



# THE STAND



JUNE 2012

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

ISSUE EIGHTEEN

## Simple Program?

*Happy Trudging! SB*

The halls of AA seem to be filled with members who proclaim, "This is a simple program!" It is often said that we have a simple program for complex people. Often we hear, "don't analyze." Or how about, "We will be absolutely unable to stop drinking on the basis of self knowledge," pg. 39.

How simple could that sound to the newcomer?

Self knowledge gets a bad rap in AA because we know we need self knowledge to be well armed with the facts about ourselves, which includes understanding what the problem is, and what to do to fix it. In the program I learn I cannot rely on that knowledge to keep me sober! Many times I believed I should be able to stay sober just because I wanted too, or somehow I could figure my way out of this jam. As a new comer I became so confused because I thought I was hearing a thousand different things, when in reality I was hearing a few simple things a thousand times!

Doctor Bob has been quoted as saying to Bill Wilson, "Let's don't louse this thing up Bill, let's keep it simple!" This "Simple" business must seem daunting to the new comer who is basically hearing or comprehending very little when he walks in the doors of AA. I can remember thinking to myself, "What's the secret handshake around here?" and since simple is mentioned in the Big Book 15 times there must be something to this simple business.

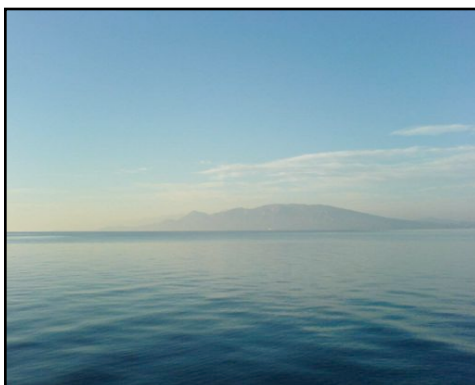
And yet, I still could not "figure out" how to stay sober on my own. What this simple matter boils down to could be... What message are we carrying? The 12th step tells us that we are to "Carry THIS message to the alcoholic." So what is this message? A simple answer is the message we carry can be found in the step itself! "As a result of these steps, I had a Spiritual Awakening, and you can too!" Now that was a simple message I could understand, and next I go to hear what they meant by that...

Trust God, Clean House, and Help Others.

## A Deep Sense of Calmness

Grapevine Article - Issue Oct.1990

On his desk Dr. Bob had a plaque defining humility: "Perpetual quietness of the heart is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore; to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised, it is to have a blessed home in myself where i can go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and about is seeming trouble."



Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers

## Concept of the Month

### Concept VI

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.?

Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?

Are we clear about the terms, "chief initiative" and "active responsibility"?

Can we see a direct link to our home group?

## Methods We Have Tried

S S S S K O O B B E P Z Y H G  
 W R S E B K C B R X Y V O E N  
 I H E E I Y C R G J N U Z A I  
 T T O E N T R E V E R O F L N  
 C F R M B I R O B O J E F T R  
 H I E I E R S A A A O X Q H O  
 I V Y R P V A U P T L E K F M  
 N R E A D I N G B H H R C A B  
 G E L K G N P L T O H C G R R  
 U T W K G O W H X V O I Y M B  
 L I M I T I N G K Z M S H S J  
 S M U I R A T I N A S E L I M  
 A S Y L U M S V E Z F X K E H  
 A K N K B D Z W O K C T G J K  
 P E O P L E K N A T U R A L X

ASYLUMS	MORNING (never)
BEER (drinking only)	NATURAL (wines)
BOOKS (inspirational)	OATH
BUSINESS (not during)	PARTIES (only)
EXERCISE (more)	PEOPLE (never alone)
FOREVER (swearing off)	READING
HEALTH FARMS	SANITARIUMS
HOME (only at or none)	SWITCHING (alcohol)
JOB (not drunk)	TRIP (taking or not taking)
LIMITING (the #)	

## DCM CORNER

"WE" is a BIG WORD in A.A., e.g., "We of Alcoholics Anonymous...." Yet there is, as the Big Book suggests "ignorance and misunderstanding". The following two examples demonstrate this: (from the Area Newsletter issue 101-second quarter 2012) "One group has a new opening statement, 'Only Alcoholics should share in the meetings. Others may attend as observers. If you have another problem, please only share on your alcoholism?' Another, published in a local format, asks, "Please read the following: We are glad you are here—especially newcomers. Many members, particularly newcomers, are addicted to both alcohol and drugs, and we now find it acceptable for you to share your experiences with either substance. However, with this new privilege (sic), comes a responsibility to continue honoring the long traditions of the host group. Therefore, it is preferable to share your battles with Alcohol, unless a more important lesson for the group can only be told by sharing your stories of drug abuse, and then with as little detail as necessary. The intent of this suggestion is to encourage full participation in our discussion, leading to a more rewarding experience for all concerned." The A.A. Service Manual warns of "complication and confusion". Finding the right answers has been a long process, and after much trial and error, can be seen in OUR A.A. Traditions.

