



Sobriety Variety Pages

Volume 7 / Issue 8

August 2007

Hill Country Intergroup

long form of tradition eight

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such services may be well compensated. But our usual A.A. “12 Step” work is never to be paid for.

step eight

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Now we need more action, without which we find that “Faith without works is dead.” Let’s look at *Steps Eight and Nine*. We have a list of all persons we had harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory. We subjected ourselves to a drastic self-appraisal. Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven’t the will to do this, we ask until it comes. Remember it was agreed at the beginning *we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol*.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership: we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution: does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

note from the editor

Hill Country Intergroup carries the message on behalf of 48 cities in the central Texas area. HCI provides conference approved literature for sale in the office. It also maintains a utilitarian website that includes group schedules & local A.A. announcements. Perhaps the most important function of HCI is the phone answering service manned completely by volunteers, in & out of the office, around the clock. Sobriety Variety Pages is your link to Hill Country Intergroup & yet another way to carry the message.

Please read this copy & pass it on to another alcoholic. Get involved! HCI utilizes volunteers & group donations to continue to serve our growing geographical area. To contribute to Sobriety Variety Pages email sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org. To volunteer at Hill Country Intergroup call the office or visit the website for more information.

I extend my gratitude to Greg for volunteering to write a newcomer blog. In this issue and those to come you will be able to follow his experience as a new member of A.A.

Yours in Service,
The Editor

service concept VIII

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

HILL COUNTRY INTERGROUP NEEDS YOU,
THREE WAYS TO BE OF SERVICE FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:
ANSWER THE HOTLINE PHONE FROM YOUR HOME OR CELL PHONE AFTER OFFICE HOURS & ON THE WEEKENDS
PUT YOUR NAME ON THE 12 STEP CALL LIST
SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE

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.**

donations to HCI

Lakeview (Lago Vista) - \$75
 Westlake—\$350
 Hilltoppers—\$100
 Northland—\$699
 Into Action (Lockhart) - \$60
 Kempner—\$28
 Turning Point—\$172
 Desire To Stop—\$86
 Dry Creek—\$48
 Bouldin—\$200
 Firemakers—\$300
 Bluebonnet—\$97
 Bridge To Shore—\$455
 Allandale—\$118
 Keep 1st Things 1st—\$176
 Stoney Point—\$25

North Austin 24—\$50
 Eligin—\$10
 Sat AM Serenity—\$52
 Lighthouse—\$200
 New Life—\$1,000
 Primary Purpose (Cedar Park) - \$70
 Started in Service—\$17
 Primary Purpose (Austin) - \$95
 Being Convinced—\$4
 2nd Chance (Buda) —\$15
 Sisters In Sobriety (Marble Falls) - \$17
 Fri. Nite Alive (Buchanan Dam) - \$36
 Four Points—\$80

Miracles—\$200
 Central—\$50
 New Beginnings—\$55
 Sunday Steps—\$8
 Living Faith—\$75
 Austin City-Wide Group—\$100
 Gattis School Road—\$24
 Lost Pines (Bastrop) - \$66
 Basic Text (Georgetown) - \$20

birthday club

Join HCI's birthday club or give it as a gift.

To become a birthday club member or to donate in honor of someone's sobriety birthday just fill out the form from HCI and add a suggested donation of \$1.00 for every year of the recipients sobriety. The birthday celebrant will receive a birthday club card and a mention here!

New HCI birthday club members are:

Gary B.—30 years

Kandi A.—New Beginnings—12 years

HCI volunteers

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| In Office | Mary L. | Randy K. | Todd S. | Mike M. | Paul B. |
| Ricardo | Leslie Ann D. | Karin D. | Pam R. | Kathy L. | NA24 |
| Michele B. | Michael C. | Pam M. | Jamie D. | James B. | Gary B. |
| Billy C. | John P. | Robert C. | Patrick C. | Dave H. | Chris B. |
| Marty C. | Kevin B. | Hotline | Ann T. | Dave E. | Chris W. |
| Casey C. | Marla K. | Jim B. | Danny / Tonya | Jeremy B. | Mike C. |
| Rachel Z. | Roland P. | John C. | Dave K. | Ed B. | Chris F. |
| Pam R. | Rolando P. | Laney H. | Barb H. | Jim H. | Alex H. |
| Heather W. | Phyllis M. | Karen M. | Carlos A. | Harlan O. | Erick |
| Gene C. | Steve H. | Craig W. | Mark W. | Adrianne | Ian M. |
| Dennis "Pete" P. | Norma | Leslie / Kelley | Deb J. | Patty T. | Tom K. |

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members.

new comer blog

My name is Greg and I am an alcoholic. I have been asked to chronicle my walk through the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous on my journey to recovery. I pray that over the course of the next twelve months I write something that helps strengthen you in your journey. I am convinced that by simply sharing my journey with you it will help me.

