



Step, Tradition & Concept II

Step II

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition II

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept II

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

A.A.'s Primary Purpose

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 AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA 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.

Letter from the editor

Thank you for getting this months issue of Sobriety Variety Pages. Please carry this message to your friends in sobriety. You can add your name to the email list for this publication by dropping a line to sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org.

To find AA events in our area refer to Hill Country Intergroup's website, www.austinaa.org.

Supporting HCI is a great way to be of service. A big thanks to all the volunteers that have worked in and out of the office answering the phone lines last month. Monetary contributions from groups are listed in this publication each month. To learn more about supporting AA financially ask for the pamphlet "Where Money and Spirituality Mix" at the HCI office. You can also learn about becoming a Birthday Club member, a card carrying supporter!

Get involved today!

Yours in Service,
the editor

Obituary

Glen C. of the North Austin 24 Hour Group passed away January 18th, 2008.

Born in Lotton, OK he lived in Corpus Christie before moving to Austin, TX. At 63 years of age he had celebrated 32 years of sobriety among his friends in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Glen was fortunate to be of service to fellow alcoholics throughout his sobriety. Among his service he assisted in taping Joe and Charlie for the first time. His funeral services was well attended by A.A. men who had been served by him.

Contributions to HCI

Buda Big Book - \$40	Buchanan Dam Brown Bag - \$30	Last House on the Block - \$69
Desire to Stop - \$116	Western Trails - \$210	Sat AM Serenity - \$73
Power Hour - \$25	Started in Service - \$13	Being Convinced - \$213
Kempner - \$31	Elgin - \$10	Sisters in Sobriety (Marble Falls) - \$23
Sunday Morning Sidewalk - \$20	Renegade Ducks - \$25	North 183 - \$175
Friday Night (Bastrop) - \$53	Seniors - \$27	Happy Hour - \$50
Primary Purpose (Cedar Park) - \$166	Keep 1 st Things 1 st - \$87	East Austin - \$90
Austin City-Wide Group - \$100	Bridge to Shore - \$740	Central - \$150
Northland - \$191	Northland - \$969	total = \$5,439
1313 - \$209	Coming Home - \$20	
Into Action (Lockhart) - \$30	Things Are Looking Up - \$172	
Dripping Springs - \$320	New Beginnings - \$63	
Lighthouse - \$100	Firemakers - \$250	
	Miracles - \$ \$200	
	Allandale - \$187	
	Liars Club South - \$172	
	East Austin - \$20	

Ask how to become a Birthday Club member or how to give a membership as a gift.

HCI Birthday Club

Congratulations to the newest HCI Birthday Club Member:

Tracy L. - Westlake - 18 years

January HCI Volunteers

Office:

Billy C.; Claire P.; Tom B.; Janet H.; Mike M.; "Pete"; Mary L.; Paul M.; John B.; Sandy R.; Rolando P.; Karen D.; Kevin B.; Marty C.; Gisela F.; Marla K.; Leslie Ann D.; Courtney W.; John H.; Jack D.; Will F.; Pam R.; Toss S.

Hotline:

Jim H.; Maia M.; Dave.; Kevin M.; Darrin A.; Anne R.; Shawn; Chris W.; Lee A.; Dennis/Deanie; "Pete"; Myra H.; Jerry T.; Nancy N.; Darren A.; Gary B.; Deb J.; Joe McF.; Kathy L.; Harlan O.; Robert G.; John G.; Tammy D.; Tom K.; Pam M.;

Carrie L.; Karin S.; Bob J.; Gunnar S.; Drew W.; Craig W.; Steve M.

6th Annual **Old Timer's Banquet**

Honoring All AA Old Timers (25 years or more)
In the Greater Austin Area

Saturday, May 10th, 2008

5:30 pm –Doors Open

6:30 pm –Buffet Dinner

8:00 pm –Sobriety Countdown & open mike

9:00 pm –Speaker: Lloyd J. –Carrollton, TX

10:00 pm –Raffle & Door Prizes

Admission \$20 per person

Old Timers(25 yrs or more)**FREE!**

American Legion Knebel Post 83, 4401 E. St. Elmo Road,
Austin, TX 78744

Tickets go on sale March 1st at the
Hill Country Intergroup

1825 Fortview Road, Suite #104, Austin, TX 78704

512-444-0071

www.austinaa.org

Newcomer Blog

Hello my name is Greg and I am an alcoholic. I have been documenting my walk through the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. In my previous entries I have described steps 1 – 5 and this month I am going to share my 6th and 7th steps with you. I hope that something I write helps you on your journey to recovery. I know that by sharing my story with you it will help me.

The sixth step says: “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.” I remember being on my way home from my 5th step meeting with my sponsor and wondering what I was going to do for an hour? So far I had followed the advice given to me, but the prospect of being alone with my thoughts for an hour was a bit daunting. I thought that I had a pretty good understanding of what my defects were by doing the inventory and working with my sponsor on the specific issues relating to my inventory. So what was I going to meditate on? I figured it would take about 30 seconds to be ‘ready’ for God to remove them.

At home I did as I was told. At first I didn’t know how to begin. So I started by pulling out my inventory and look over all of the things we had discussed earlier in the evening. I have to admit that I repeatedly looked at the clock to see how I was doing. After about 10 minutes I realized that I wasn’t doing anything productive and I needed to put the paper away and meditate.

“I had spent my life pompously looking at other people and in my pride examining their character”

As I began to meditate on my defects I began to see in my minds eye exactly how my behaviors had affected others. It was almost as if I was looking at myself through others eyes. I don’t believe I had ever had an experience quite like it. I had spent my life pompously looking at other people and in my pride examining their character; I had never really examined my own. Now with my defects at the forefront I was really getting down to the ego that driven me to my own destruction. I began to feel ashamed. It was becoming clear to me that I had become blind to my own faults. I never wanted to be that way again. I was ready to take step 7 and humbly ask God to remove these defects.

I began to pray and let God know that I was indeed ready to have these defects removed if it was his will. I was coming back into a place where I understood what my third step commitment meant and was fulfilling my promise of turning my will and my life over to God. This was yet another step towards that end. In the presence of God I again went over the defects that I had discovered and let God know that there were probably many more that I had not yet identified. I finished the process by praying the third step prayer again. I realized how tired I was and looked at the clock again. It had been over an hour and half. Next month I will share with you my 8th step experience.

Hill Country Intergroup
1825 Fortview Road
Suite #104
Austin, Texas 78704
512.444.0071
Open from 9am to 6pm
Monday through Friday

Sobriety Variety Pages

link to this publication online at
www.austinaa.org

Contact us at:
sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org

"If you want to drink, that's your business.

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



"Am I a performer? But of course! I'm often called upon to perform a series of sobriety tests."