SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

Published by the Hill Country Intergroup 1825 Fortview Rd. Suite 104 Austin, Texas 78704



Volume 12, Issue 11

November 2012

Inside this issue:

Gratitude Is An ACTION Word.	1
November History (A.A. Ar-	1
October Volunteers	2
HCI Birth Day Club	2
October Donations	2
Thank God I Made it HOME.	3
AA Humor Section	3
Wanted	4
Personal Stories	4
Capital Of Texas Conference	4
Hand-In-Hand Walked Through To The Other Side	5
HCI Information	6

Our Mission

6

Upcoming Events

WE WORK 24 HOURS A DAY FOR YOU!

Information 12th
Step Referrals
Service
Opportunities

www.austinaa.org (512) 444-0071

Gratitude Is An ACTION Word

Gratitude is the state of being grateful which means that it is a living entity or spirit that dwells inside of us. In AA I learned that gratitude is not something you feel; that is being grateful which is being appreciative of benefits received. GRATITUDE is something you do. The program has given me a life worth living and shown me how to be a friend, father, husband, and employee. In order to show gratitude for that I have to be those things. The program offers us all kinds of ways to show our gratitude through service. I must be a member of my home group and participate in all functions of that group. I must remember that Alcoholics are not always in my home group so I must participate in other levels of service to reach them including District committees. I must have a sponsor and sponsor others in order to carry the message. The AA responsibility statement says that I am responsible anytime the hand of AA is needed. I also have this life that is full of family and friends therefore I must be a husband that is willing to communicate and is loving and caring of my wife's feelings. I must be a father that participates and shows love and compassion to my children and grandchildren. I must be a friend to those I care about show them that I am someone they can count on. I must be an employee that shows up on time and performs the duties expected of me. I am grateful for the gifts that have been given to me by the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and a loving God. I show my gratitude everyday by carrying the 12 steps and principles I have experienced in my heart and head. Gratitude in action is living this program in your life in all aspects to the best of your ability.

Don't just be grateful show your GRATITUDE.

Robert C.

November History (A.A. Archives Open At G.S.O.)

In November 1975, Lois W. and Tom S. of Jacksonville, Florida (a trustee who chairs the archives committee), cut a blue ribbon to officially open the A.A. Archives at G.S.O. New York. In a brief speech, Dr. John L. Norris points out that A.A. must continually renew. (AA World Services Archives)

Hill Country Intergroup

Representatives

Meeting

2nd Monday

Of the

Month

6:30 PM

Covenant

Presbyterian

Church

Education Bldg.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Office -

Lizz R., Marty C., Billy C., Gordon D., Michael N., Pat F., Frank D., James B., Jim H., Dan H., Buster S., Melissa A., Claire C., John B., Allen B., Berkley, Marla K.

Hotline -

Gordon K., Mark A., Marty C., Darrin A., A Way Out group (Austin), Brad C., Randy R., Karin S., Jerry T., Allandale group, Rick P., Jim G., Beth B., Wendy F., Friday Rush Hour group, Mary T., Susan P., Mary Jo B., Spiritual Awakenings group, Harlan O., Dudley F.



HCIA Birthday Club

OCTOBER BIRTH DAYS

2012

Robert C. Bastrop Friday Night Group

> 12 Years Ann O. Austin

> > 29 Years

OCTOBER DONATIONS

Buda Big Book - \$30

The Turning Point - \$113

Kempner - \$17

Principles Of Recovery - \$150

North Austin 24 - \$87

Northland - \$196

Phelan Rd. - \$10

Pennsylvania - \$70

Keystone - 266

A Way Out (Austin) - \$450

Allandale - \$571

Welcome Home - \$50

Noon Group (617) - \$100

Total October Donations-\$4,524

Burnet Noon Group - \$300

Reading Rainbow - \$10

On the Colorado (OTC) - \$20

Sunshine Group (Georgetown) - \$140

Nuthouse Gang - \$360

Into Action (Lockhart) - \$40

Sunday South - \$27

Nada Glum Lot - \$300

Austin Citywide - \$150

Keep 1st Things 1st - \$454

Carry This Message - \$225

East Austin - \$84

Some Are Sicker Than Others - \$304



Volume 12, Issue 11 Page 3

Thank God I Made it HOME!

Where's home? Where are you from? Where do you live? Usually, questions of this ilk are the first posed by new friends and associates. Why is knowing where home is so important? Well, today thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous, I not only know the importance of this question, I also know how blessed I am to know my answer. This was not always the case.

