

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

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Concept III	I
Tradition III Check- list	2
Greetings From Your Delegate	3
Step Three	4
Note From The DCM	6
AA Contacts	7

DISTRICT 12 NEWS-
LETTER FOCUS — TO
INFORM THE AA
COMMUNITY OF IN-
FORMATION PER-
TAINING TO DIS-
TRICT 12, AREA 68,
AND GSO AND TO
ENLARGE GROUP
PARTICIPATION.

THE STAND

Volume 10 Issue 3

March

Concept III

“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

In Concept III, we refer back to the Conference and General Service Board Charters, which describes the relation between the groups, the Conference, the Trustees and the active service units. Except for specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every AA entity, at all levels of service, has the right “to decide. . .how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” Of course, this means that the Fellowship must have trust in their “trusted servants.” We therefore “inform” rather than “instruct” our trusted servants. Additionally, Conference Delegates are primarily the world servants of AA as a whole and that only in a secondary sense do they represent their respective areas. Therefore, Bill states they should be able to cast their votes in the General Service Conference “according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.”

There are ways to correct inefficiency, ineffectiveness, or abuse. If the Conference does not function well, the groups can send better Delegates. If the Trustees get out of line, the Conference can censure them, or even reorganize them. If our services need correcting, the Trustees can elect better directors and hire better help. Bill cautions us against using “the Right of Decision” as an “excuse for failure to make proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision.” Bill states “Our entire AA program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust AA and we trust each other.”

Pam J.

Tradition Three

“The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

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. Copyright © The [A.A. Grapevine, Inc.](#)

Tradition Three:

In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?

Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?

Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?

Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?

Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, and ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?

When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Tradition Three: Long Form

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation"

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**

We were now at *Step Three*. Many of us said to our Maker, *as we understood Him*: "God, I offer myself to Thee to build with me & to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy love & Thy way of life." We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 63.

Like all the remaining Steps, Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God - or, if you like a Higher Power - into our lives. Faith, to be sure, is necessary, but faith alone can avail nothing. We can have faith, yet keep God out of our lives. Therefore our problem now becomes just how and by what specific means shall we be able to let Him in? Step Three represents our first attempt to do this. In fact, the effectiveness of the whole A.A. program will rest upon how well and how earnestly we have tried to come to "a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*". *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 40

Selfishness-self-centeredness! That, we think, is the ROOT of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate. Sometimes they hurt us, seemingly without provocation, but we invariably find that at some time in the past we have made decisions based on self which later placed us in a position to be hurt.,.,., *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 62.

Established on such a footing, we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs. More and more we became interested in seeing what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow or the hereafter. We were reborn. *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 63.

Greetings from Your Delegate

It's that time again! The 2017 General Service Conference Agenda items have been finalized and distributed! See your DCM if you have not received a copy. For those of you who are new to service, you may be asking "What's a General Service Conference, what do they do and why is it important?" To answer, let's look back: Many years ago, all matters important in Alcoholics Anonymous were handled by our co-founders Bill and Dr. Bob and a handful of non-alcoholic trustees. They worked together through the New York Headquarters to make all the decisions for Alcoholics Anonymous. But then Dr. Bob became critically ill. Everyone, especially Bill knew they were not going to live forever and something had to be in place to guarantee the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Who was going to take care of Alcoholics Anonymous after they were gone? Would the growing number of AA groups trust a few unknown non-alcoholic men in some office in New York with the all of the business of Alcoholics Anonymous? How could these unknown non-alcoholic trustees act for us, but not really know what we needed or wanted? Thus the idea of a conference of Delegates from specific geographic areas (now numbering 93 Delegate Areas across the US and Canada) was born. Dr. Bernard Smith was a non-alcoholic friend of AA and one of the chief architects of the conference structure. Here I share perhaps 2 of his most convincing reasons for a conference structure: "we need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight" and "we need it to ensure that changes in A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few". (Reprinted from The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service, page S20).

Where do these items come from? In some way, shape, or form...they come from us! Some of the items on this year's Conference agenda include: **CPC Committee:** Consider development of a LinkedIn page for C.P.C. committees. Consider request that the title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" be changed to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?" **Corrections Committee:** Discuss carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People. **Grapevine Committee:** Reconsider the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on outside sales. Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account. Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page. **Literature Committee:** Review revised draft pamphlet "Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic" (formerly titled "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic"). Review progress report on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. Review draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated." **Policy/Admissions Committee:** Consider a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the service structure. **PI Committee:** Review report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Implementation of a Google for Nonprofits account and Twitter account. **Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:** Discuss the accessibility of the A.A. message for Armed Services veterans. From the **Archives Committee:** Consider proposal for a new publication, *Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* (working title). So to help prepare your Delegate, our Area holds a 'mock conference' where some of these agenda items will be covered 'committee style' just as it is done in New York.

This mock conference will be just part of the fun at the SWTA 68 Pre-General Service Conference Assembly in San Antonio April 7-9! Your input is necessary for shaping the most effective 'informed group conscience' of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. **Everyone** in attendance at the assembly who wants to participate in the mock conference gets to participate! So come join the fun! Thank you all for your service!

Love and Service, Denise Thorn SWTA68 Delegate

Save the Date - May 20, 2017 - 2211 Anniversary Celebration!

