



The Atlantic Group

520 Park Ave., New York, NY

by Vince C.

Right after the prayer at the end of the meeting, a woman extended her hand and said, "We're all going to get something to eat after the meeting, why don't you come?" I did. It was my favorite kind of fellowship, the kind with new friends all talking about the Twelve Steps and how God has entered their lives.

It's not like I opened the NYC Intergroup's webpage and picked out a meeting at random. Not this time. I called friends of friends and asked for recommendations on good meetings, solution based meetings in the area. From those friends I found The Atlantic Group on Park Ave. From the start, the meeting before the meeting, I met fellow AA's who talked the talk. Then once the meeting started, I heard what I needed to hear: a topic out of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and the sharing of experience, strength and hope. All done to give the newcomer hope, that they too can recover as we did. Sharing that common problem and more importantly, the common solution that binds us together.

My experience is that not all meetings are the same, that I have to seek out and search for meetings that carry the message, the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in it's purest form. And so I found it, the recovered alcoholics at the Atlantic Group sharing their experience with the three legacies of Service, Unity and Recovery. AA is alive and well, in more places than I realized. Today I don't have to try and keep myself sober, one day at a time. I can be around other recovered alcoholics who live life, one day at a time; happy, joyous and free, whether in Kerrville or half way around the country in New York City.

Grapevine Article - Jun. 2009

Finding Center With The Third Step

It took time to gain balance in AA. The way that I was dealing with my life was like a pendulum. Whether it was my alcohol or anything else in my life, I would do exactly what a pendulum did - I would start on one side and swing way to the other, full speed ahead. I was stark raving sober, crazy, crazy, crazy, but not drinking, and this is exactly what it means to be sober one day at a time. Over time my pendulum swung less and less, and continued to reduce its speed as I continued to work on myself. I started feeling better about myself by doing helpful things, like sharing my experience and being there for others even when I felt that I had nothing to Step Three has been the biggest blessing in my life, because when I remove myself from the picture, I become much more useful. My life got better when I got out the way, and before I knew it, the pendulum was barely swinging at all. The best advice I could give about balance is don't give up on yourself. My life today is filled with joy and freedom and has nothing to do with drinking, except without not taking the first drink it never would have been possible. When my pendulum swings like a mild breeze, not a hurricane, my life is filled with you and freedom. - Melinda S.

TXSCYPAA

It is official! The Texas State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous is coming to Kerrville in 2012. We went to this years conference in Austin and put in our bid for the conference. A lot of time and effort went into preparing for this, and it paid off! Over the weekend of the conference, it was such a pleasure witnessing hundreds of young people in AA having an absolute blast. We look forward to bringing that same magical energy back home to Kerrville for TXSCYPAA 32!

In Love and Service,
Stephen O.
Chair of The Korraille TVS

Chair of The Kerrville TXSCYPAA Bid Committee

Look for more information on TXSCYPAA in future editions of The Stand.

Tradition of the Month

TRADITION 11

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?

Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?

Am I careful about throwing AA names around – even within the Fellowship?

Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?

What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?

Is my sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

Announcements

October's Birthday Celebrants

Ingram Sol.

Krystle L. 4 yrs. Jim S. 2 yrs. Rich W. 29 yrs. Kalae C. 2 yrs.

Have a sobriety birthday coming up. We would like to help you celebrate.

Send Birthdays to district12newsletter@gmail.com



Ask AA Annie

I am going home to visit my family for Thanksgiving, should I make my amends then?

- Thankful Thelma

Dear Thelma,

Amends should be made as soon as possible when you reach step nine. Your sponsor can help you determine which amends need to be made first. The big book says "there may be a valid reason for postponement in some cases. But we don't delay if it can be avoided." When you & your sponsor have agreed that the time is right, you should begin by getting in touch with the recipient to let them know your intentions and set up a time to meet privately. It is a good idea to write out your amends so that nervousness doesn't cause you to leave anything Once the amends are made, we have to be willing to change the behavior and to right our wrong. If the willingness is not there, we ask GOD for it. "Reminding ourselves that we have decided to go to any lengths to find a spiritual experience, we ask that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be." Practice love, patience and tolerance; and as always...take it one day at a time.

