

S O B R I E T Y V A R I E T Y

JANUARY 2012

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First Tradition Checklist

MY SOBRIETY DEPENDS ON UNITY WITH YOU.

When I walked into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous I heard some telling the newcomers they were the most important persons in the room. After 18 months of manipulating people in the program and relapsing 3 times, an old crusty oldtimer came up to me and told me they were going to be my sponsor. I asked them one day why I heard others saying that. He said they were full of bull (well pretty close to that anyway), he told me the newcomer is the lifeblood of the program, the mid-timers are the muscle and organs and the oldtimers were the back bone. With out any one of them AA would not be what it is today. Unity, the principle behind that statement, and our first tradition has always bewildered me. My alcoholic nature when I don't like someone is to not interact with them. Though more times than I can count it has been those very people reaching out to me for the hand of AA when they were in a bad spot. I never turned one down, but that doesn't mean I have grasped the concept of being unified with all of AA. Those who know me still have their hands full of spiritual sandpaper. Use this list of questions for the grapevine tradition checklist to gauge where you stand in unity with AA. It was an eye opening experience for me and I hope it will be for you as well.

Ask yourself what am I doing to help build that unity?

Here are some questions you can ask yourself when you take your Tradition inventory:

1. Am I, in my group, a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the

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DECEMBER 2011 VOLUNTEERS

Office

Frank D., Kimberly W., Claire C., Valerie A., Stephanie F., Craig K., Nate K., Dan H., Billy C., Norma A., Charles M., Eileen B., Gary F., John B., Lizz R., Jerry, Pat F., Wendy F., Kenny K., Michael N., Marty C., Matt B., Donna Jean E., James B., Leslie Ann D., Jim H.

Hotline

Scott C., Darrin A., Nancy K., Kim R., Ryan P., Chris F., Mike H., Dan B., Jim H., Alex H., A Way Out (Bastrop), Kelly Q., Mark L., Rudy W., Maria D., Karin S., Paul B., Amy M., Michael S., Nathan D., Susan P., Eileen P., Gordon K., Allison A., Jenna H., Mary Jo B., Jennifer D-E. Will C., Stephanie F., Dee K., Jason I., Maggie B., South Austin Big Book Group (SABBG)

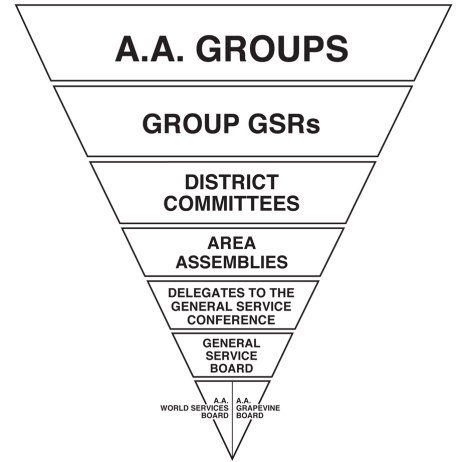
When did Bill W die?

Answer on page 3.

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- ◆ Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? ◆ Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group’s decisions and actions reflect that? ◆ Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? ◆ Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings? ◆ Is the “collective conscience” of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area? ◆ Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.? ◆ Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



Since the groups hold the ultimate responsibility and final authority of our world services... Who holds the legal authority?

The Gift of Desperation!

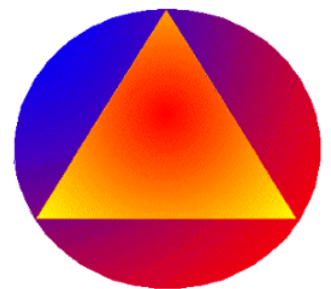
When I first came into the rooms of alcoholics anonymous I was not there because I wanted to be. I was court ordered. I stayed around just long enough to have the seed planted, I figured out I could sign my own card and meet a man. That’s all it took for me to be out and running again. It took me 10 years to have the gift of desperation handed to me. Many time during that 10 years I know that my drinking was going to kill me. I had the notion reinforced by doctors, clergy, courts, and mental health professionals. I came as close as you can with out going over to a psychotic snap. Unknown to me the doctors were setting up an intervention to lock me up. At that time God did for me what I could not do for myself. I found myself in a rape victims support facility and the lady was telling me that I was beyond the help they could offer, but set up an appointment with someone that can. This lady tried to help me but with out my honesty there wasn’t much luck. She passed me on to someone else and to that person I could relate. I seen this person when they were a few years sober and here they were again, happy. Not drinking. They suggested I go back to meetings. But until my ex-husband had to go I didn’t bother.

