

The DIALog

A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS Intergroup ASSOCIATION (est. 1947)



Dallas Central Office | 6162 E Mockingbird Ln, Ste 213, Dallas TX 75214 | 214.887.6699 | www.aadallas.org | help@aadallas.org

From the Director

The 10th Annual DIA Chili-Cook-off Our 10th Annual Chili Cook-off and Cornbread Competition will be held October 22, 2016.

Please bring your cooked chili, in a crockpot or other container, at 2pm. Please fill out the cook-off form on our website to register your entry so we will know the amount of extras we will need. We have the trophies ready for the top three winners for chili and one for first place in the cornbread competition. We will have a raffle, auction and other prizes to celebrate our 10th Cook-Off.

The cost for those not entering a chili or cornbread is \$10 with all proceeds going to the Dallas Central Office. We have a wonderful speaker from the Frisco Group, Chris C.

The event will be held at the Westside Christian Church, 4711 Westside, Dallas, 75209. We will have access to a full kitchen if you need to reheat. See our website for more information. Contact the office for further information: 214-887-6699 or www.aadallas.org.

Thanks!

Janis R., Executive Director

This Newsletter Edition

Happy October!! I have always loved the crisp mornings and warm afternoons in the Fall. It doesn't take much to remember my first sober autumn. I was headed to a Halloween party and stopped by the group to get a good shot of AA as I was sure there would be tequila shots at the party I was going to attend. I hadn't changed much in 3 months of sobriety...still hanging with the old crowd and white knuckling it. Thank goodness for an older member of our group. She knew going out with old playmates was slippery ground. She invited me to at a Halloween party that several other sober members of AA were attending. I decided to stop by for a few minutes (which turned into a couple of hours) and never made it to the party serving tequila shots! I never knew you could have so much fun sober. That was my first experience with the Fellowship

of AA. It probably saved my life that night. Many years later, through the 12 steps, 12 traditions, 12 Concepts, sponsorship and the AA fellowship – I am still sober!

This issue will focus on the 9th and 10th Step, Tradition and Concept. I hope that you enjoy these articles as much as I did when I compiled this edition of the DIALog. Only one more edition left in 2016...so please send your articles for the November/December newsletter to pjh7488@gmail.com.

PJ HR, DIALog Editor

Board Spotlight: Nightwatch

Just like all the members of the Board of Trustees it is an honor and privilege to serve as your Treatment Center Chair. I got sober at the Richardson Group on September 19, 1990. My journey to the Intergroup Board began by standing for the 2013 Board. I didn't get elected to the board, but ended up being an alternate. Alternates are elected for the purpose of fulfilling the remainder of a regular member's term if they can not complete it for any reason. In November 2015, I was asked to step in to fulfill a Board Member's term. I attended my first Board Meeting and had no idea what was going on. Just like my first AA meeting but I was sober;). After I attended the first meeting, I had to decide if I would stand to be elected to a full 2 year term. I prayed for guidance to help me make that decision. I was elected and am completing my first year as your Treatment Committee Chair. I have to say it has been a wild ride at times sitting in a Board Meeting discussing how Intergroup can best serve the groups to carry the message effectively.

Intergroup is more than just an AA Literature Depository as some folks think in the AA Community. It is so much more. It quite often is the first point of contact a drunk has when that drunk reaches out for help to get sober. It is Intergroup's responsibility to get the newcomer connected to get to a meeting to share in our journey to become happy, joyous and free. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Doug L., Treatment Center Chair

Step 9

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

March 12, 2012 is my sobriety and for that I am extremely grateful. I am the inner group representative from the big book group of Alcoholics Anonymous in Dallas, TX. Wow! Just me actually taking the time to write this article is a blessing in itself and a true testament to the gifts of the program/my higher power working in my life. You see, I was an extremely selfish and self centered alcoholic who only did things for immediate personal gain and I can tell you whole heartedly that this is not something I would have even considered doing in my past. Anyway, enough about me and how perfect I am.

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.” But before I could proceed with step 9, I had complete step 8, which states, “Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.” There, of course, were plenty, if not every amend that I was not exactly excited to make but I was willing. Next, I had to follow through with making that amend to whoever it was that I had wronged. I found it important and wise to speak with my sponsor first before proceeding with making the amend. My experience with “big” and “small” amends proved to be freeing regardless of the amend. I owe the amends because I wronged someone and it is my obligation to them to make that right.

