

SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

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Our Mission

**WE WORK
24 HOURS A
DAY
FOR YOU!**
Information
12th Step
Referrals
Service
Opportunities

**www.austinaa.org
(512) 444-0071**

The Primary Purpose

The long form of the Fifth Tradition states that each A.A. group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. What is a spiritual entity anyway? Merriam-Webster defines this as a independent, separate, or self-contained existence relating to, or affecting the spirit. This means that every A.A. group, District, Area, or even G.S.O. can be that spiritual entity that carries its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The question now becomes what is the message that we are to carry? The Big Book clearly states that this message should have depth and weight and that an ex-problem drinker who has found this solution, who is properly armed with the facts about himself can generally win the confidence of another alcoholic. The message therefore is our experience, strength, and hope. The group entity can carry this message to all of its members from the newcomer that has just walked in the door to the old timer that is having a bad day. The District entities' primary purpose must then be to help the groups fulfill their primary purpose and also serve the community in any way it can to get the message of Alcoholics Anonymous out there. The Area entities' primary purpose is to make sure that each District has the tools that they need to get information out to the community and to ensure that each group is informed of all the happenings in Alcoholics Anonymous. The G.S.O. entity ensures that our literature is available to as many people as possible and also to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous is here for future generations of alcoholics that have not yet found this wonderful program. G.S.O. is also responsible for our General Service Conference where the business of A.A. is taken care of and happens every year in April. When we are sitting in our groups, and we hear the fifth tradition read we need to remember that it means that we need to carry the message to all alcoholics that still suffer in whatever entity that we may be involved in. Lets not lose site of the simple fact that none of us were alcoholics until we admitted it to ourselves; so you never know when you might be sitting across from a future member, and who knows, a future friend.

Robert C.

September History (A.A. at Ground Zero)

In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, exhausted A.A. members among the firefighters, police, and clean-up crews realize the need for A.A. meetings near Ground Zero. At the same time, a Red Cross official reports to G.S.O. New York that many requests for A.A. Meetings have been received. The Red Cross then assigns to A.A. a room in a respite center just southwest of the site, its door bearing a circle and triangle.

From the G.S.O. Archives

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

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Office -

Dan H., Frank D., John B., Michael N., Pat F., Matt H., James B., Billy C., Marty C., Norma A., Carmen C., Claire C., Buster S., Melissa A., Donna Jean E., Charles M., Lizz R., Leslie Ann D.,

Hotline -

Mark A., Randy R., Thursday Men BBSS, Rick P., James B., Dudley F., Keystone Group, Beth B., Darrin A., Marty C., Northland Group, Meredith H., Mike W., Brad C., John Mc M., Jerry T., Amy M., Nancy N., Glenn S., Siiri W., Rachel E., Roland P., Mary Jo B., 1313 Group.



*HCIA Birthday
Club
AUGUST
BIRTH DAYS*

*2012
No New Members*

AUGUST DONATIONS

Phelan Rd. - \$10	2nd Chance (Buda) - \$75
Round Rock Big Book - \$35	Sunday South - \$20
The River Group - \$25	Austin Citywide - \$150
Started in Service - \$18	Central - \$53
SOS Group - \$50	Keep 1st Things 1st - \$420
Welcome Home - \$50	Sunshine Group (Austin) - \$25
Georgetown - \$210	
Nada Glum Lot - \$350	August Total - \$2,594
Sunday South - \$19	
Allandale - \$602	
On the Colorado - \$10	
Bridge to Shore - \$472	



The Power of Truth:

When I arrived in AA a very profound opening began to occur. I began to let truth in. Initially, it was the truth that I just may be an alcoholic....that maybe my life had some unmanageable aspects to it. Maybe there was a Higher Power that could restore me to sanity, if I could somehow surrender. "Maybe" was the key that unlocked the door for me. (There is a lot of willingness in "maybe"!) and so it happened that truth began to enter my life.

As I continued with the "Into Action Steps", another profound opening began: I began to let truth out. The sharing that happened in Step 5 jump-started the process, but really, every time I share honestly at a meeting, I am widening that "truth opening".

So now its going two ways. Every amend approached and made: Truth in, Truth out Every time I meditate, pray, same thing: Truth in, Truth out. Every time I pause and listen to you a bit more closely, speak to you a bit more honestly: Truth in, Truth out.

So now, thirty years later, the program has become pretty simple to practice: Truth in, Truth out. That pretty much sums up all 12 steps, doesn't it? And what do you know.... my spirit is awake!