Continued on page 4

HCIA Birthday Club

December, 2011
New Members

Teresa W.
A Way Out (Austin)
25 years



DECEMBER 2011 DONATIONS

Fri. Rush Hr. - \$50	The Turning Point - \$10	\$150
Westlake - \$1,000	Phelan Rd. - \$10	Any Lengths - \$350
Georgetown - \$560	Allandale - \$130	Promises - \$34
Courage to Change - \$53	East Austin - \$107	There is a Solution - \$109
Hope (Cedar Park) - \$900	Renegade Ducks - \$25	Buda Big Book - \$31
Promises - \$100	Bridge to Shore - \$487	Keep 1 st Things 1 st - \$425
Western Trails - \$12	A Way Out (Bastrop) - \$43	Sunday Morning Sidewalk - \$54
Brown Bag (Kingsland) - \$100	On the Colorado - \$50	Nada Glum Lot - \$200
Northland - \$150	Men's Literature - \$66	
The River Group - \$25	Promises - \$165	Total contributions
	Austin City-Wide Group -	\$5,396



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- sake of discussion," plunge into arguments?
3. Am I gentle with alcoholics who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
 4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
 5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
 6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole or just the parts I understand and approve of?
 7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
 8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
 9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
 10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

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Bill W. died January 24, 1971 at age 75 and 36 years sober, in Miami Beach, FL. It was also his and Lois' 53rd wedding anniversary.

Hill Country Intergroup Rep Meeting
2nd Monday of the Month, 6:30 PM
Covenant Presbyterian Church—Room 107

Visit our Website
www.austinaa.org

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After all there was no way that he could do this with out some help. So I went everyday to sit with him and make sure he was listening. What happened is I started think about my own drinking. I took a desire chip and fought this thing for 18 months. I went back out one more time and I didn't think I'd make it back. The old-timers sent the posse after me and I swear it was because I had the checkbook. When I drug myself in I swore I'd go to any lengths. At that time some old-timer came up to me and told me he was gonna be my sponsor, that so and so was his sponsor, and the so and so was his sponsor and they were tired of watching run over the women and slowly die in the process. Sit here a little over ten years later sober and grateful. I watch for the women that come in with that desperation in their eyes. I has been my honor to have passed onn what was so readily given to me. Today I try to stay grounded in all three legacies as did those three crusty old men that help to light my path. Do you remember you moment of desperation? Have you had one in sobriety? I have. AA has saved my life on more than one occasion just because AA was there for me at just the right time.

I Am Responsible...

When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to be
there. And for that:



I am
responsible.



