

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE SOUTHWEST
AREA 68
DISTRICT 12 OF

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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THE STAND

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2016

Delegate's Corner

Greetings District 12! I'd like to thank Patrick for the invitation to share 'Delegate News' for your District's newsletter. This is my first 'official' assignment and it is my honor to share with you all. First of all I'd like to "WELCOME" all GSRs and District Committee Officers and Chairpersons! As some of you may know, this two year term is known as Panel 66 (please see your Service Manual page S109 for an explanation of 'Panel'). I promise you that you will be getting more than just your 'kicks' on Panel 66! As a trusted servant, you have been entrusted by your home groups and district members to carry on the legacy of service begun with Bill and Dr. Bob so many years ago. With this responsibility comes spiritual growth as we continue to expand on the ideology that 'Faith Without Works is Dead' as we carry the message to both the alcoholics and the professionals in our community via our District Committees. To this end, many of you...like me, may be wondering: What do I do? How do I do it? Well just remember, we are not alone and we have lots of literature and resources available to help us all do our jobs. By now if you have already registered with GSO, you have received your GSR and DCM kits. Inside you will find many helpful tools. If you haven't registered already, you may do so at the upcoming SWTA 68 Winter Workshop in San Antonio Jan 29-31. Stop by the Registrar's table and introduce yourself to Barbara R. and she will get you registered with GSO. Also, be sure to note the Secretary's table where you will find that Rae T. also has many helpful tools to assist with your duties as GSR and DCM. Two more critical resources are A.A.'s website: aa.org and the **A.A. Service Manual**. I'd also like to encourage you all to consider the following 2016 General Service Conference topics for your own homegroup discussion and district workshops throughout this year:

- **Connecting With the Newcomer:** All Inclusive – Never Exclusive; Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are We Going to Any Length? Home Group – Where It Begins
- **Connecting With Each Other:** Singleness of Purpose – Staying Pertinent in a Changing World; Informed Group Conscience – The Key to Unity; Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service
- **Connecting With A.A. as a Whole:** Participating in All of A.A.; Understanding Self-Support; Reaching Out to the Next Generation of A.A.s

Our Panel 66 Officers and Chairpersons are here to support your group and district efforts. Please don't hesitate to invite any one of us out to present on these or any other service topics. I personally look forward to the opportunity to report back to your District after the General Service Conference in April! Love and Service,

Denise Thorn

Delegate Panel 66 - SWTA 68.

Tradition of the Month



All you need to start your own AA meeting is a resentment and a coffeepot.

Tradition One

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.”

Unity is the most cherished quality our Fellowship has. Our very existence and the future of our Society depend on unity. Our groups would cease to exist and we would not be able to carry the life giving Grace that makes it possible for us to carry our message of recovery.

Although A.A. grants great liberties to us as individuals, no rules or laws, we early on see and feel the power that comes to us as the result of following the spiritual principles of

A.A., which gives us a sense purpose and action. We also see the necessity for us to conform to these spiritual principles for both individual and group welfare.

It is paramount for us to remember that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group and no amount of sacrifice is too great for the preservation of our Fellowship. The group must survive or the individual will not. It is important for me to remember the group is more important than me and God’s will, will become apparent through our group conscience. Our unity is vital to our survival.

Jonathan Smith SWTA 68,
Panel 66 Alternate Delegate

If your group has an event coming up and would like it in the newsletter, please contact:
PatrickMco10@gmail.com

Wit's End

It's two o'clock in the morning. The phone rings. A very drunk voice asks, "Harry there?"

"There's no Harry here," growls the half-asleep owner of the phone. "You've got the wrong number."

Five minutes later the phone rings again. "Lemme talk to Harry."

"You've got the wrong number!"

Another five minutes and the same thing.

"Harry?"

"No!"

Five more minutes go by. The phone rings. This time the irate but wise citizen answers, "Alcoholics Anonymous!"

The phone goes dead and stays quiet for the rest of the night.

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Concept of the Month

Concept of the Month

Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our Fellowship.

First, I am grateful to Patrick M., District 12's Newsletter Chairman for asking me to share my experience, strength, and hope in relationship with the Twelve Concepts for World Service. This is the first in a monthly series of brief articles about each Concept.

