

# SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

Published by the Hill Country Intergroup  
1825 Fortview Rd. Suite 104 Austin, Texas 78704

Volume 12, Issue 8

August 2012

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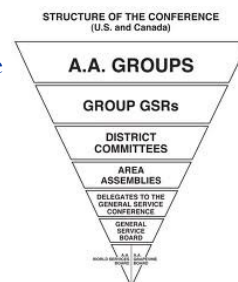
## THE A.A. GROUP WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

The foundation of our whole fellowship rest with the Groups. The group is at the top of the AA triangle for a reason, and that is to get the collective group conscience of our fellowship wherever it may be is very important.

Tradition three clearly states that "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover". The group then becomes our first opportunity to learn humility, patience, tolerance, and brotherly love. In the group setting we begin to learn how to live in society as we engage in group activities and outings. We learn to include everyone as we were once the outsider that had little hope and no one to turn to until our fellow took us by the hand and lead us to peace. Tradition three also clearly states that we are members of A.A. if we say we are, so are we members of a group if we say we are.

The group is where we make our home and we choose one to call our home group. This home group membership comes with the right to vote on issues that might affect A.A. or the group. This is the process that forms the cornerstone of A.A.'s service structure. Everyone of us has a responsibility to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous will be here for future generations and it all starts with selecting a home group and being involved. Service is one of the legs of the triangle that we can not forget and most of that takes place at our home groups. It starts with coming early, greeting everyone, and staying late.

The A.A. group is the beginning for most of us to see how this life and fellowship really works so we need to remember that we may be the only Big Book someone ever see's.



**The service structure in A.A. is and always will be an upside down triangle with the groups at the top.**

Robert C.

Excerpts taken from the A.A. group pamphlet.

## Our Mission

**WE WORK  
24 HOURS A  
DAY  
FOR YOU!**  
Information 12th  
Step Referrals  
Service  
Opportunities  
[www.austinaa.org](http://www.austinaa.org)  
(512) 444-0071

## August History (A.A. Takes Root In China)

In August 2001, two G.S.O. (General Service Office) New York staff members and Dr. George Vaillant ( Nonalcoholic Trustee) travel to China to meet with medical practitioners and attend meetings of China's three A.A. groups in existence at the time, two in Beijing and one in Changchun. By invitation, Dr. Vaillant addresses a gathering of some 50 physicians on the subject of alcoholism.

From the G.S.O. Archives

**Hill Country  
Intergroup  
Representatives  
Meeting  
2nd Monday  
Of the  
Month  
6:30 PM  
Covenant  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Covenant Hall**

**JUNE/JULY VOLUNTEERS**

Office -

**JUNE**—Dan H., Kenny K., Frank D., Claire C., Norma A., Jeanne R., Pat F., Michael N., Jim H., Billy C., Marilyn C., Leslie Ann D., Matt H., Wendy F., Marty C., Charles M., John B.,

**JULY**—Jim H., Marty C., Melissa A., Frank D., Brad R., Norma A., Dan H., Matt H., Michael N., Pat F., Claire C., John B., Lizz R., James B., Mike S., Billy C., Martha K., Jeanne R., Eileen B.,

Hotline -

**JUNE** - PPG Group (Austin), Alex H., Dave E., Randy R., Meredith H., South Austin Big Book Group (SABBG), A Way Out Group (Bastrop), Chris F., Mike W., Jim H., Spiritual Awakenings Group, Bridge to Shore Group, Dan B., Mark A., Dennis “Pete” P., Randy R., Rachel E., Gordon K., Darrin A., Mary Jo B.,

**JULY**—Jerry T., Mary T., 7<sup>th</sup> Street Sisters, Rachel E., Gunnar S., Eileen B., Harlan O., Into Action (Elgin), Mary Jo B., Nicole C., Mike B., Paul B., Keep 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup>, Roland P., Keith W., Chris C., Dudley F., Lake Travis Serenity, Gordon K., Laney H., Glenn S., Kelley/Leslie Ann D., Susan P.,



*HCIA Birthday Club  
JUNE BDAYS*

*HAPPY BDAY AA*

*JULY BDAYS*

*Mike C. 3 Years  
A Way Out  
(Austin)*

*Marty C. 11 Years  
A Way Out  
(Austin)*



**JUNE DONATIONS**

- Austin Citywide - \$150
- Central - \$60
- Bouldin - \$900
- Northland - \$276
- Western Trails - \$6
- Any Lengths - \$287
- Allandale - \$556
- Legacies (Bastrop) - \$50
- Grass Roots - \$75
- Bridge to Shore - \$398
- Back to Basics (Marble Falls) - \$50
- Keep 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup> - \$715
- On the Colorado - \$20
- [Sunday South - \$19 (from May)]
- Lampasas - \$144
- Sunday South - \$23
- Westlake - \$2,000
- Austin Citywide - \$150
- South Austin Big Book Group - \$64
- Fresh Start—\$20

**June Total—\$5944**

# JULY DONATIONS

Hope Group (Cedar Park) - \$300

The River Group - \$25

Phelan Rd. - \$10

A Way Out - \$250

Driftwood - \$61

Northland - \$225

Kempner - \$16

Keystone - \$312

Promises (Austin) - \$45

Turning Point - \$300

Desire to Stop - \$763

Allandale - \$523

A Way Out (Austin) - \$23

Sunshine Group (Georgetown) - \$160

Bridge to Shore - \$659

Spiritual Awakenings - \$13

North 183 - \$250

Being Convinced - \$10

Sisters in Sobriety (Marble Falls) - \$43

1313 - \$559

Burnet Noon - \$300

Buda Big Book - \$13

Keep 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup> - \$277

Into Action (Elgin) - \$75

Central - \$78

Lake Travis Serenity - \$300

On the Colorado (OTC) - \$10

Westwood Wellness - \$45

Brown Bag (Kingsland) - \$25

Dharma of Recovery - \$50

Fri. Rush Hour - \$50

Austin City Wide - \$150

Being Convinced- \$200

Solutions- \$27

Lighthouse- \$100

**July Total-\$6247**

# AA HUMOR SECTION

On The Wall:

During a recent discussion about anonymity and the Internet this comment was made: "I hope they never change Step Five to read: "Admitted to God, to ourselves , and to social networks the exact nature of our wrongs."

