

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 South-west Area groups.

Address all communications to :
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HOW ABOUT THOSE TRADITIONS?

Most members of AA can quote you the 12 Steps by heart, but very few of us dwell on, or even know, the 12 Traditions. The 12 Traditions of AA are just as important or, in some cases, even more important than the 12 Steps. The AA Fellowship is too vital to all of us who have drinking problems to risk its alteration in anyway by violating the independence and free spirit of the Fellowship.

One of the very dangerous things is connecting the AA name by implying affiliation with a commercial venture of any kind. For instance, using the AA name, Alcoholics Anonymous, as a treatment modality for some program or things similar to that. Anything we do in this direction will be bad publicity in that the public could get the idea that we are making money on Alcoholics Anonymous, which, of course, couldn't be further from the truth. So, any suspicion that we are connected in anyway with commercial ventures should be studiously avoided. This is not to say that AA should not have groups meet at places where commercial treatment is in operation, but only that they should meet as independent AA groups.

Since we have no leaders in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, other than leaders of discussions or leaders of meetings, and such things, it takes all of us being very vigilant to see that things like this do not happen. Anytime one of us sees that something is happening which is a violation of the Traditions of AA, we should immediately talk to our friends in the Fellowship and see that any situation which has developed is corrected. And, this is incumbent on each and every AA member, especially since we have no leaders. So, it's very, very important that all of us be eternally on guard to see that AA retains its autonomy and individualistic makeup. Never becoming dependent on outside sources; never taking finances from other organizations; never being beholden nor dependent to anyone or anything--that's the secret of AA. Once we make it commercial, I'm afraid that the whole effort will die. It certainly wasn't the way that the founders intended.

Therefore, every member of Alcoholics Anonymous should become more familiar with our beautiful 12 Traditions and appoint himself to carefully monitor all AA activities to see that we don't lose this precious program.

Jack S.

GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NIGHT CAP FOR YOUR FAVORITE AA'S BIRTHDAY! TO DO THIS, FILL OUT A BUCK-A-MONTH SLIP, IN HIS OR HER NAME, AND SEND IT ALONG WITH 12 BUCKS TO THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE. WHAT BETTER WAY CAN YOU REMEMBER A BIRTHDAY?

SPECIAL REPORTS

THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA CONFERENCE PRE-CONFERENCE SHARING SESSION was held March 31 and April 1, 1979, at the Holiday Inn, Victoria. Clyde H., SW Texas Area Chairman, opened the meeting Saturday morning, and after an introduction of the Area Officers present, he requested each one of the others in attendance to identify themselves by name, residence, and service title, if any. A fair cross-section of the area was pretty well represented. The list included: Area Officers--2; Area Delegate--1; Area Alternate Delegate--1; Past Delegates--4; DCII's--12; GSR's or Alternates--22; AA Members--31, making a total of 73.

The Area Secretary reported that out of 203 AA Groups in the SW Texas Area, 89 had contributed to the Area Fund (43%) and the average contribution was \$26 per group. After transacting some additional business, the balance of the Conference was spent in open discussion of the Twelve Concepts, The Role of the GSR, The Twelve Traditions and several questions that will be on the agenda of the GSC this year. Some of these were "Alcohol and Pills" (Dual Addiction) groups, "Adherence to Traditions" by round-ups, jamborees, cruises, etc., and questioning Building a Class Structure in Service. All of these matters called for considerable comment from the conferees. One of the finest presentations, given Sunday morning by John R., was "Let Gratitude Be Our Attitude." Participation in the "Ask It Baskets" was excellent and aroused considerable interest and discussion.

Friday night was seafood night for most of the early arrivers, followed by an AA meeting at the Airport. Saturday night saw most of us at one or the other Victoria AA group meetings.

Once again, Victoria can be proud of this workshop. Arrangements were great, coffee was good, and the love and fellowship perfect. 'T WAS A GOOD CONFERENCE.

