



THE STAND



AUGUST 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA 68 DISTRICT 12 OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

ISSUE EIGHT



Brick Lane Big Book Study

41 Spelman St., London, England



As I gazed up at the keep of the old Norman castle in Rochester, the huge Union Jack draped over the side was illuminated by a multitude of fireworks as a thousand voices singing "Rule Britannia" rose into the night. It was quite moving, and even though I'm an American, it tickled some latent Tory bone inside me, and I suddenly wanted to take to the waves in the British Navy, God Save the Queen and all that. A bit delusional, but what alcoholic isn't.

On the train back to London, I reflected on the night. The fact that I had enjoyed it sober was, pardon the Brit slang, a bloody miracle. Last time I was in England I was smashed out of my gourd with a bunch of blokes who had built Spitfires in WWII. What was different about now? The difference was I had a connection to a power greater than myself that was keeping me sober, and I was about to find that there are folks in London as connected as any group in the Hill Country of Texas.

I met my man Tim in Aldgate in east central London about an hour before the meeting the next day, and instead of coffee, we had, can you guess? That's right, we had tea. The Brits love it, and they love their booze as well. Tim told me that in England, and in

much of the U.K., there is a bit of a stigma surrounding AA, so the rooms are full of the real deal, last gaspers, hard drinkers not wanting to be caught dead at a meeting.

The meeting was solution based and dead on, and after a while, the uniqueness of their accents and the fact that I was in an AA meeting in London started to fade, and I was hearing experience, strength and hope from fellow alcoholics. It was truly a spiritual experience to find myself half a world away from Texas, yet at the same time, safely at home. After the meeting, instead of Mexican, we all went out for Indian food. The Brits love their curry as much as their tea. I suppose it's a kind of little reminder for them of when the sun truly never set on their empire.

So if you ever find yourself in London, do drop by the Brick Lane Big Book Study Group, they would be ever so delighted to see you. A drunk is a drunk is a drunk is a drunk, no matter where you go, and the solution is the solution is the solution is the solution, no matter how far down the ladder we have gone, or what side of the pond you're on.

Grapevine Article - Issue Jan 95

The Great Reality Within

My name is Anna and I'm an alcoholic. I started drinking at fourteen and by the grace of God I sobered up ten years later. I never drank like a social drinker. The first time I drank I continued until I blacked out. Right away, I drank to get drunk. I woke up sick, throwing up, and not remembering much about the night before. Yet I was excited and looking forward to the next time I could get drunk again.. Insane behavior took over my life. I lied. I stole. I cheated. I associated only with other practicing alcoholics. I was in and out of mental wards, treatment centers, and halfway houses—at least twelve that I can recall. Meanwhile, I was in and out of AA for over two years. I just wasn't willing to go to any lengths and I wouldn't get honest with myself. Also the God of my understanding was this big man in a robe, with a long white beard, sitting in a big gold chair in heaven, looking down at me. He had a book with my assets and liabilities. I was scared of God. I couldn't stay sober with my old concept of God. I listened to people with sobriety talk about the God of their understanding, and I began to realize that the old God of my understanding was very different from theirs. I made at least one meeting every day to put at least one hour of sober thinking into my mind. I got a sponsor. I called her all the time. I started reading my Big Book to the best of my ability. My attention span was short and it was difficult for me to concentrate, but I tried and tried. I didn't want to die from alcohol. Changes took place. I had new friends. I wasn't physically sick anymore. I came to believe that a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity. I took one Step at a time with the guidance of my sponsor. One day I read the most beautiful lines in the Big Book. These lines helped me form a God of my understanding, and I haven't found it necessary to drink in over five years. "We found the Great Reality deep down within us. In the last analysis it is only there that He may be found. It was so with us."

Anna S. Fairview, Oklahoma

? Ask it Basket ?

What is a "special worker"?

