

Hill Country A.A.[®] INTERGROUP CONNECTION

Volume 2 - Issue 7- August 2018

OFFICE MANAGER

Gary H. — Austin
Northland Group

HCIA BOARD

Tammy B. — Austin
North Austin 24 Group

Larry D. — Hutto
North Austin 24 Group

Brian C. — Austin
Lakeway Keystone

Rosi S. — Austin
Single Purpose Group

Dan H. — Austin
12 @ 12

Mark K. — Austin
Lake Travis Serenity Group

Kit L. — Austin
R.R. Big Book Study Group

Jason I. — Liberty Hills
Way of Life

Norma A. — Buda
Single Purpose Group

GOD DOES FOR US WHAT WE CAN'T DO FOR OURSELVES

STEP 8 *Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.*

STEP 9 *Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*

We never have to worry about how things will work out if we trust god and clean house. Here is a highlight of what steps 8 and 9 look like, from one of our members.

I was the kind of drunk that could never get enough, I always wanted more. One night I went to the local park to see what I could buy (I didn't have much money) I had been drinking all day and wanted more so I took all I could. All I remember is that my furniture was floating; I would reach over and put my kitchen table and chairs back on the floor and my couch. I thought this is good. Then I remember seeing someone breaking into my apartment and the door crashing down, all I could see was a figure no face. I went to my kitchen, grabbed one of my knives, lunged at the person and stabbed them.

The next day I woke up in a hospital bed, handcuffed with a police woman sitting next to my bed. As soon as I opened my eyes she started reading me my rights "You have the right to remain silent"...

(continue on page 4)

"The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined. The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action."

MEET Tammye B.



YOUR Board Member

What is your name and your service position?

Tammye B., Secretary

How long have you been in AA?

March 7, 2009

What is your home group?

North Austin 24

Who is your sponsor and why did you pick her?

Heidi E. is my "big sponsor"; Shannon B. is my home group "go to" along with a wealth of other friends.

I picked Heidi 5 years ago because she was calm, deliberate and to the point. She had been sober over 10 years when we met. Shannon I pick her because she is real with me, sees me several times per week in meetings. I have watched Shannon over her years and have learned many lessons through watching and listening to her. Both Heidi and Shannon have been with me through great times and very sad times such as the recent death of my mother.

What other types of service-past or present-have you been involved in?

My first service job in A.A. was Intergroup Rep. I have served as secretary of North Austin 24 (twice), treasure, treatment facility rep. and am currently the alternate GSR. I have served as Secretary and Treasure Chisholm Trail Convention in Georgetown TX. I am currently serving on HCI Board of Trustees.

Was there a turning point in your sobriety that you think was significant?

From my first job in A.A. it began to be "a big deal" and I began to feel a part of. Trying to do a good job began to replace. "I'm a screw up anyway idea" and has continued to be very important in my life.

(continue on page 4)



OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

July 2018:

Coleen B., Dan H., Fletcher M., Jay B., John B., Marrnie S., Marty S., Michael G., Murdo M., Nancy W., Pat F., Rick A.

HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

July 2018:

Fred J., Jesse B., John F., Kyle B., Reggy T.

WEEKEND - GROUP VOLUNTEERS

July 2018:

Hope Group, 12 @ 12,
Georgetown Group,
A Way Out Group



TO VOLUNTEER CALL

512-444-0071

To volunteer in the office,
or answer the Hotline
on a weeknight or if
your group would like to
take the hotline for the
weekend.

