

THE NIGHTCAP



SERVING SOUTHWEST TEXAS

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THE A.A. WAY

The A. A. way of life is ours one day at a time. So long as we stay sober we'll have earned the privilege of living it during each 24-hour period.

The A. A. way of love, through people, is deep and enduring. It lets us know when we're right and just as surely tells us when we're wrong. Then at other times it lets us find out from our own mistakes.

It can be as deft as a skilled surgeon's scalpel in its healing. Again it can be as blunt as a hammer deflating the ballooning ego.

The A. A. way is a subtle way. If we keep bringing the body to meetings we inexorably come around to sanity and horse-sense, and kindness and insight, so that "I am responsible" becomes not a burden to be borne, but a pleasurable obligation to assume.

The A. A. attitude is sometimes misunderstood because of its subtleties and seeming inconsistencies. For example, we might say almost in the same breath, "Let Go and Let God" and then shout "It's a program of action." Confusing? Perhaps to newcomers and to outsiders.

Butto dedicated, knowledgeable A. A. 's the meaning is clear. Simply this: We have to rely on our Higher Power for guidance, in prayer, and in complete faith, as we act to get on with the business of living day by day.

The A. A. way is not to dictate but to suggest. It lets us, in our sharing, never be jealous but to be loving. It cautions us not to crowd or hem in or stifle one another. The A. A. way proves for freedom of self, which each of us alcoholics rightfully endorses.

The A. A. way is not to be hot-headed and prone to react without thinking, nor to be intolerant. Hot-headedness is defensiveness, being in the driver's seat and shows a shallow faith. Reacting without

thinking is a sure sign of lack of courage to work A. A.'s five mottoes: "Think, Think, Think, Easy Does It, But for the Grace of God, First Things First and Live and Let Live."

The A. A. way is to profit from adversity as well as success and to prize self-honesty and sobriety above all else, because without these two what do we have?

The A. A. way is to stay sober from observing those who grope for the program-seeing those who get it and those who don't, and from watching the ordeals of "slippers" and those who die alcoholic deaths, and then says, "But for the grace of God, there go I."

The A. A. way is to be keenly aware but considerate of all persons who walk through the door. Who can guess what personal problems may have preceded their coming at that particular time, or what may have motivated their coming at all apart from our common ailment.

The A. A. way is to allow the other fellow to meditate in peace and relative quiet and doesn't encroach upon those meditations.

The A. A. way is to feel faith grow stronger daily and to pursue the spiritual life promoted by the Big Book; keeping in mind that we "never achieve perfection but ever work toward it."

The A. A. way knows that the ultimate goal of the 12 - steps is to return us to the main stream of living as sober, productive human beings.

Finally, the A. A. way never holds commencement exercises - for us to graduate from the program would almost certainly return us to drunkenness, and separate us from this exquisitely beautiful spiritual program that is life itself. (Floyd Y)

The dipso in question phoned the police that his car had been stripped by vandals while parked on the street. "They've taken the steering wheel, the brake pedal, the accelerator, and even the dashboard," he complained.

The desk sergeant promised an immediate investigation. A short time later, the phone rang again. "Sall right,; came the voice, I got in the back seat by mistake."

Fire Hazard. A recent study of single and multiple fire deaths over an eight-year period in Memphis, Tenn., revealed that 24 of 29 persons who died from fire had been drinking at the time of death. Of the 16 smoking-in-bed fire deaths, 14 victims had been drinking. Since the study concerned only persons from age 16 to 60, it did not include fire deaths of children when drinking adults were not able to respond quickly to fire emergency. (GV)

One may be better than his reputation, but never better than his principles.

The Touring Party was made up of thirty-five ladies from the Midwest and one lush. The bus struggled to the top of the mountain and they all got out. One lady said, "It's too bad I forgot the glasses." "That's okay, lady," the sot asserted. "We can drink outa the bottle.:"

It is plain that a life which includes deep resentments leads only to futility and unhappiness. To the precise extent that we permit these, do we squander the hours that might have been worthwhile. But with the alcoholic, whose hope is the maintenance and growth of a spiritual experience, this business of harboring resentment is infinitely grave. For then we shut ourselves off from the sunlight of the spirit. The insanity of alcohol returns and we drink again. And with us, to drink is to die.

If we were to live, we had to be free of anger. The grouch and the sudden rage were not for us. Anger is the dubious luxury of normal men, but for us alcoholics it is poison. (BW)

It is an old and a true maxim that "a drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall." So with men. If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend.

And when the victory shall be complete-when there shall be neither slave nor drunkard on the earth - how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those resolutions that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that people who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity both the political and moral freedom of their species. (A. Lincoln)

Have you heard the one about the bear that wandered into a gin mill and sat at the bar? A glassy-eyed drunk on the next stool put his arm around the beast, whereupon it knocked him flat on the floor. Sitting up groggily, the souse muttered, "Wow". Give some women a fur coat and they think they own the whole world." (GV)

CONVICTION and COMPROMISE. One qualification for a useful life is give - and - take, the ability to compromise cheerfully. Compromise came hard to us "all or nothing" drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises.

