

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

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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 4

April 2017

## Concept IV

*Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.*

The principal of Participation has been carefully built into our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifies that the trustees and nontrustee directors, together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the Conference. This is to ensure that there are no superiors, nor inferiors, as well as a proper degree of voting participation.

According to Bill, “the preservation of the principle of ‘Participation’ in our service structure is. . .a matter of the highest importance to our future.” In its early days, the AA headquarters was run on authoritarian and institutional lines. At that time the trustees saw no reason to delegate their managerial powers or to work in voting participation with any others outside their own body. The result was often disharmony and misunderstanding, and it was out of this rough going that the principle of “Participation” finally emerged. Bill cautions against the possibility of new delegates or trustees trying to “weaken, modify or toss out” the “Right of Participation.”

Another reason for this Concept has to do with our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to belong. It is our shining ideal that the “spiritual corporation” of AA should never include any members who are regarded as “second class.” The “Right of Participation” therefore reinforces Tradition Two, which no member is placed in “ultimate authority” over another. Moreover, when we are sure we belong, we tend to perform our service tasks better. Thus the fact of our participation assures us we are truly the “trusted servants” as described in Tradition Two.

Pam J.

## Tradition Four

***“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.”***

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 Four:**

Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?

Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of loners in Alaska? Of internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?

Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?

Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?

Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths – his lengths, not mine – to stay sober?

Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

### Tradition Four: Long Form

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

#### **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**

"Therefore, we started upon a personal inventory. This was Step Four. A business which takes no regular inventory usually goes broke. Taking a commercial inventory is a fact-finding and a fact-facing process. It is an effort to discover the truth about the stock-in-trade. One object is to disclose damaged or unsalable goods, to get rid of them promptly and without regret. If the owner of the business is to be successful, he CANNOT fool himself about values." *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 64

"Since Step Four is but the beginning of a lifetime practice, it can be suggested that he first have a look at those personal flaws which are acutely troublesome and fairly obvious. Using his best judgment of what has been right and what has been wrong, he might make a rough survey of his conduct with respect to his primary instincts for sex, security, and society."

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 50*

"This was our course: We realized that the people who wronged us (column 1) were perhaps spiritually sick (also called spiritually unconscious or spiritually blocked off). Though we did not like their symptoms (column 2) and the way these disturbed us (column 3), they, LIKE OURSELVES, were sick too." *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 66.

"In this book you read again and again that faith did for us what we could NOT do for ourselves. We hope you are convinced now that God can remove whatever self-will has blocked you off from Him (Step 2). If you have already made a decision (Step 3), and an inventory of your grosser handicaps (Step 4), you have made a good beginning. That being so you have swallowed and digested some big chunks of truth about yourself." *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 70.

"It is wise to write out our questions and answers. It will be an aid to clear thinking and honest appraisal. It will be the first tangible evidence of our complete willingness to move forward."

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 56*

## Historical Data: The Birth of A.A

A.A. had its beginnings in 1935 at Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron surgeon. Both had been hopeless alcoholics. Prior to that time, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group, a mostly nonalcoholic fellowship that emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. In that period, the Oxford Groups in America were headed by the noted Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker. Under this spiritual influence, and with the help of an old-time friend, Ebby T., Bill had gotten sober and had then maintained his recovery by working with other alcoholics, though none of these had actually recovered. Meanwhile, Dr. Bob's Oxford Group membership at Akron had not helped him enough to achieve sobriety. When Dr. Bob and Bill finally met, the effect on the doctor was immediate. This time, he found himself face to face with a fellow sufferer who had made good. Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions and body. This all-important fact he had learned from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York, where Bill had often been a patient. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill's convincing ideas, he soon got sober, never to drink again. The founding spark of A.A. had been struck.

Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital, where one patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. Though the name Alcoholics Anonymous had not yet been coined, these three men actually made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group. In the fall of 1935, a second group of alcoholics slowly took shape in New York. A third appeared at Cleveland in 1939. It had taken over four years to produce 100 sober alcoholics in the three founding groups.