Jerry B., servant

# Is AA a Religion?

Grapevine Article - June 2012

According to recent appeals-court rulings, Twelve Step groups are classified as religious bodies because they refer to a Higher Power and have certain practices, such as prayer, which parallel parts of worship in churches.

This has become an issue because some local courts have specified Twelve Step group attendance for persons convicted of drinking or drug offenses. In most cases, the offenders have been given the choice of serving jail sentences or attending meetings where their participation is verified on "court slips" that must be signed by Twelve Step group chairpersons.

While this practice continues in many jurisdictions despite higher court rulings, a case can be made that Twelve Step groups cannot be considered "religions" despite the references to God and the occasional use of prayers.

Ernest Kurtz, an educator and writer living in Ann Arbor, Mich., has authored books and articles relating to the Twelve Step movement. He is also a seminary graduate who holds a Harvard doctorate and once served in the clergy. In private correspondence, he has made this observation about the issue: "Twelve Step programs do offer a vision classically termed 'religious,'" he states. "But expressions of religion historically seem to involve: 1) doctrines that require belief; 2) rules that command or prohibit actions; 3) an institutional authority that formulates the doctrines and enforces the rules; 4) worship and ritual that express reverence for the professed source of all the above. " Twelve Step programs require none of these, he concludes.

Various religions also tend to be exclusive, meaning that people usually restrict their devotion to one faith or denomination. To be a Roman Catholic, for example, means that one will not profess to be a Protestant. Twelve Step members, on the other hand, are free to have any beliefs or none.

Some Twelve Step members question the effectiveness and/or fairness of court ordering people to attend AA or other Twelve Step programs. Some groups even refuse to sign court attendance slips. Whether such practices are really helpful is a matter for individuals to decide for themselves. But it should at least be accepted and ruled that Twelve Step groups are not religions.

Mel B., Toledo, Ohio

## Correctional Facilities Committee

Committee of the Month

*"Alcoholics Anonymous members participate in carrying the A.A. message into corrections facilities (jails) as part of their own sobriety and to give individuals within correctional facilities an opportunity to find sobriety and the A.A. way of living sober."*

One of my best friends, who happens to be a recovered alcoholic, told me about his experience being incarcerated. That an overwhelming percentage of crimes were committed under the influence or for mind altering substances like alcohol. For him, especially alcohol. And one area where AA's can be of service is taking meetings into local jails in our AA district. That's what the new Correctional Facilities Chairperson, David F, is charged with doing: organizing and facilitating AA meetings to those who can't make a meeting "on the outside."

Here in Area 68 District 12, we have a large geographic area to cover, five counties with 3 jails. We need VOLUNTEERS, recovered men and especially recovered women to help with meetings at men's and women's jails, respectively. So even if jails and institutions aren't your thing (anymore) there are still ways you can help. Ask David F. or anyone else on the CFC Committee how to make it possible for someone else to share the message. Or if you want to take meetings into jails, this might be a good way to do service work. You can contact David F. at: cfc@aa12.org.



# FAITH AND FEAR.....CAN THEY CO-EXIST?

I can't count the number of times I've sat in a meeting and heard someone say, "Faith and Fear cannot coexist", or "If you have Fear, you have no Faith". I searched the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous for answers, and could not find a definitive conclusion. What I did find was Fear mentioned 63 times, and God (Faith) mentioned 298 times. This tells me that maybe those who wrote this book did not feel it necessary to tell me the answer. Or it might tell me I need a lot of God (Faith) to battle fear in order to continue this sobriety adventure. Or maybe, just maybe, this is one

of those times I'm supposed to use some of that intuition I've gained by working the steps and "doing the deal" and go with my experience...and I surely have it. Both Fear and Faith have been part of an adventure I began on 08/09/03, and although my Faith is strong and true, I get Fearful when I least expect it. The difference today is that I can recognize it as a part of this "disease", name it, and work through it, using the tools I've been so graciously given, knowing it will all turn out as it should. Believing that "This Too Shall Pass" is more than words on a plaque..Isn't that the very

essence of what Faith in God is? Believing in something with little to no "proof". If so, then I suppose I've proved my point. When Fear arises, it is my Faith, which allows me to walk through it, remaining sober, and even stronger than before. Faith is what keeps me on the path when Fear tells me to run and hide. Faith is the only weapon formidable enough to win this battle. So, if you have fear and no faith. Go get some. It's too risky not to. That's just what I think. Thanks for reading and blessings to all of you.

