

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 11

November 2017

## Concept XI

### Concept XI

*While the Trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.*

In Concept XI, Bill explains in great detail the inner workings of the daily operations of A.A. — as it was in 1962. As A.A. has grown and changed, many of the descriptions would be different today, and some of the issues that are addressed are no longer relevant. Still, the full text is valuable as an historical document, and many of the principles still apply.

Underlying our service structure, there is another, internal structure consisting of the non-trustee members of the trustees' committees; the non-trustee directors of the two operating boards, and the executives and staff members. "Members of this group," declares Bill, "not only support the leadership of the trustees: they share leadership with them."

In Concept XI, Bill envisions both delegation and cooperation. He describes the composition, functions and relationships of (1) the standing committees of the General Service Board; (2) its subsidiary operating boards; (3) the General Service Office and (4) the A.A. Grapevine.

Here are several principles that apply to A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

1. The Status of Executives - Sustained and competent executive direction is necessary for active and functioning service. One person must always lead, supported by necessary assistants. The leader must have ample freedom and authority to do his/her job, and should not be interfered with so long as work is done well.
2. How Paid Workers Are Compensated - AA must pay its staff in reasonable relation to the value of services in the commercial world. Each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in this equitable way.
3. Rotation Among Paid Staff Workers - At A.A.'s General Service Office, most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job at GSO — excepting for office management.
4. Full "Participation" of Paid Workers is Highly Important - In Concept IV, we discussed the necessity of giving key paid personnel a voting representation on our committees and corporate boards. They should enjoy a status suitable to their responsibility, just as our volunteers do.

Pam J., Inez, TX.

## Quotes on Step 11

"Step Eleven suggests prayer and meditation. We shouldn't be shy on this matter of prayer. Better men than we are using it constantly. It works, IF we have the proper attitude and work at it."

*Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 85*

"When we retire at night, we constructively review our day. Were we resentful, selfish, dishonest or afraid? Do we owe an apology? Have we kept something to ourselves which should be discussed with another person at once? Were we kind and loving toward all? What could we have done better? Were we thinking of ourselves most of the time? Or were we thinking of what we could do for others, of what we could pack into the stream of life? But we must be careful not to drift into worry, remorse or morbid reflection, for that would diminish our usefulness to others. After making our review, we ask God's forgiveness and inquire what corrective measures should be taken.

On awakening let us think about the twenty-four hours ahead. We consider our plans for the day. Before we begin, we ask God to direct our thinking, especially asking that it be divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives. Under these conditions we can employ our mental faculties with assurance, for after all God gave us brains to use. Our thought-life will be placed on a much higher plane when our thinking is cleared of wrong motives."

*Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 86*

"We constantly remind ourselves we are no longer running the show, humbly saying to ourselves, many times each day 'Thy will be done.' We are then in much less danger of excitement, fear, anger, worry, self-pity, or foolish decisions. We become much more efficient. We do not tire so easily, for we are not burning up energy foolishly as we did when we were trying to arrange life to suit ourselves.

It works—it really does."

*Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 87*

"We alcoholics are undisciplined. So we let God discipline us in the simple way we have just outlined. But this is not all. There is action and more action. Faith without works is dead."

## Tradition Eleven

***"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."***

Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?

Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?

Am I careful about throwing AA names around – even within the Fellowship?

Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?

What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?

Is my sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

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### **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 Eleven: Long Form

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

## Note From Your Delegate

WOW!!! Amazing experience!!! You had to be there to experience it!!! What am I talking about? I am referring to that beautiful thing we do in the Fall of every odd year called 'Third Legacy Procedure' aka 'Elections'!! Of course District 12 got to experience this on the home front when you had your own recent elections, so you know what I am talking about...that process by which we choose our leaders with care and prayer. Truly; every time I get to be a part of this by direct or indirect participation, the results are the same...I am 'wowed' by the experience! I want to congratulate and thank each and every one of you for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous past, present, and future. Panel 66 was a great experience with many accomplishments and Panel 68 has chosen with care its new trusted servant leaders. District 12 and SWTA 68 are in good hands!

WOW!!! Amazing experience!!! You had to be there to experience it!!!

**NOW** what am I talking about : ) ???

The SW Regional Forum!!! I am so grateful that our G.S.O. continues to use some of our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to bring these Forums to us. For many of us, this is as close to the G.S.O. as we may ever get. And there is nothing like the depth of understanding that develops when we get to meet many of our General Service Board members and G.S.O. staff up close and personal. I know that was my experience with my first Regional Forum and it continues to be so. I hope it was yours. Your current D.C.M. will receive an electronic and/or mail copy of the Forum final report to share with those of you who may not have gotten to attend. If you did not get a chance to come to this year's Forum, don't worry...the next SW Regional Forum will be in Houston in the Fall of 2019!! Pretty awesome to be so close to home again considering this event rotates between the 11 Areas and 7 states in our Region every 2 years!

