

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

Volume 3 - Issue 1- February 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.  
*Lakeway Group*

Kristene B.  
*7th Street Sisters Group*

Sue L.

Pat F.

## HE COULD SAVE ME FROM MYSELF.

### STEP 2.

*"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."*

Membership requires a desire to stop drinking, so I attended meetings for quite a while as a non-member. This wasn't my first rodeo, and I knew I was an alcoholic, but I wanted a drink more than I wanted to pick up another chip. I was allowed to stay anyways though, and I am beyond grateful for that today.

I came back to AA to find the same people I'd surrounded myself with each time I'd ridden the water wagon before; my people were the ones looking for somebody to help them prove that there is no God and that AA doesn't work, and I found them. I discovered a few of them keeping secrets in the treatment center I lived in, a couple more gossiping in the back row at meetings I attended, and a small handful talking only amongst themselves at each recovery-based outing I went to. I recognized them because they were just like me: disengaged, disruptive, and dishonest. They didn't stay in my life for very long though, and a new group of people eventually took their place, but it all happened painfully slowly for me

(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."*

## CONCEPT TWO: Our Global Group Conscience

*The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs*

**B**ill W. describes AA as a “*Spiritualized Society*.” The AA Concepts, (found in the “Secret Service Manual”), help guide our AA society in healthy interactions on a worldwide level. It’s said that the 12 Steps present suicide, the 12 Traditions prevent homicide, and the 12 Concepts prevent genocide! For our AA fellowship, all over the world, to survive and thrive, we really rely on the 12 concepts to describe who and what we are, and why.

Concept one says, the AA groups are in charge. We make decisions, through the group conscience, that then give authority up the AA Triangle for our other AA entities-District, Area, and organized World Service through our General Conference, to carry out certain things. For instance, this year, an AA member asked her AA group, then her District, and then her Area, to have an Accessibilities committee to share information on how to best welcome and meet the needs of Deaf AA members, Blind AA members, wheelchair bound or otherwise physically challenged AA members. It started with a group decision and moved down from there. We now have a SWTA 68 Adhoc committee to decide on the scope of how this committee will function and who will chair it. But it began with a group decision.

Concept Two, “When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice

(continue on page 5)



### OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

#### **January 2019:**

Charles M., Coleen B., Dan H., Fletcher M., Glenn S., Jack W., Jay B., John B., Marty S., Michael G., Murdo M., Nancy W., Nick L., Pat F.

### HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

#### **January 2019:**

Dudley F., Jesse B., John F., Mark R., Mary T., Randall T., Randy R., Peggy T., Tom K.

### WEEKEND GROUP VOLUNTEERS

#### **January 2019:**

Lake Travis Serenity, Westlake, Primary Purpose Group



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

# THANK YOU - AA Groups and All

For Your CONTRIBUTIONS IN JANUARY

<b>Group Name &amp; District</b>	<b>\$Amount</b>
1825 Group - 22	\$186.00
A Vision For Us - 3C	\$275.55
A Way Out - 3C	\$788.78
Any Lengths - 3C	\$70.00
Back To Basics - 13	\$100.00
Being Convinced - 22	\$160.00
Bouldin - 3C	\$4,700.00
Bridge to Shore Group - 3C	\$707.76
Buda Big Book Group - 3C	\$248.71
Buda Group - 2	\$18.00
Central Group - 3B	\$60.00
Desire To Stop - 3C	\$1,348.00
District 13	\$456.00
Elgin AA - 29	\$25.00
Friday Nite Alive - 13	\$54.83
Hair of the Dog - 3B	\$80.00
HCIA Board	\$22.00
Into Service - 3B	\$24.24
Lake Travis Serenity - 3C	\$450.00
Lakeway Keystone Group - 3C	\$990.00
Lampasas AA - 13	\$100.00
Lighthouse Group - 3C	\$100.00
Lost Pines Group - 29	\$50.00

