

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

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

Concept X	1
Tradition Ten	2
Note From The DCM	3
PI/CPC Report	4 - 5
Step Ten	6
AA Contacts	7

DISTRICT12  
NEWSLETTER FO-  
CUS — TO IN-  
FORM THE AA  
COMMUNITY OF  
INFORMATION  
PERTAINING TO  
DISTRICT 12,  
AREA 68, AND  
GSO AND TO  
ENLARGE GROUP  
PARTICIPATION.

# THE STAND

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 10

October 2016

## Concept X

***“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.”***

Alcoholics Anonymous is the beneficiary of a well-designed service structure. Our groups, delegates, trustees, and special workers at the general service office all have defined roles in the delivery of worldwide services to the still suffering alcoholic.

Each level of service has a responsibility to fulfill. To appreciate Concept X, look to the previous nine concepts to see how authority is defined and delegated throughout the service structure.

Our co-founders left the entire Fellowship with the responsibility of preserving and growing our program. Effective and efficient methods were required for decision-making and execution of the Fellowship’s wishes. Hence, the groups elect Delegates for this purpose and empower them with rights of participation, decision, and appeal. The crux of effectiveness lies in the idea of the groups “informing, never instructing” delegates about matters of importance.

Concepts 6, 7, and 8 describe the role of the Board of Trustees and its two service corporations. While the trustees look to the Fellowship for guidance and direction, their obligation is to guard A.A. Traditions as a legal and financial fiduciary.

Concept X anticipates the human nature to desire power and control. In the absence of checks and balances, without the spirit of rotation, lacking the spiritual guidance of our higher power, or by not trusting our trusted servants the whole structure would be at great risk of collapsing.

Who then, in twenty years from now, would meet with the baby born tonight, destined for alcoholism and offer them a way out of the madness? How would the drunk stumbling in the darkness tonight ever hope to find the solution we so cherish?

Our three legacies - recovery, unity, and service, belong to all alcoholics, past, present and future.

## Tradition Ten

The emphasis on inventory is heavy only because a great many of us have never really acquired the habit of accurate self-appraisal. Once this healthy practice has been groomed, it will be so interesting and profitable that the time it takes won't be missed. For these minutes and sometimes hours spent in self-examination are bound to make all the other hours of our day better and happier. And at length our inventories become a regular part of everyday living, rather than unusual or set apart. *12 Steps and 12 Traditions*, p. 89

And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone even alcohol. For by this time sanity will have returned. We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame. We react sanely and normally, we will find that this has happened automatically. We will see that our new attitude toward liquor has been given us without any thought or effort on our part. It just comes! That is the MIRACLE of it. We feel as though we had been placed in a position of neutrality safe and protected. We have not even sworn off. Instead, the problem has been removed. It does not exist for us. We are neither cocky nor are afraid. That is our experience. That is how we react so long as we keep in fit spiritual condition. *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg 84-85

***“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”***

We follow this tradition, not from some spiritual high ground, or because we are so virtuous, but simply put, it is a matter of our own survival. If we begin to take sides politically or socially, it will divide our Fellowship into different factions, thereby effecting our unity. Unity is the most important thing we have as a Fellowship, and the traditions are the backbone of our Society. If we are divided by controversy, the ability to carry our message will be severely hampered if, not entirely taken away. Recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, we must preserve our program in full strength to insure our means of survival. We as A.A. members must remain resolved to keep our Society out of public controversy, our survival both individually and as Fellowship depends on it. 89-90

Jonathan Smith  
SWTA 68 – Alternate Delegate



Suggested Reading  
**Grapevine Book of the Month**



Suggested Reading  
**AA Pamphlet of the Month**



## Note From Your DCM

In the 3rd quarter 2016 Southwest Texas Area 68 newsletter Denise T., Area Delegate, stated that our fellowship is facing challenges. We must recognize the facts: Membership levels are flat, membership contributions are down, literature sales are down, and the costs of services are up. As she said, we are not in the business of drumming up business. We are a fellowship in which we are continually seeking ways to fulfill our most basic responsibility—to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Its about the newcomer!

