

THE STAND

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Tradition One

***“Our common welfare should come first;
personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.”***

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

When I first came into AA I was hoping to find a way to stay sober and still be alone in my actions and deeds. I quickly found that in order to for me to receive the gifts of this program I had to follow the principles of the program, two of those principles being self-sacrifice and humility. In the first tradition it is stated that “our common welfare should come first” not MY welfare should come first. I had to understand that the common welfare meant the whole of AA. I am but a “small part of the great whole”; therefore I must be willing set aside my own personal wants and learn to live within the conscience of the group. Our groups are the governing source of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

When reading the long form of the first tradition, I begin to think of the Declaration of Unity and what that means. “This we owe to AA’s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depends our lives, and lives of those to come.” Over the years my idea of “unity” has evolved from believing that Unity meant the group I was in to the understanding that Unity is the whole of AA. Once again we are reminded that we, as individuals, must preserve our fellowship and to do that we must follow the principle of humility.

“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA, always to be there. For that I am responsible.” It was pointed out to me that the Responsibility Statement reads the hand of the fellowship which is my hand carrying the principals. Self-sacrifice for others is the key component of the 1st tradition. My personal recovery depends on the survival of the program. I am here to reach out to the newcomer. In sharing the program with the newcomer I am assuring that the fellowship of AA will continue with God’s grace. One of the fundamental aspects of the First Tradition is the idea that we (group) as a whole must make sure that I am not just a taker but also a giver of what has been freely given to me. Finally, our Responsibility statement describes what I should do as an individual to ensure the fellowship is always here.

In His Service,

Cathy H.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tradition One 1

Grapevine 2

Concept One 3

SMSM 4

Step One 5

District 12
online 6

Trusted
Servants 7



All you need to start your own AA meeting is a resentment and a coffeepot.

From Bill's last message...

If I were asked which of our blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our community, I would say, the "Concept of Anonymity."

The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called willpower becomes practically non-existent. We are unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink.

A.A. Big Book, p. 24

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Concept of the Month

Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our Fellowship.

If you've already read this far into an article about the Twelve Concepts, congratulations! Your willingness to tackle the final twelve of our thirty-six principles (Steps, Traditions, Concepts) is applauded. There's not much in A.A. that is harder to read than our Twelve Concepts. Yet here in this book, *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, lies the key to doing a good job in any service position, from GSR. to Delegate.

The journey to understanding our role in A.A. service begins with the mind-blowing realization that our groups are truly in charge of this whole thing. Everything we do in our service positions relates back to that.

There was a very good reason for this development, which occurred back in 1955 when Bill W. handed the reins of Alcoholics Anonymous over to the General Service Conference.

Bill and Dr. Bob had already formed a trusteeship known as The Alcoholic Foundation to perform services for A.A. that could not be carried out by single groups, districts, or areas. Uniform literature, responses to large numbers of pleas for help, sharing experience of older groups with new groups, and translation of our literature into other languages were some of the responsibilities of The Alcoholic Foundation. Bill and Dr. Bob were the links between the groups and the trustees, who were virtually unknown to the Fellowship. But Dr. Bob had recently passed away and Bill was faced with his own inevitable mortality. How best to keep A.A. going after both were gone?

The General Service Conference (GSC) was the answer.

The GSC is a living, breathing expression of Tradition Two. Concept One states that Tradition Two is the "voice of experience based upon the trials of thousands of groups in our pioneer-

ing time." The delegates that make up the GSC are the trusted servants of the A.A. groups, but the groups always have the final say-so.

Tradition Two was written in 1945, but it was not until 1951 that the first GSC was held to see whether Tradition Two could be successfully applied to A.A. as a whole, including its trustees. By 1955, it was apparent that the GSC was a resounding success, proving that the groups could and would assume the ultimate responsibility for our world service operation.

It's something to think about (and maybe share!) at your next group conscience!

Barbara R

SWTA68 Alt Chair

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 2nd Sunday of the Month at 4:00.

WE NEED YOU! HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE BY SHARING YOUR STORY WITH THE DISTRICT! ALSO LOOKING FOR GROUP HISTORY, UPCOMING GROUP EVENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS! REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! BE A PART OF IT! Contact:



Service Manual Study Meeting

Meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:00pm (right before the District meeting) in the Spanish room at the 720 Club.

We will study a chapter and a Concept from the Service Manual. (In October we will discuss Chapter 2 and Concept 2)

You may get more out of the meeting if you can read the chapter/concept BEFORE the meeting!



Step One:

SMOOTH RIDE

My sponsor told me many years ago that I would never be finished with the Twelve Steps—especially Step One. He said that no matter how much I admitted that I was an alcoholic, I'd never completely understand it. My smart-alecky answer was, "That's why it says 'admitted.' "

But, as in most things, I've discovered that he was right again. The longer I'm sober, the more about my own First Step is uncovered.

In my home group, there's a man who has nearly 45 years sober. He's told the story of his car wreck many times. He describes driving drunk at a high rate of speed when he lost control and his car rolled over about 10 times. It landed on its wheels, and luckily he wasn't hurt. So he tried to drive it away, but he passed out until the next morning. When he woke, he could barely see out of what used to be his windshield and again tried to drive it home. He was stopped by the cops and arrested for driving an unsafe vehicle. He was then taken to treatment.

For whatever reason, one morning I heard his story in a different way. What I heard was a description of an unmanageable life. As an alcoholic, I'm always driving an unsafe vehicle—me. I used to drive this unsafe vehicle drunk. Today, by God's grace, I no longer drive it drunk, but my vehicle (me) is always unsafe if under my own power. My life can quickly get out of control if I try to drive it on my own. I need this program every day. I need God in my life everyday. Otherwise my selfishness and self-centeredness shows its ugly head very quickly.

Every time my life seems overwhelming and I'm afraid or angry or feeling isolated, I hear the voice of my sponsor asking, "Which Step are you working now, Bob?" The answer is always one of the Twelve—usually Steps Three and Eleven: I haven't been praying.

I'm retired now, so I'm able to attend more meetings. So I'm able to hear the answers in other people's stories more often now. And the answer is always the same: Keep coming back, let go and let God, carry the message, read the Book, talk about it, take myself out of the equation, more conscious contact—and of course, work the Steps. The answer for me is here, around these tables.

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!

District 12 Trusted Servants

DCM - Tracy M.
Alt DCM - Kathleen K.
Treasurer - Al P.
Alt Treasurer - Patrick Mc.
Secretary - Mary Alice
Alt Secretary- Courtney A.
PI/CPC/Helpline - Robert S.
CFC - Kara G.
TFC- Brian B.
Newsletter- Maddy A.
Grapevine- Joseph N.
Archives - Lara S.
Bilingual - Tony
Webmaster - Sam L.

**“SELF-SUPPORT:
WHERE MONEY AND
SPIRITUALITY 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 3136
EARLY, TX 76803

WORLD SERVICE SUPPORT -

THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
GRAND CENTRAL STATION
P.O. BOX 459 NEW YORK, NY
10164-0423

SWTA 68 Panel 66 Area Officers &

Committee Chairs

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SWTA 68 WEBSITE		http://www.aa-swta.org

If your group has an event coming up and would like it in the newsletter, please contact:
ibrremad@aol.com

DISTRICT12 NEWSLETTER FOCUS – TO INFORM THE AA COMMUNITY OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO DISTRICT 12, AREA 68, AND GSO AND TO ENLARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION.

2019

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knowledge”



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More Contact Info:

Sonny J. 210.831.6781

Steve G. 832.603.9263

Hosted by District 11: district11@aa-swta.org