



# Sobriety Variety Pages

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2007

## long form of tradition 10

No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

## step 10

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

## service concept 10

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.



## letter from the editor

This month's issue focuses on the 10th step, tradition and service concept. We hope you enjoy the information and activities each month. We also hope you will pass your copy on to an alcoholic who has not read Sobriety Variety Pages and send us your thoughts and ideas at [sobrietyvarity@austinaa.org](mailto:sobrietyvarity@austinaa.org). If you or a friend would like to receive a PDF version by email each month just drop us a line at our email address.

As always, thanks to the volunteers that "carry the message" by answering the intergroup phones and working in a myriad of ways to keep our groups and service structure on the move.

Yours in Service,

## the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous

### American understanding of alcoholism in the 1930s

Public opinion in post-Prohibition 1930s America saw alcoholism as a moral failing, and the medical profession saw it as a condition that in many cases was incurable and lethal. Those without financial resources found help through state hospitals, the Salvation Army, and other charitable and religious groups. Those who could afford psychiatrists or hospitals were often subjected to a treatment with barbiturate and belladonna known as "purge and puke" or were left in long-term asylum treatment. From the point of view of the alcoholic, there was simply no positive or helpful way of conceptualizing or responding to the condition.

### A search for a spiritual cure

AA was founded by Bill Wilson, a Wall Street stockbroker and stock analyst, and Dr. Bob Smith, a proctologist from Akron, Ohio, both alcoholics. The chain of events that led to the meeting of these men began in Europe, where American business executive Rowland Hazard sought treatment for alcoholism with the famous Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung. After a prolonged and unsuccessful period of therapy, Jung told Hazard that his case, like that of most alcoholics, was nearly hopeless—the only possibility for a cure was through spiritual conversion.

Back in America, Rowland Hazard joined the Oxford Group, a Christian Evangelical association. The group advocated finding God through a spiritual surrender, moral inventory, confession of defects, elimination of sin, restitution, reliance upon God, and helping others. (Bill Wilson later gave credit for the concepts behind Steps Three through Twelve to the teachings of Rev. Samuel Moor Shoemaker of the Oxford Group.) Through the Oxford group, Hazard underwent a spiritual conversion and achieved his long hoped for sobriety.

*Wikipedia*

"... the only possibility for a cure was through spiritual conversion."

# group donations to HCI

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Into Action (Lockhart) - \$30      | Liars Club South—\$130              |
| Simply AA—\$13                     | Lake Travis Serenity—\$250          |
| Bridge to Shore—\$440              | Back to Basics (Marble Falls)- \$75 |
| Allandale—\$336                    | Burnet Nooners—\$360                |
| Basic Text—\$20                    | Friday Night Group (Austin)- \$50   |
| New Beginnings- \$55               | Austin City-Wide Group—\$100        |
| Gattis School Road—\$34            | Westlake—\$700                      |
| Primary Purpose (Cedar Park)- \$65 | Central—\$103                       |
| Keep 1st Things 1st—\$200          | Llano—\$113                         |
| Big Book Topics (defunct) - \$25   | Driftwood—\$31                      |
| Renegade Ducks—\$25                | South Austin Big Book —\$75         |
| Coming Home—\$20                   | Northland—\$645                     |

Please note a correction:  
Northland donated \$681 in September

*give a birthday  
club membership  
to HCI in honor  
of a friend's  
sobriety*

## birthday club members

Congratulations to those celebrating annual sobriety birthdays. Our newest club members are:

- Richard K.—We Agnostics—8 years**
- John B.—South Austin Big Book—22 years**

## HCI volunteers

- |                   |            |                 |                  |              |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>In Office:</b> | Pam M.     | Mary L.         | Gary C.          | Shawn        |
| Karin D.          | Marla K.   | Leslie Ann D.   | Robert C.        | Jeremy B.    |
| Ron W.            | Pam R.     | John B.         | Dennis “Pete” P. | Bob J.       |
| Dennis “Pete” P.  | Renee S.   | Rachel Z.       | Bill U.          | Tom S.       |
| Gene C.           | Charlie F. | Jim H.          | Ruben G.         | Beth B.      |
| Kevin B.          | Bart       | Marty C.        | Paul B.          | Denis/Deanie |
| Rolando P.        | Kelley D.  | <b>Hotline:</b> | Meredith H.      | Sharon T.    |
| Bill H.           | Billy C.   | Charlotte J.    | Pam B.           |              |

Please note that last month’s HCI volunteers section left out the names of many of our dedicated volunteers. This oversight was accidental and we hope you see your name here this month.

