

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
(512) 444-0071**

Responsible

Webster's dictionary defines the word responsible as follows: 1. having the job or duty of dealing with or taking care of something or someone. 2. able to be trusted to do what is right or to do the things that are expected or required. 3. involving important duties, decisions, etc., that you are trusted to do. In Alcoholics Anonymous we have a statement called the responsibility statement that says, "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.

What does this mean? Am I responsible for everyone in AA or to make sure that AA does not get a bad name? Am I responsible to pay the bills for my group so that there is a place to meet? Am I responsible to make sure that every newcomer gets what AA is and what it is not?

The truth is that we are somewhat responsible for each of these, but only our small part in the whole scheme of things. I am responsible for every AA when they ask for my help. I am responsible to make sure that I am not bad example of AA, but it is not my responsibility to point out other that are bad examples. I am responsible for my home group by doing my part in the 7th tradition and making sure that it is open when it is suppose to be and that it is hospitable to newcomers and visitors. I am responsible to the newcomer to make sure that they have information on Alcoholics Anonymous which includes what it is and what it is not.

I had no idea of what responsibility was when I arrived in Alcoholics Anonymous, and I had to be instructed by a sponsor and many spiritual advisors on how to be just that responsible. I had to first learn to be where I said I would be and to do what I said I would do. This allowed me to become the father I never was and to be in a grown up relationship that led to being a husband. When we say we are responsible it really should mean something to us that we are leading the life that God would have us live.

I believe in Alcoholics Anonymous and 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. This is a way of life not just a slogan or saying it means something.

Robert C.

NOVEMBER HISTORY: The Death of Dr. Bob

(AA World Services Archives) Dr. Bob dies of cancer on November 16th, 1950. During the Akron physician's 15 years of sobriety, the fellowship he started with Bill W. had transformed the lives of close to 100,000 men and women and their loved ones.

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



*HCIA Birthday
Club
BIRTHDAYS
October
Brent D.*

Friday Night Group
19 Years



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Office -

Billy C., Marty C., Claire C., Wendy F., Glenn S., Jeanne R., Fred J., Robert B., John B., Pat F., Mary L., Dan H., Lizz R., Marilyn C., Brad R., Leslie Ann D., Jim H., Mark K., James B.,

Hotline -

Bridge to Shore Group, Dave S., Chris C., Chris F., Alex H., Northland Group, De Sha T., Mary T., Keith F., Janna H., Into Action Group (Elgin), Rudy W., Gordon K., Mary Jo B., Austin Big Book Step Study (ABBSS), John Mc M., Denise T., Jeannie H., Linda G., Dylan F., Randy R.,

OCTOBER DONATIONS

Tin Roof - \$160	1313 - \$268	Phelan Road - \$10
Lighthouse - \$100	12&12 - \$540	Buda 2nd Chance - \$31
North Austin 24 - \$25	Westlake - \$500	Western Trails - \$10
Florence Renaissance - \$60	Bridge To Shore - \$354	
Kempner - \$34	FireMakers - \$300	Total - \$6,588
Sunshine (Georgetown) - \$164	Friday Nite Alive - \$100	
Keystone - \$175	Wimberley - \$12	
Reading Rainbow - \$87	Welcome Home - \$50	
Sisters in Sobriety - \$23	Northland - \$291	
Allandale - \$338	The River Group - \$50	
A Way Out (Austin) - \$275	Courage To Change - \$16	
The Nooner - \$100	Lake Travis Serenity - \$900	
Desire to Stop - \$773	Spiritual Awakenings - \$67	
Newcomers (Kingsland) - \$25	Lambda - \$600	
Giddings - \$100	Hope (Wimberley-Defunct) - \$50	

OCTOBER DAC DONATIONS

Desire to Stop - \$25	Northland - \$125
Tin Roof - \$25	Lake Travis Serenity - \$100
Keystone - \$75	Reading Rainbow - \$22
Reading Rainbow - \$15	Austin Citywide - \$225
Allandale - \$50	Lighthouse - \$10
A Way Out (Austin) - \$50	Wimberley - \$4
1313 - \$268	
12 & 12 - \$360	Total - \$1,504
Bridge to Shore - \$150	

Where Does It Say?

Where does it say anything about “unconditional love“ in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say “I need to learn to love myself” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say “Don’t drink and go to meetings” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say “Keep coming back it works if you work it” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say “Ninety meetings in ninety days” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say “Don’t leave until your miracle happens” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say anything about “Acceptance” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Where does it say “We hope you like us” in the first 164 pages of the Big Book?

Why are these sayings and many others like it so prevalent in AA today? Is it all just treatment center blather that has made its way into the rooms by well meaning albeit, uninformed members? Can you just chalk it all up to Frothy Emotional Appeal? Are we begging sick people to get better? Are we afraid to run them off by telling them the truth as to their condition? Why do we use treatment center jargon instead of what is written in our AA literature?

The dictionary definition of the word “Frothy” is as follows: 1. of, like, or having froth; foamy. 2. Unsubstantial; trifling; shallow. As an adjective it means frilly, trivial, light, EMPTY, slight, petty, and my favorite, UNNECESSARY.

My book says, in The Doctor’s Opinion, that “The message which can interest and hold these alcoholic people must have depth and weight. In nearly all cases, their ideals must be grounded in a power greater than themselves, if they are to re-create their lives.”

Let’s look at the meaning of the word Depth: The condition or quality of being deep; the most profound or intense part or stage; intensity; force...

Which category do the words “You need to learn to love your self” fall into? How about “Acceptance is the key?” What about, “meeting makers make it!” This last one is frothy emotional vomit in my opinion. It will NOT help a drunk get sober.

