

2211 Saturday Morning Meeting



It's been a while since I have attended a meeting at the 2211 club, but there is one that I used to frequent quite regularly on Saturday mornings at 10:00. In much of AA, as in much of life, I think, people get used to routine and stick with where they feel most comfortable. However, when I started going to the Saturday morning meeting at 2211, I noticed that in attendance were many people that also attended other meetings around Kerrville, making this meeting a great blend of newcomers and old-timers.

The discussion around the table was always at the same time recovery centered and peppered with personal anecdotes and lots of laughter. The feeling at this meeting was one of true fellowship, and many of us would go out to eat afterwards, continuing the spirit of the fellowship into the afternoon. The saying, "come early and stay late" certainly applies to the Saturday morning meeting. Although I have not gone in a while, the nice thing about an AA meeting is that it is still going on. I know I could walk back into that room and feel right at home.

In Kerrville, and I know this is certainly true with me, I think we in AA can get centered in a club and stick to it to the point where we are afraid to branch out. Of course having a strong home group is a necessity, but to branch out, you don't necessarily need to cross the country or an ocean, you can find new friends in recovery just across town. I recommend anyone who has not been to the 2211 club before to check out the Saturday morning meeting, and get reacquainted with a fellow AA you might never have met.

Grapevine November 1956 (condensed)

Our Primary Purpose

There is a 5th Tradition Group within our group. We think it helps to examine our group conscience every once in awhile, especially the part of our conscience which could tell us whether or not we are properly performing our primary purpose.

You will remember that Tradition Five reads: "Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic that still suffers." That seems to place a responsibility on the group, over and beyond the responsibility of the individual who might meet with or sponsor a suffering alcoholic. There have been at least a few occasions when one of us after visiting a prospect once or twice will decide that the fellow is "not ready" or "too far gone" or "not wanting to stop"; and then proceed to forget him, despite the fact that the suffering alcoholic had approached the group for help.

We ask our members to keep this "group-within-the-group" informed of all prospects that come to us, through Intergroup, local phone exchange, clergymen, doctors, or when they just come to our open meetings, seeking information for themselves. We don't hound or chase after those who don't want us, but there probably are some who need just a little more encouragement.

- Continued on page 6

TXSCYPAA

The Texas State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in Kerrville, TX in 2012. We have a lot of opportunities available for the young person in AA. Our next Host Committee meeting will be held December 3rd at 4pm at the 720 club. We will be holding elections to fill the rest of the positions we have available. We need YOUR help in putting this conference together! So come and get involved in something amazing that will surely change Young Peoples AA in Kerrville for the better, and forever.

In Love and Service, The Kerrville TXSCYPAA Host Committee Stephen O. 713-858-3292

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

Tradition of the Month

TRADITION 12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?

Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?

Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?

Do I do all I can to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?

What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

Announcements

November's Birthday Celebrants

Ingram Sol.

Chris R. 24 yrs. Cathy D. 7 yrs. Vern H. 25 yrs. Holly S. 28 yrs. Jay M. 1 yr. Perin P. 2 vrs.

Vince C. 1 yr.

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

Send Birthdays to district12newsletter@gmail.com



During the holidays my family attends many parties where alcohol is served. My parents are very concerned that I will be tempted to drink and want me to stay home. What should I do?

- Holiday Holly

Dear Holly,

It is always a good idea to talk to your sponsor about these questions and your motives for attending parties with alcohol.

The Big Book has a lot to say on this topic as well. "Any scheme of combating alcoholism which proposes to shield the sick man from temptation is doomed to failure....our rule is not to avoid a place where there is drinking, if we have legitimate reason for being there." Here are a few questions to ask yourself before going, "'Have I any good social, business, or personal reason for going to this place? Or am I expecting to steal a little vicarious pleasure from the atmosphere of such places?" "If you answer these questions satisfactorily, you need have no apprehension. Go or stay away, whichever seems best. But be sure you are on solid spiritual ground before you start and that your motive in going is thoroughly good."