Grapevine

Larry L. Fayetteville, GA

No Exit:

AA is like the mob. If you leave, you're dead!

Rule 62:

Don't take yourself so seriously.

Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut. —Earnest Hemmingway

Newcomer: "My conscience finally brought me to the Program,"

Old-timer:"How so?"

Newcomer: "I kept seeing this eyeball staring at me from the bottom of the glass! I'm sure it was my Conscience."

Old-timer:"Probably an olive. But never mind—whatever works!"



"I know you don't want anything to upset your serenity dear, but the house is on fire."

**"I know you don't want anything to upset your serenity dear, but the house is on fire"**

**From The Grapevine**



Even Camels Know How





## Where Does The Money In The Basket Go?

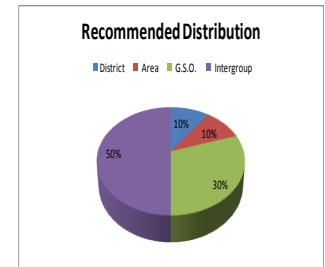
Groups pass the basket at the end of each meeting to allow us to be self supporting. What happens to the money that we put in the basket and what is the standard donation.? The money goes to pay rent, buy coffee, and any group essentials. The money can be used for group purposes that are approved by the group conscience. It is also wise to have a prudent reserve that covers all expenses for 3 to 6 months or what every the group

conscience decides is best for the group. Now it is said that we should not have any money over the prudent reserve and that it should be divided amongst the service entities. There is a pamphlet from G.S.O. that gives the breakdown of distribution. The pamphlet is called:

Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix.

This pamphlet recommends that you use the following as a

guide. The group conscience will decide the how the final distributions will be.



Robert C.

## Do you have a story to tell?

This section will be devoted to telling your stories. Please send in your stories to: [hcieditor@hotmail.com](mailto:hcieditor@hotmail.com)

*“Cling to the thought that, in God’s hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have—the key to life and happiness for others. With it you can avert death and misery for them”.*



## 10 Signs You May Have Had a Spiritual Awakening:

10. Finally memorized or broken all the AA rules.
9. Don't get a resentment when people share too long.
8. Enjoy going to home group business meetings.
7. See the difference between experience and pain.
6. Allow people to continually surprise me.
5. Realize our differences from our unity.
4. Let grace create my will.
3. Said the Serenity Prayer more often than "NOT GUILTY".
2. Quit taking money out of the 7th tradition basket for breakfast and gas.
1. Traded in all the slogans, clichés, program history, discussions, and higher power issues for the simple truth of LOVE AND SERVICE.

Bill D.

(reprinted from The Maui Serenity Gazette, Dec, 2010)

## Service Work Comes In All Forms:

There are many different types of service work in Alcoholics Anonymous.

These are some of the ways we Alcoholics fulfill the third leg of the triangle. Without it we would not be whole. **THE HOME GROUP**—



Service starts here by greeting people at the door, making coffee, cleaning up after the meeting, or any other task needed. The home group also offers the opportunity to serve in a different capacity such as; secretary, treasurer, chairperson, steering committee, public information and cooperation with the professional community (**PICPC**), correctional facilities (**CFC**), treatment facilities (**TFC**), intergroup, and the most important job in all of Alcoholics Anonymous the General Service Representative (**GSR**). **THE DISTRICT**—At the district level you are now serving all the groups in your district working with the groups representatives of your committee. The district has all the same committees as a group usually including an archives, newsletter, and grapevine committees, but they elect a representative that will be their voice at the AREA Committee Meeting. This position is like the GSR of the group but now we have the District Committee Member (**DCM**). **THE AREA**—At the area level you are now serving all the districts and groups in your area working with all the district representatives to best serve them and also any group representatives as well. The area has all the same committees as the districts with a purpose to elect a representative that will act as the area voice at the General Service Conference. This position is called the **Delegate**.

These are just some of the ways that you can serve in AA there are many others like the HCI hotline, answering phones at the office, or just helping at a workshop. You can also submit an article to this publication it might help another alcoholic, and that is service work.

**Robert C.**

HILL COUNTRY  
INTERGROUP



If you would like to help with the newsletter or you would like to volunteer at the Intergroup office you can contact us at (512) 444-0071. There are many opportunities for service work. You can also sign up to be on the 12th step list. Volunteering through the intergroup is a great experience.

## Upcoming Events For September

5th—South Austin Big Book Group Speaker meeting

7th-9th—Bill W. Roundup

11th—Phelan Road Group (Bastrop) Speaker meeting

13th-16th—54th ICYPAA conference.

14th-16th—SWTA 68 PICPC conference in New Braunfels, TX

14th-16th—Straight From The Heart AA & Al-Anon Woman to Woman Conference

15th—Patio Group (Paige, TX) Speaker meeting

15th—Austin Citywide Monthly potluck and speaker

meeting.

15th—Fundraiser For The Fellowship In The Pines Conference (Golf Tournament at Star Ranch Golf Club)

22nd—3B/3C CFC-TFC Workshop

For more information on these or any upcoming events go to the Hill Country Intergroup Website.

The website address is:

[www.austinaa.org](http://www.austinaa.org)

You will find flyers with all the pertinent information for the event and a map to the location.

