



# THE STAND



JUNE 2011

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

ISSUE SIX



GOTM

## Cypress Street Group



What is it about the outbuildings of small Texas churches that make them so inviting? Not to diminish the importance of the main chapel, but the back rooms and fellowship halls of small country churches are almost the club houses of honest to God spirituality. When I arrived at the Community of Christ Church in Bandera, I saw a group of people sitting outside the back building laughing and hugging, and I knew I didn't have to check the address, I had found a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I was greeted as an old friend, and immediately felt the spirit of the fellowship flow through me. I sat down at the table across from the rattling air conditioner, and chatted with the happy people. The no-frills room was clean and comfortable, and on the wall hung the twelve steps and the twelve traditions. A woman on my right told me there was over two hundred years of sobriety among the less than twenty people at the meeting, and that the group, started in 1997, used to meet on Cypress

Street in Bandera, but has moved to the corner of 14th and Hackberry and has retained its original name despite the move.

Much sharing was done about the nature of spirituality, and how it is demonstrated through the simple concepts of trusting God, cleaning house, and helping others. These concepts are ancient, but through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, we are given a practical set of spiritual tools to carry out these concepts and climb out of the hopeless pit of alcoholism, then are able to turn around and help our fellow man do the same. For a good dose of spirituality and wonderful fellowship, get up to Bandera for the Cypress Street Group and help spread the message of recovery to the man who still suffers.

The Cypress Street Group meets at 8:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, and at 12:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

### Grapevine Article from Issue Nov 2006

#### HALF-MEASURES HIGHWAY

Joe, my new AA sponsor, had just said, "Five years is early sobriety." The remark hurt because I approached my fifth anniversary of sobriety with much pride and joy. When I finally admitted I was an alcoholic after seventeen years of drinking, and three years of Al-Anon, I was whipped and ready to take suggestions. I made eighty-seven meetings in ninety days, cleaned ashtrays, got a sponsor, worked the Steps, worked with others, and helped start a new meeting. I had it together. I had moved to a new town and I dropped my sponsees and made a half-hearted attempt to connect with AA in my new town. I compared them instead of identifying with them, and my five years of sobriety slowly eroded. My disease told me I wasn't too good at being a sponsor, and perhaps my skills were better suited for service work in baseball and scouts. On top of all this, I decided to go to night school and get a master's degree. This was the ultimate excuse for missing meetings. I spent another five years on this "half-measures" highway before it all caught up with me. I didn't drink, but "sobriety" was trying to kill me. I again became willing to take suggestions. Now, seven years later, the lesson learned is clear: I must never rest on my laurels--this disease is deadly. I've gotten involved in service work and successfully sponsor several guys. I know it's successful because I'm staying sober. I have discovered the program is a continuous process of surrender.

Anonymous  
Huntington, West Virginia

### ? Ask it Basket ?

#### How big is our Area?



Area 68 extends from Del Rio and Ozona on the West to Wharton and Giddings on the East and from Coleman and Brownwood on the North to Brownsville on the South.

Southwest Texas Area 68 was formed in the early 1950s and has had a participating delegate at the General Service Conference since 1952. It is through our delegate that our groups and districts stay connected to AA worldwide.

Some other facts about our area:

- One of 93 areas in the U.S.
- One of 4 in Texas.
- Comprised of 34 districts.
- Meets four times a year: two voting assemblies and two service workshops.
- Has annual PI/CPC Conference.
- Has annual CFC Conference.
- A group in our area initiated the proposal for the pocket version of the Big Book.

Have a Question? Just Ask it!  
Send all questions or comments to  
[district12newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:district12newsletter@gmail.com)

### Tradition of the Month

#### TRADITION 6

*An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?

Is it good for a group to lease a small building?

Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?

Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?

# Announcements

## May's Birthday Celebrants

### Outpost

Sandy H. 2  
Becky H. 2  
Kevin L. 4  
Paula R. 4  
Greg B. 4  
Tim W. 3  
Robert D. 9  
Shannon K. 3  
Dave O. 32

### Brown Bag

Deborah S. 4  
Will B. 4  
Terry T. 4  
Ed C. 30  
Linda Be. 2

### 720 Club

Randy F. 5  
Cody L. 3  
Tex L. 1  
Garret B. 1

### Guadalupe Group

Linda B. 12  
Shirley B. 30

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

Send Birthdays to  
[district12newsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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 720 Club, Kerrville, TX

Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:district12newsletter@gmail.com)

### District 12 Public Information Committee

### Education and Planning Meeting

Educational topic for June will be:

"Understanding Anonymity"

Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm at

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, AA Room, 320 Saint Peter Street  
Kerrville, TX 78028

### SPANISH SPEAKING MEETING EVERY SATURDAY @ 2PM

2211 located at 2210 Bandera Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028

## "You may be the only Big Book anyone ever reads."

As I was leaving a meeting at a church near my home the other night, I saw one of our members bring his cigarette onto the church parking lot (smoking is not allowed on church property), and then throw it on the ground as he got into his car and drove away. This made me angry as I thought about how this would reflect on the rest of us, and I wondered how he could be so self-centered and insensitive.

