

# SOBRIETY VARIETY

APRIL 2012

## MARCH 2012 VOLUNTEERS

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### Hotline :

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April 16, 1973  
 Dr. Jack Norris Chairman of the A.A. General Service Board, presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book @ the White House.

Extra! Extra!

Read All About It!

Old Timers Banquet  
 Saturday  
 May 5, 2012

[\(Flyer Enclosed\)](#)

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

“Over the years every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

When AA's Traditions were first published in 1945, we had become sure that an AA group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So confident of this had we become that the original statement of AA tradition carried this significant sentence:

## Practicing the Principles of AA in Business

In February, 1992, six Houston businessmen began having informal conversations about the difficulties we sometimes encountered in trying to practice the principles of AA in our business affairs. For example: How could we sell products and services and remain rigorously honest?

What should we do when the profit motive seems to conflict with service to others? How should we deal with our fears? We knew that if we were to achieve any sort of contented sobriety, we were going to have to learn to live the AA principles and apply them in our business lives. We decided to formalize the learning process. The format is a monthly meeting at which a different member is given the opportunity to outline a business challenge. Other members ask questions and share their personal experiences, strengths and hopes in similar circumstances.

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April 20-22, 1951 - A.A.'s first General Service Conference was held.  
Now the GSC is a week long.

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"Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation."

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each AA group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom we found it necessary to post only two storm signals. A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure AA as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups "wet," others "dry," still others "Republican" or "Communist," and yet others "Catholic" or "Protestant." The AA group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong."

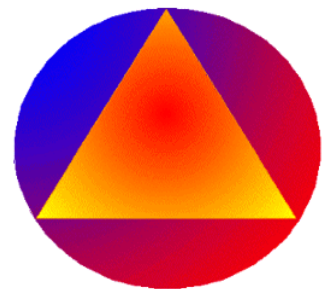
Grapevine Bill W. Aug. 1952

Log into the digital archives at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) for the rest of the story.

At what point does the plans of one group start to effect it's neighboring groups.? Send your answers to [hcinewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:hcinewslettereditor@gmail.com).

HCIA Birthday Club

March 2012  
New Members  
None



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We seek real experience, not theoretical advice. Over time our discussions have expanded to include family issues, personal relationships – all of our affairs. We have intentionally kept the membership low, just six at any one time. Over the years, members have included business owners, corporate executives, lawyers, CPAs, a technical professional and a stock broker. This completion of our 20<sup>th</sup> year. During those of members, the death of member’s successes and bankruptcies.

On a personal level, we have each ing and practicing AA’s principles, and more important, in principles, we have never had a member take a drink.

Dan N

Houston, TX

**W**e seek real experience, not theoretical advice.

writer, a graphic artist, a real estate past February, 2012, marked the com- years we have experienced the death children, three recessions, business become a little better at understand- our 20 years together applying the

The word “honest” was dropped form the Preamble following the 1958 General Service Conference.

Public Information WORKBOOK

**SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE!!!**

*Looking to do something different in your sobriety?*

*Learn what AA is and What AA isn't!*

*Join the PI/CPC Committee*

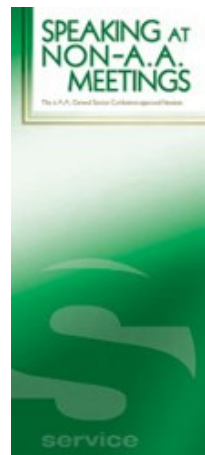
District 3 b/c – 3b.3c.pi.cpc@gmail.com

District 22 – Pat S. – picpc@district22swta68aa.org

District 29 – Steve V. – picpc@district29aa.org

District 2 – Kimberly W. – peacefulkimberly@live.com

District 13 – Unknown



<b>February, 2012</b>	Bridge to Shore - \$445	Nada Glum Lot - \$320
<b>Donations From</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> St. Sisters - \$167	Driftwood - \$65
<b>Area AA Groups:</b>	The River Group - \$50	Back to Basics (Marble Falls) - \$50
Women's Recovery - \$490	1825 - \$10	South Austin Big Book Group - \$75
Grass Roots - \$75	Into Action (Elgin) - \$100	Lighthouse Group - \$200
Monday Rush Hour - \$200	Austin Citywide - \$150	Children of Chaos - \$137
Welcome Home - \$50	Westlake - \$1,000	Kempner - \$26
On the Colorado - \$10	Courage to Change - \$115	<b>Total \$5,670</b>
Phelan Road - \$20	Sunday South - \$15	
Northland - \$200	Western Trails - \$5	
Central - \$65	SOS Group - \$50	
Allandale - \$570	Wimberley - \$10	<i>Thank You!</i>
Hope (Cedar Park) - \$950	Fri. Rush Hour - \$50	



