

SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

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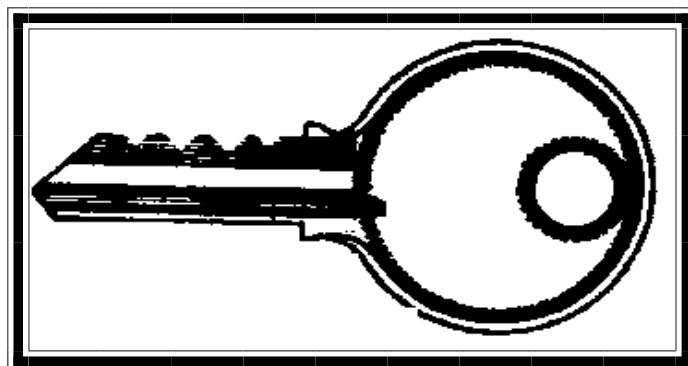
Tradition Four:

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

“Service”

Hi. My name is Steve B., and I’m an alcoholic. Thanks to God’s grace, the AA program, good sponsorship and good fellowship, I’ve been clean and sober since Aug. 1, 1984. I’m very grateful for that and grateful for the opportunity to share some of my experiences in the realm of service.

One of the things I’d like to share concerns the concept of “trusted servant”. Much of my early sobriety was spent in a smaller AA community. I began to be conscripted for service long before I thought I was qualified, and, in some cases, before I WAS



qualified according to their by-laws (I tried to get them to enforce the by-laws so I wouldn’t have to be inconvenienced with having a service position). Well, by-laws and my objections notwithstanding, I was made secretary of my home group and given a key to the church where the group met. Now at the time, I wasn’t the most trustworthy sort and wasn’t that far removed from the street, yet the group made me

one of its “trusted servants”. I wondered if they weren’t making a huge mistake, but I took the responsibility seriously and grew into trustworthiness in the process. Later on, I held other offices both within groups and on committees where I actually held the purse strings. By this time, I didn’t have to wonder whether or not I would steal any money or be irresponsible with it, nor did the groups

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25th Anniversary Spirit of the Pines

April 15th, 16th and 17th, 2005
At Camp Olympia on Lake Livingston, Texas
Check out the web site, “www.spiritofthepines.org”
Cost is 80.00 when Pre-registered or 85.00 at the door.

14th Chisholm Trail Convention

Our Three Legacies - April 22, 23 and 24
San Gabriel Park Community Building 445 E. Morrow, Georgetown, TX
\$15 pre-registered or \$20 at the door.
Chisholm Trail Convention P.O. Box 7812 Round Rock, TX 78683
Featuring Live Music and Dance Saturday night with the Marshall Ford Swing Band

18th Concho Valley Conference

April 29th – 30th & May 1st, 2005 – San Angelo, TX
THE CLARION INN & SUITES - TEXAS ROOM
3333 Rio Concho Dr, San Angelo, TX – (325) 655-8000
REGISTRATION - \$25.00 PER PERSON
(No exceptions – Includes Hospitality Room and Bar-B-Q)
For more information, contact Ronnie S. at (325)653-1277 or Lisa E. at (325)245-7620

60th Texas State Convention—Dallas

August 19-21, 2005 “I Am Responsible”
Registration \$20—Send to: Treasurer at P.O. Box 595833 Dallas, TX 75359
Accommodations: Harvey Hotel Hwy 114 at Esters Rd., Irving, Texas
Call for reservations – 800-922-9222 \$72.00 Single to Quad

East Austin 17th Anniversary!

A Design for Living
Saturday, May 21, 2005 - 8AM to 8PM
At the Riverbend Church - Quad 5
Speakers, Workshops, Food, Fun, Music and Door Prizes
Come Help us Celebrate!

Tradition Four (Long Form)

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.

New Meetings:

TURNING POINT

1347-A Lamar Sq. Dr. Sunday @ NOON Open Discussion

Topics from AA Conference Approved Literature

Check out our "3rd Tuesday" Speaker Meeting

April Speaker: Charlie Parker

Sunday Steps

1801 Kinney @ Kinney Ave. Baptist Church

5:30 PM - Closed Speaker/Step

North Austin 24

New Meeting -Monday Through Friday at 7:00 AM

1000 Prairie Trail 837-9362

(Continued from page 1)

that gave me that trust. I consider myself to be trustworthy today, as do most of the people who know me (I think!), and that is a direct result of being given positions of trust by you people.

Another benefit of this kind of activity was becoming "part of". I'm like every other alcoholic – you know the story – always apart from, isolated, alienated, and alone in a crowd. Participating in service to my groups forced me to get outside myself, to meet people, and eventually to enjoy them and to love them.

As some of my service roles expanded beyond my group, I began to experience and connect with a larger fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I've met people from all over the country and have made many life-long friends just like the Big Book promises. What's more, becoming "part of" you gave me the ability to be "part of" life outside AA. I'm no longer alone. I belong.

