

NIGHT CAP

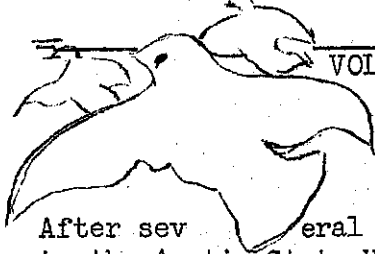
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SOBRIETY AND THE STATE HOSPITALS

After several years of problem drinking and drug taking, I was committed to the Austin State Hospital for a period of three-plus months of intensive psycho retraining (my husband and a life-long friend and soon to-be sponsor in A.A. had a strong desire that I get sober). The alcoholic ward was not the Ritz, but I must say it seemed a step up for the degraded total mess of a person I had become because of alcohol.

One of my earliest memories while there was seeing a plaque hanging on the wall: "But for the grace of God". Somehow, for the first time in a long time I felt safe. I learned a little about myself by listening to others; and that I was not responsible for the terrible things I had done because I had a disease. I returned to the outside world and A.A. convinced me that my life would be O.K. now. However, in 1969 after two weeks of taking a "non-habit forming" drug, I was like a zombie. It was at this time, after extensive and unsuccessful examination and treatment (more drugs) by some of this city's finest in the medical profession, I found myself once more at the gates of a state hospital, this time SASH. Once again here was that same plaque on the wall, "But for the grace of God". I wonder if the Higher Power was trying to tell me something? I think so.

Here was the same help, love, and understanding that I had found at Austin, from people like Libby V., Dr. Gene S. and the patients on the alcoholic ward. One night a week people in A.A. in San Antonio came out and shared their experiences, strength and hope so that I too might recover. I will never forget those who stopped by to say "Hi", or shake my hand. For this reason I still go back out to San Antonio's "school of hard knocks", sometimes to share, sometimes just to listen and remember how it was, what happened, and how beautiful it is now.

- Jerri McC. -

* * * ALAMO HEIGHTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY * * *

On Monday night, October 18th, 1976, the Alamo Heights Group will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of its first meeting. Its members extend to all an invitation to help celebrate this milestone.

The meeting place is St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located at Devine Road and Corona, just north of Olmos Park, the location of the first meeting twenty years ago. This first meeting was instigated by the then Rector of St. Luke's Church with the help of "Doc" Biles, secretary of the Central Service Office and a few A.A. members and non A.A. friends. Although an Open Discussion Group was planned and has been the format, the first meeting October 1956 was a speaker's meeting attended by approximately thirty members from Group 12, Olmos, and other groups.

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ALAMO HEIGHTS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY (CONT'D)

The first big celebration of its' founding was held in 1959 and was a public meeting with over 200 present. Every year since then the anniversary meeting has been a Speaker's Meeting with lots of food and fellowship.

The invocation will be given by the Reverend Robert Mikol, Assistant Rector of St. Luke's Church. Paul S. and Helen M., both of San Antonio, will speak.

REMEMBER THE DATE: OCTOBER 18TH, 1976

REMEMBER THE TIME: 8:15 P.M.

REMEMBER THE PLACE: ST. LUKES' CHURCH BASEMENT

AND MOST OF ALL, REMEMBER THE

REASON: 20 YEARS OF CARRYING THE MESSAGE !!!

* * * WISDOM IS KNOWING WHAT TO DO . . . SKILL IS KNOWING HOW TO DO IT . . .

VIRTUE IS DOING IT* * *

STRUCTURAL CLARIFICATION FOR CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE

The Central Service Office Committee voted that notice be given to all group GSR's via this publication that an amendment to the Service Structure and Procedures of the Central Service Office By-Law change be taken up at the Central Service Office Committee Meeting in November 1976.

The parts of the Service Structure involved will be paragraph 6 and 7 and are quoted as follows:

"6. Official Board Action may be taken only at its meetings where at least 50 percent of its voting membership is present. Proxies may not be voted at Board meetings.

7. This Service Structure and these Procedures may be altered or amended by an affirmative vote of at least 75 percent of the members of the Central Service Office Committee present at a regular or called meeting of such Committee; provided at least 25 groups domiciled in the Southwest Texas Area shall have been apprised of the exact nature of any proposed alteration or amendment, either in writing or by announcement at its regular monthly meeting at least 30 days prior to final action thereon. For the provisions of this paragraph, no proxies may be accepted as representation or voted. Accepted and ratified by the Central Service Office Committee on December 10th, 1972 and, as amended, on October 13th, 1974."

The reason for suggesting this amendment is to change the requirements for eligibility of any board member for reelection to succeed himself from serving six months of an unexpired term to twelve months of an unexpired term, thereby giving more stability to the Central Service Board.

In accordance with paragraph 7, this is your group's notice of such meeting. The presence of all GSRs is urgently required at this meeting in order that we may have a quorum. In addition to the above there is a need for clarification as to who is qualified to occupy a board position.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA

At a called District meeting held in Del Rio, Sunday afternoon, August 29th, 1976, an election was held to replace Andy A., who resigned as District Committee Member, District 11.