## newcomer blog

Hello, my name is Greg and I am an alcoholic. I have been asked to chronicle my steps in this program and I pray that something that I write helps you in your journey. I know that by sharing my experience with you I will be helped. So far I have covered my experience with steps one and two. This month I will briefly describe my step three experience.

I actually had two very important experiences with step three. The step states that we “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him”. I will admit that I don’t remember who exactly first told me about the third step. I do know that someone must have as in the first week of my sobriety I was told that when the obsession came over me I could relieve it some by praying for Gods will in my life. This seemed a bit naïve to me, as my plan was not to have Gods will in my life. **MY PLAN** was to stop drinking, get my stuff back, and then rub everyone’s nose in the fact that I had fixed my problems. But since I had confirmed in step one that ‘I was willing to go to any lengths’ I decided to give it a shot.

When I was first getting sober one of my most risky times was during my drive home from work as my habit was to pick up a bottle on the way home and begin my evening drinking during my commute. I had five liquor stores that I would choose from on the 20 minute drive. Sometimes if felt as though my car was on autopilot leading me to one of the previously appointed stops. When this would happen I would say over and over again “Thy will be done” and usually within 30 seconds the obsession would pass at least until I approached the next store. I would repeat the process and was able to make it all the way home. I had to admit that there may be something to this God’s will thing.


When I had about 45 days sober I began working this step formally with my sponsor. I went to a church with my sponsor that I had attended many times before and knelt before the alter for about 10 minutes coming into the presence of God. When the moment felt right I prayed the third step prayer with my sponsor. As we were leaving he asked me how I felt and I responded that I didn’t know. It took about 24 hours to realize that there was a change taking over me. I began to apply God’s will to all of my decision making process. When I was faced with a decision I would ask myself what is God’s will in this? Am I being selfish or self serving? I was amazed at how easy it was to tell. There was no doubt that God was beginning to work in my life. About the same time I noticed that my obsession to drink had been lifted and I was beginning to experience a new freedom and self seeking was slipping away. Some of the promises on page 84 were already materializing in my life.

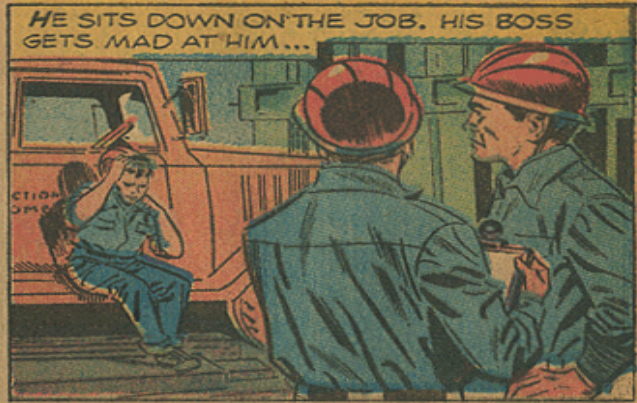
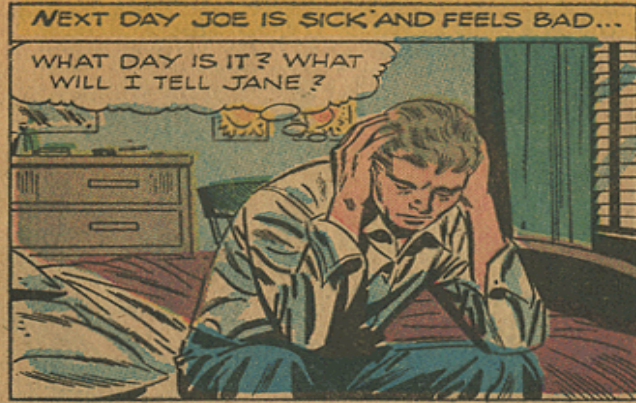
I know that I am not completely living my life according to God’s will. I am very new at this, but in the evening when I review my day in the presence of my higher power I am more pleased with my successes than I am disappointed with my failures. After all just a few months ago I would not have even considered reviewing my actions and decisions based on Gods will rather than my own. As long as I can say from day to day, week to week, and month to month that I am still making progress, I will leave the perfection in God’s hands.