As members of Alcoholics Anonymous, you and I are the beneficiaries of the experience and lessons passed on to us by the pioneers of our movement. We inherited three great legacies – Recovery, Unity, and Service. The Steps lead us to sobriety; the Traditions keep A.A. fit; and the Concepts ensure A.A.'s future in helping the still suffering alcoholic.

“Who's in charge of this deal?” It's a common question, one I too asked when first coming to A.A. meetings. The answer, given behind a wry

smile, “A loving God,” was confusing. I expected a name of the owner, or a president or board chairman. Traditions One and Two show us no one person is more important than the group, and that the group conscience is directed by ‘a loving God as He may express Himself...’

Whether it's the decisions being made in my home group, or at the district or area level, or even at the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, as a member of the Fellowship my voice will be heard, *if spoken*.

Twenty years after the inception of A.A., Bill W., Co-founder and author of the Concepts realized the Fellowship now possessed the spiritual strength to survive and thrive. Alcoholics Anonymous had truly ‘Come of Age.’ In ‘Concept I’ the members of A.A. were given the responsibility for Alcoholics Anonymous and endowed with the authority to chart its course. Next month we will begin to explore how this awesome responsibility is administered. See you then.

James H.

Panel 64/Area 68 Southwest Texas

HELP WANTED

Reach out to fellow AA's in treatment facilities. “GIVE BACK WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN!” H&I sign-ups will be held at the 720 Club, Kerrville, TX 3rd Sunday of the Month

WE NEED YOU! HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE BY SHARING YOUR STORY WITH THE DISTRICT! ALSO LOOKING FOR GROUP HISTORY, UPCOMING GROUP EVENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS! REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! BE A PART OF IT! Contact:

PatrickMc010@gmail.com



Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12

WELCOME TO DISTRICT 12 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

... serving Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, and Kimble counties in the hill country of Texas.

Anybody can look at the schedules and events here, but if you want the full benefits of the site as a District 12 A.A. member, **please register and login**. The more District 12 A.A. members who sign up, the more useful the site becomes!

GET INVOLVED!

There are many opportunities to get help or to help other alcoholics in our district.

To learn more about service opportunities [click here](#)

Check out the NEW WEBSITE!!

www.aa12.org

The more who register,
the more useful the website.

Post or Update Your Meetings!
Post Events!

Everyone who registers can be notified!

AA GRAPEVINE

The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated, and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. Widely known as a "meeting in print," the AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity, and service. Founded in

1944, the Grapevine does not receive group contributions, but is supported entirely through magazine subscription sales and additional income derived from the sale of Grapevine items.

If you are interested in a subscription to the grapevine or information on sharing your story with other alcoholics contact Patrick M.— PatrickMco10@gmail.com

Step One:

Powerless, Piecemeal

When I came to AA, I knew I had a problem with booze, but I was reluctant to admit I was an alcoholic. To me, an alky was a stereotype: a white man over fifty wearing a smelly old trench coat, lying in a bus shelter, and holding a bottle of cheap wine in a paper bag.

I spent my thirty-eighth birthday in a detox. After the twenty-eight-day treatment program, I attended one-hundred-forty meetings in ninety days because I knew my way of living didn't work. My best attempts at controlling my drinking and my best efforts at managing my life all drove me to my bottom. So, I took Step One piecemeal: *We ...*

I listened to other people share their experience with booze. My head nodded up and down like a bobblehead doll. Although my circumstances were different--I never went to jail (I never got caught)--I could relate to their feelings and their thinking. These people were like me in every respect except one: they were staying sober.

... admitted . . .

These AAs reminded me that admitting something was voicing the willingness to accept it. That worked for me. In the beginning, I was unsure and leery about acceptance. But admitting my problem among people who were like me was something I could do.

. . . we were powerless over alcohol. . .

I attended more than a hundred meetings and listened to chapter five, "How It Works," in each one. I got a Big Book and finally realized that I needed to read "The Doctor's Opinion," too.

In that section, I found simple text that described my illness. I knew I was messed up in my head, but in "The Doctor's Opinion" I learned how my body reacts to alcohol. Here, something new really opened my eyes. I knew alcohol didn't affect my nonalcoholic friends or my ex-wives like it affected me. They got sleepy, dopey, and often queasy if they had one drink over their limit.

