

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**

Sponsorship

In Alcoholics Anonymous we talk about sponsorship a lot and how it is important to find a sponsor when you come into the program. It is more important that you find a sponsor that has worked the steps with a sponsor and is currently working with a sponsor. The right sponsor can help the transition from no life to a life that is worth living. I have had a few different sponsors in my sobriety and I have gone through the steps with each one to learn as much as I can about this program that saved my life. I think that a sponsor's job in Alcoholics Anonymous is to take us through the book and help us understand what it is saying through their experience. The General Service Office puts out a pamphlet called questions & answers on sponsorship that I have found very helpful on this topic. It states that the sponsor and newcomer should be as much alike as possible in order for them to relate to one another. It also states that I do not have to agree with everything my sponsor says or does and neither do any of the people I sponsor have to agree with everything I do or say. I think this is the process of learning open-mindedness as my sponsors have had different political beliefs and even different ways of how to do service, but they have all had a sobriety that I have wanted and I have been able to learn so much from that. I think that we as members of Alcoholics Anonymous all grow at different rates and with different interests in service and the program, so we may have to have a service sponsor that has done those service jobs that we are interested in before us to help us through the maze that it can be and to introduce us to that "Secret Service Manual" that really is not a secret, but how many of us know about it? That neat pamphlet also states that we may have to change sponsors along the way, and that is OK as we may have a need that our current sponsor does not have experience with. Make sure you call your sponsor today.

Robert C.

MAY HISTORY (1944 Box 459 Opens to Receive Mail)

"About Your Central Office," a bulletin distributed to A.A. groups by the Alcoholic Foundation, announces "As of May 1, 1944, our new address will be P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station." Box 459 will become both the post office address and symbolic. (AA World Services Archives)

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

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

Office -

Marty c., Lizz R., Billy C., Mark K., Robert, Ron H., Dan H., Michael N., Pat F., Larry M., Jeanne R., John B., Gordon D., Buster S., Jeannie H.,

Hotline -

Bridge to Shore Group, Jamie D., Jerry T., Northland Group, Tom K., Rick P., Gordon K., Alex H., Into Action Group (Elgin), Eileen B., Meredith H., Mary Jo B., Austin Big Book Step Study, Keith F., Mary T., Nicole C., Mark A., Roland P., Denise T.,



*HCIA Birthday Club
BIRTH DAYS
APRIL*

Brent B. Austin
25 Years



APRIL DONATIONS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Buda Big Book - \$25 | Central - \$65 |
| Keystone - \$250 | Burnet Noon - \$360 |
| Fire Makers - \$600 | 12 @ 12 - \$1200 |
| Desire to Stop - \$625 | Into Action (Lockhart) - \$10 |
| Nada Glum Lot - \$360 | East Austin - \$73 |
| Sunshine Group (Georgetown) - \$183 | Bridge to Shore - \$406 |
| Western Trails - \$12 | Solutions Group - \$25 |
| Kempner - \$15 | Friday Nite Alive - \$250 |
| Allandale - \$587 | On The Colorado - \$10 |
| Keep 1 st Things 1 st - \$204 | Pennsylvania Group - \$75 |
| Driftwood - \$58 | Rule 62 - \$55 |
| Promises - \$45 | Patio Meeting - \$71 |
| A Way Out (Austin) - \$300 | We Agnostics - \$100 |
| Lighthouse Group - \$200 | Hope Group (Cedar Park) - \$101 |
| Wimberley - \$10 | Austin Citywide - \$150 |
| Bluebonnet - \$151 | Westlake - \$500 |
| The River Group - \$25 | What It's like Now - \$174 |
| | Total - \$7275 |

