



# THE STAND



SEPTEMBER 2012 THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA 68 DISTRICT 12 OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

ISSUE 21

## Alcoholics Anonymous - Old Preamble -1940

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves. We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be. In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us. We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment with which we are familiar, permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A.A. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover. An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A.A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form. The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. is not interested in sobering up

drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover. There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish. In order to set our tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation. I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment. We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit, in fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A.A. Big Book. If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought you one. Read it, study it, live with it, loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be an A.A.

[www.mensworkshop.org/old\\_preamble.htm](http://www.mensworkshop.org/old_preamble.htm)

### Grapevine Online Exclusive - At the Crossroads

From my earliest recollection I had a dependence on others to meet my needs in life, including the need to belong and the need to be loved. I sought out affirmation and comfort from my teachers, my peers, and often from people I didn't even know long before I took my first drink. Around the age of 17 I discovered alcohol could fulfill my needs better than anything else; a false belief. In reality my drinking, from day one, simply sent me chasing after different groups of people, places, and things that I believed would bring me happiness. I married early in life with the belief a wife, a family, and a home would settle me, as I knew years before the wedding I had a problem alcohol. What was meant to be a family quickly turned into a shipwreck and it was not long until I was alone again. I continued to seek comfort in other relationships, even after finally admitting my alcohol addiction and coming into Alcoholics Anonymous.

For 18 months, I beat around the rooms of AA with the expectation that I would meet those elusive needs of mine by piggy-backing the work done by others. It was not until life forced me to my knees, in sobriety, that I had to answer the tough question, "whose responsibility is this?" I was at a crossroads, left led into certain continued insanity, right to recovery. I made the correct choice and that day I, for the first time, knew it was me who was responsible for my life and all that it entailed.

Since that time, I have worked the 12 Steps to the best of my ability and have enjoyed 30-plus years of sober, contented life. I am 29 years into my second marriage, and I no longer rely on my wife to make me happy. Today, I encourage those coming through the doors of AA to stop, look in the mirror at what they have become, think about where they want to be and ask themselves, "Who's responsibility is this?" Those who answer truthfully seldom falter.

Foster L., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

### Concept of the Month

## Concept IX

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

Do we understand the relationship between the two corporate service entities (A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine) and the General Service Board?

Does my home group subscribe to G.S.O.'s bimonthly newsletter Box 4-5-9?

## DCM CORNER

The Heart of A.A. is the group. The group is also the Key to Unity. The GROUP is where recovery begins, yet there are names of groups which do not exist in reality; it is a "Once Upon A Time" theme and the classic New Member Preface: "I used to have.....I used to have: a spouse; a job; a home; a car.... What Once Was is no longer. Bill W. said that the force which will destroy Alcoholics Anonymous will come slowly from inside the Fellowship. A.A. can not preserve itself automatically. Members "Who should know better" don't seem to! Once healthy, robust groups, famous in their own eyes, and a model of superiority, have become reclusive, participative as only in a list only; demonstrative of group-centeredness; introverted in the Seventh Tradition---- "Bondage to self" that affects {emotion} them as disassociated within the larger A.A. where they have lost identity--except to themselves---this is a mixture atypical of A.A.: anyone who volunteers gets responsibility who has no knowledge of the Traditions; Personalities lead before principles; Open Discussion begins to mean that you can share on anything...or...share everything; every meeting, for some, is a "Speaker" meeting; 'dual diagnosis' is in advent; 'Singleness of Purpose' has become part of "ignorance and misunderstanding"; there has begun a strata of "younger Old-Timers" with less than Three Years--for lack of those with Five Years (these numbers are made-up-- yet look around). Some group structures are-- experiencing breakdown--other groups within the Traditions and dedicated, knowledgeable, leadership are experiencing life in an active basis with defined loyalties. A.A. is a guide to itself--when it is respected. A new objective of the Inventory Process might be: "To recover from those things that caused us to SINK".