"Almost entirely unorganized, and completely non-professional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another; that's all. Could this vast and vital face-to-face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. The few efforts to professionalize straight '12th Step' work have always failed quickly. Today, no A.A. will tolerate the idea of paid 'A.A. Therapists' or 'organizers.'" Bill W. further defines "special workers" as individuals who serve us in other capacities - cooks, caretakers and paid Intergroup secretaries. "Primarily these folks are not doing 12th Step work. They are just making more and better 12th Step work possible." A fear of professionalism should not deter us from appropriately compensating the "service worker" for the very necessary but often thankless work they do. "Let's give our service desks the hand they so well deserve." ~ Bill W.

Have a Question? Just Ask it!
Send all questions or comments to
district12newsletter@gmail.com

Tradition of the Month

TRADITION 8

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessionals, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?

When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?

Do I sometimes try to get some reward – even if not money – for my personal AA efforts?

Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?

Announcements

June's Birthday Celebrants

Ingram Sol.		2211	
Jaime V.	2 yrs	Dan C.	32 yrs
Stephan M.	1 yr	Gayle S.	31 yrs
John S.	5 yrs	Joe S.	31 yrs
Eric G.	3 yrs	Eric G.	3 yrs
Joe H.	7 yrs		
Rhonda H.	6 yrs		
Peggy D.	22 yrs		
Martha W.	22 yrs		
Kevin K.	1 yr		
Stephanie S.	4 yrs		
Billy K.	5 yrs		
Critter F.	1 yr		

Got a sobriety Birthday coming up.
We like to help you celebrate.

Send Birthdays to
district12newsletter@gmail.com



Ask

AA Annie

Attention Lady Friends! I invite you to send me your questions about how to live, love, and maintain this new life in sobriety. Please send your questions to district12newsletter@gmail.com and I will do my best to answer them by how I was taught from the Big Book and my own personal experiences. Let's live, laugh, and love sober together.

AA Annie

TXSCYPAA

We need your help to get this event brought to Kerrville. You as a youth can help here in Kerrville by joining in on the events... We plan to have tons of awareness events to get people involved. BBQs, Dances, Scavenger Hunts etc... Lets show people that we're serious and bring awareness to all those through out the state that this is a great place to visit, have fun and live life sober.

If you would like to get involved in TXSCYPAA PLEASE EMAIL:

district12newsletter@gmail.com

Wanna Get Involved?

The Newsletter Committee is currently seeking volunteers for upcoming Newsletters. Please contact Mike S. if you would like to join the team.
district12newsletter@gmail.com

AA Service Opportunities

HELP WANTED!!

Awesome service opportunity! Reach out to fellow AA's in treatment facilities.
GIVE BACK WHAT YOU BEEN GIVEN!

H&I sign-ups will be held at The Outpost, Ingram, TX

Sunday, Aug 21th at 3pm

DON'T MISS IT!

THE GRAPEVINE

Get your subscription TODAY!!

Contact Lester (830) 377-6199

For more information

Please submit all AA Service Opportunities to:
district12newsletter@gmail.com

District 12 Public Information Committee

Education and Planning Meeting

Educational topic for July will be:

“Traditions Checklist”

Wednesday, Aug 17th @ 6pm at

AA Meeting Room at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Corner of Main St. and Tivy St. next door to the Cottage Shop in Kerrville

SPANISH SPEAKING MEETING EVERY SATURDAY

@ 2PM

2211 located at 2210 Bandera Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028

HOW AA BEGAN IN KERRVILLE

by Paul W.

Kerrville is known throughout the state of Texas as a town with a strong 12 step community. Today there are at least 15 different AA groups who hold almost 60 meetings a week within the city limits. This does not include the groups and meetings of the other fellowships such as CA, NA and Al-Anon, which would swell these numbers even more.

This is remarkable for a town with a population of less than 25,000. Many of us who relocated here automatically assume it has always been this way. However, as late as the early 1970's, AA in Kerrville was virtually non-existent. Fortunately for us, a few selfless individuals banded together and laid the foundation for the recovery community we now enjoy.

Although he is too humble to admit it, Ray B. is directly responsible for bringing AA to Kerrville. Ray sobered up in Odessa in 1966, where he was teaching school. In August of 1969, he left West Texas and moved to the Hill Country to run an out-patient mental health clinic for the Kerrville State Hospital. Ray and his wife Nona, who is also in the program, quickly discovered the lack of AA in their new home.