I've also had the privilege of taking meetings to a couple of different detox centers. I remember when I first got involved with that kind of service, I was around 2 years sober and was kind of stuck dealing with

the reality of my train-wrecked past – bemoaning the fact that I had no job skills, no money, no relationship skills, no family, and no nauseum. I whined a lot around that time, and my sponsor was unsympathetic, to say the least. He would listen all right, but instead of any helpful advice, he'd always say, "I think you need to go down to the detox and see if you can't help out." After a few weeks of that, I finally told him one day, "Look, Bill, that's a great idea, and I'll be happy to do that just as soon as I get some of these other problems straightened out." Well, that went in

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The Hill Country Intergroup's 2nd Annual 12 STEP WORKSHOP SERIES

Saturday April 2nd, 2005

Steps 1, 2, & 3
"The Foundation Steps"

10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

@ the Mary Lee Foundation Community Center
1327 Lamar Sq. Dr. - next to the Intergroup Office

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one ear and out the other, because he never changed his tune. He wore me down and waited me out. I finally said OK just to shut him up. Several months after getting involved with the detox, I couldn't remember what my problems had been. I met hundreds of newcomers there over the next several years, some of whom stayed sober, including one guy who I still sponsor. What a blessing that

was!

One more detox story, then I'll "shut up". The first detox closed, but another one started up not long afterward. My sponsor (same one) was making an 80-mile round-trip every Thursday night to bring a meeting to the new detox. One Thursday, he called to ask if I could fill in for him, and I readily agreed. Wouldn't you know, that S.O.B. never came back to the meeting and it became

my responsibility for the next 8 years! I got the same rewards that I mentioned before, and poor Bill doesn't know what he missed.

Based on my experience I would advise anyone who wants to experience all that Alcoholics Anonymous has to offer to get involved with service. Don't wait till you think you're ready. If you don't think you're ready, ask your sponsor. He or she will be more than happy to tell you.

Meetings at Intergroup

Treatment Facilities Committee, First Monday at 7:00 PM
 Correctional Facilities Committee, First Monday at 7:00 PM
 Intergroup Reps, Second Monday at 6:30 PM
 Grapevine Committee, Second Saturday at 2:00 PM
 Board of Trustees, Third Thursday at 6:30 PM

March Volunteers at Intergroup

Office:

Hotline:

Marty C.	John B.	Randy R.	Linda/Mike	Paul G.
Chris F.	David M.	Stewart G.	“Pete”, the	Sandra/
Robert G.	Leslie Ann	Dave K.	guy	Lloyd
Barbara M.	D.Evan W.	Ian M.	Janna	Bob J.
Deede C.	Joseph P.	Bosco	Bill U.	Tammy D.
Morna N.	Monica	Milford P.	Nick H.	Connie/
Kelly F.	Dena	Miquelle K.	Will C.	Mike
“Pete”, the	Holly	Cory H.	John B.	Pam F.
guy		Dudley	Tom K.	Laurie W.
Paul W.		Karen D.	Julie A.	Joe Mc F.
Ian M.		Paul W.	Lee A.	Barry F.
Roland P.		Leslie Ann D	Keith F.	Patrick C.
“Pete”, the		Megan	Chris F.	Morna N.
girl		Ruben G.	Meredith H.	

Thanks....

To all those
 who give so
 much of their
 time, effort,

and

personal
 resources,

that the vital
 services
 at Intergroup
 may continue
 to be offered.

—HCIA

February Donations to Intergroup

Allandale	Lockhart-Into Action		
Bridge to Shore	New Beginnings		
Central	North Austin 24		
Courage to Change	Northland		
Friday Night (Austin)	Stoney Point		
Hilltoppers	Sunshine		
Hope	Thursday Night Men’s		
Keep First Things First	Triangle		
Kyle	Unity of the Hills		
Living Faith	Westlake	Total	\$ 2238.00

Hill Country Intergroup Presents:

The 3rd Annual Austin Area Old Timers Banquet
Saturday May 7th 2005 from 6:00pm-10:00pm
Knebel Post 83 American Legion Hall
4401 E. St. Elmo Austin, TX 78744

SEE Map Below

Tickets Are \$12.00

- **Buffet dinner features Chicken Saltimbocca w/Rice Pilaf, and includes Salad, Bread, Dessert, Iced Tea and Coffee. Soft drinks can be purchased from the cash bar provided by the American Legion.**
- **Door Prizes and Gifts will be provided.**

Come join us in honoring our Old Timers (**25 years and up**) with Fellowship and Friendship

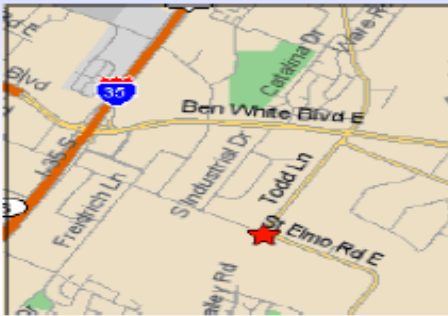
6:00PM - Fellowship

6:30PM - Dinner

8:00PM - Old Timers and Sobriety Countdown

8:30PM - Speaker: John A. - Dallas, TX

Door Prizes and FREE raffle immediately following Speaker



Directions from Mopac: Take Mopac To 290 East, Go East on 290 (Ben White), Cross over I-35, Continue East, Take a right on to Todd Lane, Continue South on Todd Lane until you come to St. Elmo, Parking lot is in front of you.
Directions from I-35: Exit Ben White Go East towards Airport, Take a right On Todd Lane, Continue South on Todd Lane until you come to St. Elmo, Parking lot is in front of you

Hill Country Intergroup

Phone 512-444-0071

E-mail: austinaa@austin.rr.com



To submit articles or news for publication, please e-mail us at Austinaa@austin.rr.com

NOTE:

Viewpoints expressed in articles published by S.V.P. are not those of the Hill Country Intergroup.

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INTERGROUP

1339 LAMAR SQUARE DR. SUITE
204, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

512-444-0071

Fax 512-444-7586

FOR MEETING INFO
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.MAIN.ORG/AA