

Hill Country A.A.[®] INTERGROUP CONNECTION

Volume 2 - Issue 10- November 2018

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Northland Group

HCIA BOARD

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North Austin 24 Group

Larry D. — Hutto
North Austin 24 Group

Tessa R. — Austin
Seventh Street Sisters

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

The Biggest 12th Step Calls!

Participating in carrying the message into treatment centers is one of the biggest 12th step calls you can answer. Bill W. began paving the way for this service work when he returned to Towns Hospital trying to help the drunks that were there. He knew that he had a solution that would work for them, and even more so, he knew that working with them would ensure his sobriety.

We have a unique opportunity to enter a facility that has the same goal as our meetings do; to help the still suffering alcoholic. The difference between what the treatment centers do and what we as members of alcoholics anonymous do is that we focus on the powerlessness that we have when it comes to alcohol and find solution through working the 12 steps. The treatment centers focus on helping not only alcoholics but individuals that suffer from other addictions as well. In the beginning of learning about carrying the message into treatment centers I was worried that I would not be able to relate because I had never been a patient in a facility. It was not long before it was explained to me that we alcoholics have a common solution to a common problem no matter where we are. *I was to carry THE message of alcoholics anonymous instead of MY message.*

When going into a treatment center with the plan to carry the message, we must remember that we are entering "their house", meaning that the treatment center has the final say. There are rules that we too must follow and security set in place for reasons we may not understand.

(continue on page 5)

"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 Kit L.



your Board Member

What is your name and your service position?

Kit L., Hill Country Intergroup, member Board of Trustees, past treasurer of way of life group, and group conscience chairman at the Round Rock big book step study meeting, other miscellaneous smaller positions

How long have you been in AA?

By God's grace, since April 4th 1977, about 41 years.

What is your home group?

East Palm Valley Boulevard, Sunday evening, 6 p.m., one of the best meetings in the Austin area, come join us...

Who is your sponsor and why did you pick him?

He is Joe M. currently of Pecos, Texas

About 6 years ago I was looking for a new sponsor so....

I asked one of the best people in the United States that I knew at the time, Bob D. of Las Vegas, after a few conversations and considering the distance between Vegas and Austin and the lack of ability to get face-to-face on a regular basis, my obvious need for some intense work on some life-threatening issues. He suggested Joe, for local face-to-face contact, while keeping in touch with Bob by email twice a week for about 2 or 3 years, that evolved into Joe full-time, as Bob's plate is very full.

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

As mentioned above, treasurer for a group, chairman of the group conscience for another group, for periods of the specified commitment. Other miscellaneous committed and non committed positions through the years, concurrently and separately, setting up chairs, making coffee, bringing cookies, picking up cake, cutting cake, serving, coffeebar positions, sweeping floors, picking up trash around the building, sponsoring, started a Taco / literature meeting that's been going for about seven to eight years every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. currently, at Hope group in Cedar Park.

(continue on page 3)



OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

October 2018:

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

HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

October 2018:

Gordon K., Jesse B., John F., Jose V., Lana W., Olaf G., Randy R.

WEEKEND GROUP VOLUNTEERS

October 2018:

Keystone, Allandale, Intergroup, We Are Not Saints



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., KIT L. your Board Member

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

In this length of God's grace, manifested as sobriety, I don't know if I can count how many turning points there have been, each one of them essential, necessary, large or small significant, so what kind of Turning Point would you like to discuss...

The turning point of reading the big book, and realizing how essential that was in early sobriety, of the number of meetings that were necessary, of the need to humble myself and ask God's help to remove my selfishness and self-centeredness that was destroying me at several different points in sobriety, the need to establish a relationship with a power greater than myself, whether I wanted to or not, the need for rigorous honesty, the need to call somebody and ask for help when I was in trouble, in spite of my ego's refusal to do so, the need for making a sincere effort towards prayer meditation and how indispensably essential that was for long-term sobriety and peace of mind, and usefulness,, peace of mind being foremost, because that's where the spiritual malady, shows up or manifests, is in our mind. Realizing the need that service work needs to be inconvenient and a sacrifice, that that is when it is most powerful and valuable, when I do not want to do it the most is when I need or somebody else needs me to do it the most. That I can never figure out God, though I am going to continue trying, and that is part of my Human Condition, and the forgiveness and Grace for myself and from God for that condition, and coming to peace with that...