Of course, we cannot always compromise. There are circumstances in which it is necessary to stick flat-footed to one's convictions until the issue is resolved. Deciding when not to compromise always calls for the most careful discrimination. (BS) Perhaps it is at times like these that we should remember the Serenity Prayer.

LITERATURE NEWS:

New and will soon be available in your Central Service Office ... Dr. Bob and the good Old Timers. Also, the book, Lots Remembers. We've ordered some for you.

General Service Office in New York keeps us up-dated on all new literature; revised, or new in print. Available in June is Alcoholics Anonymous in Italian. Call us for further information if you want to order one.

Re: 1980 Directories ... The Eastern Directory is available now. This summer the Western Canadian and International Directories will be available. We've ordered some Western Directories and they should be in soon.

One of the newest pamphlets out is TIME TO START LIVING. It is especially for those who came to AA in their later years. The Central Office has both copies, one in small print and one copy in LARGE print.

MEETING CHANGE: Note change of meeting for the Sunset Group. Pending remodeling of the Scout House, the Sunset Group will meet in the Educational Bldg. of the Alamo Heights Christian Church on Friday night at 8.15 P. M.

NEW MEETING SPONSORED BY ALANONS: Adult Children of Alcoholics meet at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 4410 Moana (Windcrest Area) Tuesday night, 8:15 P.M. Please contact Mary W. 657-2237. This group is for any age who had alcoholic parents.

There will be no meeting of the administrative board in August. There will be a CSOC and District 1 meeting on August 10, at Club 12. ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF DISTRICT 1, 2, 12 & 13. Come and hear Raul M. give a report on the General Service Conference. Everyone is invited to Club 12 on Thursday August 21st at 8:15 P.M.

SALLY GROUP: The following groups are responsible for the meetings on: Aug. 6 - Serenity Group Aug. 13 - Serenity Group Aug. 20 - Universal City Aug. 27 - Universal City

VILLA ROSA: Aug. 5 - Windcrest (Spkrs.) Aug. 12 - Valley Hi (Disc) Aug. 19 - San Pedro (Spkrs) Aug. 26 - Grupo Unidad (Disc)

FRONTIER GROUP: Aug. 2 - Haven Aug. 9 - Haven Aug. 16 - Stepping Stones Aug. 23 - Stepping Stones Aug. 30 - Stepping Stones

Goldad Group - Third Sunday - Barbecue - 6:00 P.M.

Haven Group - Second Sunday - Barbecue - 2:30 to 4:30 P.M.

Regular meeting follows at 5:00 P.M. Regular meeting of Haven Group: Discussion - Tuesday 8:15P.M. Speakers Meeting - Saturday 8:15 P.M. Open Speakers - Sunday 5:00 P.M.

ATTENTION: Group Secretaries and GSR's. Are you reading monthly community A. A. events listed in the NIGHTCAP to your groups? There is a great need for groups, especially the new A. A. 's to know about all functions available to them.

CSO STATISTICS FROM June 15th to July 15th.

AA	261
Alanon	60
Information	132
Public INformation	1

The following are dedicated, hard working AA's who voluntarily gave of their time and themselves to carry the message to others during the month. This is accomplished through lectures, showing of films, etc....

June 18 Bexar County Adult Probation:	Bill S.
20 Summit Group AA Meeting	Bill S.
26 Patrician Movement	Jerry B.
July 2 Bexar County Probation Dept.	Ed B.
7,8,9 St. Mathews Church	Buddy B.
	Tommie C.
	Bill S.
10 Harlandale High School (4 hrs.)	Ed B.
	Tommy N.

THE BIG ONE: 33rd Annual TOP O' TEXAS "ROUND UP" - October 3rd 4th, 5th, 1980. PLACE: Hilton Inn, 140 East, Amarillo, Texas. The theme of the Convention is Honesty, Open-mindedness, Willingness, TOP SPEAKERS OF THE NATION WILL BE PRESENT: Dr. Paul F. Indianapolis, Joe P., Atlanta, Ga., Dr. Conway H., Atlanta, Ga., Lu Ann S., Studio City, Calif. Wilbur M., Washington, D. C., Willie E. La Puente, Calif., Eve M., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Todd McC., Lubbock, Tx. (ala-Teen).

EIGHTH ANNUAL SPANISH SPEAKING AA CONVENTION:

Come Join In !!!!!!! 8th National Hispanic Convention, El:

Tropicano Hotel, August 28th through August 31st, 1980. Registration begins at 1:00 P. M. Friday, August 29th. Opening session, 8:00 P.M. Friday. English Workshop Meeting, Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:00. OM. Banquet on Sunday at 6:00 P. M. Why not reward yourselves by attending this beautiful happening.

IN MEMORIAN:

Mother of Mary Lou Chilcott - Mary Louise Murray-July.
Lorene Livingood - July.

To the family and friends we extend sincere sympathy and our prayers that bereavement may be tempered by reflective thought upon the happiness shared.

Claude Clark, Kerrville - June.

