

NIGHT CAP

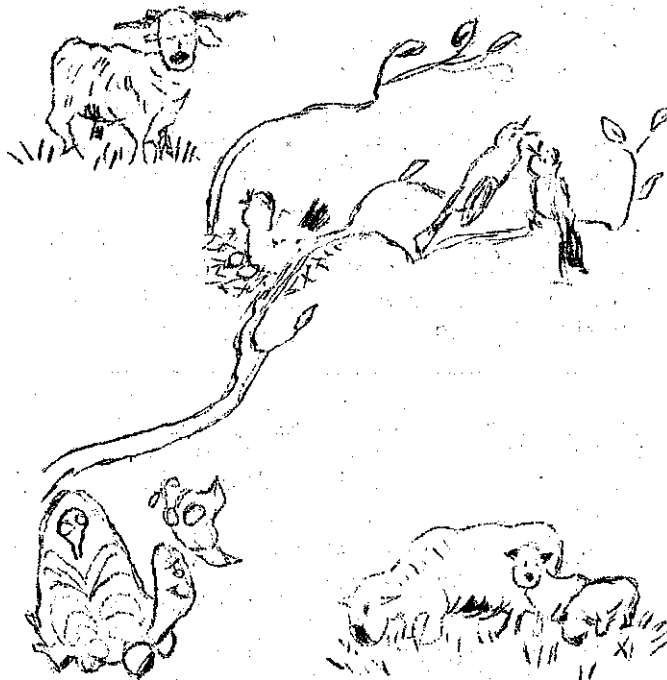
Published monthly by the San Antonio Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity of members in local and South-west Texas area groups.

Address all communications to :
" THE NIGHT CAP "
Lexington Building
109 Lexington Avenue., Suite 215
San Antonio, Texas 78205 226-2523

VOLUME THREE

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NUMBER ELEVEN



A. A. IN THE SPRINGTIME OF LIFE

At age 24 (after about 8-years of dedicated drinking), I was introduced to AA and I must state that I didn't care for the introduction. It took four weary, guilt-ridden years for me and AA to become friends; four years of AA members repeating the purposes and promises of AA, my constant rebellion and remorseful slips back to alcohol while I clung stubbornly to my own idea that I was too young to give up alcohol and miss all the FUN.

It was O.K., I thought, for the older folk - they'd had their laughs and life was about over for them anyhow, but I had years ahead of me to enjoy the taste of alcohol, the warm, relaxing haze and the feeling of comfortable sociability. That I wasn't getting any of these benefits was forcibly demonstrated to me day after day and night after

night, but I was so sure that "next time" would be good and I wouldn't get bombed out of my mind. But it never turned out my way.

Slowly, the realization got through to me that if I had been drinking from age 16 to 24, I'd already had more years of "FUN" than a lot of older alcoholics, that my drinking was never going to get better, nor was I going to learn any younger that I could not drink. Period. End of message. The AA people were right. I could either go on kicking and screaming, resisting and rebelling, until my youth was spent and the harsh winter winds of my life had set in, OR I could embrace AA in the Springtime of my life and make it forever my friend. But I could not have AA and the bottle. The choice was mine.

At age 28 I dedicated my life to AA and it has carried out its pledge to me of a full and rich life - not without troubles - because no friend can guarantee that, but reasonable health and happiness, peace of mind, loving friends, a future I can look forward to, and a loving, caring God who created me and now finds me pleasing to His sight. Freed from alcohol, I was born again - free of the past - free at last!

-Eloise C., GSR Woodlawn Heights Group

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

SPANISH WRITTEN LITERATURE has just arrived, some from Mexico and some from our AA Office in New York!!!

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ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS	\$2.75

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"BUCK-A-MONTH" - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

New members in AA keep hearing the Secretary announce "Join the Buck-A-Month Club" or "It's Buck-A-Month time again." Just what do they mean - "BUCK-A-MONTH"?

