



# The Nightcap

AA IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS

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## WHO SAID THERE ARE NO MUSTS IN AA?

Well, for starters, let's look at the official prologue. It says very clearly "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking." That is obviously a must!

Next, let's take a peek at the Big Book.

- (1) On page 13, "I was to sit quietly when in doubt, asking only for direction and strength to meet my problems as He would have me. Never was I to pray for myself except as my requests bore on my usefulness to others." I must not pray for myself.
- (2) Page 14, "For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead. If he did not work, he would surely drink again..." I must carry the message! Or I will drink again.
- (3) Page 43, "The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink...His defense must come from a Higher Power."
- (4) Page 60, "The first requirement is that we be convinced that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success." I must be convinced.
- (5) Page 58, "(A. A.) is a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty... If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps." Honesty and thoroughness are musts.
- (6) Page 62, "...the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot, though he usually doesn't think so. Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of selfishness. We must, or it kills us!"
- (7) Page 72, "This is perhaps difficult- - especially discussing our defects with another person...Trying to avoid this humbling experience, some have turned to easier methods. Almost invariably they got drunk." I must take the 5th Step thoroughly.
- (8) Page 73, "We must be entirely honest with somebody if we expect to live long or happily in this world."
- (9) Page 87, "We pray especially for freedom from self-will, and are careful to make no request for ourselves only. We may ask for ourselves, however, if others will be helped. We are careful never to pray for our own selfish ends." I must not pray selfishly.

The reason the Big Book says that the 12 Steps are "suggested" (see next page)

as a program of recovery is simply that there are other recovery programs which have worked for some people. But our founders are saying in Chapter 5, "Here are the steps we took" (and they worked for them) "which are suggested as a program of recovery." The steps were a MUST for them.

If my doctor says my appendix is infected and he "suggests" that I have it removed, I think I will take his advice. Wouldn't You?

And, come to think of it, I must not take that first drink! (Night-cap is indebted to Gene I for the above)

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### THE A.A. "BIG BOOK": A CONTINUING "BEST-SELLER"

Sales of "Alcoholics Anonymous," the basic book describing the self-help recovery program that bears its name, will climb over the 3-million mark by mid 1981; ranking it among one of the most successful hardcover best-sellers of all time. Other features that make the "Big Book," as A.A. members call it, unique in book publishing include the following:

Published privately (by A.A. World Services, Inc.) and anonymously (no author or editor is identified), the Big Book is generally not available in bookstores.

First published in English in 1939, the Big Book has since been translated into other languages, including Afrikaans, Finnish, Flemish, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

The book's title, "Alcoholics Anonymous," provided the name for a worldwide Fellowship of recovered alcoholics with an estimated million members in 110 countries.

Priced at \$3.50 back in 1939, the Big Book now retails for only \$5.65 (4.65 for AA members), in the midst of skyrocketing book costs.

Unlike the sales of most books, sales of the Big Book are constantly increasing instead of decreasing--and at an ever-faster rate. It took 34 years to sell the first million copies; only five years to sell the second million; and a little more than three years to sell the third million.

That the Big Book ever got published in the first place is a miracle. Although A.A. was started in 1935, the Fellowship numbered fewer than 100 members by 1938, when these pioneers decided to write down their experiences in recovery from alcoholism and make them available to a wider audience.

The first printing of 5,000 was done on less than a shoe-string and, for the next two years, the book attracted little attention and few sales. The financial picture was stark; only loans from sympathetic friends kept the publishing venture afloat. Then, in Mar. 1941, following publication of an article by Jack Alexander in the Saturday Evening Post, sales finally took off. A second printing was ordered that same month--only the tip of the iceberg as it turned out.

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### MY AA FOURTH OF JULY

When I was drinking I was a slave to alcohol.. I had no freedom of choice. By working the AA program, my life has changed dramatically. The 12 Promises have started to come true. The first promise says that we will understand the real meaning of freedom and happiness. What a great gift!

We have June 'teenth, Diez y Seis, and Independence Day, all big holidays to celebrate our freedom. HAVE A HAPPY FOURTH! (Without a FIFTH!)

The SAHARA Group is now located at 118 Pershing, just off Broadway. The telephone number is 822 2843. Meetings: Open Speakers on Tuesdays at 8:15 PM, also, Open Speakers on Friday at 8:15 PM.

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TEJAS A.A. Group, located at 8301 Speedway, behind Park North Hospital has an open discussion meeting on both Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 PM. Also, Tejas Alateen Group meets on Tuesday at 8:15 PM.

Tejas Al-Anon meeting, formerly met on Monday night. This has been changed to Thursday night at 8:15 PM.

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YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP. Please note new time and place, Sunday meeting now held at Villa de Tejas, 8301 Speedway. The time is 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM instead of 8:00 to 9:30 PM. For further information call Mary at 695-8967.

Young Peoples Group Wednesday meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 8231 Callaghan Rd. This meeting will be at 8:15 PM Instead of 8:00 AM. Contact Mary at 695 7278. You may also call John at 680-1045, or Jeannie & Susie at 349-7278 Dusty at 733-5784 or Bryan at 349-2231.

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The Haven Group will have their regular monthly barbecue on the second Sunday of each month. Serving time will be from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. The donation is \$3.00. The regular meeting will begin at 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the good food and the fine meeting. Other meetings of the Haven Group: Tuesdays at 8:15 PM, Open Discussion. Saturday's at 8:15 PM, Open Speakers meeting.

