

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 7

July 2017

Concept VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the By-laws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

This concept attempts to clarify the relationship and “balance of powers” between the Conference and the General Service Board. It may appear to be contradictory. On the one hand, we see a board which is invested with complete legal power of A.A.’s funds and services; while on the other hand, the Conference has such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the board. This means the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the board. The superior power is derived from the large majority of delegates in the Conference combined with, if necessary, the ability to deny the board with money with which to operate. Theoretically, the Conference is advisory only, but practically speaking has all of the ultimate rights and authorities it may ever need.

The Conference directs the board through recommendations (advisory actions) and the board carries out these recommendations. Though the board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation, it has never done so. Instead the trustees turn to qualified sources including the conference for advice or direction rather than turning to a veto. Part of the trustee’s job is interpreting the laws as they apply to A.A. These legal rights help the trustees keep the business of A.A. running smoothly and legally so delegates can do the job they’re supposed to do – help carry this message to the person who does not know there is a solution.

So, in concept VII, we address the practical authority given our trustees to ensure that the decisions of the Conference are consistent with the laws that govern us as well as the wellbeing of our fellowship as a whole. Our spiritual democracy is maintained by respect for the Conference’s traditional authority backed up by the power of the groups. When the Conference acknowledges the rights, duties and legal responsibilities of the trustees, a harmonious and respectful working relationship can be maintained.

Pam J.

Tradition Seven

""When ready, we say something like this: 'My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, GOOD AND BAD (which is another reference back to the Third Step). I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do YOUR bidding. Amen.'" *Alcoholics Anonymous* pg. 76

"Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of AA's twelve steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required for just sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 70

"The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, than there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 76

"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

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 Seven:

Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?

Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?

If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?

Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?

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**

Tradition Seven: Long Form

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Note From Your Delegate

Greetings District 12! I want to thank you again for inviting me to share the Delegate Report to your district. The conversations we shared afterward are what make these visits so enjoyable!

As I mentioned in the report, safety came up many times over the Conference week. The new service piece titled: *Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare* (SMF-209, it can be found on the aa.org website) includes the following: 'Safety is an important issue within A.A. — one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship. The piece goes on to state 'Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose — to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety.'

More information from the service piece includes:

'What Can Groups and Members Do? Groups and members can discuss the topic of safety, to raise awareness in the Fellowship and seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible for the newcomer, and other members or potential members. This can be the subject of sharing among groups at the district or area level. Here are some helpful suggestions and reminders: • Talk about issues of safety before they arise. • Safety is something each member attending an A.A. meeting can be mindful of. • Communicate clearly what A.A. is and what it is not. • Sponsorship plays an important role and sponsors can be helpful in pointing out warning signs or unhealthy situations to sponsees and newcomers. • A.A. members who are concerned about the words or actions of a sponsor or other member, may find it helpful to speak to someone they trust, their A.A. group, or a professional, as needed. • Include Safety and the A.A. Meeting Environment as topics for a group inventory. • Consider developing group guidelines and procedures on safety. Recommend that no one walk to a car alone but be accompanied by a trusted fellow or travel in a group. • In all discussions about safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and place principles before personalities.'

We can't go wrong if we allow our Traditions to guide us! Several trusted servants in our Area have been giving workshops to groups and districts on this topic of safety. Feel free to reach out anytime!

I look forward to seeing you all in Castroville at the SWTA 68 Summer Workshop July 14-16. Thank you all for your service!

Love and Service,

Denise T

If your group has an event coming up and would like it in the newsletter, please contact:

Pjmcдан@yahoo.com

Boerne Hwy Group

Last Friday of Each month 8:00 P.M. Birthday and Speaker and CAKE!!!

Step Seven:

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

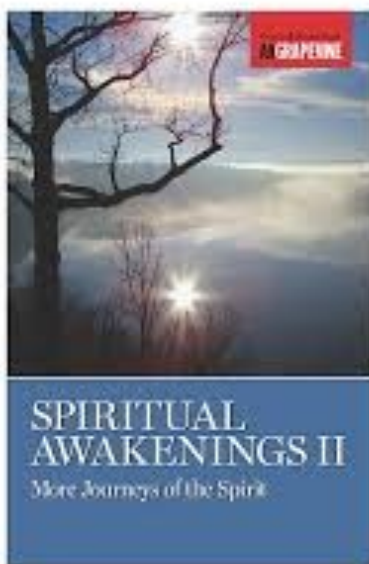
Coming into AA and finding the acceptance and love I'd sought in a bottle was a relief beyond description, but reading the Steps was a shock. Fortunately for me, my home group did not hammer the Steps into newcomers. Rather, they talked a lot about the Slogans and the need to not drink a day at a time. I needed that.

During a discussion of Step Seven, I made the statement, "If my shortcomings and character defects are removed, there will be nothing left!" I need not have feared. What I've learned since then is that I have more than a lifetime's supply of character defects. My Higher Power and I can't get rid of them all in my allotted time on this earth.

