

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

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DISTRICT 12
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 10 Issue 2

February 2017

Concept II

“When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society”

In Concept I, we learned that the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” resided with the A.A. Groups. However, how can thousands of A.A. groups and millions of members actually manage and conduct the entirety of our world services? The answer is in Concept II, by delegation. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference was fully trusted to speak for it respecting matters of world service. Therefore the principle of fully delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be from top to bottom of our active structure of service, which is implicated in Tradition Two.

So, in Concept II, the groups delegate their leadership role to the General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative (G.S.R.) for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate. And every April, these delegates from the 91 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board and General Service Office staff. Thus, the Conference is “the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.”

Pam J.

"To one who feels he is an atheist or agnostic such an experience seems impossible, but to continue as he is means disaster, especially if he is an alcoholic of the hopeless variety. To be doomed to an alcoholic death or to live on a spiritual basis are not always easy alternatives to face."

Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 44.

"When we saw others solve their problems by a simple reliance upon the Spirit of the Universe, we had to stop doubting the power of God. Our ideas did not work. But the God idea did."

Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 52.

"We need to ask ourselves but one short question. 'Do I NOW believe, or am I even WILLING to believe, that there IS a Power greater than myself?' As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically (or strongly) assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built."

Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 57.

When we encountered A.A., the fallacy of our defiance was revealed. At no time had we asked what God's will was for us; instead we had been telling Him what it ought to be. No man, we saw, could believe in God and defy him too. Belief meant reliance, not defiance. In A.A., we saw the fruits of this belief: men and women spared from alcohol's final catastrophe. We saw them meet and transcend their other pains and trials. We saw them calmly accept impossible situations, seeking neither to run or recriminate. This was not only faith; it was faith that worked under all conditions. We soon concluded that whatever price in humility we must pay, we would pay.

12 & 12 Pg.31

Sanity is defined as "soundness of mind." Yet no alcoholic, soberly analyzing his destructive behavior, whether the destruction fell on then dining room furniture or his own moral fiber can claim "soundness of mind for himself. Therefore, Step Two is a rallying point for all of us. True humility and an open mind can lead us to faith, and every A.A. meeting is an assurance that God will restore us to sanity if we rightly relate ourselves to him

12 & 12 Pg.33

Tradition Two

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

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Tradition 2

Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?

Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?

Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?

Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?

Although I have been sober a few years, am I willing to serve my turn at AA chores?

In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Tradition Two: Long Form

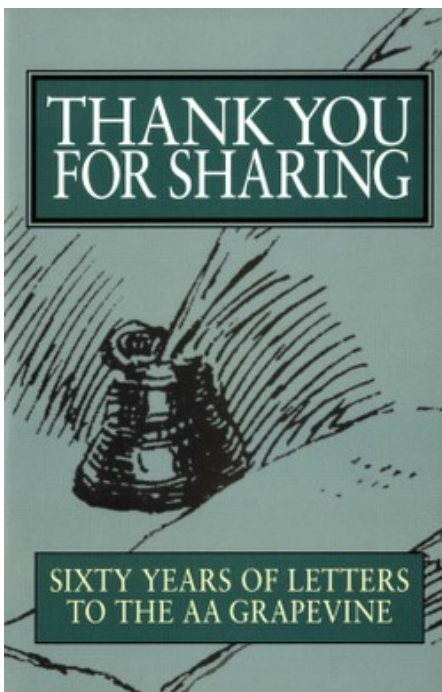
"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

AA **GRAPEVINE**

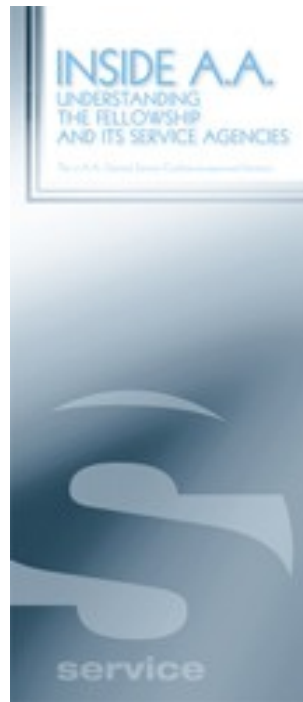
At Wit's End Heard at meetings

"I was happy to get to my second AA birthday because then I could say that I had 'years' of sobriety. At my fourth anniversary, I was even happier: Then I could say 'years and years.'"

