

# 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 area groups.

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MY MIND IS MY GARDEN  
MY THOUGHTS ARE MY SEEDS.  
I WILL HARVEST  
EITHER FLOWERS OR WEEDS.



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## RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY DAYS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN SAN ANTONIO

In March, 1941, I was rector of St. Mark's Church in downtown San Antonio. I was working with two fine men, both members of the congregation and both alcoholics. I happened to read the article by Jack Alexander in the Saturday Evening Post entitled "Alcoholics Anonymous - Freed Slaves of Drink, Now They Free Others."

About the same time I went to Houston for a week of Lenten preaching at Christ Church Cathedral in that city. I found the A.A. telephone number and asked if someone could come see me and tell me more about the program. (I had learned, thru the Alexander article, that Houston had a group.)

At the appointed time a Houston A.A. met me in the lobby of my hotel and startled me by his introduction: "I am \_\_\_\_\_, an ex-drunk." We had a good visit, and he agreed to drive with me to San Antonio on Friday afternoon, after my last noon-day sermon at the Cathedral. I called ahead and arranged for a small group of interested persons to meet with the two of us at the church on Sunday afternoon.

On my return I was very busy and I left my Houston friend to look out for himself. (He had formerly been a newspaper reporter in San Antonio and had several friends there.) By the time set for our meeting our visitor had been welcomed all too hospitably by his old friends and he was in no condition to help us. So, instead, we helped him by putting him on a bus headed back to Houston.

We took stock and decided that one of the two men with whom I had been working would go to Houston for a week, attend A.A. meetings, talk to the members, get all the literature-- and bring a report to our group.

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This was done and our group began to hold a weekly meeting at St. Mark's Church. (I was greatly assisted in all of these early efforts by the Rev. Joseph L. Brown, Jr., who was the assistant rector of St. Mark's Church.) We put the usual ad in our local paper ("If you want to drink, that's your business. If you don't want to drink, that's our business. Call Tel. No. \_\_\_\_"). We obtained a few new recruits and struggled along thru 1941.

After Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of World War II our members scattered and this small beginning came to an end.

In April, 1945, at the urging of several people who knew of our earlier attempts, I held a meeting in my office. (By this time I was Bishop of West Texas and had my headquarters in San Antonio) We had all heard of Esther E., who had been a strong A.A. member in Houston and was now living in Dallas. We got in touch with her and she graciously agreed to come help us. She spent several days and spoke at several meetings. From that date to the present time A.A. has had continuous existence in the San Antonio area. We now have 38 A.A. groups in the San Antonio area, with approximately 1500 members.

As the movement grew we learned of the National Council on Alcoholism and invited Marty Mann to come to San Antonio and speak to us. Shortly after her visit we formed a local council and it has continued to have a very active educational influence in the community.

One aspect of A.A. has been especially strong in San Antonio, namely the spiritual emphasis. Clergymen have been most helpful in interpreting the program, and some churches have become active rehabilitation centers. Twice a year a week-end retreat is held for members of A.A. and Al-Anon, sponsored by the Episcopal Church but open to all denominations.

It has been an invaluable experience for me to have this long and close association with Alcoholics Anonymous. While not an A.A. member I feel close to all A.A.'s, and I have learned much from them. In the early days when people knew little about the program a woman in San Antonio was asked what A.A. was all about. She replied, "I don't know, but when I see what it has done for Bishop Jones I know it is a good thing." She was right; it has done much for me.

Everett H. Jones, Retired Bishop  
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas,  
April 1974.

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#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Some of our members seem to be somewhat upset about the story concerning the A.M.A. proposal to drop the term "alcoholism" in diagnosis and use "Jellinek's Disease" instead. As you may know, Dr. Elvin Jellinek was a pioneer in research of alcoholism as a disease. He and his associates did a great deal toward persuading our society that an alcoholic is a sick person rather than a moral aberrant. Marty Mann and others working in the field of public information on the subject attended the School of Alcohol Studies at Yale, of which Dr. Jellinek was the director (The Council on Alcoholism was originally called "Committee for Education on Alcohol").

If the A.M.A. chooses to honor this eminent man by naming our disease after him what possible difference does it make to us? It is not unusual for the medical profession to label a disease with the name of a scientist, such as Parkinson's or Bright's Disease. Perhaps this represents a definitive acceptance of alcoholism as an illness. Remember "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" and so the character of our ailment will remain the same whatever it is called.

Actually, the term "alcoholism" was coined by a Scandinavian doctor only in the last century. Up until that time it was usually referred to in medical circles as "dipsomania". How does that grab you?

-Emilie H.

