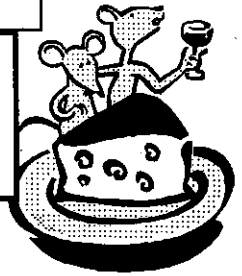


THE NIGHTCAP



Volume 32 Issue 05

May 2001

CSO Notes

In an on going effort to keep groups informed the following changes have and are taking place at your Central Service Office.

A reminder you can contact us now by E-mail for information, or to order literature, or if you have something for the Nightcap. We also take complaints, compliments, and best of all suggestions.

• We want to take this opportunity to thank the Weekend In SA committee for all their efforts that made this conference a success, and to thank all the volunteers for their tireless efforts they are the unsung heroes. We want to thank all that came by our booth and said Hi it was nice to put faces to the voices on the phone.

• More will be revealed

Your Manager
Bill T

CSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Madonna M
Louis R
Corky C
Ed C
Randy S
Andy L
Judy F

The Tie That Binds

As we congratulate ourselves on the recently completed fundraiser for our Central Office (Intergroup), we would do well to consider their functions and realize how fortunate we are to have such an invaluable link in our service chain. AA's ability to carry its message would be severely crippled without the dedicated employees and volunteers that keep the literature available and the phones answered. At Central Office, we can hang out and chat, peruse AA publications, drink some coffee, and maybe even get the opportunity to go on a twelfth step call. The Central Service Office helps carry the message by keeping the individual groups posted of local functions and AA related events. Also, the standing committees of SAMSO such as Public Information and Correctional Facilities use The Central Office as a vital liaison and link allowing AA to hold a respectable place in the community at large. Let us think back to the infancy of AA and get grateful as we think of how the message was carried then. There was no Central Office. (Intergroup.) There were precious few meetings. Treatment centers as we know them, today did not exist. There was only a handful of willing drunks and, eventually, a book.

The chapter, "Working With Others" in the Big Book describes how someone can go about carrying the message of twelve-step recovery to a deaf and blind world without the benefit of treatment, meetings, or any of the trimmings and trappings upon which we have become so dependent. The reader was encouraged to seek out drinking drunks, practically cold calling them to offer the contents of the book, that being a spiritual lifestyle as recommended by the steps. It goes on to describe how one can, with God's help, single-handedly start AA meetings and groups in areas where none have ever existed. Think of the faith and courage required to accomplish that. Think of the time and self-sacrifice. Could you do it? Would you? Be honest. It is easy to claim what you would do if you know you will never be put to the test. Thanks to Central Offices, few of us will ever be tested at that level. We don't have to donate every spare minute to finding a drunk to work with. We don't have to go to doctors or clergy to see if they have a prospect. The alcoholics come to us, either by telephone, treatment center, judge, or other professional referral. We don't have to go looking for them. We can budget our time as we see fit, picking and choosing our opportunities for service, fitting them into our schedules at our convenience. This is not a bad thing. It makes AA more attractive and easier to participate in. I only suggest that we recognize this blessing for what it is, and be grateful. In addition, we can show our gratitude by making a commitment of time, however small, to helping our service structure function at that level. Central Office needs money as well, but as individuals, our time is the most valuable thing we have to invest.

Besides carrying the message, Our Central Office (Intergroup) has another vital function in the survival of AA. Here is where representatives of many different groups (COR's) meet to compare and exchange ideas. This helps promote unity among the groups and districts giving us a strong voice in the Districts, SAMSO (San Antonio Metropolitan Service Organization), South West Texas Area 68 and, ultimately, the General Service Conference.

There are a mighty lot of AA members who think the bickering and apparent discord at COR and SAMSO meetings is inconsistent with the spiritual principles of AA, but in fact it is quite necessary. AA groups need to keep each other in check so that each adheres somewhat to AA principles and traditions. Without such a system of checks and balances, each group would wander off into its own special interests and become something other than AA. No entity has power to make any AA group do or not do anything, but AA groups that divert from their primary purpose die. Central Service Offices help AA live, by promoting unity and giving group representatives, elected and otherwise, a venue in which to talk about the many ways they can do one thing: **Carry the message.**

Central Service Offices are a vital and sometimes the only link in assisting AA's in performing our primary purpose. Our recovering lives would be immeasurably harder without them. If you think not, go back to the old way of carrying the message to protect your sobriety. Pick up that phone and call that priest or doctor you've never met and ask him if he knows of a drunk you've never heard of, that you can go talk to. Or go downtown and ask a series of drunks down there if they would like to get sober, if you have the guts. Then tell me about it.

The Editor

Reprinted from the October 21, 1939 *Cleveland Plain Dealer* with permission

Alcoholics Anonymous Makes Its Stand Here

By **ELRICK B. DAVIS**

Much has been written about Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization doing major work in reclaiming the habitual drinker. This is the first of a series describing the work the group is doing in Cleveland.