THANK YOU - AA Groups and All

For Your CONTRIBUTIONS IN JULY

Group Name & District	\$Amount
12 @ 12 - 3C	\$480.00
1313 Group - 3C	\$477.85
1825 Group - 22	\$263.00
7th Street Sisters - 3C	\$302.33
A New Beginning - 22	\$100.00
A Way Out - 3C	\$468.86
Allandale Group - 3B	\$340.83
Anonymous.	\$21.75
Any Lengths - 3C	\$40.00
Being Convinced - 22	\$250.00
Bouldin - 3C	\$0.70
Bridge to Shore Group - 3C	\$386.07
Brushy Creek Serenity - 22	\$40.00
Buda Big Book Group - 2	\$193.68
Buda Group - 2	\$38.00
Courage to Change - 3B	\$113.68
Desire To Stop - 3C	\$1,194.64
Donation Can at HCIA Office	\$54.04
East Austin Group - 3B	\$82.00
Hair of the Dog - 3B	\$100.00
HCIA Board	\$21.00
Lake Travis Serenity - 3C	\$750.00
Lakeway Keystone Group - 3C	\$1,080.00

Group Name & District	\$Amount
Legacies Group - 29	\$92.00
Lost Pines Group - 29	\$175.00
North Austin 24 Hour Group - 3B	\$75.00
Oak Hill R.U.S.H. Hour Group - 3C	\$25.00
Progress Not Perfection - 13	\$10.00
Reading Rainbow - 3B	\$18.20
Renegade Ducks - 3B	\$60.00
Reps Meeting	\$41.00
Second Chance - 2	\$3.75
Solutions In Sobriety - 3B	\$211.31
Stoney Point Group - 22	\$37.00
Sunlight of the Spirit - 13	\$54.45
Sunshine Group - 22	\$50.00
Westlake AA - 3C	\$400.00
Wimberley Group - 2	\$295.61
Total	\$8,471.75
Birthday Club	
Firemakers - 3C	\$20.00
Lakeway Keystone Group - 3C	\$900.00
Lighthouse Group - 3C	\$5.00
Total	\$925.00
Total Contributions	\$9,396.75

Group/Name & District	\$ Amount
12 @ 12 - 3C	\$320.00
7th Street Sisters - 3C	\$75.58
A New Beginning - 22	\$100.00
Allandale Group - 3B	\$50.00
Anonymous	\$10.00
Anonymous	\$10.00
Anonymous	\$10.00
Anonymous	\$12.50
Anonymous	\$10.00
Anonymous	\$10.00



**THANK
YOU
for your
DAC
Contributions**

Group/Name & District	\$ Amount
Any Lengths - 3C	\$40.00
Bridge to Shore Group - 3C	\$150.00
Donation Can at HCIA Office	\$3.61
Lake Travis Serenity - 3C	\$750.00
Lakeway Keystone Group - 3C	\$90.00
Lighthouse Group - 3C	\$20.00
Reading Rainbow - 3B	\$7.80
Wimberley Group - 2	\$197.07
Total Contributions	\$ 5,397.68

CONT. -

Tammie B., YOUR Board Member



What do you hope would be the best thing to come out of your service to the fellowship as an Intergroup Board member?

My hope is the Intergroup Board continues to be a primary point of contact for people just like me!

(cont.) GOD DOES FOR US WHAT WE CAN'T DO FOR OURSELVES

I told her she had the wrong room, she needed to leave. She told me it was not the wrong room that I had stabbed a police officer and he was on the third floor. I told her to show me, I didn't believe her, I wanted to see the cop with my own eyes.

She brought me to the room and I looked into the room without going in and there was a cop I knew, my heart dropped and for the first time I truly knew what it was to be powerless.

I still to this day will get goose bumps when I think about that. I did not know what I did.

Here's what happened:

The police had received a noise disturbance call (my music was up full blast) and the cop knew it was me and said "that's just Karen; I will go and ask her to turn down her music – no harm. When he got to my apartment the music was too loud for me to hear him knocking, the door was unlocked so he walked in, I lunged at him and stabbed him.

I remember thinking about the deal while in jail and a woman guard told me "Karen there is no doubt in my mind you can do your time standing on your head, but what scares me is that you'll be back two weeks after you leave. She was so right I needed to do something different. I received five years probation and three years treatment for this. I was charged with attempted murder of a public servant and I was 21 years old at the time.