But back to the home front, I do want to thank your D.C.M. Sandy T. and all District 12 G.S.R.s for their participation in the accomplishments in Alcoholics Anonymous and SWTA 68 these past 2 years. From their participation in the Mock Conference each spring to their participation in the Workshop Assemblies and our biennial Area Inventory and to the carrying of all of this activity back to their group; we've fulfilled our purpose this Panel—the purpose of carrying out the activity that makes our 12<sup>th</sup> step work more possible. Thank you for your service!

Denise T.

### **Boerne Hwy Group**

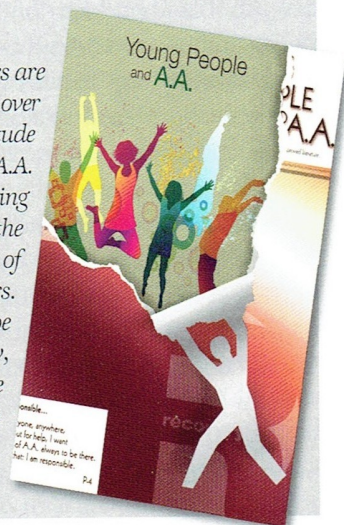
**Last Friday of Each month 8:00  
P.M. Birthday and Speaker and  
CAKE!!!**

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

**Pjmcdan@yahoo.com**

### **New Look**

A.A.'s pamphlet covers are getting a makeover. With over 80 pamphlets on a multitude of topics directly related to A.A. and recovery, G.S.O.'s Publishing Department has begun the process of redesigning many of our pamphlet and book covers. Reflecting the breadth, scope and diversity of A.A. today, these dynamic, attractive covers will help carry the message both inside and outside the Fellowship.





## Step Eleven:

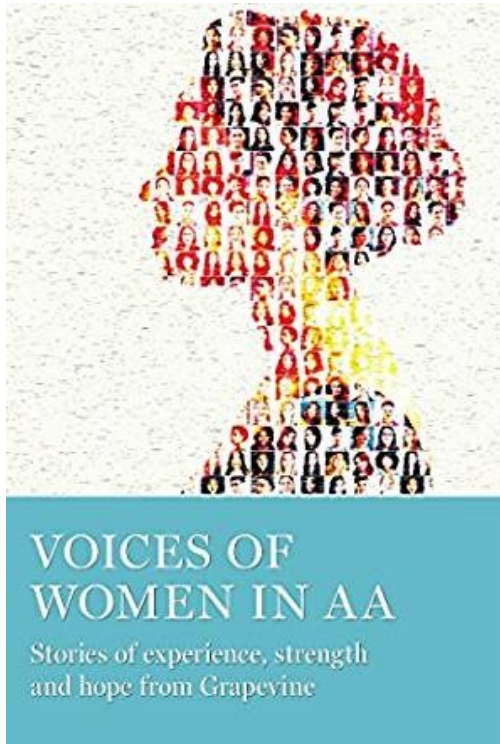
**“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.” ‘**

When I was first sober I prayed for God to remove unwanted emotions, for the removal of other people's unwanted emotions, in particular ones that were directed at me. I prayed for other people's happiness, for things to turn out my way and for God to do things that I deemed necessary. I had forgotten the last part of this step. Praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out took some time for me to understand.

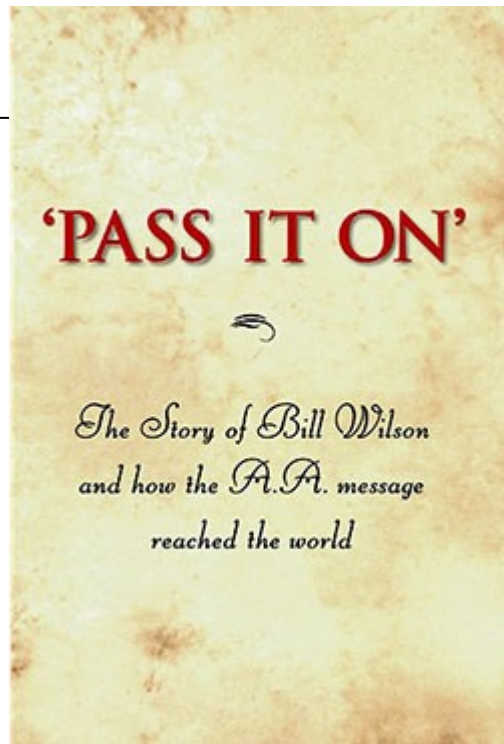
My practice now is to stick to the step as written. Each morning I pray the third step prayer for God's will for the whole day, not just part of it. I must be open to God's will and pray for the power to carry that out.