About a week later, I found myself at my bank dealing with an online banking error. I was resentful that I had to take time out of my day, indignant they hadn't been able to fix it over the phone, and generally a pain the ass to the guy who was trying to help me. After he resolved the issue and I calmed down, I thought about the kind of example I was setting and quickly made amends to him for my behavior.

On the way home, I thought about step twelve and the importance of practicing these principals in all our affairs. I realized how easy it is for me to still be self-centered and insensitive and how the twelfth step helps me guard against these character defects. I also realized that I have a responsibility to the program because I am an example of us all.

Today I work the twelfth step because I know that I may be the only Big Book anyone ever reads.

## 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](mailto:district12newsletter@gmail.com)

## Ebby T.

by Paul W.

The beginning of Bill Wilson's road to recovery is well chronicled in Chapter One of the Big Book. In November of 1934, while drinking gin his kitchen, Bill's telephone rang. His old school chum Ebby Thatcher was on the line and asked if he could come over for a visit. Thinking that he had found a drinking companion for the evening, Bill readily agreed.

We all know what happened next. Ebby told Bill how the principles of the Oxford Group were an effective treatment for alcoholism. Bill took this message to heart and got sober shortly thereafter. His amazing transformation has served as a model for millions of hopeless drunks and led to the creation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

However, Bill's story is not the only one that carries a message. What happened to Ebby following that meeting in the Wilson kitchen also contains a powerful warning about the cunning nature of alcoholism.

Edwin Throckmorton Thatcher was born on April 29, 1896 in Albany, New York. Several members of his family were elected as the mayor of that city and his brother lost a close election to become Governor of the state of New York. Ebby and Bill attended boarding school together and stayed in touch through the years. In fact, Ebby helped Bill get his first job on Wall Street. During this time, they apparently became drinking buddies.

After the stock market crash of 1929, the friends seldom saw each other. In 1934, Ebby went on a series of spees that culminated when he ran his father's new Packard off the road and into the side of a house, just missing a young housewife. Hoping to ease the situation, Ebby summoned his brightest smile and said, "Well, my dear, how about a cup of coffee?"

This incident quickly brought Ebby before a judge, and it appeared certain he was going to be committed to the local asylum. However, three Oxford Group members came and asked that he be turned over to

the custody of Rowland Hazard, who had three years of sobriety at that time. Under Rowland's tutelage, Ebby learned the Oxford Group principles of surrender, restitution, service and listening daily for God's guidance.

Two months later, Ebby was on Bill's doorstep, trying to sober up his old friend. While Bill soon found sobriety through the Oxford Group that lasted the rest of his life, Ebby relapsed within six months and stayed drunk off and on for the next eighteen years. According to many familiar with both men, there are several reasons for this huge disparity in results.

In her autobiography *Lois Remembers*, Lois Wilson said, "Beyond that crucial visit with Bill, Ebby seemed to do very little about helping others. He never appeared really a member of AA. After his first slip, many harmful thoughts seemed to take possession of him. He appeared jealous of Bill and critical, even when sober, of both the Oxford Group and AA."

Another AA old-timer who had known Ebby said that, "Ebby held a deep resentment for Bill, Dr. Bob, and others, because he felt he was more the founder of what was to become AA than anyone else. Perhaps Bill was thinking of Ebby when he wrote the many strong statements in the Big Book condemning resentments. For whatever the reasons, Ebby never seemed to give himself completely to the simple program of Alcoholics Anonymous."

In 1953, Ebby landed in Searcy W.'s alcoholic hospital in Dallas. He lived in Texas for 4-5 years, and stayed sober the entire time. He returned to the East Coast and promptly relapsed. He ended up in halfway house in upstate New York, where he stayed until his death in 1966.