In 1968 it was decided that the Central Service Office needed another means of regular support from its AA members. The idea "BUCK-A-MONTH" was taken from Houston's plan. In Houston each AA member could monthly contribute to the Inter-group Office "the price of a Fifth". Our idea is \$1.00 a month instead, simplified to a "BUCK-A-MONTH". It can be sent to the Central Office by your GSR or Secretary-Treasurer or it can be mailed in any amount the AA member desires.

Just what does the member receive from the BUCK-A-MONTH?

The privilege of helping support our CSO-plus- our newsletter, THE NIGHT CAP is mailed to each BUCK-A-MONTHER! Twelve bucks a year isn't very much when we compare it to the high dues we paid to enter Alcoholics Anonymous, is it?

C S O

The Central Service Office Committee will meet on March 9 at 7:00 PM at Club 12, 102 Thames.

CHISHOLM TRAIL ROUND-UP

A number of elder statespersons have agreed to serve as an advisory committee to assure the perpetuation of the Chisholm Trail Round-Up as an annual event. The committee will recommend policies, supervise the receipt and disbursement of all funds and insure accountability for all property owned or borrowed for use in the operation and conduct of all future Chisholm Trail Round-Ups. The following individuals have agreed to serve as members of the committee for an indefinite period:

- Jim B.- San Saba, Cecil C.- Austin, Eloise C. (Al-Anon) - Austin, Ed H.- Ingram, Les R.- Kingsland, George W.- Killeen, Josephine W. (Al-Anon)- Killeen, Dick W.- Lake Jackson and Bea W.- (Al-Anon)- Lake Jackson.

The trail Boss is working on formation of various service committees for the 1975 Round-Up and more information will be provided later. -George W.

THE 21ST COASTAL BEND JAMBOREE is coming up on March 14-15-16, 1975 at the Holiday Inn, 1102 S. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Tex., 78401. AA and Al-Anon Registration: \$4.00, Alateens no fee. Make room reservations direct or contact Jamboree Committee, P. O. Box 3201, Corpus Christi, Tex., 78404. Registration forms may be picked up at the Central Service Office.

THE 1975 SOUTHEASTERN AA CONVENTION will be held March 19 thru 22, 1975 at the Sheraton-Biloxi Motor Hotel, Biloxi, Miss. Registration- \$6.00 Banquet- \$7.50: P. O. Box 814, Gulfport, Miss., 39501.

PICNIC IN THE PARK for \$5.50 on July the 4th! BREAKFAST WITH LOIS for \$7.50 at Colorado's Columbine Breakfast at the Hilton! Or visit with AA folks in the nifty Denver Convention Complex at the International AA Convention July 4 through 6. Registration \$15.00. Official Registration & Housing Forms are available at the Central Service Office.

A SPONSOR IS REALLY NECESSARY

We sometimes hear AA members say that they have no need for a sponsor; others say that they chose three, or four, or five. For me- one was enough. Other members of our fellowship that I chose to talk to were mainly supportive, plus giving me advice I wanted to hear. But my sponsor kept me honest, not so much by directions, but by example and sharing his life and sobriety with me - a "baby". How fortunate we are that another human being cares this much!

That first year- in which we all seem to fashion our basic "survival kit"- seems to be a period of confusion in so many areas of our lives, due to having lived a life of "self-will run riot", but at least we become teachable. I often tried an "easier softer way out", too. "My sponsor cannot tell me what to do - he doesn't understand - my case is different." He said, "Oh, really?"

As our sobriety progresses, we may also have the privilege, as I did, of dropping the name "Sponsor" and substituting the word "Friend", for I have learned, to some degree, what the word friend means. And who but a sober alcoholic has gone through our same insanities, even when not drinking; who else can tell you he knows how you feel - and have you believe that he does? Who else seems more appropriate to share in that "Grisly" 5th Step, after you have, of course, taken the action of writing it down, by just letting you talk and get it all out of your system?