- AA Annie

ask annie!!

Please submit questions to district12newsletter@gmail.com

AA Service Opportunities

HELP WANTED!!

Awesome service opportunity! 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 2211, Kerrville, TX

Sunday, Nov. 20th 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 October will be:

"Traditions Checklist"

Wednesday, Nov. 23rd @ 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

Shoemaker

by Paul W.

When we think of the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous, our thoughts naturally focus on its recognized founders, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob. However, it would be mistake to assume the AA movement was created solely by this pair. In reality, it took the contributions and efforts of many to bring our program into existence.

Rowland Hazzard, Ebby Thatcher, Dr. Carl Jung and Dr. William Silkworth are just a few of the early contributors. However, perhaps no one played a bigger role in AA's formation than Reverend Sam Shoemaker. In fact, his contribution and influence were so great, Wilson himself considered this non-alcoholic Episcopalian priest to be one of the program's co-founders.

Without a doubt, Shoemaker deserves to be so recognized. It was Shoemaker who taught Wilson the spiritual philosophy that would later become the foundation of the AA program. And it was Shoemaker who helped Wilson codify that philosophy into the 12 steps. His importance cannot be minimized.

Samuel Moor Shoemaker, III was born in Baltimore, Maryland on December 17, 1893. He attended Princeton University from 1912-1916. In 1917, while on a trip in China, he met Frank Buchman, founder of the Oxford Movement. After conversing and studying with Buchman, Shoemaker had a spiritual experience and embraced the "four absolutes" (honesty, purity, unselfishness and love) which were at the heart of Buchman's message. He became an ordained Episcopal priest in 1921 and in 1925 he took over the ministry at the Calvary Church in New York City. It was there where his path would cross those of Hazzard, Thatcher and Wilson.

By the mid-1930's, Shoemaker was widely regarded as the leader of the Oxford Group in the United States. He had already written at least half of the 30 spiritual books he would compose during his lifetime. He had

seen both Hazzard and Thatcher overcome their alcoholism using the principles of Oxford Group and was greatly impressed. However, in Bill Wilson he found both a kindred spirit and an eager student. Building upon the spiritual awakening he had experienced in Townes Hospital, Wilson embraced Shoemaker's teachings of self-examination, selflessness, restitution and guidance through prayer. Wilson came to believe that these principles, and these principles alone, were the only form of salvation for the real alcoholic.

Initially, Wilson actually asked Shoemaker to write the 12 steps. However, the priest declined. He believed they should be written by an alcoholic. However, he eventually played an even larger role when he agreed to edit the Bog Book and advise Bill while he was writing it. As such his spiritual teachings and beliefs are found throughout the text.

At the 1955 international convention, Wilson recognized Shoemaker's contributions, ""It was from Sam Shoemaker, that we absorbed most of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Dr. Silkworth gave us the needed knowledge of our illness, but Sam (gave) us the concrete knowledge of what we could do about it, he passed on the spiritual keys by which we were liberated. The early AA got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, restitution for harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Group and directly from Sam Shoemaker, their former leader in America, and from nowhere else."

Shoemaker left the Oxford Group in 1941 over his concern for the direction the movement. However, until his death in 1963, he taught that the tenants of first century Christianity held the keys to successful living.

what are you thankful for today?

As Thanksgiving approaches, I challenge you to take some time to reflect and make a list of what you are thankful for. Here are a few of mine to get you started.

Laughter

Forgiveness!!

Diet coke in the morning

The plan God has for my life, whatever it may be Being me

The chills you get from music

My mind and my body.

My willingness to change for better

Bacon

The ones that came before me

My beautiful children!