Step Three:

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

I'VE always needed to believe that God exists, so when I arrived at AA I easily accepted that it was a spiritual program. I believed in God. My problem was in actually using God for anything. I was told to "turn my will and my life over to the care of God," but my ideas about the Higher Power didn't fit that picture. God was an energy, a force, a part of all of us and the universe, and I just couldn't visualize making "him" a working part of my life. Kneeling by the bed seemed an empty gesture. Visualizing handing something to a bearded white guy in the sky didn't sound plausible.

I believed, but how was I going to put my God to work in my life?

Then I remembered a time in my childhood when I was trying to learn how to raise one eyebrow. I could raise the left one, but the right one I couldn't control. I knew there was a muscle there, because the left one went up and down at my will, but I'd never been able to do the right eyebrow. So I concentrated on my right eyebrow, face muscles twitching, until eventually I felt it move. Success!

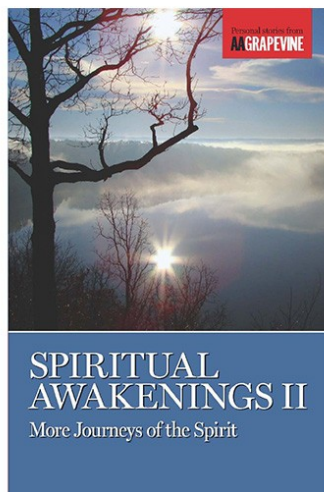
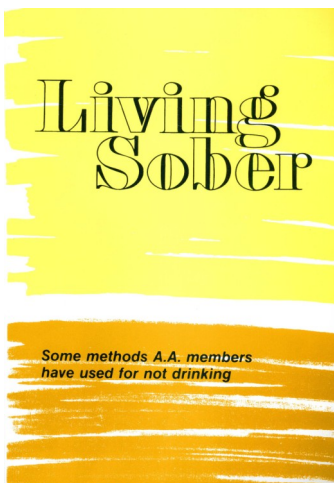
I tried the same thing with God. I thought about God, the essence, the Creator, the best part of all of us, and thought about how this world works. How the seasons happen, life continues and balance is restored by letting go.

And gradually, I felt God's presence as I learned to relax the control of my life. Nothing terrible was going to happen if things didn't go exactly the way I thought they should.

As a matter of fact, many times in my life I've been relieved to look back on the things I didn't get. Maybe there is a natural rhythm, and maybe I can spend my best energies in being grateful, rather than planning how I think my life should go.

So these days I use God in my life. I try to be guided by spiritual principles, and give back what has been so freely given.

JUDY S.Lynnwood, Washington Grapevine, Inc. Reprinted with permission March 2009



**Suggested Reading
AA Book of
the Month**

**Suggested Reading
Grapevine Book of
the Month**

**Suggested Reading
Pamphlet of
the Month**



Women, God, & the Frio
21st Annual Women's Celebration
"God either is or isn't"
2017 Voice of The Conference: Lynn P. - Kerrville, TX

When: March 10th-12th 2017
Where: Neal's Lodges, Concan, Texas <http://www.nealslodges.com>
830-232-6118

Registration: Pre-Registration: \$20 (Deadline March 5th 2017)
At the Door: \$25

There is a 100 Woman Capacity, so Sign up Early!!!

Ladies, it's time to make plans to attend the Women's Conference at Concan. Please bring a gift for the raffle and/or snacks (sandwiches, chips, etc) for the hospitality room.

Friday: Registration 4:00 - 6:00pm
Saturday: Registration 8 - 9:00 am

If you have any Questions you may contact the following:

Linda M.
830-775-0387
yakimaskid@cs.com
Lynn Perilloux
830-895-5680
lynnp1950@twc.com
cell- 830-459-3097

The restaurant will be open during the conference.

Registration Form (Feel free to copy!)

Name: _____ AA or Al-Anon
Address: _____ Phone: () _____
City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____
Scholarship Donation: _____

*If someone needs a scholarship, please contact Linda Morris.

** Registration is NOT refundable, but IS transferable.. If you can't make it.. Send a Friend!

(will bring: () Gift for Raffle and/or () Snacks for Hospitality Room

Make Check & Mail to:
Linda Morris
P.O. Box 395
Del Rio, Texas 78841-0395

Fees Enclosed:
Registration Fee \$ _____
Total \$ _____

AA District 12
Texas Area 68

24 Hour Help Line
(859) 606-6850

HOME COMMUNITY MEETINGS ACTIVITIES SERVICE NEWSLETTERS CONTACTS

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!

Note From Your DCM

Thanks for all your support at the last District meeting. Dean D., Area Treasurer, gave a great presentation and answered a lot of questions after the meeting.

Remember: Pre-General Service Conference and Assembly April 7—9

San Antonio Marriot Northwest 5233 N. W. Loop 410 (210) 377-3900

During the Conference will be the mock General Service Conference where we will break up and each group will discuss and make a decision on an agenda item. Denise T., Area Delegate, will take decisions when she goes to the General Services Conference in April in New York. We will also be voting on the “Treatment/Accessibilities Conference”

At the next District Meeting on April 9, 2017, Jayson, District 12 Archives Chair, will give a presentation. Hope to see many of you at the Area Conference and the District Meeting.

Upcoming Workshops/Voting Conferences and Assemblies/ District Meetings:

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

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

**“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:**

Pjmcдан@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.