

Hill Country A.A.[®] INTERGROUP CONNECTION

Volume 2 - Issue 8- September 2018

Sharing Our Recovery With Those Who May Not Know Where to Find Us!

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Northland Group

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12 @ 12

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Lake Travis Serenity Group

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Way of Life

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Single Purpose Group

I walked into my first meeting in April of 1991 and finally sobered up in February of 1993. Like most of us, I had no idea at the time what any of the service committees were. Now I have the honor and am grateful to serve SWTA 68 as your Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Committee Chairperson. What was definitely the most important message I received in the first couple of days that I was introduced to Alcoholic Anonymous was hope. I was also impressed by how the members of the Share Group of McAllen were briefly sharing with me their experiences and how their stories were so closely aligned with my drinking experiences. It was like they were with me while I was drinking and living that life of total desperation. One of the most powerful aspects of our Alcoholic Anonymous program is that connection between us and that we are not alone and that others have had a similar experience.

Like some of the A. A. members have shared with me over the years, I too wanted to go out in the first couple of months and let everyone I knew about my problem and that it was all going to be alright. Because I had alcoholism was why I was behaving the way I was. Therefore, all I had done was because I was an alcoholic...and for that, I was sorry. Of course, it doesn't work that way because we need a good recovery foundation and those 8th and 9th Steps are where they are for a reason.

Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. were the first members of a PI/CPC Committee as well as trying to carry the message to an alcoholic who was suffering. In doing their 12-Step work and looking for new prospects to share their newfound recovery with, they went to a hospital in Akron and was sent to A.A. number three, Bill D. They were able to connect with Bill D. after a few other prospects before him.

I did not get into general service until 2012 as a DCM. There was a time before I knew what general service was that I was the treasurer of the Share

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"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 Mark K.



YOUR Board Member

What is your name and your service position?

Mark K.; Finance Subcommittee member

How long have you been in AA?

July 31, 2012

What is your home group?

Lake Travis Serenity Group - Lakeway, TX

Who is your sponsor and why did you pick him?

Pat C. I asked Pat to sponsor me because of the program he works, his kindness, how he lives his program and we click with one another. And he has a great sense of humor as well which keeps me from taking myself too seriously.

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

InterGroup Rep, Citywide 7th Tradition coordinator, Citywide Treasurer, InterGroup Hotline Volunteer, Capitol of Texas Conference committee member x 3.

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

Around 18 months sober, I began to sense that AA had really impacted my life in positive, profound ways. The three sides of the triangle were beginning to balance one another with service, unity and recovery...and I found a peace I'd not known before.

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

There haven't been any earth-shattering changes that I've seen personally. Technology changes have made recovery resources more accessible, and that's for the greater good. Yet, the fundamental premise of one alcoholic talking to another still works today.

(continue on page 3)



OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

August 2018:

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

HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

August 2018:

Dudley, Fred J., Gordon K., Jesse B., Jessica L., John F., Lee Y., Mary T., Tom K.

WEEKEND - GROUP VOLUNTEERS

August 2018:

Any Lengths, We Are Not Saints, Westlake, Elgin



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.

CONT. - Mark K., 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?

That I was a good steward of the position, keeping in the forefront that the 5th Tradition is why I/we are here. It's also my hope that the Hill Country InterGroup will grow and evolve in its' role as "the" clearinghouse for the groups by listening to the



fellowship and providing assistance in whatever form it may take to assist the individual groups of the large swath of Central Texas we serve.

THANK YOU - AA Groups and All

For Your CONTRIBUTIONS IN AUGUST

Group Name & District	\$Amount
<i>A Way Out - 29</i>	\$44.00
<i>Allandale Group - 3B</i>	\$355.39
<i>Bridge to Shore Group - 3C</i>	\$362.34
<i>Fallen Women Group - 3B</i>	\$11.00
<i>Grass Roots AA - 3C</i>	\$63.00
<i>HCIA Board</i>	\$24.00
<i>Hope Group - 22</i>	\$173.37
<i>Horseshoe Bay Group - 13</i>	\$75.00
<i>Lambda Live and Let Live - 3B</i>	\$221.45
<i>Lambda South - 3C</i>	\$354.36
<i>Newcomers Group - 13</i>	\$150.00

Group Name & District	\$Amount
<i>North Austin 24 Hour Group - 3B</i>	\$75.00
<i>Promises, Promises - 3B</i>	\$50.00
<i>Reading Rainbow - 3B</i>	\$23.80
<i>Reps Meeting</i>	\$32.75
<i>Saturday Morning Serenity - 3B</i>	\$140.20
<i>Single Purpose Group - 3C</i>	\$20.00
<i>Sunday South - 3C</i>	\$100.00
<i>Sunday Sunrise Group - 3C</i>	\$48.00
<i>Westlake AA - 3C</i>	\$400.00
Total	\$2,723.66