Today...

The Genuine people in my life

A job that challenges me each and every day. Having another wonderful day with the girl I love For my family who loves me unconditionally Funny five-year olds with silly imaginations

You!!

My Sobriety

A special Thanks to everyone who helps to make this newsletter possible!

Committee of the Month -- D.C.M.

The District Committee Member (DCM) is a vital link between the group's GSR and the Area 68 Service Structure. A DCM is an AA member who has served as a GSR and whom other GSR's wish to make responsible for their District activities. An able, experienced GSR makes a good DCM provided he or she has the time and desire to work closely with the groups of the District and Area 68. DCM's serve a two year term and are usually elected before the Area Assembly Meeting where the delegate is elected. An alternate is also elected to act as the DCM's stand-in and to automatically replace the DCM who resigns or is unable to serve for any reason.

Some of the qualifications of service as a DCM are: a background in AA service work, leadership ability and time to maintain a necessary link of communication between groups, the District and Area. Continuing growth of the fellowship brings new opportunities for service to the DCM. As the number of groups in an Area increase, the maintenance of a vital active link between groups and the fellowship as a whole becomes a challenge to the DCM. By maintaining active contact, both with the groups in the District and with the Area delegate, the DCM is a key link in ensuring all AA groups are aware of the importance of their total participation in local, District, Area and World Services. Find out who your District's DCM is and how AA service structure works by attending the next District 12 Meeting, the second Sunday of every month at various locations. Check here on the newsletter's calendar or on the District 12 website: aa12.org.

Howdy Friends,

In the past month I believe everybody has experienced the "Spirit of Rotation". Most groups in District 12 have held their Group Conscience elections and have voted in new GSRs and Group Trusted Servants'. I would personally like to congratulate each and everyone elected and Thank You for your willingness to serve. The GSRs and Groups are the most important in AA and the AA Service Structure, for you are the future of AA.

District 12 has also experienced "Spirit of Rotation". Excitement was in the room at the Boerne Highway Group as we elected all District 12 Officers and Committee Chairpersons. It was exciting for me, having served as DCM for District 12 since September of 2008, when I stepped in to replace the DCM at the time who moved out of town. Due to not serving a full term I was eligible and re-elected in 2009 to serve a full term. My term will end at the end of this year and I am honored and proud to hand the torch over to Jerry B of the Brown Bag Group. Jerry has been active in serving his home group as well as District 12 and Area 68. Join me in Congratulating Jerry and supporting his service to District 12.

Area 68 held their Fall Voting Conference October 14th-16th in San Antonio. The "Spirit of Rotation" was the theme and it flowed throughout the Conference. New GSRs and DCMs were getting their first taste of Service in AA at a bigger level. The agenda for the weekend was set around the elections of the new Panel 62 Trusted Servants. The normal business and activities were streamlined to make time for elections and

voting on proposals. Pam J of Victoria with ties in early sobriety to the Hill Country was elected by a 2/3 vote (third legacy procedure)as new Delegate to Area 68. I have known Pam for quite sometime and am excited for her and Area 68 for what she has to bring to the Service Structure of AA.

I will be introducing the Trusted Servants of both District 12 and Area 68 next month in my article so you can get to know and hopefully be able to experience what the Trusted Servants have to offer to AA.

I have been asked what will I do now that I am rotating out of my seat in District 12? I have to say I too have asked the question, and have spent some time in prayer asking God to show me what he would have me be. After a little fear and some doubt it was revealed to me through a phone call. I was offered and accepted the position of Area 68 Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community.

WOW! With the "Spirit of Rotation", loving hand of God, and YOU, the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous I am free and useful today!

In the Spirit of Love & Service - Tommy F

DCM CORNE

IT'S AN INSIDE JOB...

by Clay E.