Elected to fill Andy's unexpired term as District Committee Member was William "Mac" L. of Uvalde, Texas. Elected as Alternate District Committee Member was Sue B. of Del Rio, Texas. Their terms of office will terminate December 31st, 1977.

Many are indebted to Andy for his faithful and dedicated service to his District and to the Area.

AREA WORKSHOP

A workshop for District Committee Members in the Southwest Texas Conference Area was held at Club 12 in San Antonio, September 11th, 1976.

The agenda included a session on the Duties and Responsibilities of District Committee Members; Review of District Committee Members Reports to Conferences; District Activities for the Area; The Delegates Session; a Report on the Redistricting of the Conference Area and a Sharing Session.

Representatives from ten of the fifteen Districts were present - in addition to numerous General Service Representatives and AA members. Total attendance was thirty two.

Active discussion and participation indicated a healthy interest and enthusiasm among groups represented.

- Margaret H. -
Alternate Area Chairman

CONVENTIONS

Conventions galore are coming up to spice your fall and winter months. (Don't forget our own Southwest Area Conference to be October, 7th - 10th at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville Texas.)

29TH ANNUAL TOP O' TEXAS ROUND UP

The Top O' Texas Round Up will be held Oct. 8th - 10th at the Hilton Inn in Amarillo, Texas.

This year the Northwest Texas Area presents the "Golden Spread AA - Alanon Workshop" to lead off its program. Subjects include: "We're on the Move", "I'll Listen", and "The Ties That Bind Us".

Reservations can be made by calling the Inn (I - 40 East and Lakeside) Area Code: 806/ 373 - 3071, or writing: P.O. Box 9294, Amarillo, Texas 79105.

THE 15TH ANNUAL HAWAII AA CONFERENCE

How about spending a few fall days basking in the glorious Hawaii sun, and all that equally warm AA friendliness! If that sounds like a quick "perk-me-up" try this: The 15th Annual Hawaii Conference will be held November 5th - 7th in the Pacific Ballroom at the beautiful Ilikai Hotel, Waikiki.

A high point at the Conference will be the appearance of Father Royce, An Alanon who is personally and Professionally a friend of AA's and their

(Cont'd)

CONVENTIONS (CONT'D)

Families. Now Director of Alcohol Studies at Seattle University, he has been the friend and confidant of Bill and Lois W., and of Dr. Bob.

The Conference fee is \$ 26.00, and should be mailed to: Conference, P.O. Box 6456, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. (This fee includes a Saturday evening brunch, as well as all meetings.)

Individual travel arrangements may be made through: Kahala Travel, 4211 Waiialae Ave. at Kahala Mall, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 (808/ 734 -0271.)

Group tours may be arranged through: Pat Hogan, Studio City Travel, 12192 1/2 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Calif. 91604.

BORDER CONFERENCE - FIESTA DE AMISTAD

- No Tequila pera mucho cafe ! Also soft strumming guitars, and a lot of lively Latin hospitality are all to be had at the Border Conference, December 3rd - 5th. All meetings will be held in the Roswell Hotel, Del Rio, Texas.

Andy A.. is planning a fine roster of speakers, and you can dance into the dawn on Saturday. "This is our chance to give back some of what we have received from you."

For early registrations you may write Andy at: Box 1442, Del Rio, Texas 78840 or: Border Conference, same address. We'll keep you posted as more news arrives, but put a big red check mark on your calendars right now !

"I AM RESPONSIBLE

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. An for this

I AM RESPONSIBLE. "

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE:CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify the Central Service Office (226 - 2164) of any change of address, the name of your group, the name of the GSR or any other information pertinent to mailing, so that the "Night Cap" will reach the proper person at the correct address.

By the way, if you do not receive your "Night Cap" - and are not in arrears - call the Central Service Office. We have found, in the past, that the Post Office Departments somewhat overzealous sorting machine occasionally shreds periodicals into confetti. The Central Service Office will be glad to send you another - but look around first to see that it's not been jettisoned with the "junk mail", or gnawed to bits by "Bowser" before calling. Thanks°

STAT'S: AUGUST, 1976

AA	111
Alanon	19
PIC	2
Students	4

* * *

When you're in need of good gifts for that special AA birthday, remember to drop into your Central Service to look over a fine selection of jewelry and books - something for everyone!

The C.S.O. now has "The 24 Hour Book" in Spanish (\$3.00), and a new supply of "Search For Serenity" (\$.40). There are still plenty of copies of the "Bill W." biography for \$8.50. This is a book you'll want to own, and this is a considerable saving over the book dealer's price. There are also handsome parchments suitable for framing of the "Last Messages" of Bill W., and Dr. Bob. That's a thought for your group or clubs' anniversary. Check it out !

IN MEMORIAM

Roy M. - August, 1976
 Our sympathy to Roy's lovely wife, Mary Lou, and all his family and the many friends he made through his long years of service in AA.

