

# The NIGHT CAP

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

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## I AM RESPONSIBLE.....

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A. A. always to be there. and for that:  
I am responsible.

## TRADITIONS-GRATITUDE-AA UNITY

All too soon, eleven months will have been registered upon the calendar of time, and Thanksgiving 1974 will be upon us. Wow! Whoever wrote that song complaining that "Time goes by so slowly" sure ain't involved in AA activities! Your Southwest Texas Area Round Robin Chairperson thanks God she is involved, and would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you in the Area for your interest and participation in the monthly STARR meetings. With GRATITUDE in mind, I'm tempted to give a progress report on STARR, but space is limited. Therefore, I wish you a sober, happy Thanksgiving Day, and then invited you walk hand-in-hand with me, back down Memory Lane to a smorgasbord of Basic Principles. We'll feast on some of Bill W.'s Traditions, sobriety-food, AA Unity and gratitude - while Bill "talks turkey." Please take my hand. I need your help.

I have before me an old memorandum from Bill Wilson, AA's Co-founder; typewritten but signed in ink by the then-firm, determined, but warm and understanding hand of Bill. Some excerpts from the old memo will, I hope, and believe, explain why a great deal of disunity exists in AA today, far better than the feeble mental efforts and worn keys of this chairperson's ancient typewriter ever could. The memo is undated, but in it Bill mentions that "the 12 Traditions have just been released in... .. "short form", and hopes that they will be as widely read and understood as the 12 Steps of Recovery, in order that some of AA's "growing pains" may be lessened somewhat. Actually, the memo could be dated - TODAY - any day, 1974. Excerpts are quoted below. It's caption:

### " A SUGGESTION FOR THANKSGIVING" "BY BILL"

1st paragraph: "The idea is in the air that AA might adopt Thanksgiving Week as a time for meetings and meditation on the Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous." Next, Bill discusses "Pre-AA", when "we alkie's could sometimes achieve that dubious state called "sobriety, period". He says, "How bleak and empty this alleged virtue is....The reason? ...Nothing has taken the place of the victim's grog; he's still a man of conflict and disunity. Comes then the 12 Steps of Recovery...a personality change...The shattered prospect describes the state of being at "oneness"... he is talking about personal unity. We know that he must work to maintain it ...he can't stay alive without it." Then Bill asks:

" Will not the same principle hold true of AA as a whole? Isn't it also a fact that...If vigilant practice of sound principle is a matter

of life and death for him, why isn't that equally so for the AA group, and for our far-flung society as a whole? . . . . .  
 "Yet many of us still take the basic unity of Alcoholics Anonymous for granted. We seem to forget that the whole of modern society is on a dangerous and contagious "dry bender". We **evidently** assume we are so different from other men and women that disintegration can't hit us. Our unity appears as a gift from Heaven; something to be perpetually enjoyed by us AAs quite without effort.

"Criticism is not intended," Bill declares, "...our present attitude... stems from the fact that no society in its infancy has ever enjoyed more providential protection ....than ours. Minor troubles we have had, but none serious enough to test our adult strength.....Surely there need be no counsel of fear, nor lack of faith in the prediction that a far greater time of trial may yet be ours...." He sums up the importance of the 12 Traditions by stating, "they are a distillate of our experience of living and working together. They apply the spirit of the 12 Recovery Steps to our group life and security. They deal with our relations to the world outside....state our attitudes toward power and prestige.... property and money.....they would elevate principles far above personal ambitions..... and as proof of the fact that our society intends to practice true humility." (End of quotes from Bill's memo - underscoring and some punctuations, only, are added).

Do any of the facts quoted above sound familiar to us? Isn't our world outside AA, which our Co-founder describes as on a "dry bender," literally drowning now from a "wet drunk" after partaking of a heady cocktail composed of alcohol, drugs, greed, scandal and general destructive chaos? And isn't AA's affliction of "growing pains" presently one of our major problems? In the human anatomy, growing pains are often indicative of bad health. So, how shall we keep the great body of AA in good health?

We've arrived now at the aforementioned Smorgasbord or Basic Principles. The table is is laden with these "talk-turkey-facts", written for our benefits so many Thanksgivings ago. But the turkey is cold now, y'know. Some of us don't like cold turkey. So, shall we turn scowlingly away, go out and order more worldly foods to our liking, and dine at a corner table - alone? Or shall we heap our mental containers high with this cold menu for spiritual nourishment of AA; chew, swallow and digest as much of it as we can, while we meditate - together? This Chairperson is going to have a helping of everything on the table - Traditions, AA Unity, Gratitude, Humility, Togetherness. Want to Join me?....Edna McG.