Many of us, ~~as we are assisted by our sponsor toward Step 3, may, as I did, start~~ by turning our will and our life over to the care of our sponsor, a difficult enough action in itself, but one that I believe does help with our own sobriety. For in this way, a day at a time, I have been able to "turn my will and my life over to the care of God, as I understand Him". How grateful we must all feel that, with inflated ego and false pride out of the way, when two ex-drunks, a sponsor and his "baby", are talking together, they can help each other, one day at a time, to stay sober.

-Vilna P., GSR Ft. Sam Houston Group

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AA IN SAN ANTONIO

The speaker for the Anniversary Banquet to be held Friday, April 18, 1975 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th at Alamo St., at 7:00 PM, is Dave B. Dave, formerly from Houston, is now living in Colorado Springs, Colo. Tickets at \$1.50 each can be purchased from the Central Service Office, through your GSR, at any of the Clubs, or call me, Marilyn H., at 494-6312.

My thanks to those who have helped with the party preparations and a plea to those not yet involved that more help is urgently needed. Ticket takers, table setters, servers, cleaner-uppers... lots of jobs... Apply now.

-Marilyn H.

P. I. C.

During the month of February, twelve AA members carried the message to students at eight local high schools. Two members spoke to the Migrant Workers Association, and a variety of AA Literature was placed on display at the Travis Park Methodist Church at the request of the South Texas Personnel and Guidance Association, who sponsored a workshop at the Church, designed to be of interest to related areas of guidance counseling and Community resources.

-Frost U., Chairman P.I.C.

IN MEMORIAM

Glenn D. February 13, 1975
 John Richard, 2-yr. old ()
 Grandson of Sunny M. - February 10 '75

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Sunday, March 2, DOWNTOWN GROUP, Sahara Club, 809 Euclid. Monthly dinner, 1 PM, Open-Speakers Meeting - 2:15 PM.

Sunday, March 16, GOLIAD GROUP, 1004 Avondale, Bar-B-Que, 6:00 PM. Open Speakers meeting 7:30 PM. Regular Sunday meetings are at 8:15 PM.

Sunday, March 30, 24-Hour Service Grp., 1203 Fredericksburg Rd., Monthly Dinner, 1:00 PM.

Saturday, March 29, GROUP 12, 102 Thames, Monthly dinner, 7:00 PM.

** STARR **

The Laredo Group will bring the Southwest Texas Area Round Robin meeting to Club 12, 102 Thames, on Sunday, March 9, at 8:15 PM. Jessie G. will be Chairman. The monthly STARR meetings offer an opportunity to share with groups throughout the area, to greet old friends and meet new ones. Tentative plans are underway to have one of the TDC AA Groups conduct the April meeting, but we need your attendance NOW, in March, too. Come one, come all!

-Jim B., Chairman

GOING TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION?

Join our "Flying Fellowship Group", save \$37, enjoy 2000-miles of "sharing". Non-profit, arranged by AAs for AAs, leaving on July 3, return July 7. For details and information, call Joe R. 534-9744.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

You are cordially invited to bring along your family and friends to a Community Meeting on Alcoholics Anonymous, to be held on March 20, 1975, Main Post Office Bldg., Room #641, at 8:00 PM. The meeting will be conducted by the following AA members: George L., Chairman - Speakers Paul P., Jane W., Bob L. A FREE movie will also be shown.

GROUP NEWS

The FORT SAM HOUSTON GROUP will celebrate its 3rd Anniversary on March 24, 1975. There will be an open speakers meeting at 8:15 PM, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Come to the Ft. Sam Main Chapel, West side, and help us enjoy this Anniversary.

The WOODLAWN HEIGHTS GROUP Secretary, Jim H., reports that they need more AA folks to attend their Wednesday meetings at 8:15 PM, 3551 Culebra. Let's go!