GROUP NEWSNEW GROUPS

GROUP 12, Club 12, 102 Thames, has added a Closed Discussion E.O.D. Meeting on Mondays at 8:15 PM. It is primarily for people with dual problems- alcohol and other drugs. It is hoped that those AAs in San Antonio and nearby areas having a dual problem will participate. All AAs are welcome.



GOLIAD GROUP, 1004 Avondale, has a new Open-Disc. Meeting at 7 PM every Friday.

WOODLAWN HEIGHTS GROUP, Residential Treatment Unit, 3551 Culebra, is a new AA Group holding Open Discussion meetings at 6 PM each Saturday and Open Speaker meetings at 8:15 PM on Wednesdays. The first meeting will be held at 8:15 PM Wednesday, June 5.

RELIANCE GROUP, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Bitters Rd. at Nacogdoches, meets Sundays at 8:15 PM for Open Discussions.

NEW GENERATION, 2011 N. Alamo, meets at 8:15 PM Tuesdays for Open Discussions. Primarily aimed at helping the youthful alcoholic, all AAs, Alanons and Alateens are welcome.

STEPPING STONES, Corral Room, First Presbyterian Church, 408 4th St., holds Open Discussions on Thursdays at 8:15 PM.

DOWNTOWN GROUP 29TH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 2 1974!

DOWNTOWN GROUP, Sahara Club, 809 E. Euclid, celebrates its 29th Anniversary on Sunday, June 2, with a dinner at 1 PM followed by a meeting with Evelyn and Bob K. from Lamesa as speakers. Bingo will be played.

Friday, June 28, Tony and Marilyn F. of Victoria will talk at the Open Speakers Meeting at 8:15 PM. Refreshments and Fellowship will follow.

Poor Boy Bingo is played Saturdays at 8 PM.

WESLEY GROUP (Spanish-speaking), 2520 Monterey (corner of S. Zarzamora), which first met in May, 1957, celebrated its 17th Anniversary May 19. The Sunday Open Speakers Meeting now meets at 5 PM (formerly 8:15 PM). The Thursday Open Speakers Meeting is held at 8:15 PM.

24 HOUR GROUP, 24 Hour Club, 1203 Fredericksburg Rd., will hold its monthly dinner and Bingo on Sunday, June 30, at 1 PM.

THE HAVEN, 1640 W. Woodlawn, will hold its monthly Bar-B-Que on Sunday, June 9 at 1 PM. The Open Speakers meeting will follow at 3 PM. On all other Sundays this meeting will be held at 5 PM. The Group wishes to congratulate L. L. H., who will celebrate his 22nd AA Birthday on June 16.

FRONTIER GROUP, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Southton Rd., will have its monthly dance following the 8:15 PM Open Speakers Meeting on Saturday, June 15. On Saturday, June 8, at 8:15 PM, Cricket and Phil M., Fort Worth, will be the speakers, bringing a great message. The Saturday, June 29, 8:15 PM meeting will have Calvin F. and Eula C., Fort Worth, as speakers; Bonnie P., who will get her one-year card, arranged for the speakers at the meeting.

GOLIAD GROUP, 1004 Avondale, will have its monthly Bar-B-Que on Sunday, June 16, at 6 PM.

GROUP 12, Club 12, 102 Thames, will hold its monthly dinner and Bingo on Saturday, June 29, at 7 PM. A 90-DAY OR LESS BEGINNERS Meeting is held every Sunday at 3 PM; ALANON BEGINNERS meet at the same time and place. The FIRST THREE STEPS Meeting takes place at 4:30 PM each Sunday.

NEW BRAUNFELS GROUP, which met at St. John's Episcopal Church, now meets at 273 South Castell (in First Protestant Church Complex), New Braunfels, TX. Open Meetings are held on Thursdays at 8:00 PM.

NORTHEAST GROUP, John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 8102 Midcrown, holds an Open Discussion every Saturday at 8:15 PM.

NORTHWOOD GROUP, Northwood Presbyterian Church, Pike and Urban Crest Dr., holds Closed Discussion Meetings every Wednesday at 8:15 PM, except for the last Wednesday of the month, which is an Open Birthday Meeting.

SUNSET GROUP, Alamo Heights Christian Church, Scout Annex, 350 Primrose at N. New Braunfels, meets every Friday at 8:15 PM for Open Discussions.

VALLEY HI, Marbach Christian Church, Marbach at Loop 410, holds Closed Discussions at 8:15 PM on Tuesdays; the last Tuesday of the month is an Open Speakers Meeting. Alanon meets at the same time and place.

Call Gladys H., Group News Reporter, at 822-1958, with news of anniversaries, special events, and other items of interest by the 20th of the month prior to the event.