Have you ever been locked up? Many of us in AA understand the bondage we find ourselves in, one way or another. There is the mental prison of insanity around the substance we at one time controlled before it controlled us. Then, there are the chains of the spiritual sickness that even our drink of choice no longer provided escape from. What about a physical iail? The clang of the metal doors, the sound of the locks that trap us in a place we cannot escape, the concrete walls in a 8x8 cell that holds us like a dangerous animal, are like the final blow, the crushing reality of defeat in our struggle to get free from this cunning, baffling, and powerful enemy that has us by the throat. It can be the last straw that breaks the back of our hope that someday we will win out and get control of this disease. What fear, shame, guilt, and hopelessness that clouds into a person's spirit when all hope seems to be gone is a type of death that many of us have tasted. The men and women locked up behind bars in our local jails are experiencing the worst of the consequences the world has to offer us when all human attempts to overcome the spiritual malady fail.

Enter Alcoholics Anonymous. When the jails and prisons allow AA inside the walls of incarceration to carry the message of freedom from spiritual bondage our fellows inside get to experience a freedom that transcends the concrete, the steel bars, and the physical cage around them. They taste a new freedom. The freedom, a daily reprieve from the all the negative effects of this disease, based on a spiritual awakening, and daily maintenance by conscious contact with God, is the message of hope and salvation we have come to know as the message of AA. What a great privilege and responsibility we have been given to carry this message to all who suffer. I would submit to you that taking this truth to our fellows on the inside of correctional facilities is one of, if not the most needed and rewarding acts of service we are called to do. Many are needed, few respond.

Perhaps the fear of jails, of being locked inside, or just the general idea of prisons and prisoners keep some of us from entering into this area of vital work. We are to have no fear of anything, anyone, anytime. The best way to overcome any fear is to launch into work with trust and faith in our Creator. I did. Now, I look forward with excitement and anticipation to every opportunity to go inside with full confidence that I am doing His work. The sweet taste of stepping into this service is satisfying to my spirit; something that only experience can give. Thank you AA, thank you God. I pray for all those locked inside, and for those brave souls that choose to carry the message, ON THE INSIDE.

If you find yourself locked up in one of our jails, look for us, and we will see you...ON THE INSIDE.

HEARD ON THANKSGIVING....

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John Fitzgerald Kennedy "Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence." -Erma Bombeck

THE PROMISE OF STEP ONE

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable."

Is agreeing with the idea that I am powerless — that my life is unmanageable — all that is required to work Step One? I believe not. Along with this admission must come a belief that there may in fact be a way out. There is a promise, built into the wording of the first step, that is often overlooked when working with newcomers.

Perhaps a truer understanding of this step lies in its the use of past tense verbs. We often hear the phrase "I worked Step One before I came to these rooms." What does that mean? Can I honestly work ANY of the steps while still drinking? Of course, I was experiencing the consequences and symptoms of my disease on a consistent and ongoing basis, but living in my disease is not living in the solution.

If I were to walk into the rooms for the first time and misread Step One by casting it into the present tense "We admit we are – that our lives have become," why would I want to stay? What solution would this program have to offer me? You are no better off than I am! How can you help me?

Step One is often the most misquoted and partially worked step in our program. We browbeat the newcomer into accepting the horrors and misery of life with alcohol – a rather redundant exercise as most of us have come into these rooms precisely BECAUSE of these consequences. While admission of complete defeat is necessary - especially in regards to the allergy and bodily reaction, mental obsession, and spiritual malady - this is not the whole of "working Step One." Our responsibility as people with a solution involves sharing the message of hope inherent in this step: that the states of powerless and unmanageability are no longer the case for us – that the problem has been removed

and we have been placed in a position of neutrality. If we are still as powerless as when we first got here, what do we have to offer?

Time and again it is stated in the Big Book that powerlessness and unmanageability are no longer the case in our lives. Some points of fact:

"The Story of how many thousands....have recovered from alcoholism" (title page)

"You may rely absolutely on anything they say about themselves." (xxvi)

"The unselfishness of these men..." (xxvii)

"Once a psychic change has occurred, the very same person..." (xxix)

"A long time has passed with no return to alcohol." (xxxi)

Read these passages and tell me there is no promise there.