I didn't have a limit. When I drank, a switch flipped on inside me and I felt elated, alert, outgoing, powerful, and beautiful. Magically, I became a different person--the person I was too shy and scared to become without booze.

I always wanted to be someone other than myself. I lived with low self-worth. As a teenager, I discovered that booze took my feeling of smallness away. My brain had found a simple solution to a difficult problem, and it didn't look for another one. When I felt small, I drank. When I drank, I entered a zone of big. Inside that zone, I had to have more alcohol.

This was a direct result of my body reacting to alcohol. The allergy and the unique phenomenon of craving were things I knew had happened to me.

For over twenty years, I knew I was mentally weak when alcohol was involved. I was obsessive. I depended on alcohol to drown my unwanted feelings and fears. But on that day in my early recovery, I discovered that what made me an alcoholic was my body, not my mind.

This was very important. It was no longer a matter of will. It was a matter of understanding that my body would always react the same way to booze. It helped me to see that I was not the disease, but that I had a disease--forever. No matter how much I grew through the Twelve Steps, my body would always react the same way to alcohol.

...--that our lives had become unmanageable . . .

"No problems with that part," many of us say when we come into AA. But the phrase means more than throwing our hands in the air and declaring life a chaotic mess.

It means that my disease is progressive. If I am truly powerless over alcohol and there is no earthly power that can relieve me of my obsession to drink, then I need a power greater than human power.

Declaring our lives unmanageable places one foot forward, thereby entering Step Two. In doing so, we no longer have one foot remaining in the problem. We move into the solution.

DISTRICT12 NEWSLETTER FOCUS – TO
INFORM THE AA COMMUNITY OF INFOR-
MATION PERTAINING TO DISTRICT 12,
AREA 68, AND GSO AND TO ENLARGE
GROUP PARTICIPATION.

Eric S Ottawa, Ontario
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SOUTHWEST TEXAS
AREA 68
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
CONFERENCE 2016

FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE

HOSTED BY DISTRICTS 10 & 27

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016

HILTON GARDEN INN ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FEB. 14, USING CODE "A68"
\$89/NIGHT - 956.761.8700

SPEAKERS:

LENA W. OF SOUTH PADRE
PAXTON H. OF SAN ANTONIO
MIKE H. OF AUSTIN
FRANCISCO M. OF MISSION (SPANISH)
SPANISH INTERPRETATION PROVIDED

- VOLUNTEER PANEL - CORRECTIONAL PROFESSIONAL PANEL -
- TDCJ VOLUNTEER TRAINING ORIENTATION - HOSPITALITY SUITE -

CATERED LUNCH FOR MEMBERS & PROFESSIONALS
SATURDAY 11:30AM

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

KRIS S. - CFCONF2016@YAHOO.COM - 240.501.9759
DAVID T. - DAVIDSPITX@HOTMAIL.COM - 832.630.9589

\$15 Early Registration (\$20 at the Door) = _____
\$15 Saturday Catered Lunch = _____
TOTAL = _____

Detach and mail in along with check or money order payable to:
District 10, PO BOX 3543, South Padre Island, TX 78597

NAME: _____ HOME GROUP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

"SERVICE: A new freedom and a new happiness!"

2016 SWTA 68 Winter Workshop

Hosted by: San Antonio Districts

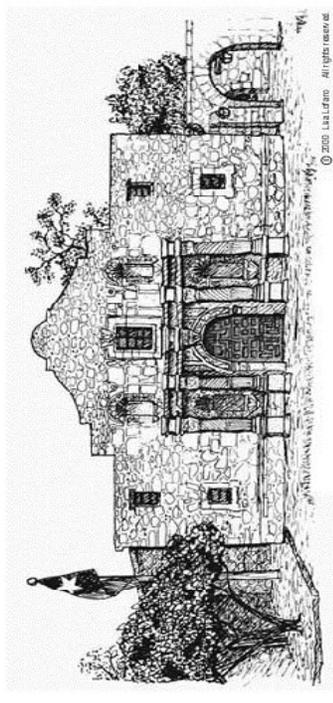
January 29th - 31st

San Antonio Marriott Northwest

3233 NW Loop 410

San Antonio, TX 78213

210-377-3900



Room Rate \$109/night Booking code: SWTA68

Event Information @ www.aa-swta.org