That everything is God's, I just get to use it for a while, and what am I going to use it for, me, or someone else, whatever I use for me has very little return, whatever I use for somebody else, I do not ever know what the true return is... that the rare times I have seen what the return is at any given point has been staggering and life-changing.

There are and there will be multiple surrenders selfishness and self-centeredness, at deeper and deeper levels necessary for continued sobriety and peace of mind.

If I'm getting bored, I'm not working the program, I'm blocked off spiritually somewhere. And there is a difference between being at peace, and being bored...

Learning that Acceptance and approval are not the same thing, that was huge in my early sobriety.

And a few others...

Do you think there have been changes in AA since you've been sober?

Most definitely, if not, I would not be sober today. Example, most meetings, almost all meetings in the late 70s and early 80s in the Austin Texas area were discussion meetings, that is nothing more than group therapy Guided by uneducated people., if not for the Reawakening of the need for big book studies, 12 and 12 studies, or definite topic guided meetings, the life-saving spiritual tools, I do not believe AA would be here today, we would have gone off the rails and lost ourselves in insignificance and delusion and drunkenness.

And there are a few others...

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 would Faithfully execute my duties, that I would honor my God, and my responsibilities to Alcoholics Anonymous. That when I am asked to go one mile, I would go two...

THANK YOU - AA Groups and All

For Your CONTRIBUTIONS IN OCTOBER

Group Name & District	\$Amount
1825 Group - 22	\$285.00
1826 Group - 2	\$280.00
Being Convinced - 22	\$225.00
Bridge to Shore Group - 3C	\$397.60
Brushy Creek Serenity - 22	\$40.00
Buda Big Book Group - 2	\$251.25
Firemakers - 3C	\$720.00
Gratitude Group - 29	\$50.00
HCIA Board	\$13.00
Knuckleheads AA - 3C	\$75.00
Lake Travis Serenity - 3C	\$450.00
Lakeway Keystone Group - 3C	\$1,620.00
Lampasas AA - 13	\$100.00

Group Name & District	\$Amount
Northland - 3B	\$183.58
Northland - 3B	\$184.29
Progress Not Perfection - 13	\$20.00
Promises, Promises - 3B	\$100.00
Reps Meeting	\$33.00
Rule 62 - 3B	\$325.94
Saturday Morning Serenity - 3B	\$77.00
Solutions In Sobriety - 3B	\$359.77
Sunlight of the Spirit - 13	\$45.14
Sunshine Group - 22	\$75.00
Wimberley Group - 2	\$172.92
Total	\$6,186.84

Group/Name & District	\$ Amount
1826 Group - 2	\$280.00
Anonymous.	\$10.00
Anonymous.	\$10.00
Anonymous.	\$10.00
Anonymous.	\$10.00
Bridge to Shore Group - 3C	\$150.00
Desire To Stop - 3C	\$25.00
Desire To Stop - 3C	\$25.00



**THANK
YOU
for your
DAC
Contributions**

Group/Name & District	\$ Amount
Lakeway Keystone Group - 3C	\$135.00
North Austin 24 Hour Group - 3B	\$25.00
Northland - 3B	\$153.98
Reading Rainbow - 3B	\$12.15
Rule 62 - 3B	\$325.94
Wimberley Group - 2	\$115.27
Total	\$1,490.32

The Deaf Access Committee thanks you for your help in providing interpreters for Deaf AA members!! We are growing in numbers, continually, and more and more requests for meetings are coming in!! If you would like to know more about the Deaf Access Committee and how you can help serve our fellowship through this special service, please contact us!!

cont. The Biggest 12th Step Calls!

Along with following the rules of the facility we must stay within our traditions as well. Often times members run into the problem of the patients talking about problems other than alcohol, some use the time for group therapy and there are some that will try to argue the points being made. If this were to happen members should be prepared to redirect the meeting, keeping in mind that love and tolerance is our code! On the flip side of that coin we must always remember that in order to carry the message of AA we must keep the singleness of purpose in the forefront of our minds. If we are going into the facility to expose the patients to meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous then we need to show them how an AA meeting is held. Allowing them to talk about whatever they choose to or how they are not alcoholics will not assist in obtaining the goal that you are trying to achieve. Being able to redirect them in a way that allows them to be able to listen and maybe hear the solution takes time and practice. It is encouraged that the topic comes for our literature and that our members lead off the discussion sharing their experience.