Success

By now it is a rare Clevelander who does not know, or know of, at least one man or woman of high talent whose drinking had become a public scandal, and who suddenly has straightened out "over night," as the saying goes—the liquor habit licked. Men who have lost \$15,000 a year jobs have them back again. Drunks who have taken every "cure" available to the most lavish purse, only to take them over again with equally spectacular lack of success, suddenly have become total abstainers, apparently without anything to account for their reform. Yet something must account for the seeming miracle. Something does.

Alcoholics Anonymous has reached the town.

Fellowship

Every Thursday evening at the home of some ex-drunk in Cleveland, 40 or 50 former hopeless rummies meet for a social evening during which they buck each other up. Nearly every Saturday evening they and their families have a party — just as gay as any other party held that evening despite the fact that there is nothing alcoholic to drink. From time to time they have a picnic, where everyone has a roaring good time without the aid of even one bottle of beer. Yet these are men and women who, until recently, had scarcely been sober a day for years, and members of their families who all that time had been emotionally distraught, social and economic victims of another's addiction.

These ex-rummies, as they call themselves, suddenly salvaged from the most socially noisome of fates, are the members of the Cleveland Fellowship of an informal society called "Alcoholics Anonymous." Who they are cannot be told, because the name means exactly what it says. But any incurable alcoholic who really wants to be cured will find the members of the Cleveland chapter eager to help.

The society maintains a "blind" address: The Alcoholic Foundation, Box 657, Church Street Annex Post office, New York City. Inquiries made there are forwarded to a Cleveland banker, who is head of the local Fellowship, or to a former big league ball player who is recruiting officer of the Akron Fellowship, which meets Wednesday evenings in a mansion loaned for the purpose by a non-alcoholic supporter of the movement.

Cured

The basic point about Alcoholics Anonymous is that it is a fellowship of "cured" alcoholics. And that both old-line medicine and modern psychiatry had agreed on the one point that no alcoholic could be cured. Repeat the astounding fact:

These are cured.

They have cured each other.

They have done it by adopting, with each other's aid, what they call "a spiritual way of life."

"Incurable" alcoholism is not a moral vice. It is a disease. No dipsomaniac drinks because he wants to. He drinks because he can't help drinking.

He will drink when he had rather die than take a drink. That is why so many alcoholics die as suicides. He will get drunk on the way home from the hospital or sanitarium that has just discharged him as "cured." He will get drunk at the wake of a friend who died of drink. He will swear off for a year, and suddenly find himself half-seas over, well into another "bust." He will get drunk at the gates of an insane asylum where he has just visited an old friend, hopeless victim of "wet brain."

Prayer

These are the alcoholics that "Alcoholics Anonymous" cures. Cure is impossible until the victim is convinced that nothing that he or a "cure" hospital can do can help. He must know that his disease is fatal. He must be convinced that he is hopelessly sick of body, and of mind — and of soul. He must be eager to accept help from any source — even God.

Alcoholics Anonymous has a simple explanation for an alcoholic's physical disease. It was provided them by the head of one of New York City's oldest and most famous "cure" sanitariums. The alcoholic is allergic to alcohol. One drink sets up a poisonous craving that only more of the poison can assuage. That is why after the first drink the alcoholic cannot stop.

They have a psychiatric theory equally simple and convincing. Only an alcoholic can understand another alcoholic's mental processes and state. And they have an equally simple, if unorthodox, conception of God.

GROUP FORUM

GROUP UPDATES

The Schertz Cibolo Women's meeting has changed from Sundays at 5PM to Mondays at 7Pm.

The Keep it Simple Group which meets at Trinity Methodist has folded.

The Get a life Group near McCreless Mall has folded

The New Downtown Group has added a Midnight candlelight meeting on Fridays.

Until further notice the Fort Sam Group is still meeting in its old location (2797 Stanley Road, Roadrunner community center)

NEW GROUP

The Fort Sam "HOSPITAL GROUP" will begin meeting at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) On third Floor West The Health Promotions Center In Conference Room B-3-358 Mon. -- Wed-Fri, Noon.

NEW GROUP

The Acceptance Group has added an Open, Friday Night 7PM meeting at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (off Kitty Hawk in Universal City) Family members encouraged to attend.

NEW GROUP

Woodlake Tuesday Night an O// Disc/ NS
8 PM Woodlake Baptist Church 6880 Woodlake club Drive (Off FM 78)

NEW GROUP

Helotes Cork In The Jug
10am Sunday, Closed Disc
12070 Leslie Rd. Helotes Senior Citizen Center

The Sunrise Group now meets only on Fridays at 7AM 115 Shannon Lee-next to Blessed Sacramento Catholic Church

The TGIF Group at St. Matthew's Episcopal In Universal City is now a 12:30 meeting

WORKSHOPS

The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety
The Wednesday night Women's Big Book Group is bringing Polly P to San Antonio for a One-day workshop for men and women. Saturday September 29th
9-5 PM, Leon Springs Dance hall
Pre Registration \$10.00 Further Information call 820-3573 Pre -Registration Forms can be obtained at the Central Office

isms

ANXIETY DOES NOT EMPTY
TOMORROW OF ITS SORROW,
BUT TODAY OF ITS STRENGTH

THE AMEND 1 MAKE TO MYSELF
IS TO NOT DRINK A DAY AT A TIME

MEDITATION IS NOT WHAT
YOU THINK!