Moving ahead six years my sponsor always told me to put my amends on my list and to just be willing, God would make sure that the meeting happened. I went to Minnesota and decided to go to the Country Kitchen for coffee,

my head was down and I physically ran into that cop that was on my amends list. First thing out of my mouth was "Oh crap", he said "Karen (and hesitated) are you here to stay or are you just visiting?" I responded just visiting. He said we need to talk.

In my heart I knew God was making this meeting happen. Even though I was so nervous and scared I told him, "Yes we do need to talk". He said I need to talk first though, I was so puzzled: he said I needed to thank you. Now I really was puzzled, he said I needed to thank you because I learned a really important lesson that night when I was stabbed. I went to your place because we were friends; I did not have a weapon drawn or anything, did not have myself protected in any way because I knew you. I made a decision after that event that I would always be prepared for anything even if it were family or friends. Since then I have lost count of how many times my life has been saved. So thank you... I said I needed to make this right with you and he said, there is nothing to make right Karen it was a lesson I needed to learn.

Karen M. Webberville, Texas

TRADITION EIGHT

"Alcoholic Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ specials."

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TRADITION EIGHT

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers. (from the July 1948 Grapevine)

Throughout the world AAs are twelfth-stepping with thousands of new prospects a month. Between one and two thousand of these stick on our first presentation; past experience shows that most of the remainder will come back to us later on. Almost entirely unorganized, and completely nonprofessional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another; that's all.

Could this vast and vital face-to-face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. The few efforts to professionalize straight Twelfth Step work have always failed quickly. Today, no AA will tolerate the idea of paid "AA therapists" or "organizers." Nor does any AA like to be told just how he must handle that new prospect of his. No, this great life-giving stream can never be dammed up by paid do-gooders or professionals. Alcoholics Anonymous is never going to cut its own lifelines. To a man, we are sure of that.

Bill W.

TRADITION NINE

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

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TRADITION NINE

The ninth of a new series of articles explaining The Twelve Traditions "AA, AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE."

WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that "Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization." In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous... AA as a whole...should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, "What do they mean, no organization?!"

Well, let's see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn't somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn't every society on earth give authority of some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Bill W.

The Traditions are for us as members and for A.A. as a whole.

We all know how the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) began and the revisions they went through. The traditions came about when we as members needed to be united, not just in our home groups but as districts and in our areas, it goes beyond that, it touches A.A. as a whole. This article is a place to start to put together my understanding of how important the traditions are not just for me but for all of us as a fellowship.

In 1946, then in the “long form,” they were published in the Grapevine. By July 1950, they had been condensed to their present form and were adopted by A.A.’s First International Convention.¹

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.’s future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, And the lives of those to come.

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.

Tradition one says it best, “Our common welfare should come first; personal Recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

“Our Traditions are a guide to better ways of working and living,” by our co-founder Bill W., says this. “And they are to group survival what A.A.’s Twelve Steps are to each member’s sobriety and peace of mind... Most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. The group must survive or the individual will not...”

¹ *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*

“Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age”, *Unity: The Second Legacy*

One important reasons to me is why we needed the traditions in our members lives, our groups and even in our families is this our success story; rather it is the story of how, under God’s grace, an unsuspected strength had arisen out of great weakness; under threats of disunity and collapse, world-wide unity and brother had have been forged.

These Principles are called the Twelve Traditions of A.A. They represent the distilled experience of our past, and we rely on them to carry us in unity through the challenges and dangers which the future may bring.

Could we carry A.A.’s message? Could we function as groups and as a whole? They were intended as suggestions for individual use; many A.A. groups have since used them for the group inventory. Some groups may need to have a group inventory - you could use the Traditions Checklist, which are questions that were originally published in the Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971.

Our friends the psychiatrists, with some reason, had begun to warn: “This fellowship of Alcoholics is emotional dynamite. Its neurotic content can blow it to bits.” When drinking we where certainty explosive enough.

