



# Sobriety Variety



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## **Easy Does It, but Do It**

I walked into the meeting late. I had missed my bus stop. No excuses. The battery in my MP3 player had died and while I was fiddling with it, I missed my stop. I wasn't focussed enough or maybe I was too focussed. I was focussed on myself and my problems, not thinking how important my trip was. I was not going to a regular AA meeting. I was the leader of the meeting and since the AA meeting is at the county jail, the meeting could not start without me. If I didn't show up on time, they would cancel the meeting for that week and send the inmates back to their cells (or more likely to a holding area to spend a couple of hours twiddling their thumbs).

This week my Higher Power was with me. Jim L. showed up early to take the guys while they waited for me to show up. I wasn't expecting Jim, but there he was like a saving angel. I was grateful and I learned a lesson... catch an earlier bus so that when little things go wrong, they don't turn into big things. But I have learned other lessons recently.

My air conditioner blew up. I flipped the breaker and sparks flew. I was OK, but when the AC guy showed up to fix it, he gave me some good advice: a little maintenance now will prevent a big problem later. He showed me a developing problem and offered to fix it for \$150 or so. But I thought, "How hard can this be? I can do it myself." And I was right. I could do it myself, if only I would take a few minutes to do it, less than an hour of work. But no. I was too tired right then. I could put it off for a day or two.

A few days later I noticed something wrong with my kitchen ceiling. I decided to ignore it. Later, my wife found water on the kitchen floor and pointed out that part of the ceiling was coming down. It was raining in my kitchen. The AC guy was right. Sure. I had listened to him. I had agreed that his advice was good and I was sure that I could do the work myself. Easily. I just hadn't done it, and now it was raining in my kitchen. My Higher

Power was sending me a message.

Easy does it, but do it... before it rains.

My sobriety is contingent on daily maintenance. It takes a little work from me, so that little things in my life don't turn into excuses for drinking. I go to meetings, read the Big Book, work with others, but maintenance means more than that. It means maintaining contact with my Higher Power.

Why does contact with my Higher Power need regular maintenance? Can't I just call upon Him when I am in trouble? I remember this one quote my sponsor rammed into me:

"Once more: The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink. Except in a few rare cases, neither he nor any other human being can provide such a defense. His defense must come from a Higher Power." *Alcoholics Anonymous, page 43.*

I can take advice. I can "Put the plug in the jug", "Think, think, think," and "Easy does it" all I want, but when it comes right down to it, there are times when I am defenseless. At those times I cannot think of an effective defense against the first drink,. I am not thinking at all. That is when I depend upon contact with my Higher Power. That is what the

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maintenance is for, that one time when I am not thinking.

If I am maintaining contact with my Higher Power, doing those things that my program tells me to do, when the time comes, the danger will pass me by. I will feel it whisk by me like a high-speed car turning a corner just as I am about to step off the curb. For some unknown reason, unknown even by me, I will hesitate. I will not step off that curb, and as the car speeds on, I will realize how close a thing it was. What might have happened had I not heard a small voice? Something. What was it? I stopped to listen and the danger passed me by.

My life is dependent on a Higher Power, a Power that I don't always understand, but one thing is for sure. It's not me.

I am anonymous in keeping with the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous but since you must call me something, call me Israel, the one who struggles to understand a Power greater than himself.



## Monthly Meetings at Intergroup

- *Treatment Facilities Committee*, 1st Monday at 7:00 PM
- *Correctional Facilities Committee*, 1st Monday at 7:00 PM
- *Intergroup Reps*, 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM
- *Grapevine Committee*, 2nd

## Sign Up Now!!!!



Answer the Intergroup *HOTLINE* phones from your home (or cell phone)\*

One night per quarter - 7:00 PM to 8:00 AM

**OR**

Sat. or Sun. day time - 8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

Sat. or Sun. night time - 7:00 PM TO 8:00 AM

\*Calls will be forwarded to your phone from the Intergroup office.

The service commitment is one night per quarter (every three months).

Requirements for this valuable service work are:

- 1) Six (6) months of continuous sobriety
- 2) Have taken AA's Twelve Steps
- 3) Familiar with the seventh chapter of the Big Book
- 4) Willing to make the above commitment for one (1) Year

**ALSO**

Work the phone desk at the Intergroup Office

Three hour shift between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM., M-F

Call Clint Ritter at (512)448-9017

From 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday at 2:00 PM

- *Board of Trustees*, 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM



## AA History

### How the first copies of Bill's writing were duplicated

Question: I cannot recall right now where I read the story of getting the copies ready [of the Big Book] for initial distribution for comment ...but, the word was "mimeograph", not "multilith". I was living in that

period and for small organizations the only method was "mimeograph" which used a typewritten master which was placed on a drum containing ink which came through the letters partially cut by the typewriter. It was often rather messy on your hands and cleanup of the machine after each job was laborious. However.. it was cheap and effective. Considering the paucity of finances, it makes good sense that the copies were done right in AA headquarters and not sent to any "printing company" where "multilith" could be used.

