

THE NIGHT CAP

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Volume Two

June 1952

Number Nine

Seventh Annual

TEXAS STATE CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Combined with

SOUTHWEST TEXAS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Corpus Christi, Texas

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

June 13, 14, 15, 1952

at

Robert Driscoll Hotel.

P R O G R A M

Friday, June 13, 1952

9:00 AM - Registration - Robert Driscoll Hotel Mezzanine
Coffee Bar Open - Terrace Annex

2:30 PM - to - 5:00 PM - Robert Driscoll Terrace Room
Madelyne G. at the Hammond Organ

Let's Get Acquainted!

Master of Ceremonies - Bill W., Paducah

Short Talks by Everybody

8:00 PM - to - 10:00 PM - Robert Driscoll Terrace Room
Madelyne G. at the Hammond Organ

Master of Ceremonies - Van G., Pharr

Speakers - George Mc., San Antonio

Wyatt L., Shreveport, La.

Ray H., San Angelo

Roy P., Odessa

Saturday and Sunday Program on Page 3

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AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TWELVE STEPS

Step No. 5 - Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

* * *

You should realize by now that this whole recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous is one of action. You have made an admission that you are an alcoholic. You have come to believe that your life has become a mess. You have made an exhaustive moral inventory of
(Continued on Page 2.)

THE VALUE OF FAMILY GROUPS

The first Family Group in San Antonio was formed in July, 1947 and has grown steadily since that time. The success of the group is attributed to the fact that from the very beginning an unwritten law was invoked that no alcoholic was discussed in the meetings. All discussion of alcoholism was kept objective and personalities never entered into it. There was some mild objection to the group until it was explained that the purpose of the
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yourself. So it naturally follows now that you should do something further. You don't just sit there and cry about it.

You are striving with all your might to make a better person of yourself. You know what a great deal of your trouble is. So you are ready to make further admissions, this time to God (as you understand Him), to yourself and to another human being and you are now prepared with an inventory to do these three things intelligently and thoroughly.

Up to now you knew there was plenty wrong with you, but you hadn't analyzed yourself and was in no position to enumerate. Now you can go to God as you understand God and admit the exact nature of your wrongs. Do this sincerely and fearlessly. Don't worry about God not wanting to be bothered with you. He knows you intimately and loves you dearly and has plenty of time to go over this inventory in detail with you.

In picking the other human being to admit your wrongs to you should be careful in the selection. It is highly advisable to go to a professional man who is accustomed to receiving and holding confidences inviolate, such as doctors, lawyers and ecclesiastics. Just anybody can't keep gossip to themselves. Most laymen are prone to repeat choice bits of information about their fellows to all and sundry. There have been numerous instances of slips in AA caused by the slippee having heard some of his or her own admissions being gossiped around the group or club.

After you have completed this fifth step you will be amazed how much better you feel, both mentally and morally. You have gotten rid of many horrifying secrets merely by telling them to someone else. They are no longer secrets; therefore, no longer horrifying. Now, you can hold your head up and look everybody in the eye, because you have told the truth "And the truth will make you free." Theoretically, a secret is a secret only so long as no one else knows it. After it is imparted to another it becomes a commonplace and it can no longer be dangerous to your peace of mind.

----- Arthur C.

DIRECTORY OF AA ACTIVITIES

Call F-2523 for information of any AA activity in S.A. and Southwest Texas.

MONDAY

S. A. Suburban, State Hospital, Club 12 and Industrial Groups, 8 P.M.

TUESDAY

City-wide meeting in West Wing of Municipal Auditorium, 8 P.M., under sponsorship of San Antonio Central Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous. Open to the Public. Women's Groups, 6:30 P.M., 614 Avenue E.

WEDNESDAY

Alamo Heights and Highland Park Groups.

THURSDAY

Collins Gardens, Earl, Industrial and Fulton Center Groups.

FRIDAY

Downtown Group, 8 P.M., in Sahara Club Rooms. Family Group same time and place. Club 12, 8 P.M. in Club 12 Club Rooms. Family Group same time and place.

SATURDAY

Industrial Group, 8 P.M., 614 Avenue E. Open to the Public.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Downtown Group, meets at Civic Center. Tuesday open meeting. Friday closed meeting; family group. Club 10 meets at 146 Tompkins Street - Monday closed meeting; family Group. Friday open meeting. Alamo Group meets at 607 Kinney Street - Monday, closed meeting; family Group. Wednesday closed meeting; family Group. Friday, open meeting.

