

# The DIALog

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

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Welcome to the DIALog – your newsletter for the Dallas Intergroup Association



There are many ways to be an Intergroup Volunteer... see details [pg 3](#)




## HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARIES!

-  Addison Group
-  Dallas North – 37 years
-  Wylie Group - 26 years

## HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

-  Friendship Group – 30 years
-  Glass House – 35 years

## HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

-  Aquarius – 41 years
-  Georgetown – 27 years
-  Simply AA - 13 years

## IN THIS ISSUE...

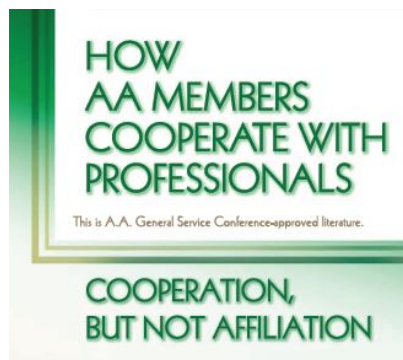
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# Carrying the Message to Professionals & Public: CPC/PI

By Stuart R., Intergroup CPC/PI Chair

The purpose of CPC or Cooperation with the Professional Community is to provide info about AA to those who come into contact with alcoholics through their profession.

This group includes healthcare professionals, educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders, and industrial managers, government officials, as well as those working in the field of alcoholism. Information is provided about where we are, what we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do.



One personal experience: Several years ago I got a call from a new drunk who got my phone number out of a Big Book. I asked where he got the book and he

stated from his doctor. I had given the doctor the book seven years earlier!

I always give my doctor and clergyman a big book with my contact inside and let them know they can contact me anytime.

The Simply AA Group in Irving (my home group) started as a result of a conversation with my pastor about AA. Shortly after, he offered us meeting space at the church. We weren't even looking to start a group, but as the result of that conversation we have been a group for 13 years now, carrying the message in our community.

You, your group, your district can reach out to professionals in your local community. Have a party where you stuff envelopes to send to doctors' offices, church leaders...our group made a pamphlet with our meeting schedule and pertinent info and put them in hotels in our local community, as well as mailing to our doctors and churches.

The purpose of Public Information (P.I.) service work is to provide accurate A.A. information to the

public when requested. P.I. committees visit schools, businesses and community meetings for this purpose. They also serve as resources for our friends in the local media, emphasizing our Traditions of anonymity, singleness of purpose and non-affiliation, as well as offering A.A. public service announcements to radio and television stations.

We have had several events this year already: two events at North Lake College, one at UT Southwestern Medical School, and events at two different churches.

We have a large event coming up in August in Lewisville, and several volunteers will be needed to help share what AA is and is not.

My goal, if you will, is to make inroads with the judicial system, educating judges and probation officers on what we do. I have some contacts and will provide updates as available

You, the individual member, can participate in any number of these things on an individual level. That book I gave the doctor several years ago, was a simple act of 12th step work, and you never know how God will use you -- it is just a matter of being willing.


Remember these are our Traditions -- not the public's -- and it is our responsibility to educate the public as to what they are if we expect them to help us adhere to them


Trust God, Clean House, Help Others

Contact Stu @ [mightystu@gmail.com](mailto:mightystu@gmail.com) or call Stu at 972.877.9396 about how to help with CPC/PI.

## Memorials – In Loving Memory

*These AA members recently went to the Big Meeting in the sky and will be dearly missed.*

 **Jeanne W** passed on June 1<sup>st</sup> with a sobriety date of July 26, 1968. Her home groups were Legacy and ODAAT in Plano.

 **George C** passed on April 13<sup>th</sup> with a sobriety date of April 5, 1987. His home group was Shivering Denizens in Frisco.

*Contact Intergroup if you have any memorials to include in future newsletters*

## Intergroup Volunteers: The Life-Blood of Dallas AA

*By Lincoln S., Dallas AA Intergroup Office Manager*

The Dallas Intergroup or “Central Office” has been serving the Dallas area AA community for over 70 years. Its primary purpose over these years is to help individual alcoholics find their way to sobriety and directly serve the AA Groups in the Dallas Metroplex.