WATCHING OTHERS RECOVER
SHOWS ME I AM RECOVERING TOO

EVERY TIME MY LIFE TURNED UP
I DID A GEOGRAPHICAL.

I COULDN'T SEE THE POINT IN
LEAVING A BAR SOBER.

AA IS LIKE A BATH PLUG; IT
STOPS MY SPIRITUALITY

RUNNING OUT BUT ALSO LETS
MY SOUL FILL UP

I STARTED STEP SIX THINKING,
WHAT DEFECTS WOULD I HAVE
ON A DESERT ISLAND?"

I NO LONGER FEEL
THREATENED BY THE HONESTY
IN AA

MY ALCOHOLISM IS PATIENTLY
WAITING FOR ME - DOING
Push-UPS IN THE NEXT ROOM!

DRINK TAKES YOU WHERE
DRINK GOES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winners Club Casino Night, May 12th
9PM-1AM Tacos --Beef and Chicken Fajitas
Will be served

New Downtown Group Birthday Night
First Tuesday 7:30 to 9:30

15 May Club 12 Board of Directors meeting

May 19th Club 12 dance 7:30-Midnight

25 May 7:30 Club 12 Birthday Night

10 June New Life Group 19th Anniversary

1114 Willow, St Patricks Catholic Church

The Power of Words

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods and two of them fell into a deep pit.

All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump out of the pit with all of their might. The group of frogs kept telling them to stop because they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died. The second frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out.

You see this frog was deaf, unable to hear what the others were saying. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time. This story teaches a lesson...There is the power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day.

A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill him or her.

Be careful of what you say. Speak life to those who cross your path. The power of words...an encouraging word can go such a long way.

May your words be a blessing to someone today.

God works through people

What a wonderful Fellowship we have in Alcoholics Anonymous, and not only a

Fellowship but a Fellowship of love and even more than that, a miraculous Program of recovery which makes that love possible, one day at a time.

At this moment I'm writing and pondering on my early days in recovery and how well I can recall with heart felt gratitude the love I was shown and given at that time.

Sharing from my own experience I consider myself very fortunate because at that first meeting I saw a light that was shining in the dark for the suffering and recovering alcoholic and that light was the power of example. Men and women who had stopped drinking, stayed stopped and had maintained and bore fruit in contented sobriety.

People had accepted their pain with fortitude and had risen above their own suffering to see to the needs of others. What compassion, what understanding, what love, a love so unconditional that it filled my heart with hope, hope that dispersed my desperation and calmed my fears. I can assure you it was not a faulty dependency but nothing less than a spiritual security and, in the light of my own experience; a spiritual awakening that had derived from that power of example.

Don't think of the fear in front of you but think of the power behind you. Their voices would cry out:

"Keep coming back." The meeting makers make it. They would keep saying:

"Keep coming until you want to come and, when you want to come, keep coming until you love coming. Remember, try keeping it simple by not praying for tomorrow's needs." Stick with strength or, in other words, the winners that lay in that power of example.

You have to do this Program for yourself they would suggest, but you do not have to do it alone. Get a sponsor. "It's nice to be important," was their message, "but it's more important to be nice." Could this be what they meant when they told me that God works through people? Well if so, thank you people for filling me with your insight over the years, all insight that has enlightened me in the recognition of my two greatest gifts:

1) my sobriety and 2) the wisdom to see God in you.

So, God bless you, you old-timers, and keep on keeping on.

LITTLE PHIL

Happy Mother's Day



1 YR

Doug A
Bart H
Jimmy A
Phillip W
Derrick W
Robert T
Kenneth S
John S
Carol G
Chris S
Lisa K
Eric T
Gregory R
Sharon C
Robert C
Jane D
Renee S
Garry S

2 YRS

Ron S
Clint M
Joel Y
David L T
Maxine S
Barry H
Harry O
Valdo H
Ernest H
Louis C
Rudolfo C
Walter H
John B
Barry B
Michael S
Kelli S
Rick C