AUSTIN

Austin Group meets at 608 N. Seventh Street. Tuesday open meeting; Thursday, State Hospital; Friday, closed meeting; family Group.

HONDO

Seco Club, meets at DeMontel Hall Thursday at 8 P.M. Mail P. O. Box 338, Phone Day 25 - Night 353 - J.

A Mistake is evidence that someone has tried to do something. ----- AA

P R O G R A M
(Continued from Page One)

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1952

7:00 A.M. - Delegates Breakfast -
Robert Driscoll Terrace Room
Convention Business & Selection
of Next Convention City.

8:00 A.M. - Coffee Bar Opens - Robert
Driscoll Terrace Annex.

9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. - Opening General
Session of Convention.
Madelyne G. at the Hammond
Organ.
Master of Ceremonies - Alton
Y. - Caldwell Welcoming
Address.

Speakers: Eldridge F. - El Paso
John T. - Harlingen
Hazel S. - Tyler

12:15 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. - Ladies' Style
Show & Luncheon - Morocco Rm.
Rob't Driscoll Hotel - \$1.65
per plate. Reservations for
this luncheon must be made
not later than June 1st.

2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. - Closed Meeting
of AA's. Terrace Room -
Rob't Driscoll Hotel - General
Service Committee.
Madelyne G. at the Hammond
Organ.

Speakers: Olin L. - Dallas
Icky S. - Houston
Macon F. - Coleman
Roy G. - Austin

2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. - Meeting of
Non AA's - Plaza Hotel Deck

7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. - Convention
Banquet - Terrace Room -
Robert Driscoll Hotel
Madelyne G. at the Hammond
Organ.

Master of Ceremonies -
Morris Mc. - Tyler

Speakers: Marie H. - Austin
Connie K. - Boston, Mass.

10:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. - Let's Dance

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 1952

7:00 A.M. - Southwest Texas Regional
Delegates Breakfast -
Morocco Room - Robert
Driscoll Hotel

8:00 A.M. - Coffee Bar Opens -
Terrace Annex - Robt. Driscoll
Hotel

9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. - Closing
Session of Convention -
Madelyne G. at the Hammond
Organ

Master of Ceremonies -
Jack E. - Wichita Falls
Speakers: Nelson B. - Austin
Dorothy H. - San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE 1952

6 YEARS - Cal F and Guy H
5 YEARS - Bob B, Jim E, Dorothy H
4 YEARS - Arthur D, Jack D, Dale K
3 YEARS - Floyd B, W. M. T., E. C. T.
2 YEARS - Bill D, Ida E, George K,
O. H. W., Buster S
1 YEAR - Ollie B, Dr. Frank DeHa,
Mike D, Hugh H, Samuel L

THE NIGHTCAP

. . . as you are informed on its
masthead, is published by the Central
Committee of AA in San Antonio. The
Nightcap will strive to keep you in-
formed of the meeting places and dates
of the various groups in the Southwest
Texas area and to give you other AA
information. The subscription price
is \$2.50 a year. For your convenience
a blank is printed on the last page of
this issue.

Nobody is paid for work in the editing of The Nightcap. Whatever profits accrue, after paying for printing and paper, are placed in the general fund of the Central Committee and are used to help defray the expense of operating the San Antonio Central Office, which is located at 919 Travis Building, San Antonio.

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THE VALUE OF FAMILY GROUPS (Continued from Page 1)

Family Group was to help ourselves and that we did not discuss the alcoholic and his drinking. Very soon the group was a successful, active part of AA in San Antonio.

In 1949 the large AA Group split into two smaller Groups, each with its own club rooms. The history of the Auxiliary had been such that both groups invited them to form a Family Group from their very beginning. Experience had shown us that the attitude of the wife of a new member in AA is so important that it can actually be the deciding factor in his acceptance or rejection of the AA Program.

