

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 South-west Texas Area groups.

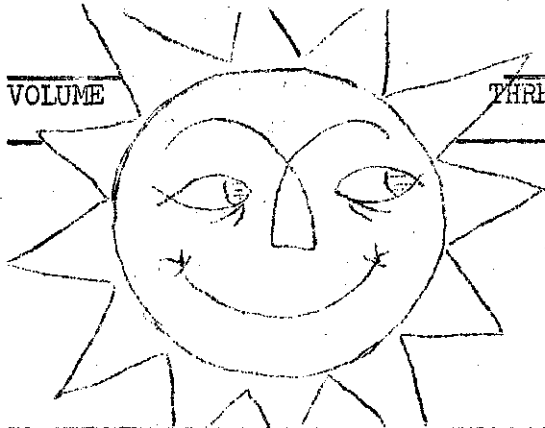
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" DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED "

Some of the most encouraging words for us drunks in our big book go like this: " Do not be discouraged. no one among us has been able to achieve anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. We are willing to grow along spiritual lines..."

That seems to me to be non-judgmental statement, a " Come-on-in-the-water's-fine " reassurance to the timid newcomer who is bound to wonder if we are a bunch of judges similar to the ones he has had to deal with -- out there where people DO NOT UNDERSTAND compulsive drinkers.

The courage required for a sick alcoholic to enter the doors of AA, not knowing what he will find inside, what she will encounter in the way of other woman-alcoholics was (in my case) the daring of desperation. I HAD TO DO SOMETHING about my drinking or die. I was not only discouraged; I didnot want to live out my life as a shuddering, miserable drunk.

Since I made that move half-a-life ago my life has not reflected " perfect adherence " to the principles of AA but I have experienced very real and deep spiritual progress, as a result of the 12 steps of AA.

This joy, this feeling of sobriety, this day-at-a-time wonder of recovery (including setbacks which I can no more ' explain ' than my alcoholism, which is an illness, is it not?) cannot be stored in a vault or cashed in for \$20,000,000. But, like love, I feel it, about AA -- which restored me to sanity.

In my opinion we must be mindful of the mysteries of our disease as well as the things that make us so much different from the other (the reason this program is so endlessly interesting!) and never, never become dogmatic in any way.

One of the mysteries, of course, is: why wouldn't anyone, everyone who is suffering the tortures of alcoholism come on in? Into Alcoholics Anonymous? Again, the Big Book answers that one sensibly and simply, " ours is a program of attraction and not promotion."

Are you the only copy of the Big Book your acquaintances and friends are apt to see? After 27 years, my husband still does not join Alanon! Am I doing something wrong? He has not been attracted (or promoted) yet! Who knows?

Meanwhile, to the new person, " Do Not Be Discouraged " sounds comforting.

A slip, or relapse, becomes negligible in the sum of happier, sober days. We not only are not saints, we are not judges either, of another person's struggles with the bottle. God as I understand Him understands the nature of my illness, and forgives me.

(Continued on Page Two)

When I have gone rushing back into the arms of AA God has showered love, serenity, peace of mind. You see, He does not "keep score"! I am the only one who could possibly care about my own sobriety date!

You bet I'm willing! Booze made me willing to go to any lengths, for sobriety of the emotions - the spritual side of life becomes the reward. I'm like the Prodigal Child come home.

- Kay N. -

P.I.C. REPORT

AA public informati@n has one ultimate goal, and it is the same as that of every AA group and every type of service work: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. But public information tries to reach the alcoholic indirect-as well, in three ways:

1. By informing the general public about the AA program.
2. By informing "the third person", whose work is or may be involved with the active alcoholic.
3. By keeping the Fellowship well informed, so that members and groups may carry the message more effectively.

In the first years of the movement, co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob served, in effect, as public information consultants. The publication of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" was itself a P.I. step, putting the AA message into print and thereby making it available to any reader. Articles on AA in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Liberty Magazine, and the Saturday Evening Post played an important part in the rapid growth of membership from 1939 to 1941. "The third person" also came into the AA picture early, from the fields of medicine and religion: Dr. W. D. Silkworth, Sister Ignatia, the Rev. Sam Shoemaker, Dr. Harry Tiebout.

After exploratory action in 1955, the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board was formed in 1956. With the approval of the General Service Conference, the committee issued this statement of "AA's Movement-Wide Public Information Policy":

In all public relationships, AA's sole objective is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him, and to those who may be interested in his problem, our own experience as individuals and as a fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest; we believe further that all efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside AA are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.

A longer statement of similar intent later defined "Policy of the General Service Board's Public Information Committee," and the 1973 Conference asked that this sentence be underscored:

We must recognize that our competence to speak about alcoholism is limited in subject matter to Alcoholics Anonymous and its recovery program. - Ben A. -

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE:REFERRALS May, 1976

AA	54
Alanon	7
P.I.C.	0
Students	2
Lit. Sold	39

LITERATURE:

We have a new order of the biography of Bill W. in the Central Office. There are plenty of new booklets just out this year - "Living Sober" is one of these. Your Central Office tries to stay well stocked with General Service Office Conference Approved literature so we can be of service to AA groups throughout the the area and also to others who help the person who has a drinking problem. More and more, others are calling on your Central Service Office for literature.