If we have worked the steps and are in fit spiritual condition the Big Book tells us, "we will seldom be interested in liquor. We are not fighting it, neither are we avoiding temptation. We feel as though we had been placed in a position of neutrality-safe and protected."

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

Want to get involved in service?

Want to carry the message to treatment centers? Carry the message to those who can't get out to a meeting yet? H&I sign up is now at the 2211 Club every third Sunday of the month at 3pm. Your participation is

always appreciated!

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, Dec. 21st @ 6pm

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

THE SECOND SUCCESSFUL 12th STEP CALL

by Paul W.

After Dr. Bob took his last drink on June 10, 1935, both he and Bill W. knew they had to quickly carry their new message of hope to another alcoholic. Their first few attempts met with little immediate success.

On June 26th of that year, Dr. Bob called Akron's City Hospital and told the nurse on duty that he and a man from New York had discovered a cure for alcoholism. He then inquired whether she had any patients on whom they could try it out on. Dr. Bob was informed that Bill Dotson, a prominent Akron attorney, had just come in with the DT's for the eighth time that vear. He had assaulted two nurses in a blackout and was presently strapped down to his bed.

Dr. Bob prescribed some medications, and then asked the nurse to transfer Dotson to a private room. He also put him on a diet of sauerkraut and tomatoes. Bill and Bob then went to visit with Dotson's wife in order to learn a few facts about their new prospect. When Dotson learned his wife had spoken to the two strangers about his drinking, he was furious at her "disloyalty." When she told her husband that they were "a couple of drunks", Dotson quieted down.

However, Henrietta really got her husband's attention when she explained that the men's plan for staying sober themselves was to tell their plan to another drunk.

Dotson recalled, "All the other people that talked to me wanted to help ME, and my pride prevented me from listening to them, and caused only resentment on my part, but I felt as if I would be a real stinker if I

did not listen to a couple of fellows for a short time, if that would cure THEM."

Dotson was skeptical after his first visit with Bill and Dr. Bob. He told them, "Well, this is wonderful for you fellows, but can't be for me. My case is so terrible that I'm scared to go out of this hospital at all. You don't have to sell me religion, either. I was at one time a deacon in the church and I still believe in God. But I guess he doesn't believe much in me."

However, he did agree to see the pair again. They visited with Dotson the following day and many times thereafter. When they arrived on July 4th, they found Dotson with his wife. He pointed towards Bill and Dr. Bob and said, "These are the fellows I told you about, they are the ones who understand."

Dotson then explained that he hadn't slept but had been thinking about them all night long. And he had decided that if they could do it, maybe he could do it, maybe they could do together what they couldn't do separately. Bill and Bob asked him get down on his knees at the side of the bed and pray and say that he would turn his life over to God. After this prayer, Dotson turned to his wife and said, "Go fetch my clothes, dear. We're going to get up and get out of here."

He walked out of the hospital a free man, never to drink again. AA's Number One Group dates from that day. The message had been successfully shared a second time, proving Dr. Bob's experience was no fluke. It also proved you did not have to be indoctrinated by the Oxford Group before the message could take hold.

SWTA 68 Annual CFC Conference

February 17-19, 2012

Hosted By:

Southwest Texas Area 68 and District 12

Friday, February 17

5:00 pm—Registration Desk Opens

6:00 pm-Hospitality Room - Snacks

7:00 pm—Welcome & Introduction

7:15 pm—Open Mic / Round Robin

Speaker Meeting - Raffle - AA Meeting

Saturday, February 18

7:00 am - Registration Desk Opens

7:00 am - Hospitality Room - Snacks

8:00 am — Opening Ceremony

Speakers - Panel - Raffles - Meetings -

Workshop - Entertainment

Sunday, February 19

7:00 am-Coffee & Rolls in Hospitality

8:00 am-Opening Ceremony

Speaker Meeting - Ask-It-Basket -

Business Meeting

Pre-Register and Save

This Years Rates Are: Pre-Registration- \$10.00

Registration At The Door - \$12.00

PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE

POST MARKED BEFORE FEB. 1, 2012

RESERVATIONS



1001 Junction Hwy Kerrville, Texas 78028 www.innofthehills.com

Rooms \$75.00 per day

For Reservations Call (830) 895-5000 or (800) 292-5690 ASK FOR **CFC CONFERENCE** RATES