When going to a facility keep in mind that you are not representing AA as a whole, but to them you are. This may be the first time an individual has even been exposed to our program. They look at you and may judge the entire program based on how you dress, carry yourself and how you speak. You must keep in mind that how you conduct yourself in this meeting is very important, how you share your experience and solution could be the only time someone hears it. It would be nice to think that when they are released they would all go to a meeting and find our solution but sadly this isn't always the case. We have to remember that sometimes we are just planting a seed, this is one of the main reasons that it is vitally important that we carry AA's message and keep the meetings on track.

All of the things that you have heard about the rules and guidelines may seem like too much trouble, or maybe the thought of going into a facility is scary.

If either of these are the reason you have not felt the desire to do this service work I would suggest that you see if you can go with an experienced member to see for yourself if this is a service commitment that you would like to have. I'm sure that the feeling you have when you leave there will be indescribably wonderful!

For those of you carrying the message into treatment facilities, Thank You! Your love and self-sacrifice is not going unnoticed, and you are participating in keeping AA alive and well. Giving of your time, getting out of self, giving hope to the hopeless, and offering a solution to a disease that tells the sufferer "its not a disease" is an amazing thing to be a part of.

Grateful in Service, Cherie R.

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

*Bill W.
1954*

Texas State Convention



**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.**

...Watching others grow in their sobriety reminds me of just how powerful God is...

Our main purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Back in 2011 I entered a treatment center for the fourth time. This time I had been beat into a state of reasonableness. I opened my ears and began to listen. During the first Sunday I was there we were brought into a meeting room, still being newly sober I didn't know what to expect, still crawling in my own skin. I walked a small group of Alcoholics Anonymous members. This young girl around my age began sharing her experience. It amazed me that she was able to stay sober, that she could live in the world among others and didn't have to have a drink to be ok. I was attracted to what she had, if she could do it then there was hope for me too. After completing

treatment, I went to live in a sober living house. Almost instantly I began carrying the message back in to the treatment centers in the area. Having only a few months sober, my sponsor let me know that if I was to remain sober I must give back what was so freely given to me. As the years went on carrying the message into treatment centers has become a bright spot in my sobriety. To watch the new person come in reminds me where I come from, the hopelessness and despair. Watching others grow in their sobriety reminds me of just how powerful God is, how he works in each and every one of our life's. I am constantly reminded that all I need to do is show up and God does the rest.

Brooke G., Bastrop, District 29

Save The Date - March 9, 2019 Appreciation Day

THE GRAPEVINE - FROM THE ARCHIVES

NOVEMBER 2018

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TOAST Is Not the Issue

A quick inventory saves a young mother a lifetime of regret

I was in the kitchen making lunches for the kids when my mother asked, "Leslie, what would you like for breakfast?" "I don't have time to eat, Mom," "I replied, "I'm already almost late."

Gregory, my oldest, would stay home with her to eat breakfast before she dropped him off at kindergarten. Stephen and Katherine would eat at the babysitter's. I set out Gregory's cereal, then hurried to the bedroom to grab coats for the other two. As I hurried out of the bedroom, carrying coats, Mom came out and offered me toast - hot, buttered and wrapped in a napkin to take with me.

Leslie P. Lake Jackson, Texas

DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AA

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MISSION: *To coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message to alcoholics in settings engaged in alcoholism treatment and other institutions where individuals may have limited access to the message of the program Alcoholics Anonymous.*

After serving as GSR for my home group for 2 years, I had the opportunity to continue service with District 3b/3c as the chairperson of the Treatment Facilities committee. This was a service opportunity very near to my heart, as I myself have had the luxury of being at guest at treatment facilities 5 different times (some voluntary, others not as much). These were all meaningful experiences to me, and I look back on those times as integral to my journey to sobriety through AA.