Jan L., Houston, TX

From "The Link Newsletter of the Houston Intergroup"

AA HUMOR SECTION

What's the difference between self-esteem and ego?

Self-esteem doesn't need an audience.

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"Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment."

Anonymous

Oxymoron: Functioning Alcoholic

You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

You lose your car at least once a week.

You think alcohol abuse is spilling your drink.

Selling beer cans seems like a weekly bonus.

You celebrate getting out of jail by getting drunk.

You measure distance by how many beers it takes to get there.



"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



WANTED

Your Stories of Experience, Strength, and Hope:

- The best/worst meeting I ever attended.
- Funny story.
- Most /least helpful thing I heard was.....
- How I finally let go of.....
- My most meaningful amend.....

REWARD

This is Carrying the Message



“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”.



“I had a layover in Omaha ... which led to a hangover in Des Moines.”

This section will be devoted to telling your stories. Please send in your stories to: hcieditor@hotmail.com

We Are In This Together

“When I was a newcomer, I visited a grove of redwood trees. The trees, on average, were three hundred feet tall, and yet their roots were only six or eight feet deep. That would be like someone six feet tall trying to carry fifty of themselves stacked one on top of each other. However, the roots of these trees reached out sixty to eighty feet and wove together with the roots of surrounding trees. Each tree, therefore, was supported by all the trees in the community, and the trees not only survive, they thrive. I began to comprehend, as I

walked through that grove, a powerful message about A.A.”

Kim C., Cincinnati, Ohio

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How Do We Get Them To Get Involved

The newcomer needs to be motivated into service early, that is why good sponsorship is the key. At the home group sponsors have their sponsee's start by making coffee or cleaning up. My sponsor did not ask me; he told me that I needed to get out of my self and do for others. This builds a foundation for service and without that the triangle will fall over. The next level is being part of the home group steering committee, secretary, treasurer, or even G.S.R. I remember it well. My sponsor was the G.S.R. of our group and he took me to all the District meetings, and I got to watch my District become a District. The District held elections and my sponsor became the Alt. DCM and turned to me and said you are now the G.S.R. of our group. I am not sure if that is how it suppose to be done or not, but I know that without that push I would not have the sobriety that I have today. I have been involved in service since the beginning. We have to make it interesting and fun; the Big Book says we are not a glum lot, but all too often when it comes to service we get that way. Members stay involved with their home group, because they feel a sense of loyalty and they want it to be the best group possible. That is why members come up with ideas to make things better. At the District level the committee meetings become predictable and uninteresting, because it is always the same. We as members of A.A. have to remember that it is our responsibility to keep things interesting and fun, other wise why would the newcomer want it. If we want our members to get involved then all we really need to do is Ask them, and if we want to know how to make things more attractive we have to ASK.....

If we are going to make things interesting all we really need to do is let people know what we are doing and how they can be of service. The CFC committees do a good job of letting people know when they are going in the jails and prisons, and because of that people stay involved with that committee. The PI/CPC committee is one of my favorites, because there is so much that can be done, and this gives an opportunity to get more people involved in service. The answer is the always the same - we need to tell our members what we are doing and then Ask them to help.

If we want to fill positions at the group or at any level of service we can not send out emails or flyers as that just is not personal enough; we have to Ask them. I know that my sponsor did not ask me those first couple of times, but maybe he really did in his own way. People do not always know what they are capable of doing or becoming; so when we Ask them to serve it gives them a sense of belonging and feeling that they are trusted enough to perform the duties of the position. It really is an amazing feeling to have people trust you and believe in you.

Lets make a commitment together to go out there and ASK someone to get involved.

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/October

Sept. 14th-16th—SWTA #68 PI/CPC Conference in New Braunfels, TX

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

Sept 15th—Patio Group (Paige, TX) Speaker Meeting.

Sept. 15th—Florence (TX) Renaissance Group Speaker Meeting.

Sept. 15th—Austin Citywide Speaker Meeting.

Sept. 22nd—District 3B/3C CFC-TFC Workshop.

Sept. 28th—Keep 1st Things 1st Quarterly Speaker Meeting

and Potluck.

Oct. 5th-7th—28th Annual Fellowship In The Pines Conference at River Bend Park. (Smithville, TX)

Oct. 6th—Workshop: Anonymity, the Internet, Digitalization of Archival Materials. Western Trails Group

Oct. 19th-21st—SWRAASA (Albuquerque, NM)

Oct. 19th-21st—3rd Annual Men's Step Work Retreat. Sponsored by the Next Function Group (Leakey, TX)

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

The website address is:

www.austinaa.org

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