I was not able to work Step One until I believed that you had once been like me and are now better. How can I be of service to God and those around me operating from a point of powerlessness and unmanageability? Something has changed – something is different; and it is precisely this possibility of change that we must also embrace when working Step One. Acceptance of this promise gives us the courage and hope to work the rest of the program so that we continue to grow in right relation to God and to our fellows. I did not get courage and hope simply from admitting my own defeat – I got it when you admitted yours and promised me a way out.

by Alex P.

Great Turkey Recipe

Great turkey recipe - even for people who can't cook!!!

Here is a <u>turkey recipe</u> that also includes the use of popcorn as a stuffing – imagine that. Perfect for people who just are not sure how to tell when poultry is thoroughly cooked, but not dried out. Give this a try.

10-15 lb. turkey

2 cup melted butter

2 cup stuffing (Pepperidge Farm is Good.)

2 cup uncooked popcorn (ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S LOW FAT.....of course) Salt/pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush turkey well with melted butter salt, and pepper. Fill cavity with stuffing and popcorn. Place in baking pan with the neck end toward the back of the oven.

Listen for the popping sounds.

When the turkey's ass blows the oven door open and the turkey flies across the room, it's done.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA 68 - DISTRICT 12 TRUSTED SERVANT'S ELECTIONS ELECTION RESULTS

Position	Person	Group	Position	Person	Group	Position	Person	Group
DCM	Jerry B	Brown Bag Group	Grapevine	Shirley B.	Brown Bag Group	Bi-Lingual	Jose B.	Brown Bag
Alt. DCM	Linda H.	2211 Group	PI	Tamby E.	2211 Group	Helpline	Perry C.	Cellar Group
Secretary	Leslie C.	2211 Group	CFC	Pending		Archive	Jim A.	Brown Bag Group
Alt. Secretary	William A.	An AA Group	СРС	Sandy T.	2211 Group	Newsletter	Mike S.	Ingram Solution
Treasurer	Edie T.	2211 Group	TFC	Andrew B.	Blue Ticket			

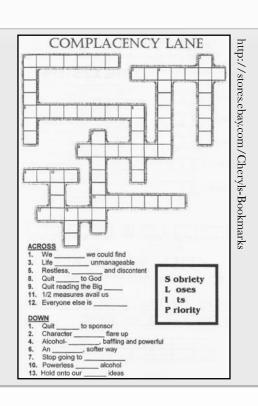
SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA 68 TRUSTED SERVANT'S ELECTIONS ELECTION RESULTS

Position	Person	District	Position	Person	District	Position	Person	District
Delegate	Pam J	7	Treasurer	Mike P.	IE	Grapevine	Cathy H.	8D
Delegate	James H.	8D	Registrar	Steven S.	3B	Newsletter	Maggie B.	22
Chairperson	Denise T.	29	Archives	John B.	2	PI/CPC	Tommy F.	12
Alt. Chairperson	Jonathan S.	IE	Bilingual	Fred C.	20	TFC	Norma A.	3C
Secretary	Jere J.	IA	CFC	Janice W.	29			



District 12 Newsletter Focus

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



Editorial

by Greg B.

When asked to write an editorial for the District 12 newsletter I wasn't sure that I was the right person. After considering it for a few days I decided that I should share what I learned living in, and then leaving the recovery community in the Hill Country. Living in Kerrville in early sobriety is a blessing. My story was a bit different than some as I did not come to the Hill Country for treatment nor did I come to stay at one of the many sober living houses that are available. I got sober in Austin and after six months was offered a great job in Kerr County. I moved my family down even though I was afraid to leave my new sober community in Austin. I wasn't sure that I would find good recovery in such a small town. I very quickly learned that I had come to one of the best recovery communities in the country.