*“I had to admit  
that there may be  
something to this  
God’s will thing.”*

# continued from last month...


## WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE

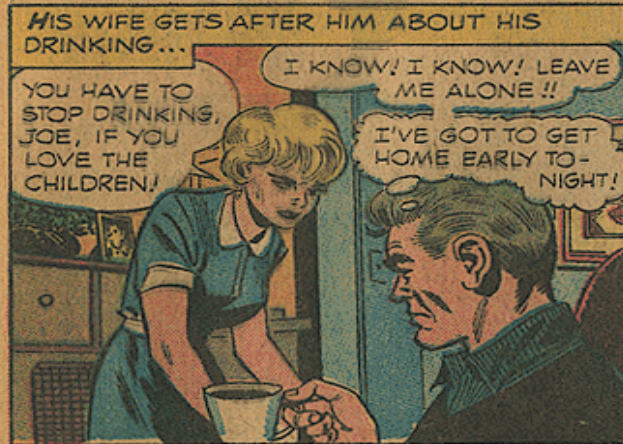
 This is Al-Anon  
Conference Approved Literature.



A complete set of the 1968-1974 Alcoholics Anonymous comic strips - <http://www.ep.tc> - 052 of 095


## WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE

 This is Al-Anon  
Conference Approved Literature.



A complete set of the 1968-1974 Alcoholics Anonymous comic strips - <http://www.ep.tc> - 053 of 095

## WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE

 This is Al-Anon  
Conference Approved Literature.



A complete set of the 1968-1974 Alcoholics Anonymous comic strips - <http://www.ep.ta> - 051 of 095

## Hill Country Intergroup

1825 Fortview Rd

Suite #104

Austin, Texas

78704

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

email:

[austinaa@austin.rr.com](mailto:austinaa@austin.rr.com)

## Sobriety Variety Pages

Found at [www.austinaa.org](http://www.austinaa.org) in the

current and archived monthly

newsletters link

Contact us at

[sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org](mailto:sobrietyvariety@austinaa.org)

# 10th step, tradition & service concept wordfind

AUTHORITY  
BYLAWS  
CHARTERS  
CONTROVERSIAL  
DEFINED  
EQUAL  
EXPRESS  
IMPLICATE

INVENTORY  
ISSUES  
OPINION  
OPPOSE  
OUTSIDE  
PARTICULARLY  
PERSONAL  
POLICTICS

PROMPTLY  
REFORM  
RELIGION  
RESOLUTION  
RESPONSIBILITY  
SECTARIAN  
TRADITION

B I E M I S E N V E L R D Q I X I N S U U  
 R V X K O S P G O E H N T J T P O O B A G  
 Q C P J A Z C U J U I O F S G M L I F Y H  
 K B R K Y Z T I V W P I A E F H U G K H N  
 Q C E A T S I K T Q D T J D G L E I N T Z  
 K K S S I C E Y T I U U X Q M R U L O E P  
 Q Q S D L R I T N K L L C C X I O E V N S  
 M J E N I J Y I J F N O H D I C T R F J S  
 J E C Y B G R R P A Y S P E M T K T R S E  
 X A N L I T O O H O S E L F P A K Y E O R  
 K M O R S X T H A P W R A I L A R L Q D P  
 V S I A N E N T Z I A Y U N I O E T H G X  
 Y E T L O M E U Z N L O Q E C P G P R M E  
 O U I U P U V A G I Y R E D A P P M N Y E  
 H S D C S S N L W O B Q E T T O M O P Z O  
 B S A I E Q I Y D N J H O F E S Z R H N G  
 F I R T R I W L W V W K M T O E V P A D N  
 Q V T R O S L K C O T R O V E R S I A L P  
 A S O A N A I R A T C E S W F X M T M J S  
 T W A P Y E Q D G P E R S O N A L I N C C  
 F M O F V W M C J F N W M S R E T R A H C