



Sobriety Variety



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Announcing outside events during AA meetings

“Can alcoholics announce there will be a sober dance following the AA meeting, when we want to have a dance in the same hall?”

Your question is one that I have dealt with a lot in my 21 years.

First of all we have our 1st tradition which states that our common welfare should come before all else. Is this good for AA? It goes on to say that the Unity of our members is the primary goal as disunity would tear us apart. The nay-sayers are probably more of a force for disunity then the event could ever be.

So does the event aid in unity? I personally believe that the founders would have been very supportive of these types of events and announcements. In law there is often the phrase, "the spirit of the law," why it was written. I don't think that the tradition aims at limiting these

types of activities

If our ultimate authority is a "loving God and how he will express himself" then we could ask what He might consider on this issue, the dance is a good thing despite people who are just down right negative. We're not supposed to have an opinion on outside issues so what one group does is not the other groups business unless it effects AA as a whole. This should then be discussed with their local Intergroup office. Your dance could be considered by some as the way "A loving God" is expressing Itself in your group.

Does it effect AA as a whole? Only for the better but we must be careful where proceeds, if any, end up.

AA bull roasts/dances are common fund-raisers just like our conventions and 'gratitude breakfasts' which are also announced in meetings. A group does, however, have the right to choose to not announce these types of events by way of a vote.

Is it carrying the AA message? Most important of all, can people without money attend without feeling singled out, or made to feel ashamed because they don't have money (not so with many of our fund-raisers). Admission should be set up in such a way that it is seen

Butt Prints in the Sand

One night,
I had a wondrous dream;
One set of footprints
there was seen.
The footprints
of my precious Lord,
But mine were not
along the shore.
But then some stranger
prints appeared,
And I asked the Lord,
"What have we here?"
"Those prints are large
and round and neat,
But, Lord,
they are too big for feet."
"My child,"
He said in somber tones.
"For miles
I carried you alone.
I challenged you
to walk in faith,
But you refused
and made me wait.
You disobeyed,
you would not grow,
The walk of-faith
you would not know.
So I got tired
and fed up,
And there I dropped you
on your butt,
Because in life,
there comes a time,
When one must fight,
and one must climb,
When one must rise
and take a stand,
Or leave their butt prints
in the sand."

– Author Unknown

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as a donation and not an admission/ticket charge. The have nots should be encouraged to attend.

Is it an outside enterprise? Well if it's in the same building and using the group name then its not an outside event. If an autonomous group decided to put the dance on then it is an extending activity of the group or a special "lengthened" meeting.

A major issue is that the monies collected in the basket during the meeting should only go to purposes for which the money was given. A dance is probably not an understood allocation for those having contributed. Now if your meeting has the dance every month and everyone knows that this will be a use for the money then that might be acceptable. I personally belong to a group that puts on more events than most groups in the area and somehow we give more money to Intergroup, with many other contributor meetings, meeting several times a week, giving less.

Finally. I think that we have to consider if this makes the AA way of life more attractive to the new comer who might think that we are a glum lot. People who don't like these announcements are usually just not very fun to begin with.

Enjoy the dance!

Peace & Happy Days

Emmanuel S. J.

Monthly Meetings at Intergroup

- *Intergroup Reps*, 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM
- *Board of Trustees*, 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM

Sign Up Now!!!!



Answer the Intergroup *HOTLINE* phones
from your home (or cell phone)*

One night per quarter - 6:00 PM to 8:00 AM

OR

Sat. or Sun. day time - 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

Sat. or Sun. night time - 8:00 PM TO 8:00 AM

*Calls will be forwarded to your phone from the Intergroup office.

The service commitment is one night per quarter (every three months).

Requirements for this valuable service work are:

- 1) Six (6) months of continuous sobriety
- 2) Have taken AA's Twelve Steps
- 3) Familiar with the seventh chapter of the Big Book
- 4) Willing to make the above commitment for one (1) Year

ALSO

Work the phone desk at the Intergroup Office

Three hour shift between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM., M-F

Call Clint Ritter at (512)448-9017

From 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM



AA History – The Akron Guide to the Twelve Steps

A Guide to the Twelve Steps
of Alcoholics Anonymous
(Continued from last month)

SIXTH STEP

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

SEVENTH STEP

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

IT IS VERY likely that we will willingly take the Sixth Step. As we scan the faces of our new friends in AA we see something we want. We see contentedness, freedom from fear, happiness, serenity and peace. We have been harassed by fear of losing our jobs, fear of divorce, fear of creditors, in fact, fears without end. We want to be like our new friends. And so, remembering back that no human agency has helped us before, we are willing to have God remove all defects of our characters.

