

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

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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 12

December 2016

## Concept XII

***“The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.”***

This is my favorite concept because it lists the six General Warranties. These warranties are so vital that any change to the wording requires  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all listed groups to submit written approval. The reason is “these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess...These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.”

Webster defines ‘warranty’ as a statement of promise or a written guarantee. Some in the fellowship see the Warranties as the ‘A.A. Bill of Rights’ for the membership.

The basic principles found in each warranty apply to our home groups as much as they do to the General Service Conference itself. Relying on Traditions 2 and 7, we do not permit excessive authority or financial power to accumulate, keeping reserves to a prudent limit. No one has unqualified authority over another. We discuss proposals extensively before taking a vote, making decisions by substantial unanimity [usually  $\frac{2}{3}$  or more.] We never punish individuals or, based on Tradition 10, take action that will arouse public controversy. And finally, the extraordinary liberties extended to groups and individuals will never be subject to any acts of government by A.A.

“Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.”

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill. Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

*Alcoholics Anonymous* pg 89.

When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. He has been set on a path which tells him he is really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered. In a very real sense he has been transformed, because he has laid hold of a source of strength which, in one way or another, he had hitherto denied himself. He finds himself in possession of a degree of honesty, tolerance, unselfishness, peace of mind, and love of which he had thought himself quite incapable. 12 & 12 Pg, 106

## Tradition Twelve

***“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs”***

The spirit of anonymity is sacrifice, we give up our individual desires for our common good. This Tradition is not about secrecy, instead it's about humility. It's not out of our fears, but about the principles, that we are but one of many that are trying to stay sober and live spiritual lives. We decline personal recognition for the acknowledgement that A.A. is the most important thing in our lives, that we would have never gotten sober without A.A. No individual runs A.A., it is run collectively. We have trusted servants with authority over no one. The group conscience is what is important, not the individual, and it is where we receive our spiritual guidance. The highest rank we achieve is A.A. member. We learn to lay aside our human aspirations for the good of our whole Society, that we may grow and work in Unity. We know that humility, shown through our anonymity, is one of our greatest assets.

Jonathan Smith SWTA 68 – Alternate Delegate

### **About “*Language of the Heart*”**

150 articles written by Bill W. between 1944-1971. In 1935, two drunks met and talked in the library of a home in Akron, Ohio, and from that single event was to grow a program of recovery for more than a million once-hopeless alcoholics. How did the seed that became Alcoholics Anonymous take root and develop? The articles in this book tell much of that story.

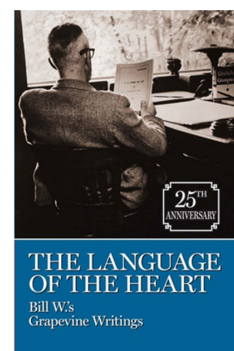
In the Grapevine, AA's international journal, co-founder Bill W. recorded—and reflected on—AA's history as it happened. A prolific writer, Bill authored more than 150 Grapevine articles, from 1944 to the late 1960's and virtually all of them appear here, published for the first time in one volume.

A man of extraordinary energy and action, Bill committed his thoughts to paper with great facility. Yet the lessons of which he writes were born of a long and arduous process of trial and error, and in the events and insights he chronicled from AA's pioneer years, sober alcoholics can find their own struggles and those of their groups today.

Covering a multitude of topics, from the basic principles of AA's Steps and Traditions to a discussion of the personal search of many AA members for “emotional sobriety,” Bill's words hold meaning for AA members of any age.

Writing ten years after his first visit to European AA with his wife Lois in 1950, Bill had this to say: “As we journeyed from land to land, we had the same magnificent adventure in kinship over and over.

- See more at: <https://www.aacleve.org/product/language-of-the-heart-soft-cover/#sthash.Sc1GGONl.dpuf>