Sometimes I go to meetings and see people I haven't seen in awhile and visit with them instead of going up to the newcomer who raised their hand, or looking for the man or woman who is plastered up against the wall looking down. We must always remember how it was when we first got sober walking into an AA meeting. I thank God for AA and my sobriety. I hope to see all GSRs at the 2016 Fall Voting Conference and Assembly October 7-9 at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. I love the theme - *"Life Will Take on New Meaning."* At the business meeting, we will discuss: 1. Delegate funding, 2. Third Legacy Election of a Nominee for Regional Trustee, Maggie B., and 3. Treatment and Assemblies Conference Proposal.

At the last District meeting, Barbara R., Area Registrar and Literature Chair, shared her experience in service work. We have 587 groups in our area. In our District there are 33 active groups and 6 inactive groups which she asked for our help looking onto.

The next District meeting will be Nov 13, 2016 at the 720 Club at 2:00pm. Cherie Rowlands, Area Treatment Chair, will be here to share about her responsibilities and what she has been doing the past 8 months. Hope you will be there! Mark it on your calendar!

Love and service— Sandy T. , D.C.M.

**24-Hour Help Line**  
(800) 486-5880

**AA District 12**  
**Texas Area 68**

**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!

**HOME** **COMMUNITY** **MEETINGS** **ACTIVITIES** **SERVICE** **NEWSLETTERS** **CONTACTS**

## Tradition Ten: Long Form

No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

### **"Anonymous But Not Invisible"    PI/CPC Conference Summary**

September 9 - 10, 2016, Victoria Texas

This conference was very well organized and jam-packed with information. I encourage anyone who wants to learn more about working with the public in AA to attend the next one, which will be near Round Rock next year.

**Friday Sept. 9 Luncheon with professionals**—Dense T, our delegate, gave a great presentation for professionals about what AA is, and is not, and how AA can cooperate with them.

**46** people attended, including **21** area professionals. (*Judges, priests, police, school counselors, city officials*) It was well attended and received, and information packets containing pertinent GSO brochures were given out to all guests.

### **Saturday Conference Topics and take aways: - What is PI/CPC and why do we need it? - Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community.**

We take the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. We carry the message by getting in touch with and responding to the media, city government, schools, industry, health care services, law enforcement and judicial systems and other organizations which come into contact with alcoholics and their families.

We also spend a significant amount of time educating our own members, about our traditions, singleness of purpose, anonymity, speaking publicly about AA, and encouraging all members to read ALL our literature, so we don't keep trying to reinvent the wheel. The greatest threat to AA comes from within it's own membership.

**Being friendly with our friends**— We can be grateful for every agency or method that tries to solve the problem of alcoholism — whether of medicine, religion, education, or research. We can be open-minded toward all such efforts, and we can be sympathetic when the ill-advised ones fail. We can remember that A.A. itself ran for years on trial-and-error. As individual A.A.'s, we can and should work with those that promise success — even a little success.

We should never allow our special convictions or prejudices to overcome our good sense and goodwill. *Read Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends by Bill W. (P-34)*

**Who does PI/CPC work?** - Each District has a PI/CPC chairperson, and most have committees, but not all. Some gather volunteers as needed. Some Districts have a PI/CPC rep in individual groups, who comprise the PI/CPC committee. Much of PI/CPC work is done at a grassroots level. In one sense, every member of AA is doing PI/CPC work, whether they realize it or not. We are all able to let our doctors, lawyers, etc. know that we are in recovery and willing to help someone who wants it or provide information.

The most important part of that is to KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. Don't give your opinion as a spokesperson for AA! Read ALL of AA's literature! There is a wealth of knowledge available from

---

AA.org that has been debated, written and approved over the past decades, much of it by Bill W. himself. If you are going to give out a pamphlet, know what it says.

### **Anonymity and PI/CPC work. - What is an anonymity break and what isn't?**

We have to be able to find each other. We should know each others last names, for practical purposes. Have you ever tried to visit a fellow member in the hospital? The switchboard won't know who Mike S. is!