May Volunteers at Intergroup

Office:

Marty C. Leslie Ann D.
 Monica L. Rachel W.
 John P. Robert G.
 Dennis Y. Elise B.
 Dennis "Pete" P. Rolando P.
 Roland P. Gene C.
 John B. Scotty H.
 Charlotte J.
 Malyna
 Patty G.

Hotline:

Alyson Mary T. Chris S. Nick H.
 Richard K. Dennis "Pete" P. Randy R. Meredith H.
 Dennis/Deanie Angela E. Stewart G. David B.
 Laney H. Ruth F. Tom B. Scotty H.
 Karen K. Cory H. Linda/Mike Danny/Tonya
 Deborah P. Marty C. Jamie D. James B.
 Robert C. Mark L. Jeff P. Susie C.
 Will C. Bob J. Jenny W. Paul B.
 Jamie D. Sharon T. Gordon K. Adriaane
 Kathy L. Roland P. Pam B.

But how do we ask Him to do it?

In the first place, we must remember at all times that we cannot bargain with God. In our drinking days we would get into trouble and pray something like this: "Oh God, if you will get me out of this jam I'll never get in trouble again."

But whether or not we got out of that particular jam, you were right back into another one. Instead of asking for outright help, ask for guidance. Ask merely to be shown the way, so that you can do your own part. As we said earlier in this booklet, ask for guidance for one day at a time. The days will grow into weeks, into months and into years. Yet it has been but one day at a time.

Do this humbly. Humility is sometimes difficult to attain. In our cups we were big shots. They were all out of step but Jim. Try to remember that regardless of

who you are, you are but a tiny cog in the great universe. Look at a distant star at night. Remember that it took the light from that star a

century or more to reach the earth. Remember the star on which you gaze could probably swallow the sun without noticing it. Consider

that the earth is one of the lesser planets. And then consider your own physical insignificance. It will make you feel small and humble. And it is with that attitude that you should ask God to remove your shortcomings.

To be humble is not to grovel before men. It is not to become a doormat for society.

Yet while in the flesh we are but infinitesimal specks, always remember that the very essence of the Christian religion is that the soul of man is eternal. It is the most precious thing in the world. In the very least of us is a little spark of the divine. It is that divinity that makes us rise above the lower animals.

Recovery Jones



A Voice from Above

<http://www.recoveryjonescartoons.com/>

May Donations From Area AA Groups

Dry Creek - \$80	Keep 1 st Things 1 st - \$219	Northland - \$156
Round Rock Big Book - \$10	Phelan Road - \$10	Into Action (Lockhart) - \$30
Bridge to Shore - \$525	North Austin 24 - \$50	Unity of the Hills - \$90
Seniors - \$27	Allandale - \$20	Salvation Group - \$10
Coming Home - \$20	Central - \$76	Four Points - \$80
New Beginnings - \$68	Hope (Cedar Park) - \$35	
Firemakers - \$200	Hilltoppers - \$200	
Lost Pines - \$93	Westlake - \$350	Total: \$2,349

Humility is based on the recognition that we are the children of God. It is the consciousness of the need of a power greater than our own and a willingness to let that power control our lives.

Very simply put, humility is teachability, an open mind to the truth.

And when we can bring ourselves to this state, our recovery is well under way.

The full text can be found at:

<http://hindsfoot.org/Akr12.html>

The first AA group to be formed in Akron, Ohio used spiritual materials they could find from various religious groups of the time. Much of the AA-related material in those days was not considered religious per se though nowadays we would see it as overtly so. That is how I read the history. Your mileage may vary.

[Your editor]



HCIA Birthday Club New Members

May 2006

Jim T. - Houston, TX - 41 Yrs.

Bill and Lois's Prayer

Oh Lord, we thank Thee
that Thou art,
that we are from
everlasting to everlasting.

Blessed be Thy holy name
and all Thy benefactions to us
of light, of love, and of service.

May we find and do Thy will
in good strength,
in good cheer today.

May Thy ever-present grace
be discovered
by family and friends
those here and those beyond
by our Societies
throughout the world,
by men and women everywhere,
and among those
who must lead in these
troubled times.

Oh Lord, we know Thee
to be all wonder,

all beauty, all glory,
all power, all love.
Indeed,
Thou art everlasting love.
Accordingly,
Thou has fashioned for us
a destiny passing through
Thy many mansions,
ever in more discovery of Thee
and in no separation
between ourselves.

-- Pass It On, page 265

Contact us

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