Most people access Intergroup with a phone call. Our volunteers provide a friendly voice to alcoholics looking for a meeting, or for the suffering alcoholic who needs help. The volunteer often shares their experience, strength and hope with those who call needing help; this happens at all hours of the day and night. Phone calls to the Intergroup office are answered by volunteer alcoholics day and night. The following describes how calls are handled 24x7.

- On Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm, volunteers answer phone calls to the Intergroup office, offering information about AA in general, AA classes and workshops, and help callers find groups near their location. Occasionally the volunteer may receive a call from someone who is wondering if they are alcoholic. If the caller wants, the volunteer can refer someone to reach out to them directly and take them to a meeting. This is called a 12th step call. Intergroup volunteers maintain a list of AA members who provide this service.
- On weekday evenings (5pm – 10am), week-ends (5pm Friday to 10am Monday), and holidays, NightWatch answers calls to Intergroup. NightWatch volunteers are specially-trained and work these shifts so that there is someone to talk to any alcoholic who calls. The late night calls are often 12th step opportunities that can help the suffering alcoholic find a way out.

Intergroup service to AA groups generally includes providing AA literature -- all of the AA-approved literature in book, CD and pamphlet format that. If there is something that Intergroup does not have in stock, they will order it. Groups

can order literature by phone, by email, or just by stopping in. With some notice, the order will be ready when the Group member comes to pick it up.

- But there is much more that Intergroup does:
- Manages a web site that provides volunteers, reps, and the AA community with meetings and group locations, , group workshops, anniversaries and events, opportunities for service including volunteering at IG, helping with Health Fairs, 12th step calls, and the myriad other possibilities.
- Maintains a list of speakers who can share the AA steps and traditions.
- Acts as a clearing house for callers who need the services of one of the Board committees such as CPC/PI or Jails and Judicials or Treatment.
- Maintains a current list of groups, addresses, and contact information.
- Helps AA members start a new group.
- Helps members learn about service positions
- Shares information about upcoming AA events such as conferences or workshops.
- Maintains an archive of history of AA in the Dallas area. There are a number of fascinating and very rare pieces of history that show how Alcoholics Anonymous in Dallas came into being.
- Provides desire chips and specialty chips.
- Has coffee available for the visitor who wants to come by and hang out with sober Alcoholics.

Intergroup office could not function without volunteers. Intergroup is a wonderful chance to be of service. If you have at least six months of sobriety come down to the Office and see what we do and who we are. Sign up for a commitment of only four hours a week. You have the opportunity to help both the individual alcoholics who call in for help as well as serving the groups in the Dallas area.

**Next week:** *How Intergroup is funded, and The Intergroup Board*

## My Experience: Step One

By a sober member of Clean Air North

### Step One

*"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."*

The statement "Drinking is not an option for me" is fallacious reasoning to me, a fact I became painfully aware of in September of 2000. I had not attended many meetings in the previous months and life was not going well. I was 6 years sober and my business was failing, a 12 year marriage was coming to an end and I was facing financial ruin. I didn't think this was supposed to happen to me, after all, had I not been sober for 6 years?

Driving home from a weekend trip my wife called me to tell me that the lenders had begun foreclosure proceedings on our home. I was besieged by voices in my head. "You failed again loser!".. Consumed with self-pity, the thought struck me that two drinks would be ok. I could have a respite from my pain and put the drink down the next day. Just a couple of drinks and no more.

I purchased 4 bottles of brandy and four cases of beer. The rest of that night is still foggy in my mind. I came to in an empty house shaking and full of remorse. I finished off a bottle of brandy and drank several beers that morning. I soon discovered that I had once again lost the power of choice and was drinking against my will.

In the years that followed, I was to lose everything and brought pain to many others. I was so ashamed of what I had become that I did not see my children for 3 years. I had resigned to the fact that I would die and alcoholic death or commit suicide. That seemed to be an easy option because I had witnessed my brother's suicide. I vowed after that incident that I would never draw another sober breath.

July 2008 found me sitting in a dark, low rent apartment. With beer in hand and money running low I wondered if the time had come to depart this miserable world. Then for some reason I thought

of my kids. Strange because I was seldom ever able to think of others.

Next, I remembered the folks from that small AA group I once attended. I remembered how my children would come to the birthday celebrations and the family events that frequently took place before I became so important. My emotions ran high as I longed for the days that I was a part of their lives and part of that group. Would they have me now in spite of what I was? I walked nervously in the door of that group hoping to avoid an encounter with an old timer.

