

# SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

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## Our Mission

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

**Information 12th  
Step Referrals  
Service  
Opportunities**

**[www.austinaa.org](http://www.austinaa.org)  
(512) 444-0071**

## ***Tolerance: A Two Way Street The AA Grapevine 1/2010***

Since the beginning, AA has tried to foster a climate of acceptance of everyone who has a desire to stop drinking, regardless of background. The short form of our Third Tradition reminds us: "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." In its zeal to accomplish this end, it even added the words "as we understood him" to the word "God in the Third Step, allowing each person to choose his own conception of God in the hop that this word need be a barrier to none who wish to practice our program of recovery. Thereafter, Christian, Jews, Moslems, Bud-dhists, Hindus, even agnostics and atheists-at last permitted to seek their own conception of a Higher Power-were able to find recover from our common illness This tolerance was key to AA's success and survival. But tolerance is a two-way street. Living in the Ozarks (firmly located in "The Bible Belt"), I experience frequent examples of low-key "evangelizing" in my AA meetings. This is a subtle form of intolerance that is usually tolerated by other members so long as it doesn't get too far over the line. But occasionally, newcomers, who are not yet aware of the bounds of religious deco-rum in meetings, do cross that nebulous line, angering those of an agnostic tendency. I recently found myself in just such a meeting. A younger newcomer, returning from morning mass still at-tired in his white shirt and tie, attended the 10 A.M. meeting of my home group. The meeting in-cluded a young lady-also a newcomer, who declares herself an avowed atheist-and an older man who refers to himself as a Wiccan. As the meeting progressed, an elderly old-timer boldly declared his faith in Jesus Christ. Feeling thus emboldened by the comments of the old-timer, the young male newcomer then whipped out a pocket Bible and proceeded to read. As if on the sound of "charge," half the group bolter upright and stormed from the meeting, leaving the young man puz-zled. I myself felt embarrassed and ashamed. After the meeting, I approached the young Bible reader. I told him that I, myself, though not a churchgoer, am also a Bible-reader. However, I said, such readings are not appropriate in an AA meeting, where members of various beliefs attend. I also suggested to the old-timer that perhaps he should go easy on the "J.C." talk. When the Wiccan as-serted himself, I also reminded him that Wicca is a religion and not to be promoted in AA. As I said earlier, tolerance is a two-way street. At the 10 A.M. meeting the following day, virtually the same crowd appeared, except the young Bible-reader. I introduced the topic of "tolerance" for the discussion, and then gently challenged those present about their behavior at the previous day's meeting. I said that tolerance must be practiced both ways==both toward those of an agnostic ten-dency and toward believers with an evangelical tendency. AA's unity does not depend on uniformity or even conformity; it depends on love and tolerance of others with their peculiarities. In AA, I've learned to focus on similarities, not differences. AA is not the place for debates about religious dogma, but when newcomers attend, such slip-ups are inevitable. Narrow-minded bigotry has no place in AA. We neither promote nor attack another member's religious beliefs; nor is it our job to convert anyone to ours. We in AA are here to save drunks, not souls! Dave C., Springfield, MO

## **SEPTEMBER HISTORY: A Fitful Start in Brazil**

After two years of sporadic correspondence between the Alcoholic Foundation and a few American residents in Brazil, the Foundation lists Herb D. as an A.A. official contact. In September 1947, Herb requests and receives a batch of A.A. pamphlets and the name of another A.A. member living in Rio de Janeiro. The two men seek members and the first group in Brazil takes shape. (AA World Services Archives)

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

*HCIA Birthday Club*  
**BIRTH DAYS**  
*July/August*  
*John M.*  
*1825 Group*  
*30 Years*



## JULY/AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

**July Office** - Mary L., Robert B., Valerie A., Rachelle A., John B., Lizz R., Eileen B., Leslie Ann D., James B., Marty C., Norma A., Jeanne R., Dan H., Glenn S., Mike W., Pat F., Mark K., Wendy F., Jim H., Billy C., Buster S.,

**July Hotline** - Keep 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup> group, Northland Group, Nicole C., Chris C., Toby W., Alex H., Bridge to Shore Group, Into Action Group (Elgin), Meredith H., Mary T., Gordon K., Mary Jo B., Austin Big Book Step Study, Linda G., Jin H., Grant C., Mark A., Darrin A., Denise T.,