<b>Group Name &amp; District</b>	<b>\$Amount</b>
Marble Falls Group - 13	\$50.00
Northland - 3B	\$429.51
Progress Not Perfection - 13	\$20.00
Promises, Promises - 3B	\$50.25
Reading Rainbow - 3B	\$66.85
Reps Meeting	\$35.00
Saturday Morning Serenity - 3B	\$135.00
So What, Now What? - 3B	\$233.00
Solutions In Sobriety - 3B	\$297.28
Stoney Point Group - 22	\$18.00
Sunday South - 3C	\$100.00
Sunday Sunrise Group - 3C	\$46.00
Sunshine Group - 2	\$62.00
Sunshine Group - 22	\$48.00
We Are Not Saints - 3B	\$732.00
Western Trails - 3C	\$25.00
What It's Like Now - 3B	\$230.13
Wimberley Group - 2	\$201.24
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>\$13,794.23</b>
Birthday Club	\$43.00
Birthday Club	\$9.00
<b>Birthday Club Total</b>	<b>\$52.00</b>
<b>Final Total</b>	<b>13,846.23</b>

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

*Bill W. 1954 - Texas State Convention*

# HE COULD SAVE ME FROM MYSELF.

## STEP 2.

*"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."*

I'd experienced sobriety, and I'd experienced a desire to be sober, but not at the same time. If I was ever sober for more than a few hours, I just wanted a drink. This is where my breakthrough began and the steps came in. I couldn't give my will and my life over to the care of God because I didn't believe in one, but I knew I couldn't go back to my old life either. I was at the jumping off point. I refused to honestly work the steps, but knew I'd die if I drank, so I decided that ending my life was the only answer. I had a plan and was ready to put it into action, but as I was leaving the treatment center I lived at, a woman who worked there stopped me. She said she needed to talk to me. I was used to this, as I was unreasonable and unruly on a regular basis, so I went with her. This time was different though. She told me she knew what I was up to, and that she wanted to read something to me before I left. She opened the Big Book to page 8 and read, "No words can tell of the loneliness and despair I found in that bitter morass of self-pity. Quicksand stretched around me in all directions. I had met my match. I had been overwhelmed. Alcohol was my master." She sat there quietly while I told her what I thought and how I felt, and she told me that it didn't matter. All that mattered in that moment was what I was going to do about it, so I got honest.

My honesty brought me exactly where I needed to be at that time, which was a psychiatric hospital. There, at about 87 days sober, I was paired with a roommate who was experiencing vivid and horrifying hallucinations while detoxing. She described to me what was happening, and I described to her what I'd done when faced with that same sickening reality just a few months before. She looked right at me in complete disbelief and asked me how my life got so good. I replied, "It's not. I'm your roommate." She reminded me that I'd been sober almost three months, and asked how I'd done it. I replied without thinking, "I don't know. It must be God, cause it's not me." That was the moment when I started to believe that the existence of a Higher Power was not entirely impossible. I certainly didn't believe it did exist, but I wasn't certain it didn't.

So I remained a skeptic, but held onto this new idea that Step 2 didn't say I had to believe in a Higher Power that will make me sane, it really just says I'll start to believe that if one exists, it could restore me to a state of mind I don't need to escape from. I explained to my sponsor that the steps probably still wouldn't work for me, and she said, "The worst thing that could happen is nothing happens, and that would be a good excuse to drink." And I needed that excuse more than anything, so I agreed to work the steps with only a belief that if God was real, He could save me from myself. Nothing else had worked, so I tried it.

I spent my first year on the fence about the "God" thing, but after I'd taken the steps and miraculously racked up over 12 months of continuous sobriety, somebody asked me to sponsor them, and that did it. I've believed in a loving, caring, forgiving Power of the Universe since then. Being asked for help was the only evidence I need that something that is bigger than me and more powerful than alcohol is working in my life. I could finally see that I am living proof of a loving God because I was not able to stay sober on my own.

Life hasn't been easy in sobriety, but it's been amazing. I've had those bathroom floor moments, the ones where it feels like my whole world is falling apart, and nobody answers the phone, and it's just me and God, and all I can do is scream through the tears and beg for Him to show me the truth so I can continue my life sober, and He does. The God I know today was there with me for all the years I spent worshipping other things. He's waited patiently and protected me despite my best efforts to shut Him out and to leave this world. He guides me gently towards a life beyond my wildest dreams, even when I'm convinced my own ideas are best. He is love, and truth, and all things good.

