

SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

Hill Country Intergroup

Disciplining AA members

Volume 9, Issue 9

September 2009

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Step Nine

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



WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that "Alcoholics Anonymous needs that 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

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Hill Country Intergroup

is sponsoring a workshop on



The AA Responsibility Statement

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand

of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

Saturday
September 19, 2009
9:30 to 11:30 am at the
Central Christian Church
1110 Guadalupe Street
Austin, Tx 78701



Hill Country Intergroup
Serving Austin and the Texas Hill Country

www.austinaa.org

512-444-0071

- Workshop will be hosted by the **New Beginnings Group**
- Refreshments will be furnished by the **Friday Night Group**
- Workshop Panel:**
Steve Y. – Burnet
Harry H. – San Marcos
Rodney T. – Bastrop



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

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

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



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

Thank You!

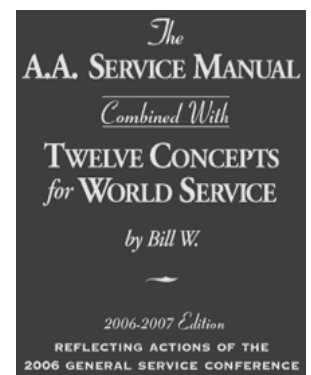
Office:
 Billy C., Patrick McD., Rachel Z., Marty C., Don B., Buster S. & Annie, Morna N., Russell B., Lesly J., Keli D., Kevin B., Kimberly H., Nancy K., Scotty H., Molly, John B., Evelyn, Karre (the message), Christy A., Gordon D., Mark L., Clare, Kathleen G.

Hotline:
 Rachel Z., Amy M., Stewart G., Scott C., Billy C., Cullen L., Nicole C., Leslie Ann D., Ian M., Erick A., Tommy B., Scotty H., Harlan O., Gordon K., John G., Shabd K., Sharon T., Nancy K., Jen E., Donita T., Jenna C., Brent B., Jamie D., Lee A., Siiri W., Paul B., Mark B., Ryan P., Laney H., Katherine H., Andrew G., Alex H., Maia M., Christopher L., Darrin A.

August Donations from Groups

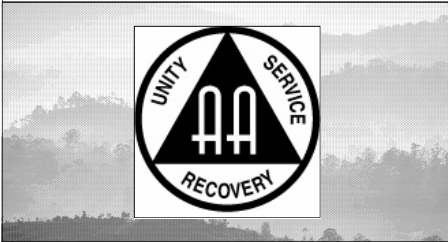
Thank You!

Desire to Stop - \$211	(Cedar Park) - \$30	Rainbow Room
Friday Night (Austin) - \$25	Suburban - \$10	(San Marcos) - \$15
Started in Service - \$20	Westlake - \$2,750	Triangle - \$40
Bridge to Shore - \$150	North Austin 24 - \$50	Elgin - \$10
Giddings - \$90	Power Hour - \$25	East Austin - \$363
Northland - \$298	Four Points - \$100	
Lighthouse - \$100	Keep 1 st Things 1 st - \$845	
Primary Purpose	Lakeway Emmaus - \$83	
	Total	\$ 5215



HILL COUNTRY
INTERGROUP

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



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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)

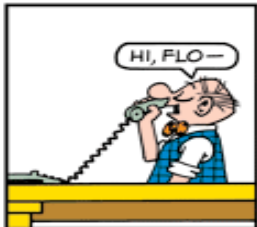
In this publication.

HCIA Birthday Club - New Members August, 2009

Sharon T. - 1825 Group - 21 years

Don B. - Hilltoppers - 17yrs.

ANDY CAPP



by Smythe



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*The International Journal
of Alcoholics Anonymous*