XVIII NATIONAL CONVENTION OF AA IN  
SALTILLO, COAHUILA, MEXICO

We were very fortunate in visiting our neighbors of south of the border the 27th and 28th of April, 1974, and attending their wonderful Convention. Workshops, meetings and folkloric festivities made it a unique gathering; some 2,000 members from all States of Mexico attended, some from as far south as Chiapos, Tabasco and Yucatán. AA in Mexico is growing; the Program started in Saltillo only two and a half years ago and already there are eight Groups. It took a tremendous effort by its members to have put on a convention of that magnitude! They send a cordial hello to members of San Antonio.

-Raul M.

29TH ANNUAL TEXAS STATE AA CONVENTION

Will be held at the Rice Hotel, 500 Main St., Houston, TX, 77002, June 20 thru June 23, 1974. Registration and dance: \$5.00; Alateen Registration: \$1.50. Luncheon \$5.00; Banquet \$8.00. Mail and make checks payable to: CONVENTION CHAIRMAN, 4145 Cason, Houston, TX, 77006. Make room reservations direct to hotel.

The Convention Theme, "Love and Service", will be expressed by AAs from Texas, New York, Missouri, North Carolina and other states. The Convention Committee extends an invitation to all AAs, Alanons, Alateens and interested friends of AA to attend.

John L. Norris, M.D., non-alcoholic chairman of the AA General Service Board and chairman of the General Service Conference and a dozen other noted AA spokesmen will speak. Dr. Norris will appear at the public opening session 8 PM Thursday, June 20, following greetings from Houston's Mayor Fred Hofheinz.

Inquiries about the convention may be made to Texas State Convention Committee, 4145 Cason, Houston, TX, 77005; phone AC 713- 928-2401 or 667-7736. Information is also being cleared through the Houston Area AA Intergroup Office, Suite 212, 2711 Main St., Houston, TX, 77002.

SALTILLO, COAHUILA, MEXICO

Visitamos la ciudad de Saltillo en ocasión de la celebración del XVIII Congreso Nacional de Alcohólicos Anónimos de la República Mexicana durante los días 27 y 28 de abril de 1974. Fué un programa con diversas actividades: sesiones de mesas de trabajo, convivios y festivales folkloricos. Asistieron cerca de 2000 miembros representando a todos los Estados de la República. Compartimos grandes momentos y experiencias con nuestros hermanos del sur de la frontera. AA apenas tiene dos años y medio de haberse comenzado en Saltillo y ya tienen ocho grupos y además organizaron este Congreso! Les mandan un saludo caluroso.

-Raul M.

24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA AA

Will be held at El Tropicano Motor Hotel, 110 Lexington, San Antonio, TX, on September 27, 28 and 29, 1974. Plan now to make new friends, greet old friends at this annual event which will bring speakers from far and not-so-far; dine at the Banquet, dance or "yak" till dawn plus all the other AA convention-type activities! Registration: Southwest Texas Area Conference, P.O. Box 6454, San Antonio, TX, 78209. See the enclosed Flyer.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT UNIT

A new Residential Treatment Unit has been opened by the Bexar County Mental Health- Mental Retardation Center's Alcohol Treatment Program at 3551 Culebra. The Residential Treatment Unit offers a short term (approximately two weeks) intensive treatment program to both men and women who need a period of stabilization and recuperation following detoxification. The ATP continues to provide emergency and detoxification services at 421 Sixth Street.

Clients of the Unit are involved in an active schedule of counselling (group, family and individual), educational presentations and discussions, recreational activities and AA meetings.

"I can't-- God can-- I think I'll let Him."

# First Things First

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

NEW CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEMBER

Bob S. was elected to serve the unexpired term of Jeanne W. as a member of the CSO Administrative Board at the May 12 CSO Committee Meeting. Jeanne is the new CSO Executive Secretary.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly CSO Committee Meeting will be held Sunday, June 9, at 7 PM at Club 12, 102 Thames. All GSRs are reminded to attend or make sure their Group is represented.

AA STARR

The Southwest Texas Area Round Robin will be held at Club 12, 102 Thames, Sunday, June 9, at 8:15 PM. The Pleasanton Group will conduct the Round Robin, Les F., Chairman.

Doris L., STARR Food Chairman, and her committee will serve refreshments after the meeting. Beth J., Welcoming Committee Chairman, will provide friendly hosts and hostesses.

All Area groups are invited to join in the fellowship, share your experience, strength and hope with us at this Open Meeting.

-Edna McG., Chairman

LITERATURE

AA AND THE ARMED SERVICES, a new pamphlet available in the Central Service Office at a cost of 21¢ each, contains ten personal stories which tell how a man or woman in the military can beat a drinking problem.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The following members of the Public Information gave talks on the AA Recovery Program during the month of May:

John H. talked to 100 pupils at Holmes High School. Bob J., John H. and Whitey M. spoke at an all day session at Rogers Middle School on May 27.

