

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 9, ISSUE 5

September 2016

Concept IX

***“Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.*”**

No matter how well we design our service structure on principles and relationships, no matter how well we assign authority and responsibility, the results of our structure will only be as good as the personal performance of those who make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures.

If we want good trustees, we must develop good delegates. If we want good delegates, we must develop good area officers. If we want good area officers, we must find and develop good G.S.R.s [General Service Representatives.] We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

Some characteristics of good A.A. leaders include honesty with themselves and others, a healthy dose of humility, reliability to suit up and show up, to be reachable and teachable, and to focus on helping the still suffering alcoholic.

A good leader's actions cause the rest of us to back them up and help them with their plans. Good leaders know that good ideas can come from anybody, anywhere. Leaders never pass the buck. They have the ability to compromise when necessary and do not drive by mandate. We say to them, “Act for us, but do not boss us.”

James H.
P64/A68 Southwest Texas

THE STAND—
SEPTEMBER 2016

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Our Program should always remain simple, and that refers to our program of recovery, but as Bill W. said “We need to distinguish sharply between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity... When we get into questions of action by groups, by areas, and by A.A. as a whole, we find that we must to some extent organize to carry the message – or else face chaos. And chaos is not simplicity.” We need to remember that these service entities have no authority over anybody, and do not govern us. It is clear that we will always need to authorize workers to serve us, but it needs to be done, not in the spirit of authority, but in the spirit of service. Just as it is the aim of each A.A. member to stay sober, the aim of our service entities is to help us make sobriety available to all who want it. Our service entities, all the way from the General Service Board to Area Service Committees to Group Committees are always responsible to the groups they serve. And the key is Spirit of Service !

Jonathan Smith
SWTA 68 – Alternate Delegate



Note From Your DCM

The annual 41st Hill Country Roundup was fabulous. It was wonderful to see men and women who come every year from all over Texas and the United States. The speakers were great, Madeline E's. workshop on service, The Area Service Manual, with help Area delegate Denise T.'s and her husband Bear, was helpful and informative. Most important was the fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped because that's what makes the Roundup so special.

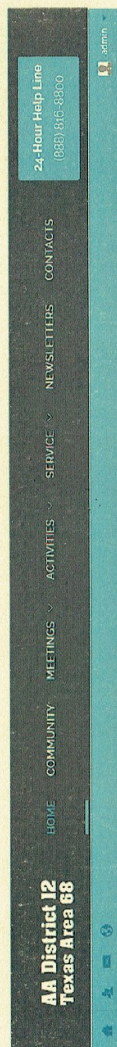
Finally got a panel of women to take meetings into jail in Boerne. We still need more women so if you are interested please call Marty M. at 830-370-1214.

Put on your calendar the 2016 Fall Conference and Assembly– Oct 7-9, 2016. It will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel– 361-887-1600.

We have a new Alt Secretary, Clay S. We still need a Hotline Chair and Grapevine Chair. We had a great turn out for the last District meeting. Jonathon S., Alt Delegate, was there to share his experience, strength and hope.

Hope to see everyone at the next District meeting Sept.11, 2016 at 2:00 at the 720 Club. Barbara R., Area Registrar, and Literature Chair will join us to share about her service in sobriety.

In service– Sandy T. , D.C.M.



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!

Tradition Nine: Long Form

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Note from the Delegate:

It is so hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our first year of service in Panel 66! As we do, I reflect on this year's General Service Conference theme: Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions & Concepts. Balancing our general service activities with our commitments to our home groups, sponsees, family and employers is not always easy. But the solution and ongoing inspiration lies very firmly embedded in the spiritual principles of each of these tools. From the **Steps** we gain enough honesty, courage and humility to comprehend that selfishness and self-centeredness seem to be the root of our troubles and that we could not wish this selfishness away or try on our own willpower to get rid of it. Substituting service for recovery will not work either. The Steps help us go from lives of powerlessness and unmanageability to real ability to become happily and usefully whole through service and self-sacrifice to others. We can actually be there for our families and employers. We begin to realize deeply that we are just a small part of a great whole. We care about others. We learn about Unity – referred to as the 'most cherished quality our Society has'.

The **Traditions** assure that we 'erratic alcoholics' can not only get sober together, but we can actually work together for our common welfare. It's not all about the 'I' anymore....it truly is about the 'we'...especially about the 'we' to come. So we get involved in our home groups and sponsoring others in an endeavor to give back what was so freely given to us and to ensure the gift is here for the alcoholic of tomorrow. The Traditions keep us focused and grounded in this purpose.

The **Concepts** further ingrain this goal as they present guides by which we all can work together to good effect. With spiritual principles such as "Right of Decision", "Right of Participation", and "Right of Appeal", and specific guidance for our General Service Board and service structure, we ensure that all of our voices can be heard – that each of get the privilege and responsibility to be a part of the growth and changes in our life-saving and life-giving program. What a life! Thank you for your service and mine!

Love and Service...Denise T.