“There were a couple of retired railroad men who met at the Episcopal Church and claimed to be holding an AA meeting,” Ray recalls. “But it really wasn't what you would call AA. All they did was tell old railroad stories. They didn't talk about the Big Book or the 12 steps. So we went to a meeting in San Antonio every Friday night. And on Saturday nights, we would go out to Center Point for a meeting at Starlite.”

Over the next couple of years, Ray began to notice a steady increase of alcoholics among the clients at the out-patient clinic. In 1971, he took one of these patients to the meeting at the church. Nothing had changed. It was still the same two old railroad men swapping stories.

At the end of the meeting, the patient turned to Ray and said, “If that's all there is to AA, I might as well get drunk!” Ray knew right then he had to do something.

“I talked to Dr. Luther Ross, who ran the State Hospital and asked him if we could start having AA meetings at the clinic. He agreed and we started right away.”

The new group met every Wednesday for the first few years. Often times the only people there were Ray, Nona and whatever alcoholic patients were currently enrolled at the clinic. However, the group eventually began to grow at a steady place.

Around 1973, the group decided to look for a place of its own. Ray, Nona and Joyce M. were among the people who rented a house on Tivy Street and began to hold meetings there. This was the beginning of what has now become the 720 Club. Other groups splintered off in the years that followed until Kerrville AA became what it is today.

The old out-patient clinic building, where the original meetings were held, is still standing. It is located at 425 Water Street, just west of the Kerrville Public Library. As for Ray, he is now a member of the Brown Bag Group and celebrated 45 years of continuous sobriety this past March.





IN THE SPIRIT OF ROTATION



??Question of the Month??

"How and why do you keep yourself in constant contact with the Higher Power of your understanding?"

The new District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs will be elected in October. Both Officers and Committee Chairs serve for two years, are elected in the fall of odd number years, and take office in January of even number years.

Traditionally, rotation keeps AA members from becoming "frozen" in office. It also ensures that District tasks, like nearly everything in AA, are passed around for all to share.

The pamphlet "The AA Group, Where it All Began" states that, "Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no AA 'status' at stake we needn't compete for title or praise, we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed."

Many ask, do we actually have leadership in AA? Reprinted in "The Language of the Heart" page 287-292, Bill wrote, "No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels and AA can be no exception. It must be said though, that we sometimes cherish the thought that we can do without any leadership at all. We are apt to warp the traditional idea of 'Principles before Personalities' in leadership." A leader in AA Service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help with his job.

This is not politics and this isn't a popularity contest. This is Service to Alcoholics Anonymous, to our continued recovery and to the recovery of those yet to come. I've heard it said, "Gratitude is an ACTION word." So it is my hope that all you grateful recovered members of Alcoholics Anonymous are giving back that which was so freely given to you. Our future depends on it.

District 12 will be holding a Workshop in the Spirit of Rotation... "Leaders in AA Guidelines Workshop" on September 10th 10am-2pm at the 720 Club In Kerrville. Area 68 Delegate will be our guest we will have a GSR Share Session Luncheon, followed by District Officers and Committee Chairs Guidelines and Responsibilities Workshop.

"I do all kinds of things to stay in contact with my higher power. I read. I pray. I meditate. I listen to music. All kinds of things. Once I realize that God or what ever you want to call it was out there, and that he was actually listening, I started to see and hear Him in all kinds of places. What does it do for me or why do I do it? I get lost all the time. Who better to help you find your way than a power of the universe that knows everything?" - Chris

"I go to church first of all. I know that a lot of people in the program have problems with organized religion, but I like the connection that I get there. I also meditate in the mornings and try to clear my mind early. Meditation helps me to feel like I have cleared the dreams and thoughts of yesterday out and made room for God to come in and direct my path for the day. Why do I do it? Well at first, I did it cause I was told to do it, but after some time I realized that it worked. I began to realize that it gave me some sort of relief, and that was all that I needed when things got rough. Now I do it cause I like it." - Chris

