



# The Nightcap

THE NIGHTCAP IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
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VOL. 13

NOVEMBER 1984

NO. 11

## Saturday in S.A. with A.A. Benefit of Central Service Office

Donation \$5.00 (If you're short of funds that day - come anyway!)

Mission Room - Convention Center/ Saturday, November 3  
10:00 A.M. - Fellowship and coffee

11 A.M. -- DICK G.

Dick G. sampled AA in quite a few places before deciding to settle in Parker, Colo.

"I came into AA in Santa Barbara. Then I was in Los Angeles for a couple of years. And then in Columbus, Ohio --- there, you give your story or lead and then they critique you.

"Then Denver. And I've been here in Parker for the last 10 years."

Of moving from place to place while in the AA program, Dick said he observed a tendency to withdraw from AA when in a new place.

"At first, you wonder how the d--- fools stay sober, running the meetings differently from the way to which you were accustomed,"

2 P.M. -- BEVERLY R. (AlAnon)

Beverly R. is an English teacher turned AlAnon.

Now chairman of the English department at a Fort Worth high school, she warned, "You'd better not split an infinitive around me!"

Husband Buddy is a familiar sight at AA conventions, operating his

he said, laughing. "Then you realize that you need them, they don't need you."

With over 15 years sober in AA, Dick claims the Noon Workshop Group in Parker as his home group.

He believes that a person with a long time in the program should use a sponsor as much as a newcomer does.

"I find now that I need a sponsor more than ever," he said.

Dick teaches Sunday school and said that he enjoys tennis and cross-country skiing with his family.

His wife, who joined AlAnon after he came into AA, remains active in the program. The couple has two children.

recording equipment and providing tapes of AA speakers.

"It's a great way for me and Beverly to get to a lot of conventions," Buddy said.

The tables were turned two weeks ago when Buddy was a featured speaker at the Winners Club's first anniversary

(BEVERLY R. continued on Page 2)

and someone else was doing the taping.

Beverly joined AlAnon after Buddy had been in AA for a year.

"Mine was a classic case of denial," she recalled. "Even after Buddy came into AA and stopped drinking, I told him, 'See? I told you that you weren't an alcoholic.'"

Beverly says that she was "born, raised, wedded, and bedded" in Fort Worth.

She and Buddy have four fascinating children.

She said, "One son was a missionary in India last summer. He was an Alateen who over-reacted.

"Another son was in the International Balloon Races last summer at the World's Fair.

"Another son is an underwater photographer who was in Honduras at the time of the Sandinista takeover."

"And our daughter married a rancher and she raises horses near Eureka Springs, Arkansas."

Public speaking is very much a part of the life of Cliff R. of Oceanside..

A high school speech teacher whose students have won national championships, he laughed as he noted that "speaking in public" ranks as one of mankind's three greatest fears.

Cliff was in San Antonio just a few months ago with his El Camino High School students who were here for a speech competition.

A member of the rare breed of California natives, Cliff resides only a few blocks from the ocean and is an avid surfer.

With 15 years sober in AA, Cliff is a regular at the Friday Night Participation Group and the Carlsbad AA Workshop Group. He said some of the meetings he attends regularly draw 300 to 400 AA members.

A past delegate from his area to the General Service Conference of AA in New York, Cliff said that his wife is also involved in AlAnon service work.

Married for 35 years, the couple has five children.

Of his upcoming visit to San Antonio, Cliff expressed high hopes of finding a perfect version of Huevos Rancheros here.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES SERVING AS HOSTS SATURDAY: REPORT TO REGISTRATION DESK

What to do for lunch Saturday? There is a solution! The group will be selling sandwiches for \$1.00. A chance to get legs, take a walk in the Downtown

# The Nightcap

## REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Give up! Friends will live long. Special rates in effect...  
Subscription on...  
For each gift...  
offer applies...  
and new

## WE'LL SEND A GIFT CARD ANNOUNCING YOUR GIFT

Gift \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Apt. #)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Gift card to read "From \_\_\_\_\_"

Gift \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Apt. #)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Gift card to read "From \_\_\_\_\_"

\_\_\_\_\_ (please print)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Apt. #)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ my name.

# GSR Meeting Minutes

CLUB 12, 7 P.M. OCT. 21

Fred D. opened meeting with Serenity Prayer.

## NEW GSRS

New GSRS were introduced: Mike R. from El Libro Grande Group, Steve K. from Villa Rosa Group, Eileen G. from It's About Time Group at the County Jail (new group), Henrietta D. from the Downtown Lunch Group, and Gary M., alternate GSR from Southwest Loop Group.