My experience with this step has proved to be extremely freeing! For a number of reasons this step allows me to continue to grow in this new way of life I have been given. The feeling of true elation is something I have experienced a handful of times when I have looked someone in the eyes and explained to them how I wronged them and simply ask how I can make that right without going into a long story in attempt to avoid an explanation or excuse. My goal is to take full ownership of that wrong and make it right to the best of my ability. I am so grateful for this step as it allows me to look those people in the eyes who I have wronged, knowing that I have cleaned my side of the street. I don't have to walk around in fear worried that I might run into a creditor, for example, or someone I know I have wronged. I make the amends because I owe it to them. In turn, I get a new life and a freedom I never knew existed.

Turner W., Big Book Group

Step 10

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

Step 10 suggests we continue to take personal inventory and continue to set right any new mistakes as we go along. It is in

this step that I commence this way of living for we have entered the world of the Spirit.

What a great promise considering I take the action necessary to get the result. As I look at my day when I am feeling angry it is usually something to do with me and this is when I can call my sponsor or someone I am accountable to share what is going on and usually I have to ask if I owe an amends. As I continue to grow in understanding and effectiveness, through working the steps in order, there is a different woman than the hopeless person that got here 27 years ago. Some days it is like what an order, can I go through with it? It is a good thing to know that when I make a mistake at home or work or anywhere, I can correct my errors so I do not have to carry that feeling of guilt or righteous indignation around in my head because it will affect my actions soon if I don't correct it.

This step also gives me a solution that works every time; to turn my thoughts to someone I can help. Thank goodness for service work or just being of service where ever I am. When I am thinking about you I am not thinking about me and my little problems. I also get a break because it tells me this is not an overnight matter (yeah!) I will get to continue this for a life time. Had you ever heard of love and tolerance of others when drinking? Mine was just lust and indifference.

The promise that we will seldom be tempted by liquor did come true for me at some point in my first year. It was like I just realized one day that I was not thinking about drinking at all. What a miracle that was and a relief as well. Working the steps with a sponsor and being in the middle of AA has changed my life and me, to be a woman of purpose and value.

Teresa R, Cornerstone Group

Tradition 9

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

When I came to A.A., I kept trying to understand how the organization worked and who was in charge. I soon discovered that this was an organization of democracy and this was very attractive to me. I realized that this was an organization of rotating leadership and there was no one in charge but only leaders and trusted servants. I have a personal responsibility to use this tradition in the jobs I accept in AA. I can also gracefully rotate out of the position when the time comes. That would be the spirit of humility for me to practice. Although we have employed those to serve AA, I understand the AA principles that guide them.

In practicing humility, I cannot be the boss in my role in AA. I have learned all these principles from AA and studying the

literature. It is also important for me to let others do their job without my interference. It is important for me to stand on the traditions and principles and be just be a part of this awesome fellowship.

Kristi M., Big Book Group

Tradition 10

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Thank goodness for this Tradition – especially given the opinionated tendencies of the typical alcoholic. The principle attached to this Tradition is “survival” and rightly so. Imagine an AA world where instead of focusing on sobriety we diverted to all the insane issues of today’s world – and there are plenty!

Our personal stories reveal how many of us attempt to play God and govern others to our way of thinking. The Steps thankfully show us how to lay that stuff down. Tradition 10 is another part of our beautiful Program that steers us to focus on our singleness of purpose for the good of AA. The experience of the Washingtonians was not overlooked by our founders and no doubt seeded this Tradition. They had discovered a solution much akin to AA, but without any primary purpose to stay grounded. They were passionate crusaders to reform the country’s drinking habits and thus save the suffering drunks, but also got caught up with the political issues of the day like slavery and prohibition. Their demise and Tradition 10 are solid reminders that our safest path is to keep outside issues where they belong – outside AA.

Freda W. – Carrollton Group

Concepts IX & X

Concept IX is a discussion on leadership. Once the Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous has been defined and explained in the first eight Concepts Bill W. provides a caveat - without effective leadership the most structurally sound environment will fail to function effectively. Take for example our own home group - we may have policies and procedures in place to keep us operating within the framework of AA’s Twelve Traditions, but without leaders in the group who are chosen with care and concern by the membership, the policies have no merit nor are they implemented or applied consistently.