God gives us two ends, one to think with and one to sit on. Our success depends on which end we use most. HEADS - we win, and TAILS - we lose."

IN MEMORIAM

John T. - - - May 14
Bea M. - - - May 15
Mike H. - - - May 24

WEDDING BELLS

Betty B. and Jess Mc, March 14, 1974

STORKLINE

Congratulations to Sandy and Scott L., parents of a girl, Nicole, born May 21, 1974.

27TH ANNUAL TOP OF TEXAS ROUND-UP

Will be held October 4, 5 and 6 at the New Hilton Inn, I-40 East, Amarillo, TX. "Top Speakers of the Nation, Loads of Entertainment, Plenty of Room, Hospitality Rooms." For information write Round-Up Committee, P. O. Box 412, Amarillo, Texas.

It's a thankless job- so I hear- but in the passage of days since you let me become your new Central Service Office Secretary- let me say this... It's a thankful job really!

Such a feeling of gratitude I have at this time. Gratitude to God that He brought me to Alcoholics Anonymous. For truly-- THIS - HE did! Gratitude to everyone in AA who helps me to stay here and learn to live a sober life. My blessings are far greater than I ever believed I could share in. Gratitude, too, that a desire has been planted within me to want to try to carry this message of hope and life to another who suffers from our lonely disease of alcoholism.

May I say "thank you" to God, Bill W. and Lois, Dr. Bob and all members in AA!

-J. W.

"Don't walk in front of me,
I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me,
I may not lead.
Take my hand, walk beside me
And be the friend I need."

CHANGES TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SAN ANTONIO MEETING DIRECTORY DATED AUGUST 1973AA GROUPSADDITIONS:

EL CARMEN (Bilingual), Recreation Bldg. behind El Carmen Catholic Mission, 18487 Martinez-Losoya Rd., has Open Discussions Thursdays, 8:15 PM.

GRUPO MONTAÑA (Bilingual), 728 E. Mountain, Seguin, TX. Open Speaker Meetings on Thursdays at 8 PM.

24 HOUR GROUP, 1203 Fredericksburg Rd., has added a Closed Discussion Meeting on Mondays at 8:15 PM. Other meetings listed in Directory.

ALAMO GROUP, 2011 N. Alamo, holds Closed Discussion Fifth Step Meetings Mondays 8:15 PM.

NEW GENERATION, 2011 N. Alamo, has Open Discussions Tuesdays 8:15 PM.

STEPPING STONES, Corral Room, First Presbyterian Church, 408 4th St., holds Open Discussions Thursdays 8:15 PM.

RELIANCE GROUP, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Bitters Rd. at Nacogdoches, has Open Discussions Sundays 8:15 PM.

GROUP 12, Club 12, 102 Thames, has added the E. O. D. Closed Discussion Meeting on Mondays at 8:15 PM.

GOLIAD GROUP, 1004 Avondale, has added a new Open Discussion Meeting on Fridays at 7 PM.

CORRECTIONS:

GRUPO UNIDAD (Spanish-Speaking), Unity Club, 311 NW 24th St., has Open Speaker Meetings Saturdays 8:15 PM.

WESLEY (Spanish-Speaking), has moved to 2520 Monterrey (corner of S. Zarzamora); holds Open Speaker Meetings Thursdays, 8:15 PM and Sundays at 5 PM.

CHANGES:

GROUP 12, Club 12, 102 Thames: 90-DAY OR LESS BEGINNERS MEETING has been changed from 4 PM to 3 PM Sundays. FIRST THREE STEPS MEETING meets Sundays, 4:30 PM.

NEW BRAUNFELS GROUP has moved to 273 South Castell (in First Protestant Church Complex), New Braunfels, TX (formerly at St. John's Episcopal Church). Open Meetings Thursdays at 8 PM.

DISBANDED:

GROUP 12 Young People's Meeting, Club 12, Mondays.

ALANON/ALATEEN GROUPSADDITIONS:

EL CARMEN (Bilingual), Recreation Bldg. behind El Carmen Catholic Mission, 18487 Martinez-Losoya Rd., Thursdays at 8:15 PM.

FRONTIER ALATEEN, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Southton Rd., Saturdays at 8:15 PM.

DISBANDED:NORTHWOOD ALATEENAA GROUPS, ADDITIONS:

WOODLAWN HEIGHTS GROUP, Residential Treatment Unit, 3551 Culebra, has Open Discussion Meetings on Saturdays at 6 PM. Open Speaker Meetings at 8:15 PM on Wednesdays. (First meeting June 5th)

