

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

July 2016

Concept VII

The Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments empowering 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.

As seen in Concept VI, the General Service Board is responsible for the legal and financial aspects of the corporation named The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and the two service companies it owns, AAWS, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc. The Trustees are legally empowered to act on behalf of A.A.

A method of checks and balances was created to ensure the Trustees would always be responsive to the needs of the Fellowship. The General Service Conference is where the Fellowship, through its elected Delegates intersect with the Trustees and with the staff of the General Service Office.

As Delegate I served on the Conference Committee on Trustees. Our committee reviewed the nominations for new trustees put forth by the General Service Board. The delegates had the power to reject the nominations, however only the Trustees could elect new Board members. In the 65 years of the Conference, no nominee has been rejected.

After the conclusion of the General Service Conference the Board meets to hear and vote on every Advisory Action passed during the Conference. Again, in the history of the Conference every Advisory Action has been approved by the Trustees.

The spiritual and financial powers of the Conference far outweigh the legal power of the Board. If the Trustees were to act in defiance of the will of the Fellowship, soon all monies will be cut off. Thankfully, this point has never been reached. The Board and the Fellowship have found common ground – helping the still suffering alcoholic.

James H.
P64/A68 Southwest Texas

Tradition Seven

"We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all, everyone? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing. "

-A.A. Big Book p.76

"Looking again at those defects we are still unwilling to give up, we ought to erase the hard-and-fast lines that we STEP SIX have drawn. Perhaps we shall be obliged in some cases still to say, "This I cannot give up yet . . . , " but we should not say to ourselves, "This I will never give up!"

12 and 12 pg.68

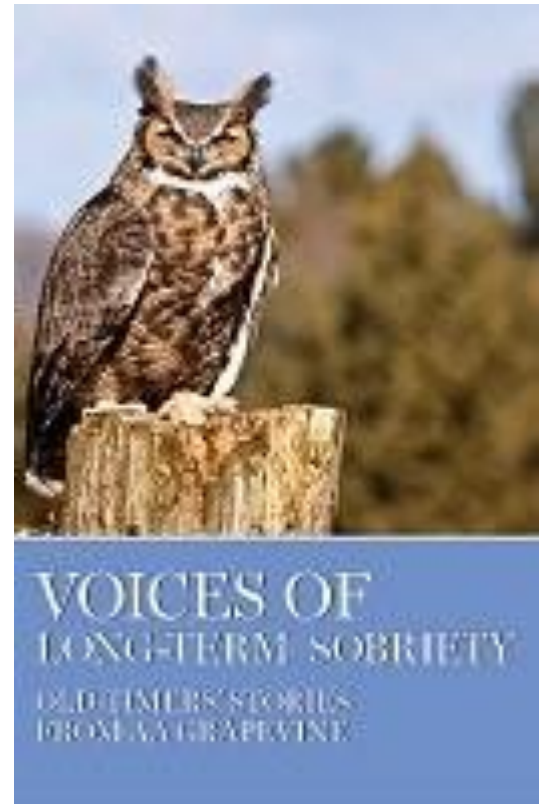
"The moment we say, "No, never!" our minds close against the grace of God. Delay is dangerous, and rebellion may be fatal. This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives, and move toward God's will for us. "

12 and 12 pg.69

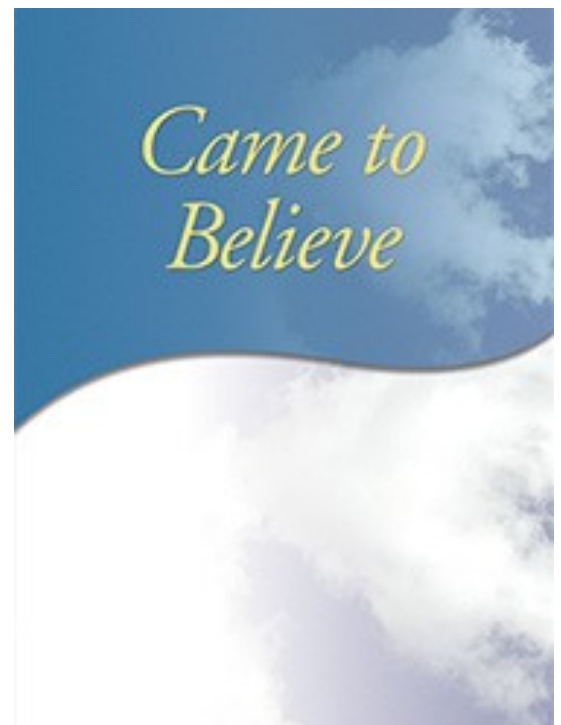
"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