- Jerry B., servant

## Blue Lotus House Testimonial

Coming out of a treatment center was both an exhilarating, yet terrifying thing for me. I had left behind the excessive use of alcohol that had brought me to my knees and landed me in treatment, however, what I was worried about upon discharge was leaving my old life behind. I knew that I would not be able to return to the people, places, and things that had defined the past 6 years of my life. No longer would I have my apartment, my furniture, my old friends, or anything for that matter, that I had grown accustomed to. Even though all of these things had brought me nothing but misery, I longed for some familiarity in connection with the way that I used to live...I missed my home. I balked at the idea of entering a sober living environment, I had been living on my own for quite some time, and thought that since I had separated myself from the drinking, that I could surely thrive on my own. However, my counselor at the treatment center I had attended got me in touch with Nikki S., the owner of The Blue Lotus House before I left treatment, and after speaking with her I decided to put down a deposit and try out living in a sober living environment. I finally came to terms with the fact that my old possessions and acquaintances could be a disastrous place to return to, so I prepared myself for what I thought would be a temporary stay over before I could convince everyone that I could make it on my own. I didn't know anyone in this house aside from my good friend with whom I had attended treatment, and old insecurities took over. Would they like me? Would they accept me? Am I going to hate my existence living in sober living? However, the second I walked in the door I knew all of these worries were for nothing.

As soon as I walked in the door at The Blue Lotus, no sooner had I dropped my things on my bed, when I was greeted by welcoming smiles and hugs from the girls that now a month later I am proud to call my sisters. One would think that sharing a space with 9 other women is an inconceivable notion, however, never in my life have I been treated with such kindness and openness. Living with the girls in this house I know that at any given moment of the day there is someone there to talk to who shares a common struggle. The emotions and trials that we felt and still feel going through our alcoholism is lost on those who have no knowledge of this disease and where it takes you. Living in a sober living environment, you are constantly held accountable for the actions that destroyed your life before, and are surrounded by people who genuinely love you for who you are and not what you have done. Never before have I had people who are so willing to help you if it is within their power to do so, the girls would literally give you the shirt off their back (and literally sometimes do). Coming out of the fog of my alcoholism, I realized that I didn't just have to learn to live without alcohol, I had to relearn how to live, period. Sober living gives you a safe environment in which you can relearn skills and behaviors that eluded us in our alcoholism. I had no knowledge of how to budget money, how to live on a schedule, how to answer to someone other than myself, or how to actually work a job without periodically calling in due to wanting to drink rather than work. Living here has given me the structure to learn these things that many might think simple, but reprogramming the way you live is difficult without accountability. I am surrounded by wonderful women who want to see me succeed in my life, and I want nothing more than to see them succeed in their own. I thought I would be walking in to a place where I would be miserable, and come to find out, I entered a new home to find a family I didn't know I had. I am huge champion for the sober living community now, and in particular, The Blue Lotus House, thank you from the bottom of my heart to Nikki, Jess, Margaret, Kelly, Lori, Tyla, Sarah, Annette, Annie, and Faith for helping me get my life back! I now know that I can live my best life without alcohol today. All of you have been an integral part in saving me from myself, and the wonderful thing is that now thanks to sober living, someday I will be able to return the favor for someone else who suffers.