We grow leadership in AA. Once you rotate from your position as coffee maker, or Intergroup Rep, or group chairperson you rotate ON not OUT. This means you make yourself available to others within the group and share your experience readily so that the future trusted servant has enough background in order to do his/her job as effectively as possible. We lead by example - personal spiritual example - and never attempt to

drive by mandate. Effective leadership sets the tone and course of an AA group or business meeting. Members want to assist in furthering the purpose of the group when leaders make that work exciting and enthusiastically support the workings of the group within the parameters of the Traditions of AA.

Leadership at times means that you have taken a minority position in a discussion, but are prepared to support your proposal with shared AA experience and the expectations of positive results for all concerned, not just a few. Leadership means that when we chair the group anniversary we include as many people as possible in the work to be done - we are not “committees of one”. Leadership means we say ‘yes’ when AA asks us to do something, and we try to bring three or four others on board to support whatever endeavor we are undertaking.

Alcoholics Anonymous’ survival depends on leadership in all areas, perhaps most importantly in our home groups. Let’s make a commitment to the Fellowship that saved our lives to do the best for the most, to exhibit accountability, availability, responsibility, and respectability as sober members of AA. That is leadership in its purest form.

The essay on Concept IX contains a wonderful 1959 Grapevine article written by Bill entitled “Leadership in AA - Ever A Vital Need”. It’s worth a read if you can get your hands on the Secret Service Manual.

Concept X simply states that when a trusted servant in AA holds a position of responsibility (delegated by the groups) that responsibility also warrants an equal amount of authority. This means that when you are elected or appointed the supply chair the group does not micro-manage your commitment by telling you what brand of toilet paper to buy. I know of group conscience meetings where light bulb type and wattage have been discussed (LOL). We are wary of the word “authority” in AA but once we understand that this authority must be well-defined and is always given and not assumed we can be more comfortable with this principle.

If you are serving as an Intergroup Rep you have been given the authority to represent your group at all Intergroup meetings. This means that within your scope of service you may be called upon to discuss and vote on matters based on the information at hand and within the framework of your own conscience. This does not mean that you have ignored the wishes of the group - quite the contrary - you have done exactly what the group has asked you to do which is implement the group’s authority within the Intergroup Association. The group trusts you to do its work. There is a remedy for “going rogue” with authority in AA - at any time the higher body (in all cases the AA group is the highest level) can recall the trusted servant.

We reward leadership in AA with the opportunity to lead again. The highest compliment for any trusted servant is the

opportunity to share their past experience with those who have yet to serve.

Jimmy D., Past NETA 65 Delegate

From the Archives: The Serenity Prayer . . .it's origin is traced. . .

At long last the mystery of the Serenity Prayer has been solved!

We have learned who wrote it, when it was written and how it came to the attention of the early members of AA. We have learned, too, how it was originally written, a bit of information which should lay to rest all arguments as to which is the correct quotation.

The timeless little prayer has been credited to almost every theologian, philosopher and saint known to man. The most popular opinion on its authorship favors St. Francis of Assisi.

It was actually written by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City, in about 1932 as the ending to a longer prayer. In 1934 the doctor's friend and neighbor, Dr. Howard Robbins asked permission to use that part of the longer prayer in a compilation he was making at the time. It was published in that year in Dr. Robbins' book of prayers.

Dr. Niebuhr says, "Of course, it may have been spooking around for years, even centuries, but I don't think so. I honestly do believe that I wrote it myself."

It came to the attention of an early member of AA in 1939. He read it in an obituary appearing in the New York Times. He liked it so much he brought it in to the little office on Vesey St. for Bill W. to read. When Bill and the staff read the little prayer, they felt that it particularly suited the needs of AA. Cards were printed and passed around. Thus the simple little prayer became an integral part of the AA movement.

Today it is in the pockets of thousands of AAs; it is framed and placed on the wall of AA meeting rooms throughout the world; it appears monthly on the back cover of your magazine and every now and then someone tells us that we have quoted it incorrectly. We have.

As it appears in The A. A. Grapevine, it reads: God grant me the serenity To accept things I cannot change, Courage to change things I can, And wisdom to know the difference.

Many tell us that it should read:

God grant me the serenity To accept the things I cannot change;
The courage to change the things I can; And the wisdom to know the difference.

The way it was originally written by Dr. Niebuhr is as follows:

God give me the serenity to accept things which cannot be changed; Give me courage to change things which must be changed; And the wisdom to distinguish one from the other.

Dr. Niebuhr doesn't seem to mind that his prayer is incorrectly quoted. . . a comma. . . a preposition. . . even several verbs. . . the meaning and the message remain intact. "In fact," says the good doctor, "in some respects, I believe your way is better."

