

## Tradition Two

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

As we discovered in Tradition 1, the group is what keeps the unity of AA as a whole. If the groups are the foundations, then we need to be conscious of the actions of our groups. As we have grown in our recovery, we have learned to rely on a power greater than ourselves to carry us through our ups and downs. We have learned to ask for direction and to listen to the directions given. We no longer need to depend on our own self-will, but on the Good Orderly Direction to guide and direct us. It is the same in the group. As different as we are as individuals, our groups are the same. As long as there is more than one alcoholic in a group there are going to be differencing opinions on how the group should be run. Taking the ultimate authority out of the alcoholic's hands and putting it in the hands of *a Loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience*, enables the group to function with the best interest of AA in mind.

Group conscience, those meetings where the members of that group have the opportunity to share their thoughts and desires, is designed in a way that all members of the group are encouraged to voice their opinions on issues involving the group. No one person has any more authority than any other person in the group. There are no rules set-down as to how a group must conduct their meetings. So how exactly does a group decide it's format, it's direction, who takes control? Members of a group come together and share experience, strength and hope with each other to set a group format and policies for that group. It is at this point that a group conscience is formed. At a group conscience all group member voices are heard. Throughout the growth of AA, we discovered there was a need for ALL voices to be heard in a discussion. Regardless of differences of the members, it is amazing to watch the hand of a Higher Power work through all of us. Collective experience, strength and hope guides the conscience of the group and Good Orderly Direction, GOD, Higher Power, guides the groups to principles as set down in our program.

Cathy H. SWTA68 Chair

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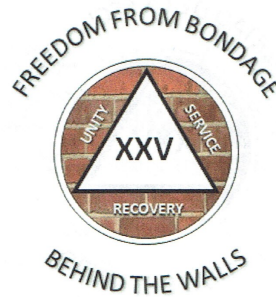
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Therefore Step 2 is the rallying point for us all. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we stand together on this Step.  
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We needed to ask ourselves but one short question. - "Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?" As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built.  
A.A. Big Book, p. 47

Bill, haven't you often said right here in this meeting that sometimes the good is the enemy of the best?  
12 & 12 Page 138



## 2019 Correctional Facility Conference February 15 – February 17, 2019

Hosted by District 5 at the

**Courtyard by Marriott**

1721 E. Central Texas Expressway Killeen, TX 76541

**Room Rate: \$109.00 per night**

**Reservations Call: 254.616.2000**

\*Specify ~~SWTA 68~~ **AA** Correctional Facility Conference when making reservations

### Conference Registration

**NLT 02/01/2019**

\*In lieu of a registration fee we are requesting a donation of a **SOFT BACK** AA Big Book, Regular or Large Print, English or Spanish. Bring one with you (donation), purchase in advance or at the conference.

#### Please specify:

- ☐ Donation
- ☐ Purchase in advance
- ☐ Purchase at the conference
- ☐ \$10.00 Contribution to the SWTA 68 Correctional Facility Conference

Please make check payable to: District 5 AA/CFC P.O. Box 2876 Harker Hts. TX, 76548

**TDCJ Training and Orientation Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Contact: Joe G: 254.231.1939

Dear District 12 AA member,

**Participation in our efforts to carry the message into the several local treatment facilities in our area is desperately low. We believe this is due to a lack of awareness, throughout the District of the need, or even the opportunity for this kind of service. The only requirement for participation is 3 months sober! Since we all must give it away in order to keep it, come and experience the spiritual rewards that come with sharing your experience, strength and hope with those who are hungry for it. Text or call our Treatment Facilities/H&I Chairperson Brian B. at (210)-668-9530 and help us to fill this need.**

# Concept of the Month

## Concept 2

*“When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.”*

We learned last month that Concept I is a big one: the hand-off of the ultimate responsibility and authority for Alcoholics Anonymous to the groups.

Concept II is pretty much the next logical step after Concept I. There are so many A.A. groups, scattered throughout the United States and Canada, that they couldn't possibly weigh in on the day-to-day activities that make up our World Services. Instead, the groups hand back this administrative and operational authority to their General Service Conference and its service arms. The groups retain the power of their group conscience and the needed funds to carry out this work.