**T**hroughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation", taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Observations of Bill W's. concept essay by Bill F. :  
 Bill traces the early history of A.A. when A.A. was more dictatorial and less participative. He describes the problems that occurred when responsibility and authority were separated.  
 In a similar way, I need to respect your right to participate in sobriety. I am not a dictator with those I sponsor. I don't issue point-blank nonparticipating directives at work. I respect your "Right to Participate" in all matters that affect your life. The final area that Bill examines is the blessing of equality and the sense of belonging that happens when we respect each other's right to participate spiritually in life. God needs you and me to participate in sobriety. We need each other's talents. I am meant to live fearlessly, not fearfully, and so are you.

Got a question about the 3 legacies that has you stumped? Write in to the Hill Country Intergroup Ask It Basket!  
 hciaskitbasket@gmail.com

Articles requested on your personal journey through sobriety, steps 6 and 7, traditions and concepts.  
 Please submit to [hcnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:hcnewslettereditor@gmail.com)!

April 1, 1939  
 Publication date of Alcoholics Anonymous, AA's Big Book.

**Howard L.,** past Southeast regional trustee 2006-2010

Shared at the Southwest Regional Forum in Wichita, KS

This weekend, there has been a lot of talk about a lot of things. Whether we've talked about finances or anything else, it comes down to communication. Everyone says, "When you come up here, you are preaching to the choir – these are the people who are active in service." Well, I don't know who else am I supposed to be preaching to; we are the ones who do it.

I think we forget whose responsibility Alcoholics Anonymous is, it's not the Class A or Class B trustees. It's not the Area assemblies. It's our responsibility. There is a link between the people in these positions and the Fellowship that some people say isn't running – it boils down to the DCMs. If you are a DCM, you should be carrying the message. Most A.A.s don't have all the information because we are not carrying it to them. Some say it's apathy on the part of groups and members. Well, maybe a certain percentage is, but 100% is a lack of information about what they're a part of—they don't know. And if no one tells them—they won't have a clue. If we are going to accept the responsibility given to us in the Concepts, let's really take it. Let's make it our responsibility to go back to every group in our home district, let's take the hard things, focus on them, and not get distracted from what our mission is. If you and I accept our responsibility to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, then we can leave the Board to accept their responsibility. They are supposed to report to us what they do through the General Service Conference, and when they screw up, we tell them and then they can do their best to fix what they need to.

### ~Singleness of Purpose~

Sunny H., Delegate Panel 61, Area 04 Arkansas:

My name is Sunny H. and I am an Alcoholic. I am grateful to serve as the Panel 61 delegate from Area 04, Arkansas.

I would like to spend a couple of minutes talking to you about our Singleness of Purpose. This is a topic that is very important to me, because when I walked in the doors of A.A. I was already looking for the way out; looking for why I was different from you, thus making you the alcoholic and not me. I truly believe that if I had attended a group that did not practice the Traditions and did not have a single purpose for meeting, you would have a different person presenting this topic today.

If during my first few meetings the discussions had been about religion, politics, drugs that I had or hadn't tried or any other topic that would have allowed me to be different from you, I would have easily said "See, it's just not for me." But those first few meetings were not like that at all. The people in those meetings talked about their thoughts and feelings – thoughts and feelings that for so many years I thought only I had. They talked about things that they had done when drinking – the same things that I was certain only I had done in secret. But most importantly they talked about what they did when they came to that jumping off place, where they knew they could

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no longer keep drinking, but had no idea how to get sober. They shared with me about both the Fellowship and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. They told me what A.A. is and what it is not. They explained to me what a sponsor is and the importance of getting one. They told me that I did not have to keep living the way I was living if I didn't want to, and that if I kept coming back and following some suggestions my life could be completely different.