Grapevine, January 1950

The Promises...In Reverse

If we are casual about this stage of our development, we will be drunk before we are half way through. We are going to know a new imprisonment and a new misery. We will re-live the past and won't be able to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word conflict, and we will know pain. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will sink even lower. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will deepen. We will gain interest in selfish things and lose interest in our fellows. Self-esteem will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook on life will suck. Fear of people and economic insecurity will multiply. We will intuitively know how to run from situations without knowing they are bothering us. We suddenly realize God would never have done to us what we are doing to ourselves. Are these extravagant promises? We think not! They are being fulfilled among those of us who are still drinking, on a dry drunk, or about to take a drink-sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we drink for them.

Grapevine, September 2012

Upcoming Events: October & November

DIA REPS MEETING

October 13 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

First United Lutheran Church, 6202 E Mockingbird Lane

We will have our October meeting at 8pm, on October 13th. The attached building behind the church is available again, but the floors have been re-done so please do not drag the chairs or tables. If you are new we meet at the First United Lutheran Church, 6202 E. Mockingbird Lane. Directly across from Luby's and across Norris Street from the Central Office. If you need information please let us know. This is the last month to nominate someone for the board from the floor. IG Reps may nominate if they have someone that is interested and has the qualifications required by our by-laws.

SWRAASA

October 21 @ 8:00 am - October 23 @ 1:00 pm

Embassy Suites, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, AR 72758
The fall assembly for SWRAASA will be October 21-23, 2016 in Rogers, Ark. See their website for details. SWRAASA2016.org

SPIRIT OF THE PINES

October 21 @ 4:00 pm - October 23 @ 1:00 pm

Camp Olympia, FM 3188, Lake Livingston, TX

For full information go to www.spiritofthepines.org. \$105 per person. First come first served for cabins assignments. Register by October 19. On site cost will be \$110.00.

10th ANNUAL DIA CHILI COOK-OFF AND CORNBREAD COMPETITION

October 22 @ 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday Morning Live, 4711 Westside Drive, Dallas, TX 75209

HELP US CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF CHILI COOK-OFFS THIS YEAR!!! We will have access to a full kitchen and plenty of room. Our speaker will be Chris C., from the Frisco Group! An agenda and flyer will be added as soon as it is available. Please help us make this event a successful one by getting your groups to enter the contest. This year the winners will keep the trophies and the groups will be awarded the ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. Also the Cornbread Competition Winner will receive an award for 1st Place.

31ST SPIRIT OF HOUSTON CONFERENCE

November 4 @ 10:00 am - November 6 @ 2:00 pm

Omni Hotel Westside, 13210 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079

The Spirit of Houston Conference will be held on Nov. 4-6, 2016 at the Omni Hotel, Westside. Online registration, hotel information, schedule, list of speakers and many events on their website: www.sohcaa.weebly.com Download their flyer for more information. Registration: \$20-25 (October 14th, deadline for early registration)

A.A. SERVICE FAIR "LOVE OF SERVICE"

November 5 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

ODAAT Group Plano, 2109 West Parker Rd #728, Plano, TX 75023

A great way to about our A.A. Service Structure and how everyone can help, will be explained at the A.A. Service Fair, Nov. 5th from 11am-2pm. The event will be held at the ODAAT Group and sponsored by District 54. Some of the events include: Service Speakers Information Booths Open Q&A Hot Dogs and Popcorn Ice Cream Sundays Raffles and Prizes Don't miss this event! Everyone is welcome. A.A. Service Fair.

2ND BI-ANNUAL WE AGNOSTICS, ATHEISTS & FREE THINKERS INTERNATIONAL A.A. CONVENTION

November 11 @ 10:00 am - November 13 @ 4:00 pm

Crowne Plaza, 6121 North IH 35, Austin, TX 78752

The 2nd Bi-Annual We Agnostics, Atheists & Free Thinkers International A.A. Convention will be held in Austin TX November 11-13, 2016. Registration fee is \$30.00 per day for 3 days full of workshops and much more. Discounted rooms are available for \$99 for a limited time.

NATIONAL AA TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP 2016

November 18 @ 11:00 am - November 20 @ 1:00 pm

Winston-Salem Marriott, 425 N. Cherry St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101

The AA Technology Workshop will take place, Nov. 18-20, 2016 in Winston-Salem, NC. Registration \$65, Rooms \$119. Register online at <http://www.naatw.org> The workshop will begin just after noon on Friday and finish just before noon on Sunday. The agenda is being completed and more information will become available. Valuable information on websites, eServices, Email, AA Meeting Search, Area Technology Service, Content Management, Innovation in Mobile Apps, Cloud Storage & Backup, Web Management & Training, Office Technology, Meeting Directories and more.