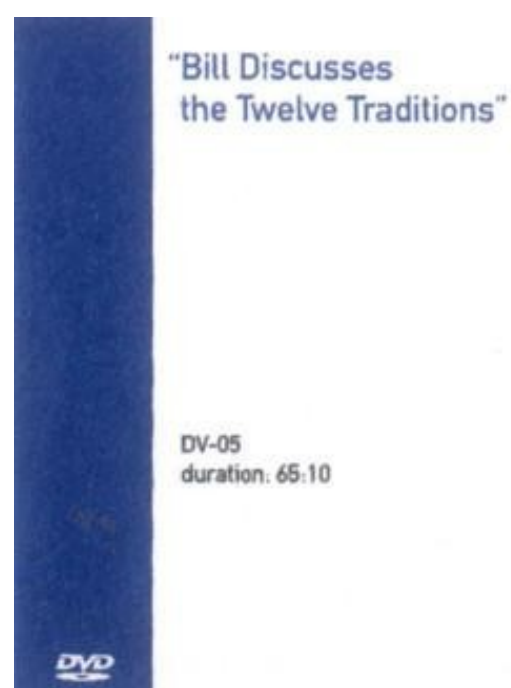




**Suggested Reading  
Grapevine Book of  
the Month**



**Suggested Reading  
Pamphlet of  
the Month**



**Suggested Reading  
AA CD of  
the Month**

### **Note From Your DCM**

First, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

For most of us, the holidays are filled with family, friends, fond memories, great food, happiness, love, and peace, but for others it is hard. We should remember to keep them in our prayers and reach out and help whenever we can.

At the last Area Assembly, we voted on the Treatment and Accessibilities Conference Proposal: *"SWTA to host an annual Treatment and Accessibilities Conference: TF (Treatment Facilities) members will host (conduct) the conference workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to enhance our effectiveness in carrying the AA message to members of the treatment community and people with accessibility considerations by providing pertinent information and fostering understanding and cooperation. The workshop will be rotating among various cities within SWTA as determined by TF members. The newly determined host city will elect a Conference Chairperson who will work closely with the SWTA Treasurer prior to the next annual conference. All funds remaining after the conference expenses have been met will be forwarded to the SWTA treasurer."*

The proposal was sent back to all groups. Please go over this at your Group Conscience, discuss, vote, and let your GSR or me know your decision, so we can bring it back to the next voting Assembly in April.

**District Meeting will be January 8, 2016 (Sunday) 2:00 PM at the 730 Club.  
Sonya D., Area Newsletter, will be the guest speaker.**

**Winter Workshop will be January 13-15, 2016 in Killeen at the Marriot Courtyard.**

**District 12 is having a great year! Looking forward to 2017!**

Gratitude in service— Sandy T. , D.C.M. District 12

## Message from Our Delegate

Holiday Greetings District 12! Thank you for this opportunity to share some news and notes from the Delegate. One of my favorite activities we do at Area Assemblies has always been the D.C.M. reports. It is the chance for each District's D.C.M. to spotlight their District's activities, successes, and challenges. These reports serve not only as a vital communication link between the group G.S.R.s and the Area Delegate but also these reports help other D.C.M.s with ideas for their own Districts to perhaps utilize in further carrying the message locally. I'd like to thank your D.C.M. Sandy T. for the outstanding job she is doing with this communication. And I'd like to thank each of the groups in District 12 for doing their part in providing the information the D.C.M. needs to do this job. Without each A.A. group member's awareness and support that they are each part of bigger picture, the growth necessary for continued reach to the still suffering alcoholic could not get done. And speaking of communication, one of the assignments I have for next year's General Service Conference is to give a short talk on 'Is Your Voice Being Heard'. I think it goes both ways. The group member's voices are being heard as demonstrated through the General Service Conference process where we the A.A. members have asked for services such as creation of literature for Alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them, updating A.A. for the Woman and A.A. for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic to name a few. These are projects that we individual A.A. members requested. And GSO's voice is being heard as illustrated: We got the word that our GSO income from literature sales was down and that group and member contributions were flattening. This need is clearly being heard by the fellowship as noted by this most recent financial update from the General Service Board: Gross profit from literature sales and group contributions are 9.9% greater this year (through 9/30/16) than this same period last year. Way to go Fellowship! And although these numbers are positive, I would feel like I am not doing my job by suggesting that we go even further as it 'tis the season! So, to that end, did you know that we have a special holiday gift set that includes: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary facsimile of the first edition Big Book, Pass It On, Dr Bob and the Good Old-Timers, and Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age for \$30.00 per set? The set will be offered for sale for a limited period of time through January 31, 2017! This is also the season when many of our favorite charitable organizations start sending us reminders of their needs. I think this is all the more reason to remember our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition responsibility to our own Alcoholics Anonymous. Did you know that you can make a special annual holiday contribution to G.S.O. using the online recurring contribution feature that can be found on aa.org? Look under 'Self-Support' tab –member contributions. It is an easy way to set up a recurring annual contribution or do like I did and set up a monthly contribution! What a way to express our gratitude for the program which has given us life! I'll close this note with a warm and loving wish for you all to have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all again in January at our Winter Workshop in Killeen Jan 13-15!