"I didn't have an HP before I came to AA, I just did what I was told. I hit my knees in the morning, meditate, try to help others, and hit my knees again at night. That is the way I have been doing it since I started. I don't know; it seems to work for me, and I'm staying sober, so I'm not changing anything." - Adam

"I have some books from which I like to read. I think God talks to me through them. I try to use the lessons from the books to redirect me each day. I try to practice what they teach and try to spread that message to those that I meet. It's like a class in God's ways for me to learn and for me to teach. It makes me feel like a better person and I feel like I have a purpose. Purpose is one of the things that I have always felt was missing. It's pretty cool." - Brian

"I'd like to think that my Higher Power is with me through out the day. I kinda just chat and talk to Her when I am feeling that I need some sort of answer to the problems that I am having, and I try to never forget to thank her for the answers that I do get. I do it cause it makes me feel protected. I need that feeling." - Lauren

"I grew up with what I understood to be a very defined definition of God. But until I entered the rooms, I never really cared about communicating with what I like to call God. As far as staying in contact with God, I just do what I think most people do; I pray. But the reason I am so adamant about staying in touch on a daily basis is because I love the guidance. Once I became more consistent with my consciousness of God, it became very obvious what to do through the day.... and when I try to figure that out... well... we all know how that goes." - Brittany

Howdy Friends,

DCM CORNER

I just got back from the Area 68 Summer Workshop in Laredo. Why they would hold a Summer Workshop in the middle of July in Laredo, I will never know (A MELTING experience). However Laredo went all out in hosting the workshop. It was held in the beautiful historic La Posada Hotel right on the river, the hospitality was wonderful and all the ladies wore their colorful Mexican dresses. It wasn't just a big Fiesta, even though they knew how to hold a pool party! There was business to cover. We had our regular business meeting starting at 8am on Saturday morning with the highlight being Char, Area 68's Delegate, giving her report and slide presentation of her trip to the World Service Conference in New York. Char will be in Kerrville on September 10th as our special guest at the Leadership in AA Workshop (see THE STAND for more information) giving the same presentation, let me say you don't want to miss it. They held numerous workshops in the afternoon on Public Information, Treatment, Intergroup, and Newsletter to name only a few. Saturday night was a great event as the Southwest Texas Area took an Inventory. We discussed a variety of questions concerning caring the message and if the body of SWTA was fulfilling there purpose. This took about two hours to cover 15 questions. It was a great experience to see the Unity come together and see both the positive and negative

things about the Area. One thing we saw which gained a lot of interest to the body was reaching out to the LONERS, those who are unable to attend meeting or do Service work cause they are serving in the Arm Forces or living in other excluded places. There is always a need for Inventory and positive things do come from it. The minutes from this inventory will be compiled together into a document and sent to the DCMs and a copy to the incoming Chairperson voted on in October. Yes, Area 68 is preparing for there elections as well as us here in District 12. It's a growing experience with both the sadness and excitement that goes with rotating out and new officers coming in that felt at every level of Service. Be apart of District 12 as we go through this process with an up coming Workshop on Leadership in AA and District 12s Officers and Committee Chair Guidelines .There is so much to experience in AA. We must not forget that the program has 36 principles not just the 12 in the Steps. Learning and experiencing the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts are something that shouldn't be missed. I hope you guys will expand your recovery horizons and step out into all three area of Unity, Service and Recovery. We are so lucky to be a part of a recovery community that loves this way of life and is committed to the Fellowship. Join in with me as we trudge this road!!!

In the Spirit of Love & Service - Tommy F

IT'S AN INSIDE JOB...

At seven years sober, I suffered a major spinal injury and was briefly paralyzed. Then serving as a librarian for the Hospitals and Institutions committee, I was looking through some treatment literature. As I put the pamphlets away, I noticed one called "Corrections Correspondence." I had read through the pile many times, and I had never seen this one before. As I read, I began to cry, and the crying alternated with goose bumps. I will never forget the surges of emotion that overcame me late that night. I sat in this state for a long time, and then I began filling out the form. Afterward, I sent it off to the Correctional Facilities assignment at the General Service Office.