3 YRS

Artulo R
John H
Alfred C
Robert H

4 YRS

Ron G
Trudy L
Joyce M

5 YRS

Margaret T
Joe H
John D
Kenn W
Margaret D
Craig H
Richard K

6 YRS

Ismael A
Joe M
Scott H

7 YRS

Paul G
Gwendolyn Y
Mary E
Mark L
Jason P
Guy P
Larry H

9 YRS

Shawn S
Ed M

11YRS

Paul P
Ron Del C
Dave C
Roy B
Roland W

12 YRS

Ruben J
Jerry S

13 YRS

Tom W
Mark B

14 YR

Lynda S
Marjorie McC
Raymond F
Tad H

15 YRS

Franca L
Tomi B-A

16 YRS

John c

17 YRS

Liz L
Lennie T
David G

18 YRS

Patrick C
Roxy R

19 YRS

Ken C

20 YRS

Bill M
ED

23 YRS

Bob J

25 YRS

Shirley D

28 YRS

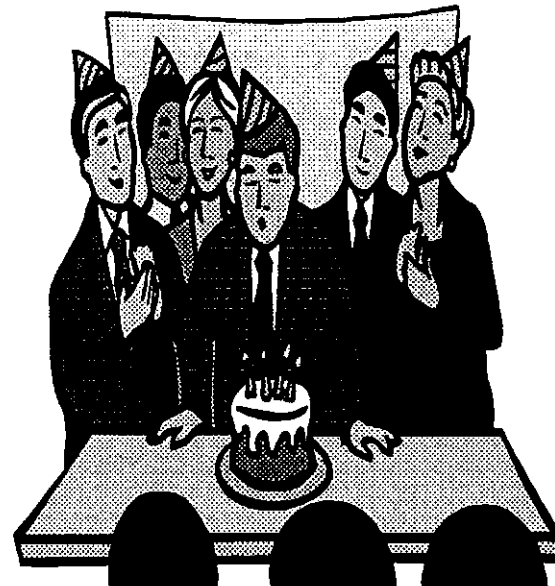
Grant S
Judy S

33 YRS

John D

36 YRS

Tom B



RELATIONSHIPS
TWO
COMPASSION

By Sam S.

& DRUNKS
VIEWS
ENABLING

By Kati N.

We hear constantly there is a fine line between enabling and compassion. Many times we are with doing one or the other or both. The most important thing to remember when we see this happening to two people especially male and female it is important to look at one major factor FORGOTTEN when we make a comment on it!! Our right to and our attitude!! Nine times out of ten what comes out of our mouth is negative and gossip!!

Helping others is part of our survival in sobriety. Our Program DEMANDS that we help others. This is one of the prime reasons Almighty God gave us our Program!!!

What we see, what we hear in our case depending on the quality of our sobriety is the prime reason we are in our Fellowship, going to meetings, praying daily. Its that our sick reasoning is still there, it lives and thrives daily!!!

If two people, male and female are working together, having a Mature relationship, for the purity (an absolute of ours) and respecting each other, if we read our 12 & 12 under the 12th Step, it was written by Bill W., relationships can and do happen in our Fellowship provided we have quality programs!! And we are human beings coupled with a deep bond—SOBRIETY!!!!

Much can be said on the subject, much will be written but the bottom line is simply our Program is spiritual and god given that we all know, The Program is a way of life unequalled!! Another absolute we all overlook is love in its purest form and it is not sex, it is called understanding, it is called sharing, it is call giving of one's self in time, where others don't have either the patience or understanding or time to listen to another in need. It is in this one area, almighty God does work through people even if they are male and female!!!

It goes back, way back when a man named Christ talked to a woman at a well, knowing she was not telling the truth, He, the Son of God took the time to listen and He planted a seed. Is that not what we are doing?? The seed of sobriety no matter who we are working with? We ALL are creatures of God, yet does gender have to play a role in who we help, besides God sent that person to us anyway, who are we to question His motives and Holy Will?

Something that I have been seeing a lot of lately is people in The Program ENABLING a drunk instead of HELPING THE ALCOHOLIC who desires to stay sober. This is a sore spot for me, because I see so many people struggle for sobriety every day. I don't think, or at least I hope, any of us enable someone consciously because our intentions are good hearted, they are just not good.

When we enable sane one who was once in The Program and is back out there qualifying actively, it makes no sense to me to cater to these people. I mean every alcoholic loves some one loves, someone to kiss their butt, tolerate their bull with no consequences, and to top it all off, baby them.

Give me a break, you can simply not have your cake and eat it to no matter how badly you may want to!

Instead of sitting there saying oh that's okay, so and so, is only drunk, it's the booze doing it, not so and so, ignore it. I'm an alcoholic and not an alcoholic's doormat. They want to drink more than they want to stay sober—we'll then let them go be obnoxious to some other drunk in a bar where they're not even welcome instead of where sober people are trying to work at staying sober.

It makes me sick to see people in the Program give someone money to drink on and pretend to buy into their con of needing it for such and such. To see them constantly allow them to eat free, sleep free, provide their cigarettes, and never answer any of the consequences of their actions! Why bother putting forth the effort to get sober and work for sobriety when you get things handed to you either way?