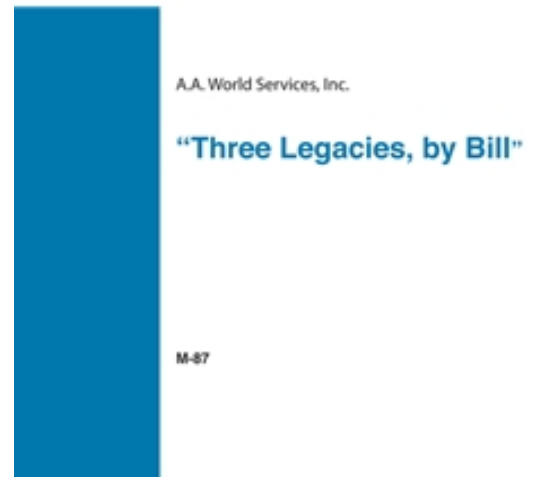
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**Suggested Reading
Grapevine Book of
the Month**



**Suggested Reading
Pamphlet of
the Month**



**Suggested Reading
AA CD of
the Month**

A.A. Origins

The origins of Alcoholics Anonymous can be traced to the Oxford Group, a religious movement popular in the United States and Europe in the early 20th century. Members of the Oxford Group practiced a formula of self-improvement by performing self-inventory, admitting wrongs, making amends, using prayer and meditation, and carrying the message to others.

In the early 1930s, a well-to-do Rhode Islander, Rowland H., visited the noted Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung for help with his alcoholism. Jung determined that Rowland's case was medically hopeless, and that he could only find relief through a vital spiritual experience. Jung directed him to the Oxford Group.

Rowland later introduced fellow Vermonter Edwin ("Ebby") T. to the group, and the two men along with several others were finally able to keep from drinking by practicing the Oxford Group principles.

One of Ebby's schoolmate friends from Vermont, and a drinking buddy, was Bill W. Ebby sought out his old friend at his home at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn, New York, to carry the message of hope.

Bill W. had been a golden boy on Wall Street, enjoying success and power as a stockbroker, but his promising career had been ruined by continuous and chronic alcoholism. Now, approaching 39 years of age, he was learning that his problem was hopeless, progressive, and irreversible. He had sought medical treatment at Towns Hospital in Manhattan, but he was still drinking.

Bill was, at first, unconvinced by Ebby's story of transformation and the claims of the Oxford Group. But in December 1934, after again landing in Towns hospital for treatment, Bill underwent a powerful spiritual experience unlike any he had ever known. His depression and despair were lifted, and he felt free and at peace. Bill stopped drinking, and worked the rest of his life to bring that freedom and peace to other alcoholics. The roots of Alcoholics Anonymous were planted.

http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-timeline

Step Two:

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity”

When I came to Alcoholics Anonymous, all I wanted was to drink a little less. I did not want to find God, get spiritual, become a better person, or stop drinking. I did not have the power to change anything about my drinking, however. That's why I decided to try AA. That is also the summary of my twenty-five year experience with Step One.

Step Two baffled me. I understood all of the words in the Step but could not comprehend how or why any benevolent force would ever have any connection with me. I had no real religious background, and what I did know made me skeptical. I was taught by my parents, teachers, and popular thought that I could control my destiny and achieve whatever I wanted--if I was willing to work hard enough. If I wanted something done, I should do it myself, they told me. There was no room for the divine in the picture I developed of the world. In fact, there wasn't room for anything or anyone but me.

My alcoholism helped me fail at everything important to me. I failed to achieve the status and recognition I thought was due me in my profession. I withdrew from my family. I had no close relationships--drinking buddies were the best I could do. Worst of all, I felt the emptiness that many of us know. Life had no meaning for me. I had nothing to connect with, nothing to engage me, nothing to make my life worth living. This is the state I found myself in when I joined AA, a condition that turned out to be fortunate because it made me willing to consider ideas that I otherwise would have rejected immediately.

In the beginning, all I could do was not drink and not run away. When I listened to people talk about God at meetings, I didn't drink and I didn't run away. When I heard discussions at meetings about how God--or a higher power, or something--had come into the lives of members and done for them what they could not do for themselves, I didn't drink and didn't run away. I thought it was all nonsense but was afraid to dismiss it entirely. I had been beaten up enough to know that I would die if I drank again.