I sat down in the back row hoping to avoid detection and I felt a hand on my shoulder. My heart stopped for an instant because when I turned around I was staring into his face! "Welcome home partner, everything is going to be ok now." Those were the perfect words at the perfect moment. That was July, 2008 and I haven't touched a drink since.

That hot, July night I admitted and accepted my powerlessness over alcohol and picked up a desire chip. Sobriety became the most important thing in my life. I accepted that I would have to go to meetings if I wanted the joy and peace that I saw in everyone else. I gave rides to meetings for those who had no means of transportation, emptied trash cans, made coffee and helped clean the rooms. I performed odd jobs for people in our group which led to a thriving remodeling business. Later that would be the beginnings of a catering business! I could not even imagine the gifts that I have received!

I was believed that sobriety would grant me a problem free life. What I did not comprehend at the time that sobriety would prepare me for problems to come. In June 2015 I was diagnosed with lung cancer and with God's help and that of many friends from the group I was able to go through that sober. Today I am cancer free and still deal with the aftermath of chemo. But my heart is full knowing I've found my place in God's world. I still participate in my own recovery and service to others. Today I am grateful!



## Group History – The Lambda Group

*Harvey H. as told to Dee J.*

For the first couple of years several of us attended the Preston Group and the Together Group, a gay group. This lasted till 1978.

In 1978 four of us got together and decided we should have an essentially gay group in Oak Lawn, so in an apartment at Hudnall and Cedar Springs, Lambda started. Obviously we didn't stay in that apartment for long and outgrew the location.



LAMBDA 40

We quickly located a space in the basement of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and met there for several months, until the church requested we stop smoking because it was drifting into the choir upstairs.

We then shared a space with the Alano Group. It was located above a French art studio which was basically just pornography, and also at the back was a clothing boutique called The Orchid Shop: Clothes for Women with Men In Mind. It was very fitting for our group.

Alano allowed us to meet in their location on the nights they didn't meet. Alano met M-W-F at 8 and we met T-TH-SAT-SUN.

However, we were soon faced with Alano wanting to move so we had to find a place for ourselves.

Our explosive growth as a group truly reflected the growth of the gay community in Dallas. It was growing exponentially. So we then moved to 4525 McKinney. This was in 1982. We stayed until 1986.

Meanwhile the group continued to grow and develop. In 1986 we moved to the Executive tower on Mockingbird lane until the real estate crash in late 80s and then moved to a basement under Lucas B&B and shared this with the Rotary Club.

In 1989 we moved to 2727 Oak Lawn and were

there until 1996 when the owner decided he needed a month to month rental.

At this point we were known for our cigarette smoke, so the three members who were involved in looking for our next location were instructed to make a provision that disallowed smoking in the property deed. When we moved into 3428 on Butler we were smoke-free. We stayed until 2016 and we are now here at 1855 W. Mockingbird Lane where many of us check in on FB to say we are at an AA meeting NOT the gun range across the street.

We had great periods of joy and sorrow, especially during the AIDS crisis. We saw so many with AIDS and the addiction to alcohol. The AA community as a whole in Dallas was the most welcoming thing for us. David Aronosky, Lucy Harris, Fran, these were people that truly opened their arms to us. We had many who would come and do the steps for us. AA here in Dallas made it possible for us to become a viable part of the AA community.

*We now have an annual round-up every Memorial Day. It has a huge attendance which is a testament to AA. You can't get into the rooms for round-up because it's so well attended.*

## My Experience: Tradition One

*By a member of No Hassle Group*

### Tradition One

*"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."*

Every AA meeting begins and ends with a prayer which tells me that everything that goes on in AA has God in it.

The common ground is our primary purpose which is to stay sober and help another alcoholic to achieve Sobriety.

I truly believe AA is self-cleaning in that the group, from time to time, has people who do not belong there and do not stay, for whatever reason. There is no room for "us and them" in an AA meeting for the good of the group. Pettiness should be left outside.

## Willing to go to Any Lengths: the Kilometers edition

By Stacy C.

In the summer of 2012, I had 10 years of sobriety, and I was heading off to live in Southern France, for who knew how long. I chose Toulouse, France, because it was not Paris. I had lived in Paris twice during my drinking days, and I was ready for a new and different (sober) experience in France.