Those first few meetings that I attended were meetings that observed our Fifth Tradition, which states "Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." So today, now that I have reaped the benefits of a group that followed this principal, it is my responsibility to pass on that same message that was given to me.

In a February 1958 Grapevine article, Bill wrote, "Many early A.A.'s had the almost comical notion that they were pure alcoholics – guzzlers only, no other serious problems at all. When alcoholic ex-cons and drug users first turned up, there was much pious indignation. 'What will people think?' chanted the pure alcoholics. Happily, this foolishness has long since evaporated" Today in our Fellowship there are many, myself included, that would not have been considered a "pure alcoholic" in those early years. But, as Tradition Three states, "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." No matter what our other problems or affiliations, we should only discuss our common problem and our common solution when we speak in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We must never forget that we are divided by our differences.

So, if we do not protect our singleness of purpose, where does this leave the alcoholic who is slowly making his way to our doors? Or what about that potential alcoholic that comes to our meeting but doesn't come back because they don't relate to our "other issues"? We could refuse to look at the part that we play and simply say that "he is just not ready" or "he just doesn't want it enough." But what about our part? It is our responsibility to keep A.A. free of outside issues.

Far too often, I go to meetings where the topic strays from alcoholism and the solution that we have found in Alcoholics Anonymous. When we turn a blind eye, who are we really cheating? We are cheating ourselves. In Bill's essay about Tradition Five in the Twelve and Twelve, Bill states, "Shoemaker, stick to thy last!...better do one thing supremely well than many badly." Later in that same first paragraph he says "The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle." I truly believe that Alcoholics Anonymous' seventy-six years of success is because A.A. groups focus on alcoholism and alcoholism only.

There are many other programs out there that have been given permission to use our Steps and adapt them to their particular problem. When we allow our meeting to focus on any other problem other than Alcoholism and the solution, we are not only hurting ourselves and the newcomer that may be in attendance, we may also be cheating those other programs. As Bill states on page 79 of *As Bill Sees it* "This is why sobriety – freedom from alcohol – through the teaching and practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of the group. If we don't stick to this cardinal principle, we shall almost certainly collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone."

I am going to close with a couple of lines from our Preamble: "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. . . ." "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help others alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

Thank God for Alcoholics Anonymous and the Traditions that protect it.

*It's that time Again. . .*



## 10th Annual **Old Timer's Banquet**



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

**Saturday May 5, 2012**

**Speaker: Patti O.**

**Laguna Niguel, CA**



5:30 pm - Doors Open

6:15 - Dinner

- Sobriety Countdown
- Open Mic

8:00 pm - Speaker & Door Prizes

#### **Where:**

**Riverbend Church (Fellowship Hall)  
4214 N. Capital of Texas Hwy  
Loop 360 at Cedar Street  
Just south of the Pennybacker Bridge  
Austin, TX 78746**

**It's not just for Old Timers!  
Everyone is Welcome!**

**Admission \$20 per person  
Old Timers (25 yrs or more) FREE!  
(Must Sign in at the door)**

**Tickets Available Now At.....**



**Hill Country Intergroup**  
*Serving Austin and the Texas Hill Country*

**1825 Fortview Road Suite #104  
Austin, TX 78704 (512)-444-0071**

or

**See Your Intergroup Rep!**

Why do I have to pay?

In AA, conferences, conventions, banquets, anniversaries and/or other special events are important opportunities to share the AA experience in a broad way. There are many such events held around the world. One of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and since "There are no dues or fees for AA membership..." there should be no fees to attend.

These are special events, not regular meetings, and often require months of planning and preparation, with all the attendant costs of these activities. Since most events, such as the OTB, are held in venues which charge for the use of their facilities, it is important that as responsible AA members, "we pay our own way." Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference speakers, printing of flyers and schedules, postage and supplies. This event is self-supporting; no AA group monies are used to pay for this event. The cost of the event is paid through your ticket/ registration fee. Our financial goal is to simply break even. We hope you agree that the overall cost is nominal for the fellowship, fun, entertainment and recovery you will experience.

HCIA Board of Trustees