

# SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

*Hill Country Intergroup*

## How much money can I charge a person for information about the 12 steps?

Volume 8, Issue 8

August 2008

### Inside this issue:

Step 12 Workshop	2
Tradition Eight	2
Concept Eight	3
July Volunteers	3
July Donations	3
Birthday Club	4
Statement of Purpose	4

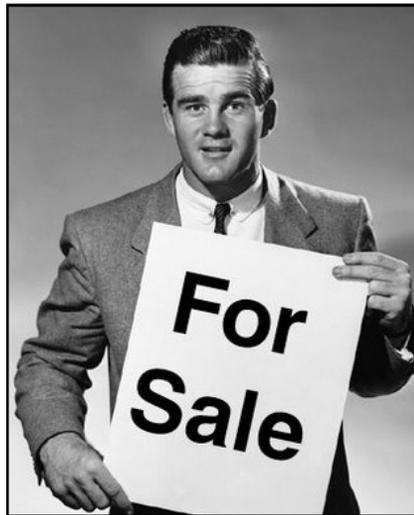
### Step Eight

*Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words "Freely ye have received, freely give." We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world's best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be

based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single new-



comer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromises him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.'s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.

In former days, the moment an A.A. hired out to outside agencies dealing with the alcohol problem,

he was immediately tempted to use the name Alcoholics Anonymous for publicity or money-raising purposes. Drunk farms, educational ventures, state legislatures, and commissions advertised the fact that A.A. members served them. Unthinkingly, A.A.'s so employed recklessly broke anonymity to thump the tub for their pet enterprise. For this reason, some very good causes and all connected with them suffered unjust criticism from A.A. groups. More often than not, these onslaughts were spearheaded by the cry "Professionalism! That guy is making money out of A.A.'s Twelfth Step work. The violation in these instances was not professionalism at all; it was breaking anonymity. A.A.'s sole purpose was being compromised, and the name of Alcoholics Anonymous was being misused.

Continued on Page 3



## HCIA Workshop—"How to Make a 12th Step Call"

Saturday, AUGUST 23rd 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Qualifying the Prospect Meeting with the Alcoholic Follow-up

INTERACTIVE FORMAT—BRING YOUR GOOD IDEAS

617 Clifford Dr. in South Austin at the 617 Foundation.

Refreshments will be provided by the Bluebonnet Group.



### *Tradition Eight*

*Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics*

*for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage*

*non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12th Step" work is never to be paid for.*

**How much money can I charge a person for information about the 12 steps?**

—continued from page one

It is significant, now that almost no A.A. in our Fellowship breaks anonymity at the public level, that nearly all these fears have subsided. We see that we have no right or need to discourage A.A.'s who wish to work as individuals in these wider fields. It would be actually antisocial were we to forbid them. We cannot declare A.A. such a closed corporation that we keep our knowledge and experience top secret. If an A.A. member acting as a citi-

zen can become a better researcher, educator, personnel officer, then why not? Everybody gains, and we have lost nothing. True, some of the projects to which A.A.'s have attached themselves have been ill-conceived, but that makes not the slightest difference with the principle involved.

*This article reprinted with permission from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" - GSC approved literature.*



## Concept Eight

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

## July Volunteers

**Office:**

Norma A., Stephanie L., Marilyn C., Lesly, Mary L., Brad R., Marty C., Dennis "Pete" P., Jeane&Vicki, Kevin M., Billy C., Buster S., Nancy P., John P., Sirri W., Gordon D., Amber C., Pam R., Kevin B., Rachel Z., Lisa D., Vashti J.Eileen B.

**Hotline:**

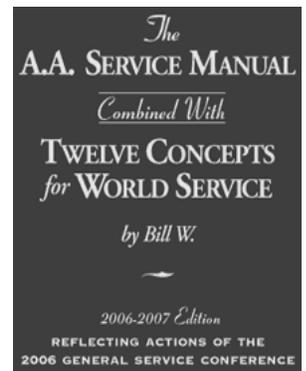
Tommy B., Meredith H., Jamie D., Robert G., Lee A., Brent B., Pete H., Erick H., Connie M., Deb J., Chris W., Bob L., Nicole C., Marty C., Jeff P., Carol M., Paul B., NA24, Gary B., Billy C., Katherine H., Mark L., Linda V., Deanie/Dennis L., Siiri W., John P., Ann R., Eileen B., Dave E., Rhea R., Gordon D., Connie/Mike, Barb H., Cliff G., Ed B., Pam M., Amy M.

## Thank You!

## July Donations from Groups

## Thank You!

New Beginnings - \$97	Brushy Creek - \$100	Suburban - \$10
Elgin - \$10	1313 - \$90	Firemakers - \$500
Central - \$50	Sunshine Group - \$127	Central - \$40
Buda Big Book - \$50	Sunrise @ Sun City - \$35	Northland - \$902
Allandale - \$301	Bridge to Shore - \$510	Kempner - \$29
Desire to Stop - \$194	Austin City-Wide Group - \$150	Lost Pines - \$110
Georgetown - \$300	Saturday AM Serenity - \$68	Hope Group - \$ 393
Turning Point - \$54	North Austin 24 - \$50	Fresh Start - \$30
Dry Creek - \$20	Lighthouse Group - \$100	Sisters in Sobriety (Marble Falls) - \$30
Keep 1 <sup>st</sup> Things 1st - \$140	A Way Out - \$40	
Into Action (Lockhart) - \$30	Buda 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance - \$38	
Seniors - \$25		Total \$4,623



HILL COUNTRY  
INTERGROUP

*If you want to drink,  
that's your business.  
If you want to stop  
And can't  
that's our business.*



1825 Fortview Rd. #104  
Austin, Texas 78704

Phone: 512-444-0071  
Fax: 512-448-7586  
E-mail: [austinaa@austin.rr.com](mailto:austinaa@austin.rr.com)

[WWW.AUSTINAA.ORG](http://WWW.AUSTINAA.ORG)

## Attention AA Members !

### Join the Hill Country Intergroup's BIRTHDAY CLUB !

Bring in a suggested donation of  
\$1 *or more* per year of sobriety to:

HCI, 1825 Fortview Rd. #104, Austin, TX 78704

HCI will acknowledge you as a member of our  
BIRTHDAY CLUB by sending you an ID Card and  
by listing your name (1<sup>st</sup> name, last initial)

In this publication.

HCIA Birthday Club - New Members July, 2008

David M R. - Georgetown AA - 27 years

Marty C. - Turning Point - 7 years

Gail P. - Western Trails -1 year

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their  
experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem  
and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to en-  
gage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



[AAGRAPEVINE.ORG](http://AAGRAPEVINE.ORG)  
*The International Journal  
of Alcoholics Anonymous*



Alcoholics  
Anonymous