I soon received the address of my now good friend, Bills., an inmate on the East Coast. Bill and I have corresponded for about six years now and through three different prisons.

Bill was the first of many inmates with whom I have corresponded. Some originated from the GS0 Correctional Facilities assignment, and others came from other sources. I never judge the alcoholic by the offense, whatever it might be. I am taught to just carry the message that reached me in prison so many years ago.

New letters arrive all the time, some following up after release, others from a new institution. One AA inmate was released and then shot by the police during an arrest and is now writing from a different institution with a shot-up hand.

Corrections Correspondence is a wonderful service. The need for correspondents is tremendous and the rewards are great. I use my personal post office box and have never felt threatened for a moment. Whenever I am feeling restless and irritable, a letter will surely arrive stamped "Mailed from a State Prison," and I begin to shift gears and get very grateful.

This wonderful service needs to be more widely recognized within the Fellowship, as the letters often pile up at the Correctional Facilities desk and many are not replied to. During early sobriety, I was an initiate at a correctional facility in Soledad, which is where I got sober. The AA panels there saved my life. I only wish that someone from the outside had cared enough to write to me way back then.

aagrapevine.org
Bob C.
Vista, California

HEARD AT MEETINGS....

"Happiness is wanting what you do, not doing what you want."

"Recovery can't take place without abstinence; but abstinence is not recovery."

www.melloron.com
"I am not guilty; I am accountable."

Committee of the Month

Cooperation with the Professional Community "What the C.P.C. Committee does..."

Members of the CPC committee provide information about A.A. to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession. This group includes health care professionals, educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders, and industrial managers, 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.

A.A. is considered by many professionals to be a valuable resource for alcoholics who want help. When there is a good working relationship between A.A. members in the community and paid alcoholism workers, the sick alcoholic is the winner—he or she gets the help needed from both.

We are not in competition with these non-A.A.s; we have our separate functions. A.A. is not in the business of education, research, medicine, counseling, treatment, prevention, or funding. We simply have a message to carry about a program of recovery for alcoholics—a program that works for hundreds of thousands who want it.

The professional can help the alcoholic who wants it—by education, counseling, and rehabilitative treatment—and can also be of aid through making the community aware of and care about the millions still suffering from the progressive illness of alcoholism.

(from the A.A. Guideline "Cooperation with the Professional Community")

IN THE SPIRIT OF ROTATION
DISTRICT 12 PRESENTS

"LEADERSHIP IN AA" GUIDELINES WORKSHOP

WITH SPECIAL GUEST: AREA 68 DELEGATE: CHAR

Area Delegate Report & "AA Service Structure"

Lunch provided by District 12

GSR's - Share Session

District Officers & Committee Chairpersons
Guidelines Workshop

Sept. 10th 10am-2pm

720 Club

service work
"...get informed, get involved."

From Canada to the Hill Country....

Personal Story

by Stephan M.

Although the disease of alcoholism had manifested itself in me a long time before I ever took my first drink, I guess that is when my journey really started: with my first drink.

I was born and raised in Corunna, Ontario, Canada; a simple, small town of 6000 people. I grew up in a middle-class family, not ever really left wanting for too many material things. There was always that underlying feeling of being different and never truly happy with who I was or what I had I remember having my first drink at a family New Years Eve party when I was 10. I felt this flood of relief wash over me in such a profound manner and remember thinking to myself, "no wonder everyone drinks." Little did I know that I would spend the next 23 years of my life chasing this relief to the depths of insanity and personal hell. I did not start drinking alcoholically for another 3-4 years or so. Although I fully understand the true nature of my disease today, there would be many years full of personal turmoil before this understanding was reached.

I do remember getting drunk at lunch in Grade 8 with some friends and going back to school on more than one occasion loaded (some of whom I see today in the rooms of AA when I go back to Canada). This behavior continued with more frequency into high-school, where drinking became more than just something we did on weekends for fun. Do not get me wrong; I was still having fun at this point, even though I could not control the amount I drank once I started. There were no repercussions for any of my actions and I truly had a feeling of being immortal. There was no reason for me to even want to attempt quitting. High-school is where I started blackout drinking. My friends and I use to kid around with each other saying, "We didn't learn to drive, we learned to drink and drive," because drinking was such a large part of our lives. There were many a morning I woke up in my car hung-over with no idea how I had gotten there. This type of stuff was common place in my group of friends and it seemed perfectly normal to us.