Group/Name & District	\$ Amount
<i>Allandale Group - 3B</i>	\$50.00
<i>Anonymous</i>	\$10.00
<i>Anonymous</i>	\$10.00
<i>Anonymous</i>	\$10.00
<i>Anonymous</i>	\$10.00
<i>Bridge to Shore Group - 3C</i>	\$150.00
<i>Desire To Stop - 3C</i>	\$25.00



**THANK
YOU
for your**

**DAC
Contributions**

Group Name & District	\$Amount
<i>Desire To Stop - 3C</i>	\$25.00
<i>Lighthouse Group - 3C</i>	\$20.00
<i>Reading Rainbow - 3B</i>	\$10.20
<i>Western Trails - 3C</i>	\$35.50
<i>Westlake AA - 3C</i>	\$50.00
Total Contributions	\$405.70

(cont.) SHARING OUR RECOVERY

Group of McAllen in 2008 and 2009. During my time as DCM, I was thrust into trying to learn about the many areas of general service. District 10 had a few members that were interested in hosting and the 2014 PI/CPC Conference and attended the 2013 PI/CPC Conference in Austin. Willie R. and Randy V. bid on and were awarded with hosting the Conference in District 10 for 2014.

We co-hosted the Conference with District 20 in McAllen and had lots of help with current and past trusted servants with advice on how to even host the event. Janice W., Linda D., James H., Maggie B., and others really helped me with understanding how to host this event. It was an awesome experience and helped spur our District's involvement in PI/CPC. Other service committees such as a Correctional Committee and a Grapevine Committee were slowly created because of the involvement in general service and the need to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic. We have had an active District PI/CPC Committee since hosting the Conference. Hosting the Conference was perhaps putting the cart before the horse, but what it did do was foster interest in reaching out to the community and working with the professionals that suffering alcoholics come into contact with. The District Committee is attending health fairs, community events, and working with the county probation department.

Since being involved in general service beginning in 2012, I have attended all but one of the SWTA 68 service events including several PI/CPC Conferences. What touches me the most is the heartfelt dedication and love for the program of Alcoholic Anonymous that envelopes the members in attendance. This year, I have been able to go out to several different Districts in SWTA 68 and perform workshops on how to spur involvement and enthusiasm in PI/CPC and have more scheduled. It is very humbling to be asked to come to your Districts and share information on PI/CPC.

Perhaps it is a mild stretch to say that Bill W. and Dr. Bob created the first PI/CPC Committee when they were out looking to share their newfound

sobriety to new prospects. In addition to spreading their recovery, they were reaching out to doctors and nurses in the Akron hospital and explaining to them what they had and what A. A. was before there was a formal program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Were they not working in the public sector and the medical field to share how their new sobriety has helped them and perhaps could help others? My father-in-law brought me to my first meeting in April of 1991. I did not hear about A. A. on the radio, read about it in a magazine, or hear about it from any of my friends since I associated with other drinkers. At the time of my beginning recovery, 12-Step calls were a little more common. Those answering and going to 12-Step calls had a telephone number that alerted them to those who needed help. Today, there are many more ways to find A. A. or a local meeting. Getting that information out on websites, telephone books, local law enforcement entities, is part of the public information aspect of our program.

***IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO
OUR FELLOWSHIP THAT
WE SHARE OUR RECOVERY
WITH THOSE WHO MAY
NOT KNOW WHERE TO
FIND US.***

It is so important to our Fellowship that we share our recovery with those who may not know where to find us. Supplying information to those professionals that do come in contact with people with a drinking problem ensures that we can pass along our experiences. It is very important that we get familiar with the abundant literature that helps us become familiar with Public Information and Cooperating with the Professional Community.

So many times in my recovery I have had to get back to the basics. A. A. meetings have always been an important way to interact with other sober members and enjoy the intimate setting of a meeting. But we also must be able to get out there and let others know who we are. If we are working a good program, others will be attracted to our way of life like I was at my first meeting at the Share Group in McAllen.

Grateful in Service, Dean D., McAllen, TX

FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

It has been more than a few years since I have served as the SWTA 68 PI/CPC Chair. From 2014 to 2015 to be exact and I am forever grateful for the opportunity and yes, the privilege of sharing the importance of how to further carry the message of recovery through Public Information (PI) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC).

In 2013 as we were voting in our new Trusted Servants for the next panel and I let it be known to the incoming Chairperson that I was willing to continue my service having served two years as District 29's DCM. Having offered and accomplished what my Sponsor said we should do, I thought no more of it. To my surprise I was approached by the incoming Area 68 Chairperson Jonathan S. to accept the PI/CPC Chairperson position. I was both terrified and elated at the same time (seriously). I accepted.