Here is what my book says on page 164: “Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to him and your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us.” The Big Book is loaded with weight and depth; find it and use it. Forget everything else or that you THINK is the right thing to say. Forget everything you have heard someone else say if it is not in our literature. Refine your message to become more effective with the newcomer.

You cannot transmit something that you do not have. Make sure the message you are conveying to the newcomer carries weight and depth and forget the froth. The concise directions are in the Big Book. Study it with an Elder Statesman and maybe, just maybe you can guide one drunk to achieve sobriety.

Soberly Yours,

Larry M.

AA Thought For The Month

Honesty

Having troubles with the First Step? Relax. All the program asks is enough honesty to get started - just what we are capable of at the moment. At the beginning, that’s very little honesty. Each day, there will be a little more. It will come. Because, you see, the AA program works for anyone who wants it.

Best of the Grapevine [Vol.2] p.34



HCIA DEAF ACCESS



HCIA

AA HUMOR SECTION

You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

- You buy a bar with a n apartment upstairs just so you can swear you never drink & drive.
- You wake up in the morning sprawled out on someone else’s lawn, with no car in sight.
- You get into a fight and are more concerned about your spilled beer than the blood spilling out of your face.
- You swerve to avoid a tree and then realize it was only your pine tree air freshener.





Capital Of Texas Conference 2014

“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.

Get ready for Austin’s Conference. The first ever Capital Of Texas Conference will be held in August 15-17, 2014.

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

Holiday Dinner and Talent Show at Balcones Country Club on 12/20/2013 at 7:00 PM. \$40 per person. Pay online at CTC website. Talent needed for show....

For info email: holidayshow@capitaloftexasconference.org

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 4th Sunday of the Month at different the 12&12 foundation.

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Conference Website Address:

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...”



My Family Afterward

When I entered the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous I had not lost my job, house, car, family, or wife yet, though I was very close, In fact my first AA meeting was predicated on by my wife's ultimatum, "If you don't do something about you drinking, I'm leaving." We had been married twenty nine years with ups and downs, but gravity had it on a downhill slide. Half of me wanted to say, "let her go, I'm tired of her telling me what to do", but the other half said something different. In my drinking days, I would force myself out of the bars long before I wanted to in an effort to keep pace at home. About a year and half before my sobriety date, my wife had to spend a lot of time out of town with one of our daughters. "When the cat's away the mouse plays" and in my wife's absence I shut the bars down. My drinking became intolerable and began affecting my job. I realized if my wife left, my job, would be next, followed closely by family, house, car, health, and ultimately my life. That was my moment of clarity and the next day was my first AA meeting. Through the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, working the twelve steps, and the reliance on a Higher Power, marriage and life in general were far better that I expected, at least for the next nine months. At that point my loving wife, believing I was cured of alcoholism, began complaining about the number of AA meeting I was attending. She broke the camel's back when she stated, as I was leaving for a meeting. "It is just the same as when you were drinking, you're gone all the time". I replied in a slightly elevated tone, "IT'S A LOT DIFFERENT TO ME, I'M NOT DRUNK!" slammed the door, and left for a meeting. How could this person who was so supportive at the beginning of my sobriety say such a thing? I considered going to a bar, but the God of my understanding got me to a meeting. When topic time came up, I loosened my tight lips and laid my problem on the table. The problem was not taken away, but getting it off my chest and hearing other alcoholics' experience helped. When I got home I apologized to my wife for losing my temper, and we had a long talk. I explained that I will be an alcoholic for the rest of my life, and that if I do not go to meetings, I would most likely drink again. I told her that if she could not take it and would have to leave, I would understand. It would not make me happy, but I do not believe it will drive me back to the bottle. She barely said a word to me for three weeks. About a week before my first sobriety birthday, we took a four-state car trip to visit our mothers. Since one of the states was Texas, there was a lot of windshield time. I guess it was time for both of us to have a healthier long talk. A lot of talking and far more listening laid the groundwork for our next part of our journey. Life went on, then one of daughters, with her two and four year old children, moved in with us. We had been empty nesters for a while so this was quite a transition. God may have had a part of this since my parenting skills with our three daughters were ailing due to my addiction. Blessings were experienced, and my grandson and I became quite close. One night, as I was leaving for a meeting, he asked me, "Where are you going Pa?" I replied, "To a meeting." He looked at me with those big eyes and said " AGAINN?" This was followed by a roar of laughter, my loving wife being the loudest. I left the house wondering , "why don't normal people understand alcoholics"? Before I got to the meeting a simple truth came to me. Normal people will never truly understand an alcoholic. It took a drunk talking to another drunk for my eyes to open. I should be very happy my loved ones are normal. The Big Book tells us, "The answers will come, if your own house is in order." My house still needs a lot of work but it is far more habitable.

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

Events For October and Beyond

November 6th - SABBG Speaker Meeting!

November 6th - Grass Roots AA Group Speaker Meeting!

November 8-10 - Women's Wildwood Conference!

November 9th - Hill Country Intergroup Workshop!

November 9th - Lost Pines Group Speaker Meeting!

November 9th - District 22 Grape-athon!

November 16th - Florence Renaissance Group Speaker!

November 16th - Austin Citywide Potluck and Speaker!

November 16th - Western Trails Safety Workshop!

November 28th - Northland Group 6th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration!

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

December 6th - CTC Trivia Night at Any Lengths Group!

December 7th - District 3B/3C Treatment Committee Workshop!

December 12th - 68th Anniversary of AA in Austin!

December 14th - Lost Pines Speaker Meeting!

December 20th - CTC Dinner and Holiday Show!

December 25th - Northland Group Potluck Christmas!

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

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

