



THE STAND



JULY 2012

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

ISSUE NINETEEN

DAIRY QUEENS AND AA MEETINGS

My wife, Mae and I were living in Old Mexico when we discovered that we missed the USA and being closer to our families, so we decided to move to the Hill Country of Texas. We did not know exactly where in the Hill Country we wanted to live, so as I prepared our Mexico house for sale, Mae planned an exploratory house-hunting visit. My only parting instructions as to what to look for in an area was "make sure the place has plenty of AA Meetings and a Dairy Queen." Such are the priorities of a recovering alcoholic.

After a couple of weeks of searching, Mae called me to report that she finally found a great town. The name was Kerrville and there were AA Meetings every day and THREE Dairy Queens!!!

Being a sobriety long subscriber to The Grapevine, I saw that, coincidentally, there was going to be an AA Meeting scheduled for Kerrville in August. This was several months before we moved, but I wanted to attend the Hill Country Round Up to get a feel for "the way AA was done in Kerrville." I came up to my first Round Up in August of 2007. I was flabbergasted. It was the best organized, most friendly, well-run, and reasonably priced, large AA event I had ever attended. However, the most important thing I found was a high comfort level with how AA worked in this area and how "at home" I would feel after we moved.

The initial impression was not wrong. I have come to realize that, no matter where in this World I attend an AA Meeting, the message of sobriety is present to some degree, although the Meeting format differs widely. However, in Kerrville, I have found the message of sobriety to be loud and clear, with a welcomed emphasis on the Big Book, 12 X 12, and the Spiritual Answer. In the many places I have attended AA Meetings it is only in Kerrville where I have found Meeting attendees carrying our Big Book . . . and referring to it.

Before we moved to this area, I considered myself a pretty active Member in whatever AA Community we lived. However, once I started to attend Meetings here, I came to the realization that I was a "piker." It was here that I discovered a heightened awareness for how the Steps should be working in my life and a much richer gratitude for my sobriety.

Because this area has active H & I and Corrections Committees, I also found limitless opportunities to get out of myself and carry the message of our life-changing and lifesaving Program.

Thanks to Kerrville AA, I have a new focus and a deeper appreciation for my sobriety.

Dan C.
Kerrville, TX AA

Becoming Whole

Grapevine Article - Issue February 2011

I really thought I was unique and different when I came into AA. I was just about to come out as a gay man when I got sober in 1982. Getting sober was the easy part of being a recovering alcoholic in the AA program. I was very conflicted and had one hell of a time integrating my sexuality and my spiritual beliefs, to the point of feeling torn apart. I was riddled with fear and insecurity. I drank so I didn't have to feel pain and loneliness all the time. Drinking was my way of escaping from the reality of my life.

Being a gay man in AA has been a blessing in disguise for me. I've learned to love other people unconditionally, and I've come to a level of love and acceptance of myself that would not have been possible had I not found the program. I've gotten over my terminal uniqueness. Whatever your sexual orientation, recovery is still recovery. I've become a whole, integrated, healthy person thanks to AA. After 28 years in recovery, I'm finding out that it still takes what it takes to maintain a happy, sober life. I still go to any lengths to help myself and others who reach out. I've come to believe in a power greater than myself. God is doing for me what I could not do for myself.

David H., Missoula, Mont.

Concept of the Month

Concept VII

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse?"

Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

EXCUSES

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

ANNIVERSARY
BIRTHDAY
BREAKUP
DEATH
DEBT
DEPRESSION
FAILURE
FAMILY
FIGHT
FRUSTRATION

HOLIDAYS
LONLINESS
PROMOTION
RELATIONSHIP
SICKNESS
SUCCESS
UNEMPLOYMENT
VACATION
WORK

DCM CORNER

The District 12 servants to Treatment Facilities is "graduating" the Wednesday night 7PM Salvation Army meeting to it's own meeting status. Those in attendance will begin with the bare basics of A.A. to form an identity---other meetings/groups have no organization at all except autonomy, the basket--no GSR--no Traditions; still others have plenty of organization e.g., exactly how to do the "chips": name the color, no "chanting", "we are not a dumping ground"--lots of variation in meetings--no court papers or court papers; treatment or no treatment; relapse or "first-timers"--yet all are doing A.A. Differences but not Divisions (a daily reprieve from each other? [head tilt/side nod]. And the Spirituality goes on. Newcomers; old timers (can some people have been sober just too long) [smile]. In-betweeners: twixt 5 and 20 years; Big Book study; 12X12 study; media meetings; open/closed meetings; smoking/non smoking meetings. Meetings every day of the week; only one day; two days; three days. Speaker meetings; men's meeting; women's meetings; free coffee/pay coffee--there is no letting go of kinds of meetings/ OPPORTUNITIES, except cookies or no cookies [grin]. You name it! But claim it!--don't let go of what you know: "Many could recover if they had the opportunity we have enjoyed".

Jerry B.,servant

AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

THE GRAPEVINE IS A.A.s MEETING IN PRINT. WHEN THE GRAPEVINE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IT WAS FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT ABLE TO GET TO MEETINGS. THE GRAPEVINE IN HARD COPY IS A VALUABLE TOOL THAT WE NEED TO PRESERVE.YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN A "LIVE" RECYCLE EFFORT TO GET PAST ISSUES THAT CAN BE PASSED ON TO OTHERS. LETS GET THE WORD OUT!!: THAT WE DO INDEED HAVE A HANDY TOOL TO HELP US WHENEVER WE NEED A SHOT IN THE ARM. PLEASE SEE ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON THIS COMMITTEE OR HAVE ANY IDEAS HOW WE CAN BEST GET THE GRAPEVINE INTO OUR COMMUNITY.

WHO IS YOUR GROUP GRAPEVINE REPRESENTATIVE? YOU! THE BEST WAY TO GET EXCITED ABOUT THE MAGAZINE IS BY USING IT YOURSELF. GSRs CAN BRING RECYCLED QUANTITIES TO DISTRICT MEETINGS IN AN ON GOING PROJECT. IN TH JULY ISSUE, READ HOW A.A. GIVES HOPE TO ALCOHOLICS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

LOVE AND SERVICE,
SHIRLEY B.,
GRAPEVINE CHAIRPERSON, DISTRICT 12

A Little Bit of AA History

Quite the debate has ensued over the origins of the Serenity Prayer, but the majority of people believe it to have been written by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, a well-known theologian who served for many years as Dean and Professor of Applied Christianity at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Alcoholics Anonymous became aware of the Serenity Prayer in 1941, when it was discovered printed in the New York Tribune newspaper. Ruth Hock, AA's first secretary and a non-alcoholic. She was immediately taken with it, and well we all know how "the rest of the story." Here is the original version, in it's entirety.

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things that I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to
peace;

Taking as He did this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next.
Amen.

Personal Interview – Robert J.

This is my first submission for a personal interview of one of "the flock", so bear with me. I picked this man because he's been a friend for a while and although there's not enough space here to show you who he really is, it's a glimpse into but one of our awesome community.

Where are you from Robert?

"West Texas" (but I know it's Midland, specifically)

What is your sobriety date? (I sensed a bit of disappointment with his answer here, but reminded him that he is sober today and that is what matters)

"June 7th, 2012"

Do you truly know you're an alcoholic, and if so, when did you realize this?

"YES!" (he kind of rolled his eyes and gave me an annoyed little brother look), "and I realized it when I really really wanted to stop, and couldn't."

Do you have a sponsor?

"Yes." (I didn't get the okay from his sponsor so I'm not going to blow his anonymity here)

What are three things that you do specifically to stay sober?

"I meet with my sponsor, hang out with sober people, and go to meetings whenever I can."

What, if anything, are you doing different this time that you didn't do before to help you stay sober?

(Again with the eye rolling, little brother look/smile) "I am actually DOING the work!"

Do you have a favorite recovery related saying, and if so, what is it?

"Yes"... (As he searches his cell phone for the exact wording)

"Above all the grace and gifts God gives us is that of overcoming self."