Hod C., DCII-1A

THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF AA IN SAN ANTONIO was celebrated April 6, 1979, at the San Pedro Presbyterian Church. Thank you, Dr. Tom Schmid, for allowing us to hold this anniversary at your church and giving us such a cordial welcome, invocation, benediction, and leading us in the Lord's Prayer at the close of our meeting.

Thanks, Alex H., for a great job of chairing the meeting and bringing our speakers, Madelin and Bunch from Lorenzo. It was indeed a privilege to have them with us. Thanks so much, Sunny H., for your gracious and interesting delivery of the early history and struggle of getting AA started in San Antonio.

Getting down to the "Mitty-Gitty"--my sincere thanks and appreciation for all those wonderful people who helped make this one of the best!!! Roland H. started the ball rolling by printing the flyers and tickets. Thanks Roland! Sue H., Lila S., and Tommy D., you did a great job of selling those raffle tickets. Jean H. and her crew were really "in there" at fixing the table decorations. Thanks so much to the San Pedro AA Group for the coffee so generously furnished for the fellowship before and after the meeting. Linda H. made the birthday cake, which was a masterpiece--not only in her artistic decoration but delicious as well. Johnny A. lined up a "work crew" you just wouldn't believe! They were "sweating" when they finished putting up all those tables and chairs. Their KP job after the meeting was tops! I shall be glad to give them a recommendation anytime--thanks so much.

ALL IN ALL, thanks to those people who sold 196 tickets. Without this help it could not have been so successful. As an end result, we were able to ante \$462.95 to the Central Service Office of AA, who is always available when we need your help. MY SINCEREST THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO YOU ALL.

Jen Rose H., Chairman
34th Anniversary of AA
in San Antonio

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FACSIMILE OF FIRST ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE now available. The Grapevine office has received many, many requests over the years for a facsimile of Volume I, No. 1, of the Grapevine, the first issue published in June 1944.

At the Regional Forum in Louisville, a census of the meeting was taken and every one in attendance voted for reprinting this issue except one person who had an original. We're happy to announce that copies are being printed and will be available as soon as we receive your orders. We've priced these copies at \$1.00, a very low price for a real collector's item. The reprinted issue will be identified as a facsimile.

For your copy, send your name and address and \$1 to: AA Grapevine, Inc., 468 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.

Retha G.

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FOR MEN ONLY

From the Texas Department of Corrections comes the following: "The members of the Ferguson Unit's Alpha-Omega AA Group would like to extend to you an invitation to attend their 16th 'ANNIVERSARY' meeting. It is to be held on June 3, 1979, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Ferguson Unit."

For more information, call Tex Ryan at 713-295-2809, or write to him at PO Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77340. (SORRY GIRLS!)

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AROUND THE AREA

THE FIRST ANNUAL HOMECOMING honoring all former patients of the SASM Alcoholic Unit will be held on Sunday, May 13, 1979, at San Antonio State Hospital Auditorium. Fellowship begins at 2:30 p.m., AA Meeting at 3:00 p.m., and Reception at 4:00 p.m. The guest speaker is McClair B. from New York.

THE WESLEY AA GROUP will celebrate its 21ST ANNIVERSARY on Sunday, May 20, 1979, at Christ the King Church, 2610 Perez, Room 13, at 2:30 p.m. Juan R. will chair the meeting; guest speakers will be from Nueva Laredo, Mexico, Laredo, Texas, and from Houston. Following the meeting there will be a Mexican supper and dance. Come help celebrate this historical occasion. The Wesley Group is the oldest bi-lingual AA Group in San Antonio.

THE HAVEN AA GROUP, 1640 W. Woodlawn, meets every Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. with an Open-Discussion, every Friday at 10 p.m. with a Speakers, and every Sunday at 5 p.m. with an Open Speakers. Attendance has been sparse at these meetings--PLAN TO ATTEND A HAVEN MEETING THIS WEEK.

THE OPEN DOOR AA GROUP needs your support! This group holds a Step Meeting every Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. at the Holy Spirit Church, 758 W. Ramsey at Blanco Road.

