



THE STAND



JULY 2011

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

ISSUE SEVEN



GOTM

INGRAM SOLUTION



by
Critic F.

I remember being in one of the Hill Country's myriad treatment facilities back in the summer of '08, a friend of mine in San Antonio referred to it as "one hell of a good whiskey farm," and I had reached that magic number of ten days as an inmate, so I was allowed to attend outside meetings. Now, I had been to a million AA meetings before, and had a drawer full of desire chips. In the six years prior to me going to treatment, I had been in and out of the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous so many times I was starting to think that my condition was indeed unique. I was told to "keep coming back," "put the plug in the jug," "just don't drink and go to meetings!" All that advice was certainly well intentioned, but the fact of the matter was, it was killing me.

Needless to say, I had a pretty low opinion of AA. But seeing as I was trapped in the back of a white van barreling down the two lane black top, a green river on my right and a bunch of detoxing hooligans surrounding me, arguing over the radio station, I had no choice but to go to yet another meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. My real motivation was to get out of the treatment center for a while, but what I found inside the dilapidated little love shack we pulled up at, it has since been remodeled and has working bathrooms, was what I had been looking for those past six years: a Solution to my hopeless state of mind and body.

I sat behind this big burly dude with a tattoo on the back of his head that proclaimed, "life's a blast!" I thought to myself, "where the frog am I?" But out of his mouth came the clear message of how he had gotten out from under the deadly weight of alcoholism. And then the next guy that shared didn't complain about how long he had had to wait in line at the grocery store that day, but instead shared about how cool his life was, and he didn't end with that. He went on to explain how to do the work necessary to get connected to God, which in turn made his life so cool. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous was first revealed to me at the Ingram Solutions Group, and the people practically radiated happiness. At the time it was kind of obnoxious because I didn't believe that anybody could be that happy, but by doing what I was asked, working the twelve steps which connected me to a higher power, I now have the ability to be obnoxiously happy, and for that, I am incredibly grateful to the Ingram Solutions Group. Do come by for a visit, they talk the talk and walk the walk. 'Nuff said.

The Ingram Solution Group meets on Monday nights at 6:00 pm, Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm, Friday morning at 6:45 am and Saturday morning at 9:30 am at The Outpost in Ingram, Texas, 3449 Junction Highway. Birthday night is held the last Wednesday of every month.

Grapevine Article from Issue Feb 1985

WHO CARRIES THE MESSAGE?

THE MIDDLE part of our Twelfth Step reads, "we tried to carry this message to alcoholics," and our AA Preamble concludes with "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." Naturally, the best way we can help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety is by trying to carry the AA message to them. Unfortunately, many people in our Fellowship believe that the only way they can carry the message is by one-to-one contact with the still-suffering alcoholic.

I disagree. True, that may be the best way, but it is not the only way. Once people sober up in AA, when they walk down the street holding their heads high, with smiles on their faces, their eyes clear and shining with enthusiasm, they are carrying the message to those who remember them as hopeless drunks. Their former drinking pals can easily see a marked change, and chances are very good that someone will ask what it is.

We must do all in our power to carry the message of AA, for there are millions of lost people who are still drinking and have not yet been chosen to find the miracle of AA. I feel they deserve sobriety as much as I do, and perhaps their sobriety can begin with me.

In trying to carry the message, we not only may help those people who are still suffering, but we are definitely helping ourselves and our own sobriety.

G. T., Minnesota

? Ask it Basket ?

Why aren't groups allowed to accept outside contributions?

Over the years, Alcoholics Anonymous has affirmed and strengthened a tradition of being fully self-supporting and of not seeking, or accepting, contributions from nonmembers. When outside contributions are received at the General Service Office, they are returned with a note explaining A.A.'s position on the question of self-support. Expenses at the group level for rental of meeting places, coffee and refreshments, literature, etc., are met by "passing the hat."

Also we surrendered to the fact that we could no longer drink, because of the price it required of us, and that wasn't money. Today, we put into a basket what little we have and begin to acquire a life worth living. It makes us responsible for the first time (for many of us). At no time has an AAer paid their dues for we believe in the 7th Tradition and showing how an alcoholic can be financially responsible. The 7th Tradition also keeps potentially controlling outsiders out of our fellowship. If that were to happen, we would rarely find someone who receives the gift of sobriety.