Elizabeth D.  
Recovering Alcoholic

# Where are they now..... by Tommy F

I felt a part of, like nowhere or nothing I had ever gone or done. Moving to the Texas Hill Country in 2000, I settled in to become what I thought was going to be a permanent fixture to the community. As I grew up in the rooms, I saw a fellowship created around me. With only two halfway houses in town at the time I joined in by carrying the message and by taking "Back to Basic " Meetings into the Norman Turner House. We would often load up a vehicle and head to Fredericksburg to share experience, strength, and hope to a treatment center. I remember a group of people would meet at an old run down beer joint/corner store (the Outpost) in Ingram Texas and study the Big Book. They used the Primary Purpose Workbook and had about 40 people to start but only 12 a year later when we finished. This group of about 12 started a meeting and named it "An AA Group" I was elected the first GSR and the group went on to hold three Fellowship of the Spirit Conferences before dying out with lack of interest. As the group grew the community also grew. Halfway houses began to pop up all over Kerrville. Lots of newly sober people out of treatment stayed in the area and began to build a recovery community that was to become well known across the country. I've seen a lot of people come and go. I have also experienced a lot of senseless deaths. I found a lot of AA Heroes that were pioneers to this community. I sure miss those "Cats" that showed me the way and paved the road to what the Kerrville Community has become. They will always have a special place in my heart. I made a pack awhile back that I too will stand up and become a community leader. With the growing fellowship and the blessing of Gods grace, my purpose in life became clearer. I had the blessing of sponsoring many guys who have shown me what how to have true love for another. I began experiencing true Unity as I set all personal differences aside and stuck with the common bond: same problem and same solution. I

gained relationships and true friends who stood next to me as I morn the death of my Father, heart broken with divorce, change of jobs and carriers and many different growing situations. As I look back it is unbelievable the amount of growth of Love and Service that I have come to experience. Not to mention being an elected 'Trusted Servant' and serving you as the representative of District 12!

After 12 years, wow half the life of a lot of young member in this community, I stood in front of my Home group (the same one since 2000) as I picked up my 15-year chip. The emotions were running wild with my sponsor Holly S. He showed me the way to a "God of understanding". I stood in front of a room full of my closest friends and as I experienced the LOVE, I said my Good-Byes now 15 years sober. In honoring a request of my mother, I moved back to Corpus Christi. Aging, widowed and in the need of her oldest son, her plea for support became yet another gift of grace. A little over two weeks in Corpus, I have starting working for a foundation that believes in a recovery community, and is pleading for help. I found a couple literature based meetings. One is an early morning (6:30 am) Big Book Study. I know God is continuing to use me in my family as a son, in my career as a role model in the community, and Recovery and Service as I continue to serve Area 68 as the PI/CPC Chairperson.

I already miss my "Circle of Friends". I will never forget those "Boys" who walked with me daily purpose to show the Glory of God! The torch has been passed, its time for others to step up and be community leaders...get down here in the trenches with us! I will see YOU on that road to Happy Destiny!!

## Rule #64

*The AA Grapevine, Inc. (July 1991)*

*Reprinted with Permission*

**Sometimes the Best Things are heard after the meetings. Such as:**

**"It was good talk, but he talked too much about what he said."**

**"I don't have trouble believing in a higher power, I just have trouble believing it isn't me."**

**"How long should you keep coming to meetings? Until you die of something else."**



# Announcements

October 2012

TXSCYP

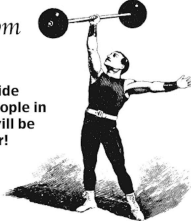
32

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



## 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, Oct 19<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

## 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

## August's Birthday Celebrants

### Ingram Solution

Alan A. 4 yrs.  
Sarah P. 5 yrs.  
Kristen B. 10 yrs.  
Rickey C. 1 yr.  
Lyle L. 6 yrs.  
Bob F. 12 yrs.  
Chris W. 8 yrs.  
Darlyn 3 yrs.

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** Karen K.

**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

## UPCOMING AA EVENTS

### AREA 68

### WHERE

### WHEN

Fellowship in the Pines

Smithville

Oct 5-7

SWTA 68 Fall Conference

Kerrville

Nov 2-4

### DISTRICT 12

### WHERE

### WHEN

District 12 Monthly Meeting

Boerne - 40700 IH10

Oct 14  
2 pm

H & I Signup

Kerrville - 720

Oct 21  
3 pm

*New Freedom - New Happiness - New Life*

# SWT Area 68

## Fall Conference & Business Meeting

### November 2-4, 2012

### Kerrville, TX

"The Heart of the Hill Country"

### District 12 Newsletter Focus

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