Can anyone clarify, perhaps from archives about billing for the work

## October Volunteers at Intergroup

### Office:

Roland P.

Herb

Jorge V.

John B.

Monica

Robert G.

Javier

Jeffrey M.

Joan H.

Phil

Gene C.

Chris F.

Ian M.

Marty C.

"Pete" the guy

John P.

### Hotline:

Karen K.

Laney B.

Barb S.

Bosco

James B.

Randy R.

Joe/Suzanne

"Pete" the guy

Roland P.

Marty C.

Jeff P.

Dave E.

Dave H.

Nick H.

Mark L.

Chris F.

Danny S.

Dennis/Deanie

Bob J.

John B.

Connie/Mike

Barb H.

Mike R.

Stewart G.

Laurie W.

Kelly F.

Lee A.

Jeff P.

Tom K.

Jenny P.

Carol M.

Gary B.

Keith F.

Will C.

Linda/Mike

Darrius R.

Jeff K.

Jerry T.

Tom B.

Chris S.

done FOLLOWING the office effort?

Les C.

### Response to Les

There was a list of all assets in office 604 at 17 William Street prepared before the 1940 move to Vesey Street. At no time before the first printing did AA own any copying device. The referrals to "Multilith" were made by Bill W. and Ruth Hock. Frank Amos referred to it as a "photolith". See the letter I posted a short time ago. I've never seen any referent to the copies originating from a "mimeograph" until a few days ago on this site

[[AAHistoryLovers@yahoo.com](mailto:AAHistoryLovers@yahoo.com)]. I don't know if the term "mimeograph" was a brand name but I do know I used it as a generic term when I was in grade school. I posted reference to the multilith's existence and have witnessed Ruth's concurrent reference using the term multilith.

There also was no AA office in early 1939. It was the office of Henry G. Parkhurst, Inc. which legally didn't

exist for want of registration. I located both office 601 and 604 in the building in Newark. If there were a desk, a chair and a lamp in that office it would be difficult to squeeze more than 2 people in there. I made measurements of this office and placed it in NJ Archives along with the glass pane with the 604 painted on it. (As a side note the desk in Bill's study which is a separate building behind the main house at Stepping Stones was represented as the original desk at William Street. While this huge desk would have fit in 601 it would not have fit in 604.

There is a couch at the GSO Archives that the same is said about. Unless they stood on it it was probably was also

## Recovery Jones



*Thinking sobriety through.*

<http://www.recoveryjonescartoons.com/>

not in 604.

All of the "inventorized" items in the

## October, 2005 Donations From Area AA Groups

Northland - \$271	Keep 1 <sup>st</sup> Things 1 <sup>st</sup> - \$234	Lakeway (Emmaus) - \$50
Turning Point - \$288	Legacies (Bastrop) - \$10	Four Points - \$20
Western Trails - \$125	Hilltop - \$200	New Life (Shoal Creek) - \$1,197
Elgin - \$15	Wed. Rush Hour - \$50	<b>Total: \$4487.00</b>
Bridge to Shore - \$475	NA 24 - \$50	
Fri. Nite (Austin) - \$50	Firemakers - \$147	
Desire to Stop - \$232	Dry Creek - \$30	
New Beginnings - \$81	Lake Travis Serenity - \$150	
Friday Nite Alive - \$107	East Austin- \$50	
Basic Text - \$40	Westlake - \$500	
Fresh Start - \$20	Kyle - \$25	
Allandale - \$40	Into Action (Lockhart) - \$30	

office were not moved to Vesey Street. Some were stored in the Montclair house of a friend of Kathleen P. Specific reference along with the exact address is on a simultaneously executed document in GSO Archives. That's one stone I have not yet looked under. These few items could still be in that house. There is the practical matter of respecting the privacy of the present owner. When our State Archives Committee swooped down on Hank's North Fullerton, Montclair NJ home for recon photographing the terrified occupants were peering out at all the cameras and were quite concerned as to what was happening. As a committee we learned from that experience.

It would be very important to identify exactly where you saw the word mimeograph. Was it a document written in 1939 or in a book written years later? There are an almost infinite number of misrepresentations in later history's. Some are minor and some are major. Such a reference would most likely

be accidental but nonetheless these things are recited as fact when they are not. This is why stating one's source is so critical to prevent further alteration and distortion.

MM

From the AA History Lovers Group on Yahoo.com

### HCIA Birthday Club – New Members October 2005

John P. - NA 24  
Becky D. – There is a Solution  
Brent D. – Central  
Irma L. – Four Points



### Contact us

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