## FORMALITIES

Fred explained handouts available for GSRS; Jack L. read the Central Office guidelines; Jim B. read the 12 Traditions; Janis H. read minutes of the last meeting.

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD REPORT

Central Service Office Administrative Board report was given by Al D., board chairman:

All new GSRS are asked to provide Central Office with name, address and phone number.

Jack E., financial chairman, said the Central Office registered a \$293 loss for September, about normal for that time of year.

Sylvia O., hospital and institutions chairman, noted that since Detox no longer has voluntary patients, Detox representatives have requested that no more AA meetings be brought there.

Sylvia asked that GSRS contact her if they find they cannot get anyone to take a meeting to an institution when volunteers cancel out at the last minute.

The Renaissance House has formed its own AA group, the Dakota group, and therefore no longer needs to have meetings brought there.

Rich R. asked what makes a hospital or institution eligible to have AA meetings brought to it. Al said meetings are taken mainly to nonprofit facilities that need help with meetings; other factors are also taken into consideration.

Don S., penal chairman, was absent; Carolyn P. of the penal committee said a table will be set up at the Nov. 3 conference to sign people up to take AA meetings to prisons. The fingerprints which are a required part of the application to the Texas Department of Corrections will be taken by a Sheriff's Office representative.

Carolyn said, "If you have anything outstanding, do not get fingerprinted. They will come and get you."

Public information chairman Bob W. reported visits to South San high school and the Fort Sam Houston Academy of Health Sciences; also a program on KKYX.

Editorial committee chairman Janis H. announced a special Christmas gift subscription offer for the Nightcap (discussed elsewhere in this issue.)

Mailing chairman Al M. asked GSRS to announce at their groups that Nightcap subscribers need to let Central Office know if they move; bulk mail is not forwarded.

## NOVEMBER 3 AA CONFERENCE

Jim W. said ticket sales were normal; that is, nobody will really know until after the conference. He noted Donna T. is again the star salesperson. Tickets have been distributed to GSRS; more are available.

## CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ELECTION

Nominating committee members Bob G., Donna G., and James P. have compiled a list of nominees for the four vacancies which will be filled at an election at the November GSR meeting.

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Carolyn said 100 people are needed to get a group discount on a round trip airline ticket to Montreal. CSO is taking deposits toward the \$379 fare. Refunds will be available up to a certain date. Fred encouraged early registration to get a hotel convenient to convention activities.

(MINUTES CONTINUED ON REVERSE)

GSR MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

NEW BUSINESS

Detox is no longer accepting voluntary patients. Al suggested referring medical emergencies to Medical Center Hospital. Danna G. suggested the Haven for nonmedical detoxification. Cliff said patients must now go through MHR to get into the State Hospital. Danna also suggested calling the police and having the police take drunks to detox; however, the police must arrest them for public intoxication in order for them to be eligible for the Detox unit. (SEE LETTER BELOW)

Fred D. of the Downtown Group announced that his group will be selling barbecue sandwiches for \$1 during the noon break of the Nov. 3 convention. Fred also announced that bingo is held at the Downtown Group at 8 p.m. every Saturday.

DCM REPORTS

1A -- James P. present  
1B -- DCM needed

1C -- Jack E. present  
1D -- DCM needed

1E -- Jim B. present

DISTRICT 1E REPORT

1E GSRs met on Oct. 18. District 13 (Pleasanton, Floresville, Hondo) has been incorporated into District 1E. Jim A. of the Cooperation with the Professional Community committee reported response from ministers in 1E who had received letters regarding the availability of AA's help.

AFTER-HOURS PHONE DUTY

The following groups volunteered to take calls to AA when the office is closed:

Week of Oct. 29 -- Freedom Group

Week of Nov. 12 -- Marymont Group

Week of Nov. 5 -- Valley Hi

Week of Nov. 19 -- Alamo Heights

HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTIONS MEETINGS

The following groups volunteered to take meetings to these institutions during November:

State Hospital -- Downtown Group

Casa del Sol -- El Libro Grande

Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center -- Colonies North Group

Salvation Army -- Courage and Dakota Groups

Haven -- Monday Night Men's Group

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**Bexar County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center**

434 SOUTH MAIN AVE., SUITE 400 □ SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78204 □ (512) 225-4011

Dear Sir/Madam:

Effective October 15, 1984, through December 31, 1984, the Medical Holding Unit will not be accepting voluntary admissions for detoxification from alcohol. The voluntary beds will be reserved for individuals brought to the unit by the San Antonio City Police. This action is an interim move due to the Bexar County's decision not to accept public intoxicants in the County Jail.