There are plenty of alcoholics who are trying to work at getting sober who could use the help that you are wasting on someone who is simply abusing and using The Program and Our Fellowship. Let's get back to basics! Here The Program is open to anyone with an honest desire to quit drinking. Well you tell me how some one who only comes around to get whatever they can in order to continue using, has that desire, an honest one that is?

Why should sober people have to tolerate the abuse of some drunk when others struggle for help? Next time you go enable someone ask yourself am I in the only one truly helping this person Or am I making myself feel noble and kind hearted? To me I would only be building my own sick ego and in the long run harming the drunk. Let them go out and beat themselves until they are ready, wanting sobriety and putting forth an effort in doing so!!!! -



The Nightcap is about, by, and for members of the A.A. fellowship. Opinions herein expressed are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or the Nightcap. (Exceptions: Quotations from A.A. books, pamphlets and the 12 Steps and/or 12 Traditions are reprinted with the permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.; the A.A. Preamble, slogans, etc. are reprinted with the permission of The Grapevine, Inc.)

**SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2001 MEETING**

In Attendance:

District 1A DCM – Lynne G.

District 17 DCM – Steve J. (Secretary)

Corrections Chair – Marvin Q.

Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information Chair – Glenn C.

Central Service Office Liaison to SAMSO – Judy F.

District 16 DCM – Barbi H. (Treasurer)

District 19 DCM – Bill T. (Chair)

Grapevine Chair – Martha H.

Public Information Chair – Glenn C.

Absent:

District 1E DCM – Len A.

District 1F DCM – Frank E.

Hospitals / Institutions Chair – Bob T.

SAMSO to Central Service Office Liaison – Vacant

District 18 DCM – Gil C.

Archives Chair – Tom H.

Meeting called to order by **Bill T.** at 6:40 PM with Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Bill T. - Read the Traditions. New GSRs: **Ed E.** - Freedom Group, **David** - Walzem Rd. Group; New DCMs: **Mike C.** - District 1A

Announcements: Judy F. Introduced herself as the Hospitality Chairperson for Weekend in S.A, which is to be held April 27-29 at the Municipal Auditorium. The Committee is accepting last minute monetary contributions. Judy can be reached at 832-9068 or e-mail at jfinger2000@yahoo.com.

Central Service Office Liaison to SAMSO – Judy F. – The CSO Board will be soliciting nominations for new board members over the coming months, as four board members will be rotating out in October, 2001.

SAMSO Liaison to Central Service Office – Vacant

Chairman's Report – Bill T. – At the SWTA Spring Assembly held in Rockport the weekend of April 6th, the Area Committee decided to have an Area Inventory conducted. The inventory questionnaire used will be the same one that GSO uses. The SWTA will be sending the questionnaires to the DCMs, who will then pass them on to the GSRs. Three hours will be set-aside at the Summer Workshop (last weekend in July), to conduct the inventory from the submitted questionnaires. For the May Inter-District meeting, Bill has invited **Ramon M.** to give a presentation on the "Importance of participation in the Area". For the June Inter-District meeting, Bill has invited the SWTA Delegate – **Yolanda F.** – to give the "Delegate's Report".

Secretary's Report – Steve J. – Asked for a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the *Nightcap*. **Glenn C.** made the motion; seconded by **Jim**. All approved.

Treasurer's Report – Barbi H. – Submitted the report for March. Donations were \$433.88 with expenses of \$619.00 for a balance of \$3,808.64, of which \$2,250.00 is earmarked for Area Workshop attendance by the five Standing Committee Chairs, leaving an available balance of \$1,558.64. A motion was made by **Mike C.** to accept the report as given. **Karen C.** seconded the motion. All approved.

Archives – Tom H. – (Absent – *No Report*). The Archives Committee holds its meetings on the 1ST Sunday of each month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 1300 Wiltshire, at 7:15 PM. Tom can be reached at 696-5228, or email at teh543@sprynet.com.

Correctional Facilities – Marvin Q. – The Committee will be holding a Big Book Buy-Back at Weekend in SA with AA. Asked for the GSRs to encourage members to join the Sponsor By Mail program – confidentiality is maintained through use of a P.O. Box. The CFC Committee holds its meetings on the 1ST Wednesday of each month in the Alanon room at Club 12 at 102 Thames at 7:00 PM. Marvin can be reached at 365-9973.

Grapevine – Martha H. – The Committee is excited about Weekend in SA with AA, where they will have a booth set up. The Committee has three new members and the Pass-It-On campaign is going well. Martha stated that the primary goal of the Committee is to get new Grapevine subscriptions. She also distributed new flyers containing information on the Committee. The Grapevine Committee holds its meetings on the 1ST Monday of each month at Jim's at 410 and Blanco at 7:00 PM. Martha can be reached at 344-6588, or email at JHernden@aol.com.