- Jeanne W. -

C.S.O.C.

The Central Service Committee will meet June 13th at Club 12, 102 Thames Dr. at 7:30 p.m. All GSR's and Alt.'s are urged to attend these meetings and represent your groups.

STARR

Gene D., our Southwest Conference Area Delegate, will report on the 1976 General Service Conference at the STARR (Intergroup Meeting), June 13th at Club 12; 8:15 p.m.

Since it is physically impossible for Gene to visit each group in San Antonio, this meeting affords an opportunity for all S.A. AA members to hear this report.

* * *

A Delegate's report might be defined as a report of the AA conscience throughout North America on the Agenda Questions of a General Ser-

vice Conference.

It should be of interest to us. WE discussed the same questions at our Pre-Conference Workshop and arrived at an Area Group Conscience concerning them; we sent our elected Delegate, Gene, to the General Service Conference to express this conscience; the final descions, concerning these questions, reached at the General Service Conference became AA Policy; AA Policy serves as a guideline for AA group living and a sober life for AA members.

- Beth J. -

GROUP NEWS:

Grupo Del Sol will celebrate their 1st Anniversary on the 6th of June at 321 Frio City Rd. (Casa Del Sol) A short meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with Arturo A., Chairman, and Victor C., Speaker; a Fiesta will follow with fine Mexican food, fellowship and dancing. You won't want to miss this!

Another 1st Anniversary coming up! Floresville AA Group will celebrate their 1st Birthday, June 23rd in the Memorial Hospital basement, Floresville, Texas. The Hospital is on Highway 97. How about some GOOD homemade tamales to compliment the other refreshments and that " down home " AA hospitality?

The Goliad Group, 1004 Avondale will have their monthly barbeque June 20th (Father's Day) at 6 p.m. followed by an Open Speaker's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Party Night will be held at Club 12 on Saturday, June 26th. Serving time for dinner will begin at 7: p.m. \$2.00 for adults and \$1.25 for children.

The Club will also host two Open Houses' this month. The 12th Annual Founder's Day Meeting will honor " old timers " in AA (15 or more years of continuous sobriety will qualify you as one of these!) on

RECEIVED FROM:

THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF AA
468 Park Avenue, South (bet. 31st & 32nd)
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear AA Friends:

To give your group proper service, we must keep track of you. And keeping track of the nearly 18,000 AA groups in the U.S. and Canada is a special challenge.

Have you any idea how many Friday Night Discussion Groups there are? Or Serenity groups? Or Central groups?

Have you any idea how often groups change meeting places - and G.S.R.'s? (we make 150 changes a day in group records!)

To help us keep track of you and serve you better, your group now has a " group service number " that appears on the enclosed contribution statement. The number has twelve digits; the first two indicate the state or province; the second two, the Conference Area; the next five digits locate your particular group; and the last three digits show the kind of group you are and the language you speak.

Here are two actual examples of the group service number to show how they work:

The Men's Anonymity Group

Pensacola, Florida

10-01-14335-510

. . . English-speaking
. . . men's group

. . .
. . . Group Location

. . .
. . . Ala./ N.W. Fla. Conference
. . . Area

. . .
. . . Ala.

Notre Dame Group

Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

61-84-15456-502

. . . French-speaking regu-
. . . lar group


. . . Group Location

. . .
. . . N.E. Ontario Conference Area

. . .
. . . Ontario

Please use your group service number for all literature orders, contributions, inquiries and other group correspondence with the G.S.O. It will help us give you better service...

...Sincerely,



Robert G. Pearson
General Manager

(Group Secretaries will receive this information, but all group members - prospective " trusted servants " - should be alerted to this procedural change. ed.)

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH DARKNESS IN ALL THE WORLD TO PUT OUT THE LIGHT OF ONE
SMALL CANDLE.

June 6th. Cal F. will be Chairman of the 11:00 a.m. meeting and refreshments will be served from 1-6 p.m. "LET US FILL EVERY CHAIR WITH A MIRACLE." Old Timer or New Comer - let's all be there!

A 2nd Open House will welcome all AA members in town to attend the State Convention. Everyone is invited to participate on Sunday afternoon, June 27th, from 1 - 6 p.m.

Grupo Esperanza - (Ladies Group) meets Wednesday Night at 8:15 p.m. in Grupo Unidad, 3210 W. Commerce Street. It is a Closed Discussion group. The G.S.R. is Ora R., Secretary is Romy R., and the Treasurer is Ignacia H.

The Fellowship Group meets every Thursday night at 8:15 p.m. at 1602 Dakota Street. It is an Open Speaker's meeting. "Come and share your AA with our AA!"

It's that time again! Start polishing up the camping gear for the 4th Annual Chisholm Trail Round Up to be held the 3rd weekend in August at Paleface Park (LCRA) near Austin, Texas. This a unique Conference for the whole family. Camp by the Lake and enjoy a full schedule of AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings and activities - as well as fishing boating, water skiing, swimming, cook-outs and whatever else the active out-door family might enjoy. If that's not enough to tempt you, George W. (Trail Boss), tells me he's thinking up a few surprises for this year to make this year's Round Up even better! (And that'll be hard to do!)

