempted to encourage that. This sometimes is a mistake. If he has trouble later, he is likely to say you rushed him. If he is sincerely interested and wants to see you again, ask him to read the Book in the interval. (At least ask him to read the first 164 pages.) After doing that, (reading the book), he must decide for himself if he wants to go on or not.

11th- When you are ready to leave, tell him you will call on him the following day if he wants, and he will have had time to read the first 164 pages, or had time to think about your conversation.

12th- Note that the second paragraph on page 96 says, "Suppose you are now making your second visit to a man. He has read his volume, and he is prepared to go on through the 12 Steps of the program of recovery. At this point you review the 12 Steps with him, and arrange to bring him to your group meeting. If he does not want to go on, or feels that he can do it some other way, pick up your copy of the Book and invite him to call you again if he changes his mind and decides A. A. can be of help."

Finally, note how the Book, at the top of page 96 says, "We find it a waste of time to keep chasing a man who can not, or will not, work with you. If you leave such a person alone, he may soon become convinced that he cannot recover by himself."

(Note: The above was given to me when I was new at making 12th Step calls, and I still use it. Maybe others can find it helpful too. Gail W., Kansas City.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club 12 Board of director's Meeting
9 Jan 5:30 PM Visitors welcome

Group 12 Birthday Night
Jan 26th 7:30 PM

Dance Club 12 8 PM -Midnight
6 January

Highlands Group 50th Anniversary
Free Celebration Aggie Park
Saturday 27 Jan 1-PM to Midnight
AA & Alanon Speakers Pat & Cliff R
From Oceanside CA , Free BBQ Dinner
Free Dance live band .
Talent Show auditions for Weekend in SA.

Dance Club 12 8 PM -Midnight
20 January

FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE

9th Annual SWTA Correctional facilities
Conference 9-10-11 February
Burnet, Texas. Special Room Rate 59.00
until 10 Jan. Holiday Inn Express
512 756-1789

Conference Info-915-388-0112 or
830-693-4721

47th Costal Bend Jamboree 19-20-21 January
Corpus Christi Omni Bayfront.

Reservations 800-843-6664

Conference info (361)992-8911

Speakers include: Cliff R Oceanside CA

Sandy B Tampa FLA

Sharon J Columbus OH

Crickett R Ft. Worth TX

Jim W San Antonio, TX

Bo T (Al-Anon) Blockton AL

WE MAY NOT
HAVE IT
ALL TOGETHER

BUT TOGETHER.
WE HAVE IT ALL!



NAMING A.A. GROUPS

We sure were creative when it came to hiding booze. Dr. Bob used to put a pint in a large glove and throw it up to an upstairs porch. One gal used to hang a bottle outside her house - painting it the color of the house first. Some of us are still finding hidden (and forgotten) bottles years after getting sober.

All of this creativity seems to disappear when we're naming new AA groups. The pamphlet "The AA Group" used to offer these suggestions about naming groups.

1. The primary purpose of any AA group is to carry the AA message to Alcoholics. Experience with alcohol is one thing all AA members have in common. It is misleading to hint or give the impression that AA solves marital problems or knows what to do about addiction to heroin or other such drugs.

That is why our AA group conscience, as voiced by the Conference, has recommended that "Family" "Alcohol and Pill" meetings not be listed in our AA directories. The use of the word "family" might also invite confusion with Al-anon Family Groups, a fellowship entirely separate from AA.

Of course, drug addicts and non-alcoholic family members are like everyone else - free to attend any "open AA meeting (see section 15, page 17). However the one requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking, and there is no way we in AA can turn nonalcoholics into alcoholics and thus enable them to qualify for AA membership. (Write GSO for a copy of the leaflet "Problems Other Than Alcohol").

So most groups found it is not a good idea to elect nonalcoholics to group offices, since officers should be AA members.

2. No matter how noble the activity or how prestigious the institution, experience has taught AA groups to avoid carefully any affiliation with or endorsement of any enterprise outside AA. Even the appearance of being linked to any professional or lay organization, club political or religious persuasion, or institution needs to be avoided.

Therefore, an AA group that meets in a correctional or treatment facility or a church can take care not to use the institution's name, but to call itself something quite different. This makes it clear that the AA group is not affiliated with the hospital, church prison, rehab center, or whatever, but simply uses space there for meetings.

3. It has also been strongly recommended by the A.A. Conference that no A.A. group be named after any actual person living or dead, A.A. or non-A.A. That is one way we can "place principles before personalities" (in the words of Tradition Twelve).

This text was removed from the current version of this pamphlet; however, the pamphlet has been through 5 revisions in the past 2 years and some folks, notably the literature committee, are not happy with its present form. Some removed items may be reinstated. Whether this text is there or not, the conference actions are still in effect--that a group have but one primary purpose (carrying the message to alcoholics), that it not imply endorsement with any other organization, and that it practice principles before personalities.

Some groups skirt these suggestions. My own home group, Community Sunday, meets in a building that was once called Community Temple. The Try! See? Group met at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). My favorite example is the Coventry (Road) Group, which meets in the Euclid Avenue Christian Church, which is located on Mayfield Road. Dick P., a previous secretary of our district office, asked a Mexican group that named itself after him to please change its name.

Let's be a little more imaginative. I'm fond of the name "Last Call" for a group that meets Sunday at 10p.m. I know of an "End of the Road Group" that meets on a cul-de-sac. There are hundreds of principles after which a group can name itself. They need not pick the name of the building or organization where they meet. I was asked to write this article because of the large number of groups that come to the Central Committee wanting to name their group contrary to these suggestions. I know that many groups don't comply with this. A lot of them were named before the pamphlet existed in 1965, and others were unaware of our suggestions.

I hope that this is of help to some members currently forming groups.

Bob
McK.



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