

# Hill Country A.A.<sup>®</sup> INTERGROUP CONNECTION

Volume 2 - Issue 12- January 2019

## OFFICE MANAGER

Gary H. — Austin  
*Northland Group*

## HCIA BOARD

Dan H. — Austin  
*12 @ 12*

Mark K. — Austin  
*Lake Travis Serenity Group*

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

Larry D. — Hutto  
*North Austin 24 Group*

## NEW - HCIA BOARD

Michael O'R.

Sue LaD.

Pat F.

Kristene B.

## ***I WAS SENT BY THE JUDGE TO AA FOR MY SECOND DUI***

### **STEP 1.**

*Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

I was sent by the judge to AA for my second DUI. This was just another, class, terms of conditions to fulfill so I can stay out of trouble. It took four months for me to say, "My name is Hope and I am an alcoholic". Four months of me hearing my story come out of other member's mouths. Bit by bit I was becoming convinced I was an alcoholic. I fully conceded my life was unmanageable after all I had been arrested again and was on probation. Yes, my life was unmanageable however, I could not fathom being an alcoholic just because I was arrested for DUI. Mind you I was blowing in a breathalyzer machine to start my car. At around four months of white knuckling it I had had enough! I wanted, needed a drink! Here is the problem and the beginning of my program,

(continue on page 3)

***"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."***

## CONCEPT ONE

*Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.*

## Alcoholics Anonymous

has been called an upside-down organization because the "ultimate responsibility and final authority for... world services" resides with the groups - rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York. (The Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated pg.2).

The Groups assumed responsibility at the St Louis International Convention in 1955. Bill had started the alcoholic foundation in 1938 and the trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. Renamed the Board of Trustees in 1954, the trusteeship did those things the individual groups could not, such as uniformed literature publication and the publishing of the Grapevine. They developed public relations policies. Along with aiding new groups with experiences of older groups that were successful. Group services are maintained through the General Service Office GSO.

How does the Group take responsibility in this upside-down triangle? GSR - General Service Representative participates in the service structure to insure the continuing of our fellowship. How does this work? The GSR are the group's communication link between group, district, area and the general service conference. The GSR will attend their group conscience. Registered with GSO each GSR will receive Box 459 the GSO Newsletter, the Area Newsletter and possibly a district newsletter that will inform the group of any information that is of interest. By attending the group conscience the GSR has that information to pass to the district and area. The delegate will also give conference reports in each area to insure communication.

(continue on page 5)



### OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

#### **December 2018:**

Coleen B., Dan H., Fletcher M  
Glenn S., Jay B., Jeff K., Jill F.,  
John B., Marilyn C., Marty S.,  
Michael G., Murdo M., Nancy  
W., Pat F., Rick A., Robert C.

### HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

#### **December 2018:**

Alex H., Dan C., Dudley F.,  
Glenn S., Jesse B., John B., John  
F., Jose V., Mark K., Mary T.,  
Randall T., Randy R., Will H.

### WEEKEND GROUP VOLUNTEERS

#### **December 2018:**

7th Street Sisters, Keep First  
Things First, Elgin Group



**TO VOLUNTEER CALL  
512-444-0071**

## I WAS SENT BY THE JUDGE TO AA FOR MY SECOND DUI

### STEP 1.

*Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

step one. While trying to stay stopped, I could not. I had met my match. Alcohol had me in its grips. People in the rooms told me to call someone before I drank. So I did. I told the person on the other end of the phone I wanted to drink and she said, "No you don't if you did you would already be drinking. Welcome to step one". So after months of being convinced I was an alcoholic, coupled with probation and an overwhelming desire to stay stopped, I admitted I was powerless over alcohol and my life was unmanageable. Here I was surrendering, truly feeling the effects and pain of wanting a drink but not! I was trying something different by calling someone, admitting my powerlessness and then going to a meeting. I shared with a group of drunks what was happening to me. That was the day I admitted to myself being internally convinced I was powerless. I still remember the way the sun shined a beam of light through the meeting room. The day I admitted to my inner most self that **"My name is Hope and I am an alcoholic"**.