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

There is an idea abroad among moral people that they should make their neighbors good. One person I have to make good: myself. But my duty to my neighbor is much more nearly expressed by saying that I must make him happy -

if I may. - Robert Louis Stevenson -

FELLINGS ARE FOR SHARING.

Marymount Groups' 1st Anniversary was a great success. Thanks to our wonderful AA friends for a grand party. At least fifty people attended enjoying the talks by Bill J. and Jim A. with brief remarks by "Doc" P., meeting Chairman, and the Rev. Joe Brown, rector of the Church of the Reconciliation, where the meeting was held.

After the meeting everyone enjoyed ice cream and cake along with punch and coffee - and lots of visiting.

Thanks again for helping us with our 1st Birthday - come and visit us.

- "Doc" P. -

DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

LET IT BE DECLARED, ANNOUNCED AND HEREBY CELEBRATED ...

THAT ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE
ARE DEPENDENT UPON ONE ANOTHER

THAT EVERYONE NEEDS EVERYONE ELSE
FOR FREEDOM, LIFE, LOVE AND
HAPPINESS.

THAT ALL THINGS IN THE NATURAL ORDER
ARE DEPENDENT UPON EVERYTHING ELSE.

THAT OUR LITTLE PLANET AND ALL THE
PLANETS
AND STARS IN ALL THE SOLAR SYSTEMS
ARE IN A STATE OF MUTUAL
DEPENDENCE UPON ONE ANOTHER.

THAT THIS UNIVERSALLY SHARED DEPENDENCE
COMES FROM GOD AND IS OF GOD,

AND THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL PART
OF THIS GREAT RELATIONSHIP
HAS IT'S OWN PART TO PLAY -
IT'S OWN DESTINY TO FULFILL

IN GOD'S PLAN.

FINANCIAL CORNER
CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	\$ 15.00	75.00	Northeast	\$10.00	50.00
Audubon	10.00	50.00	*Northwest	25.00	125.00
Bethany(Killeen)	-0-	3.00	Northwood	45.00	90.00
Boerne	15.00	15.00	Pilgrim	-0-	9.00
Brees	10.00	50.00	Portland	-0-	-0-
Bridge(New Brannfels)	10.00	50.00	Pride	-0-	-0-
Broadway	-0-	40.00	Reality	10.00	50.00
Court House(Brnsvlle)	-0-	11.00	Reliance	10.00	20.00
Downtown	-0-	25.00	San Pedro	10.00	40.00
El Carmen	-0-	-0-	San Marcos	-0-	10.00
Feel Free(Lockhart)	-0-	-0-	SASH	5.00	5.00
Floresville	-0-	-0-	Santa Fe	-0-	5.00
Ft.Sam Houston	100.00	180.00	St.Agnes	-0-	5.00
Frontier	20.00	100.00	Seguin	5.00	25.00
Goliad	-0-	45.00	Serenity	10.00	50.00
Group 12	50.00	200.00	Sharing	-0-	-0-
Guidance	10.00	30.00	STARR	24.16	97.42
Happy Hour	-0-	-0-	*Stepping Stones	-0-	60.00
Harmony	-0-	-0-	Sunset	60.00	75.00
Highlands	20.00	100.00	The Haven	15.00	25.00
Hill Country	-0-	20.00	Traditions	-0-	-0-
Hope	-0-	10.00	Trinity	10.00	20.00
Kerrville	-0-	-0-	Twenty Four Hour	-0-	70.00
Women's Sernty(Kerrville)	-0-	24.00	Grupo Unidad	-0-	15.00
Killeen	-0-	3.00	Universal City	-0-	-0-
Laurel Heights	10.00	50.00	Valley Hi	15.00	75.00
Lytle	-0-	10.00	VA Hospital	10.00	45.00
Luling	-0-	10.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	125.00
Marymont	-0-	40.00	Wesley	-0-	10.00
Grupo Montana(Seguin)	-0-	16.00	*Windcrest	15.00	60.00
New Braunfels	-0-	-0-	Woodlawn Heights	-0-	15.00

* Corrections

IN MEMORIAM Joe W.- May 21, 1976
We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Warren
and family.

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ADD GROUP NEWS

CHANGE OF DAY & MEETING for the SALLY
GROUP(Salvation Army). Wednesday nights
7:30 p.m. and Open Speakers meeting.

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NEW!!! GROUP at Canyon Lake, the Canyon
Lake Group meets every Friday at 8:00 p.m.
at the corner of Westview and Crestview Dr.
It is a Closed Step meeting.

NEW MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT SASH

Beginning in June, the Downtown Group
will bring the A.A.meetings to the
S.A.State Hospital on Monday nights at
8:15 P.M.

The present plans are to have the
various groups of San Antonio bring the
A.A.meetings to the Hospital.

Doc Opperman is the chairman of the
SASH A.A. board and others are Marion
Aldridge, secretary; Marvin Smith, treas-
urer; member Frank Mazac.