I think that is the perfect ending to this story of Robert J., overcoming self, one day at a time.

ARE YOU WILLING?

Betsy B.
Kerrville, TX AA

Before you answer that..

I was sitting in a meeting the other day about "willingness." If you are in AA rooms for any length of time, you too will hear this topic come up. So, I'm sitting there with this "Of course I am willing! That's AA 101..let's move on to the harder stuff attitude" when a woman in the group began reading definitions. She read, cheerful readiness to do something, and eagerly compliant. She used words like enthusiasm and readiness..What?! That's not what it means..or is it?! Yes, oh yes, that's what it means. I have always thought that if I was told to do something, and I did it, or I would do it, I was willing, regardless of the mumbling under my breath, or the dirt I kicked up while I

explained to myself how unimportant said task was, or how I cursed and pouted and complained. I did it didn't I! Shouldn't that be enough?! Apparently not. Confused and baffled, I looked to the AA Big Book for some clarification. Apparently this willingness stuff is quite a big deal..lol. On page 76 the book notes..."willingness as being indispensable" My very tattered 12&12 page 34 says, "There is only one key, and it is called willingness." I searched for days and will now pass on what I've discovered. Let's start with what willingness ISN'T. It isn't simply going along with a task or a plan. That's called compliance. So, now I refer to myself as a "reformed complier." That's just a physical

response. I think the desired goal is that physical response PLUS an emotional one. I perform the task, AND I actually have a smile on my face and do a good job! Sounds easy?...not always. AA asks us to repeat this cheerful readiness response over and over. We are asked to be willing to begin, willing to approach individuals, willing to believe in a Power greater than ourselves, willing to face our character defects, and willing to do what it takes to rid ourselves of them. Sometimes it seems too hard to be enthusiastic and cheerful. Why would we want to put ourselves through it? If you don't know, I have but one answer.. "Keep coming back, and one day you will.

37th Annual Hill County Roundup

"Life Will Take On New Meaning"

August 24-26, 2012 @ Inn of the Hills

Contact : Alan A. (713) 828 - 4222 / aammen08@yahoo.com

? July's Question of the Month ?

What is your favorite thing about summer?

"Tanlines, or lack there of.." - Cody L.

"Being able to enjoy the outside with my friends." - Lee S.

"Getting to see my family, and swimming!" - Melinda K.

"The extra time with my children." - Serenity L.

"Fishing and nature." - Tember D.

Announcements



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:
Arlene Jobbinske 719.321.1887
Erin Gannon 214.717.0705

37th Annual Hill Country Roundup
"Life Will Take On New Meaning"

8/24
8/25
8/26

June's Birthday Celebrants Ingram Solution

Peggy O. 23 yrs. Sarah Beth M. 4 yrs.
Homer M. 8 yrs. Eric G. 4 yrs.
Tom J. 7 yrs. Brooke F. 2 yrs.
Ron K. 6 yrs. Kyle N. 1 yr.

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

Send Birthdays to newsletter@aa12.com

Please submit questions or comments to
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 Kevin J.

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

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, July 15th 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

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

SPANISH SPEAKING MEETING EVERY SATURDAY

@ 2PM

2211 located at 2210 Bandera Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028

UPCOMING AA EVENTS

AREA 68

WHERE

WHEN

SWTA 68 Summer Workshop

Laredo

July 27-29

SWTA 68 PI/CPC Conference

New Braunfels

Sept 14-16

DISTRICT 12

WHERE

WHEN

District 12 Monthly Meeting

Stonewall - Stone Sober

July 8
2 pm

H & I Signup

Kerrville - 720

July 15
3 pm

AA Humor

Clues That You Might Be An Alcoholic

You have awakened with an overwhelming feeling that you should go back and apologize... but you don't remember why or where.

You bought your current pick-up truck because it has a cool place to hide a six pack.

The 911 dispatcher no longer has to ask for the address.

The only hymn to which you remember all the words was written by Hank Williams, Sr.

You know for certain that putting your foot on the floor does not stop the room from spinning.

The producers of the television program COPS still send you Christmas cards.

District 12 Newsletter Focus

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