Deaf Access Committee News and Actions

Greetings from Norma A., Chairperson of the HCIA Deaf Access Committee. Many people may wonder, why do we need DAC? The Deaf Access Committee exists for many reasons. The obvious reason is because a Deaf person needs an interpreter in order to know what is being said. Did you know that American Sign Language is not word for word English? English is not a language known to many Deaf people. It is a second language for these AA members. ASL has its own linguistic rules, and includes visual cues for tone of voice and emotional content. It is not a coded form of English. ASL is a conceptual, visually spatial language with no direct word-for-word translation to English. Thus, knowledge about Alcoholics Anonymous is not communicated very well to the Deaf AA members, especially through written English. Presently the only AA literature available in ASL from the General Service Office is the first 164 pages of the Big Book and the Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions. GSO is currently working on an even more accurate translation of the 4th Edition. For many AAs the key to their sobriety is having the opportunity to hear other AA members share their experience, strength, and hope in sobriety and service. Alcoholics who are Deaf have no access to the Big Book or AA stories and find very limited access to AA meetings, and service events, thus makes it difficult for them to learn how others members of AA stay sober and do service work. Aside from the fact that part of the language barrier is English, recovery lingo is also in the mix. It can be a language in and of itself!! How do you interpret "hitting bottom" or "Big Book thumper"? How about "pink Cloud" or "wet drunk?" Even the words "Fifth Step" may not be clear to someone who has never taken one (the interpreter, for example). NOW, think about our Big Book - when was it written? Everyone knows the answer to that - in the 1930's. It's written in English of course, but again - it is written in a language of a different time. (Remember "whoopee party?"). So-you can see that it's important to have a skilled professional interpreter be the vehicle for accurately carrying the message!! How about you? If you have experience, strength, and hope, you can share it at the meetings that are interpreted!! We need to hear the message you carry!! What a great way to do service!! Sponsorship, fellowship, and experience, strength, and hope should not be the privilege of some alcoholics-but all alcoholics. After all, we are a fellowship of equals, and there is only one requirement for AA membership: A desire to stop drinking. We know a few AA members like that. Do you? The other side of having an interpreter is getting to hear the valued experience, strength and hope of our Deaf friends. I would not want to be denied that experience. The Deaf Access Committee acts as the go-between that provides a means to carrying the message of AA - not just for the Deaf AA member, but for the other AA members as well!

HCIA Deaf Access Committee thanks to the following recent contributing Groups and AA Members for their 7th tradition contributions: Keep 1st Things 1st; Bridge to Shore; Rule 62; 12 @ 12; Sunday South; A Way Out (Austin); Allandale; Citywide; Lisa W. (Allandale); Women's Recovery; South Austin Big Book Group; Reading Rainbow; Desire to Stop; plus a number of anonymous donations from individuals.....

AA Thought For The Month

The Possible Dream
Perfection would limit me; imperfection offers me the freedom of a million potentials. All the excitement and interest and wonder of adventure are mine to explore, ever-new, ever-changing, ever becoming. Thank God, as a result of AA and sobriety, I am free from dreaming the Impossible dream and free, finally, to start living the possible dream.

The Best of the Grapevine [Vol. 1] p.61



HCIA DEAF ACCESS



AA HUMOR SECTION

You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

- You buy a car pre dentured so no one will notice the ones you put on the car
- Yard work is, raking up beer cans.
- you head butt the ATM machine because it wont give you anymore money...



"Nobody gets a newbie into that zombie state quicker than Phil does when he reads to them from The Big Book"



“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”.
Bill W.

Capital Of Texas Conference 2014

Get ready for Austin’s Conference. The first ever Capital Of Texas Conference will be held in August 15-17, 2014. The conference committee chairs have been elected and are working to put together a great conference right here at home.

Future Fundraising Events:

6/23/2013 CTC Presents
 Sober Olympics - Participant \$10.00
 Spectators \$5.00

Check the CTC Website Or HCI Website for more information.

The next committee meeting will be held June 2, 2013 at 2:00 PM. Check Website for Location of meeting.....

THEME OF CONFERENCE IS:

“We Will Be Amazed...”

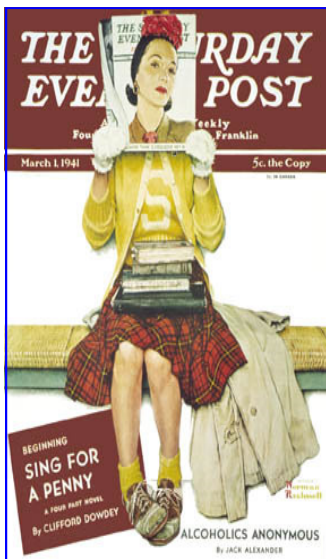
If you are interested in serving as a conference Co-Chair of a committee please come to the meeting. If you just want to come see what is going on or join a committee please come and join us.