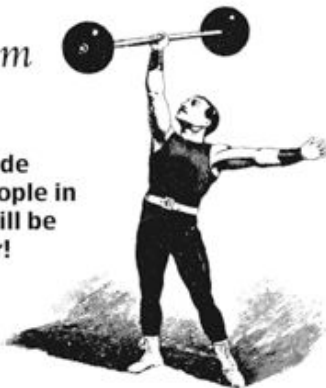
Betsy B  
Kerrville TX AA

October 2012  
**TXSCYPAA**  
**32**  
**Kerrville**

"On a  
mission from  
God..."

**The 32nd annual state wide  
Conference for Young People in  
Alcoholics Anonymous will be  
held in Kerrville this year!**

To PRE-REGISTER or to GET  
INVOLVED please contact:  
Alen Joblinske 719. 321. 1887  
Erin Gammon 214. 717. 0705



"TXSCYPAA was founded for the purpose of providing a setting for an annual celebration of sobriety among young people in AA. Since its inception, a growing group of people, who at first would not consider themselves as "young people," has become regular attendees. The number of young people suffering from alcoholism who turn to AA for help is growing, and TXSCYPAA helps to carry AA's message of recovery to alcoholics of all ages. This meeting provides an opportunity for young AA's from all over the world to come together and share their experience, strength, and hope as members of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA members who attend TXSCYPAA return home better prepared to receive young people who come to AA looking for a better way of life."

The conference, as stated above, was created to help young people be better prepared to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic, but over time, it has become so much more. It has become a way to show that suffering alcoholic that there is a life after drinking - that not only can you stay sober, but you can have fun doing it. TXSCYPAA has opened people's eyes over the years past to just how amazing Alcoholics Anonymous is and how, no matter what life throws at us, we can stay sober.

***Kerrville, TX is hosting this year's annual TXSCYPAA conference in October. Exact time and venue information to come soon. TXSCYPAA, Kerrville meets every other Saturday at the 720 club at 4pm. The next meeting is June 2nd, and the following will be June 16th. Service positions are available! Come out and fellowship.***

# Announcements

## Are you getting your copy of The Stand?

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

## May's Birthday Celebrants

### Ingram Solution

Kevin L. 5 yrs.	Rick B. 14 yrs.
Greg B. 5 yrs.	Steven B. 18 mo.
Will C. 1 yr.	Mike L. 18 mo.
Joe R. 8 yrs.	Vince C. 18 mo.
Robin E. 2 yrs.	Jay M. 18 mo.
Dave O. 33 yrs.	Graham S. 1 yr.
Paula R. 5 yrs.	Tim 4 yrs.

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

Send Birthdays to [newsletter@aa12.com](mailto:newsletter@aa12.com)

Please submit questions or comments to  
[newsletter@aa12.org](mailto:newsletter@aa12.org)

## District 12 Trusted Servants

**DCM** Jerry B.

**Alternate DCM** Linda H.

**Secretary** Leslie C.

**Alt. Secretary** William A.

**Treasurer** Edie T.

**Archives** TBD

**Correctional Facilities** David F.

**Grapevine** Shirley B.

**Help Line** Perry C.

**Newsletter** Mike S.

**Public Information** Tamby E.

**Cooperation with Professional Community** Sandy T.

**Spanish Meeting Coordinator** Jose B.

**Treatment Facilities** Andrew B.

For email and contact information please visit  
[www.aa12.org](http://www.aa12.org)

## 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 720 Club, Kerrville, TX**

**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**

**DON'T MISS IT!**

### THE GRAPEVINE

Get your subscription TODAY!!

For more information

contact

Shirley B.

Please submit all AA Service Opportunities to:

[newsletter@aa12.org](mailto:newsletter@aa12.org)

## 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.  
[newsletter@aa12.org](mailto:newsletter@aa12.org)

**SPANISH SPEAKING MEETING EVERY SATURDAY @ 2PM**  
2211 located at 2210 Bandera Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028

## UPCOMING AA EVENTS

### AREA 68

### WHERE

### WHEN

Texas State Convention	Irving	June 8-10
------------------------	--------	-----------

SWTA 68 Summer Workshop	Laredo	July 27-29
-------------------------	--------	------------

### DISTRICT 12

### WHERE

### WHEN

District 12 Monthly Meeting	Center Point - The AA Hall	June 10 2 pm
-----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------

H & I Signup	Kerrville - 720	June 17 3 pm
--------------	-----------------	-----------------

## AA Humor

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

-Mitch Hedburg

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

-anonymous

### District 12 Newsletter Focus

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