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

Tradition of the Month

TRADITION 7

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?

Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?

How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

Announcements

June's Birthday Celebrants

Ingram Sol.

Ron K. 5
Sarah Beth M. 3
Brooke R. 1
Tom J. 6
Homer M. 7
Danny M. 14
Mike S. 18mo.

2211

Randell H. 27
Kristen M. 25
David W. 22
Peggy O. 22
Leslie G. 9
Bonnie D. 7
Sandy T. 7
Karia S. 4
Nikki S. 4
Tamby E. 4
Will B. 4
Judy E. 1
Don E. 1

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

Send Birthdays to
district12newsletter@gmail.com



Ask
AA Annie

Attention Lady Friends! Somehow I've been roped into writing a column in response to your questions. While I cannot figure why ya'll think a crazy loon like me has any kinda' sensible words to share, I am certain that at the very least this experience will provide terrific toilet seat material for all of us! I joke. But in all seriousness I was approached about this column a while back and after much deliberation with my most trusted friend, who we shall call "Wooley", we have decided to travel on this adventure with the hope that sober sisters in sobriety may find solace in knowing they are not alone. I, with deep appreciation and love, invite you to send me your questions about how to live this new life. Let's live, laugh, and love sober together.

With great gratitude,

AA Annie

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 2211 Club, Kerrville, TX

Sunday, July 17th 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, July 20th @ 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

DR. SILKWORTH: GOD'S GIFT TO DRUNKS

by Paul W.

Bill Wilson and Dr. Robert Smith are recognized as the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, and rightly so. There are also certain individuals who, while not recognized as founders of our organization, played an indispensable role in its creation. Dr. Carl Jung, Rowland Hazard and Ebby Thatcher are among this group. However, perhaps no one outside of AA made a bigger contribution than Dr. William Duncan Silkworth.

Most AA members know Dr. Silkworth as the co-author of "The Doctor's Opinion" in the Big Book. He was the first medical professional to identify the "phenomenon of craving." His theory that alcoholics had an allergy to booze, and reacted differently to it than non-alcoholics, was the foundation of the first step. That discovery alone would have made Silkworth a vital part of AA's history. However, this was just one of many gifts the man known as "Silky" gave our fellowship.

Silkworth graduated from Princeton in 1896, and obtained his medical degree at New York University in 1900. While working as an intern at Bellevue Hospital, he found himself drawn to alcoholics, and they to him. When asked why he loved working with drunks, Silkworth would smile and say, "It's a gift." Even the most hardened cases would open their hearts to him.

Trained as a neurologist, Silkworth entered private practice on two different occasions. However, both times he abandoned this more lucrative route because he missed working with drunks. He finally found a home at Charles B. Towns Hospital in New York City, a private facility specializing in alcoholism and drug addiction.

At a time when alcoholism was almost universally regarded as a sinful practice and alcoholics were considered as morally weak, Dr. Silkworth believed in the essential goodness of the problem drinker. One of his early patients dropped on his knees before the doctor, tears streaming down his face, begging for a drink. "I said to myself then and there," Dr. Silkworth related, "this is not just a vice or habit. This is a compulsion, this is a pathological craving, this is a disease!"

However, only about 2% of his patients fully recovered. This weighed heavily upon the kind

doctor and he was often deeply discouraged. This all changed in the winter of 1934.

Dr. Silkworth came to work that December morning and found his long time patient Bill Wilson lying in his hospital bed. The doctor immediately sensed there was something different about Wilson. He asked his patient what happened. Bill began by describing how he was overcome by a wave of hopelessness and depression. In his despair he called out to God and God answered in a profound way. Bill then related that he saw a blinding white light and knew that he was free from his obsession with alcohol. The only condition was that he share this new found answer with other suffering alcoholics.

Bill paused and turned to Dr. Silkworth. "Ever since it happened, I've been lying here wondering whether or not I've lost my mind. Tell me, doctor - am I insane - or not?"