Love and Service, Denise T.

### At Wit's End     ***Lazy does it***

After completing the Fourth Step, Johnny was faced with some big chunks of truth about himself. Hoping to hang on to a few of his character defects, he visited his doctor seeking validation.

"Doctor," he cried. "I'm just not able to do all the things around the house that I used to do."

When the doctor's examination was complete, Johnny said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what's wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said Johnny. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

CHRISTOPHER K. Lexington, Ky.

Grapevine, Inc. Reprinted with permission November 2009



**AA District 12  
Texas Area 68**

HOME COMMUNITY MEETINGS ACTIVITIES SERVICE NEWSLETTERS CONTACTS

24-Hour Help Line  
(833) 816-5890

# 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](http://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 Twelve: Long Form

*And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.*

### 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 Twelve:

**"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs."**

### **Step Twelve: Living the Result** An AA wonders at his spiritual change

Probably one of the most confusing aspects of entering AA is being confronted with the rather large hint that one has to get a spiritual program going in one's life. Not too long ago we alcoholics were dancing with the devil, and now we are asked to create some sort of relationship with God as we understand him. To say that the average newcomer is clueless is understating the problem. He or she hears others eloquently discussing their quest and final arrival at this destination, and the newcomer can't help but feel a disheartening sense of inadequacy. Many of us have very little in our background that would lead us in a helpful direction, and to merely imitate the action of others just doesn't ring the right internal bells to assure us we are on the way.

I think part of the problem is that newcomers hear spirituality discussed as something that can only be created by our own efforts. AA members talk about their relationship with God in such a way that the newcomer gets the impression that each person in the meeting has ventured off onto an individual path toward God. That many can't get past the starting position is understandable if they are unsure in which direction to start their journey. And because of the subtle pressures to conform, whether intended or not, few newcomers have the courage to bring up what feels to them to be a total lack of spiritual sense.

My experience with this issue has finally led to a better understanding of what really did happen to me. For years I had sought to create a distinct relationship with a Higher Power, but it just wasn't something I believed I'd accomplished. I had relationships with other people, and with those I had a distinct feeling of connection and interaction. And yet in my relationship with God, there was no life to it. It felt empty, no matter how much I wanted to pretend that it was meaningful. I wanted to be a spiritual person, but I knew in my heart that something was missing in me.

Thank God, I was working the Twelve Steps as best as I could. And then, in a meeting, it hit me. As a result of working the Steps, I had become a spiritual person. We were discussing the Ninth Step, and I thought how far in the past the need for amends had fallen and how today I wasn't creating new situations that required amends. And perhaps more importantly, I couldn't think of anyone who owed me an amends. This could only mean that, in my relationships with others, I had changed. I don't recall a moment when my motivations regarding other people underwent some momentous transformation, but it was clear that from then to now, that is exactly what had happened.

I had been aware of the beginning phrase of the Twelfth Step, "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps," but I guess I just never understood it until it had actually happened to me. I had wanted spirituality was back in Steps Two and Three and had tried to create it out of my own resources. And the reason it didn't satisfy my expectations was that I hadn't done the work of the other Steps. I had wanted to think my way into good living, and I needed to live my way into good thinking.

I didn't understand it at the time, but the thorough self-appraisal that we undergo while working the Steps makes new people of us all. When I really looked at myself and saw how my character defects imprisoned me in a cycle of pain, why wouldn't I seek out something better? That was the beginning of my spiritual journey, and it was marked by my efforts every day to act and react differently to my world. Over time, what required effort and a conscious decision now flows naturally from me. I have changed. And it can be called a spiritual change because the satisfaction I am seeking can only be understood in the deepest part of my being. When I feel the peace within me, the knowing that has no doubt, I am awakened in a way that at one time I could not even imagine time I could not even imagine. And yet I knew, from the example of others, that even if I didn't understand it, I did want to strive for it. And it was the Steps that took me there.

**“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– Ladara  
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**



Winter Workshop

**“RESCUED FROM SHIPWRECK”**

Hosted by: District 5

January 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2017



*Killeen Courtyard by Marriott*

*1721 e Central Texas Expressway*

*Killeen, TX 76541*

**Room Rates: \$99 / Night Standard**

**\$109 / Night Double Occupancy**

**\$199 / Night Suite**

**Saturday and Sunday breakfast included**

**Reservation cut of: December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Booking Code: AACR (On line or phone)**

**Contact information: Melanie T 254-654-4734**