

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

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DISTRICT12 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 3

April 2016

Concept IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Before I had even heard about the Twelve Concepts for World Service I was already receiving the benefits they provide. When I attended my very first A.A. meeting and stated my name and declared myself an alcoholic, I was able to fully participate in all aspects of the meeting. Where did that right come from?

The headwaters of the A.A. service structure begin with the members of a home group. Their voice and vote flows through their group, on to District, then through Area, and finally to the General Service Conference. Every home group member, regardless of length of sobriety or other experience enjoys the privilege to express their opinion, vote on group matters, and *elect* their G.S.R. This opens up a channel of communication from group members all the way to trustees on the General Service Board and staff at A.A.’s General Service Office.

The term ‘reasonable proportion’ for individual A.A. members: one home group only, voting for just one G.S.R. Nobody in A.A. can dictate to another member or be put in a position of authority over others.

It is sometimes surprising to outsiders that the General Service Conference allows elected trusted servants, non-alcoholic trustees, and paid G.S.O. and Grapevine staff to all have an equal voice and vote. Nobody is treated as a second-class member. This makes it possible for ‘...a loving God as He may express himself...’to enter.

I am grateful to participate, via my home group with A.A. as a whole. Next month we will see how our voice and opinion are heard, especially in the face of dissent. See you then.

James H.
P64/A68 Southwest Texas

Tradition Four

Though we did not like their symptoms and the way these disturbed us, they, like ourselves, were sick too. We asked God to help us show them the same tolerance, pity, and patience that we would cheerfully grant a sick friend. When a person offended we said to ourselves, "This is a sick man. How can I be helpful to him? God save me from being angry. Thy will be done."

pg 67 Alcoholics Anonymous

“

It is plain that a life which includes deep resentment leads only to futility and unhappiness. To the precise extent that we permit these, do we squander the hours that might have been worth while.

pg 66 Alcoholics Anonymous

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Autonomy simply means that each group can manage itself exactly as it pleases, provided that it does not harm any other group or A.A. as a whole. This means that each A.A. group is an individual entity and depends on its own group conscience to determine its course of action. The group, like the individual, must conform to our spiritual principles to insure its survival. In view of the tremendous freedom afforded to the groups there are but two warnings: a group ought not do anything that would injure A.A. as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody. As each group practices its autonomy, we need to remember to keep it simple, more rules and guidelines are not necessarily better. We need to always remember

“Don’t take yourself too damn seriously.” Sobriety and the carrying of our A.A. message should always be our sole objectives.

Gratitude in service,
Jonathan Smith
SWTA 68 – Alternate Delegate

Crutch of Profanity

Despite signs on walls in many clubhouses and the suggestions of meeting chairpersons, there seems to be an increasing use of profanity in AA meetings.

In some meetings, the use of vulgar and obscene language is so great that quite often the thought of the meeting is lost in the midst of the garbage that is being spoken.

While I am no saint, I have tried to observe some sort of reverence in AA meetings, since it is a time when we try to listen while God speaks to us through others.

Quite often I wonder if these people who seem to need the crutch of profanity to get their words across use the same filthy language when they pray?

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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

Women's Big Book

On September 29, 2014 a new noon meeting began. A group of women decided to start a Big Book study in Kerrville. Zion Lutheran church on Barnett and Hwy. 16 allowed the women to rent the art room (#108) for the new meeting. There were 23 women at the first meeting and it has been so successful that the meeting had to move to Fellowship Hall in order to have enough chairs for the attendees. The group celebrated its one year birthday in early October of 2015.

A Wednesday meeting was added to study the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. It is also well attended but still in room #108 due to smaller numbers. Both meetings are attended by women who are on their lunch hour from

work, as well as alcoholic women interested in literature meetings that study our books : Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Both meetings are closed meetings for alcoholics only. Birthdays of one year or more are celebrated the last Monday of the month when the meeting is an open meeting.

-Monday Big Book-noon in Fellowship Hall
Closed Meeting

-Wednesday 12 & 12- noon in room #108 (down the hall from the church office) Closed Meeting

Zion Lutheran Church
624 Barnett St., Kerrville

Madelin A, Kerrville

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

AA GRAPEVINE

A Fruitful Moment of Silence

The custom of observing a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer at the beginning of an AA meeting is widespread. Its primary purpose, of course, is to enable members to quiet their minds and focus on the situation at hand: the meeting. This is exactly what I did for many years--pause and prepare for sharing.

As the meeting progressed and I listened intently to the comments by the participating members, I'd weigh each one and consider whether I could identify or learn or even agree with what was being said. But after a few years of this at my home group, listening to many of the same people, I gradually became aware that I was, in my thoughts, standing in judgment and criticism concerning several of the long-comers: John always uses so much profanity--how can this be a Higher Power speaking through a member? Then there's Mary--she always says the same thing ad infinitum. And Betty--her comments never reflect the true AA philosophy.