Aware then of our responsibility and eager to accept it as a means of partial repayment of our debt of gratitude to AA we set about preparing ourselves for this important work. The prologue of one group reads: "The primary purpose of the Family Group is to assist the family of the alcoholic to a better understanding of the problem of alcoholism and to try to point out the way in which they can best help their own alcoholic. The secondary purpose is to help make the social side of AA a success." Over and over we stress the best way in which we can help our own alcoholic is to apply the principles of the AA program to ourselves. It is pointed out that we can not work the program for an alcoholic and that we have usually reached an emotional state where we can benefit from the principles of the program almost as much as the alcoholic. By recognizing our own need for a program of improvement and sincerely working at it, we not only leave the alcoholic free to work on himself but we prepare ourselves for the time when we can meet them on a new plane of understanding, free from prejudices and resentment. Once this point is reached, the usual result is a joining together to share experiences and ideas, of growing and working together. These are the teams we see all around us in AA, working and helping wherever possible.

The Family Group members carry their
(Continued, Column 2)

message not to the alcoholic but in most cases to the wife of an alcoholic. Only rarely do circumstances place us in a position where we can be of help to the alcoholic through direct contact. We have learned that the non-alcoholic wife is sick -- sick at heart, skeptical and probably justifiably cynical. She too needs the kind of specialized attention that the alcoholic is receiving, and can best be given it by other wives who have been there. If she is given the impression, which all too often happens, that AA is everything and that she can have no part in her husband's recovery, she feels as if she is pushed out of his life, she is hurt and can build up a resentment that hinders, not helps, the recovery of the alcoholic. Here the Family Group achieves its highest aim, to bring a message of hope to the sick wife of the sick alcoholic. Once she has wholeheartedly accepted alcoholism as a disease and starts applying the principles of AA to herself, she is well on the road to becoming a working member in this new way of life.

The physical functioning of the Family Group is kept as simple as possible. Always we take secondary place to the larger AA Group and all matters of policy are left for the decision of the AA Group.

In the Family Group of which I happen to be a member, we have no elected officers, no money, no secretary or treasurer. We have a chairman who serves for one month in her turn, going down the list in alphabetical order. If a member feels she is too new to serve or does not wish to accept the chairmanship, we simply skip to the next name on the list. No minutes are kept nor do we call the roll. The chairman plans the programs for her month in office, makes up a hostess list and acts in liaison with the AA group. A permanent record is kept of the hostess list to assist in a fair distribution of duties. All ladies of both the AA and non alcoholic groups share in the hostess duties, which include serving the refreshments on Friday nights, preparation and serving of Saturday nite suppers and refreshments for the Club parties. The
(Concluded on Page 5)

THE VALUE OF FAMILY GROUPS (Continued from Page 4)

Family Group meets every Friday night, with the exception of the last Friday in each month which is an open meeting for all members of both groups. It is the policy of the AA group to invite the Family Group to their meetings whenever they have an outstanding speaker or program. A new wife is integrated as quickly as possible into the social activities and responsibilities of the Club, so that she feels a part of the group. Very often sponsorship works as well in the Family Group as in AA, the wife of an alcoholic's sponsor working to help the wife of a new alcoholic. This is a custom, not the rule, as each member feels a responsibility for the new member.

The activities of the other Family Group in San Antonio are along very similar lines, with the one exception that they do have their own funds which are spent for the improvement of the club rooms or other projects from which the whole group derives benefit. Either plan seems satisfactory.

In conclusion, it is the consensus of opinion in San Antonio that the Family Group is of definite value to the AA program as a whole, in helping new members, in individual group activities, city-wide AA activities and in having a definite part in conventions. Visitors from smaller groups invariably express regret that their size does not permit them to have a working Family Group.

Alberta T.

BRAND NEW GROUP

The newest group to affiliate with the Central Committee is named Fulton Center Group. This Group meets on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., in its own air-conditioned clubroom which it erected at the rear of 1438 Fulton St. There are at present twelve members of this new group and the group plans to keep the membership low so that it will not become too impersonal. Members must call the secretary before the meeting if they do not intend to attend and give a valid excuse. If a member fails to attend without having notified the secretary in advance of a reason for his failure, at least three other members of the group will be designated to contact the missing member and ascertain why he failed to show up at the meeting.

Plans are in the making for week-end fishing trips to the Gulf Coast, Corpus Christi and large lakes in the South Central Texas area, as well as picnics and dinner parties. A hunting lease will be obtained for winter sports.

The Nightcap prays that all of the Fulton Center Group members, both present and future, may remain sober for ever and ever

TWELVE ESSENTIAL STEPS LEADING TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol -- that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His Will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and practice these principles in our affairs.

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919 Travis Building

San Antonio, Texas

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----- Clip and Mail -----