SUNRISE GROUP *** CHANGE IN MEETING TIME *** This group has changed their meeting time from 6:45 a.m. on Thursdays to 5:30 p.m. on TUESDAYS. This meeting is held at USAA Classroom A-101. If you would like to attend, contact Bill F. at 342-2018 or 690-69 AA's who do not work at USAA must contact Bill to gain entrance.

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CONVENTIONS/CONFERENCES

NEW MEXICO 1979 STATE AA CONVENTION--June 8, 9, 10, 1979, in Albuquerque, at the Convention Center, Albuquerque Inn. Registration: \$7 (Alateen \$2); Banquet (include dance): \$10. Each individual is responsible for making his own room reservation. Write to: Registration Chairman, P. O. Box 1124, Alamogordo, NM 88310.

44TH ANNUAL AA FOUNDERS DAY WEEKEND--at Akron University (Ohio), June 22, 23, 24, 1979. They offer a special low cost package plan for \$42 per person which includes the following: Lodging for Friday and Saturday nights at Akron University based on Double Occupancy; breakfast, lunch, and Fellowship Dinner Saturday; (Prime Rib) Sunday Breakfast Club, plus tickets for the play and bus tour. For more information write to: Founders Day Committee, P. O. Box 12, Akron, OH 44309 (be sure to enclose your check if you plan to attend.) No refunds after June 1st.

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HOSPITAL ZONE

VA HOSPITAL GROUP holds Beginners' Discussion meetings every Thursday at 8:15 p.m., Room E-136, at the Audie Murphy VA Hospital.

SAN ANTONIO STATE HOSPITAL holds Open Speakers' meetings every Monday at 8:15 p.m., in the Auditorium. This might be a welcome change from your regular Monday night meeting and give you a chance to share your experience, strength, and hope, and who knows, you may have a chance to pick up a new "pidgeon."

SALLY (SALVATION ARMY) GROUP will discontinue its Friday meeting until further notice. The WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING is held at 8:15 p.m. (CHANGE OF TIME). The meetings are brought to Sally on a voluntary basis this month; however, the Hospital Committee is in the process of finding groups or individual AA members who will take them on a monthly basis. Address is 1324 S. Flores. (SEE ATTACHMENT FROM HOSPITAL COMMITTEE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU AND YOUR GROUP CAN HELP.)

GRUPO DEL SOL bi-lingual meeting is held at Casa del Sol, 321 Frio City Road on Friday at 8:15 p.m., and is an Open Speakers' meeting. (SEE HOSPITAL COMMITTEE ATTACHMENT)

VILLA ROSA AA Group continues to hold its Open Speakers' meetings on Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. Groups responsible for furnishing speakers for the month of MAY are as follows:

Wesley Group	May 1, 15
Group 12	May 8, 22, 29

* * * * *

Thank God for the privilege of living, The privilege of breathing the air,
The privilege of being alive in the midst of such beauty everywhere!
Thank the good Lord for His mercy in giving me eyes to see,
A mind to learn, and a voice to speak, And a faith in Eternity.
Thank God for the privilege of living--For sharing His earth and His sky--
That a gift so rare as the gift of life, Is given to such as I.

Helen Lowrie Marshall

DATES TO REMEMBER (formerly Regular Monthly Events)

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF CSO will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, at the Central Service Office, 109 Lexington Avenue, Suite 215.

THE CSOC AND DISTRICT 1 meetings will be held on Sunday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at Club 12, 102 Thames. GSR'S, THIS IS YOUR MEETING.

24-HOUR SERVICE GROUP, 1203 Fredericksburg Road, will hold its regular monthly dinner on Sunday, May 27, at 1 p.m.

FRONTIER GROUP, at the ARC on Southton Road, will hold its regular monthly dance on Saturday, May 26, immediately following the 8:15 p.m. Open Speakers' Meeting.

GROUP 12, 102 Thames, will hold its monthly dinner and games at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 26.

GOLIAD GROUP, 537 Avondale, will hold its monthly dinner at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 20 and Open Speakers' Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All other Sunday meetings are held at 8:15.