It is perfectly OK to break your anonymity with anyone you feel comfortable doing so, personally or within the professional community if it will help another alcoholic. This does not mean its OK to break it for personal gain. (to get special treatment)

It's NOT EVER OK to break it on TV, radio, newspaper, any media outlets, and social media. Anonymity breaks on social media DO INCLUDE using AA symbols and jargon.

This is an area where we tend to be our own worse enemies. We need to encourage knowing and understanding our traditions.

### **How AA cooperates with the religious, medical, and criminal justice community.—**

#### **Carrying the message into the education system.**

Keep your commitments. SHOW UP.

Don't tell a clergyman you are a recovering Catholic or "recovering" from any previous religious experience you have, it's insulting.

Don't treat clergy with kid gloves. they are people just like you. They are more familiar with alcoholics than many professionals, there are many within their ranks, so be straightforward.

They need help with families too. Have information on Al Anon available to pass along.

DON'T tell medical professionals their job, or that AA discourages taking medication or seeking therapy, etc. Take literature or a Big Book to your own doctor, and offer to be a contact.

When working with criminal justice and law enforcement, we abide by their rules as long as it doesn't violate our own traditions. Never sign waivers or permission contracts that require you to report a spouse's progress, give permission to use your name or photo in promotional to training materials. We help where we can, but we must protect ourselves.

When working with schools, bear in mind that you are there not just for the students. The student's family member or a teacher may be the one seeking help.

Start with the head guidance counselor.

#### **How to use the Grapevine in PI/CPC work.**

This is a great tool. Our meeting in print. Can be left (with permission) in doctor's waiting rooms, ER waiting room, lawyers office, treatment centers, etc.

***To participate in PI/CPC call or text  
Kathleen K at (830) 377-5890.***

#### **How does your group support newcomers?**

*Giving a newcomer a packet full of great AA info tailored just for them, along with a meeting list and phone numbers is a great start!*

**Public Information Committee has put these together for you to get you started.**

**Call or text Kathleen K. PI Chair, for more info.  
(830) 377-5890**

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

## Step Ten:

*“Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”*

### **“Step Ten: I Hate This Step!”**

I'm one of those alcoholics who has a hard time admitting that they were wr--. I even have trouble saying or typing the word. I know I'm not alone. Anyway, I hate this Step.

I had a particularly bad relationship with my older daughter. We screamed at each other a lot. I kept doing things or saying things--hateful, mean things. Or screaming. Then I'd talk to my sponsor and snivel and whine about making amends. I hated to make amends to that kid. I'd rather scrub toilets with a toothbrush than make amends with her. She would look at me with that look (you know, the one that says, "If I cared at all, I'd hate you") and say, "It's about time." She was nasty and hateful and mean and spiteful.

I'd tell all this to my sponsor. I'd try to justify and rationalize my behavior so I wouldn't have to make amends. One day my sponsor suggested that, if I hated making amends so much, maybe I ought to try not doing the things I had to make amends for (i.e., change my behavior). What an idea! She suggested that I practice restraint of tongue and pen.

I took my sponsor's suggestion. I worked really hard at changing my behavior. I knew it wouldn't change anything because my daughter was still mean, hateful, and spiteful, but at least I wouldn't have to make amends with her.

As you probably guessed, a remarkable thing occurred. Not only did I not have to make amends, but she became less mean, less spiteful, less hateful. In fact, she started being nice. We started talking. We formed a relationship. It even occurred to me that maybe it wasn't all her fault that we didn't get along.

Today we have a wonderful relationship. She talks to me about her life, her loves, her problems. I owe this relationship to the Tenth Step. If I hadn't hated making amends so much, I might not have been willing to change my behavior.

I have found similar results in all of my relationships. Over the years, I have tried to keep my behavior "below amends level" because I hate making amends. As a result, I act differently. And as a result of that, people respond differently. It's amazing.



**“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>

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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**