

SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

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

Volume 13, Issue 5

June 2013

Inside this issue:

Commitment	1
June History	1
May Volunteers	2
HCI Birth Day Club	2
May Donations	2
Another Tool In My Toolbox	3
AA Humor Section	3
Capital Of Texas Conference	4
Deaf Access Committee News and Actions	5
HCI Information	6
Upcoming Events	6

Our Mission

**WE WORK
24 HOURS A
DAY
FOR YOU!**

**Information 12th
Step Referrals
Service
Opportunities**

**www.austinaa.org
(512) 444-0071**

Commitment

When I came into AA I thought of commitment as something they had threatened me with over and over if I did not stop drinking. I did not even understand that marriage or having children were commitments that I had entered into. That day in October 2000 when I was carried into that Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in Elgin, TX I had no idea that I was entering into a lifelong commitment to myself and the alcoholic that still suffered. Merriam-Webster defines commitment as an agreement or pledge to do something in the future or the state of an instance of being obligated. I had just been carried into the meeting, was not of my full faculties, and the moment I said I was an alcoholic I had made a commitment. The initial commitment was to stay sober and try to do the right thing, but the more I came back to AA the more that commitment was to grow. I have found that; "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the HAND of AA to always be there. And for that: I am responsible" (AA World Services). This is my number one commitment today, and it comes before all else. I have to secure my sobriety each day by honoring my AA commitment and all other commitments that I make. Alcoholics Anonymous has given me a life that I would have never asked for, the least that I can do is to give my very best to this new and wonderful life. I have several commitments to my family, business, friends, and to myself that because of my commitment to sobriety are honored everyday. I came to this program broken, irresponsible, angry, and dying. Today I am healthy, more responsible, content, and I try to make sure I honor every commitment that I make. Sobriety is more than not drinking—it is being responsible and putting forth my best effort to be of maximum service to God, Alcoholics Anonymous, and my fellow man. I truly love Alcoholics Anonymous.

Robert C.

JUNE HISTORY (AA's BIRTHDAY) Happy Birthday Alcoholics Anonymous

The day widely known as the date of Dr. Bob's last drink.

June 10, 1935 is celebrated as the founding date of Alcoholics Anonymous. (AA World Services Archives)

**Hill Country
Intergroup
Representatives
Meeting
2nd Monday
Of the
Month
6:30 PM
Covenant
Presbyterian
Church
Education Bldg.**

MAY VOLUNTEERS

Office -

Larry M., Dan H., John B., Craig W., Pat F., Robert F., Marty C.,
Melissa A., Jason M., Billy C., Valerie A., Michael N., Rachelle A.,
James B., Jeanne R., Lizz R., Roland P.,

Hotline -

Dudley F., Linda G., Wimberley Group, Randy R., Mark A., Mark K.,
John Mc., Allandale Group, Gordon K., Rudy W., Chris F., Mary Jo
B., Hope Group (Cedar Park), Toby W., Rick P., Rod D., Marty C.,
Unity Group, Veronica V., Roland P., Keystone Group



HCIA Birthday Club

BIRTH DAYS

May

Denise F.

Cedar Park, TX

A New Beginning

9 Years



MAY DONATIONS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Carry This Message - \$200 | A Way Out Group (AWOG) - \$29 |
| Northland - \$163 | Austin Citywide - \$150 |
| 7 th Street Sisters - \$336 | Renegade Ducks - \$100 |
| Allandale - \$544 | Courage to Change - \$11 |
| Any Lengths - \$1,865 | Reading Rainbow - \$19 |
| Giddings - \$50 | |
| Wimberley - \$10 | |
| The Nooner - \$100 | |
| The River Group - \$25 | |
| On the Colorado - \$10 | |
| Bridge to Shore - \$551 | |
| Patio Meeting - \$48 | |
| Principles Before Personalities - \$50 | |

Totals - \$4,261

Another Tool In My Tool Box

There are many tools in my tool box; my Big Book, 12 and 12, several additional AA literature and pamphlets, phone list, my sponsor, the fellowship, and what is shared in the AA meetings. I need and use all of them to grow, but lately I have added another tool in my tool box called service.

My sponsor shared different degrees of service with me from greeting people, to making coffee, emptying ashtrays, or cleaning at my home group. My sponsor introduced me to doing service at the District level. I was totally blown away at my first district meeting. I was thought what in the world was she getting me into, but I did jump into it feet first. Since that day I have not looked back.

There are so many opportunities to do service at the District level from being a GSR, to holding a chair position (CFC, Archives, PI/CPC, Treatment), or you could be a secretary or treasurer. Once you become a GSR and fulfill your obligation of a two year commitment you become eligible to be an Alternate DCM or a DCM. The sky's the limit.