I can't fully explain how I came to believe in a Power greater than myself that's restored my desire to be sober and alive, but I can tell you what my sponsor wrote in my book that is absolutely true:

The twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, well-worked, will lead us inevitably into the hands of God.

Megan A, Garfield, Texas



## ***The Deaf Intergroup of Central Texas!*** **Announcing A new AA entity!!**

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.

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***

## **NEW Address**



AA Deaf Intergroup  
Central Texas (AADI)

PO BOX 90674  
Austin, Texas  
78709-0674

## **CONCEPT TWO: Our Global Group Conscience**

and the effective conscience for our whole Society." This concept delegates authority to the conference to maintain our world services. But it was the AA groups that made this decision. What was the decision, really? Well, the AA groups, and the members that comprise it have an important job: helping alcoholics. We have an important responsibility already: ***When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of AA be there, and for that I am responsible.*** We have agreed that the AA groups have their hands full with important 12 step work that is face to face work reaching

*The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs*

the newcomers, and providing fellowship and friendship for the group members. But there's lots of AA service the groups can't do. Groups can't publish the literature, our Big Books, the Twelve and Twelve, the Daily reflections, or pamphlets. Groups can't go on TV and talk about AA, because of our tradition of anonymity. We sure don't want the groups in charge of our millions of dollars that come in to pay for the worthy projects we have assigned them to do. What about the Grapevine, our national magazine?

(continue on page 6)



## CONCEPT TWO: Our Global Group Conscience

Who decides what the content, format and publishing deadlines will be?

For these world services and many others, AA decided to delegate the responsibility to the General Service Conference, through representation. that means, your GSR represents your voice and your vote, to the District and Area, and our Delegate represents our voice and vote at the annual service assembly in April, where all sorts of proposals about what we want to happen have to be decided about every year. Did you know someone from Texas has proposed we have a 5th edition Big Book? That will be discussed soon, and your group can weigh in on this-if your GSR has communicated that, is participating at District, and in touch with what's going on at the Area Assemblies. Last year we decided to update *A.A. for the Woman*, which hadn't changed since 1980, and we approved *The God Word*, a pamphlet for *Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members*, and a pamphlet on AA members with *mental health issues*. Every decision A.A. makes together, is published in a confidential Final Report that is available to any AA member interested in how we spent the money, what AA books were translated, which new countries formed AA groups and how we helped, new ways of communicating with AA members that are incarcerated, and more.

Historically, Bill and Bob used to make all our decision for us. that was well and good. AA was new, and they depended on the leadership of the founders. Later, we found it wise to have Trustees, they mainly handled our finances, which wasn't much at the time. Later, more responsibilities were handled by our Trustees, and Bill functioned in an advisory

*The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs*

capacity but eventually as AA grew, it became clear that AA's decisions needed to be made by AA, through the General Service Conference, and through delegated authority: from the group to the GSR, GSR to District and Area, from Area to Delegate, who brought our voice and vote to the General Service Conference, where annually all sorts of decisions were made. We found we could not give away the ultimate reasonability and authority of AA's service to Trustees alone, especially trustees that were not alcoholic.

The final say has always been with the groups, especially for matters of great importance and through the general service conference, comprised of our Delegates, our GSO staff and trustees, and this has become the voice of A.A. largest group conscience, for our worldwide affairs. A global group conscience!

So, while the groups have the authority of decision making, the Trustees and the Board carry out our directives. This makes it of vital importance who we choose to represent us, whether it be GSR, DCM, Delegate or Trustee. *Do they have the time, commitment, and the willingness to serve us? Can they make responsible decisions, in short, can we trust them to represent us?* That is the true meaning of "trusted servants", which is aptly described in Bill W.s article on "*Leadership in A.A., Ever A Vital Need*", which I encourage all AA members to read in light of who we choose to serve us. Concept Two is our safeguard against a small group or powerful individuals altering our service structure or change how we operate.

**A.A. has the final say! May it ever be so.**

Norma A , Single Purpose Group, District 3C  
Alt DCM, Austin, Texas

# New Articles Wanted

Send your groups bio, to highlight your history and what's great about it. I will send you a list of questions to help get you started, send an email to [austinaa@gmail.com](mailto:austinaa@gmail.com), in the subject line write newsletter/group bio.