The Responsibility Pledge

"I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

It was written for the 1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto. In an article titled, 'How I am Responsible became a part of A.A.', from the GSO newsletter, Box 4-5-9. The article identifies former AA trustee, Al S. as the author of the Responsibility Statement. In the souvenir book for the 1965 Convention, Dr. Jack Norris writes: "...We must remember that AA will continue strong only so long as each of us freely and happily gives it away to another person, only as each of us takes our fair share of responsibility for sponsorship of those who still suffer, for the growth and integrity of our Group, for our Intergroup activities, and for AA as a whole. It is in taking responsibility that real freedom and the enduring satisfactions of life are found. AA has given us the power to choose - to drink or not to drink - and in doing so has given us the freedom to be responsible for ourselves. As we become responsible for ourselves, we are free to be responsible for our share in AA, and unless we happily accept this responsibility we lose AA. Strange, isn't it?" Bill W. said. "No alcoholic should go mad or die merely because he did not come straight to AA in the beginning." "The first concern of AA members should be with problem drinkers the movement is still unable to reach." He estimated that there are 20 million alcoholics in the world today, five million in the U.S. alone. "Some cannot be reached because they are not hurt enough, others because they are hurt too much," he declared. "Many sufferers have mental and emotional complications that seem to foreclose their chances. Yet it would be conservative to estimate that at any particular time there are four million alcoholics in the world who are able, ready and willing to get well if only they knew how. When we remember that in the 30 years of AA's existence we have reached less than ten per cent of those who might have been willing to approach us, we begin to get an idea of the immensity of our task and of the responsibilities with which we will always be confronted."

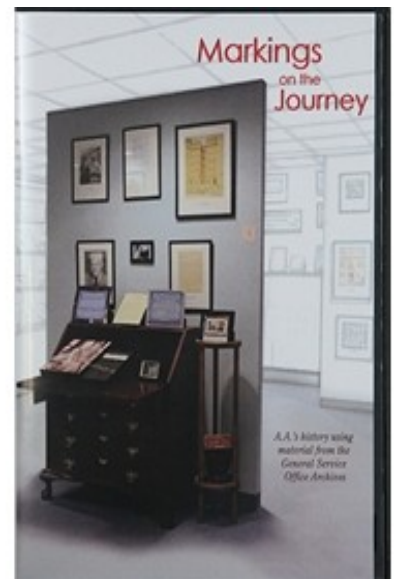
We must be willing to make **amends** where we have done harm, provided that we do not bring about still more harm in so doing.

Alcoholics Anonymous P.69

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct **amends** from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. 12 & 12 P. 83

We needn't wallow in excessive remorse before those we have harmed, but **amends** at this level should always be forthright and generous. 12 & 12 P. 86

If your group has an event coming up and would like it in the newsletter, please contact:



Suggested Reading
AA Book of the Month

Step Nine:

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others”

It seemed impossible.

Between unpaid child support and unpaid payroll taxes from a failed business, the solid six-figure debt looked impossibly large. And, I could go to jail or prison for both.

I checked with an attorney about bankruptcy, and found out neither debt could be relieved. As far as I could tell, this financial mountain was immovable.

Worry ate at me. The diligence of my ex-wife's attorney angered me. The larger IRS debt loomed quietly and heavily.

So, I started on the child support and alimony, with the dark IRS storm clouds on the horizon.

To have sufficient income, I had to travel for work, moving frequently, which separated me from my family. (In retrospect, I realize this allowed me to go to more meetings, and more frequently.)

After a major hurricane made our Florida house uninhabitable, my family finally joined me as I bounced around the map. In Indiana, my sponsor had a step group for all of his sponsees. As we reached steps eight and nine, God chuckled and said “Okay IRS, he's ready now.”

And the garnishing of my wages began.

Between child support, alimony, and the IRS, half of my net income was gone. I groaned.

Again, in retrospect, this provided blessings, which included a persistent focus upon a program of recovery. It's not like I could afford to do anything. Might as well go to a meeting!

After a while, this financial state was simply the new “normal.”

Until one day, several years later, the alimony was paid off, and the next year the IRS debt was paid!

What a relief! What a relief. Wow.

And two years later, I paid the last of the child support. I could hardly believe it!

The impossible had become possible.

As my sponsor in Ocala, Florida used to say, “Take your next 30 inch step forward, hike your pack up a little higher, don't pick up a drink, and try to do the next right thing.”

Enough steps, enough sober days, and spoonful by spoonful, the mountain was moved.

A miracle indeed!

**“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

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

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

Pjmcdan@yahoo.com

Grupo El Libro Azul

(The Blue Book Group)

Reunión en Español

(Meeting in Spanish)

6:30 pm

Todos los Martes

(Every Tuesday)

En el Club 720

(At the 720 Club)

980 Barnett



2016 Fall Conference & Assembly

October 7-9, 2016

"Life Will Take on New Meaning"

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel
900 N. Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Rate: \$ 121

Online Resv: <http://www.omnihotels.com/>

Online Code: 14500814057

Phone Resv: (361) 887-1600

Phone: SWTA68

Reservation Cutoff: Sept. 3

- GSO Staff Jeff W. (CFC)
- TDCJ Inmate Speaker
- Hospitality Room
- More...
- * Area 68 Officer Reports
- * Area Committee Meeting
- * GSR Workshop
- * Voting Proposals (possible)

For information or to volunteer, contact us at: 12steps@gmail.com or (361) 739-1084

PLEASE WEAR BADGES AT ALL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

.....Mail-In Registration.....

1st Name: _____

Badge: _____

District: _____

2nd Name: _____

Badge: _____

District: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Conference Fee - \$15 each

(No fee if only attending A68 business meeting)

Voluntary Contributions, Area 68 - General Fund

C.F.C. Fund

Translation Equipment Fund

TOTAL

\$ _____

\$ _____

Make checks payable to:

District 8D Treasurer

P.O. Box 61135

Corpus Christi, TX 78466