(512) 444-0071

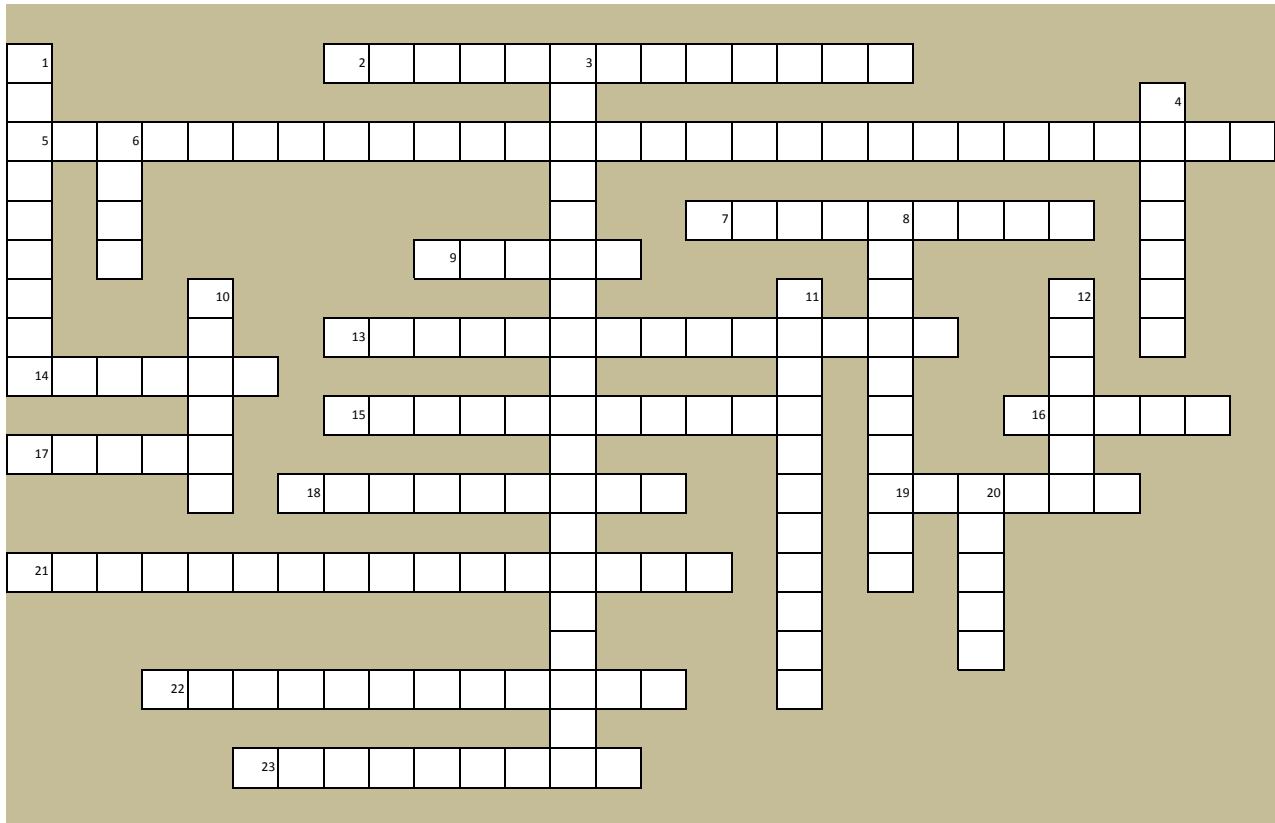
Fax (512) 444-7586

Share Your Experience,
Strength & Hope

Submit an Article

Or News For Publication

MailAustinAA@gmail.com



ACROSS

- 2 - First AA group in mental institution, _____ Hospital, NY
- 5 President Nixon received _____
- 7 Bill met Dr. Bob at who's house
- 9 Dr. Jack Norris presented President _____ with the one millionth big book
- 13 Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the _____ and it was adopted readily by AA
- 14 March 1941 _____ printing of Big Book
- 15 Gives AA 5K
- 16 First group to withdrawal from Oxford Group
- 17 First publisher for book Alcoholics Anonymous
- 18 Bill has _____ experience at Towns Hospital
- 19 New York AA spits from what group
- 21 article in Liberty magazine, _____ by Morris Markey
- 22 Dr. Tiebout first _____ to endorse AA
- 23 First town to use the name Alcoholics Anonymous for the group

DOWN

- 1 Texas newspaper publishes _____ letter from founding member of Texas AA Group
- 3 Bill and Hank transfer their Works Publishing stock to the _____
- 4 Chuck C. from _____ died sober in Texas
- 6 carries message to Bill
- 8 March 10, 1944 New York _____ was established
- 10 the word _____ dropped from the AA preamble
- 11 June 21, 1944 - The first Issue of the _____ was published
- 12 _____ Award given to AA by American Public Health Assoc
- 20 April 25, 1951 - AA's _____ General Service Conference was held

- 1-ANONYMOUS
- 2- ROCKLANDSTATE
- 3- ALCO- HOLICFOUNDATION
- 4-HOUSTON
- 5- onemillionthcopy- ofthebigbook
- 6-Ebby
- 7-Henrietta
- 8-Intergroup
- 9-Nixon
- 10-Honest
- 11-AAGrapewine
- 12-Laskar
- 13-Serenthyprayer
- 14-second
- 15-Rockerfeller
- 16-Akron
- 17-works
- 18-spiritual
- 19-oxford
- 20- first
- 21- alcoholic- sandgod
- 22-physicarist
- 23-Cleveland