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PIC: 3/20/79 4/20/79

- April 6: John H. spoke to students at St. Phillips College.
- April 10: Burney F. spoke to students at John Marshall High; John A. spoke to students at Mac Arthur High.
- April 11: Nancy W., Norma W., and John H., spoke to students at MacArthur High.
- April 17: John H. spoke to students at Churchill High.
- April 18: Tommie D. spoke at Horace Mann and at Kelly AFB Security Services.

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STATISTICS: 3/20/79 4/20/79

AA	331
Alanon	33
Information	265
Students	21
PIC	6
Total Inquiries	658

IN MEMORIAM

- Marie Thaxton--February 1979 (in San Angelo)
- Margie McCoy--March 25, 1979 (Villa Rosa)

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WE EXTEND SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT THEIR BEREAVEMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY REFLECTIVE THOUGHT UPON THE HAPPINESS SHARED.

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

She slipped silently into liquid pools,
 Drowning fragments of self, floating in fantasies dredged from the depths of her mind.
 The day is pressing in, demanding, suffocating. Slowly she unravels.
 Flee to the crest of the wave, powered by alcoholic vapors,
 Where the sound of ice cubes against glass are as sweet as a Chopin prelude
 Where questioning eyes cannot penetrate a fragile armor, where half truths are fact and the unreal is reality. She searches for herself at the bottom of the bottle
 Only to hear a strange voice echo in the emptiness of her life, "Help me."

Louise C. Neal

NEWS FROM FAR AWAY PLACES (and elsewhere)

Cleveland, Ohio, has a bar that, for alcoholics, is the best bar going, bar none! It's a bar offering plenty of camaraderie, but no alcohol. The Unbar offers food, nonalcoholic beverages, TV, billiards, pinball, bowling, and a jukebox. It is designed to provide the recovering alcoholic with a meaningful alternative to the tavern fellowship. (Editor's Note: AA was enough alternative for me!)

You could call them "suds" operas! You can be certain that the suds won't be coming from soap! When the soap opera audience cries in its beer from now on, chances are it will be crying, well, in its beer! The fact is that American women are becoming first-rate beer guzzlers. They are downing beer to the tune of 30 million barrels a year, much of it in petite 7 or 8-ounce containers. And that's a fact that hasn't been lost on mammoth brewer Anheuser Busch. A-B, the same concern that almost brought us alcoholic soft drinks, has announced its intention of concentrating on its new-found female market by buying ad time during the morning soaps! (Editor's Note: OK gals, maybe someday we "lady" AA's will out number the men!)

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Night Cap:

I read with interest the article in your March issue, WHEN DID THIS DISEASE BEGIN? I quote from a Book that goes a little farther back than the 17th Century:

Whose heart is filled with anguish and sorrow? Who is always fighting and quarreling? Who is the man with bloodshot eyes and many wounds? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new mixtures. Don't let the sparkle and the smooth taste of strong wine deceive you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous serpent; it stings like an adder. You will see hallucinations and have delirium tremens, and you will say foolish, silly things that would embarrass you no end when sober. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And afterwards you will say, "I didn't even know it when they beat me up... Let's go and have another drink!

This was written by the wisest man that ever lived. It is taken from THE LIVING BIBLE, Proverbs 23:29-35.

Stella H. E.
Port Isabel, Texas

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It was a cold morning in January, when I awoke from a drunken blackout and found myself in a cold and dirty motel room. I thought I was alone, but a closer look revealed my best friend sitting on the floor beside the bed! I very carefully picked him up, removed the top, and took a great big drink to bring me back to life. I got up and walked over the mirror and took a good look at me--red, puffy eyes, matted hair, just plain ugly! I didn't like what I saw and thought there must be a way that I can change my way of living. Then there was a knock upon the door--this was the beginning of my "turning point" for the person doing the knocking was a member of AA.

Dee S.

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO GSR'S, et al

From Alcoholics Anonymous: "Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery.