AROUND THE AREA*Brees Groups' 4th Anniversary *

The Brees Group will celebrate their 4th Birthday on October 28th, 8:15 p.m. with an Open Speaker's Meeting featuring an AA and an Alanon, followed by all the usual good food, fun and frivolity that always marks this as one of the happiest ways to celebrate "Great - Pumpkin-Tide" !

BUT - this year they will be celebrating in new digs! Effective September 23rd the Brees Group move to the Alamo Heights Methodist Church at 5101 Broadway. So grab up you goblins and head over - you'll find the same delightful group of people in an all-new - setting. Don't forget the Party - and don't forget the new location! (Plenty of parking space available at the Poco Stnget. entrance,) I'll be looking' for ya! Marymont Group!

A note from "Dry " Doc at the Marymont Group meets every Tuesday evening at 8:15 p.m. at the Church of The Reconciliation (Starcrest and Barrington), and they'd love to have all Alanons come and share with them.

A new group is now meeting at the "HOW " Rehabilitation Center on Saturday evenings at 8:15 p.m., 815 East Grayson Street. The group holds a 1st Step meeting, and is much in need of Area AA's to help it get going - you can help it along - just bring yourself, a big smile, and a happy "Hi"!

The Goliad Group; A new Open Alanon meeting will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with that groups monthly barbeque. Other Alanon meetings are held on Thursday and Saturday evenings at 8:15 p.m.

This months barbeque will be held on October 17th at 6 p.m. (1004 Avondale) followed by the usual Open Speaker's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Club 12: Party Night will be held Saturday, October 30th. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. \$2.00 for adults and \$1.25 for children.

The 24 Hour Service Group: 203 Fredricksburg Road will hold their monthly dinner Sunday the 31st of October at 1 p.m. Adults: \$2.00 and children \$1.25.

The STARR (Intergroup) meeting will be held at Club 12, 102 Thames, on Sunday evening, October 10th. Speakers come from all 'round the area for these lively meetings, and it's a fine way to see old friends - and make new ones.

ONE DAY AT A TIME

The 1977 "Grapevine" Calendars are ready now. The calendar which opens to 10" by 15" are excellent gifts for AA anniversaries, birthdays, and especially Christmas.

These calendars display a different black - and - white photograph for each month with twelve inspiring, thoughtful quotations in harmony with our AA way of life. And there's plenty of space to jot reminders.

To order your calendars make checks or money orders - (\$2.00 per calendar) payable to: " The Grapevine ", Inc., and mail to: P. O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, ; New York, N.Y. 10017 (Calendar price is \$1.50 for groups ordering 25 or more.)

FINANCIAL CORNER

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

GROUP	SEPT.	TO DATE	GROUP	SEPT.	TO DATE
Alamo Heights	\$15.00	\$135.00	Northeast	\$10.00	\$90.00
Audubon	10.00	90.00	Northwest	25.00	225.00
Bethany (Killeen)	-0-	3.00	Northwood	-0-	135.00
Boerne	-0-	15.00	Pilgrim	-0-	9.00
Brees	10.00	105.00	Portland	-0-	-0-
Bridge (N Brnfels)	10.00	90.00	Realty	10.00	90.00
Broadway	-0-	80.00	Reliance	20.00	40.00
Court House (Brnsvle)	-0-	11.00	San Pedro	-0-	70.00
Downtown	35.00	60.00	San Marcus	-0-	10.00
Feel Free (Lockhart)	-0-	-0-	SASH	-0-	10.00
Floresville	-0-	-0-	Sante Fe	-0-	75.00
Ft. Sam Houston	20.00	270.00	St. Agnes	-0-	5.00
Frontier	20.00	180.00	Seguin	5.00	45.00
Goliad	-0-	90.00	Serenity	10.00	90.00
Group 12	-0-	350.00	Sharing	-0-	-0-
Guidance	10.00	70.00	STARR	-0-	196.35
Grupo Esperanza	3.00	6.00	Stepping Stones	60.00	180.00
Happy Hour	-0-	-0-	Sunset	45.00	120.00
Harmony	-0-	-0-	The Haven	-0-	25.00
Highlands	20.00	180.00	Trinty	10.00	40.00
Hill Country	-0-	20.00	Twenty Four Hour	10.00	100.00
Hope	-0-	10.00	Grupo Unidad	-0-	30.00
Kerrville	-0-	50.00	Universal City	10.00	40.00
Women's Serenity (Kerrville)	-0-	36.00			
Killeen	-0-	3.00	Unity Group (Monterrey, Mexico)	-0-	40.00
Laurel Heights	15.00	100.00	Valley Hi	-0-	120.00
Lytle	-0-	10.00	V.A. Hospital	30.00	95.00
Luling	11.00	50.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	225.00
Mary Mont	-0-	60.00	Wesley	-0-	10.00
Grupo Montana	-0-	16.00	Windcrest	30.00	150.00
Seguin					
New Braunfels	-0-	-0-	Woodlawn Heights	-0-	30.00
NAS Hospital	-0-	15.00			
Corpus Christi					