Early in 1939, the Fellowship published its basic textbook, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The text, written by Bill, explained A.A.'s philosophy and methods, the core of which was the now well-known Twelve Steps of recovery. The book was also reinforced by case histories of some thirty recovered members. From this point, A.A.'s development was rapid.

Also in 1939, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* carried a series of articles about A.A., supported by warm editorials. The Cleveland group of only twenty members was deluged by countless pleas for help. Alcoholics sober only a few weeks were set to work on brand-new cases. This was a new departure, and the results were fantastic. A few months later, Cleveland's membership had expanded to 500. For the first time, it was shown that sobriety could be mass-produced.

Meanwhile, in New York, Dr. Bob and Bill had in 1938 organized an over-all trusteeship for the budding Fellowship. Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. became board members alongside a contingent of A.A.s. This board was named The Alcoholic Foundation. However, all efforts to raise large amounts of money failed, because Mr. Rockefeller had wisely concluded that great sums might spoil the infant society. Nevertheless, the foundation managed to open a tiny office in New York to handle inquiries and to distribute the A.A. book — an enterprise which, by the way, had been mostly financed by the A.A.s

[http://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/historical-data-the-birth-of-aa-and-its-growth-in-the-uscanada](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/historical-data-the-birth-of-aa-and-its-growth-in-the-uscanada) Reprinted with permission

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

## Step Four:

***“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”***

The fourth step was a scary proposition to me because I never cared enough to take stock of myself or my past. Doing a personal inventory meant that I would have to look at myself. What an enigma: being scared to take a fearless inventory.

I don't know if it took me a relatively long time to get through my fourth step. I hardly remember doing it the first time. I'm aware now that it laid the groundwork for a lot of future inventory. I didn't know at the time that four column inventory, sex inventory, and fear inventory would be a regular part of the rest of my life. My sponsor let that be a surprise. I didn't know that all my resentments stem from fear: fear of not getting what I want; fear of not getting what I think I deserve. I don't even think I knew at the time that resentment is the number one offender.

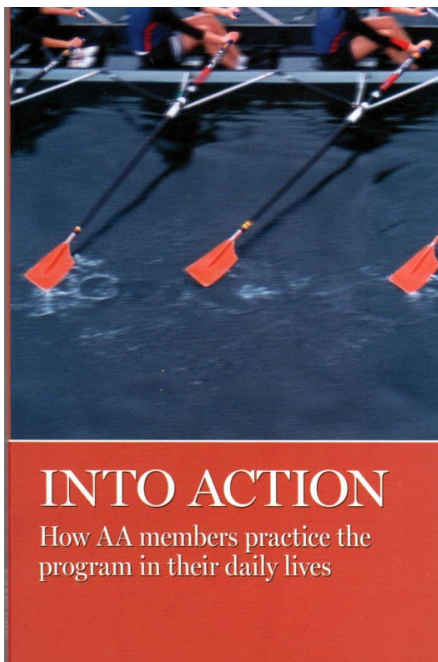
Having done a full fourth step a few times since I did the first one did not turn me into an inventory ninja but it has helped me to become armed with some facts about myself. If I'm resentful, I'm afraid of something. If I'm scared, I'm not trusting and relying on my higher power.

Even in recovery I can do some pretty hurtful, selfish things based on running on self-will. I now have the ability —because I have the tools, to make it right if I can — and do better next time.