Silkworth reply was the first of his indispensable contributions to AA. "I don't know what you've got," he counseled Bill, "but whatever it is, hang on to it. You are not insane. And you may have the answer to your problem."

Many doctors would have written off Bill's experience as hallucination or the by-product of a brain damaged by alcohol. Such a response would have likely killed the small ray of hope that Bill now had. Alcoholics Anonymous might not have gotten off the ground if another doctor had been attending Bill that morning. However Dr. Silkworth knew that what happened to Bill was real and important. His validation of Bill's experience, as much as the spiritual experience itself, started AA on its way.

However, Silkworth went even farther by allowing Bill to come back into Towns Hospital to share his discovery with other alcoholics. This process of "carrying the message" was unheard of at the time. The good doctor literally placed his professional reputation on the line. As Bill said, "Without Silky's help, we never would have got going - or kept going!"

Dr. Silkworth passed away on March 22, 1951. At the time of his death, he had treated over 51,000 alcoholics.

Responsibility Declaration

When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want it to always be there and for that I am responsible.

Unfortunately, you cannot you give the desire to anyone to get sober. If they are to find God the desire must come from within. We have men and women who want to get sober and cry out for help.

"Never avoid these responsibilities but be sure you are doing the right thing if you assume them. Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery. A kindly act once in a while is not enough; you have to act the Good Samaritan everyday, if need be." Pg. 97 Alcoholics Anonymous.

The process, if you will, for 12 Step Calls, starts with a drunk reaching out for help. Service opportunities begin here. You start by calling another sober alcoholic to come and assist you. The two of you can assess the needs of the prospect, making a rough plan of how to proceed.

If they are drunk and just need to dry out they probably just need being cared for usually in someone's home while the detox period takes place.

If you open you home to help an individual they will need three kinds of support. First, physical, this includes hydrating and keeping their sugar levels up. Supplies for this, for example, are honey, orange juice, Gatorade, candy and other high sugar products.

When you see them start to tremble or shake give them the high sugar items. Keeping them hydrated with or without gastric upset is essential. They may also need a warm blanket, shower, toothbrush and the like.

Secondly, emotional support is paramount. Fear, anger, crying, and acting out are a few things to expect. Let them know you were there and know what they are going through. Reassure them that the process usually takes about twenty-four hours and someone will stay with them the entire time.

Lastly, spiritual support is vital. Stuffing the program, steps, your opinions of why they are going through this, or creating chaos is not spiritual help. Keeping yourself in fit spiritual condition is the only to help during a twelve-step call. Once the physical illness has subsided, you can start the process of helping them understand their disease.

They may also need assistance in finding somewhere to stay in the community, or if they are willing and it is possible find resources to get them in treatment.

This can be divided up between several people as it is very draining on those involved and want to give the attention they need.

The area of service include making the first phone call, getting additional help, providing supplies, taking shifts to sit with the person, making living arrangements, or just being available if something else is needed.

No matter the outcome, remember your actions with the help of your higher power kept you sober today.

What do you do for Meditation?

I make sure to schedule time to devote to meditation. I use music to concentrate on. My posture is important to the calming affect of my meditation - Jeff

It's only through prayer and meditation that the Lord grants me the grace to discern right from wrong... I gain knowledge of myself through this. It's my safeguard against myself. It levels my pride and helps me from giving in to temptation. - Amos

I do my morning meditation by removing myself from the world... I put on my head phones and block out the thoughts in my head, the people around me, and world that I live in... Then I just go some where to watch people... I watch what people do without their sounds... It reminds me that not everything is what it seems or pretends to be... I talk to God and pray that what I say will match my actions... and that that message can be seen in me through out the day... this not only helps me to be more peaceful.. but reminds me that the same people places and things that keep me irritable... are a mirrors image of myself... hands reaching for help... and only through my actions and forgiveness can those hands be helped. - Jonathon

I read the Pages 87 through 89 every morning when I wake up. Then I spend the then next 15 to 20 minutes in total quite and pray for those around me that they might be helped.. and that I might be able to help those people that God puts in my path. - Chris