And despite his struggles, Ebby's story has a happy ending. According to Searcy, "Most people say that Ebby died drunk, but he did not. He was sober 21 1/2 years. My source on that was directly from was Lois Wilson; she told me unequivocally that Ebby was sober 21 1/2 years when he passed





## IT'S AN OUTSIDE - INSIDE JOB

### The A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Program

connects the A.A. member being released from prison with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community. When the soon-to-be-released A.A. inmate writes us, we match that person to a Prerelease Contact in their community. If you are interest-ed in this form of service, we will call you, get the okay, and then send you the name of a contact. Many A.A.s involved in this service stress the importance of getting the former inmate to a meeting as soon as possible, usually within the first 48 hours after release. During this time, you help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, perhaps locate a sponsor or home group, and become connected to the local

A.A. community. You introduce the newly released inmate to others in A.A. so they have a broad, healthy base. An A.A. member who is part of a correctional facilities volunteer program needs to be familiar with, and adhere to, rules that correctional facilities have regarding a volunteer's contact with inmates, both while they are in the facility and after they are released. This is one of many ways you can carry the message to AA's locked up. Pick up a pamphlet at a rack near you...or call Clay E. @ 830.496.0003. Service opportunities abound. Get involved and receive the blessing.

***Remember, if you get locked up, we'll see you on the Inside!***

## LIVING THE TRADITIONS

FROM AAGRAPEVINE.ORG

In our book AA Comes of Age, Bill W. says: "Our Traditions are a guide to better ways of working and living and they are also an antidote for our various maladies. The Twelve Traditions are to group survival and harmony what AA's Twelve Steps are to each member's sobriety and peace of mind.

"But the Twelve Traditions also point straight at many of our individual defects. By implication they ask each of us to lay aside pride and resentment. They ask for personal as well as group sacrifice...The Traditions guarantee the equality of all members...They show how we may best relate ourselves to each other and to the world outside."

For some of us, the Traditions have been in reality an extension of the Twelve Steps. In trying to understand the last part of the Twelfth Step--"practice these principles in all our affairs"--I know it's helpful to use the

Twelve Traditions as a guideline. Here are some of the ways each Tradition affected me personally:

Using the Traditions as guides to spiritual progress, we begin to know that "God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves," and the sense of humility is enhanced. So, although the Twelve Traditions are designed to further group survival and harmony (and those are most important), a closer examination shows that another ultimate objective is the welfare of the individual AA member--truly an extension of the Twelve Steps to recovery.

*"They work for individuals as well as groups."*

## Twelve Steps of a Relapse

[www.serenityfound.org](http://www.serenityfound.org)

1. I decided I could handle any emotional problems if other people would just quit trying to run my life.
2. I firmly believe that there is no greater power than myself and anyone who says differently is insane.
3. I made a decision to remove my will and my life from God, who didn't understand me anyway.
4. I made a searching and thorough moral inventory of everyone I know, so they couldn't fool me and take advantage of my good nature.
5. I sought these people out and tried to get them to admit to me, by God, the exact nature of their wrongs.
6. I became willing to help these people get rid of their defects of character.
7. I was humble enough to ask these people to remove their shortcomings.
8. I kept a list of all the people who had harmed me, and waited patiently for a chance to get even.
9. I got even with these people whenever possible except when to do so would get me into trouble.
10. I continue to take everyone's inventory and when they are wrong, which is most of the time, I promptly make them admit it.
11. Sought through the concentration of my willpower to get God, who didn't understand me anyhow, to see that my desires were best, and He ought to give me the power to carry them out.
12. Having maintained my emotional problems with these steps, I can thoroughly recommend them to others who don't want to lose their hard-earned status, but wish to be left alone to practice neurosis in everything they do for the rest of their days.

## Don't Think! Meditate!

by Clay E.

One personal form of Meditation that I practice, is not thinking. Not always easy, but simple. With so many committees in my mind competing for attention I use up precious energy that usually is not very beneficial in the grand scheme of life. Stop, command the competing thoughts to go away, even for a few minutes. Relax. Finding a quiet and comfortable place sit or lay down, let your shoulders drop, breathe in a nice long slow helping of fresh Spirit air, sigh, letting the Spirit air flow slowly in and out of our body, put every World thought out of mind, slow our respirations, and focus on Spirit. Our spirit, and the Spirit of The Universe. Listen to meditation music because it blocks out unwanted World noise. There are some good wood wind sounds like the one I am listening to as I pen this: Spirit Flutes: The Gold Collection, by David R. Maracle, New Age.