Meditation is also something that I have had to slowly learn over time. It took time to develop the patience to sit still and be present enough to listen. I believe that a consistent meditation practice is a big part of having serenity in my life. I must take the time to pray and to meditate because if I don't I am too busy to be available to practice God's will. Meditation and prayer take practice just like any skill and cannot be mastered quickly. I have been sober many years and have had to work at both. Step 11 is a lifelong step for me and one that I try to do to the best of my ability daily.

Madeline A. Kerrville TX.



Suggested Reading  
**Grapevine Book of  
the Month**



Suggested Reading  
**AA Book of  
the Month**




Suggested Reading  
**Pamphlet of  
the Month**



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**AA District 12**  
**Texas Area 68**

**24-Hour Help Line**  
 (855) 846-8970


 2025-2026



**Welcome to  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12**

**WELCOME TO DISTRICT 12 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

**GET INVOLVED!**

There are many opportunities to get involved in AA. We have a variety of positions to fill in our area. Contact your local group for more information.

... serving Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, and Kimble counties in the hill country of Texas.

To learn more about service opportunities [click here](#)

**www.aa12.org**

Post or Update Your Meetings!  
Post Events!  
Everyone who registers can be notified!

## Post Events!

Everyone who registers can be notified!

**THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART**  
Bill Ivy's Grapevine Writings

**OUR TWELTH TRADITION**  
A. J. Jorgensen  
A memoir about mine, their own as well as mine  
of experience

**SOBER & OUT**  
A. J. Jorgensen  
A memoir about mine, their own as well as mine  
of experience

**YOUNG & SOBER**  
Sharon A. Aaron

**MAKING AMENDS**  
Sharon A. Aaron  
Finding a new freedom

# AA GRAPEVINE

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- No Matter What
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- Beginners' Book
- In Our Own Words
- The Best of Grapevine Vol. III
- I Am Responsible-
- The Hand of AA



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## **Note From Your DCM**

October was a busy month!

The 2017 SWTA68 Voting Conference was October 13-15, 2017 in Seguin, Texas hosted by District 2. It was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The new 2018-2019 officers are:

Delegate—Jonathon Smith	Alt Delegate— Michael Potter	Chair— Cathy Hurst
Alt. Chair— Barbara Ruiz		Treasurer— Ken Davis
Secretary— Stacy Vanlandingham		Registrar— Tegan Taylor
The new 2018-2019 Chairs are:	Archives— Daniel Balentine	CFC— Tony Rogers
Grapevine— Jenna Cara	Newsletter— Jimmy Fitzpatrick	PI/CPC—Dean Dubal
Treatment— Sandy Talley	Webmaster— Scott Andrewartha	

Business issue #1 — We voted to send \$1,000 more to GSO to support the Delegate.

Proposal #1— After much discussion, we voted no on the treatment/Accessibilities proposal.

The Southwest Regional Forum in San Antonio was held October 20-22, 2017. The Southwest Region is made up of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. There were over 669 men and women there. It was so special to put names with faces. Yolanda Flores, the Southwest Regional Trustee, was Chairperson. Presentations were made by Class A Trustee, AA World Service Board, Grapevine Board, Technology in AA, Working with non-English speaking groups and members, common welfare/safety, Grapevine/La Vina, Anonymity and the Internet, Trustee-at-Large, GSO staff assignments, and finance. All through the day there were General Sharing Sessions, question-and-answer, and comments. There were 6 workshops in the evenings from 7:00-9:00. I went and enjoyed the workshops – “Twelve Step Efforts to the Underserved” by Norma Archbald (past SWTA68 Treatment Chair) and “Tradition Ten-AA Groups Oppose No one” by Erica Chenewith, Delegate Panel 67 Area 10 Colorado. My favorite was Sunday morning when past Delegates shared followed by a General Sharing Session. Wish you all could have been there. The next District meeting (and last of this year/rotation) will be December 10, 2017. Jayson J., District Archives Chair, will give a presentation.

### **Next:**

Yours in service, Sandy T. District 12 DCM

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

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

December 10, 2017 : District meeting — Jayson J., District Archives Chair, Presenter



**“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.	<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)**

## 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 ("Ebb") 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 Ebb's schoolmate friends from Vermont, and a drinking buddy, was Bill W. Ebb 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 Ebb'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.

From: [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/aa-timeline](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-timeline) Used with permission



Mayflower Hotel, Akron, Ohio.



Towns Hospital, New York City and Bill's admission slip to Towns Hospital