We expect that the closing of the voluntary wards will be a temporary situation and anticipate serving voluntary clients again at a future date. We appreciate your cooperation in not referring individuals to the Medical Holding Unit during this time.

Thank you for your assistance to our Center in the past. If you have any questions, please call Martin Garza, Substance Abuse Program Director, at 533-9156.

Sincerely,

George Farias  
Executive Director

The Importance of Belonging to an Informed Group

The first tradition states that personal recovery depends on AA unity. If you are a member who attends a lot of meetings but does not belong to a group, you may be wondering why AA doesn't seem to be working as well for you as it does for other members.

Boredom, complacency, lack of depth are problems for most alcoholics who attend meetings but don't become unified in Alcoholics Anonymous by joining and becoming an active member in an informed group.

By "informed group" I am referring to a group that holds monthly business meetings, has an active GSR, and carries the message of sobriety to the sick and suffering alcoholic.

If you don't belong to a group like this, you aren't getting the full bene-

fit of recovery available to you through AA. It is up to you -- halfway measures get no results and by looking for and becoming a part of a group of unified members of AA, you'll see the program working right within the group.

Sponsorship and recovering with a group of recovering alcoholics have been essential ingredients in my sobriety. Secure sobriety and the ability to deal with life's challenges are a result of your willingness to get involved and unified with the AA program.

Best of luck, whatever you decide -- just remember, when all else fails read the directions.

Sincerely,  
Fred D.

The Freedom Group  
Central Service Office Committee Chairman

COMICS CORNER

(New monthly feature)

This new Nightcap feature comes to you compliments of Sibyl R., who for years has been collecting comic strips relating to the lighter side of drinking to excess. Thanks, Sibyl, for treating all of us Nightcap readers to your supply of funnies.

**GRIN AND BEAR IT**

By Lichty



"... Why shouldn't I forgive you for coming home drunk from the office party? ... You don't live here!"

**DENNIS THE MENACE**



"She was a nice old baby sitter. She had a little bottle o' cough medicine, an' boy, was she ever JOLLY!"

# NOVEMBER 1984

For more information on events listed, contact sponsoring group or Central Office.

Your local A.A. special event calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 1984 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER 1984 S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3
4	5 Northwest Group 15th anniversary St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 8:15 p.m.	6  ELECTION DAY	7	8	9	10 Grupo Unidad Game night Club 12 Las Vegas Night
11  VETERANS DAY	12	13 Central Office Administrative Board meeting	14	15	16	17 Cafeteria meeting, Wyatt's, 410 & Babcock 6 p.m.
18 Goliad barbecue GSR meeting	19	20	21	22 Free Thanksgiving dinner at Club 12 and at Downtown Group  THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24 Winners potluck, birthdays
25 24-Hour Group dinner	26 Alamo Group birthdays	27 Mary- mont potluck, birthdays; Valley-Hi, Wind- crest birthdays	28 24-Hour Group, Northwood, and Park North birthdays	29	30 Group 12 birthdays; Colonies North potluck, birthdays	

A WORD FROM JEANNE W., YOUR NEW  
DISTRICT GRAPEVINE REPRESENTATIVE

By the way, are you a newcomer? Ever heard of the Grapevine? No? We thought not! Neither did we when we were new in AA. Then one day we picked up an old issue (1950) and browsed through the magazine. Then a new adventure came into sobriety.

So. . . what is the Grapevine?

The Grapevine is an international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. We'll be printing interesting tidbits about it every month -- but we'll start by asking you this:

Why should you read the Grapevine at all?

The Grapevine is one of AA's most useful tools. It carries the message to the newcomer and nurtures the older members' growth in the program. Through its pages, AAs from all over the world share personal experience in coping with troublesome things that affect our way of life.

The stories and articles reflect AA as it is right now -- the growth of AA, group activities, trends and changes in the Fellowship. There are articles by all sorts of AA members, including doctors, psychiatrists, and counselors.

Cartoons and humor in the Grapevine enhance our sobriety by helping us to laugh at ourselves.

Bill W., AA's co-founder, said, "The Grapevine is a chief means of communication among us. It is a mirror in which we view current progress and experience."

Ask your GSR or the Central Office for a subscription blank, or call me at 340-5316 and I'll send you one! Only \$8 a year or 80 cents a copy!



SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA ASSEMBLY REPORT

First, congratulations to AUSTIN AA members for their super job of hosting the assembly. The accommodations, programs and friendship were just great.

