

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

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DISTRICT 12 NEWS-
LETTER FOCUS —
TO INFORM THE
AA COMMUNITY
OF INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO
DISTRICT 12, AREA
68, AND GSO AND
TO ENLARGE
GROUP PARTICI-
PATION.

THE STAND

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

Concept II

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference-excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter-the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society. [Long Form]

The first Concept gives all A.A. members the huge responsibility of preserving Alcoholics Anonymous and the authority to take action. Concept II begins to lay out a structure for groups to *delegate* its participation through their trusted servants.

It is not possible for all A.A. members to show up at every meeting to help make decisions. In fact, it is rare to have a majority of group members attend their own group's group conscience meetings. Therefore...

Home groups elect a G.S.R. [General Service Representative] to be their voice and vote at local meetings and at area assemblies. In turn, the G.S.R.s elect their Area Delegate and D.C.M. [These service positions are described in the A.A. *Service Manual*]

The Delegate carries their Area's collective group conscience to the General Service Conference.

To be effective, two-way communication between the groups and the Delegate is vital. The G.S.R. has the most challenging role in this process – keeping their home group informed about A.A. as a whole while informing the Delegate about group concerns.

Southwest Texas Area 68 is home to approximately 16,500 members from 575 groups in a geographic area spanning from Brownsville to Brownwood, Edna to Del Rio. While vital communication is a challenge, another equally important factor is necessary. Tune in next month to see how Concept III allows 'trusted servants' to meet their responsibilities.

James H.
P64/A68 Southwest Texas

God grant me
the Serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change
Courage to
change the things I can
and the Wisdom
to know the difference

The Serenity Prayer entered, unobtrusively, into A.A. history in the year 1941. Bill said in A.A. Comes of Age, "Never had we seen so much A.A. in so few words."

If your group has an event coming up and would like it in the newsletter, please contact:
Pjmedan@yahoo.com

Tradition Two

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

A.A. is both a democracy and, in Bill W.'s words, "a benign anarchy." A group elects its own officers—who have no power to *order* anybody to do anything. (Benign – gentle, kind / Anarchy – absence of authority)

If a group wants to be a part of A.A. as a whole, it elects a G.S.R. (general service representative, with a two-year term). G.S.R.s elect area committee members and then join them in electing a delegate from their area to the annual General Service Conference. The Conference is about the closest thing to government that A.A. has; it produces opinions on important matters of policy; it approves the choice of some trustee nominees

for the General Service Board and directly elects others. But neither the Conference or the board or anybody else can give orders to any group or member.

Then who's in charge around here? A.A. is a spiritual movement, and so the "ultimate authority" is the spiritual concept of the "group conscience." Its voice is heard when a well-informed group gathers to arrive at a decision, and don't forget the minority opinion always get heard and gets proper consideration. Don't forget that the minority opinion can be and often is right

And remembering the first Tradition (Unity), we should go along with the decision of the group conscience. Also remember that Trusted Servants serve for the good of all, without authority over any.

Jonathan Smith

SWTA 68, Panel 66 Alternate Delegate

HELP WANTED

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 3rd Sunday of the Month

2211 Is Moving!

The 2211 Group will host its last birthday night at the current location of 2210 Bandera Highway on February 27, 2016. The group will move out of this location at the end of February. Starting in March they will be in their new location at **1230 Bandera Highway, Kerrville, TX**, at the corner of Bandera Highway and south 16. It may take a short while to get settled in, but come on over and see the new place in March. We will be waiting to see you at meetings, and the coffeepot will be brewing!

WE NEED YOU! HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE BY SHARING YOUR STORY WITH THE DISTRICT! ALSO LOOKING FOR GROUP HISTORIES, UPCOMING GROUP EVENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS! REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! BE A PART OF IT! Contact:

Pjmcdan@yahoo.com

70th Annual Texas State

AA Convention

Austin, TX

June 24 - June 26, 2016

Great Events Will Come to Pass...



AA Speakers:

John H. - Sanford, FL

Astrid H. - Granada Hills, CA

Rose E. - Spring Hill, FL

Matthew M. - Port Orchard, WA

Michealine F. - Escondido, CA

Al-Anon Speaker:

Jenny P. - Eureka Springs, AR

G.S.O. Speaker:

Racy J. - New York City, NY

DoubleTree Hotel

6505 N. Interstate 35

Austin, TX 78752

(512) 454-3737

Room Rate: \$109 (Group code SCA)

BADGES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL CONVENTION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Register Online at: www.txaaconvention.org

For information or to be of service contact us at: AustinAA2016@Gmail.com

..... MAIL IN REGISTRATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Badge Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

2nd Registrant

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Badge Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

AA Registration \$35 Each \$ _____ Cash
 Al-Anon Registration \$35 Each \$ _____ Check
 Registration Donation for Scholarships \$ _____ Credit Card
TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Texas State AA Convention
 P.O. Box 8425
 Round Rock, TX 78683

Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12

WELCOME TO DISTRICT 12 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

... serving Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, and Kimble counties in the hill country of Texas.