"EXPECT A MIRACLE" 33rd RED RIVER VALLEY RALLY

November 18 @ 2:00 pm - November 20 @ 1:00 pm

Lake Murray Lodge, Ardmore, TX 73401

The Red River Valley Rally will be held at the Lake Murray Lodge & Resort, in Ardmore, Oklahoma November 18th-20th, 2016. AA & Al-Anon Speakers, meditation, banquet, pool tournament, band and dance plus much more. \$25 for pre-registration, \$30 at the door. Go to their website for more information: www.redrivervalleyrally.com or email the conference at RedRiverValleyRally@gmail.com

39th BRAZOS CONFERENCE

November 18 @ 3:00 pm - November 20 @ 1:00 pm

Camp Allen, 18800 FM 362, Navasota, TX 77868

A Journey Through the Steps, November 18-20, 2016. Camp Allen, 18800 FM 362, Navasota, TX 77868. AA Speakers include: Stacy S., San Antonio, TX Mari G., Toronto, Canada Larry T., LA, Calif. Al-Anon Speaker, Jack C., LA, Calif. For full information visit their website: <http://brazosconf.org> 6 meals with lodging \$210.00 150 spots available, motel style rooms.

GRATITUDE ROUNDUP IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

November 25 @ 2:00 pm - November 27 @ 2:00 pm

Ramada Inn, Gulfport, 9415 Hwy 49, Gulfport, MS 39507

Gratitude Roundup will take place November 25-27, 2016 in Gulfport, MS. Speakers include: Joy P., Malachy M., Charly B., Brit S., Clancy I. workshops by Clancy I and Malachy M Registration: \$25. At the door, \$30. Room rate \$49 prior to 11/25/16 For full information contact Gulf Coast Central Office, www.msgulfcoastgratituderoundup.org

Find Us Online

At www.aadallas.org you'll find group announcements, an events calendar, a searchable group directory, online bookstore & more.

Group Contributions

September 2016

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Addison Group	10.00
Allen Group	50.00
Belmont	100.00
Big Book - Dallas	100.00
Carrollton	400.00
Carry the Message	22.10
Casa Group	10.00
Clean Air Group	500.00
Cornerstone	250.00
Dallas North	270.00
Freedom	800.00
Georgetown	300.00
Gray House Group	25.00
Irving	20.00
Lake Highlands	495.24
Lakewood	1,200.00
Lambda	150.00
Legacy	50.00
Little Elm Group	50.00
McKinney Fellowship	10.00
McKinney Miracle Group	745.70
ODAAT	371.00
Ray of Hope - Seven Points	10.00
Returned and Recovered	97.50
Richardson Big Book Group	100.00
Rowlett	10.00
Shalom Today	30.00
Shivering Denizens	241.12
Show Me	40.00
Southwest Clean Air	35.73
Speaker Share Group	50.00
Terrell Group	60.00
The Gift of Sobriety	30.00
Town North	100.00
Traditional	43.00
Waxahachie	10.00
We Agnostics	148.00
White House	50.00
Wylie Group	10.00
Wylie Wonderers	0.00
TOTAL	<u><u>6,994.39</u></u>

Faithful Fivers: Would you like to be one?

Faithful Fivers are AA members who in gratitude pledge to contribute at least five dollars each month toward the support of Dallas Intergroup Association, DIA.

This contribution gives AA members the opportunity to practice the Seventh Tradition regularly and painlessly by pledging \$5 or more a month to the DIA. We can set up an automatic credit card deduction, or you can send in a check once a month or whenever you choose. Call, 214-887-6699, to set up monthly contributions.

DIA is totally supported by AA groups and individuals. Contributions are limited to \$3,000 per member per year and are tax deductible.

Yes! Please enroll me as a Faithful Fiver.

Please complete the form below and mail in with your contribution to DIA, 6162 E. Mockinbird Ln., Suite 213, Dallas, TX 75214

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email Address: _____



"No, no, Harry—they have to have a desire!"

Reprinted with Permission, Grapevine, July 1958

To Subscribe

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Please contact carrie@aadallas.org or call the Dallas Intergroup Association at (214) 887-6699.