

Review of: Chapter 10 : To Employers

(Pages 136 through 150)

Having been trained in the "techniques of attraction" by studying *Chapter 7: Working With Others*, we are now able to "be of maximum service to God and the people about us" (p. 77:0 lines 3 & 4). We now know how to work with those seeking recovery.

The authors of this Text Book were farsighted enough to recognize that, as alcoholics sobered up and began to return to a more "normal" life, they would, of course, be returning to the workplace. And, any mid-to-large business is sure to have in its midst, active alcoholics.

When "looking for prospects" to work with, the place perhaps offering the greatest potential is off times overlooked. That, of course, is the workplace. Some of our members have made certain that the management of their place of employment are recipients of the Big Book. In some cases, it is in keeping with their attempt to make amends for their past deeds or maybe just to try to make what could prove to be a significant contribution to their employer. In any case, it is extremely likely that those actions will help another suffering alcoholic to find our Program and thereby be spared from a tragic ending.

But what then should one do with an alcoholic employee?

"The key point in this chapter is that, in addition to altruistic considerations, it just makes good business sense to invest in a man's recovery. Rather than firing this once valuable employee as an incorrigible drunk and irredeemable liability, wouldn't it make better sense for the company to help him turn his life around and once again become that valuable asset to the corporation?" (Writing the Big Book" by Bill Schaberg page 393)

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The practical measures that can be taken to deal successfully with such a situation are outlined in this chapter. The careful reader might notice the similarities between this and what was laid out in *Chapter 7: Working With Others*. This is not a coincidence. Intensive work with other alcoholics (employees and others) is the foundation of our ongoing daily reprieve from a hopeless state of mind, body and spirit.

This is the only chapter in the first 164 pages not solely written by Bill Wilson. The original author was Bill's partner in the "book project", Hank Parkhurst. Hank was a businessman who at times in his career, managed thousands of employees. First mentioned in *The Doctor's Opinion* (p. xxxi of the Fourth Edition or xxix in the study version), he is the "*man who was brought in to be treated for chronic alcoholism...partially recovered from a gastric hemorrhage and seemed to be a case of pathological mental deterioration.*" His story, "*The Unbeliever*" appeared in the first edition of *The Big Book*. That story, one might notice, is written in the flamboyant "stream of consciousness" style he so recently learned at a college course in "Creative Writing." Therefore, Bill entirely re-wrote "*To Employers*" so that it blended seamlessly with the other chapters in the book.

Therefore despite Hank's original authorship, we can see Bill's hand over and over throughout this chapter. So, let's study this chapter not only as a guide for dealing with an alcoholic employee, but as an opportunity to review the techniques for approaching **any** alcoholic prospect.