One of the benefits of the recovery community in the Hill Country is that there is a large influx of people who come just for that reason: to recover from a hopeless state of mind and body. Since my new primary purpose was to carry the message that had been carried to me through the literature, I set out to do just that. I participated in many H&I's to the treatment facilities, worked one on one with guys who were desperate enough to do the work, and enjoyed the social aspects of a large network of sober people. There are so many people in the area who are actually working the program and getting and staying connected it couldn't help but rub off on me.

Very quickly I learned that what made the Hill Country great also created a dilemma. As people got better their lives improved and they learned that the reason we recover is to have a full and gratifying life experience. In most cases this meant going somewhere else where there were more opportunities for work, dating, housing etc. So the Hill Country recovery community is always in a state of transition as new people come in and familiar faces move on. I got to live there for three years and I met hundreds of people who impacted my life in one way or another. Now it is my time to be the one who is departing.

As the people who carried message leave, it is up to the individuals who have recovered to continue the work. I

know that when my sponsor left along with some of the other 'old timers' I was very sad and thought "Wow it's just not going to be the same". Well I was right. It is never going to be same, thank God. Circumstances change and so do we. Change can be a great thing but it is seldom comfortable. It became clear that it was time for others to step up and continue the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have truly recovered, it is your responsibility. The recovery community in the Hill Country will always be vibrant and attractive as long as there are people who are willing to step outside of themselves and give freely of what was given to them. While you are in the Hill Country take every opportunity to work with the new people who are coming into the area. This work will benefit you more than you know. Even if you are still working the steps and have just a few weeks or months sober there is someone who is newer than you that you can provide hope and comfort too. You don't have to wait to start helping others. Get involved in a home group and start doing some service work. Once you have done that, get involved in the District or Area and begin to learn about the structure and traditions of Alcoholic Anonymous. You are in a great place to do this kind of work and opportunities abound.

When and if you do leave the Hill Country, take what you've learned with you. Find a literature based group and get involved. There are new people at every meeting I go to who are starved for the solution. It may be difficult, but again that's just that change making you uncomfortable. Trust that your Higher Power is leading you down the path and has a special use for you in the new situation. With your will in that place you cannot fail and you will become an instrument of power to help others.

I wish all of you peace and happiness and I very much look forward to meeting each of you again on the road to happy destiny.

UPCOMING AA EVENTS

AREA 68	WHERE	WHEN
TQCYPAA on the Frio	Concan - Neal's Lodge	Nov. 18-20
Pine Forest Retreat	Camp Allen, Navasota	Nov. 25-27
DISTRICT 12	WHERE	WHEN
District 12 Monthly Meeting	Kerrville - 2211	Nov. 14 2 pm
H & I Signup	Kerrville -2211	Nov. 20 3 pm
2012 SWTA 68 CFC Conference Planning Committee Meeting	Kerrville - Inn of the Hills - Upstairs in Lobby	Nov. 6 2 pm



A sponsor and his newcomer were at a meeting when the newcomer suddenly collapsed, went into cardiac arrest and fell to the floor. The paramedics arrived, performed CPR and brought the newcomer back to life. "My GOD!", said the sponsor. "I thought we had lost you". The newcomer looked up and told his sponsor, "I believe I was actually dead for a short time. I saw a bright light and felt myself basking in the light of my higher power. I'm sure it was heaven. It was an amazing experience!" "What was heaven like?" asked the sponsor. The newcomer smiled and replied, "Well, I got good news, and I got bad news. The good news is that in heaven they have a huge speaker meeting every Thursday night. All the greatest AA speakers that have passed away speak there". "And the bad news?", asked the sponsor. The newcomer looked his sponsor in the eyes and replied, "The bad news is that you're the speaker next week".

The Newsletter Committee is currently seeking volunteers.
Please contact

district12newsletter@gmail.com

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 B.

Treatment Facilities Andrew B.

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