I trace my family history back to the 14th century and know of only 3 places my family's lived all those years (London, Boston and Chicago). For my part, nearly a half century of living, I've more than made up for all the moves my family might've made over 8 centuries. I've actually lived in 34 different places (Joliet, Oswego, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, San Diego, Chicago, Kansas City, Bethesda, Fort Myers, Bellingham, Rapid City, and recently the Austin area to name a few). I attended 11 different schools in 19 years of schooling. I count 2 failed marriages annulled in my 20s. And, in the past 3 years I've held 6 different positions with companies you'd recognize. Rolling stone, gypsy, tornado more like it; you get the picture.

As a result of living this way I got really good at doing the things we do to survive. I got creative, interesting, adventurous, charismatic, accommodating, like-able, giving, responsible, respectful, or so I thought. I might have exhibited some of these qualities more or less depending on the situation, what was at stake, the whim of my will and desire. Invariably these qualities would not sustain and my dark angles would take over. I'd be always anxious about getting "found out". The more this anxiety grew, the more I sought solace in the bottle. Microbrews, designer Pinots and Sailor Jerry Rum – in that order – not over time but every time! By the end I had locked myself in a cell fortified by my magnificent magnifying mind and did the only thing I could to survive – DRINK.

I love to ride my motorcycle – it's an '03 Dyna I've logged 50k miles on. The place I got to before coming into AA was akin to getting stuck in a storm, without proper gear, hanging on by the skin of my teeth, knuckles frost bit, desperately seeking cover, knowing I could hit pavement at 80mph at any moment. I needed the right gear and more than that I needed GPS to find my way home. So, AA became my GPS. AA showed me the way home; initially through sponsorship, a handshake, then a kind word, then genuine concern and encouragement, then Step 1, Step 2, Step 3, and so on. My AA GPS also told me when I would arrive and what it would look like once I got there – The Promises.

Today home is wherever I am; where God is and where I am able to demonstrate and express love. Along the way I've learned there is really only one force in the universe. That force is love (God). I am either promoting love or lacking love. Today I choose to love (God).

Life isn't perfect. Today more than ever I know there is vigilance and effort required. Today I know there is a better way. AA shows me things I have to work on and gives me the tools to do the work. Of course doing the work is a decision I have to make every day. Faith without works is dead. In a little more than a month, I will celebrate 3 years. Then, I will have the privilege of expressing the deepest appreciation and gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous for showing me the way home without the need of a single drink of alcohol along the route.

Нарру Thanksgiving. Love to all my brothers and sisters in AA. Fraternally yours, Kevin Carey

AA Thought For The Month CIRCUS

In my prized AA sobriety, I was running a kind of circus which had numerous, highly believable posters all over its outside - See the Spectacular Non-**Drinking Person! Watch** how Movingly He can Recite the Twelve Steps!— but which had nothing going on inside the tent. I've been working hard to shut that circus down ever since with varying degrees of success.

The Best of the Grapevine (vol3) p.238



Even Camels Know How

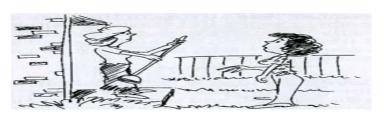
omet each day
goes twice to his knees;
He picks up his load with the
greatest of ease;
He goes through the day with
his head held high;
And he stays for that day
completely dry,

AA HUMOR SECTION

You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

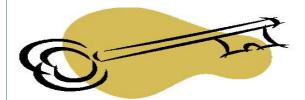
The back of your head keeps getting hit by the toilet seat-You have a reserved parking space at the liquor store-For the money you spent on Thunderbird, you could've bought the car-

You lose arguments with inanimate objects-



"I would like to make amends for stealing your husband. I'm sober now. Will you take him back?" Kathleen M., West Hartford, Conn.





Spiritual Progress 101

Willingness is the Key

When I really want something, I check my willingness:

- Am I willing to work for it?
- Am I willing to take some risks, and learn from my mistakes?
- Am I willing to be kind and honest in my dealings with others along the way?
- Am I willing to make corrections to my course of action as the need becomes apparent?
- Am I willing to start every day with the prayer that never fails, "Thy will be done"?
 Am I willing to "let go and let God" decide the
- outcome of my efforts?
- Am I willing to say "thank you" for the experience, regardless of the outcome?

-Anonymous, Houston, TX



"Cling to the thought that, in God's hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have—the key to life and happiness for others. With it you can avert death and misery for them". Bill W.

The Sobriety Variety pages wants to tell your story. We also want to print your experiences with sobriety and service. Please send in your stories to: hcieditor@hotmail.com

Capital Of Texas Conference 2014



Get ready for Austin's Conference. The first ever Capital Of Texas Conference will be held in August 2014. The conference pre committee has been doing a lot of work to put together a great conference right here at home.