At that same Assembly I was introduced to the incoming PI/CPC Chairperson for the District that was to be the host for the 2014 PI/CPC Conference, Willie R. and we were off. First I went home and proceeded to familiarize myself with the PI and CPC booklets from the AA.org. web page. I would eventually receive my packet information on both committees but why wait?!! Second I had to get with the outgoing SWTA 68 PI/CPC Chair Tommy F. and collect all of the literature and equipment I was going to need. I was told to bring a truck if possible. There was a lot to bring back and I was going to need to inventory all of it as well. He was right. It filled the whole back of my truck.

What I eventually found out was that I was to attend all SWTA 68 Assemblies with my PI/CPC display set up and have a report of what I and my soon to be committee was doing. I was also to put together an interactive workshop twice a year. I continued to coordinate with the hosting district for the PI/CPC Conference meeting as

often as possible and forwarding this to the Area Chair and the SWTA Assembly as a whole.

One of my favorite things to do was to visit the different districts and do what ever they requested. Mostly it was a workshop and other times it was for a Speaker meeting or to present a Concept.

Some Workshop topics were:

- a. How do we put together our committees
- b. What's It like bringing the message into schools
- c. How do you approach the probation department
- d. How to participate in a Health Fair
- e. What kind of information is passed onto professionals

I made an effort to invite one of my friends from my home group to tag along to these districts. We always had more fun that way and they too got to become more informed about this committee.

Throughout my two years of service I learned a great deal more about PI/CPC. I also learned two things along the way about myself. One was that I was not particularly great at speaking in front of the whole assembly, but I did it anyway as best I could. And two I was thrilled and excited at sitting amongst the members of the individual districts. After my presentation I got to witness their committees come alive with their eagerness to go out in their communities and be of service. I got to know and become friends with the SWTA 68 Officers and Committee Chairs. When I attended the 2015 International Conference in Georgia I was invited to volunteer my time in the Public Information booth and speak with members concerning PI/CPC matters from all over the world. But mostly what I was grateful for is that I had been given the opportunity to see growth with the Area and within myself.

Gratitude in service, Linda D.

My Experience, Strength and Hope on PI/CPC Service Committee

I am grateful for the fateful night occurring September 13, 1986, when I was pulled over by a police officer in a small Southern Oregon College town. Sitting in my jail cell drunk I pondered what occurred fifteen years earlier, when the same incident happened, that time I had gotten into a fight with the officer and he went to the E.R. with a fractured shoulder, I went to jail. This time seemed different I believed that I was in far more trouble than twenty years earlier. Though the charges were less than the previous DWI I realized that I needed help with my daily drunkenness and mental state of mind. That I seemingly could not stop getting drunk daily, and I was filled with anger directed toward my wife, and others that had seemingly wronged me. Thankfully a friend bailed me out and I decided I needed to return to LA and get back to work. I completed my Oregon DMV requirements in LA, got a job in my field at that time. It was there that I attended court ordered DWI meetings. It turned out to be twelve step-based meetings put on by the court with signature verification. At lunch I would walk from my work Lab to the corner intersection for lunch at a cafe. Across the street was a building labeled Serenity Hall.

It was one day I walked into this Fellowship that I felt at home from the beginning and felt the loving kindness of the people. When I heard their stories I realized I was not unique, that I had found people like me finding a new way of life free of alcohol, and anger. I found a sponsor soon and began working the steps with him. I attended meetings with him and others having coffee at night before heading home to my rented room from a Christian family. This humble period of my life I cherish, since for first time I was willing to listen, and not drink one day at a time. It was at this period that I came to believe I was Powerless over alcohol, that my life had become unmanageable, mentally spiritually sick, and needing guidance to faith in a power greater than myself. My anger and fears began to diminish, while over these many years my relationship with my Higher Power God as I understand him, has grown. Later I made amends to all those I had

harmed, my wife and others. By working the steps on a daily basis, cleaning house on my side of the street.

For making amends and apologies right away when I make mistakes treating others. I became ready, willing, and a desire to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. I have learned many lessons one stands out that my self-centeredness is the root of my problems leading to fear.

To be of service is a gift, though we serve without accepting any in return, we are blessed with this day of sobriety by doing for others. I am grateful for my Home Group and my GSR two years ago when he nominated me to stand for our Group Chair of PI/CPC. I am grateful for my District 3B & 3C PI/CPC Chair when she nominating me to Stand for District chair and for members giving me the chance to serve in 2018. Like others I had no idea what PI/CPC service was about. I have found it a miraculous way to get the message to others having trouble in their lives involving alcohol. I sent a group email out to ALL GSR's early in this first year as new District Chair. Thankfully with GSR helpful response soon providing me with New Incoming Group Chairs in 4 Home Groups & several volunteers. Already in the second month of the year established a monthly Committee meeting at the regular time and place.

