

# Pass it on...



**Special points of interest:**

- Regional Forum to be held in Dallas Texas October 9th, 2009
- 2010 International Convention to be held July 1 - 4 in San Antonio Texas.
- NWT A 66 Assembly will be held in San Angelo Texas November 14, 2009. Election Assembly.

**Step 8 - Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.**

Now we need more action, without which we found that "Faith without works is dead." Let's look at Steps Eight and Nine. We have a list of all persons we have harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory. We subjected ourselves to a drastic self-appraisal. Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven't the will to do this, we ask until it

comes. Remember it was agreed at the beginning we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol. —

Big Book page 76.



I ask Your help in making my list of all those I have harmed. I will take responsibility for my mistakes & Be forgiving to others as You are forgiving to me.

Grant me the willingness to begin my restitution.

This I pray.

*The Eighth Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous*

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12th Step" work is never to be paid for.

**Happy Birthday**



- Tim B. of Midland 9/3
- Jerry C of El Paso 9/6  
6 years
- Vicki C. of El Paso 9/8  
6 years
- Leon R. 9/29  
of Amarillo

**A Note from the Area Delegate**

Greetings NWTX Area 66,

Just got back from our MINI-FORUM in Lubbock...enjoyed the presentations, especially the archives and Robert's Rules of Order....Hoping to see everyone at the Regional Forum in Dallas in October 9-11th.....For you newcom-

ers, this is a great place to meet the staff, General Manager, and Chairman of the Board from the General Service Office in New York. Regional Forums take place every 2 years at different locations in the SW Region...

Area elections will be coming up in November...We

really need the fellowship, especially newcomers, to step up and come prepared to vote and serve our area...This is an opportunity to further your recovery. Your Delegate Leon R.

*\*\*\*apologies are given for not getting this in last months issue\*\*\**



Bill W

How do you justify calling alcoholism an illness, and not a moral responsibility? (The Disease Concept)

Early in A.A.'s history, very natural questions arose among theologians. There was a Mr. Henry Link who had written "The Return to Religion (Macmillan Co., 1937). One day I received a call from him. He stated that he strongly objected to the A.A. position that alcoholism was an illness. This concept, he felt, removed moral responsibility from alcoholics. He had been voicing this complaint about psychiatrists in the American Mercury. And now, he stated, he was about to lambaste A.A. too. Of course, I made haste to point out that we A.A.'s did not use the concept of sickness to absolve our members from moral responsibility. On the contrary, we used the fact of fatal illness to clamp the heaviest kind of moral responsibility on to the sufferer. The further point was made that in his early days of drinking the alcoholic

often was no doubt guilty of irresponsibility and gluttony. But once the time of compulsive drinking, veritable lunacy had arrived and he couldn't very well be held accountable for his conduct. He then had a lunacy which condemned him to drink, in spite of all he could do; he had developed a bodily sensitivity to alcohol that guaranteed his final madness and death. When this state of affairs was pointed out to him, he was placed immediately under the heaviest kind of pressure to accept A.A.'s moral and spiritual program of regeneration - namely, our Twelve Steps. Fortunately, Mr. Link was satisfied with this view of the use that we were making of the alcoholic's illness. I am glad to report that nearly all theologians who have since thought about this matter have also agreed with that early position. While it is most obvious that free will in the matter of alcohol has virtually disappeared in most cases, we A.A.'s do point



out that plenty of free will is left in other areas. It certainly takes a large amount of willingness, and a great exertion of the will to accept and practice the A.A. program. It is by this very exertion of the will that the alcoholic corresponds with the grace by which his drinking obsession can be expelled.

## Dr. Bob on Prayer:

"Dr. Bob would explain prayer by telling how the camels in a caravan would kneel down in the evening, and the men would unload their burdens. In the morning, they would kneel down again, and the men would

put the burdens back on. 'It's the same with prayer,' Dr. Bob said. 'We get on our knees to unload at night. And in the morning when we get on our knees again, God gives us just the load we are able to carry for that

day.'"  
c. 1980,  
Dr. Bob  
and the  
G o o d  
O l d -  
t i m e r s ,  
page 229

