

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

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Concept V	1
Tradition V Check- list	2
The Birth of AA (Part 2)	3
Step Five	4
Note From The DCM	6
AA Contacts	7

DISTRICT 12 NEWS-
LETTER FOCUS — TO
INFORM THE AA
COMMUNITY OF IN-
FORMATION PER-
TAINING TO DIS-
TRICT 12, AREA 68,
AND GSO AND TO
ENLARGE GROUP
PARTICIPATION.

THE STAND

Volume 10 Issue 5

May 2017

Concept V

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

The “Right of Appeal” is very evident in our Conference deliberations. The presiding officer at the General Service Conference takes great pains to ensure that the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a two-thirds is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. This Concept warns us of the tyranny of the majority and points out that in A.A., a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision.

This “Right of Appeal” recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. Therefore, the well-heard minority is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

Concept V also allows for the filing of a personal grievance by any member of the service structure to carry his complaint directly to the General Service Board, if necessary. This Concept is considered so vital that when a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect AA as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual duty of presenting a minority opinion to the Conference. It is not only their right to file a minority appeal, it is their duty.

According to Bill “we shall never be subjected to the tyranny of either the majority or the minority, provided we carefully define the relations between them and forthwith tread the path of world service in the spirit of our Twelves Steps, our Twelve Traditions, and our Conference Charter.”

Pam J.

"Having made our personal inventory, what shall we do about it? We have been trying to get a new attitude, a new relationship with our Creator, and to discover the obstacles in our path. We have admitted certain defects; we have ascertained in a rough way what the trouble is; we have put our finger on the weak items in our personal inventory. Now these are about to be cast out. This requires action on our part, which, when completed, will mean that we have admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our defects. *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 72

"Most of us would declare that without a fearless admission of our defects to another human being we could NOT stay sober. It seems plain that the grace of God will NOT enter to expel our destructive obsessions until we are willing to try this."
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 56

"Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe." *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 75

"When we decide who is to hear our story, we waste no time. We have a written inventory and we are prepared for a long talk. We explain to our partner what we are about to do and why we have to do it. He should realize that we are engaged upon a life and death errand. Most people approached in this way will be glad to help; they will be honored by our confidence."
Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 75.

"The dammed-up emotions of years break out of their confinement, and miraculously vanish as soon as they are exposed. As the pain subsides, a healing tranquility takes its place. And when humility and serenity are so combined, something else of great moment is apt to occur. Many an AA., once agnostic or atheistic, tells us that it was during this stage in step five that he first actually felt the presence of God."
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 62

Tradition Five

"Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion. *Copyright © The [A.A. Grapevine, Inc.](#)*

Tradition Five:

Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?

Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?

Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?

Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?

Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?

Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

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Tradition Five: Long Form

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Boerne Hwy Group

Last Friday of Each month 8:00 P.M. Birthday and Speaker and CAKE!!!

How does your group support newcomers?

Giving a newcomer a packet full of great AA info tailored just for them, along with a meeting list and phone numbers is a great start!

Public Information Committee has put these together for you to get you started.

Call or text Kathleen K. PI Chair, for more info.

(830) 377-5890

Historical Data: The Birth of A.A (Part 2)

The book and the new office were quickly put to use. An article about A.A. was carried by Liberty magazine in the fall of 1939, resulting in some 800 urgent calls for help. In 1940, Mr. Rockefeller gave a dinner for many of his prominent New York friends to publicize A.A. This brought yet another flood of pleas. Each inquiry received a personal letter and a small pamphlet. Attention was also drawn to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which soon moved into brisk circulation. Aided by mail from New York, and by A.A. travelers from already-established centers, many new groups came alive. At the year's end, the membership stood at 2,000.

Then, in March 1941, the *Saturday Evening Post* featured an excellent article about A.A., and the response was enormous. By the close of that year, the membership had jumped to 6,000, and the number of groups multiplied in proportion. Spreading across the U.S. and Canada, the Fellowship mushroomed.