Meditation happens in stillness and silence. It is both part of my daily ritual or routine and an impromptu experience that comes on it's own. In ritual, when I have the time, I sit in the same chair, in the same position and practice a technique called Vipassana. The word itself means "seeing things as they actually are" in ancient Indian Sanskrit. Because the technique is complicated and requires time, I cannot practice as often or for as long as I'd like. I danced around the meditation suggestion for years but once I actually dedicated time to a practice, I realized the benefit. It cleanses my soul and I'm sticking with it. - Bill

So its totally a GOD thing that you would ask me to write a paragraph on meditation. It is one of the challenges I have in recovery. My mind has been racing for so many years in my disease that I have to really discipline myself to quiet my mind. I try to find the quietest place and breathe deeply and focus on one thing. I've tried soft meditation music and it makes me sleepy. So, with that being said...my time listening to my higher power is not always easy but I have found peace amongst chaos. And I know that connecting throughout my day through prayer, willingness and gratitude I feel GODS presence. - Angela M

From the desk of Tommy F.

Everybody loves Summer Time and boy do things heat up in the dog days of summer. July is a special time of year for picnics, bar-b-ques, hanging out at the river, or just soaking up some sun with friends. Personally it's a special time for me as well. It wasn't so 14 years ago when I found myself in a room of Alcoholics Anonymous. The summer of '97 was a whole different picture than it is today. In my story the early days were filled with fear, anger, restlessness, and self-pity. I can't help but remember the days of my wining and complaining in meetings, the time I was given a BROWN CHIP for having a "shitty attitude," or when the members of my Home Group suggested I not attend any more Group Conscience Meetings for a while. The first year I suffered from Untreated Alcoholism in the rooms trying to get better without a Big Book, Sponsor, or working the Steps. I'm so grateful for the man who sat across the table and explained the three-part illness of the Body, Mind and Spirit. He drew a circle and triangle on a sheet of paper and explained the three part solution of Unity, Recovery, and Service. My life soon changed when action was taken in all three areas. My passion and helping others rocketed me to the fourth dimension that landed me in the Hill Country in 2000. I have since been blessed with many experiences leading up to where the Hill Country Recovery Community is today. To watch the fellowship grows up around me; two halfway houses in Kerrville in 2000 to over a dozen

today. Having the same Home Group since it started in late 2000 until today, not to mention the many, many life long friends I have met, and the honor to serve as District 12 DCM. I can't explain how I have gone from the angry untreated alcoholic who was barred from Group Conscience meetings to a place of passion, love and service other than the power of God and the three-part solution of Unity, Recovery, and Service.

I pray that my experience, strength and hope will encourage you to join us. AA and District 12 needs you!! Sign up for an H&I Meeting, get involved by carrying the message into jails, sign up to be on the District 12 Helpline call list, help distribute meeting schedules. There are many opportunities available not to mention the elections of District 12 Officers and Committee Chairpersons this fall in respect to the Spirit of Rotation. Keep an eye out for the District 12 "Guidelines" Workshop coming soon to educate and raise interest to the many service positions that will come available in the Fall.

Once again Thank You Alcoholics Anonymous and District 12 for the Unity, the Recovery, the Service, and most of all MY LIFE!!!

In The Spirit of Love and Service
Tommy F

IT'S AN INSIDE JOB...

Corrections Facility Committee, or CFC, of District 12 is proud to announce that District 12 is the Host District for the 2012 AREA 68 CFC CONFERENCE. We have a planning committee meeting every month, usually the last Sunday of the month at 2pm. The meetings are for the purpose of planning the event: agenda, entertainment, speakers, fund raiser raffle, hotel accommodations, professional and volunteer panel, decorations, flier, printing, registration, meals, hospitality room, and much more. There is a lot of service work involved in putting one of these conferences together. I am personally grateful to all of our committee members for their commitment to their positions. The conference will be held at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville on February 17-19, 2012. It's not that far off and we still have a lot to do. The committee will be counting on some of you to help with this important endeavor; individual volunteers, Group contributions, and general support. This is an opportunity for District 12 to showcase the great recovery and service work we have here. Our District stands out among the other Districts in that we have more meetings, large attendance, committed service volunteers, and good fellowship.