Hospitals / Institutions – Bill T. for **Bob T.** – All meetings for May are covered. The H&I Committee is working with the VA Hospital on starting a new meeting. The Temporary Contact Program within the H&I Committee has a new Chairperson - **Nick M.**; and the program is now working with three facilities: the NIX Detox Unit, the VA Hospital, and the Methodist Hospital. There was some discussion among the attendees about the practice of Groups "adopting" H&I meetings. The "pro" positions were that the practice ensures that meetings are covered, that anyone can still attend the meetings, and that in some institutions it provides familiar faces to the patients. The "con" positions were that the practice limits the patients exposure to other groups, and that it may in-part account for the lack of attendance at the Inter-District meetings – as GSRs may feel that they did their job by getting a service commitment. Anyone with input on the issue is encouraged to contact Bob or to attend the H&I Committee meeting. The Hospitals/Institutions Committee holds its meetings on the 2ND Saturday of each month at the Winner's Club (Snack Bar Area) at 11 AM. Bob can be reached at 628-7340 (Pager), or e-mail at anotherdrunk@r67.net.

TRADITION CHECKLIST

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose -
- to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that tradition doesn't apply to me?"
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to 12-step the next newcomer without regard for what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?



Bob gets a message from
the man upstairs.

From: Central Service Office Representatives Chairman

RE: Reminder

The COR meeting is at 5:30 the 20th of May at

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

6110, NW, Loop 410. Group COR's and or any interested

member of the fellowship are welcome to attend.

Come help us do the next right thing.

	One month Ending	
A/O Mar 31		
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT	Mar'01	Mar'00
Sales	\$6,032	\$5,763
Cost of Sales	2,502	3,334
Gross Profit	3,527	2,429
CONTRIBUTIONS		
Nightcap Contributions	57	108
COR Meeting Contributions	-	12
Group Contributions	1,574	1,710
Memorial Contributions	-	0
Individual Contributions	69	67
Birthdays	-	0
Total Revenues	5,227	4,326
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Income		26
Miscellaneous	-	39
Income from AA in SA	-	-
Total Other Income	-	65
Total Income	5,227	4,392
WAGE RELATED EXPENSES		
Salaries	2,773	3,633
Payroll Tax	212	271
Contract Labor-Clerical	-	50
Travel Allowence	-	50
Micellaneous	-	8
Employee Training	-	0
Total wage related expenses	2,985	4,020
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES		
Rent	912	855
Utilities	169	190
Telephone & Answering system	275	172
Repairs & Maintenance	361	0
Total Occupancy Expenses	1,717	1,218
OTHER EXPENSES		
Office Supplies, Clerical	156	8
Office Supplies, Non-Clerical	-	30
Postage & Freight	63	19
Equipment Lease & Main	169	152
SWB Yellow Pages	47	45
Nightcap Print. & Post.	341	363
Accounting Service	150	138
Depreciation	250	0
Bank and Credit Card Fees	30	0
Total Other Expenses	1,206	755
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,891	\$5,995
NET Income	(663)	(1,602)

OK, so you are thinking drinking...

OK, so you are thinking drinking...

But now that we have thought about it, knowing that we have already admitted that we are insane in the second step, we really don't care about what we think, feel or believe 'because all those thinkings, feelings and beliefs are insane...the only thing that counts from here on out is what we do...If we don't drink, we don't get drunk and go more insane....If we do what we are told to do, we stand a chance of staying alive and recovering from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body...

The way it happened for me, my head was putting it on me something fierce, I called my sponsor (I had learned to dial the phone), choked out what it was that the swarm of bees in my head was telling me, and before I drew another breath said

"I feel like getting drunk." He said "Ok", and hung up the phone... PISSED ME OFF !!!!, I got so angry at him I forgot all about getting drunk, the only thing I could think about was getting to the meeting that night and telling him what a rotten sponsor he was, and I did...big time. (Didn't bother him one bit that I was angry with him.)

He just looked down the side of his nose at me and said, "Well, did you learn anything?" HUHHHH?

"Did you learn, maybe, that it is all right to feel like drinking if you don't do it, that it's all right to be pissed off if you don't drink. Are you drunk now?"

No, sponsor, I am not drunk.... "Are you still alive?" Yes, sponsor, I am still alive.....

"So what's the big deal?"

Oh, OK.....

" How many times am I gonna have to tell you that we don't care what you think, feel or believe, the only thing that counts is what you do...and that the answer to all your problems is in the book, the steps and the fellowship, if you will just do what you have been told to do for the first time in your life."

Oh, OK, sponsor...I guess I better get busy on the steps...

"Yes, and in your case the sooner the better."

Oh, OK, so all I was doing was thinking drinking and that is insane....

"Yep, your disease talking to you." " Thanks, sponsor, I feel a lot better about it now, just stinkin' thinkin'

"Yep" Oh, OK, want a cup of coffee? "Believe I do."

See you in the morning meeting? "Yep, see you there..."