**August Office** - Mary L., Valerie A., John B., Lizz R., Rachelle A., Robert B., Billy C., Glenn S., Mike W., Marty C., Pat F., Norma A., Wendy F., Dan H., Melissa A., Leslie Ann D., Jeanne R., James B., Marilyn C., Brad R.,

**August Hotline** - 7<sup>th</sup> St. Sisters Group, Rule 62 Group, Mary T., Gordon., Dan B., Randy R., Hope Group, Tom K., Rudy W., Chris F., Marty C., Allandale Group, Mark K., Denise T., Gunnar S., Mary Jo B., Keep 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup> Group, Dave E., Mark A., James B., Harlan O., Dennis "Pete" P., Dudley F.,

## JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

12 X 12 Group - \$540	Rule 62 - \$60	
7 <sup>th</sup> Street Sisters - \$206	Saturday AM Ser. - \$147	
A Way Out (Austin) - \$250	Sold on Sobriety - \$50	
Allandale - \$361	South Austin BB - \$28	
Being Convinced - \$123	Sunshine Group - \$166	
Bridge to Shore - \$273	The Five Thirty - \$150	
Brown Baggers (Kingsland) - \$155	Thursday Men's - \$135	
Buda Big Book - \$46	Westlake - \$1500	
Central - \$50	Wimberley - \$10	
Desire to Stop - \$800	<b>July Total - \$7,757</b>	
Friday Rush Hour - \$100		
Georgetown - \$214	Welcome Home - \$50	Driftwood - \$60
Into Service - \$14	620 Peace Group - \$100	Sat AM Ser. - \$128
Keep 1 <sup>st</sup> Things 1 <sup>st</sup> - \$197	The River Group - \$50	Bridge to Shore - \$557
Keystone - \$180	Allandale - \$420	A New Beginning - \$40
Lake Travis Serenity - \$1000	Keep 1st Things 1st - \$270	Burnet Noon - \$300
Lampasas - \$92	Turning Point - \$15	So What, Now What - \$150
Lighthouse Group - \$100	Wimberley - \$10	Llano - \$100
Miracles - \$227	Courage to Change - \$131	We Agnostics - \$150
New Beginnings (Austin) - \$320	Graceland - \$150	Marble Falls - \$100
North Austin 24 - \$25	Women in Conscious Contact - \$150	Lost Pines - \$20
Northland - \$213	Into Action - \$95	Reading Rainbow - \$63
On the Colorado - \$10	North Austin 24 - \$25	Fresh Start - \$20
Reading Rainbow - \$25	Dharma of Recovery - \$50	<b>August Total - \$3,204</b>

## JULY/AUGUST DAC DONATIONS

### July:

12x12 - \$360	Keystone - \$65
7th Street Sisters - \$51	Lighthouse - \$10
A Way Out Austin - \$50	Reading Rainbow - \$11
Allandale - \$50	Rule 62 - \$60
Bridge to Shore - \$25	South Austin BB - \$28
Into Service - \$6	<b>July Total - \$950</b>
Keep 1st Things 1st - \$84	

### August:

Desire to Stop - \$25	<b>August Total - \$389</b>
Allandale - \$50	
Keep 1st things 1st - \$116	
The Turning Point - \$10	
Bridge to Shore - \$150	
Reading Rainbow - \$28	
Lighthouse Group - \$10	

## *Justified Resentments*

Is there such a thing as a justified resentment; especially when the other person place or thing has really done harm. I have been asking myself this question for years and the answer is sure there is, but the book states "that a life that includes deep resentment only leads to futility and unhappiness." I have to then ask myself "how important is it really?" Is what happen worth being miserable over, and who is really getting hurt? I sometimes just want to be mad or upset about what has happened, but I as an alcoholic do not have the dubious luxury of other men. I can not sit with the grouch and brainstorm of ways to get even or how I deserved to be treated better. I have to do the thing that I hate most of all and that is put black ink to white paper and then talk to my sponsor so that he can tell me that other people have the right to be wrong. Resentment is the number one offender the book tells me yet it seems to be the fire that I play with the most. I wish that I could pray and meditate enough that my ego and or feelings would not get in the way of being useful to God and my fellow man, but that probably will not happen. The key for me today is how quickly do I want to be free and how quickly do I want to be in God's will and not mine. The longer I justify a resentment no matter how valid the longer I put myself in jeopardy of that mental blank spot that I have no control over and the possibility of doing something very stupid arises in full force. That may be taking a drink or it could be something that I may not be able to take back. I have to remember that the drink was only a symptom and that I my magic magnifying mind can still want to kill me at times. I have to incorporate this program into mind everyday living and that is not an easy tasks sometimes, but the rewards are indeed miraculous. We all have emotions and feelings and they get stepped on, but happiness is an inside job no one can take that from you unless you give it to them.

