

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 5

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## Concept V

*Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.*

We all get together, carefully consider the proposed idea, discuss the pros and cons, and finally vote on the matter, reaching substantial unanimity (at least two-thirds of total votes.) Done deal, right? Hold on.

This Concept gives the minority (those who voted on the losing side of a proposal) a chance to speak up after the vote has been taken. Why? The minority frequently is right. Even when in error, the minority can ensure a thorough debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

The minority opinion has flipped decisions multiple times at the Area level. In the past few years the GSRs, DCMs and Area Officers debated and voted to 1) sign a lease agreement to house Area archives materials, 2) end discussion about the Area paying for ASL interpreters at Area events, and 3) not create an Archivist position at the Area level.

In each instance cited above, the minority opinion was heard. A voter who supported the majority position then announced they had changed their mind. The proposal was opened up again for discussion and a second vote taken. The decisions were reversed. The second vote is always final.

Proceeding at the pace of ‘A.A. Time’ may seem tedious. However, full and thorough debate of any matter of importance is vital in reaching the best conclusion possible. Concept V ensures all have a chance to be heard, thus preventing the majority from strong-arming its way to power.

James H.  
P64/A68 Southwest Texas

## Tradition Five

"This is perhaps difficult, especially discussing our defects with another person. We think we have done well enough in admitting these things to ourselves. There is doubt about that. In actual practice, we usually find a solitary self-appraisal insufficient. Many of us thought it necessary to go much further. We will be more reconciled to discussing ourselves with another person when we see good reasons why we should do so. The best reason first: If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. Time after time newcomers have tried to keep to themselves certain facts about their lives. Trying to avoid this humbling experience, they have turned to easier methods. Almost invariably they got drunk. Having persevered with the rest of the program, they wondered why they fell. We think the reason is that they never completed their housecleaning. They took inventory all right, but hung on to some of the worst items in stock. They only *thought* they had lost their egoism and fear; they only *thought* they had humbled themselves. But they had not learned enough of humility, fearlessness and honesty, in the sense we find it necessary, until they told someone else *all* their life story."

-A.A. Big Book p.72-73

**"Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."**

### Our primary purpose

From the November 1956 Grapevine

THERE is a Fifth Tradition Group within our group. We think it helps to examine our group conscience every once in a while, especially that part of our conscience which could tell us whether or not we are properly performing our primary purpose.

You will remember that Tradition Five reads: "Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." That seems to place a responsibility on a group, over and beyond the responsibility of the individual who might meet with or sponsor a suffering alcoholic. There have been at least a few occasions when one of us after visiting a prospect once or twice will decide that the fellow is "not ready" or "too far gone" or "not wanting to stop"; and then proceeded to forget him, despite the fact that the suffering alcoholic had approached the group for help.

Our little Fifth Tradition Group (made up of four or five new and old members) tries to keep track of such prospects and according to their judgment, may suggest that another member-closer perhaps because of neighborhood, vocation or age group-give this still-suffering alcoholic an occasional phone call or suggest a pick-up for a meeting that

might have some special mutual interest. Sometimes it works . . . at least it makes us feel that we are giving the fellow or girl another chance, perhaps in recognition of the multitude of "another chances" given each of us.

We ask our members to keep this "group-with-in-the-group" informed of all prospects that come to us, through Inter-group, local phone exchange, clergymen, doctors, or when they might just come to our open meetings, seeking information for themselves. We don't hound or chase after those who don't want us, but there probably are some who need just a little more encouragement.

Also, this group extends its interest to those who are new in AA and those who seem to have a little difficulty in stopping and even to those around for awhile who haven't picked up any group activity or made any firm friendships. Ofttimes this group will suggest that one of us become a "friend" to such people. We don't appoint sponsors for the newcomer because we believe that each one has the personal privilege of selecting his sponsor, but many times this "friend" can make the newcomer feel more welcome, and help him better understand what is going on. We don't spy or pry or try to find out when the fellow or girl had his or her last drink . . . we just want to be sure they know we are interested and eager to

(Continued on page 3)

help when asked.

We want to make sure that no one will continue to suffer. . . just because we forgot!

Our Fifth Tradition Group meets occasionally to review the group membership to remind others that someone has been around for a few months and may be ready to talk at an open meeting or lead a closed meeting. They often suggest that a member might be helped if he were encouraged to get into a new group activity, or someone else is getting close to an anniversary and should be given a chance to decide whether he or she wants to celebrate at an open meeting. They also greet our guest speakers at open meetings and see to it that they know we appreciate their visit. They keep their eyes open for any new faces which might indicate that another suffering alcoholic is seeking help; and try to neglect no one.

In fact, they are doing what probably all of us want to do, yet so often overlook. They are not relieving us of our individual responsibility or stopping any of us from being as active as we want to be. They are merely watching in the background so that we as a group will be ever mindful of our primary purpose-to help all who come to us for help. Someone . . . at some time . . . helped each of us. We want to be sure that no one will continue to suffer . . . just because we forgot!