"Some of us are sicker than others" is a statement heard often in AA. Many of us are too sick to walk into an AA Group and announce that we are ready to stop drinking often too sick to realize that a way of life that does not include alcohol is possible. Usually, you will find us in large groups, for we are the institutionalized alcoholic. Our reasons for being here are varied, and our chances for recovery are not too good unless someone has taken the time to show us that there is a way to stay sober and to really enjoy life again. Won't you share your way of life with us?

GROUPS NEEDING YOUR HELP ARE: Grupo del Sol (bi-lingual)

Sally (Salvation Army)

If your group takes responsibility for meetings, it does not mean that only your members are responsible, but that someone in your group contact speakers anywhere to carry these meetings at the designated time and place.

Are you willing to be responsible for providing meetings for one of the above groups for 1 month? _____ For 2 months? _____.

Do you have any individuals in your group who are willing to provide meetings for any of the above groups? If so, please list their first names and phone numbers:

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The Villa Rosa Group is currently handling its own meetings and mailed a list to each GSR the first of the year. The SASH Group is also handling its own meetings by calling groups alphabetically (the Audubon Group in April, the Broadway Group in May, etc.). So, if your group is already obligated to either or both of these groups and you feel that you cannot help others, please check here _____.

Thank you for carrying the message.

Your Group Name _____

Gayle McA., Hospital Committee
Co-Chairman

(Please return this completed form to GSO, Suite 215, 109 Lexington, San Antonio 7820)

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE - SAN ANTONIO
RECEIVED APRIL 19, 1979

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>APR.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>APR.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	0	30.00	Park North (W)	5.00	20.00
Audubon	10.00	30.00	Park North (F)	20.00	60.00
Broadway	45.00	80.00	Randolph Fellowship	0	0
Callaghan	20.00	50.00	Reality	0	0
Downtown	40.00	130.00	Reliance	0	6.00
Fellowship	0	0	Sahara	0	0
First Step	0	0	SASH	10.00	20.00
Ft. Sam Houston	20.00	80.00	Santa Fe	0	0
Frontier	0	10.00	Serenity	15.00	60.00
Goliad	0	0	Sharing	0	25.00
Group 12	75.00	300.00	Southwest Loop	0	30.00
Grupo Del Sol	0	24.00	Spiritual Life	0	0
Grupo Unidad	10.00	30.00	Stepping Stones	50.00	150.00
Highlands	40.00	80.00	Sunset	15.00	60.00
Hope	0	0	The Haven	0	40.00
Kingsboro	0	15.00	Triangle	0	0
Laurel Heights	25.00	55.00	24 Hour	15.00	45.00
Marymont	0	0	Universal City	0	75.00
Northeast	30.00	50.00	VA Hospital	10.00	50.00
N. San Pedro	20.00	100.00	Valley Hi	15.00	75.00
Northwest	0	60.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	100.00
Northwood	0	0	Wesley	0	6.00
Open Door	0	60.00	Windcrest	15.00	60.00
			Young People	0	40.00

25 Groups.....\$574.00
BUCK-A-MONTH.....\$118.53

AREA

Bandera	0	0	Kerrville	0	0
Bridge (N.B.)	0	10.00	Lytle	0	0
Cameron-Rockale (Killeen)	28.00	28.00	New Braunfels	0	0
Canyon Lake	0	20.00	Pearsall	0	25.00
Delta AA (Killeen)	6.00	6.00	Pleasanton	0	0
Floresville	10.00	20.00	Seguin	0	0
Fredericksburg	0	12.00	Women's Serenity (Kerrville)	0	20.00
Hill Country Grp.	0	0			

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Villa Rosa Group for Margie McCoy
Joe Q. for Margie McCoy

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mary Lyle & Bill B.

BUCK-A-MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM

Central Service Office-109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215, San Antonio, Tx. 78205
Please enter my contribution to the BUCK-A-MONTH for _____ months.
Donation is enclosed on the basis of \$1.00 per month.

NAME _____ STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____