This event will draw people from Brady to Brownsville, from Junction to San Antonio. Area 68 sponsors only two conferences every year and this is one of them. We will have professionals from Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas State Alcohol Rehabilitation Services, and prison and jail administrators. The speakers will come from all over the state, and possibly one from New York. There is an AA musical band performing live entertainment and a dance.

Whether you have any experience in carrying the message behind the walls or not, we extend this invitation for your help in making this the best ever CFC Conference the Area has ever seen. Let's show them what we are capable of as we display the local color and flavor of the Hill Country Recovery of District 12. For information contact Clay E. @ 830.496.0003. Come join our team and let's do some service work! And remember, if you land behind the walls of jail in District 12, we will **SEE YOU ON THE INSIDE!**

HEARD AT MEETINGS....

"The joy is in the journey, so enjoy the ride."

"FAITH IS NOT BELIEF
WITHOUT PROOF; IT'S
TRUST WITHOUT

"One of my middle names
is diversion..."

www.melloron.com

Committee of the Month

Secretary's Duties and Responsibilities

The Secretary takes down minutes of the meetings, reads, and keeps track of previous minutes, and assists DCM in running monthly District Committee Meetings. Some service in Group or Central Office or General Services is useful, as is some background in general office work. Computer skills are useful but not required. The job requires some time and needs to be carried out on schedule; this takes interest, not to mention devotion.

A good Secretary can add great vitality and drive to the District Meeting. Even the best committee can be greatly handicapped by an inefficient secretary and, conversely, can be much more effective with a competent one. Taking minutes of meetings means sifting through a few thousand words to get the essence of what has been said and record it. Therefore, a Secretary should be a good listener to capture what is being said, write it down and be able to read the minutes for the next District meeting. In District 12, we also send out the minutes of every meeting to attendees and District Committee Chairs. There is also an Alternate Secretary, which is elected to act as the Secretary's stand-in and automatically replace the Secretary who resigns or is unable to serve for any reason. The Secretary's job is an important function in the running of AA business. It's all part of what makes AA the helping hand of the man (or woman) that's still suffering.

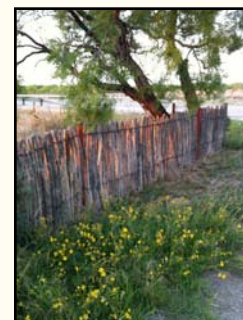
Recovery in the Hill Country

is such a blessing! In my experience, not all AA is the same. I spent 10 years in AA in El Paso, TX, attending meetings and using a sponsor, but I was unable to stay sober. At one time, I had 6 years and 1 year several times. The meetings I attended in El Paso were based on the 12 steps, the traditions and p. 449 (3rd ed). A Big Book was rarely seen, and the 12x12 was nonexistent. I did benefit from being able to attend meetings here in Kerrville while on vacation once or twice a year. As I wasn't familiar with the BB, I simply worked the steps off the wall.

In 1998, I was truly blessed by moving to Kerrville for good. It really shocked me that most attendees brought their Big Books and 12x12's with them. I was also shocked to find out that AA had other approved literature. Two days after my arrival, on a Friday night, I met my sponsor who stepped up to welcome me. After a talk, I asked if Sharon would be kind enough to sponsor me.

March 15, 1999, I received a year chip. Unfortunately, on May 7, due to a tremendous argument with my father, who I was taking care of, I chose to steal and take one of his Xanax. Sharon, being the good sponsor she was, requested that I get honest with everyone. This time, giving up my sobriety date was extremely difficult, especially since I had only taken a Xanax. That was a little over 12 years ago and actually turned out to be a blessing. After that, I KNEW that I would go to any length to change the way I felt.

Linda Bowman



Personal Story by Chris R.

If I had known it was going to be my last drink, I assure you I woulda made it something other than Black Label Beer. A hot one at that! It was a cold night in November 1987.

I started this crazy journey Jan. 1971, Kerrville Texas. (My Dad moved us to the Hill Country from Odessa, TX in 1964. We had a nice, church going family.) I will never forget that first bottle of Boones Farm apple wine! I was a junior in high school. From the start I drank differently than other folks. My twin brother did too! In the beginning it was all fun...all the time. We drank HUGE quantities without any real problems. Not much drama. I was trained as a professional chef and it just kind of all went with the territory. Everybody drank. My social life simply didn't include anyone that didn't drink.