Sounds of wood, water falls, bubbling brooks, rain, wind, and fire are good because they are of the Nature Spirit. Close your eyes, or focus on a fire, a flame, a rock, or an orange. Pick something of the Nature Realm, and remove human made stimuli; instill only the Spirit, which takes us deep into the place where we want to go, where the true us resides, in our spirit. Here, we find Peace, Serenity, Calm, Confidence, Oneness, Satisfaction, Health, Rest, and Purpose. Here, the Great Spirit of the Universe connects with our spirit. Here, we find Happiness and Joy. Here, we are truly at home, where we came from, where we are going, where we are.

**Ponder this...**

## **SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA 68 DISTRICT 12 WEBSITE**

Check out the Alcoholics Anonymous District 12 website for events and general information: [www.aa12.org](http://www.aa12.org) You can find AA meeting times and locations in the area, covers Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall and Kimble counties. Whether you're looking for AA Events or Service Meetings, the district site has up to date information. Need help finding AA resources such as the Big Book online or getting in touch with the General Service Office in San Antonio or New York? Try the "Resources" tab. Here you'll find links to AA as a whole. There's so much information at your fingertips, just click.

### **Are you getting your copy of The Stand?**

The official AA newsletter for Area 68, District 12 is called the Stand. Available through your group's GSR or online. They're also distributed to all the area sober houses and sober clubs. If your group isn't receiving the Stand, have your GSR send his/her email to [District12Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:District12Newsletter@gmail.com) and we'll add him/her to the list of monthly distribution. Monthly birthdays can also be submitted for printing in the birthday section as well as your own submissions for printing. We also welcome any feedback! What would you like to see, what can we do better? Download your copy of the Stand today, from the AA District 12 website: [www.aa12.org](http://www.aa12.org) or ask your group's GSR.

## **TOP TEN**

### **Signs You're at a Bad AA Meeting**

10. Most meetings involve trying to invent a soft drink that will throw off a breathalyzer.
9. It's your week to bring the booze.
8. This weeks' meeting topic: Drink your way to sobriety!
7. "My name is smokey and I have a drinking problem, you see I have three beers and only two hands..."
6. Your twenty minutes of sobriety qualifies you as having "mentor" status.
5. Near the end of the meeting they ask you, "Will you be joining us in the library for fine cigars and cognac?"
4. The biggest breakthrough at the meeting is Bob's confession that he likes swimming naked through a tub of sparkling champagne Jello.
3. During the break they're having a beer chug-a-lug contest.
2. You are testifying and you hear from the back "Hey, aren't you Joe Smith of 123 West Elm, Phone 555-1212?"
1. One of the members next to you says "Hi, my name is alcoholic, and I'm a Steve."

## **HEARD AT MEETINGS....**

"Take my advice, I  
won't be using it."

"Unity doesn't mean  
conformity."

"There is a wrench for every  
nut in AA."

# **AA Service Opportunities**

## **----- AA Public Information -----**

### ***Anonymous not Invisible***

***By Terry T. - PI Chairperson***

Prior to 1956, Alcoholics Anonymous' public relations were handled primarily by the co-founder Bill W. The Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, published in 1939, was the primary vehicle by which our message of recovery from a hopeless state of mind and body began to flourish. Then following a period of successful recoveries and encouragement through articles in national publications, the General Service Board of AA formed the first Public Information Committee and subsequently, the General Service Conference established this policy for AA Public Information:

In all public relationships, AA's sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to the still suffering alcoholics, and to those who may be interested in their problem, our own experience as individuals and as a fellowship in learning to live without alcohol.

We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express a sincere interest. We believe further that all efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety...

Bill seemed to realize that if we were to survive our own egos, the three legacies consisting of Recovery, Unity, and Service strengthened by Traditions and a Service Structure needed to be turned over to the fellowship.

Local PI Committees are responsible to the entity they serve. Our local committee serves the groups in District 12 of SWTA 68, a 5 county area in SW Texas. Our function is to inform not only our local non-AA community, but also just as importantly the fellowship in our district what AA is, what we do and don't do in accordance with our 12 traditions. Therefore, it is important that committee members learn these things by studying conference-approved literature. Most important is that committee members continue to strive toward a solid sobriety using the tools so freely given to us and to pass it on to others.