Reservations Must Be Made BEFORE

February 1, 2012 to receive Conference Rates

Speakers - Workshop

Chris R. - Ingram Clay E. - Kerrville Martha W. - Kerrville Larry M. - Austin

Traditions Workshop Charlotte S. - San Antonio

If you have Questions, contact:

District 12 CFC Chairman— Clay E. (830) 496-0003 Area 68 CFC Chairman— David T. (832) 360-9589

MAIL IN REGISTRATION (Pre-Register \$10	0.00 - Save \$2.00 & Avoid Waiting in Line)
Name:	Chance
Badge Name:	THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED OR SOLD
City/Group:	GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

Mail Check & Registration To:

CFC Conference P.O. Box 290556 Kerrville TX 78029

> Pre-Registration MUST be mailed by Feb. 1, 2012

IT'S AN INSIDE JOB...

by Clay E.

The volunteers of Corrections Facility Committee of District 12 are proud to bring the South West Texas Area 68 CFC Annual 2012 Conference to Kerrville. Area 68 is big; from Brownwood to Brownsville, Boerne to Junction, thirty-one Districts, five-thousand Groups, and lots of Alcoholics. Last year during the Business Meeting at the close of the 2011 CFC Conference there was a bidding process where the Districts bid on their attempt to win the site for the next Conference; a very competitive process to garner the coveted prize of hosting this important Area function to come to their District. We won! It's coming to Kerrville February 17-19, 2012 at The Inn of The Hills on Junction Hwy. One of the reasons they chose us is because of the hard work we do here in our District. We have increased from serving one jail to three. We are still working on expanding our services by working to get into more jails that currently don't have AA meetings in their facility; something that we pray about constantly.

We recently have been shut out of the Kerr County Jail. They handed their volunteer services over to new staff that just doesn't believe Alcoholics Anonymous works, contrary to all the evidence of the success we have seen. They have replaced our AA meetings with Celebrate Recovery, a fellowship the Kerr County Chaplain promotes. I believe their fellowship is good and provides what some people locked up need. But, it's not providing what AA does for the alcoholic on the inside, and in my humble opinion falls far short of what only AA can do. This situation is sad to me and I have expressed that we are ready, willing, and able to once again carry the message of AA to our members inside. We have mailed letters, emails, and made phone calls to the Sheriff and the Chaplain; we do not get any response from them. But, God can do what no human can, as so well put by Bill W. We wait patiently (still working on that).

Our members write to men and women on the inside. They have been there on the day of release from the county jails and prisons to take members to meetings. Some of our dedicated members sponsor men and women after they get out. The CFC of District 12 has sponsored Workshops to inform and improve our relationships with the Professionals that allow us into their facilities. They have worked tiring hours on the front lines. The volunteers of District 12 have been active in providing consistent quality AA meetings for the incarcerated men and women of AA. I have had the honor of watching so many of you step up to the plate, give of your time, your money, and your hearts to keep serving our members on the inside. Words can't describe the feeling I get when I walk out the doors of the jails after having the privilege of standing beside these great volunteers, hand in hand with the defendants sharing their experience, strength, and hope; on the

Thank you AA. Thank you, District 12. Thank you, Volunteers of District 12 CFC. Thank you, God. What a great Thanksgiving this has been.