B. F. Garfield Grp.



	Mar 01	YTD - 01
Acceptance		
Alamo Hts		
Broadway		
Came to Believe Grp		
Community		
Colonies North	\$	197.76
County Line		
Depot Grp		
Entire Abstinence		
First things First	\$356.10	\$1063.10
First One Today	\$	\$10.00
Fort Sam Houston	148.00	148.00
Freedom Group	25.00	25.00
Free at Last	\$10.00	\$30.00
Goliad		
Generic	100.00	100.00
Grupo El Libro Grande	\$	\$25.00
Grupo Esperanza	\$	\$30.00
Grupo Unidad		\$20.00
Grupo y Paz	\$10.00	\$40.00
Halt Group		\$60.00
Highland		
Hunt Ingram Grp	35.00	35.00
Hondo		
Keep it Simple Group		
Kelley Special		
La Quinta Tradicion		
Lavernia		
Lambda	\$	\$100.00
Legal Professions		
Laurel Hts Group		
New Downton Grp	8.00	8.00
Marymont		
New Life		
NorthEast Group		
Nueva Vida		
North San Pedro Group	\$38.00	\$108.00
Oak Hills Group	\$	\$567.51
Oblate Group		
Perenales Valley Group	\$	\$119.20
Pearsall		
Pleasanton	30.00	30.00
Road Of happyDestiny		\$218.00
Rush Hour Group	\$43.33	\$361.35
SA North Womens		
Schertz-Cibolo	\$	\$200.00
Serendipity Group	100.00	\$250.00
SW Loop Group		
Spirit of Hope		
Stahl Rd Grp		
Sunrise		
Tezel Rd Women		
Travis Park		
Twelve	\$360.00	\$1080.00
UC TGIF	30.00	30.00
Universal City		\$120.00
Valley Hi	\$	\$80.00
Windcrest		\$25.00
Womens solution group	10.00	10.00
Womens Big Book		
Woodlake	\$20.00	60.00
AREA		
Boerne Noon	\$	\$200.00
Bulverde		
Blanco	25.00	25.00
New Braunfels Grp	263.62	263.62
Total	\$1,574.05	\$5,639.54
Memorials	25.00	
Birthdays	\$36.00	\$



“So I’m powerless over alcohol! What makes you think that my life has become unmanageable?”

AA History—Did You Know?

- When the Big Book was published in April of 1939, there were only two groups and we had no name. Bill called us the “nameless bunch of drunks”
- Jim B., the former atheist, and Fritz M., strongly religious, were responsible for the phrase, “God, as we understand Him”
- The custom of “passing the hat” at meetings to cover expenses was begun in late 1940. The groups were asked to contribute \$1.00 per member twice a year to support the AA Headquarters in New York in 1941.
- In 1948, the Grapevine shifted the emphasis from “drunk” stories to “you are not drinking; now what?” “How valuable is your sobriety to you?”
- “I am responsible” was composed for the 1965 30th Anniversary Convention.
- In 1970, the host committee in Miami raised \$10,000 to provide complimentary coffee for the convention. The coffee was consumed before the afternoon was over on the first day of the convention!
- Bill took instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith from Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen. He did not convert to Catholicism, however. Bill died in Miami, Florida on January 24, 1971.
- The flag ceremony at conventions was begun in 1975.
- Alcoholics Anonymous is by far the largest user of hotel rooms of any organization in the world.

Cooperation with Professional Community / Public Information Chair – Glenn C. – The Committee has been busy with presentations at several Colleges and Universities. Currently the only activity pending is Weekend in SA with AA, where the Committee will have a display booth. The Committee still has 5 Literature Racks available for donation to Groups interested in the "Adopt a Literature Rack" program. **The CPC / PI Committee holds its meetings on the 2ND Wednesday of each month Club 12 at 102 Thames at 7:00 PM. Glenn can be reached at (H) 342-2330, (Pager) 220-9281, or email at GlennC3663@aol.com.**

District 1A – Lynne G. – Lynne Informed the attendees that she is stepping down as the DCM. She introduced **Mike C.** as the new DCM. The District is planning a Workshop to be held either the 23RD or 30TH of June – probably at the Winner's Club. There will be a roundtable discussion with SWTA Service Committee Chairs participating.

District 1E – Len A. – (Absent – *No Report*)

District 1F – Frank E. – (Absent – *No Report*)

District 16 – Barbi H. –The District has almost reached a consensus on a way to use the extra District funds – they are planning on putting up Literature Racks in 5 High Schools within the District.

District 17 – Steve J. – The District is discussing ideas for a Workshop to be held in mid-summer – either July or August.

District 18 – Gil C. – (Absent – *No Report*)

District 19 – Bill T. – There was no District meeting held this month. Bill is trying to re-enthuse the GSRs on District Service work by meeting with the GSRs one-on-one over the next 30 days.