REALITY GROUP would also like to have your attendance at their Wednesday night meetings - 8:15 P.M., 1518 Steves Ave., Calvary Mission Church - Open Discussion.

GRUPO UNIDAD has moved to 3210 W. Commerce St., has better facilities, more space. Meetings - Mon. Open Discussion, Saturday - Speakers. 8:15 P.M.

The HAVEN AA GROUP will celebrate its 3rd Anniversary on Sunday, March 9. Bar-B-Que Dinner at 1:00 P.M., \$1.75; meeting 3:00 PM. Other Sunday Meetings are at 5:00 P.M.

The FRONTIER GROUP will sponsor a dance at the ARC, Southton Road, Saturday, Mar. 22nd. Charge \$1.00 per person. Meeting at 8:15, then dance from 9 to 12. Chips, dips and fun will be served. Live Music. Come join us.

A Fun and Games Party will be held the 2nd Monday night of each month, 7:30 P.M. until? - Refreshments will be served, at Club 12.

The SHARING GROUP (NEW) meets at 8:15 P.M. Thursdays in open discussion at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 810 Kitty Hawk Dr., Universal City. Come help us grow.

S.O.S!

H-E-L-P !!

To ALL GROUPS in the Southwest Texas Area: From Sonora to Brownsville.. Lytle to Laredo... Brownwood to Seguin... Alpine to Austin... wherever AAs meet... We NEED NEWS: Yawl come share your articles, group news, quips and jokes with

us ;;; through your Area Newsletter.....

THE NIGHT CAP

Jeanne W. Executive Secretary CSO

I-N-S-T-I-T-U-T-I-O-N-S

PENAL COMMITTEES: Pete H., Co-chairman of Penal committees, and Dorman K. were guest speakers at the 21st Anniversary of Hand and Fellowship AA Group of Wynne Unit, Texas Department of Corrections, in February. Also attending were Marion B. and John Q. At the same time, Charlene D., Chairman of Penal Committees, spoke at Goree, the Women's Unit of TDC at Huntsville.

During the Houston AA Conference, Charlene and Dorman met with the Houston Inter-group Penal Committee and visited the TDC AA Hospitality Room, hosted by inmates. John A., Houston, chaired one meeting devoted entirely to the Prison Groups, featuring both inmate and ex-inmate speakers. This was the only Conference meeting where the basket was passed. \$200+ was collected to buy literature for the AA inmates.

Two Penal Committee meetings were held by Pete and Charlene this month at the Central Service Office. John A., Chairman, IPC, Houston, officials from Dallas, Huntsville TDC and other interested AAs in San Antonio met on February 18 at CSO to coordinate monthly prison visits. This gathering was chaired by Paul P.

An anniversary meeting of Ramsey Unit's AA Group was held on February 23, chaired by John Q., San Antonio. A number of this area's AA members were expected to attend. We thank all those who helped to make February a busy and gratifying month for the S. A. Penal Committee. -Dorman K.

IF YOU MEET A MAN WITHOUT A SMILE - GIVE HIM ONE OF YOURS.

HOSPITALS COMMITTEE: Sandy L., Chairman of AA Hospitals Committee, reports that meetings in the San Antonio State Hospital are progressing well. Monday, Wednesday and Friday meetings are held at 10:45 A.M., and at 8:15 A.M. on Thursdays and Fridays. AA volunteers have cooperated wonderfully in conducting these meetings for SASH patients, but more individuals and groups are urged to help carry the AA message to these alcoholics who still suffer from this crippling disease of alcoholism. If you are one of those persons who has complained that there is not enough Twelfth Step work for you to do in AA, here is your chance to remedy that situation. Call Sandy at 341-2925, or Bob S., Co-chairman, at 344-6171, or Jeanne at the CSO - 226-2164.