**Q:** How many sponsors does it take to change a lightbulb?

**A:** *Sponsors can't change lightbulbs. The most they can do is offer guidance based on their experience, strength and hope. If the lightbulb wants to change and is willing to go to any lengths, then a Higher Power can change the lightbulb.*

Frank D., Saint Paul, Minnesota, March 2006

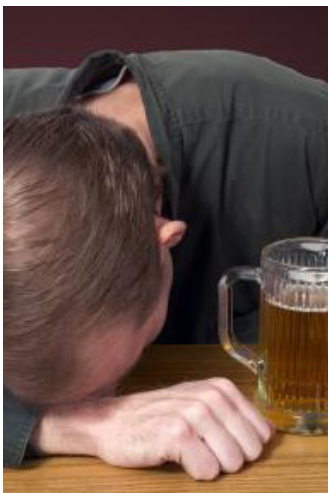
Copyright © A.A. Grapevine, Inc. "From A Rabbit Walks into a Bar, Best Jokes & Cartoons From AA Grapevine", Reprinted with permission

## THE GRAPEVINE - FROM THE WEB EXECUTIVES

### BARTENDER, HAND ME THE PHONE!

MULTIPLE JAIL VISITS WEREN'T ENOUGH. A CALL FROM A BAR WAS HIS MOMENT OF HOPE.

***Poor me. Poor me. Pour me another?***



**B**y the grace of God and help from other AAs, I have not had a drink since January 14, 1962. In my formerly shaky and nicotine stained fingers, I'm holding the little billfold size card which they gave me 43 years ago and on one side it says, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." Folded inside the little card are the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of AA.

When a person has consumed alcohol to the point that he finds himself at the door of AA there are not many everyday problems that he can cope with; his everyday affairs may be strewn out in at the most three to four-hour stretches. One of the first things an AA newcomer is told is that he can only abstain from alcohol "One Day at a Time" and he may even have to break that down to one hour or even a few minutes which was truly the case with me.

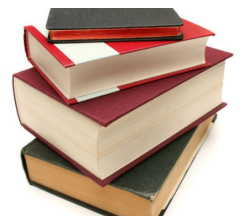
Ellis B. Rusk, Texas

***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.**

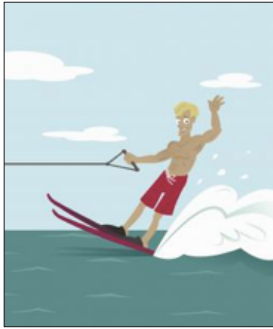
*And normal during business hours Monday through Friday,  
we are open for sales of Literature and Chips.*

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



# THE GRAPEVINE - Magazine

## SPAGHETTI LEGS



*DANCING, CAMPING, BOWLING AND WATER-SKIING! HIS LIFE WAS DEFINITELY NOT OVER*

**L**et's keep it real. As far as what was considered fun when we were out there, I'll have to agree with my old "homies" when they say, "The only trouble with trouble is that it always starts out as fun." Ain't that the truth?

I can remember how I used to show up to an evening party all clean and pressed with a six pack of beer and some limes (as if to imply that I was bringing them to share).

Then sometime during the following 24 hours, I'd find myself facedown in the back of a cop car, or in a motel room with some crazy person on crack, or possibly whacked out on PCP and up in a tree, or some other type of "fun" like that.

Copyright © A.A. Grapevine, Inc. "From the August 2018 Magazine.", Reprinted with permission

Anonymous - Haskell, Oklahoma

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



*A comprehensive package  
of recovery tools to  
connect groups*

Available January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
[aagrapevine.org/75thanniversary](http://aagrapevine.org/75thanniversary)

***A one-dollar bill met a twenty-dollar bill and said,  
"Hey where have you been lately?"***

The twenty answered, "I was on a cruise ship for a while and hung out in the casinos, then I came back to the States and flew out to L.A., went to a couple of baseball games, out to dinner, took in some of the new movies, that sort of thing. How about you?"

***The one-dollar bill said, "Oh, you know, the same old thing-meetings, meetings, meetings."***

Glenn H., Virginia Beach, Virginia, September 1999

Copyright © A.A. Grapevine, Inc. "From A Rabbit Walks into a Bar, Best Jokes & Cartoons From AA Grapevine", Reprinted with permission