Hope, Elgin, Texas

## THANK YOU - AA Groups and All

For Your CONTRIBUTIONS IN DECEMBER

Group Name & District	\$Amount
A New Beginning - 22	\$100.00
A Way Out - 29	\$42.75
AABB - 3B	\$78.06
Bridge to Shore Group - 3C	\$413.91
Central Group - 3B	\$75.00
Good News Group - 22	\$80.00
Hair of the Dog - 3B	\$100.00
Horseshoe Bay Group - 13	\$75.00
Lambda South - 3C	\$157.12
Legacies Group - 29	\$25.00
Lighthouse Group - 3C	\$200.00
Living Faith - 3C	\$80.00
Llano Group - 13	\$75.00
North Austin 24 Hour Group - 3B	\$75.00

Group Name & District	\$Amount
Northshore Serenity - 22	\$175.00
Reading Rainbow - 3B	\$40.95
Renegade Ducks - 3B	\$80.00
Reps Meeting	\$44.00
Round Rock Big Book Step Study - 22	\$31.38
Steiner Ranch Cornerstone - 3B	\$200.00
Stoney Point Group - 22	\$35.00
Voices Carry - 3B	\$120.00
Welcome Home Group - 3B	\$50.00
Westlake AA - 3C	\$500.00
Wimberley Group - 2	\$144.89
3Store Sales	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,048.06</b>



## Announcing A new AA entity!!

# *The Deaf Intergroup of Central Texas!*

The Deaf Access Committee (DAC) has become the AA Deaf Intergroup! We provide interpreters for our Deaf/HH members through 7th Tradition Contributions of the AA groups in this community.

After eight years, we have continued to meet the needs of our Deaf/HH members by miracle as the Deaf/HH AA members regularly attend meetings, become a part of home groups, sponsor and are being sponsored, and participate in service. As a result of DAC providing accessibility, there is a much stronger Deaf AA presence, ready to offer support to new members coming in. The HCIA Board voted to fully support this new venture, and assist in our transition. We are very grateful for their support.

Due to continued commitment and growth, the Deaf Access Committee has decided to re-establish as a new AA entity, the ***Alcoholics Anonymous Deaf Intergroup of Central Texas***. The Deaf Intergroup will be similar to the Spanish InterGroup that serves a linguistic and cultural group of AA members or the On-line InterGroup of AA serving geographically isolated members. We will function to aid the underserved Deaf AA members that need AA's support.

Our new website is <http://centexdeafintergroup.org/>. The current information about the AA Deaf InterGroup is on this website, along with the calendar of interpreted AA meetings, and where to send contributions to continue supporting this worthy effort to provide accessibility to all alcoholics. If you previously sent 7th Tradition contributions to DAC, please continue making contributions, but now to the AA Deaf InterGroup.

### **OLD Address (DAC)**

1825 Fortview Road, Suite 102  
Austin, Texas 78704

### **NEW Address (AADI)**

AA Deaf InterGroup of Central Texas (AADI)  
PO BOX 90674, Austin, Texas 78709-0674

A hearty thanks to the support of the AA fellowship he has allowed us to exemplify that we are indeed a fellowship of equals.

### ***The AA Deaf InterGroup***

<b>Group/Name &amp; District</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
<i>A New Beginning - 22</i>	\$100.0
<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
<i>Donation Can at HCIA Office</i>	\$3.00

## **NEW Address**



**AA Deaf InterGroup  
Central Texas (AADI)**  
**PO BOX 90674  
Austin, Texas  
78709-0674**

## **THANK YOU for your AADI Contributions**

<b>Group/Name &amp; District</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
<i>Good News Group - 22</i>	\$80.00
<i>Lambda South - 3C</i>	\$36.58
<i>Legacies Group - 29</i>	\$25.00
<i>North Austin 24 Hour Group - 3B</i>	\$25.00
<i>Reading Rainbow - 3B</i>	\$17.55
<i>Wimberley Group - 2</i>	\$96.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$598.73</b>

## Concept One

*Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.*

They will attend monthly district meetings. In Area 68 there are four Area Assemblies yearly—two voting, two workshops. The rotation is two years. The last voting conference the GSR will take group responsibility by voting in a delegate to participate in the General Service Conference for two years. A Delegate from each of the 93 Areas will meet along with the board of trustees, GSO staff and a few invited guests to decide the collective conscience of A.A. as a whole. The GSRs also vote to nominate a regional trustee, each area presents a nominee who may ultimately become a class B trustee. The conference is a week long in April each year.

However, everyone who is part of the conference has worked many months before hand to get the job done. This is done by voluntary contribution of each delegate and trustee.

Groups practice the principles of the Traditions for the group to survive. The traditions are found in all levels of service. Tying Tradition Seven and Tradition Two to Concept One we see how important final

responsibility is to our fellowship. Tradition Seven each group is supported through voluntary contributions and no one can tell the Group what to do Tradition Five. Each Group is responsible for financial support of GSO. Even if it's one dollar a month that is self-support. As well as Tradition Two, "For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as He may express Himself in our group consciousness". This is a great description of The General Voting Conference AA as a whole "group consciousness." This is where we practice Concept One by our own voluntary contributions to keep AA lasting for the suffering Alcoholic not yet born. Bill asserts: "The A.A. groups are to be the final authority: their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only". The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it "a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy world service will work..." (2) The Twelve Concepts Illustrated pg 2.)