As active alcoholics, we always had our hands out, we were always looking for a free ride, and we always resented the influence that came with those handouts. As a Fellowship, we must support ourselves. We can't allow anything, or any outside interest, to divert us from our primary purpose, of carrying our message to the still suffering alcoholic. A.A. activity needs to be self-supporting at all levels, and in all cases the responsibility falls right on our shoulders, for we are A.A.

We also need to be careful that our group treasuries don't grow too far beyond our prudent reserves. We shouldn't be arguing over how to use excess funds, and we simply can't afford to let the extra funds effect our unity and cause us to lose sight of our purpose. There is a simple solution that strengthens our unity and fulfills our purpose. Give the excess funds to A.A. activities and services. Jonathan Smith
SWTA 68 – Alternate Delegate



Suggested Reading
Grapevine Book of the Month



Suggested Reading
AA Book of the Month
Large Print

A.A. FOR THE ALCOHOLIC WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

This is A.A.'s General Service Conference-approved literature.

recovery

Bill Wilson states, "the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of AA's twelve steps." He goes on to claim that, "... without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all."

Our AA program is spiritually centered. Most of us have found enough humility to believe in and depend upon God. We have found that humility by facing the fact that alcoholism is a fatal malady over which we are individually powerless.

The Language of the Heart: page 7

I may attain "humility for today" only to the extent that I am able to avoid the bog of guilt and rebellion and that fair but deceiving land which is strewn with the coin of pride. This is how I can find and stay on the Road to Humility which lies in between.

The Language of the Heart: page 256

S.W.T.A. 68 PI/CPC Conference "Anonymous, Not Invisible"

Hosted by District 7
September 9th and 10th, 2016



Venue

Homewood Suites
6705 N. E. Zac Lentz Pkwy
Victoria, TX 77904

Reservations: (361) 578-1900
Rooms: \$89.00 for King
\$99.00 for Suite

Mention: PICPC Conf. for special rate
Or reserve online at
<http://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com>

Group code : PC6

Cutoff date Sept. 3rd

Daily agenda will be available
at a later date.

Luncheon with Professionals
Friday, September 9th at noon.

at Homewood Suites

A.A. Members' Luncheon cost:
\$25.00

For more information:

Mark K. 361-571-3995
Joe S. 361-433-3141

Detach section below and mail it the following address:

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____ City/District: _____ Group: _____ Name on Badge: _____	Mail to: PI/CPC Registration, District 7 PO Box 5324 Victoria, TX 77903 Pre-registration: \$8.00 Registration at the event: \$10.00 For Friday Luncheon: \$25.00
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Tradition Seven: Long Form

“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

A.A. Quotes on Humility

There can be no absolute humility for us humans. At best, we can merely glimpse the meaning and splendor of such a perfect ideal. Only God himself can manifest in the absolute; we human beings must live and grow in the domain of the relative.

So we seek progress in humility for today.

As Bill Sees It: page 236

Ever deepening humility, accompanied by an ever greater willingness to accept and to act upon clear-cut obligations--these are truly our touchstones for all growth in the life of the spirit. They hold up to us the very essence of right being and right doing. It is then that we are enabled to find and to do God's will.