Robert C.

## AA HUMOR SECTION

### You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

You use a pencil to write in your journal so you can erase everything you wrote the night before.

You keep a pillow and blanket in the bathroom, just in case.

Your co-workers offer to cook for you so you'll stop getting "food poisoning."

You don't feel better until you feel nothing.

Your GPA is consistently lower than your BAL (Blood Alcohol Level).



## AA Thought For The Month

### The Right Thing

Reminding ourselves that we have decided to go to any lengths to find a spiritual experience, we ask that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing, no matter what personal consequences may be.

We may lose our position or reputation or face jail, but we are willing. We have to be. We must not shrink at anything.

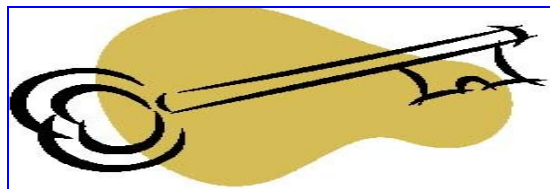
Alcoholics Anonymous

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HCIA DEAF ACCESS





# Spiritual Progress 101

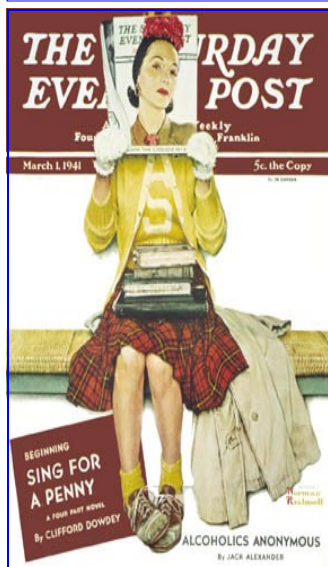
## Willingness is the Key

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.



## 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:

Every First Friday is Trivia Night at Any Lengths Group 11:15 PM

Pancake Breakfast 10/28/2013 at Firemakers Group 9:45 A.M.

Art Auction 10/12/2013 at 1313 Group 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Registration is available online at the website. You can also download the registration flyer and mail it in.

Check the CTC Website Or HCI Website for more information.

Monthly Committee meetings are held the last 4th Sunday of the Monday at different locations so check the website for the next and time.

The Conference Website Address:

[www.capitaloftexasconference.org](http://www.capitaloftexasconference.org)

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

[webmaster@capitaloftexasconference.org](mailto:webmaster@capitaloftexasconference.org)

THEME OF CONFERENCE IS:

"We Will Be Amazed..."





## HCIA Deaf Access Committee

A letter from the chairperson:

The Deaf Access Committee, HCIA's standing committee to carry the message to certain Special Needs Alcoholics, exists, as many of you now know, to provide access for Deaf alcoholics to AA meetings. This is what we do. Now, what is it we Don't do? If you have already read the service piece put out by GSO on information about what AA is and is not, you already have a clear idea, as the Deaf Access Committee's actions and goals are in line with AA's traditions. Deaf Access does not provide social services, but we do provide special workers, under traditions 8 and 9. We are not here to provide for a material need (food, clothing, shelter) but a spiritual need-hope, recovery, sobriety. Since the home group and your average AA member is not qualified to help a Deaf alcoholic access to the message of hope we carry, we need these special workers, qualified AA interpreters, to provide a way to bridge the language barrier. We also believe these special workers should be paid for things that a volunteer may not be skilled enough, or committed enough, to do. Our contracts with interpreters, agreeing that we will pay for their service to us and they will deliver, guarantees that AA fulfills promises to its members. All of us know what it is like to be in a new place, hoping to find an AA meeting to go to, and how disappointing it is when we get there and no one has bothered to show up to open the meeting. Someone fell down on their responsibility to the rest of us. It is the same for a Deaf AA member who comes to an AA meeting, hoping to find an interpreter that they were promised would be there, so they can participate meaningfully in our fellowship. The Deaf Access Committee is not an advocate for the Deaf, but an advocate for AA. We have but one cause to live for, our primary purpose. What we do is simply straight forward 12th step work, but work that requires special workers. We are not involved with human rights, or anything to do with discrimination or equal rights. That is outside the realm of AA, as a fellowship. Individuals who want to pursue such causes, can do so, but not under the name of AA. The only action we take are the steps of recovery, guided by our traditions and concepts. Our Big Book says: "It is not the matter of giving that is in question, but when and how to give." The work DAC does is not on a service plane (as in services such as outside agencies offer) but upon a spiritual plane, allowing Deaf alcoholics to find a solution to the spiritual malady, same as other AA members need. We do cooperate with outside agencies, as a means to an end-our primary purpose-such as sharing information with treatment centers or sober houses, where Deaf alcoholics may show up, and county agencies that get court appointed Deaf Alcoholics they must serve. This year, GSO sent a letter to the Treatment Facility Committee chairs, stating that AA has been most successful when AA members are flexible, cooperative, enthusiastic, and prepared, and have a good understanding of both the steps and the traditions. So: are we flexible enough to welcome a Deaf alcoholic and the interpreter in the rooms? Do we respect tradition 3: the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking? Do we see every alcoholic that comes in to our meetings as another alcoholic, or does an attitude or preconceived notion stand in the way of our primary purpose? Do we know what resources are available to help special needs alcoholics? Concerning our third legacy,: Bill W, wrote "Concerning any given service, we pose but one question-Is this service really needed? If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who seek AA". I wish you could hear the stories of those in our fellowship who are perhaps getting one meeting a month; those who found out the interpreted meetings they hoped to attend have been canceled; those who are told "This is your problem, not mine." I find this both heart-breaking and irresponsible. What we are doing in Austin, through the Deaf Access Committee, is saving lives. I know, because I've seen the gratitude in the eyes of those who meet us, get sober, and say a silent thank you that speaks volumes, for AA, and for our helping hand to all who suffer.

Norma A.

DAC Chairperson

## HILL COUNTRY INTERGROUP

ALCOHOLIC  
BEVERAGES  
PROHIBITED

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 your story or pick a topic.

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

## Events For September and Beyond

September 14th - Lost Pines Group Speaker Meeting!

September 20-22 - Straight From the Heart Conference!

September 21 - The Patio Meeting (Paige, TX)!

September 21 - Austin Citywide Meeting!

September 21 - Florence Renaissance Group Speaker Meeting!

September 21 - District 3B/3C Service Workshop!

September 28th - CTC Pancake Fundraiser (Firemakers Group)!

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

October 4-6th - 28th Annual Blanco Spiritual Retreat!

October 11-13th - 36th Brazos Riverside Conference!

October 12th - District 13 (Burnet Noon Group) Sponsorship Workshop!

October 12th - CTC Art Auction Fundraiser (1313 Group)!

October 12th - Lost Pines Group Speaker Meeting!

October 25-27th - 5th Annual Men's Step Work Retreat!

November 28-December 1 - 47th Annual Las Vegas Roundup!

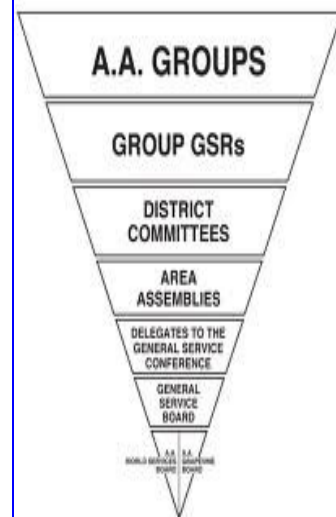
January 10-12 2014 - District 27 Jamboree "Gift of the Three Legacies"

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

[www.austinaa.org](http://www.austinaa.org)

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

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



WELCOME TO  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