Because I did not drink and did not run away, I heard a lot of ideas about a power greater than myself that I considered--in spite of myself. I also saw that other alcoholics, who had been as desperate as I was, had stopped drinking and, as a result, their lives had changed. Even if I did not identify with whatever power they said worked for them, I saw that something had happened to them. This gave me just enough hope to keep coming back to one more meeting, to listen to one more story, and to talk to one more alcoholic.

Because this program did not dictate the name, size, shape, or color of the power that works here, I was forced to find my own. My experience has been a gradual one. It was not anything specific that happened, because nothing really happened. It was not something special that someone said, because I don't remember much of what anyone says. I cannot point to a day or meeting or person or book that changed my thinking. That's not how I experienced it.

But little by little, over months and years, my thinking about other people changed. I started seeing them less in relation to myself--more than or less than me, useful or useless to me, or doing something to me--and more as people struggling just like I was to find a way to live. I lost many fears and some insecurities, and that has made it possible for me to do things, say things, and go places I never would have considered. I can now think about something other than myself, and I don't complain that life is not interesting or engaging.

In those instances when I give up my idea of how something should work, my life changes in a profound and wonderful way. The most powerful example, is my marriage. It is nothing like I thought it should be, and yet it works quite well. When something really difficult has happened in sobriety--despite my feelings of grief or loss or hurt--I have behaved in a way that made me feel good about myself and at peace with the outcome.

God is the name I call this power I have found, because that is the easiest way to express it to other people. If pressed to describe it, I say that I have found a power greater than myself that enables me to get out of myself and experience that rare and wonderful miracle of change.

24-Hour Help Line
(833) 468-3830

HOME COMMUNITY MEETINGS ACTIVITIES SERVICE NEWSLETTERS CONTACTS

Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous

Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12

WELCOME TO DISTRICT 12 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
... serving Brewster, 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!

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

Note From Your DCM

The Area Winter Workshop was uplifting. We heard great reports from Area Chairs. There were very informative workshops, awesome speaker, beautiful fellowship, and delicious food.

Upcoming Workshops/Voting Conferences and Assemblies/ District Meetings:

February 3—5, 2017: CFC Workshop - Hilton San Antonio Airport.

March 12, 2017: District meeting - Randall T, Area Correctional Facilities Chair, Presenter

April 7—9, 2107: Pre-General Service Conference & Assembly - San Antonio Marriot Northwest

April 9, 2017: District meeting

May 14, 2017 : District meeting - Mari G., Area Grapevine/La Vina chair, Presenter

June 9, 2017: District meeting - Denise T., Area Delegate, Presenter

June 9—11, 2017: 71st Annual Texas State Convention—San Antonio Omni at the Collonnade

July 9, 2017: District meeting - Michael P., Area Chair, Presenter

July 13—15 , 2017: Summer Workshop

August 13, 2017: Jonathan S, Area Alternate Delegate, Presenter

September 8—9, 2017: PI/CPC Workshop—Bastrop Best Western Bastrop Pines Inn

September 10 , 2017: District meeting - K. C. H., Area Archives Chair, Presenter

May 14, 2017 : District meeting - Mari G., Area Grapevine/La Vina chair, Presenter

October 8, 2017 : District meeting - Rae T., Area Secretary, Presenter

October 13—15, 2017: Voting Conference & Assembly - Seguin, Tx

October 20—22, 2017: Southwest Regional Forum - San Antonio Marriot Northwest

November 12, 2017 : District meeting - Cathy H., Area Alternate Chair, Presenter

December 10, 2017 : District meeting

Looking forward to seeing you at the next District meeting , February 12, 2017: at 2:00 P.M. at then 720 Club (980 Barnett) Dean D., Area Treasurer will be the Presenter . I will be passing out flyers of upcoming events and Preliminary Agenda Items for thebn2017 Pre-General Service Conference.

Yours in service, Sandy T. District 12 DCM

**“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.	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	Sonya 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

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE



District 16

Invites You To The

2017 SWTA 68

Pre-General Service Conference Assembly

Host:	What	Assembly
District 16		
Email:	When	April 7 - April 9
district16@aa-swta.org		
Website:	Where	San Antonio Marriott Northwest 3233 NW Loop 410 San Antonio, TX 78213 (210)-377-3900 www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/satnw-san-antonio-marriott-northwest/
www.sainterdistrict.com/district-16s	How	Mention code "SWTA 68" to receive the Area 68 rates. Room rate is \$114 a night.