By 1950, 100,000 recovered alcoholics could be found worldwide. Spectacular though this was, the period 1940-1950 was nonetheless one of great uncertainty. The crucial question was whether all those mercurial alcoholics could live and work together in groups. Could they hold together and function effectively? This was the unsolved problem. Corresponding with thousands of groups about their problems became a chief occupation of the New York headquarters.

By 1946, however, it had already become possible to draw sound conclusions about the kinds of attitude, practice and function that would best suit A.A.'s purpose. Those principles, which had emerged from strenuous group experience, were codified by Bill in what are today the Twelve Traditions of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. By 1950, the earlier chaos had largely disappeared. A successful formula for A.A. unity and functioning had been achieved and put into practice. (See Page 9.)

During this hectic ten-year period, Dr. Bob devoted himself to the question of hospital care for alcoholics, and to their indoctrination with A.A. principles. Large numbers of alcoholics flocked to Akron to receive hospital care at St. Thomas, a Catholic hospital. Dr. Bob became a member of its staff. Subsequently, he and the remarkable Sister M. Ignatia, also of the staff, cared for and brought A.A. to some 5,000 sufferers. After Dr. Bob's death in 1950, Sister Ignatia continued to work at Cleveland's Charity Hospital, where she was assisted by the local groups and where 10,000 more sufferers first found A.A. This set a fine example of hospitalization wherein A.A. could cooperate with both medicine and religion.

In this same year of 1950, A.A. held its first International Convention at Cleveland. There, Dr. Bob made his last appearance and keyed his final talk to the need of keeping A.A. simple. Together with all present, he saw the Twelve Traditions of *Alcoholics Anonymous* enthusiastically adopted for the permanent use of the A.A. Fellowship throughout the world. (He died on November 16, 1950.)

http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/historical-data-the-birth-of-aa-and-its-growth-in-the-uscanada Reprinted with permission

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

Step Five:

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

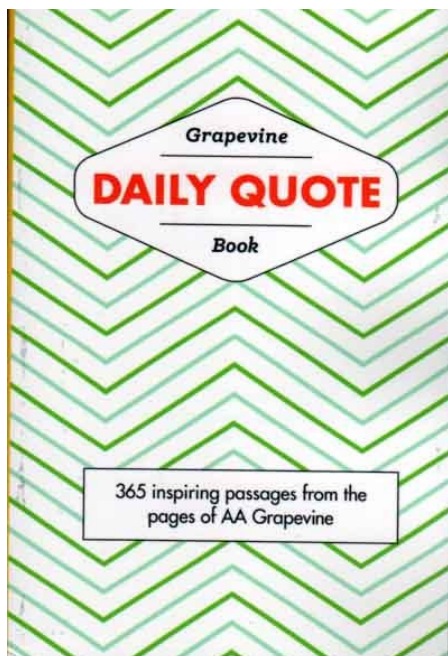
My sobriety began in a two-week long detox house for women. Being a "re-tread", my sponsor gave me a seemingly tall order of a suggestion that I now attribute to saving my life: be on the eighth step by the time I left detox! There was no time to waste, so after reviewing the first three steps with her, I wrote out a searching and fearless moral inventory despite being in withdrawal.

We did my fifth step on lawn chairs under a tree one spring afternoon in arch and it was an absolutely freeing and sacred experience. I particularly remember a tearful moment we shared after she shared her perspective on a resentment that I had held onto for years and years, a perspective I would have never come up with on my own. It was very much a turning point in my journey, and a moment that indicated and reinforced to me that God had hand-picked this woman specifically to be my sponsor!