I am currently a GSR to my home group where I share what is going on with my group and their hopes and concerns with the District. Being a GSR has given me the opportunity to be the voice of my home group at the District level and Area level. This has been so rewarding to my growth as an individual and my understanding of Alcoholics Anonymous. I go to assemblies where I represent my home group, and have learned so much and met such wonderful people. We all have the same thing in common...we are alcoholics.

I would encourage everyone to give service a chance; to view service not as a job but an opportunity to grow. We have many "Elder Statesman" to look to for guidance on the journey of service; the third leg of the triangle sometimes forgotten. They were there for us when we first came into AA. We must carry that forward for those alcoholics that are still suffering, and have not made in the doors of AA. We must carry the message and be there for them too just as the elders were for us when we needed them to be.

Debbie Mc.

AA Thought For The Month

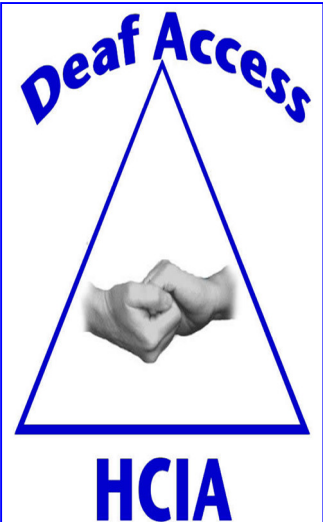
Attitudes

Whatever is done is over. It cannot be changed... I can wish the past never was, but if I change my actions in regard to what I have done, my attitude will change. I won't have to wish the past away.

Daily Reflections
p.141



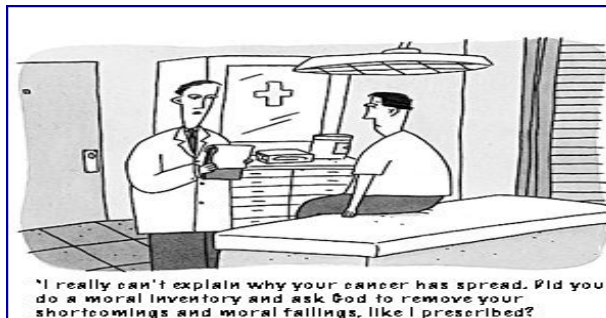
HCIA DEAF ACCESS



AA HUMOR SECTION

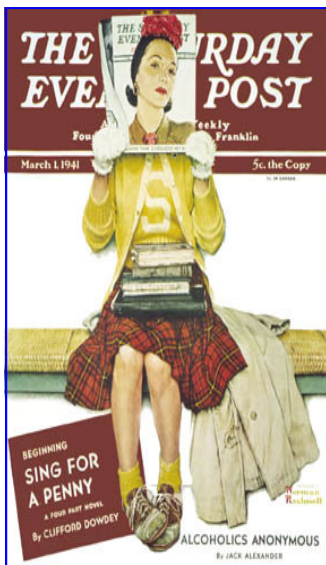
You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

- You can't remember what your family looks like... or if you have a family.
- Why does everybody think I have a prinking problem?!
- Because you're not as think you are drunk I am...
- Your only friends are Jack, Johnnie, and Jose.
- You wake up too groggy to come up with anything funny for this damn list.
- Do you <your name> take this woman/man... Beer Tender! Get me another Bar!





“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.



Capital Of Texas Conference 2014

Get ready for Austin’s Conference. The first ever Capital Of Texas Conference will be held in August 15-17, 2014. The conference committee chairs have been elected and are working to put together a great conference right here at home.

Future Fundraising Events:

6/7/2013 Trivia Night (Any Lengths)

6/8/2013 Pancake/Spk. (Sat Serenity)

6/23/2013 CTC Presents

Sober Olympics - Participant \$10.00

Spectators \$5.00

Check the CTC Website Or HCI Website for more information.

The next committee meeting will be held June 30, 2013 at 2:00 PM. Check Website for Location of meeting.....

If you are interested in serving as a conference Co-Chair of a committee please come to the meeting. If you just want to come see what is going on or join a committee please come and join us.

The Conference Website Address:

<http://www.capitaloftexasconference.org>

Come visit our website and if you have any feed back please email the Website Coordinator.

webmaster@capitaloftexasconference.org

THEME OF CONFERENCE IS:

“We Will Be Amazed...”



News and Actions from the Deaf Access Committee

Greetings, from Norma A., chairperson of the Hill Country Intergroup Association Deaf Access Committee. You may ask, as many do, what is the Deaf Access Committee, and what do we do at our committee meetings? Good question!! Let me tell you about what goes on every month at DAC!

The first year we were in existence, our business had to do with getting started, as a new entity. We needed a name, a logo, officers, guidelines and by-laws, a P.O. Box, a bank account, a website, and literature. After this was decided upon, which took some months to do, we then had to come up with protocols for the interpreters. What could we offer them, and what did we expect in return? What kind of interpreters did we want? How would they communicate with us? How would they get paid? What would we do if an interpreter didn't show up? Our committee members worked hard and long hammering out fair practices and establishing a working relationship with the professionals willing to take what we could offer, fees substantially lower than what they could make through an agency. Then we had to find interpreters!