I have had many different jobs throughout the years: Custodian, Time-keeper, DJ, and Boilermaker. I excelled at work and often rose quickly through the ranks of any job. It was not until the end of my drinking career, where I spent most of my time focused on blotting out the consciousness of my existence, that I started losing jobs because of my alcoholic tendencies. When my life started becoming unmanageable externally, my downward progression was quick. The alcohol had finally stopped working as a solution for the internal unmanageability; I was scared and I was lost. I started to lose friends and a lot of material possessions. But, more so than anything else, I lost the drive to live.

I went to my first treatment center in 2005; I spent Christmas there. I liked it so much that I went back another 4 times over the

next 4 years. I also tried a rapid detox center to no avail. I just could not stay stopped for good and for all, not that anyone had told me that was even possible. I sat in the rooms of AA and some sister fellowships stringing together a few weeks of abstinence here and there and sometimes even a couple months. But no matter how hard I tried to stay sober, I just could not do it. I did everything that was asked of me, which made this whole 5 year process even more demoralizing. I started thinking that somehow I was fundamentally flawed and that I was a person that would never ever be able to achieve sobriety for any significant amount of time. I saw others getting sober in these same rooms, but it was not working for me.

My parents had tried in those 5 years to convince me to come to treatment in Hunt, TX, but I would not come. After all, Texas was full of cowboys and hillbillies in my skewed view and I wanted no part of that or Texas. After a final suicide attempt in the late spring of 2010, I finally decided I needed to go to treatment again. The only way my parents would help me, was if I agreed to go to rehab in Texas. What a God send that turned out to be; I landed in a nest of Big Book thumpers. In Kerrville, for the first time in my life the true nature of alcoholism was explained to me, I heard people in meetings refer to themselves as "Recovered Alcoholics," I felt a presence of something greater than myself at work in this fellowship, and there seemed to be a level of freedom and happiness I had never encountered before. A feeling of relief once again washed over me and I somehow knew that everything would be alright if I only stayed, so I stayed. I was told, "if you want we have then do what we do," and I truly wanted what these people had, so I did what they did. I was shown the way out from the hopelessness and futility of life and all I had to do was follow some simple, subtle commands (suggestions). What a miraculous trade-off than turned out to be.

I have been in Kerrville for a little over a year now and have no intentions of leaving; I feel truly at home for the first time in my life. I have a feeling of usefulness and purpose today; for that I am truly grateful. I am afforded the privilege of being able to help other people get connected to God and find their own happiness and freedom, giving exactly what was so freely given to me. This one time Atheist is now a vessel of God and that thought still will bring a tear to my eye. I am a miracle and there is never any doubt in my mind of this fact. I know that I ended up here in a providential arrangement and I will stay for as long as I am needed. God's will (not mine) be done. I feel that deep satisfaction now that I have searched for my whole life. I have arrived and I think I shall stay by continuing on this spiritual path.

I am Stephan M. and I am a grateful recovered alcoholic.

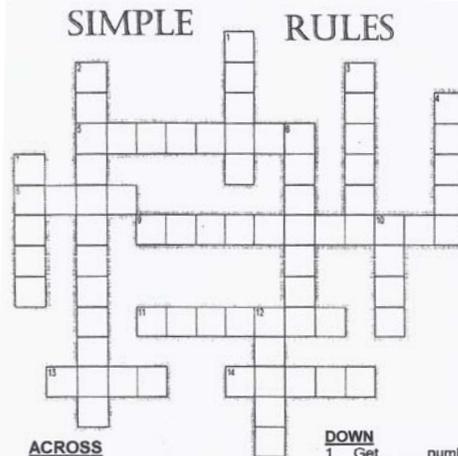


aagrapevine.org

"Isn't wearing women's clothing taking anonymity a bit far, Bert?"