I am the alcoholic described so clearly on page 21 and 22 of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. I have tried every experiment listed on page 31 and failed. I even sought religious and medical treatments for my dilemma. Following the failure of every attempt to will liquor out of my life, I succumbed to my illness and began to accept the certain death that loomed ahead for me. I even prayed for it. My friends gave up on me long ago. My wife didn't know how to deal with me, my children were afraid of me and they finally gave up on me as well. I was despondent and really didn't have enough left emotionally to care about the annihilation going on in my life. I was living with my father and was literally one drunk away from being on the street; he was ready to cut me loose. Then something wonderful happened, I hit bottom on the morning of May 20th 2007.

"I was being encouraged out of the darkness by strangers who were quickly becoming the best friends I had ever had."

I had finally reached the point that was going to be necessary for any program of recovery to work. I completely surrendered. I had known for some time that I could not manage my own life.

It had been years since I had actually paid a bill or conformed to any other norm of society. I simply couldn't admit that I was truly powerless which made me unable to seek help from others. When this last obstacle was removed I immediately checked myself into a treatment program where I was willing to do whatever they recommended. I was as malleable as clay in the sculptor's hands. I was willing and was told that I needed to keep an open mind and no matter what be honest.

The act of giving up my power was actually very liberating. I struggled with urges everyday but would repeat the phrase "Thy will be done" which I had been taught to help me through these cravings, and it seemed to work. I struggled through post acute withdrawal symptoms and still refused to drink on a daily basis. I was being encouraged out of the darkness by strangers who were quickly becoming the best friends I had ever had. The haze in my brain began to clear and I realized I no longer wanted to die. I wanted to live and would do anything for another chance at life. I was taught about the importance of nutrition, exercise, and other simple things that most people seem to understand at a young age. For me it all seemed new. I completed my first step formally later with a sponsor who had me document all of the areas of my life that had become unmanageable. He also wanted a list of all of the examples of how I was powerless over alcohol. This exercise was very constructive as it forced me to start using my mind as a tool of evaluation. It required me to use my critical thinking skills against my disease. I can now freely admit to myself that I am powerless over alcohol and my life had become unmanageable.

contest for step 9

Share your step 9
experience,
strength &
hope
in Sobriety Variety Pages.

&

Win a book from the HCI
store.

Entry information is on
the next page.

HCI open house story

The open house event held July 28th at Hill Country Intergroup's new office space, located on Fortview Road near Manchaca and Ben White, was well attended. Intergroup moved June 1st of this year from Lamar Square where the office was located for the past nine years. Fantastic Bar-B-Que and snacks were provided for the open house. Visitors mingled with each other inside and outside the office. Fellowship was shared by many alcoholics from area groups.

Thank you to everyone who attended. A special thanks to each person who organized and executed the event.

Hill Country Intergroup office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00pm. You are welcome to stop by for area schedules, A.A. literature or just to see the new office. A variety of service work opportunities are also available. Drop by and ask how you can get involved in 12 step work today!

entry guidelines for step 9 short story

Sobriety Variety Pages is accepting short story entries for publication in the September issue. Your story should be no more than one page and include your experience, strength & hope as it relates to your 9th step amends. The chosen story will appear in next months issue & the author will receive a book of their choice from the HCI store.

To be considered for publication, entries must be received by August 27th.

Include contact information so the editor can reach you regarding your entry.

email your entry to:

sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org

or mail to:

Sobriety Variety Pages
c/o Hill Country Intergroup
1825 Fortview Road No. 104
Austin, Texas 78704



"If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, but can't—that's our business."

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...
512.444.0071

...
www.austinaa.org

Sobriety Variety Pages

sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org

Found in the newsletter link at

www.austinaa.org

Newcomer Word Find

E C N A N I T S B A T U D N Y
B T F T F D E H A R N Y E O I
G C N E R C E N S M H T M I N
T N A E I A O S A C M E O T V
G R I V M N D N I S B I R A E
C N R N Y T A I S R E R A T N
U E I M E G N E T L E B L I T
S N O T E K L E B I Z O I D O
C U I A E R A M S K O S Z E R
S R B T E E U W V E D N A M Y
Y L M W Y H M J A U R G T Y E
E B O A L C O H O L I C I V M
V P L A U T I R I P S H O Q S
S E R E N I T Y H Y T I N A S
M R U Y R E V O C E R P N P I

ABSTINANCE
ALCOHOLIC
ANONYMOUS
AWAKENING
CHIP
DEMORALIZATION
DESIRE
FEAR
HUMBLE
INVENTORY
MEDITATION
MEETING
POWERLESS
RECOVERY
RESENTMENT
SANITY
SERENITY
SERVICE
SOBRIETY
SPIRITUAL
TRADITION
UNITY
UNMANAGEABLE