Through considerable effort on Sandy L.'s part, we are happy to report that Alcoholics Anonymous will now be permitted in the Audie Murphy Veterans' Hospital. The first open-speakers meeting will be held on March 13, in Class Room #E-136, at 8:15 P.M. We need a good turn-out so that VA Hospital personnel will welcome AA into their midst. All AAs are URGED to attend this meeting, and those to be held each Thursday evening hereafter.

NOTE: We are indeed sorry that some out-of-town news items, such as Del Rio's AA celebration, the AA Workshop held in San Marcos, and other February news, did not reach us in time to be included in our February NIGHT CAP issue. We would like to point out that news of any affair happening in April, for instance, must be in our hands by March 22; May celebrations, etc., by April 22, in order to be included in THE NIGHT CAP, since it is always dated one month ahead of the month it is printed. LOCAL members and groups, please take note also. The same information applies to you in San Antonio. Thank you very much. -ed.

Deepest gratitude to: Trish F., who helped in so many ways with this newsletter; Jeanne W., "Coffee Kitty" cartoon, CSO and out-of-town news; Gerry O. and Gladys H., Local news reports, and a doff of the big sombrero to Imogene U., who has been responsible for the stapling, folding and mailing of THE NIGHT CAP for the past three years, along with other volunteers. My love to all of you, Edna Mc.

A HAPPY EASTER TO ALL AAs IN THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - 1975

ATTENTION ALL GROUP SECRETARIES: If your group has recently changed secretaries it is possible that Group Conscience monthly contributions to The General Service Office of National AA or our own Central Service Office are being overlooked. We hope that all outgoing secretaries will make sure that the new secretaries understand what the previous Group Conscience commitments are. Thank you. "Whitey" M.

GROUP	JANUARY	TO DATE	GROUP	JANUARY	TO DATE
Alamo Heights	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	Northwood	\$ -0-	\$ -0--
Audubon	10.00	10.00	Open Door	-0-	-0-
Brees	10.00	10.00	Pilgrim	50.00	50.00
Bridge (New Braunfels)	10.00	10.00	Reality	10.00	10.00
Broadway	-0-	-0-	Reliance	-0-	-0-
Downtown	-0-	-0-	Robstown	-0-	-0-
Eastside	-0-	-0-	St. Agnes	5.00	5.00
El Carmen	-0-	-0-	SASH	-0-	-0-
Ft. Sam Houston	15.00	15.00	Santa Fe	-0-	-0-
Frontier	20.00	20.00	Seguin	5.00	5.00
Goliad	15.00	15.00	Serenity	5.00	5.00
Group Twelve	50.00	50.00	STARR (Inter Group)	23.64	23.64
Happy Hour	10.00	10.00	Stepping Stones	-0-	-0-
Harmony	-0-	-0-	Sunset	15.00	15.00
Highland	20.00	20.00	The Haven	-0-	-0-
Hope	10.00	10.00	Traditions	5.25	5.25
Kerrville	12.00	12.00	Trinity	-0-	-0-
Women's Serenity (Kerr.)	6.00	6.00	Twenty-Four Hour	11.50	11.50
Killeen	6.00	6.00	Unidad Group	-0-	-0-
King William	-0-	-0-	Unity (Monterrey)	-0-	-0-
Laurel Heights	20.00	20.00	Universal City	-0-	-0-
Lytle	-0-	-0-	Valley Hi	15.00	15.00
Grupo Montana	5.00	5.00	Villa Rosa	-0-	-0-
New Braunfels	-0-	-0-	Wesley	-0-	-0-
Newcomers	-0-	-0-	Windcrest	-0-	-0-
Northeast	10.00	10.00	Woodlawn Heights	-0-	-0-
Northwest	25.00	25.00			

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: To help defray cost of new Mimeograph Machine:
 King William - \$25.00, Ft. Sam Houston - \$25.00, Goliad \$25.00, Traditions - \$5.00

Your Coffee Kitty
 is giving too!

AA's
 always pitch
 in and help
 don't we?