If you are working the 12 steps with a sponsor on a continuous basis, are willing to learn more about the 12 Traditions, and can spend time on any number of projects, the PI committee wants you. Minimal computer skills are helpful but not necessary. For a list of activities that PI committees are involved in, see the PI Workbook and AA Guidelines for Public Information at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), or come to a committee meeting in Kerrville at St. Peter's Episcopal Church (AA meeting Room) 6 pm the third Wednesday of every month. We welcome all who feel as we do that we owe a debt of gratitude to those who passed it on to us. And Gratitude shows itself in Action. Contact Terry T at: 830-792-6547 or [crabtree49@stx.rr.com](mailto:crabtree49@stx.rr.com)



# 36th Annual Hill Country Roundup

## "WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT"

### FRIDAY, August 26

4:00 pm - Registration Desk Opens  
 6:00 pm - Pizza Dinner in the courtyard  
 7:40 pm - Welcome: Doug U., Conference Voice  
 7:45 pm - Raffle  
 8:00 pm - AA Speaker: Otto M., Plano, TX

### SATURDAY, August 27

8:00 am - Coffee & Tacos In Hospitality Rm  
 9:00 am - Al-Anon Meeting - Conference Rm D  
 10:15 am - Raffle  
 10:30 am - AA Speaker: Angie P., Cincinnati, OH  
 12:00 pm - Lunch  
 1:15 pm - Raffle  
 1:30 pm - AFG Speaker: Cathy W., Gardena, CA  
 3:00 - 5:00 Recovery in Song  
 4:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Conference Rm D  
 4:00 pm to Fajita dinner  
 7:00 pm - (Casa 340 and tennis court area)  
 6:00 pm - Old Timers - 20+ years in Recovery  
 AA & Al-Anon - Everyone Welcome  
 Chaired by: Steve M., Kerrville, TX  
 7:15 pm - Countdown  
 7:30 pm - Raffle  
 8:00 pm - AA Speaker: Kirk K., Atlanta, GA  
 9:00 pm - Hospitality Room Open til 10 pm

### SUNDAY, August 28

8:00 am - Coffee & Donuts In Hospitality Rm  
 9:45 am - Final Raffle  
 10:00 am - AA Speaker: Mickey B., London, ENG

### Pre-Register and SAVE \$\$

This Year's rates are: Pre-Registration - \$15.00

Registration At The Door - \$20.00

Pre-Register before August 14, 2011 and SAVE

### INN of the HILL RESERVATIONS

For Reservations Call (830) 895-5000 / (800) 292-5690

Ask for Hill Country Roundup Rates

Reservations Must Be Made BEFORE

August 10, 2011 to receive Roundup Rates

Double Room \$84.00 per night (plus Tax)

Those wishing to participate in the  
 Recovery in Song

Contact David S. (830) 896-8553  
 spangler41@gmail.com

### HOSPITALITY ROOM

Free Coffee, Soft Drinks, Snacks & Desserts

Friday August 26 - 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday August 27 - 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday August 28 - 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Hospitality Room Will Close During Meetings

### BETWEEN MEETINGS

Raffle - 15 minutes prior to speaker meetings.  
 Speaker CD's From This & Other Events Available  
 In the Building Lobby. Archives display at rear of  
 Meeting Hall

If you have questions, contact Cade S. (830)285-3268  
 nsaurage@stx.rr.com

**Pre-Registration  
 MUST BE POST-  
 MARKED BY  
 August 14, 2011**

**Mail Check &  
 Registration To:**

Hill Country  
 Roundup  
 P.O. Box 293993  
 Kerrville, TX 78029-3993

### Mail In Registration

Pre-Register - Save \$5.00 - Avoid waiting in line.

Pre-Registration Fee \$15.00 per person, includes Fajita Dinner, Hospitality Rm Snacks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do NOT want your name added to the Roundup mailing list. [ ]

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Last Init.) \_\_\_\_\_ Group or City: \_\_\_\_\_

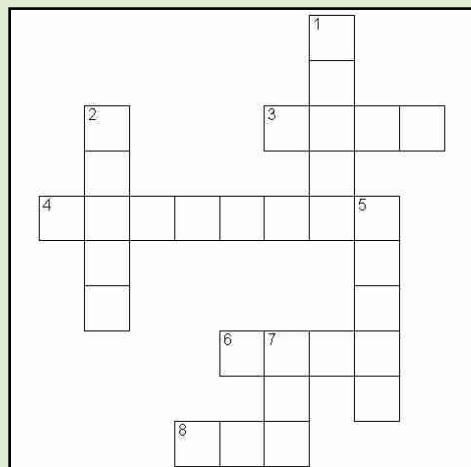
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Recovery: \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHECK INCLUDES \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DONATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATION



"You've come to the right place, fella."