I traveled around a bunch... thought I was chasing a career... actually I was just running from myself. (Lived in 9 towns in 16 years. Lived in Houston 3 different times!) Sometime in the late 70's, I started talking to professionals about my "depression." By the early 80's I was taking a whole bunch of medications...and drinking. Therapists brought it to my attention that the drinking "might" be causing some of this discomfort. I assured them I didn't drink near enough to have a problem. I'd seen plenty of REAL alcoholics to know I didn't fit the mold. Never arrested. Never got fired from one job because of my drinking, (I quit 30 of 'em!) and I never "blacked out." Pass out? Yes. Black out? No...until sometime in the summer of 1985!

In the early 80's I lost a marriage. She was a nice girl and in the short time we were together, I nearly drove her nuts. I went to AA the first time trying to save that relationship. I spent years in and out of the rooms of AA. Never got to pick up one of those cool 30-day chips. If they gave out 2-week chips, I'd have had a bunch! Lots of folks probably got sober in those same rooms but I didn't. No matter how many meetings

I went to, there would come the day my head would say, "To heck with this...I can have ONE drink." Off to the races again. No one ever explained what alcoholism was...they just said, "Keep coming back." War stories and complaining about the day. Didn't much like AA.

Nov. 12, 1987 I tried to off myself. Tired to the bone from trying to hold it all together. Ate a couple bottles of pills and drank that black Label beer. I heard a voice that night that said, "Don't do this...go back to AA." Wasn't a thought...it was a voice. I made myself sick and promised I'd go back the next day. By late the next day, I was trying to talk myself out of going...but finally went. I went to a meeting a guy had taken me to the night of that first black out. Just like all the other attempts, I REALLY wanted to do this deal. This time, someone took the time to show me how this thing worked. They told me I could RECOVER if I would finally take those steps and help others. They told me the truth!

I worked for my brother for about 5 more years (thank God for family) then moved back to the Hill Country. I was given a much needed job at La Hacienda Treatment Center where I worked for the next 17 years. We got to see thousands recover. During those years I got to serve on the Board at the 720 Club and later served the same for the Outpost in Ingram. I am so blessed to live in an area where so much excellent recovery is available.

Feb. 19th 2010 I was in Montana doing an AA talk when I got word that my sponsor of 17 years had passed away. Mark died suddenly. Never got to tell him how much he had helped me. He always kept me focused on all three parts of our Program. Recovery, Unity, Service. In July of the same year I moved to Austin to take a job at Mark Houston Recovery. I think ol' Mark woulda liked that! Patty and I still have a home in Ingram and will always call that home base. (We sponsor too many folks there to move too far!)

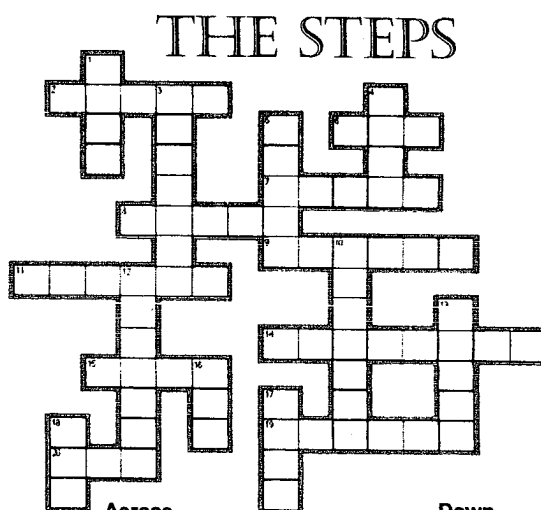


"Is this anyone's first AA meeting?"

- aaGrapevine.org

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

2. Searching and fearless _____ inventory
6. Shortest of all the steps
7. God could and _____
8. Decision step
9. Asked God to do this with our shortcomin
11. How do we ask God?
14. Doing the same thing over and over
15. Step 6 says to make this
19. Make this with others
20. Which step can be worked 100%

Down

1. First inventory step
3. We are powerless over this
4. Pray for knowledge of His _____
5. pray for the _____ to carry it out
10. We are to carry this
12. Came to _____
13. What was unmanageable?
16. Continued inventory step
17. Turn our will over to the _____ of God
18. Improve our conscious contact with who?