If you were not among the hundreds attending the 24th SW Texas Area Conference, you missed a lot of good A.A. Fellowship.

The speakers meetings, banquet and dance were a big success and a wonderful time was had by all.

Scott L. and all his crew behind the scenes deserve a salute and big round of applause for putting together this splendid affair.

A complete report will be in next months Night Cap.

DK

(If you missed the first night of the conference, you probably are wondering what this cartoon is about. ed)

GROUP NEWSREGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 3: DOWNTOWN GROUP, Sahara Club, 809 E. Euclid. Monthly Dinner, 1 PM. Open speakers meeting, 2:15 PM.

Sunday, Nov. 17: GOLIAD GROUP, 1004 Avondale, monthly Bar-B-Q, 6 PM, followed by a meeting at 7:30. On other Sundays the meeting will be at 8:15 PM.

Sunday, Nov. 24: 24 HOUR SERVICE GROUP, 1203 Fredericksburg Rd., monthly dinner, 1 PM.

Saturday, Nov. 30: Group 12, Club 12, 102 Thames, monthly dinner, 7 PM.

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

A.A. in EAGLE PASS - meetings are Monday & Thursday nights at 8:00 PM, 849 Avenue A. Mailing address is P.O. Box 1980, Eagle Pass, Tx 78852.

(After receiving the above info, CSO received a call from a family in Carrizo Springs wanting help and literature. We were able to tell them there was A.A. in Eagle Pass, and the address. Again "the helping hand of A.A." was there when needed.)

5TH ANNUAL "BORDER BINGE"

TIME: December 1, 1974, 2 PM  
PLACE: Del Rio Civic Center, Del Rio, Tx  
SPEAKER: Jack L., Dallas Tx.

VILLA ROSA GROUP

We are planning the first and best anniversary celebration in 1975. This is our third anniversary, so circle your calendar now for January 14th. Great speakers. Great refreshments. Great fellowship.

ATTENTION BOWLERS: If you are interested in joining fellow AA members, come to the Astro Bowl at Warzbach and Austin Hwy, 2:00 PM, Sundays. We are just getting started and are looking forward to having you join us.

For further information call Bill B., 822-1519.

A friend is one before whom I may think aloud.

-Emerson

MEETING INFORMATION

The Woodlawn Heights Group, at the Residential Treatment Unit, 3551 Culebra has been closed.

The TRADITIONS GROUP, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 403 Cedarhurst (near Hwy 90 W & 410) have changed their closed meeting on the third Friday of the month to an open meeting that all may attend. The time - 8:15 PM.

GRUPO MONTANA

DATE: Thurs., Nov. 7, 1974  
TIME: 8:15 PM  
PLACE: 732 E. MOUNTAIN ST.,  
SEGUIN, TX.

PLENTY OF COFFEE - CAKE - AND FELLOWSHIP

Please come and help this smaller, bi-lingual group celebrate their FIRST ANNIVERSARY with a party they will always remember.

24-HOUR SERVICE GROUP

"Big Book" John H. is going to chair the 8:15 PM Discussion Meetings each Friday during the month of November - Traditions Month - at the 24-Hour Service Group, 1203 Fredericksburg Rd.

The editor asked me to write something about Gratitude Month. After much thought and deliberation, about things I am grateful for; I decided that perhaps many of them you wouldn't be grateful for, so I am making my own list below -

I suggest you make your own list, as gratitude surely means something different to everyone. You may use the space below for your list and if additional space is needed, more paper may be obtained from Central Service Office. DK

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE NEWSVOLUNTEERS CORNER

Thanks to those who gave a willing hand both at CSO and on the Night Cap crew: Edna McG., Art C., Marion B., Dorman K., Imogene U., Duane & Joan S., and all others who send in news items, cartoons, and the extra little goodies that help so very much in our Night Cap.

IN MEMORIAM

Wiley J, son of Gladys J. - - Sept. 27, 1974

CSO REFERRALS

Sept 20 - Oct 22, 1974

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Frost U. reports that three groups at Kelly AFB ask for and received AA speakers the past month. Those who helped to "carry the message" were, George K., Jim B., Lila S., and Paul P.

Speakers at the St Vincent de Paul Altar Society, were: Paul P. and Sue S. About 40 people attended this meeting.

Sandy L. spoke before a group at Lee High School.

H & I COMMITTEE

The Institution Committee reports that the response from our local groups & individuals has been tremendous. We are getting fingerprint cards out to these people as fast as we receive them, however, we have run into some problems in getting the fingerprints made. Hopefully by next GSR meeting we will have word on where to secure them.