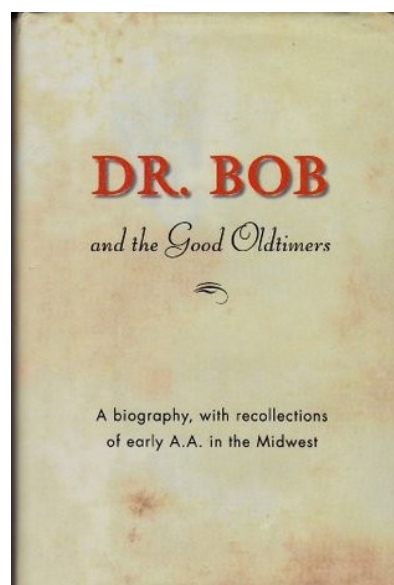
More importantly, I've learned that if I simply let go of a character defect--release it--my Higher Power will replace it with a character asset. As I release anger I find that I am friendlier. As I release hate I become more loving. As I release fear I become more secure. I don't have to go out looking for friendliness, love, security, or any other trait that I desire. I just have to give up the feelings that are manifestations of my character defects and the good automatically flows into my life. . . . And I used to think that I would become hollow without my character defects!

So, how does it work? Daily. On a daily basis I choose not to drink--or to fear, hate, be angry, or indulge in any other defect that's raising its ugly head. They're all there waiting, and when given a chance they charge into the center of my life and try to take over. But when I work Step Seven I find that my life is filled with good, and people actually like to be around me--something they never did in my drinking days.

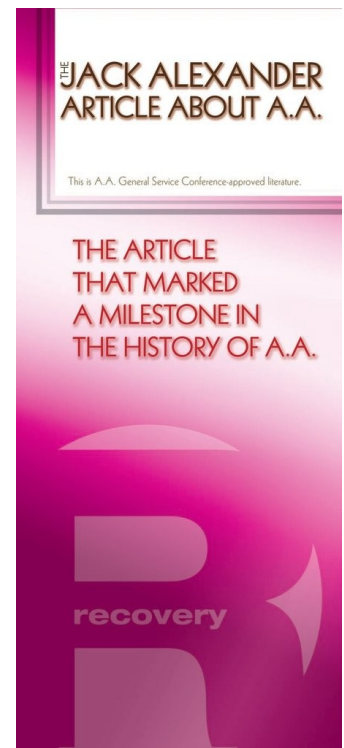
C. Kathmandu, Nepal



Suggested Reading
**Grapevine Book of
the Month**



Suggested Reading
**AA Book of
the Month**



Suggested Reading
**Pamphlet of
the Month**

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!

NEW BOOK
AVAILABLE NOW



MAKING AMENDS

Finding a new freedom

\$11.50

Making Amends features 55 candid, firsthand stories from AA Grapevine magazine of members' experiences with Step Nine of the AA program. The book includes chapters on making amends to parents, children, family members, exes, financial institutions, friends and coworkers. These powerful stories illustrate how practicing Step Nine can help us, as AA's co-founder Bill W. wrote, "know a new freedom and a new happiness."

(\$10.99 for
5 or more
copies)

ORDER
ONLINE!

ONLINE: WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG/BOOKS

PHONE: (800) 631-6025 (US/Canada), (818) 487-2091 (International)

Note From Your DCM

Summer is here with long hot days, vacations, swimming in rivers, lakes, and the ocean, and company from out of town. We get so busy that sometimes we forget what is really important—sobriety, God, AA, service work.

We have been having a great turnout for District 12 meetings, new GSRs, and new meetings forming all over District 12. There is a new meeting in Fredericksburg—Fredericksburg Solutions Group – Mondays at 6:30 at the Holy Ghost Lutheran Church (Hano Street at San Antonio Street)

The SWTA68 summer workshop will be in Castroville, Texas at the Braden Keller Community Center (1410 Amelia) July 14-16, 2017. The theme is “There is a Solution.” There will be workshops on Archives, Corrections, Grapevine/La Vina, Newsletter, PI/CPC, and Treatment. Denise T. (Area Delegate) will be giving a report on the General Services Conference. It will be exciting to see how our decisions at the Pre-General Service Assembly and the Conference matchup!

July and August we will be accepting nominations for District 12 officers and chairpersons. The elections will be in September.

Save the date, our next District meeting is August 13. Alt. Delegate, Jonathon S. will be there. There are lots of exciting events coming up!

Yours in service, Sandy T. District 12 DCM

Upcoming Workshops/Voting Conferences and Assemblies/ District Meetings:

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

July 14-16, 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 - Clay S.
PICPC - Kathleen K.
CFC - Marty M.
H&I - Jim W.
Newsletter- Patrick Mc.
Grapevine- Joseph N.
Archives - Jayson J.
Bilingual - Horatio 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

SWTA 68 SUMMER WORKSHOP

“There is a solution.”

WHEN

July 14-16, 2017

WHERE

**Braden Keller
Community Center**

1410 Amelia Street Castroville, Texas 78009

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 1E

LODGING:

HOTEL ALSACE

1650 Old Hwy 90,
Castroville, Texas
78009

830-538-3200

Room rate/\$112.50
CODE SWTA68

Other area hotels:

Best Western Hondo
(rooms blocked for
SWTA68)

301 US Hwy 90 E
830-426-4466

Regency Inn Hondo
401 US Hwy 90 E
830-426-3031

Microtel Inn & Suites
by Wyndham
1605 West Loop 1604
South San Antonio, TX

Contact information:
Tegan
830-931-5010