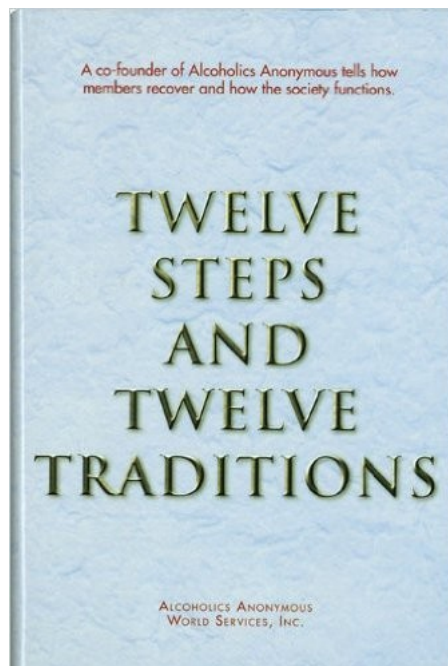
When it came time for me to work with other women and be on the other side of the fifth step, I experienced some fear. What if I didn't have any helpful insight? What if I wasn't as present for my sponsee as my sponsor had been for me? But this fear was quickly squashed by remembering the verbiage of the fifth step: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. God is very much a part of the experience first and me last. Additionally, today I have been given the Power specifically to help others! The presence of God continues to be reinforced every time I have the blessing of being entrusted with the sacred experience of listening to another woman's fifth step. The "helpful insight" I was initially fearful about not having inevitably comes, time and time again, from my own experience. If not for God transforming my dark past into my most helpful tool through the process of the twelve steps, I would not get to witness the healing transformation that takes place in the process of another woman sharing with me things she may have never before shared with anyone else. I also would not have gotten to experience this therapeutic level of intimacy with other women.

I love the life that Alcoholics Anonymous has given me today and that the fifth step promises in the Big Book -- as well as the others -- have become secondary to mine witnessing them in the next alcoholic!

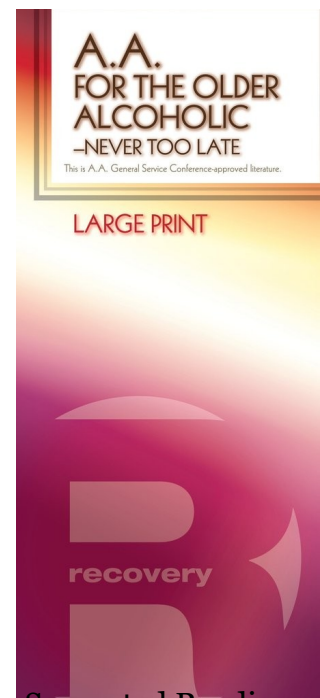
Courney A., Kerrville



Suggested Reading
**Grapevine Book of
the Month**



Suggested Reading
**AA Book of
the Month**



Suggested Reading
**Pamphlet of
the Month**

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!



**NEW BOOK
AVAILABLE NOW**

MAKING AMENDS

Finding a new freedom

\$11.50 Making Amends features 55 candid, firsthand stories from AA Grapevine magazine of members' experiences with Step Nine of the AA program. The book includes chapters on making amends to parents, children, family members, exes, financial institutions, friends and coworkers. These powerful stories illustrate how practicing Step Nine can help us, as AA's co-founder Bill W. wrote, "know a new freedom and a new happiness."

(\$10.99 for 5 or more copies)

ONLINE: WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG/BOOKS

PHONE: (800) 631-6025 (US/Canada), (818) 487-2091 (International)

ORDER
ONLINE!

Note From Your DCM

The Pre-General Service Conference and Assembly was April 7–9 in San Antonio, Texas. Thank you District 12 for all your support. We had 5 new GSRs there and many other District 12 AA Members.

At the business meeting, Proposal #1 – “Add the responsibilities of Accessibilities to the Treatment Facilities Committee,” Proposal #2– “Start a Treatment and Accessibilities Conference,” and Business Item #1 – “Add the AA Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the Big Book” were voted down (sent back to the groups.)

The Mock Conference was exciting, challenging, and taken very seriously.

Don't forget June 9–11 is the 71st annual Texas State Convention in San Antonio at the Omni at the Colonnade.

The next District meeting will be June 11 at the 720 Club. Denise T., Area Delegate, will be there to share her experience at the General Service Conference.