Sober FUN! Free in Kerrville

For a small town, Kerrville and the surrounding Texas Hill Country offer a broad range of activities for even the most skimp budget. A nature lover can get wind around the curling hills, stroll along the river's edge, and breathe the fresh scent of lavender covered fields in a single day without spending a penny. A sense of disconnection can be healed through community projects and fellowship abundantly available with no cost except the will to serve. Upcoming Fourth of July events, Summer Serenades, Movies in the Park, and Kerr County Market Days round out the diverse repertoire of activities available for the more social. There's no reason to ever be bored. There is **action and more action** in the Texas Hill Country! Here are just a few to choose from:

Swimming and Tubing the Rivers

Mountain Biking Fishing Hiking

Skate Park

Kerr Arts & Cultural Center



Atheism and AA



by Bill H.

When the Big Book was being planned, some members thought that it ought to be Christian in the doctrinal sense. Others had no objection to the use of the word "God," but wanted to avoid doctrinal issues. Spirituality, yes. Religion, no. Still others wanted a psychological book, to lure the alcoholic in. Once in, he could take God or leave Him alone as he wished.

To the rest of them, this was shocking, but happily they listened. Their group conscience was at work to construct the most acceptable and effective book possible. Every voice was playing its appointed part. Their atheists and agnostics widened their gateway so that all who suffer might pass through, regardless of their belief or lack of belief.

Provided we hold back nothing in taking the Fifth Step, our sense of relief will mount from minute to minute. 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 and serenity are so combined, something else of great moment is apt to occur. Many an A.A., once agnostic or atheist, tells us that it was during this stage of Step Five that he first actually felt the presence of God. And even those who already had faith often become conscious of God as they never were before. Any number of alcoholics are bedeviled by the dire conviction that if ever they go near A.A., they will be pressured to conform to some particular brand of faith or theology.

They just don't realize that faith is never an imperative for A.A. membership; that sobriety can be achieved with an easily acceptable minimum of it, and that our concepts of a Higher Power and God--as we understand Him--afford everyone a nearly unlimited choice of spiritual belief and action.

Atheists should be concerned about the recovery of atheist alcoholics, and not about legal victory over Christianity. If judges cannot mandate atheist D.U.I. offenders to A.A., and if there is no viable atheistic alternative in the locale, then those alcoholics are deprived of full opportunity for sobriety. The goal--and this may be difficult for both atheists and Christians to hear--is sobriety, not the perpetuation of atheism or religion. The decision for spirituality may reinforce maintenance of sobriety and deepen the meaning of life, but it is not essential for motivation to become alcohol and drug-free.

It is my opinion that one cannot practice the twelve steps of AA and be atheistic. An AA program that does not include God cannot be AA.

UPCOMING AA EVENTS

AREA 68

WHERE

WHEN

SWTA 68 Summer Workshop

Laredo

July 22-24

TXSCYPAA/Texas ICYPAA Bid Scavenger Hunt

San Antonio / Houston / Austin

July 22-24

Texas ICYPAA Bid Committee Fundraiser

Houston

July 30

DISTRICT 12

WHERE

WHEN

District 12 Monthly Meeting

Stonewall - St. Francis Church

July 10 2 pm

H & I Signup

Kerrville - 2211 Club

July 17 3 pm

Public Information Committee Meeting

St. Peter's Ep. Church

July 20 6 pm

UPCOMING DISTRICT 12 ELECTION MEETINGS AND WORKSHOP ***

District 12 Guidelines Workshop (w/ Area 68 Delegate - Char)

Sept 10th

District 12 Business Meeting (Nominations for District Positions)

Sept 11th

District 12 Business Meeting (District Elections)

Oct 9th

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

HAM ON WRY

"What is it about a beautiful sunny afternoon with the birds singing and the wind rustling through the leaves that makes you want to get drunk?"

-Jack Handy

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