Come join us: CFC Planning Meeting Upstairs Lobby, Inn of the Hills, Kerrville Dec 4 @ 2pm Clay E. 830.496.0003

HEARD AT MEETINGS....

"The power behind me is greater than any problem in front of me" "I can't have a better tomorrow if I am thinking about yesterday all the time."

"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be."

THE PROMISE OF STEP TWO

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

I struggled for years to find peace – fought for freedom and happiness and my own well-being. I had ideals, ethics and moral codes and standards that I could not live up to and yet expected you to. And I failed: consistent, utter, soul-numbing failure. I, who thought myself so capable, so talented, so intelligent became the prisoner of my own delusions and unmet expectations.

Yet somehow I still demanded evidence that a Power Greater Than Myself was needed to restore me and solve my problems.

Step Two has three essential components: a willing ness to believe, the acknowledgement that I am insane, and deciding God's role in my life. I love how the Big Book writers use the phrase "came to believe". To me, this wording reveals the fact that evidence is what I demanded even in the light of the total failure of my human resources: evidence that neither I nor any other human institution could fix me. The truth is that there have always been powers greater than myself in my life: family, the legal system, jobs, money, relationships. But none of them could solve my problem. I needed a Power that would work.

When the results of my core beliefs, feelings and actions were pointed out to me (homelessness, prison, unemployment,

failed relationships, low self-esteem), it was difficult not to see the insanity in my life. The very idea that I could still somehow manage on my own power in any given situation was illogical. I hadn't done so yet—what magic formula would enable me to do so now? My denial of my irrational belief systems grew less and less as I grew in the understanding that they just didn't work. It was at that point that I began to be restored to sanity.

The working of Step Two – like all the steps – isn't a one-time affair. The process of coming-to-believe is ever-changing, evergrowing as my conception of God as I understand Him grows and changes. God is always Everything – it simply becomes a question of whether I am willing to recognize the Great Reality and utilize Him in all aspects of my life.

Some days are better than others. But Step Two and my need for it are always there: it allows me to relinquish my delusional need for control: that others must act appropriately in order for me to be okay. I begin to be a proactive truth-seeker and not a reactionary chaos-bringer. I continue to become whole instead of remaining in the wreckage of my fractured life.

Simply because I became willing to believe.

by Alex P.

Whose Responsibility?

"An A.A. group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone those of non-alcoholics in the world around us. The A.A. group is not, for example, a mediator of domestic relations, nor does it furnish personal financial aid to anyone.

"Though a member may sometimes be helped in such matters by his friends in A.A., the primary responsibility for the solutions of all his problems of living and growing rests squarely upon the individual himself. Should an A.A. group attempt this sort of help, its effectiveness and energies would be hopelessly dissipated.

"This is why -- freedom from alcohol - through the teaching and practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of the group. If we don't stick to this cardinal principle, we shall almost certainly collapse. And if we collapse we cannot help anyone."...

Bill W. in a letter written in 1966, over 31 years after his last drink.

Seasons Greeting!!

I pray that all are full of the holiday spirit and that God's grace and mercy has shown joy in these times toward family and friends. As quick as the holidays came upon us they will be gone and leave way for a brand new year. I can't help but get excited around The New Year...to send off the old and step into the new. District 12 will be saying goodbye to the old and will welcome the new as well. As we hand over the torch to the NEW District officers and Committee Chairpersons. Let me take the time to introduce District 12's new Officers and Committee Chairs that will take office January 1st.