District 12 Newsletter Focus

To inform the AA community of information pertaining to District 12, Area 68, and GSO and to enlarge group participation.



ACROSS

- Go to _____
- Ask God for _____ in the morning
- Honesty, Openmindness, _____
- Call phone _____
- _____ the Big Book
- Don't _____

DOWN

- Get _____ numbers
- Look for the _____ not differences
- Put _____ in your mouth
- Follow a few simple _____
- Get a _____
- _____ God at night
- Take the cotton out of your _____
- Come _____, stay late

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What Is My Responsibility in AA?

The statement:

 by Bill H.

"When anyone anywhere reaches out for the hand of AA, we are responsible,"

can sum it all up.

The Big Book also suggests we share our experience, strength and hope with others so that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. We help people (AA members) with financial assistance and allow them into our homes for a few days if we are certain that their motive is to recover; otherwise, we may be aiding in his/her destruction. Our very lives as ex-problem drinkers depend on our constant thought of others and how we may help them meet their needs. It is imperative to work with others as they have worked with us. Self-sacrifice and unselfish constructive action are the things that help us survive the certain trials and low spots ahead.

If we are following these suggestions, we shouldn't have time to judge others (play God), or talk about what others should/shouldn't do (play God), or to spread malicious gossip about others to make ourselves feel better or to look better in someone else's eyes. These are things that are outside the scope of AA and are, in fact, discouraged by principle. Are the principles behind the AA traditions being followed when we act in such ways? The message of the 10th Tradition suggests to me that by not expressing opinions on outside issues, AA groups attempt to avoid controversy. So, how do some AA's justify such behavior as posting malicious gossip and erroneous information about another on the internet? Both the person posting, and the victim about whom the information is posted, are hurt; nor, do we have the right to break other's anonymity or mention their sponsor by name. I even have a friend whose spouse (a fellow AA) posted his 4th step on facebook. We affect AA as a whole when we misbehave in public. Having said all of that, it is easy to get wrapped up in talking about what is best for other AA's. We are not saints.

The AA preamble says "... AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy ...". I believe that we are not to impose our experience with problem drinking on others but we do share it when we are asked. AA does not check up on its members to make sure they are not drinking. I believe that since most of us are not licensed counselors that we should not give such advice.

Am I a producer of confusion or harmony? Do I really practice love and tolerance of others? Have I entered the world of the Spirit? I know God wants me to be happy, joyous and free.

UPCOMING AA EVENTS

AREA 68	WHERE	WHEN
Texas ICYPAA Bid Committee Fundraiser	San Antonio	Aug 12
SWTA 68 PI/CPC Conference	Temple	Aug 26-28
DISTRICT 12	WHERE	WHEN
District 12 Monthly Meeting	Bandera - Com. of Christ Church	Aug 14 2 pm
H & I Signup	Ingram - Outpost	Aug 21 3 pm
Public Information Committee Meeting	St. Peter's Ep. Church	Aug 17 6 pm

UPCOMING DISTRICT 12 ELECTION MEETINGS AND WORKSHOP ***

District 12 Guidelines Workshop (w/Area Delegate Char)	Kerrville - 720 Club @ 11am - 2pm	Sept 10
District 12 Business Meeting (Nominations for District Positions)		Sept 11
District 12 Business Meeting (District Elections)		Oct 9

*** Check back next month for more info on time and place.***

HAM ON WRY

A LITTLE PRAYER: "Dear Lord, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm really glad about that. "But in a few minutes, God, I am going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help."
aagrapevine.org

District 12 Trusted Servants

DCM Tommy F.

Alternate DCM Jim A.

Secretary Josie E.

Alt. Secretary Dee P.

Treasurer Joe S.

Archives Linda B.

Correctional Facilities (Women) Josie E.

Correctional Facilities (Men) Clay E.

Grapevine Lester S.

Help Line David M.

Newsletter Mike S.

Public Information Terry T.

Cooperation with Professional Community B.J. K

Spanish Meeting Coordinator Jose

Treatment Facilities Andrew B.

For email and contact information please visit www.aa12.org