Anybody can look at the schedules and events here, but if you want the full benefits of the site as a District 12 A.A. member, **please register and login**. The more District 12 A.A. members who sign up, the more useful the site becomes!

GET INVOLVED!

There are many opportunities to get help or to help other alcoholics in our district.

To learn more about service opportunities [click here](#)

Check out the NEW WEBSITE!!

www.aa12.org

The more who register,
the more useful the website.

Post or Update Your Meetings!
Post Events!

Everyone who registers can be notified!

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to the Pre General Service Assembly in Kerrville at the YO on April 8-10, 2016

What is the Pre General Service Assembly?

This is a weekend event that readies our Southwest Texas Area delegate for the General Service Conference in New York. During this event we will have a "mock conference" and discuss agenda items that the delegates who attend the GS from Canada and the US will discuss during the week-long business meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. So, what am I talking about? Come join us for this event and learn about the service structure of AA. Learn how you as a member of the fellowship can serve. Anyone can attend and anyone can volunteer to help with the assembly. We need lots of folks for hospitality, registration, coordination, greeting and many other duties.

Madeline A.

Our spiritual way of life: steps, traditions and concepts

SWTA 68 Pre General Service

Hosted by District 12

April 8-10, 2016

BOOK

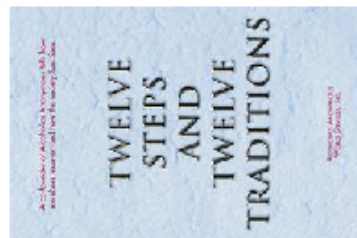
YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center

2033 Sidney Baker, Kerrville 78028

Single room is \$109, Double is \$119

Cutoff date **March 9, 2016** - Use Code: SWTA68 for reservations

BOOK



Madeline A., chair 830 459-0322. Mary P. and Melissa O., Registration 830 928-4977.

Hospitality Mindy G and Teresa D. 713 822 3591.

<http://aa-swta.org/events>

The 2nd Step - Being Restored to Sanity

FOR THE FIRST several months in AA, I couldn't look at the Second Step: "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." The implied word "*insanity*" drove me quickly from the First Step to the Third. I was so deluded that I could not conceive of that powerful and graphic word applying to me.

Several months passed, and I developed at least a nodding acquaintance with the other eleven Steps--but not Step Two. I continued to avoid it, because that awful word "*insanity*" was like a conceptual wall. Perhaps, in those early days of sobriety, the fear that I was going insane during drinking was still too fresh for me to face Step Two honestly. "Irrational," I'd admit to; "insane," I couldn't.

About this time, I joined a Step group. Every twelve weeks, the Second Step would once again appear. Finally, I developed enough honesty and self-awareness to acknowledge that some of my bizarre activities during my drinking days had been so irrational as to warrant the label "*insane*." But I quickly dismissed further consideration of Step Two by rationalizing that my bizarre behavior ended when my drinking did, and that I had thus been restored to sanity. After all, I no longer raced the police down the main street nor drove my motorcycle off the dock into the lake. So much for the Second Step.

More time passed, and each time the Second Step would roll around for group discussion, I'd sit through it silently, feeling it no longer had any application to me. But gradually, a nagging thought started to tell me that I was missing something. The more I heard the Step discussed, the more I knew that something was passing me by--perhaps something very important. Finally, after months of uncomfortable ignorance, it came to me: Although my *insane behavior* had largely disappeared with my drinking, my *insane attitudes* persisted. Being restored to behavioral sanity was only the preliminary part of the Second Step; attitudinal insanity was still very much a force in my life.

As I pondered this new-to-me discovery, I realized that any attitudinal insanity leads directly to inappropriate behavior, which then results in emotional pain for me and often for others. Slowly, I started to see how this worked. My personality defects, not yet checked by use of the AA program, resulted in an insane attitude, which caused inappropriate behavior, which, in turn, led to pain.

(An example I experienced involved my grandiosity. One spring day, my grandiosity became so insane that I thought I could afford a new luxury car--despite the fact that I had an almost-new car, purchased with overextended credit. So my insane attitude led to the purchase of that new car--inappropriate behavior--which in turn resulted in self-inflicted pain. Each of the next thirty-six months, I kicked myself for the higher and longer monthly car payments, which continued long after the "fix" of the new car had worn off.

Now, I see that buying the car was not an insane act--just inappropriate for me. There is nothing insane about buying an automobile, and under certain circumstances, it is fully appropriate. But the grandiose attitude that told me to buy the car when I couldn't afford it was clearly a form of insanity.

Thus, I have concluded that, while insane behavior pretty well evaporated with booze, insane attitudes linger on. Studying the Second Step has heightened this awareness; and now, beginning to work the Second Step in earnest, I find that my Higher Power is helping to identify those insane attitudes before they lead to inappropriate behavior and the inevitable, consequent pain.