Our new DCM that will be representing District 12 for the next two years is Jerry B. Jerry has served the past two years as GSR of the Brown Bag Group. The Alt DCM who has served as GSR for the 2211 Group will assist him, Linda H. District 12's new Secretary is Leslie C. from the 2211 Group. Alt Secretary is William A. of The AA Group. Taking over as Treasure will be Edie T. of the 2211 Group. Former GSR of the Guadalupe Group Shirley B. will be the new Grapevine Rep. Public Information is Tamby E. of the 2211 Group. Correctional Chair is Shelly M. Treatment Chairperson will be Andrew B. who came in to complete the end of the last term and was eligible for reelection, as well a Jose B. from the Brown Bag who was eligible for re-election as well. Helpline Chair was awarded to Perry C. of Fredericksburg who served as GSR of The Cellar Group. Archives will be Jim A. of the Brown Bag Group who served as Alt DCM last term. The newest Committee is the District 12 Newsletter, and it will be chaired by none other than Michael S. Michael was responsible for kicking off the newsletter and in less than a year The Stand has become the "Cream of the Crop" of Newsletters in Area 68.

Just as new members take their seats in District Positions, there is a brand new slate of Officers in Area 68. Pam J. (Victoria), formally the Alt Delegate, has stepped up in the Delegate Position. James H. (Corpus Christi) will rotate out of the Area Chairperson to Alt Delegate. Last term's Area 68 PI/PCP Chair Denise T. (Bastrop) was elected Area 68 Chairperson, as Jonathan S. (San Antonio) will be the Alt Chair. It is Area 68 procedures that the new Delegate appoints his or her slate of Officers and the newly elected Chairperson selects the Committee Chairpersons. Pam J., Area Delegate, selected Jere J. (San Antonio) Area Secretary, Michael P. (Castroville) Treasurer, and Steven S. (Austin) Area Registrar. Area Chairperson Denise T. selected John B. (Canyon Lake) Archives Chair, Fred C. (Rio Grande Valley) Bilingual Chair, Janice W. (Bastrop) Corrections, Tommy F. (Kerrville) Public Information, Newsletter was given to Maggie B. (Cedar Park) Treatment Chairperson will be Norma A. (Austin).

All of these trusted servants from the Area down to District as well as all the new GSR's through out District 12 are excited and willing to serve. It is the spirit of rotation we experience that feeds the Spirit of love and service that our co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob often talked about. It's through such love and service that God gives us our blessings.

In the Spirit of Love & Service - Tommy F

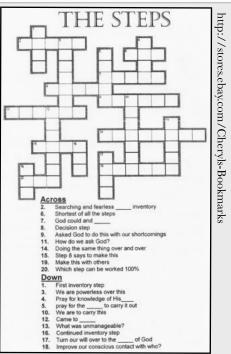
THANKFUL FAREWELL

I have planted my roots deep in the Hill Country. From the first time I moved here in 2000 until now I have called District 12 home. In the pass 11 plus years I have had many wonderful experiences and met many wonderful people. I have grown up in the meeting rooms across the District. I don't have the words to explain what AA and the Hill Country Recovery Community has done for me over the years. I stand tall and proud to be from Kerrville Texas whenever I have the opportunity to represent my community. That's why I feel it's important to thank those who are responsible for the chance to serve the Hill Country Community since 2008. I had big shoes to fill as I stepped into the DCM position. The past DCM, Madeline A., did a wonderful job in her term and made District 12 what it was when I stepped in office in 2008. I can't help but to reflect back at the past DCM's who where great members; respected and loved by many in the Hill Country. My service in District 12 was driven by the passion and spirit of Ray F. and Patti P. who will always have a place in my heart. I hope through the highs and lows we have been through in the past three years that I have served as they would have. As I look back over my time serving District 12 I have had my share of mistakes and put responsibility on a few of the stumbling blocks we tripped over but never fell. I know we have been blessed by God's grace for there is great opportunity in District 12 for His glory. I've learned so much from all y'all but what I will take with me as I move on to a new service position is UNITY.... How important that we ALL work together, not just for AA as a whole but for what has been built in District 12 and the Hill Country. We have set a high standard over the years and many look up to us for our commitment to service and recovery. I lift up those whom the torch has been passed that God blesses you all with hope, strength, courage, and love as well as all of you who believe in the program of AA. This is far from being a goodbye: it's a THANK YOU