*Sonya D., San Antonio*

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

*Bill W. 1954  
Texas State Convention*



## TRADITION ONE: *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.*

### TIME TO LET GO

His strong wish for a 90-minute meeting may not have lasted, but unity sure did

**TRADITION ONE:** Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Some years ago, three of my friends and I decided to start a new meeting. Our reason was that the meeting we had been attending was a smoking venue and the smoke was just not bearable for us.

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T.T., Albuquerque, New Mexico



"I'm not powerless over alcohol. I just can't get up."

**It's the first drink** that gets you drunk.  
It's the last one that gets you sober.

John R., Bronxville, New York, August 1959

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## TRADITION ONE: *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.*

### OK FOR THIS DAY

*She got sober just in time to face a breakup and a new baby — and her sponsor's words held true*

I could barely make it through each day without ending up drunk, but that was all I could do in that day. How would I ever manage a difficult pregnancy and eventually a brand-new baby?

But the woman sitting at the front of the room was my first and most vital lesson on how it could be done by living life one day at a time and continuing to do "the next right thing" when life got rough. Donna B's husband was stationed in an extremely dangerous area of Iraq. "I buried him every day in my mind," she told me later. But she managed to raise three terrifically rambunctious kids and keep this meeting alive for anyone who needed it, three days a week all the while simply waiting for her husband's next call, whenever it would come, to know he was still alive.

Kate K., Lakewood, Washington, USA

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# HCIA

**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.**

# Save The Date - March 9, 2019 Appreciation Day

## THE GRAPEVINE

### TOOLS FOR TODAY

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**face-to-face online.**  
**She had her morning coffee,**  
**I had my afternoon tea,**  
**she read from the Big Book**  
**and we ...**



**T**he phone has been an important part of AA for decades ... but sometimes it's time for an upgrade

I have heard it said in many AA meetings that you will hear someone share and it will become apparent that you want that person to be your sponsor. That is what happened to me. The only problem was that I heard my sponsor in a meeting 4,750 miles away from my hometown. There was no way that it could work out. Or could it?

In early September 2011, I left my home in Glasgow, Scotland and travelled to the United States. A family member based in Los Angeles had agreed to help me go to treatment and found me a place at a Twelve-Step rehab facility in Astoria, Ore. After three flights and two days of travelling, my journey to sobriety had begun. I don't think the phrase "*Willing to go to any lengths*" was intended to be such a geographical statement!

-- Lindsay M., Lanarkshire, Scotland

## THE GRAPEVINE - Daily Quote



**JANUARY 4, 2019**

**"A**s I trudge the Road of Happy Destiny, AA holds my left hand, God holds my right, and I have no hands left to pick up a drink."

Can She Bake a Cherry Pie?" Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 2002, AA Grapevine

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A.A. Co-Founder, Dr. Bob, September 1948, Reprinted with permission

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

7

**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.*



# THE GRAPEVINE - Magazine



## BALCONY BROTHERS

**H**e made his plan to escape out the back door. But two guys with a coffeepot were waiting.

For me, desperation has a short shelf life. I had been so eager and desperate to do everything needed to get sober after my latest drinking spree, which was on a Saturday. But by Tuesday, things didn't seem so bad. I was all ready to go out there again to repeat the desperate experiment of the first drink. That's when a couple of "muppets" came to my rescue.

The last four years of my drinking hell culminated in me getting my car impounded and walking from a police station to my brother's house and going to sleep on his couch. During that walk, I knew with absolute certainty that I had to get back to AA. This time, I would take seriously the suggestions that had been offered to me so many times in the past.

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Luke H. Allendale, New Jersey



## MY PLACE IN THE WORLD

**N**o longer in the center of the universe, a longtime member in Tasmania is content to deal with things as they come along

When I got to AA, I thought that an alcoholic's problem was alcohol and AA was just about stopping drinking. What I was hearing in meetings in Sydney in 1974 seemed to confirm that, with most speakers at meetings just talking about the horrors of drinking and the wonders of sobriety. There was hardly any talk about recovery.

This convinced me that the people at meetings were alcoholics, but I wasn't at all sure about myself. For me, stopping drinking would mean I was going to go off my "medication." I would be bringing my insanity to the surface.

Jim F. Devonport, Australia

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CONNECTIONS  
WITH  
GRAPEVINE'S 75<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
TOOLKIT**



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of recovery tools to  
connect groups*

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