Paris has a ton of wonderful English-speaking meetings, however this is not the case in the rest of France. Those meetings are few and far between. So, prior to leaving for Toulouse, I did some research online for English-speaking meetings. There were none. I did find a listing for an English-speaking meeting in a nearby town (Cahors) on Saturday mornings, and there was a contact name listed. I emailed the gentleman and inquired about the meeting. He was an American expat, and he encouraged me to make the trek out to their group once I arrived.



Side note here – there were daily French-speaking meetings in Toulouse, and I did attend those from time-to-time, however my French vocabulary did not translate into the “Language of the Heart” quite as well.

So, I arrived in Toulouse on a Friday in September 2012, and the following morning, jet lagged, I bought a train ticket for a small town in France.

Another side note – I sobered up in Dallas, TX, where you can find a meeting almost anytime and

anywhere. Thank God I had traveled outside of Dallas, both in the US and out of the US, because it prepared me for “meetings other than in Dallas”.

Similar to a lot of rural meetings, this meeting had 3 people other than myself. It lasted 90 minutes with a little break in the middle where we made coffee and ate biscuits (little cookies). We said the serenity prayer, read the preamble and How it Works. We closed with the Serenity Prayer. It was warm, welcoming and most of all, it was AA!



I moved to Toulouse to become a TEFL instructor (Teaching English to Foreign Learners). The certification program lasted a month and was quite intensive. I had no income during this time, so the \$100 one-way ticket to my English-speaking meeting on Saturday mornings was beginning to take its toll on my bank account.

Thus, I began to inquire about the demand for an English-speaking meeting in Toulouse. It didn’t take long for me to be given the contact information for a lady who wanted help starting a meeting in Toulouse! Joy! It took less than 2 weeks to round the troops and get a meeting started on Tuesday nights.

My brutally honest experience with starting this meeting is that it was hard, and I was not always grateful for it. But I showed up anyways, and there were a lot of gifts along the way.

Looking back, I see how incredible this experience was! Our Tuesday meeting usually had 2-4 people, and that’s including myself! Everyone other than me had less than a year of sobriety. We consisted of men and women, and we came from the US, Ireland, Romania and Kenya! And, most importantly, we all had a desire to not drink for that day.

Side-note: The meeting we started on Tuesday evenings is still going!!

## Group History – The Principles Group

*Submitted by Keith D.*

George B, Zach M, James A and Keith D all got sober at the Big Book group in North Dallas. After a brief move by the 3 of us to join the Chicago Group, we attempted to split off the Monday Night Chicago Group Big Book Study into its own group, but that was met with heavy resistance (however, after we left to start TPG, that meeting split off, became the Cottonwood Monday Night Book Study....and then subsequently folded...ah the irony).

So off we roared with just a tent, blanket, a side-car...no wait, that's another story...off we went to start a new group at the direction of our sponsors. Our hope was to rekindle what we had found at the Big Book Group, with one major change: we believed we would only create guidelines where none existed in AA literature currently (using the Big Book, the 12 & 12 and the Service Manual). We believed that an AA group should have structure, commitment and accountability, and all based on spiritual principles and traditions passed down from one to another. TPG was to be a 3 legacy group - Recovery, Unity and Service. We would include active participation in the General Service of AA, as well as being active in corrections and treatment facilities.

Six people attended our first preparation meeting (Keith D sponsored 4 of them), and we began to look for churches. Eventually, after investigating many options, we settled on Trinity Episcopal Church on Hillcrest, just around the corner from where we are today.

Our first meeting was on Tuesday, April 10th, 2007. We only had four people committed to the group by the time we had our first meeting, an auspicious start for certain, but isn't that true for all AA groups? We had one meeting a week, a Closed Literature Study, with the last Tuesday of the month is a Speaker Meeting and Birthday Night. Our literature meeting format was taken from the Big Book Group, chairperson reads only

and then calls on people to share. We read only the Big Book and the 12 & 12 only.

Our group has had its share of struggles: we stayed very small for about 5 years (like less than 6 members) and we have had the treasurer run off the money and get drunk (not of just once, but twice!). When we were about 9 years old, we were forced to move to our current location (see stealer of the treasury #2 for the reason). The move turned out to be a good thing, as it does most of the time in God's world, as we have a better space, more welcoming facility management and even got several new attendees through the church that was so kind to rent us a space. We meet across the hall and downstairs, yes, we meet in the church basement!