Committee Elections will be held on November 11th, 2012 at 2:00 PM. Location is the 12 x 12 Foundation 5700 Manchaca Rd.

Austin, TX 78745

All conference committee positions are available as there has been no official election. If you want to serve please be at this meeting even if you are just wanting to be on a committee and not the chair. We are going to need people to serve as we want to make this a conference Austin can be proud of the whole A.A. community will enjoy.

Hand-In-Hand Walked Through To The Other Side

From the beginning of my venture into Alcoholics Anonymous, I was delusional about who I was and in full flight from reality. A little at a time, through attending A.A. meetings, reading AA literature and good sponsorship, I slowly began realizing, admitting and believing to the core of my being that I am an alcoholic and I began to see the insanity of life the way I was living.

I came to believe that only a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity. My understanding of what that means to me today is that the way I was living was incredibly selfish; that I lacked the ability to use reason or foresight about the decisions I made. Without that ability, I continued to pour alcohol on my problems, hoping that would blot them out, or make them seem not so big. To my total confusion, I found that only added to the problems and they became so big that I lost hope of ever finding a solution. But I did it over and over again.

Since our literature says that "our stories disclose in a general way, what WE used to be like, what happened, and what WE are like now" I refrain from romancing the drink by indulging in a "drunk-a-log". It is sufficient for me to say that what I suffered and caused others to suffer through my self-centered alcoholism was broken promises, broken relationships, hurt feelings, and a complete inability to be a loving part of a family, a useful member of society, or to live in harmony with others. My thinking was... if only that person, place or situation would change to the way I thought it should be, then I would be happy.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that as the character Pogo used to say..."we have met the enemy, and it is us". There was more to the problem than alcohol. There was the me that was me before I thought that using alcohol was the solution. I brought into the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, a flawed and faulty way of thinking.

Being convinced that I was at a turning point, and I would surely die, physically and emotionally if I didn't accept spiritual help, I made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God as I have come to understand God. One day at a time to the best of my ability to do so; moment by moment, I still do. This is where I found the hope and faith that sustains me today. Rather than praying for God to deliver to me exactly what I think I should have, I ask Him each day to help me to walk in His will and His love; and accept His will for me. When I act like a spoiled child, trying to get everything MY way, I know that I can be missing out on the better things God has designed for my life.

I can laugh today at the insanity of my thinking and behaving in those days of my drinking; but believe me they were not funny when they were happening. I am so thankful for the gift of laughter that the AA program and the Grace of God have given me.

Following the design for living that is outlined in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has allowed me to have my family and friends back in my life, given me new loving relationships, with God as I understand God and with my fellow man; and allowed me to fully participate in a useful meaningful life. I have known difficulties and disappointments, along with great joys and always lots of laughter.

Hand-in-hand, the people in the fellowship have, sometimes gently, sometimes with a kick in the butt, told me and shown me how to live successfully without needing to resort to using alcohol to change the way I feel.

What can I say other than thank you from the bottom of my heart. I owe you my life.

I love this simple prayer that I recently discovered:

For food, when so many walk in hunger,

For faith, when so many walk in darkness,

And for friends, when so many walk alone,

I thank you Lord.

In Love and in Fellowship,

Jan S.



If your would like to help with the HCI Newsletter or you would like to volunteer at the Intergroup office you can contact us at (512) 444-0071. There are many opportunities for service work. You can also sign up to be on the 12th step list. Volunteering through the intergroup is a great experience.

Upcoming Events For November

November 10th—HILL COUNTRY INTERGROUP QUARTERLY WORKSHOP @ The Phelan Rd. Group (Bastrop)!

November 10th—Big Book Experience (Riverbend Church)!

November 10th—North Austin 24—Speaker Meeting!

November 10th—9th Anniversary of Meridian AA Group!

November 11th—Captial Of Texas Conference Committee Elections at the 12 X 12 Foundation!

November 17th-Florence

(TX) Renaissance Group— Speaker Meeting!

November 17th—Austin Citywide Monthly Potluck and Speaker Meeting!

November 22nd—Northland AA Group Thanksgiving Celebration!

November 22-23—Hope Group Thanksgiving Potluck and Alcathon!

November 22nd—Buchanan Dam Brown Baggers Thanksgiving Dinner!

December 13th—67th Anniversary of AA In Austin, TX! For more information on these or any upcoming events go to the Hill Country Intergroup Website.

HIC WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.austinaa.org

You will find flyers with all the pertinent information for the event and a map to the location.