**“SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE
MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY
MIX”**

***WHERE TO SEND YOUR
GROUPS 7TH TRADITION
CONTRIBUTIONS***

DISTRICT LEVEL SUPPORT -

DISTRICT 12 TREASURER: P.O. BOX
290556 KERRVILLE, TX 78029-0556

AREA LEVEL SUPPORT -

SWTA 68 TREASURER P.O. BOX
720651 MCALLEN, TX 78504

WORLD SERVICE SUPPORT -

THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
GRAND CENTRAL STATION P.O.
BOX 459 NEW YORK, NY 10164-0423

SWTA 68 Panel 66 Area Officers &

Committee Chairs

Delegate	Denise T.	delegate@aa-swta.org
Alt. Delegate	Jonathan S.	altdelegate@aa-swta.org
Chairperson	Michael P.	chairperson@aa-swta.org
Alt. Chair	Cathy H.	altchair@aa-swta.org
Area Registrar	Barbara R.	registrar@aa-swta.org
Secretary	Rae T.	secretary@aa-swta.org
Treasurer	Dean D.	treasurer@aa-swta.org
Archives	K.C. H	archives@aa-swta.org
Grapevine/La Vina	Mari G.	grapevine@aa-swta.org
Treatment	Cherie R.	treatment@aa-swta.org
Bilingual	Mario R.	bilingual@aa-swta.org
Newsletter	Sonia D.	newsletter@aa-swta.org
Webmaster	Rob. C	webmaster@aa-swta.org
C.F.C	Randall T.	cfc@aa-swta.org
P.I./C.P.C.	Larry L.	pi-cpc@aa-swta.org
SWTA 68 WEBSITE		http://www.aa-swta.org



**SOUTHWEST TEXAS
AREA 68
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
CONFERENCE 2016**

**FREEDOM
FROM
BONDAGE**

HOSTED BY DISTRICTS 10 & 27

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016

HILTON GARDEN INN ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FEB. 14, USING CODE "A68"
\$89/NIGHT - 956.761.8700

SPEAKERS:

**LENA W. OF SOUTH PADRE
PAXTON H. OF SAN ANTONIO
FRANCISCO M. OF MISSION (SPANISH)
SPANISH INTERPRETATION PROVIDED**

MIKE H. OF AUSTIN

- VOLUNTEER PANEL - CORRECTIONAL PROFESSIONAL PANEL -
- TDCJ VOLUNTEER TRAINING ORIENTATION - HOSPITALITY SUITE -

**CATERED LUNCH FOR MEMBERS & PROFESSIONALS
SATURDAY 11:30AM**

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

**KRIS S. - CFCONF2016@YAHOO.COM - 240.501.9759
DAVID T. - DAVIDSPITX@HOTMAIL.COM - 832.630.9589**

\$15 Early Registration (\$20 at the Door) = _____
\$15 Saturday Catered Lunch = _____
TOTAL = _____

Detach and mail in along with check or money order payable to:
District 10, PO BOX 3543, South Padre Island, TX 78597

NAME: _____ HOME GROUP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

AA **GRAPEVINE**

A man is sitting in the coach section of a flight, biting his fingernails and sweating profusely. Noticing his disturbed expression, a flight attendant says, "Sir, can I get you something from the bar to calm you down?"

The man nods yes while shaking terribly. Seconds later she comes back with a drink. He downs it quickly and seems to calm down.

Ten minutes later, the flight attendant sees him biting his nails again. She brings him

another drink, which he gulps down. A half hour later she returns to see him shaking uncontrollably and almost in tears.

"My goodness," the flight attendant says, "I've never seen someone so afraid to fly."

"I'm not afraid of flying," says the man.

"Then what's the matter?"

"I'm trying to give up drinking."

DAVE C.Ft. Washington, Md.

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12-STEP VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP FORM FOR THE DISTRICT 12 REGION.

If you are interested in being available for Hot Line phone calls, please fill in the on-line form below, San Antonio Central Service Office (CSO) acts as a central call center for our District.

San Antonio Central Service Office (CSO)

12-Step Volunteer Sign-Up Form for District 12 members

We have various areas of 12-Step work needed. Please read below and check (✓) your preference.

At least one year of sobriety recommended for 12-Step list

<input type="checkbox"/> 12-Step Calls <i>Available to call newcomers to share about Alcoholics Anonymous and/or direct them to a meeting. Sometimes visitors to our area would like a call from someone just to make contact while they are here.</i> Times available: _____ Middle of the night: __yes __no Special notes: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs 12-Step <i>Please pick up complimentary Special Needs pamphlet at CSO.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf or Hard of Hearing <i>Communicating by means of signing on 12-Step calls and/or at meetings for the deaf or hard of hearing.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Blind <i>Willing to get a blind person to and from a meeting.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses <i>Getting the disabled to meetings that are wheelchair accessible and have accessible bathrooms. Taking meetings to the homebound, etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridging the Gap 12-Step <i>Help newcomers make the transition from treatment centers to A.A. meetings. Complimentary pamphlet available at CSO.</i>
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NAME:		
ADDRESS:		ZIP CODE:
PHONE:	EMAIL:	SOBRIETY DATE:

District 12 Help Line Representative - Jim Wyatt

Jim.wyatt48@gmail.com

Cell phone: 325-234-3333