The assembly was held at the Quality Inn South on Oct. 12-14. The turnout was about average for a non-election year assembly with only 58 qualified voters present. The total number of qualified representatives in the SW TX AREA is about 300, consisting of:

263 GSRs	8 area officers
21 DCMs	8 area committee chairmen

These groups were represented: SUMMIT, WILFORD HALL, VALLEY-HI, HAVEN, MORNING AFTER, ALAMO HEIGHTS, WINNERS BIG BOOK STUDY, and SANTA FE. DCMs for 1-A and 1-E were present. A total of 24 people from San Antonio attended the assembly.

Productive workshops were held and many ideas exchanged about carrying the message.

SAN ANTONIO was selected to be the site of the ELECTION YEAR assembly in OCTOBER 1985. Plan NOW to attend. . .

THE NORTHWEST GROUP  
of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

INVITES YOU TO THEIR

15TH ANNIVERSARY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1984

ST ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6110 NW LOOP 410

OPEN SPEAKERS MEETING STARTING AT  
8:15 P.M.

ST ANDREW'S IS LOCATED ON THE ACCESS  
ROAD INSIDE THE LOOP BETWEEN INGRAM  
ROAD AND BANDERA ROAD.

PLEASE COME. YOU WILL FIND IT AN EASY  
AND ENJOYABLE WAY TO STAY SOBER.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dot S.	1 year	Don C.	9 years
B.J. R.	1 year	Bob R.	9 years
Kathy B.	1 year	Roland R.	10 years
Becci D.	2 years	Ann G.	11 years
John R.	2 years	Dave J.	11 years
Mark S.	4 years	T. H.	11 years
Tom S.	5 years	John G.	11 years
John S.	5 years	Candy R.	14 years
Susan R.	5 years	Gladys H.	16 years
Rita S.	6 years	Al D.	18 years
Toni K.	6 years	Amelia P.	20 years
Joseph C.	7 years	Sibyl R.	24 years
Joe A.	7 years	Helen M.	32 years

SERENITY GROUP

The gone-but-not-forgotten Serenity Group donated 40 Big Books to the penal institution committee, \$25 worth of literature to the public information committee, \$25 worth of literature to the Dist. 1-E CPC committee, and \$25 worth of literature to be distributed at the jail when the group folded in September.

All this in addition to a generous contribution PLUS their fine loudspeaker system PLUS the group's huge coffeemaker which they donated to the Central Office.

Farewell and thanks, Serenity Group folks!

RAMSEY ROAD GROUP FOLDS

The Ramsey Road Group which began meeting earlier this year on Sunday nights has now folded due to lack of attendance.

STATE HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 10, from 7-10 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Gene S.

Dinner with trimmings Live music

Everyone welcome -- former patients, families, friends.

Donations appreciated. Mail to:

SASH AA Group

4622 Clark Ave. Apt. 240

San Antonio, TX 78223

\* \* \* \* \*

FROM THE SEPTEMBER GRAPEVINE:

Anyone who doesn't understand why my AA meetings are so important to me has just never seen me drunk.

FORMER CSO SECRETARY DIES

Mrs. Edra B. Fessman died Oct. 22, 1984 after a lengthy illness. Her 25 years of caring and sharing proves again that the program works. Her many friends will remember her bright smile, enthusiasm, and willingness to help. We offer our sincere condolences to her husband, her family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM

Gene B., a member of the Valley-Hi Group, died of a heart attack Oct. 24, 1984.

GRUPO EL SOL NEEDS BOOKS

Members of Grupo El Sol would be most grateful for the donation of Big Books and 12&12 books. Group members will make arrangements to pick up the books at Central Office or any other convenient location. Needed are at least 10 Big Books and 6 12&12 books.

NEW GROUP

Burleson County Group meets at 8 p.m. Saturdays at First United Methodist Church, 11th and Avenue D, Somerville.

BEVERLY A. RECUPERATING

Beverly A., Southwest Loop Group GSR, is recovering from surgery.

CLUB 12 LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Saturday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. to midnight. Blackjack, keno, roulette, craps. Snacks, prizes, music, fun. Help wanted for this event -- call Melissa at 496-0907.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

As usual, both Club 12 and the Downtown Group will have free Thanksgiving dinners on Thanksgiving Day at 1 p.m. Call for more info.



103 RENNER DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

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San Antonio, Texas

PLEASE ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "NIGHTCAP"

RATE: BUCK-A-MONTH FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
103 RENNER  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

OFFICE USE ONLY

AMOUNT RECEIVED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ CASH  CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ CHARGE \_\_\_\_\_

CARD INITIATED OR UPDATED BY \_\_\_\_\_ MAILING LABEL BY \_\_\_\_\_

LAST ISSUE MO. \_\_\_\_\_ YR. \_\_\_\_\_