We are blessed in District 3b/3c to have an abundance of treatment facilities in and around the area. Many AA groups in the District report that their groups have regular visitors from treatment facilities throughout the week, and just as many carry the message into the facilities. All of this was a great foundation to begin with for the committee, however, there is always more progress to be made.

During our first meetings as a committee, we identified 3 core areas we wanted to focus on, based on the committee definition from GSO: Outreach to local area treatment facilities to see if they have open times that the AA community can carry the message to their residents and inform them of the Bridge the Gap program to help residents leaving seamless transition into the District AA community.

Gather and consolidate a listing of service opportunities with treatment facilities that the District groups / individual AA's have already established, so those wanting to get involved in carrying the message to treatment centers can volunteer, and; continue to work with the District AA groups & individuals to help enable them to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment or who recently left a treatment facility.

To accomplish these goals, we meet regularly; once a month at a dedicated group location. While we have almost 20 volunteers for the committee, the average attendance each month can fluctuate between 5-7, so we continue communications via email as needed.

One of the first activities we undertook, was to establish a list of volunteers from the AA community to participate in the Bridge the Gap program. We did so via announcements at the district meetings, and supplying the GSR's with flyers to distribute at their home groups. Over the course of a couple of months

we built a solid foundation of volunteers, and continue to have more sign up every month or so.

Additionally, we gathered a listing of over 40 local treatment facilities and reached out to each one to find out if the AA message was being carried into their center and if there is more opportunity. The results were mixed, as many of the facilities already had established schedules in place. However, we did get a lot of interest about the Bridge the Gap program and were able to supply them with details on how to connect their patients with the AA community through this program. We hope that this is a new and effective opportunity for service and carrying the message.

Lastly, we have polled the local AA community via GSR's, group contacts and individual networks to build a consolidated list of service commitments that are already in place with treatment facilities, especially those that could use volunteers from the broader District 3b/3c AA community. We've managed to gather together almost 10 different opportunities that local AA's can reach out to volunteer for. We hope to continue building the list further.

Recent committee meetings have been more focused on the last goal we set, which is to work with the District AA community to help enable them to carry the message into treatment facilities, and work with alcoholics who are coming from a treatment center. More to come here, likely in year 2 of our panel.

Its been a whirlwind of a first year in the committee chair role so far, and there is a lot of work yet ahead of us, but the chance to stay in touch with the local treatment centers and their patients has been such a tremendous gift.

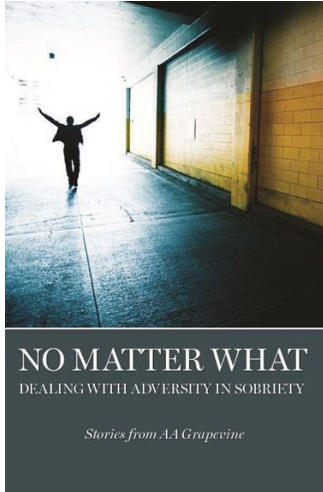
Our committee meetings are
the last Sunday of each month
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. @ We Are Not Saints
(900 Old Koenig Rd.) or visit

<http://www.district3b3c.org/2018/03/treatment-facilities-committee/>

Please join us, and of course, feel free to email me at
treatment@district3b3c.org.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service
Chris D. Treatment Facilities Chair – District 3b/3c

THE GRAPEVINE - Daily Quote



OCTOBER 10, 2018

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"Just an Attitude," Durham, North Carolina, April 2002,
No Matter What: Dealing with Adversity in Sobriety,
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"With the clock ticking like it is, I do not have time for anger, resentment, or self-pity. Time is far too precious."

THE GRAPEVINE - Daily Quote

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NOVEMBER 7, 2018

"Our Twelve Traditions ... represent the sum of our experience as individuals, as groups within AA, and similarly with our fellows and other organizations in the great fellowship of humanity under God throughout the world. They are all suggestions, yet the spirit in which they have been conceived merits their serious, prayerful consideration as the guideposts of AA policy for the individual, the group, and our various committees, local and national."

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



INTERGROUP OFFICE NOW OPEN EVERY SATURDAY FROM 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

And normal during business hours Monday through Friday, we are open for sales of Literature and Chips.

If you are interested in Volunteering Saturdays at Intergroup, contact your Intergroup Rep., or for more information call 512-444-0071.