The Conference Website Address:

<http://www.capitaloftexasconference.org>

Come visit our website and if you have any feed back please email the Website Coordinator.

webmaster@capitaloftexasconference.org



MALE CALL

My name is Janice Woods and I have the honor and privilege of serving you as your SWTA 68 CFC (Correctional Facilities) Chair. In the April 2013 issue of "The Grapevine" on page 10, is an article about the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). GSO is in **urgent need of AA males** to correspond with inmates currently incarcerated in correctional facilities throughout the United States and Canada utilizing the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). This Service is a great 12th Step opportunity for AA males on the outside to share with inmates on the inside about their experience, strength, and hope via correspondence and letters.

Requests arrive "daily" at GSO from incarcerated inmates requesting this service. Currently GSO has a waiting list of male AA members in prison who have requested this service and are waiting for you to write them. But there are not enough males to meet the needs of these inmates. For the moment, GSO has enough female correspondents participating in the CCS program.

Because each correctional facility, not only in Southwest Texas Area 68, but throughout the United States and Canada have their own rules prohibiting direct contact with local AA volunteers, the CCS service may be the only personal connection that an inmate has with questions about the AA Program of Recovery, 12 Steps and Sponsorship. Many correctional facilities do not have an AA meeting on the inside and often times, if they do have, it is only once a month, if at all. Many inmates seek sponsorship by mail to help guide them through the Twelve Steps and answer any basic questions about AA.

Once you have signed up for the Service, GSO will make the initial connection which is a random match between inmates and outside AA members of the same sex who may live several states away from the correctional facility where the inmate is incarcerated. Outside AA members do not need to have been in prison or jail or have prison experience to be able to share their experience, strength and hope to "carry the message". The inmates know how to get to prison, but now they need to know how to get help in finding the path to sobriety.

Please take a moment to read the guidelines for the CCS in the pamphlet "Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)" that can be found on the GSO website at www.aa.org. Click on the tab "For Groups and Members" and on the left hand side, click on the "Corrections" tab and from the dropdown, click "Corrections Correspondence". The pamphlet will explain what the service is all about and what you will be agreeing to do when you sign up to correspond with an incarcerated inmate. If you do not have access to the internet, ask your Home Group GSR or CFC Representative, District CFC Chair or DCM or the SWTA 68 CFC Chair for a copy of the pamphlet.

If you are interested in signing up, you may do so online **TODAY - RIGHT NOW!** Read the pamphlet and email the following information to corrections@aa.org:

Email to: Corrections Desk at: corrections@aa.org

Include the following statement:

I have read and understand the guidelines in the Pamphlet "*Corrections Correspondence*".

Include your Name, Address (City/State/Zip) and whether you are a Male or Female.

Or if you choose, fill out the form in the CCS pamphlet and mail to "Correctional Facilities Desk, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163"

Please share this information with your Home Groups, Districts, and AA Friends. What a great way to "Carry the Message Behind the Bars". If you need more information about the Corrections Correspondence Service or other CFC services, please contact your District CFC Chair or the SWTA 68 CFC Chair.

Thanks to each of you for your service in "Carrying the Message Behind the Bars" to the incarcerated inmate through this valuable 12th Step Service.

Thanks for allowing me to serve in our combined effort to "Carry The Message Behind The Bars".

Janice Woods CFC Chair, SWTA 68, Panel 62

cfc@aa-swta.org

HILL COUNTRY
INTERGROUP



If you would like to help with the HCI 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. The Sobriety pages is always looking for articles. Tell you story or pick a topic.

The Sobriety Variety pages wants to tell your story. We also want to print your experiences with sobriety and service. Please send in your stories to:
hcieditor@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events For May and Beyond

May 11th - 11th Annual Old Timers Banquet!
May 11th - Lost Pines Group Speaker Meeting!

May 18th - Simply AA Group 6th Anniversary!

May 18th - Florence Renaissance Group Speaker Meeting!

May 18th - Western Trails Group 28th Anniversary!

May 18th - Austin Citywide Meeting and Potluck!

June 1st - District 29 3rd Annual Potluck Picnic!

June 7-9 67th Annual Texas State AA Convention!

June 13th - Lampasas Group Speaker Meeting!

June 23rd - Northland CTC Conference Presents Sober Olympics!

July 11-14 - ICYPAA 2013 Phoenix, AZ

July 12-14 - SWTA 68 Summer Workshop!

October 4-6 - Fellowship In The Pines Conference (FITP) Smithville, TX

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

www.austinaa.org

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