ANONYMOUS Hartsdale-Ardsley, New York

	
<b>70th Annual Texas State AA Convention Austin, TX June 24 - June 26, 2016 Great Events Will Come to Pass...</b>	
<b>AA Speakers:</b> John H. - Sanford, FL Astrid H. - Granada Hills, CA Rose E. - Spring Hill, FL Matthew M. - Port Orchard, WA Michealine F. - Escondido, CA	<b>Al-Anon Speaker:</b> Jenny P. - Eureka Springs, AR  <b>G.S.O. Speaker:</b> Racy J. - New York City, NY
<b>DoubleTree Hotel</b> 6505 N. Interstate 35 Austin, TX 78752 (512) 454-3737 Room Rate: \$109 (Group code SCA)	
<b>BADGES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL CONVENTION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES</b> Register Online at: <a href="http://www.txaaconvention.org">www.txaaconvention.org</a> For information or to be of service contact us at: <a href="mailto:AustinAA2016@gmail.com">AustinAA2016@gmail.com</a>	
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 _____	
<b>TOTAL \$ _____</b>	
Make checks payable to: Texas State AA Convention P.O. Box 8425 Round Rock, TX 78683	

“An AA group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone those of nonalcoholics in the world around us. The AA group is not, for example, a mediator of domestic relations, nor does it furnish personal financial aid to anyone. Though a member may sometimes be helped in such matters by his friends in AA, the primary responsibility for the solutions of all his problems of living and growing rests squarely upon the individual himself. Should the AA group attempt this sort of help, its effectiveness and energies would be hopelessly dissipated. **This is why sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of AA’s 12 Steps, is the sole purpose of the group. If we don’t stick to this cardinal principle, we shall almost certainly collapse. And if we collapse we cannot help anyone.**”

Letter from Bill Wilson dated 1966 and quoted in “As Bill Sees It”, page 79

**Tradition Five (long form):** *“Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”*

**From the AA Preamble (Grapevine):** *“Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”*

District 12 wants to give a big welcome and thank-you to our SWTA68/Panel 66 Delegate, **Denise T.** for coming to Kerrville and presenting the Delegate’s Report. The A.A. *Service Manual* says that “**Reporting to groups, districts, and the area back home is a big part of the Delegate’s job, and one that can prove challenging.**” It goes on to say “**Ask to be invited– or invite yourself. Get in somehow! It costs groups and GSO money to bring in Delegates; groups should see and hear the reports on the conference.**”





**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 5

**“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. “**

### **‘Lifting the Burden’**

I had been sober in AA for two years when I went to a meeting and admitted I felt ashamed of being an alcoholic. The feedback I got was extensive and helpful, and something one fellow said to me really clicked. "It sounds as if you're ready for Step Five," he said.

I was between sponsors at the time, so I asked a woman who attended one of my regular meetings if she'd hear my Fifth Step. Using all I had learned about Step Four in the meetings, I set about writing my inventory.

Searching and fearless it was, as I proceeded to write pages that unearthed memories I'd long buried. And along with my past history, I realized I wanted to be rid of a resentment against someone I'd been carrying since getting sober. I had tried to pray for the person and to let go of the resentment, but each day my anger toward this person still simmered. I knew I was finally ready to be rid of the resentment when I admitted it was hindering my progress toward sobriety and peace.

When I finished my Step Four writing, a friend suggested that I not let too much time go by between writing my inventory and sharing it. So one cold February day in 1990, I sat at her table and read my inventory.

Before I started, however, she offered some important guidance: "Remember that our Higher Power is also here listening" and "You can trust that nothing you say will leave this room." That second statement was especially helpful because if anything was an exercise in trust for me, it was this experience.

As I read my inventory, I was sure she'd be shocked or judgmental. What a relief to encounter only understanding and acceptance. I felt my shame melt away. When I finished, she said, "The things you've talked about today are over and no longer a part of you. If you do another Step Four and Five, it won't be on what you've addressed now, for that's gone."

I left her home that day feeling relieved of a huge burden and also cleansed. Several days later, I realized I hadn't once thought of the person I'd resented so much. This was a miracle. Through Step Five, God had removed my shame about being an alcoholic as well as the resentment I'd harbored for so long. And that freedom still exists, years later.

Teresa P. Syracuse, New York

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

“There are those who predict that A.A. may well become a new spearhead for a spiritual awakening throughout the world. When our friends say these things, they are both generous and sincere. But we of A.A. must reflect that such a tribute and such a prophecy could well prove to be a heady drink for most of us – that is, if we really came to believe this to be the real purpose of A.A., and if we commenced to behave accordingly. Our Society, therefore, will **prudently cleave to its single purpose:** the carrying of the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. *Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in one area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody.*”

**AA Comes of Age, page 232**

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



**2211 GROUP**

**INVITES YOU**

**TO OUR**

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**14 YEARS**

**OF**

**UNITY, SERVICE and RECOVERY**

**Saturday, May 14, 2016**

**3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker at 6:00 p.m.**

**(at our new home)**

**1230 Bandera Highway**

**Kerrville, Texas**

**BBQ COOK-OFF**

**SWEET TOOTH BAKE-OFF**

**\*\*\*\* Potluck dinner at 4:00 p.m. \*\*\*\***

**‘Split-the-Pot Plus’ Raffle!**

**Questions? Contact:**

**Sandy T. (830) 792-4087 or Mary D. (830) 890-0151**

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## **HELP WANTED**

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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

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