

The DIALOG

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

Dallas Central Office | 6162 E. Mockingbird Ln, Suite 213, Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214.887.6699 | www.aadallas.org | office@aadallas.org

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

Group Starter

(Editor's Note: The author of the following was asked to do a piece for The Grapevine on the subject of starting new groups, since she has been instrumental in aiding the establishment of several in Texas.)
1946-07-00-Gv-Dallas-Esther-Elizardi-On-Starting-Groups-01.pdf

When I was 22 months old in A.A. I landed in Dallas, Texas—a lone female carrying the A.A. torch in one hand and the A.A. book in the other. I was weighted down with a terrific feeling of responsibility—I had to start a group, I had to do it, I felt very inadequate, I wanted to "build a home in a day," I met with lots of opposition, I met with disappointments, till I woke up and found the key to the situation. Too much I, too much self in the whole deal. "I" only had one responsibility—that of keeping "I" sober. What did that entail? Daily contact, daily bit of positive A.A. work, daily true and thoughtful gratitude—leave the results in the hands of this "Power greater than I am." And from then on the results have amazed me.

For those who would like to know what my "daily bits" were, I'll list a few. Seeing doctors, ministers, the Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army, talking A.A. to anyone who would listen. I rented a post office box, sent the number to our national secretary so inquiries and help could come through that source. Soon the days became weeks, weeks months, and there was a group.

When the group here was five months old, a plea came to help get "something going" in San Antonio. Down I went with two of the Dallas "babies," for three days and nights we did our A.A. bit with a burning zeal. We did all we could, left feeling very hopeful, but nothing "caught fire." In a few weeks we thought the trip had been in vain and that old "I" trouble reared its ugly head. Maybe if I could have stayed on the spot to do there all the I had done here, maybe I could have made it go.



A year and a half later another plea came from San Antonio, so down I went, with the same burning zeal, but worked no harder and in one week rounded up four alxies, three females and one male. "The male" was a man we'd contacted on the previous trip. This time he happened to be ready to grab the torch out of my hand and so "evah-thing" caught on fire. In just a year San Antonio had a vital and growing group. I visited them for ten days a month

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later; all they've done since has been through their own efforts, not mine. "I" definitely wasn't needed on the spot. The gent's being ready to grab the torch was definitely not my doing.

The complete death, I hope, of the "I" trouble has come through my experience with a group in the United States Disciplinary Barracks at North Camp Hood, Texas. I've sponsored it solely through correspondence for a year and a half. "No females allowed" kept me away.

Weekly I've written the two men who contacted me. They kept doggedly on till they had a group. Now the group, through its own efforts, with no help from the outside, has gained all the respect and notice it

deserves. And this month a letter from none other than the Commandant of the Camp arrived, inviting this female to visit!

In the beginning of this article I said I'd found the key—that the results lie in the hands of this Power greater than I am—and it is the one that fits. The key is not mine so I can't feel in any way responsible. The groups to me are as miraculous as my own sobriety. They are God's doing and both awe me in a wondrous way.

—Esther E., Dallas, Texas.

NEXT Newsletter - Step & Tradition 7

TRADITION ONE

So...I hear there have been some raucous group conscience meetings as groups consider whether to reopen or not and, if it's decided to reopen, what should that look like for members and newcomers?

This might be a good time to reflect on our individual actions within our groups. And it might be a good time to delve a little deeper into the traditions and concepts and how they may be applied in our home groups.

Let's start with our First Tradition that says:

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.”

Bill, in talking about the First Tradition, had this to say:

“But like other societies, we soon found that there were forces among us that could threaten us in ways that

alcohol and sex could not. These were the desires for power, for domination, for glory, and for money. They were all the more dangerous because they were invariably powered by self-righteousness, self-justification and the destructive power of anger, usually masquerading as righteous indignation.

Pride and fear and anger – these are the prime enemies of our common welfare. True brotherhood, harmony and love, fortified by clear insight and right practices, are the only answers. And the purpose of AA's traditional principles is to bring these forces to the top and keep them there. Only then can our common welfare be served; only then can AA's unity become permanent.”

AA Comes of Age pg 98 reprinted with permission of AA World Services

As individuals belonging to home groups, we might refer to the questions found in the Traditions Checklist published by AA Grapevine as they relate to our First Tradition:

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?

10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

My observation is that AA members really came together as this pandemic burst onto the worldwide stage. Members worked collectively for ways to effectively carry the message when in-person meetings were not an option. Shouldn't that same collective effort be focused on a way-forward to this "new normal" we find ourselves in without creating resentment and fear?

Does your group accept "majority rules" or is the group striving to reach "substantial unanimity" (see Warranty Four in the Concepts)? Is "our common welfare" placed first or have personalities and opinions threatened the group's unity? Are the pillars of your stance rooted in selfishness or selflessness? "Going to meetings" or truly helping another?

These are questions we need to all be asking ourselves as we consider decisions that will impact others around us. To repeat an earlier referenced quote from Bill "*True brotherhood, harmony and love, fortified by clear insight and right practices, are the only answers.*"

Thanks for all you do in service to others!

-Dave H

Get in the Middle...

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

Get into Action!

HELP set up the [Intergroup Anniversary or the Chili Cook-off](#) -- Email Todd M at events@aadallas.org or call the Intergroup Office at 214-887-6699. *All sobriety levels and skills welcome!*

JOIN the [Nightwatch](#) Committee or join Nightwatch to take after-hours calls from Intergroup -- email Tom M. at nightwatch@aadallas.org or call 214-887-6699. *Requires 1 year sobriety / must have worked 12 steps.*

MAN a table at a [Health or Education Fair](#) -- email cpcpi@aadallas.org.


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 Tad B. at corrections@aadallas.org. *Requires 1 year sobriety.*


TAKE a Meeting to a [Treatment Center](#) - email Kim M at treatment@aadallas.org.


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


Upcoming Events

 **Dallas Intergroup Rep Meeting**
August 13 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
McIver Chapel at Wilshire Baptist Church
4316 Abrams Rd
Dallas, TX 75214

 **Grapevine Workshop – Carrying the Message to Inaccessible Places**
Hosted by District 53
Sunday July 26th, 2020 2-4 PM CST
Zoom Meeting ID: 820 5744 1680 Password: 195239

 **2020 North Texas Roundup**
(Virtual) August 14 - 16, 2020
Register online at: www.northtexasroundup.org
After you register you will receive a confirmation email.
Prior to the Conference you will receive another email with Zoom links to the Conference Meetings

 **5th Annual Unity & Service Conference**
(Virtual) September 5 - 6, 2020
Register online at: Unityandserviceconference.org
925-222-5639

 **Intergroup Anniversary**
Tentative date is September 12th

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 DIALog@aadallas.org

Memorials – In Loving Memory

Contact Intergroup at DIALog@aadallas.org if you have any memorials to include in future newsletters

Current Intergroup Board of Trustees (listed by service committee)

Board Chair – Matt J	chair@aadallas.org
Vice Chair – Tom M	vicechair@aadallas.org
Treasurer – Jim C	treasurer@aadallas.org
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NightWatch – Tom M	nightwatch@aadallas.org
Special Events – Todd M	events@aadallas.org
Treatment – Kim M	treatment@aadallas.org
Newsletter – Sherry Y	dialog@aadallas.org

If you have a **GROUP ANNIVERSARY** coming up **PLEASE** contact the **DALLAS Intergroup** at DIALog@aadallas.org so we can feature it on aadallas.org AND feature your group history in an upcoming newsletter.