- aaGrapevine.org



June 11' - Big Book

### Across

3 \_\_\_\_\_ of power was our dilemma.

4 The Point is to \_\_\_\_\_ along spiritual lines.

6 We \_\_\_\_\_ recovered.

8 Abandon yourself to who?

### Down

1 Driven by a 100 form of these.

2 You will not overcome drinking without this  
 step

5 Our primary purpose is to stay \_\_\_\_\_.

7 No human \_\_\_\_\_ could relieve our alcoholism.

### District 12 Newsletter Focus

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

<http://stores.ebay.com/Cheryls-Bookmarks>

# God - The Director

by Stephan M.

"Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director," pg. 62 A.A. Big Book. The relationship between Director and actor, or God and myself, was one that I did not fully understand until recently. Early in recovery, I was under the impression that while trying to play God in the past, I had somehow been directing the show called life. I could never understand why things never worked out how I wanted them to or why people wronged me.

The answer is simple... I am not the Director nor have I ever been. I was the guy that no one likes, "the actor who wants to run the whole show." Being the actor and trying to control everything around me never turns out to be anything other than a disaster. I anger the people around me and at some point they retaliate "seemingly without provocation." At this point, I have assumed two roles: neither of which are mine to play. On one hand, I am playing God, while on the other, I am playing the victim, and I cannot figure out why there is no joy or peace in my life. In order to find "a new happiness and a new freedom" like the book promises, I must be very clear: I am "in the world to play the role He assigns," nothing more and nothing less.

When I finally assume the role that has always been mine, I find that life becomes so much easier. I am awake to what is really going on, and as a result I am aware of the miracles in my life and in the lives of those around me. I am open to new experiences both mentally and spiritually. I finally have that feeling of completeness I have been searching for my whole life. I am happy, joyous and free!!!

## UPCOMING AA EVENTS

AREA 68	WHERE	WHEN
Texas ICYPAA Bid Committee Meeting	Austin @ Adams St. House	June 11 1 pm
Grapevine 67th Anniversary	San Antonio - Club 12	June 19 11 am
Texas State Convention	San Antonio	June 24-26
DISTRICT 12	WHERE	WHEN
District 12 Monthly Meeting	Center Point - AA Hall	June 12 2 pm
H & I Signup	Kerrville - 720 Club	June 19 3 pm
Public Information Committee Meeting	St. Peter's Ep. Church	June 15 6 pm

## HAM ON WRY

"Alcoholism is a disease, but it's the only disease you can get yelled at for having."

-Mitch Hedburg

"You know you're an alcoholic if you've ever had a sunburn on the roof of your mouth."

-anonymous

### From the desk of Tommy F.

Hello Friends,

Sitting in a meeting recently with the topic, "We aren't a glum lot," we talked about how we absolutely insist on enjoying life; how if a newcomer could see no joy or fun in our existence they wouldn't want it. I thought how important it is that we be happy about our sobriety. Recovery in the Texas Hill Country is far from being stupid, boring or glum. There are many meetings each week that are packed with recovered alcoholics sharing their experience, strength and hope. Everybody should be able to find one that fits its style, time schedule and location. Updated meeting schedules can be found on the District 12 website [www.aa12.org](http://www.aa12.org), including the new men's meeting on Wednesday nights at the 720 Club. District 12 is full of service opportunities to fit everyone. The Treatment Center Committee is always looking for volunteers to take meetings to the local Treatment Centers with a high need of women. The Jails need both men and women as well. Speaking of the Correctional Committee, District 12 will be hosting the Area CFC Conference in 2012 and the planning

committee has begun meeting regularly and it's not too late to be a part of this event.

There are some cool events in the next couple months you might want to check out. June 24-26 in San Antonio is the 65th Annual Texas State AA Convention. Registration for this action packed weekend is only \$30 and will include speakers from both AA and AI Anon and a dance. July 22-24 is the next Area 68 Workshop. District 30 in Laredo, Texas will host SWTA 68 Workshop; along with the workshops on the Agenda that weekend they will do an Area Inventory. It's not too early to start planning for our BIG Hill Country Round-up right around the corner in August.

As you can see there is no time in the Hill Country to be bored and glum. Get involved in your recovery today!!! I look forward to seeing you guys like always in the rooms, one of the monthly District 12 meetings, or one of the many AA functions in the Area!!

In the Spirit of Love and Service,  
Tommy F  
DCM District 12

### 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** Joseph G.

**Treatment Facilities** Andrew B.

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