My attitude continued in this vein for a considerable period of time until one day I became aware of my conduct: after a number of Steps Four and Five over the past ten years, I still had outstanding defects in the area of impatience and judgmentalism.

I'd lived in the program long enough to know that, having once identified my character shortcomings, immediate action was required. As I pondered this, it occurred to me that I had a convenient tool to use: from that point on at every meeting, when we were asked to observe the moment of silence, I would pray that I'd remain openminded to whatever anyone said. Who was I to question through whom messages were being sent?

Shortly after this, I expanded my prayer, and now as I bow my head and close my eyes, I quiet myself and focus by praying, "Dear God, keep me openminded as I listen to my fellow members and make me be prudent in whatever I have to say."

It works, and meetings are never boring anymore.

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Share Your Experience, Strength, and Hope
Submit Your Stories, Photos, Art and More!

The Grapevine, "your meeting in print" is also your meeting on the Web. Why not share? They're always accepting submissions of art or text, and you need no prior publishing experience. All it takes is a little willingness and a desire to share.

Read the [guidelines](#) for submitting, check the [editorial calendar for upcoming special topics](#), and then use the [upload form](#) at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/>

AA District 12
Texas Area 68

HOME COMMUNITY MEETINGS ACTIVITIES SERVICE NEWSLETTERS CONTACTS

24-Hour Help Line
(888) 865-8800

Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous

Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12

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](#)

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!

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!

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

Pjmcdan@yahoo.com



Step 4

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

When I came into the program I thought I was an honest person. Sure, I lied a little about my drinking but all in all I was very honest. Little did I know when I embarked on this step that I would learn so much more about myself. What do you mean, I had a part in situations where others made me mad? I was such a nice person how could I somehow be responsible for such transgressions? When I saw the question in the middle of page 67, "Where had we been self-ish, dishonest, self-seeking and frightened?" I gulped. I think that was the swallowing of my pride. I was good with following the diagram on page 65 and listing the first three columns. After all, people had been so mean to me! They had affected my self esteem, my personal relationships, my security, pocketbook and pride. Now I had to examine my selfishness, dishonesty, self-seeking and fear. Oh dear, I finally had to look at myself and understand that somewhere during these events I had set the ball rolling. I had done something or said something that caused others to retaliate. This idea of having a part was a foreign concept to me and it took some writing for me to understand my selfish, self-catered actions. It also took some time for my mind to clear enough for me to remember events and resentments. I carried around a small spiral note pad so I could jot down things I remembered and could write out the step work later. My work on this step was thorough. I was relieved to get it all written out and to discover so many things that needed discarding. This step was truly an awakening for me and a necessary one so that I could continue forward with the rest of the steps.

Madeline A., Kerrville

HUMOR

The annual Florida State Convention was held in a swank beach hotel, complete with all the luxuries. On the third day of the convention, a charming lady, seeking accommodations, was having a slight argument with the manager, since she wanted to bring her pedigreed poodle with her. The manager finally convinced her that the hotel would not take pets and, as she left in somewhat of a huff, she was overheard to mutter, "No dogs, but alcoholics?!"

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New from Grapevine

Forming True Partnerships

This collection of Grapevine stories shows the many ways members use the Twelve Steps, sponsorship, and the tools of the program to improve and repair relationships, old and new. When we were drinking, many of us had, as the Step Four chapter in the AA book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions puts it, "a total inability to form a true partnership with another human being."

[Order your copy today](http://www.aagrapevine.org/) at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/>



**“SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE
MONEY AND SPIRITUAL-
ITY MIX”**

***WHERE TO SEND YOUR
GROUP’S 7TH TRADI-
TION 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

District 12 Trusted Servants

DCM - Sandy T.
Alt DCM - Tracy Mc.
Treasurer - David S.
Alt Treasurer - Brian M.
Secretary - Sarah J.
Alt Secretary- Whitney W.
PICPC - Kathleen K.
CFC - Marty M.
H&I - Jim W.
Newsletter- Patrick Mc.
Grapevine- Paul H.
Archives - Jayson J.
Bilingual - Greg M.
Webmaster - David H.

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
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Secretary	Rae T.	secretary@aa-swta.org
Treasurer	Dean D.	treasurer@aa-swta.org
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SWTA 68 WEBSITE		http://www.aa-swta.org

“Every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us” No matter how unreasonable others may seem, I am responsible for not reacting negatively. Regardless of what is happening around me I will always have the prerogative, and the responsibility, of choosing what happens within me. I am the creator of my own reality. When I [review my day], I know that I must stop judging others. If I judge others, I am probably judging myself. Whoever is upsetting me most is my best teacher. I have much to learn from him or her, and in my hearts, I should thank that person.”

-Bill Wilson

Source: Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 88 *also found in "Daily Reflections" for the day October 7

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



2211 Club

14th Anniversary



May 14, 2016

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Speaker at 6:00

2211 Club

**1230 Bandera Highway
Kerrville, TX**

***3rd annual
'Who has
the best
BBQ and
Dessert?'***

***{Bring Potluck
side dishes}***