However, we have always had a few newly sober drunks (and some not so sober), we have stuck to our primary purpose, we are active in several treatment centers and jails, always have a GSR and support our service structure financially, and spend a great deal of time with each other at other meetings as well as in each other's lives. In others, practicing "the AA way of life".

*We believe that our unity is our strength and so as Tradition 12 says, "This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him Who presides over us all."*

## EVENTS – June 2018

### June 22-24

#### 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TEXAS STATE CONVENTION

June 22 @ 2p – June 24 @ 12p noon

Web site for ordering tickets and hotel:

<http://txaaconvention.org/>

Questions? Email: 2018texasstateconvention@gmail.com

More Questions? Contact Jimmy D. 214-674-7836,

Stuart R 972-877-9396

[www.dallasgatheringofeagles.org](http://www.dallasgatheringofeagles.org)

## EVENTS – July 2018

### July 14, 2018

#### TRADITION GROUP – 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY

July 14 @ 12:00 – 8:00 pm

5928 INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 30, GREENVILLE TX 75402-7511  
903-455-8648

12:00 Doors open

12:30 Group History

1:30 Jennifer H-K (Legacy Group, Plano)

3:00 Bettie W. (Family Group, Greenville)

5:00 BBQ Meal (provided)

7:00 Greg L. (Cornerstone Group, Dallas)

### July 21, 2018

#### THE CASA GROUP SUMMER CELEBRATION

July 21 @ 12 pm - Meeting followed by picnic

9999 Ferguson Road, Dallas TX 75228

(Behind St. Mark Presbyterian Church) - Turn on Milmar Drive to get to the back parking lot.

### July 21, 2018

#### SIMPLY AA – 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

July 21 @ 5:30 – 8:00 pm

The Meeting will be held at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Hancock Hall

3650 N. O'Connor Road, Irving, TX 75062

5:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner

7:00 p.m. Dave F. - Springfield, MO

### July 22, 2018

#### GEORGETOWN 27<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

July 22 @ 11am – 2pm






11 am – Victoria McM. (Al-Anon Legacy AFG)

12p (Noon) – Pot-Luck Lunch

1p – Phyllis B. (AA Clean Air North)

Bring your favorite covered dish. Meat & Drinks provided

## Coming in Future Issues

-  The AA scene in Dallas 50 years ago
-  Heard on Nightwatch
-  Personal stories of unity, recovery and service
-  Stories from a jail cell meeting
-  More group histories


## Get in the Middle...

...of AA. Don't just check out following service opportunities


**Get into Action!**





the  
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 **HELP** set up the **Intergroup Chili Cook-off** -- Email Joe G at [jandkgray@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jandkgray@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 214.564.9403, or email Tom at [tomallred@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomallred@sbcglobal.net). *All sobriety levels and skills welcome!*


**JOIN** the **Nightwatch** Committee or join Nightwatch to take after-hours calls from Intergroup -- email [kbdenson68@gmail.com](mailto:kbdenson68@gmail.com) or call Keith at 469.682.6188. *Requires 1 year sobriety / must have worked 12 steps.*

 **MAN** a table at a **Health or Education Fair** -- email [mightystu@gmail.com](mailto:mightystu@gmail.com) or call Stu at 972.877.9396.





 **SPEAK** at **area groups** -- call the Intergroup office. *Requires 1 year sobriety / must have worked 12 steps.*

 **TAKE** a meeting to **Lew Sterrett Jail or Texas prisons** -- email [freewells95@yahoo.com](mailto:freewells95@yahoo.com) or call Freda at 972.948.0675. *Requires 1 year sobriety.*

 **TAKE** a Meeting to a **Treatment Center** - email [bwb@banowsky.com](mailto:bwb@banowsky.com) or call Baxter at 214.235.2224.

 **WORK** in the **Intergroup Office** - Call the Intergroup Office from 10a – 5p (M-F).

## CALLING ALL WRITERS...

-  Send us your experiences of UNITY, RECOVERY, and SERVICE
-  Send us your HOME GROUP history
-  Tell us about events coming up at your HOME GROUP
-  Email [camillekintergroup2018@gmail.com](mailto:camillekintergroup2018@gmail.com) or call Camille at 972.977.9501