Upcoming Workshops/Voting Conferences and Assemblies/ District Meetings:

May 14, 2017 : District meeting — Mari G., Area Grapevine/La Vina chair, Presenter

June 9, 2017: District meeting -- Denise T., Area Delegate, Presenter

June 9–11, 2017: 71st Annual Texas State Convention—San Antonio Omni at the Collonnade

July 9, 2017: District meeting -- Michael P., Area Chair, Presenter

July 13–15 , 2017: Summer Workshop

August 13, 2017: Jonathan S, Area Alternate Delegate, Presenter

September 8–9, 2017: PI/CPC Workshop— Bastrop Best Western Bastrop Pines Inn

September 10 , 2017: District meeting — K. C. H., Area Archives Chair, Presenter

October 8, 2017 : District meeting — Rae T., Area Secretary, Presenter

October 13–15, 2017: Voting Conference & Assembly — Seguin, Tx

October 20–22, 2017: Southwest Regional Forum — San Antonio Marriot Northwest

November 12, 2017 : District meeting — Cathy H., Area Alternate Chair, Presenter

December 10, 2017 : District meeting

Yours in service, Sandy T. District 12 DCM

**“SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE
MONEY AND SPIRITUAL-
ITY MIX”**

***WHERE TO SEND YOUR
GROUP’S 7TH TRADI-
TION CONTRIBUTIONS***

DISTRICT LEVEL SUPPORT -

DISTRICT 12 TREASURER
P.O. BOX 290556
KERRVILLE, TX 78029-0556

AREA LEVEL SUPPORT -

SWTA 68 TREASURER
P.O. BOX 720651
MCALLEN, TX 78504

WORLD SERVICE SUPPORT -

THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
GRAND CENTRAL STATION
P.O. BOX 459 NEW YORK, NY
10164-0423

District 12 Trusted Servants

DCM - Sandy T.
Alt DCM - Tracy Mc.
Treasurer - David S.
Alt Treasurer - Brian M.
Secretary - Sarah J.
Alt Secretary- Clay S..
PICPC - Kathleen K.
CFC - Marty M.
H&I - Jim W.
Newsletter- Patrick Mc.
Grapevine- Joseph N.
Archives - Jayson J.
Bilingual - Horatio M.
Webmaster - David H.

SWTA 68 Panel 66 Area Officers &

Committee Chairs

Delegate	Denise T.	delegate@aa-swta.org
Alt. Delegate	Jonathan S.	altdelegate@aa-swta.org
Chairperson	Michael P.	chairperson@aa-swta.org
Alt. Chair	Cathy H.	altchair@aa-swta.org
Area Registrar	Barbara R.	registrar@aa-swta.org
Secretary	Rae T.	secretary@aa-swta.org
Treasurer	Dean D.	treasurer@aa-swta.org
Archives	K.C. H.	archives@aa-swta.org
Grapevine/La Vina	Mari G.	grapevine@aa-swta.org
Treatment	Cherie R.	treatment@aa-swta.org
Bilingual	Mario R.	bilingual@aa-swta.org
Newsletter	Sonya D.	newsletter@aa-swta.org
Webmaster	Rob. C.	webmaster@aa-swta.org
C.F.C	Randall T.	cfc@aa-swta.org
P.I./C.P.C.	Larry L.	pi-cpc@aa-swta.org
SWTA 68 WEBSITE		http://www.aa-swta.org

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 HISTORIES, UPCOMING GROUP EVENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS! REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! BE A PART OF IT! Contact:

Pjmcdan@yahoo.com

Grupo El Libro Azul

(The Blue Book Group)

Reunión en Español

(Meeting in Spanish)

6:30 pm

Todos los Martes

(Every Tuesday)

En el Club 720

(At the 720 Club)

980 Barnett

2211 GROUP

INVITES YOU
TO OUR

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

15 YEARS

UNITY, SERVICE and RECOVERY

Saturday, May 20, 2017

3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Speaker at 6:00 p.m.

1230 Bandera Highway

Kerrville, Texas

BBQ COOK-OFF*

SWEET TOOTH BAKE-OFF*

* Judging to begin PROMPTLY at 3:15p.m.

**** Potluck dinner at 4:00 p.m. ****

'Gift' Raffle

PLUS

'Split-the-Pot' Raffle

Questions? Contact:

Sandy T. (830) 792-4087, Mary D. (830) 890-0151

Mary Alice H. (361) 960-7116, Margaret L. (832) 533-0199

Or Ladera L. (361) 947-4711