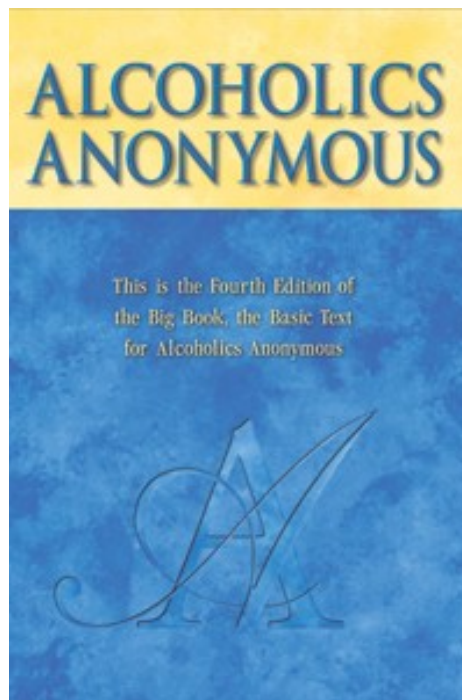
Launching out on a fourth step I am supposed to launch out on the course and vigorous action. Working a program means I have to have my own experience working the steps. The question of how long a four step should take comes up a lot. The answer is another question, but it's simple: how bad do I want it?

If anyone wants want advice on writing a fourth step, it's this: be honest and thorough, and get it done as quickly as possible. The freedom that comes from sharing your fourth step is indescribable.

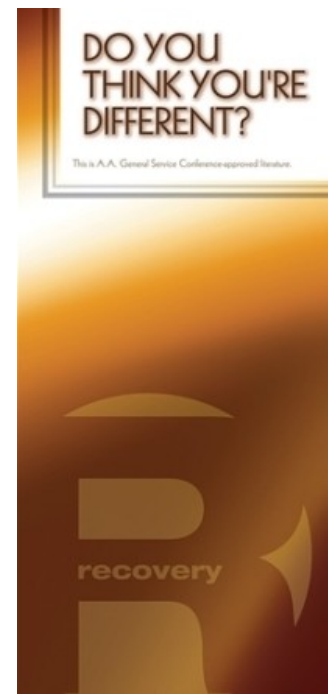
Robert S., Kerrville



Suggested Reading  
**Grapevine Book of  
the Month**



Suggested Reading  
**AA Book of  
the Month**



Suggested Reading  
**Pamphlet of  
the Month**

# GRAPEVINE APP

## Now Available for Android



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**AA District 12**  
Texas Area 68

24-Hour Help Line  
(800) 845-9820

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](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!

## **Note From Your DCM**

Once again we had a fantastic District meeting. Lots of GSRs and visitors came to welcome Randall Tradwick, Area Correctional Facilities Chair, and wife Cindy. It was brought up that you do not have to have gone to jail to take a meeting to jail. For the most part, they know how to go to jail but they don't know how to stay sober.

District 12's newsletter is awesome! Thanks to Patrick Mc for making that possible. This is your newsletter, send in articles, announcements, stories, group activities, etc.

At the District Meeting on April 9, 2017, Jayson, District 12 Archives Chair, will give a presentation. The next District meeting May 14, 2017 at 2:00pm the Area Grapevine/LaVina Chair, Mari Galvan, will be here to share.

### Upcoming Workshops/Voting Conferences and Assemblies/ District Meetings:

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

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.	<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	Sonya 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**

**2211 GROUP**

**INVITES YOU  
TO OUR**

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**15 YEARS**

**UNITY, SERVICE and RECOVERY**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

**3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker at 6:00 p.m.**

**1230 Bandera Highway**

**Kerrville, Texas**

**BBQ COOK-OFF\***

**SWEET TOOTH BAKE-OFF\***

**\* Judging to begin PROMPTLY at 3:15p.m.**

**\*\*\*\* Potluck dinner at 4:00 p.m. \*\*\*\***

**'Gift' Raffle**

**PLUS**

**'Split-the-Pot' Raffle**

**Questions? Contact:**

**Sandy T. (830) 792-4087, Mary D. (830) 890-0151**

**Mary Alice H. (361) 960-7116, Margaret L. (832) 533-0199**

**Or Ladera L. (361) 947-4711**