District 12 Newsletter Focus

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



Spiritual Malady and a Spiritual Treatment

Not until I understand and address the spiritual nature of my disease am I able to lead a happy productive life. When I do address my spiritual sickness I am able to find the power which is God who brings about a psychic change in my mind and begins the process of a spiritual healing. What are our options? They are discussed clearly in the Big Book as follows:

- a. Page 25 "One was to go to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best we could; and the other to accept spiritual help."
- b. Page 44 "To be doomed to an alcoholic death or to live on a spiritual basis is not always easy alternatives to face.
- c. Page 44 "But after a while we had to face the fact that we had to live on a spiritual basis of life or else."

We often hear a person say I have a three part disease of the mind, body and spirit. We understand the mind part to be the obsession to drink and the body part to be the craving or allergy once we have put the alcohol into our body. What then is the spiritual part of the disease? What is it composed of? Where did it originate? What does it look like?

It clearly states that selfishness and self centeredness is the root of our problems. This is the spiritual malady. This is what is happening inside of me when I have untreated alcoholism. The traits listed below are those of self will. The spiritual malady manifests itself in many different ways which are described in the Big Book as follows:

- a. irritable, restless and discontent (page XXVI)
- b. feeling of uselessness
- c. trouble with personal relationships
- d. not being able to control our emotional natures
- e. full of fear
- f. prey to misery and depression
- g. inability to help others (page 52)
- h. not being able to make a living

What then does a spiritual awakening look like?

- a. Interest in others
- b. Humility by seeking God's will
- c. Giving or sharing
- d. Grateful
- e. Good deeds
- f. Honesty
- g. Considerate

district12newsletter@gmail.com

My wish is for each of you to experience a blessed and happy holiday season. May God continue to fulfill his will through your good works and deeds.

Our Primary Purpose - Continued from page 1

Also, this group extends its interest to those who are new in AA and those who seem to have difficulty in stopping and even to those around for awhile that haven't picked up any group activity or made any firm friendships. Often times this group will suggest that one of us become a "friend" to such people. We don't appoint sponsors for the newcomer because we believe each one has the personal privilege of selecting his sponsor, but many times this "friend" can make a newcomer feel more welcome, and help him better understand what is going on. We don't spy or pry or try to find out when the fellow or girl had his or her last drink... we just want to be sure they know we are interested and eager to help when asked.

In fact, they are doing what probably all of us want to do, yet so often overlook. They are not relieving us of our individual responsibility or stopping any of us from being as active as we want to be. They are merely watching the background so that we as a group will be ever mindful of our primary purpose to help all who come to us for help. Someone... at some time... helped each of us. We want to be sure that no one will continue to suffer... just because we forgot.

Anonymous

Hartsdale-Ardsley, New York

UPCOMING AA EVENTS

AREA 68	WHERE	WHEN
SWTA 68 Winter Workshop	Edinburg	Jan. 20-22
SWTA 68 2012 CFC Conference	Kerrville	Feb. 17-19
DISTRICT 12	WHERE	WHEN
District 12 Monthly Meeting	Fredericksburg - St. Barnabas Episcopal Church	Dec. 11 2 pm
H & I Signup	Kerrville - 2211	Dec. 18 3 pm
2012 SWTA 68 CFC Conference	Kerrville - Inn of the	Dec. 4



A man goes to the doctor with two severely burned ears. "How in the world did this happen?" the doctor asked. The man said, "Well doc, I must confess, I likes to drink a few when I get home from work. Last night I came home from work and had my usual few drinks, and was sitting on the sofa having another. My wife wanted to talk to me and iron at the same time so she set up the ironing board next to the sofa. Well doc, the phone rang and without thinking I picked up the hot iron instead of the phone and pressed it against my ear." "That explains the one ear," the doctor said, "but what happened to the other one?" "The damn fool called back!" the man said.

The Newsletter Committee is currently seeking volunteers. Please contact

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