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The Goliad Group holds a regular monthly barbecue on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00 PM. Come join in the fun and fellowship. Also enjoy the good food.

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The Poteet Group invites you to their Open Speakers meeting on Fridays at 8:00 PM. Meetings are held in the Community Civic Center in Poteet, Tex. Your presence will be appreciated.

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The Colonies North AA Group, located at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church (Ironsides and Wurzbach) has added another meeting. This will be a Closed Discussion meeting on Monday night at 8:15 PM.

Colonies North has also started an Al-Anon meeting in conjunction with their Monday night AA meeting. Other meetings: Wednesday, closed step meeting, Friday, Open Discussion Meeting, both at 8:15 PM.

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NEW GROUP. Priest and Religious AA Group has an open discussion meeting on Monday nights at 8:15 PM. The group is located at N.C.W.C. in the Centennial Hall, behind the Mother House. Contact Persons: CMI Dana, Work phone 923-5388, Home, 732-5162. O.M.I. Ed M. 735-7318. Sister M, 824 0368.

Something NEW has come to A.A. in the San Antonio area in the form of an A.A. Camping Group sponsored by the Lytle A.A. & Alanon Group. If you would like more information, contact the Lytle A.A. Group. You may call Roger Connor at 1- 772 -3413.

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING GROUP. This new group needs your support in getting started. Meets on Sunday at 12:00 Noon following Church Services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1018 E. Grayson (corner of Willow).

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The 24 Hr. Group will hold their regular monthly dinner on Sunday July 28th. Serving time is 5:00 PM, Donation is \$2.00. A meeting will follow at 6:30 PM.

The 24 Hr. Group is also having an Open Discussion Meeting each day at 12:00 PM - Noon to 1:00 PM.

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Larry Y. wishes to thank Canyon Lake Group for their hospitality and fine meeting. A Special thanks for the cake they brought out.

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The V.A. Hospital Group will have its 3rd Anniversary on July 30, at 8:15 PM. It will be a speakers meeting, with fellowship and refreshments to follow. Please come and help us celebrate. Room G 105.

The V.A. Hospital Group holds open discussion meetings each Thursday and Sunday at 8:15 PM in Room G 105. Members, spouses, friends or anyone interested in A.A. is cordially invited.

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On the last Saturday of each month, the Frontier Group will sponsor a dance at the ARC. Dancing begins at 9:15 PM and continues until 12:00 midnight. All welcome. Please come and have a good time.

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The Ft. Sam Houston Al-Anon Group is now meeting on Thursday at 8:15 PM instead of Saturday

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FLASH. The Central Service Office is looking for a new home. More space along with easier parking is needed. If you know of a suitable place with 750 to 1000 square feet office space and adequate parking please call Mary Lou at 226-2523 or 344-7255.

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CHISHOLM TRAIL ROUND UP will be held on August 14,15,16 at the Baptist Encampment, Lake Travis. Camping Facilities Only. No Registration Fee. Call Tom H - 1 255 2257 (Round Rock).

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The Helotes A.A. Group meets every Thursday at 8:15 PM with a closed discussion meeting. Helotes Al-Anon meets at the same time but in a separate meeting room. The meeting place is the PARC Building on the Methodist Church grounds, just beyond Helotes Plaza on Bander Rd. This is a struggling new group and desperately needs your support, so please join with them and give them a big boost.

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THERE WILL BE A CSO BOARD MEETING ON TUESDAY JULY 7th at 7:00 PM AT THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE. THERE WILL BE A CSOC MEETING ON SUNDAY JULY 12th AT CLUB 12, 7:00 PM.

SALLY, VILLA ROSA, ARC MEETINGS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

SALLY MEETINGS:

Cal W. will be responsible for the meetings during the month of July.  
Grupo Unidad will hold the meetings for the month of August.

VILLA ROSA:

July 7 Windcrest Group  
14 Goliad Group  
21 Broadway Group  
28 Valley Hi

AUGUST

4 No. San Pedro Group  
11 Windcrest Group  
18 Valley Hi Group  
25 No. San Pedro Group

ARC

July - The Tejas Group will take the meetings to the ARC during the month of July.  
Aug. 1st Hal F. of Kerrville Group  
8th " " " "  
15 Serenity Group  
22 Serenity Group  
29 Hal F. of Kerrville Group

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STATE CONVENTION JULY 16, 17, 18, 19, 1981.

36th Texas State Convention will be held at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio, 200 So. Alamo, San Antonio. The theme of the meeting is "Look to this Day". Registration begins at 5:00 PM on Thursday July 16th. This promises to be a great convention so come and enjoy yourself and lend your support.

Thela C encourages all of you to help with the food, paper goods and time in the hospitality room for the State Convention. If all will contribute a little bit it will not be a hardship on anyone. Please call Thela at 344 -5066 and offer your support.

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IF WE STOP STRUGGLING, WE WILL NOT GO UNDER. THERE IS A LIFE RAFT AVAILABLE TO US IN THE TWELVE STEPS OF A.A.

The Lambda Group has moved to 402 E. Carson, (corner of Carson and Pine). This is a closed discussion meeting. Group meets on both Tuesday and Friday nights at 8:15 PM.

The Pearsall Group now meets at the Frio County Courthouse on Wednesday 8:15 PM for Open discussion meeting.

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DON'T LOOK FORWARD TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP AND SAY, "I HAVE SUCH A WAYS TO GO," BUT RATHER LOOK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND SAY, "I'VE COME A LONG WAY!"