The great question in the early days was this: would we blow up or could we stay together? Today we have the answers. The anniversary meeting in St. Louis is a vast testament to the fact that we have held together.²

² *A.A. Comes of Age (page 80)*

(continue on page 7)

(cont.)

**The Traditions are for us as members
and for A.A. as a whole.**

So it all boils down from the beginning; when one alcoholic – sharing with another alcoholic, carrying the message that is out lined in our A.A.'s big book. Or better put, when two or three are gathered together they may call themselves a group.

So that is what we have done. It tells us how groups have formed all over the world. AA Comes of Age, tells the story of a Hindu schoolteacher, his wife was stone deaf and he had a sister who, like himself, drank like a fish. The Jesuit priest in India, translated A.A.'s Twelve Steps for him & in spite of his domineering and drunker sister, he was staying sober.

The lone Hindu man must have felt, like Dr. Bob and Bill W. did in the early days. Can I keep myself together? Can I carry this message? Will I be able to form a group? But he did have communication with our world service office and we can send solid assurance to that distant out post that we are with him, all of us, and our experience is his to draw on .³

I have to tell you my reading and learning of this material showed me just how GOD works. This was all put into realism for me. It was a "spiritual experience" of the "educational variety".⁴

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

To place our common welfare first;

To keep our fellowship united.

For on A.A. Unity depend our lives,

And the lives of those to come.⁵

Kim R. L. Elgin, Texas

³ In 1987 India established a General Service Office.

⁴ Alcoholics Anonymous Fourth Edition, II Spiritual Experience

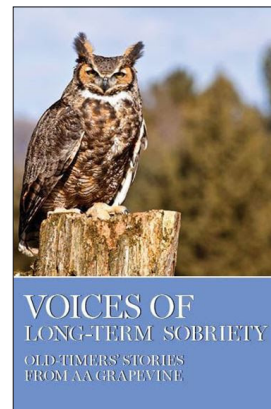
⁵ The Twelve Traditions Illustrated

THE GRAPEVINE DAILY QUOTE

AUGUST 1, 2018

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"The grace of the Fellowship and the principles of the program carry us through the tough spots as well as the times of joy. Whether we are sober 33 days or 33 years, we each receive our daily reprieve from active alcoholism by working this program to the best of our ability, one day at a time."



**"ON WHAT
SLENDER THREADS
OUR DESTINY
SOMETIMES HANGS..."**

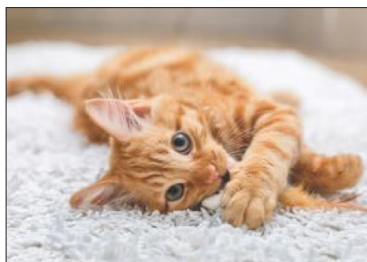
Bill W. 1954 Texas State Convention

THE GRAPEVINE - FROM THE ARCHIVES

Purrrrrfect solutions

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When I was still drinking, having the responsibility of taking care of a pet was the last thing on my mind. I mean, really.



Spending money on food and healthcare to keep a pet happy and healthy, when that money could be put to better use buying more liquor? Unthinkable! So I lived alone with my alcoholism.

When I came into A.A., I initially got sober attending meetings held in a sober house. One of the “residents” there was a small cat that was friendly to everyone. He used to go from recovering alcoholic to recovering alcoholic seeking attention. He’d often end up in my lap because I would give him the attention he wanted.

Jim B.
San Marcos, Texas

THE GRAPEVINE

THANKS FOR THE CALL

All alone and far from home, she really needed a meeting. Luckily, AA has special workers



I’m in Los Angeles today, living the wonderful life AA has given me. I’m visiting from my home in New Mexico with a friend I’ve known for more than 50 years. This person is still my friend because of our program. We attended a wonderful concert at the Disney Hall yesterday. Now I’m in my hotel room about to pack for the plane ride home.

Last night I knew I’d want to make a meeting in the morning. I went to the lacoaa.org website, which helped me locate a meeting within walking distance.

Kristina F. – Tesuque, New Mexico



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