All of us are learning our New Service tasks together, with the helpfulness from my fellows who served before. Service in PI/CPC is an opportunity to understand and practice the twelve traditions, that they play a vital role in AA at Group, District, and daily living. They are important beyond what I previously realized for this I am truly grateful. Considering and keeping in touch with the Twelve Traditions always in forefront, which are necessary for A.A. Unity and its very survival. The Traditions provide a road map of how to interact with the public, and our fellow members of AA, and importantly a guide to decisions we make in service Committee's,

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(cont.) My Experience, Strength and Hope on PI/CPC Service Committee

at Group and District. The Group is central to our sobriety and spiritual growth. Humor that we bring to AA in our Groups is a healing part of the fellowship, with smiles of gratitude for sobriety and new way of living filling our lives. We can actually laugh along with others when our stories of past difficulty offer humor today; when in the grip were cause for enormous fear. I start my morning with Prayer derived from Dr. William Silkworth and his early efforts helping Bill W. to find sobriety, ending my day with night Prayer BB p.86-87. All of the AA prayers I practice, keeping them fresh in my daily life of letting God's Will be done.

I have many people along the way in service work to thank for their willingness to help. I have learned from each of them, and continue to attend my District and Area meetings taking part. The fellowship with others and the enormous knowledge of those who have served in various capacities before me for this I am truly thankful. We have two areas in PI/CPC the PI is Public Information, and we are tasked with making contact with the Broadcast Networks on TV and Radio stations locally. A formal Letter via email is the suggested first Contact of introduction, followed by a second email letter when we get a response asking for an appointment to meet and leave them with a DVD of an AA approved

Public Service Announcement (PSA). We always look forward to listening for the media announcements on PSA broadcasts, but most importantly, a newcomer might attend a meeting from hearing a PSA. The other part of our Service is the CPC or Cooperation with Professional Community. This introduction varies from Professionals who work in different areas pertaining to people adversely affected involving Alcohol. Three of these areas are: Judicial (DWI Court Judges), Education (Middle or High School students & their Counselors) and Medical (Doctors, Nurses, E.R.s & those who treat).

We contact these professionals in same way through email letters, and arrange to speak with them about AA what it is, what it Does and Does Not. We refrain from any drunkalogues sticking instead

to a brief description of our sobriety through A.A. meetings, finding a sponsor, working the twelve steps, twelve traditions, sharing in meetings and helping another alcoholic achieve sobriety.

We explain what A.A. Does & Not Do. Then later we can arrange to bring Speakers in sobriety who are members of AA to speak about their Experience, Strength and Hope our young AA members speak at student assemblies as an example. We can deliver and setup a pamphlet rack displaying A.A. pamphlets including meeting directories.

Several AA pamphlets recommended are: *What A.A. Does & Not Do* Info on A.A., F-2, A.A. *Tradition How It Developed* by Bill W. P-17, *The A.A. Group Where It All Begins* P-16, *AA at a Glance* F-1, *Young People and A.A.* P-4.

Several books; *Our Twelve Traditions* AA members share their own stories of experience (AAGrapevine.org Book) *AA Comes of Age* a brief history of A.A. (B-3). All of these can be purchased at Hill Country Intergroup Store in Austin, including our *Big Book & Twelve and Twelve* books. Orders can also be made online at www.aa.org.

Jim F., Trusted Servant,
picpc@district3b3c.org



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.

THE GRAPEVINE

Daily Quote

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

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"Scene of the Crime," Sterling, Alaska, September 1993, Step By Step,

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STEP BY STEP

Real AAs, Real Recovery

"By admitting where I was at fault, I was given the ability to forgive ... With forgiveness came a freedom that I had not anticipated. The amends had required nothing but courage, and a faith that my Higher Power would carry me where I had been too afraid to walk alone."

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

Bill W.

1954

Texas State Convention

THE GRAPEVINE

Daily Quote

AUGUST 29, 2018

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc. AA Co-Founder, Bill W., July 1953, *"A*

Fragment of History: Origin of the Twelve Steps", The Language of the Heart

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"Not only ... could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel, and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual; their variety could be almost infinite."

*All of these books can be purchased
at Hill Country Intergroup Store.*



**THE LANGUAGE
OF THE HEART**

Bill W.'s
Grapevine Writings

Large Print Edition



TO VOLUNTEER CALL

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To volunteer in the office,
or answer the Hotline
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