As Bill Sees It: page 271

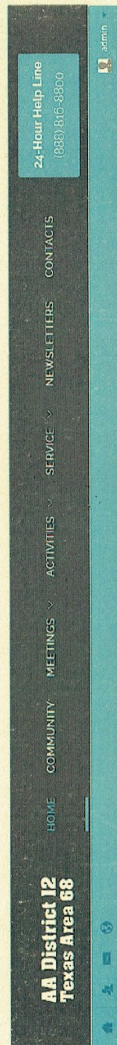
Though the variations were many, my main theme was always "How godawful I am!" Just as I often exaggerated my modest attainments by pride, so I exaggerated my defects through guilt. I would race about, confessing all (and a great deal more) to whoever would listen. Believe it or not, I took this widespread exposure of my sins to be great humility on my part, and considered it a great spiritual asset and consolation!

But later I realized at depth that the great harms I had done others were not truly regretted. These episodes were merely the basis for storytelling and exhibitionism. With this realization came the beginning of a certain amount of humility.

As Bill Sees It: page 311

As we know, all A.A. progress can be reckoned in terms of just two words: humility and responsibility. Our whole spiritual development can be accurately measured by our degree of adherence to these magnificent standards. Ever deepening humility, accompanied by an ever greater willingness to accept and to act upon clear-cut obligations--these are truly our touchstones for all growth in the life of the spirit. They hold up to us the very essence of right being and right doing. It is by them that we are enabled to find and to do God's will.

The Language of the Heart: page 340



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!

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

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

Step Seven :

“Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings”

I’ve noticed in sobriety that the less of an ass I am to my wife, the more likeable she becomes.

Anthony DeMello is a favorite writer of mine. From his book “Awareness,” he says, “understand that when you change, everything changes.”

Alcoholics Anonymous is a program of change.

I remember an early change, after hearing an old timer repeat himself again ... and again ... and again (old-timers do that.) Annoying. He kept talking about how, each morning, he got down on his knees and prayed to stay away from a drink that day. And, if that worked out alright, then he got back down on his knees in the evening and said “thank you.”

“Character-building through suffering might be alright for saints, but it certainly didn't appeal to us.” (Twelve Step and Twelve Traditions, p. 74)

And, several weeks into sobriety, I was suffering - still thirsty and miserable, pains that forced me to realize that annoying old-timer had what I wanted. He had sobriety and an audible, visible peace of mind.

If I wanted what he had, maybe I should do what he was doing. Simple things like that are hard for me to see.

Making sure nobody was home to see the strange act, I got down on my knees and awkwardly prayed that old-timer’s prayer. I did it again that evening, and the next day, and the day after ... and did it again today, after a few 24 hours of sobriety. I still remember quietly realizing an early, stealthy miracle in sobriety after a few weeks of that prayer. For the first time in years, I no longer had that maddening thirst to drink.

My knees. On the ground. It’s interesting to me that “humbly” (the first word of the 7th step) comes from the Latin “*humilis*,” literally, “on the ground.” This comes from “*humus*,” which means “earth.” Alcohol, that strange gift from my Higher Power, helped me to find my knees, and put them on the earth – a new way of grounding myself.

The original A.A. manuscript had the 7th step worded “*Humbly, on our knees, asked Him to remove our shortcomings - holding nothing back.*”

“In every case, pain had been the price of admission into a new life. ... It brought a measure of humility, which we soon discovered to be a healer of pain. We began to fear pain less, and desire humility more than ever. ... We saw that we needn't always be bludgeoned and beaten into humility.” (Twelve Step and Twelve Traditions, p. 75)

It’s hard for me to change me, but I remind myself to stay willing with the 7th step prayer each day. The changes that have evolved in me through sobriety (usually through hardship) have been quiet gifts of grace, gifts I often don’t know I’ve received until I use my retrospectoscope, or somebody mentions the change.

And through these changes, I’ve found myself with accidental happiness.

David H. Kerrville, TX

**“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
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

“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



2016 SWTA 68 Summer Workshop

July 8—10 , 2016

Hosted by District 22

"A great sense of purpose..." p. 130



1209 Interstate 35 Frontage Road

Round Rock, TX. 78664

512-341-7000