The first group from this area, Sy and Herb P., attended the meeting at Central Unit, TDC, Sunday, Oct. 20. Have another group making plans for Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Clemens Unit.

Anyone interested in Institution AA., please call - Pete H. 534-8326, Charlene D. 735-3242, or your CSO, 226-2164.

The Hospital Committee is working on getting a group at the V.A. hospital, and are contacting other hospitals in the area to offer our help in starting groups, or on a one to one basis.

Call: Sandy L. 341-2925 or Bob S. 344-6171 or your CSO for further information.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE

The regular monthly meeting will be held Sunday, November 10, 1974, at 7 PM, at Club 12, 102 Thames.

This is one of the most important meetings of the year. At this meeting the GSR's will elect four new members to the Administrative Board from the membership of the Central Service Office Committee.

The new members will replace Sandy L., Bob S., Herb P., & Pat B., whose terms will expire on Dec 31, 1974. The term of office for board members is two years, and they may not succeed themselves.

ALL GROUPS: Please see that your GSR attends this meeting.

\* \* \* STARR \* \* \*  
AA's VERY FIRST Tradition is: OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON A. A. UNITY! What better way to put this Tradition into practice than to unite with us at our next monthly Southwest Texas Area Round Robin (STARR), to be held on November 10, at 8:15 PM - Club 12?

AA members will be driving over from Austin, Tx. to conduct the meeting, with LeRoy G. chairing it. We need your attendance. Won't you please take just one hour of your time, only one Sunday evening a month, and be on hand to greet and welcome our out-of-town AA guests who are willing to spend their time, money and energy in order to unite with us in the fellowship of AA. You will not only help yourself, but STARR, AA UNITY and your grateful Chairwoman -- Edna McG.

If you have announcement to make or news about your group that you would like to have us print, remember to call your group reporter - Gladys H. - 822-1958

when all else fails  
read the directions.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

So that we may continue to serve you and the alcoholic who still suffers, we will be including a statement of the groups' contributions to the Central Service Office in each monthly publication of the Night Cap. We wish to remain effective in serving and fulfill the responsibility that we feel in our hearts as sober alcoholics. There are many groups who have made contributions on a quarterly basis and will not show a contribution in the month of October; however, their contributions will be shown in the To Date figure column. For example, if a group contributed \$40.00 in March for the months of March, April, May and June, their contributions would not be shown as being made in June; however, it would be shown in the To Date figure column.

<u>MONTH</u>		<u>TO DATE</u>
March	\$40.00	\$40.00
April	0	40.00
May	0	40.00
June	0	40.00

In keeping with our legacy of service, we believe having you informed in all matters will perpetuate and insure the unity of AA for all time. Please refer any discrepancy to Dick E. 532-4528 or Sandy L. 341-2925.

Yours in AA, The Financial Committee

Dick E., Chairman

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>SEPT 1974</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>SEPT 1974</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	\$ 25.00	\$225.00	Robstown Group	0	\$ 15.00
Audubon	0	120.00	Reality	\$ 10.00	90.00
Brees	0	120.00	SASH	0	100.00
Bridge (New Braunfels)	10.00	70.00	Santa Fe	0	60.00
Broadway	15.00	113.00	Seguin Group	5.00	40.00
Downtown	0	100.00	Serenity	5.00	45.00
El Carmen	0	20.00	St Agnes	0	10.00
Frontier	20.00	115.00	Stepping Stones	37.50	75.00
Ft. Sam Houston	35.00	182.50	Sunset	0	115.00
Goliad	0	75.00	San Marcos Group	0	12.00
Group 12	50.00	450.00	The Haven	0	40.00
Harmony	0	10.00	Trinity	10.00	40.00
Highland	20.00	180.00	Twenty Four Hour Svc	8.00	14.00
Killeen Group (Killeen)	0	18.00	Grupo Unidad	5.00	5.00
Kerrville Group (Kerrville)	12.00	24.00	Unity Group (Monterrey Mex)	0	20.00
Women's Serenity Group (Kerrville)	6.00	12.00	Universal City	0	38.00
King William	5.00	10.00	Valley Hi	15.00	135.00
Laurel Heights	30.00	180.00	Villa Rosa	0	200.00
Grupo Montana (Seguin)	3.00	31.00	Wesley	0	5.00
New Braunfels	0	10.00	Windcrest	0	90.00
Northeast	0	60.00	STARR	28.30	322.40
Northwest	25.00	125.00			
Northwood	0	115.00			
Open Door	0	86.05			
Pilgrim	0	50.00			

EASY DOES IT - EASY DOES IT - EASY DOES IT - EASY DOES IT