As we began to build these relationships, and get things going, we then had to make financial decisions. How much could we pay our interpreters? How many meetings could we afford to have interpreted in one week? What if someone asked for a meeting out of town? What if someone asked for an event to be interpreted? What was our monthly budget going to look like? All of these things and more had to be decided upon.

The hardest thing was finding funds for these efforts. We had NO MONEY at all! We began with a fundraiser all within AA, for AA, and by AA. It was a strange combination of a Silent Auction and an Open Mike musical event. AA members donated all kinds of things to help us: paintings, jewelry, quilts, gift certificates, homemade cards, - and lots of other things. We filled up several tables-a room full-of items! People bid on these items and at the end, we happily handed them out and accepted their donations. In the meantime, a number of surprisingly talented musicians played a variety of memorable songs-and three interpreters showed up to interpret the lyrics!! It was quite an amazing event. After it was all over, we found we had \$500.00 in contributions-enough for one month of expenses of our projected budget at that time. Wow!

Clint Ritter and the Board at Intergroup began to take an interest in the goings-on of this special service committee. When they saw the progress we were making, they wanted to help us stay afloat. They offered us space to meet at Intergroup, and contributed \$3,000 to help us out. (There were many tears of gratitude the day that news came our way!) HCIA also made sure any and all information about the Austin Deaf Access Committee was being dispersed through notices, flyers, announcements, etc. placed on tables at the HCIA offices and on the HCIA website, and e-mailed out to the AA members.

Now that we had all this, what next? Next was getting the word out-everywhere! We contacted Deaf churches, the Deaf School, Deaf Social Clubs and networks, Deaf Facebook Groups, and more. We contacted treatment centers, social workers, State agencies, sober houses, and more. We communicated with the District, Area, AA groups, Intergroup Reps, and more! We wanted everyone to know the hand of AA was there!

An important move was made after our first year-to become a part of HCIA Intergroup, and this was beneficial to both parties. We take care of Deaf AA calls, interpreted Meetings, and interpreters, and HCIA, helps provide information to the AA fellowship about DAC. It's a nice arrangement!

Today's business continues, with on-going decisions as things come up: are our current by-laws reasonable? What if we get requests for more meetings than we can afford? How can we help professionals understand what AA is about? What if a treatment center requests an interpreter from us? How can we get more participation from AA groups? Should we have a prudent reserve?

Having a clear understanding of our traditions, our spiritual principles, and our primary purpose always plays a huge part in everything we decide. But seeing a Deaf AA member express gratitude, become part of the fellowship, and give back after gaining recovery, makes it all our long discussions worth it!

Bill W. wrote, "Let us never fear needed change. Certainly we have to discriminate between changes for worse and changes for better. But once a need becomes clearly apparent in an individual, in a group, or in AA as a whole, it has long since been found out that we cannot stand still and look the other way."

Thanks, everyone, who has helped the AA through the continuing efforts of the DAC, and for looking our way!

May 2013 donors to DAC include, but are not limited to, the following: 7th St. Sisters Group; Allandale Group; Welcome Home Group; Keystone Group; Bridge to Shore Group; the Reading Rainbow Group, plus assorted personal donations from AA members.

Norma A.
HCIA DAC Chairperson

HILL COUNTRY
INTERGROUP



If you 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. The Sobriety pages is always looking for articles. Tell you story or pick a topic.

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

Upcoming Events For June and Beyond

June 5th - South Austin Big Book Group Speaker Meeting!

June 7th - Trivia Night for CTC at Any Lengths Group.

June 7-9 67th Annual Texas State AA Convention!

June 8th - Pancake Breakfast for CTC at Saturday Morning Serenity Group!

June 8th - Lost Pines Group Speaker Meeting!

June 8th - 78th Founders Day Celebration (Tyler, TX)!

June 13th - Lampasas Group Speaker Meeting!

June 15th - The Patio Meeting (Paige, TX)

June 15th - Legends of Sobriety Golf Tournament!

June 15th - Florence Renaissance Group Speaker Meeting!

June 22nd - Bowling for Fellowship in the Pines!

June 23rd - Northland CTC Conference Presents Sober Olympics!

July 11-14 - ICYPAA 2013 Phoenix, AZ

July 12-14 - SWTA 68 Summer Workshop!

July 13th - Lost Pines Speaker Meeting!

August 4th - Pancakes/Speaker for Fellowship in the Pines!

August 16-18 - SWTA 68 PI/CPC Conference!

August 16-18 - 32nd Annual District 90 Convention!

September 5-8 - Seniors in Sobriety 8th International Conference

October 4-6 - Fellowship In The Pines Conference (FITP) Smithville, TX!

For more information on these or any upcoming events go to the Hill Country Intergroup Website.

www.austinaa.org

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