Old Business – Translation Equipment: The pricing information is still being researched. The issue will be presented once the complete pricing data is available. **Bill T.** made a motion to table the issue until next month, seconded by **Karen C.** All approved.

New Business – None.

Adjourned – 7:30 PM with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted: Steve J. – SAMSO Secretary



COR MEETING MINUTES 4/22/01

Attending: Corky C., Board Member; Randy S, Board Member; Bill T, Central Office Manager; Judy Finger, Board Member; Virginia Y.; James G., Frontier Group; Rai S; Dana C, New Downtown Group; George A., Universal City Group; Kris S., Life Support Group; Beth A., Last Call Group; Lauren C., SA North Group; Vicki S., Colonies North Group; Tim Mc., Acceptance Group; Virginia F., Southwest Loop Group; and Sandy C, Freedom Group

Meeting called to order by Corky C. at 5:45

Previous Meeting Minutes: Unavailable. Members agreed to postpone acceptance until published in the *Nightcap*.

Financial Report: Bill T. handed out copies of the financial report that the membership reviewed. Financial status of the Central Office has improved over the last year from various measures undertaken.

Old Business: Board accepted proposal to change responsibility (for presiding over the monthly COR meeting) from Board members to individual group COR's was reviewed. Duties for Chairperson and Recording Secretary were outlined and dispersed to each attendee. Opposition views from Southwest Loop Group were voiced by their COR, Virginia F. Vicki, Lauren, Bill T. and Corky pointed out several advantages to the change. Changes to the By-Laws changes may be required. Legal counsel will be sought.

New Business: Nominations for new chairperson and Recording Secretary ensued. Lauren C. nominated Vicki S. for Chairperson for 6 months. No other nominations occurred, and a voice vote was taken. Ayes were in the majority. Nominations for Recording Secretary by Vicki S. included Dana C. and Lauren C. A moment was allowed for candidates to speak and a hand vote was taken. Majority vote went to Lauren C. Vicki S. took over the responsibility of chairing the remainder of the meeting.

A suggestion that the meeting be changed from 3rd Sunday to another day was tabled and set to be on next month's agenda. Discussion about the pros and cons of having coffee and refreshments at each meeting. Results were inconclusive.

Corky C. encouraged all members to ask about different groups they attend who their COR is and invite them to attend next month's meeting.

Adjourned: Vicki S. closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer at 6:30pm.

May 2001 **Service opportunities and events**

24 HOUR HELP-LINE:
(210) 828-6235
BUSINESS LINE:
(210) 821-6325

- 6 May SAMSO Steering Meeting Club 12 4PM
- 6 May SAMSO ARCHIVES Committee meets 7:15 St. David's Episcopal Church 1300 Wiltshire
- 8 May SAMSO Grapevine Committee meet at Jim's' Restaurant 410 & Blanco 7 PM
- 8 May New Group opens Fort Sam Hospital Group Third Floor Conference Room B-3-358 Mon-Wed Fri-12pm
- 9 May SAMSO Correctional Facilities Committee meets Club 12 7 PM
- 8 May Club 12 Board of Directors meet 5:30 PM
- 9 May SAMSO Cooperation with Professional Community and Public Information Committee meets Club 12 PM
- 11 May SAMSO Hospital & Institutions Meeting -Club 12 -10 AM
- 12 May Winner Club Casino Night 9 pm-1 am
- 17 May CSO Board meets Any member can attend
- 19 May Dance Club 12 8PM to Midnight
- 20 May SAMSO/ Interdistrict Meeting 6:30 COR Meeting 5:30- Districts 16-19-1A meet 6PM
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church 6110 NW Loop 410
- 25 May Dance club 12, 8 PM to Midnight
- 27 May Birthday Night -New Life Group (Birthday Night open speaker)
- 28 May Birthday Night Alamo Hts.
- 27 March Birthday Night-Valley Hi,- Windcrest,-Santa Fe- New Acceptance-Life Support
- 28 March Birthday Night -Oblate- Women's Big Book-Northwood
- 29 May Birthday Night : Goliad-Devine- Ft Sam -North San Pedro -Stahl Rd
- 30 May Birthday Night: Pearsall (Come as you are)- SW Loop-Colonles North El Libro Grande- Rush Hour-Group 12-Marymont

Food for Thought

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final process, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway.

(This poem was written by Mother Teresa and is engraved on the wall of her home for children in Calcutta. Though she is renowned in the outside world for her lifetime of service to Calcutta's poor, Mother Teresa was also a great friend of Alcoholics Anonymous and was extremely helpful in establishing AA in India.)

NIGHTCAP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ ADDRESS CHANGE _____ GIFT _____ AMOUNT PAID _____ DATE _____

SUBSCRIPTION COST \$3.00 for 1 YEAR \$ 6.00 for 2 YEARS \$9.00 for 3 YEARS OTHER

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