



SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

What's the best way to discipline AA?

Volume 8, Issue 9

September 2008

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WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that "Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization." In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous-A.A. as a whole-should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, "What do they mean, no organization?"

Well, let's see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn't somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary

rules and regulations? Doesn't nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither is General Service Conference, its Foundation Board,* nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We've tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result. Groups have tried to expel members, but the banished have come back to sit in the meeting place, saying "This is life for us; you can't keep us out." Committees have

instructed many an A.A. to stop working on a chronic backslider, only to be told: "How I do my Twelfth Step work is my business. Who are you to judge?" This doesn't mean an A.A. won't take advice or suggestions from more experienced members, but he surely won't take orders. Who is more unpopular than the old-time A.A., full of wisdom, who moves to another area and tries to tell the group there how to run its business? He and all like him who "view with alarm for the good of A.A." meet the most stubborn resistance or, worse still, laughter.

The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the group, too, can deteriorate and die. So we of A.A. do obey spiritual principles, first because we must, and ultimately because we love the kind of life such

Step Nine

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

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New Friday Night Meeting in South Austin!

[Living Sober](#)

617 Clifford Drive
Austin, Tx 78745

The Living Sober group will meet at 8pm every Friday
at the 617 Foundation in south Austin. Format is Open Discussion.

New Group in North Austin!

[N2 Action](#)

3500 Parmer Lane
Austin, Tx 78727

Check out the N2 Action group at 3500 Parmer Lane in north Austin.
We meet at 5pm every Saturday.



Tradition Nine

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its Secretary, the large group its Rotating Committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their Central or Intergroup Committee, which often employs a full-time Secretary. The trustees of the

General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee

the integrity of our principle newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

What's the best way to discipline AA members or groups?**—continued from page one**

obedience brings. Great suffering and great love are A.A.'s disciplinarians; we need no others.

AA has to function, but at the same time it must avoid those dangers of great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power which necessarily tempt other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it discloses

a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service—a true fellowship.

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"The only thing I ever did in moderation was the Steps..." — Frank H., legendary AA member, Houston, TX.

Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety.

Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

August Volunteers**Office:**

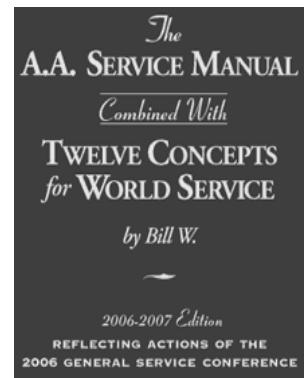
Mark A., Siiri W., Dennis "Pete" P., Lesly, Rachel Z., Marilyn C., Stephanie, Brad R., Mary L., Marty C., Billy C., Shabd K., Vicki & Jeanne, Marla K., Stephanie, Gail, Brian P., Kevin B., John P., Buster S., Gordon D., Aimee, Lisa D., Billy H., Kevin M., Norma A., Nancy, Danielle

Hotline:

Gunnar S., John B., Patty T., John P., Jim H., Rachel Z., Katherine H., Nick V-B., Marc J., Don C., Harlan O., Drew W., Rick S., Pam B., Pam R., Scotty H., Kevin M., Alex H., Nancy N., Mary T., NA24, Laney H., Keith F., Karen K., Gordon D., Dennis/Deanie, Erick H., Connie/Mike, Tom K., Carlos A., Mark K., Dudley F., Ruben G., Amy M., Erick A., Sharon T., Paul B., Connie M., Ryan P.

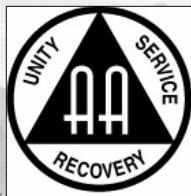
Thank You!**August Donations from Groups*****Thank You!***

Desire to Stop - \$157	Westlake - \$1000	North Austin 24 - \$50
Dripping Springs - \$236	Started in Service - \$15	Into Action (Lockhart) - \$30
Lakeway (Emmaus) - \$197	Northland - \$269	Marble Falls - \$100
Elgin - \$10	Austin City Wide Group -	
Giddings - \$80	\$150	
Lakeview - \$170	New Beginnings - \$156	
Spiritual Awakenings - \$27	Miracles - \$313	
Allandale - \$472	Things Are Looking Up -	
Bridge to Shore - \$320	\$130	
		Total \$ 3882



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

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 (1st name, last initial)

In this publication.

HCIA Birthday Club – New Members August, 2008

Steve B. – Turning Point – 24 years

Patrick M. – Turning Point – 9 years

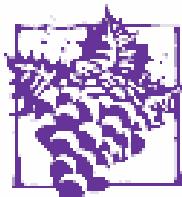
Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

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 engage 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

*The International Journal
of Alcoholics Anonymous*



Alcoholics
Anonymous