This delegation of authority is the “trusted servants” part of Tradition Two in action. You could even say that all twelve of our concepts arise from the principle of the group conscience expressed in Tradition Two.

Delegation of service authority has always been a part of Alcoholics Anonymous. Way back in 1937, before the General Service Conference or even the Twelve Traditions existed, the New York and Akron groups authorized Bill and Dr. Bob to create a “headquarters” of sorts to spread the A.A. message world-wide. In turn, The Alcoholic Foundation was created to assist.

But Bill and Dr. Bob still held the ultimate authority and responsibility for A.A. As the years passed, it became clear to them that their final say-so would die with them unless it could be somehow transferred to the groups. So the recognition that ultimate authority and responsibility belongs to the groups (Concept I) led to the delegation of that authority to the General Service

Conference (Concept II).

You may have noticed an exception exists: any change in the Twelve Traditions or Article 12 of the Conference Charter cannot be changed without the written consent of 75% of A.A. groups. The current Conference Charter also includes the Twelve Steps in this exception.

Did you know there's a “cheat sheet” that describes all twelve Concepts in a simple way? Check out the “Contents” page of *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the back half of the Service Manual. This easy-to-understand list will jump start any discussion of the Twelve Concepts.

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:**

*ibrremad@aol.com*

***Save the Date!***

## **2019 Southwest Regional Forum**

**in Houston, Texas**



Hosted by Area 67, SE Texas

**October 11-13, 2019**

Friday, 6pm through  
Noon on Sunday

**Sheraton IAH**  
**15700 JFK Blvd.**  
**Houston, Texas 77032**  
**For Reservations call: 281-442-5100**  
**King or Double: \$82/night**

Regional Forums encourage better communication and participation between the members of A.A., the General Service Board, staff and management of the General Service Office, A.A. World Services and the A.A. Grapevine. Forums offer the opportunity to ask questions, get answers and share new ideas.

**Workshops, Presentations and Sharing Sessions!**

Come and enjoy a weekend of general fun and fellowship:

Registration is free. All A.A. Members are welcome.

First-time attendees are encouraged.

More Information to come.....

Register at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)



## **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 Two:** "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

LIGHTNING never strikes twice in the same place. I have heard that said many times; but according to what I've read, lightning strikes twice each time it strikes. It comes in two flashes, so close together that they seem like one.

Step Two is like that. It uses the words "restore us to sanity." Before I got sober I was working in the field of mental health, doing bilingual counseling, taking people to AA meetings and going back a year later for their anniversaries. How could I, a professional in the fields, need to be restored to sanity? But that bolt, those words, opened up a crack in the armor of my denial. I began to see how alcohol was affecting every area of my life, in an increasingly negative way. It was always getting worse, never better. Yet I kept finding rationalizations to continue. If insanity is being disconnected from reality, then I was certainly insane.

The second part of the flash was more positive. I could be restored to sanity. Countless members of AA had been restored, with the help of a Higher Power in the spiritual program of the Fellowship of AA. So I went back to AA, not for others, but for myself. There I found the proof in a group of reasonably happy people enjoying life in a way I had forgotten could ever exist. Some of them seemed so peaceful and content they seemed better than normal. So I kept coming back, and have been doing so since 1986. The double "whammo" had worked. My prayer life left my head and went back to my heart. My spiritual life became real again and began to slowly grow. The Steps, Traditions, a home group and good sponsorship were a wonderful formula for a happy way of life.

Well, how about now, almost 22 years later? The lightening bolt of my first experience of Step Two has mellowed over the years. Now, almost 80 years old and coming up on 22 years of sobriety, it is easy for me to take sobriety for granted, to get complacent. I can start to sound like a know-it-all, at times even pontificate or spout truisms or cliches. This kind of an attitude can easily lead me first to a dry drunk and eventually to a wet one.

I came to believe that what was the solution then is the solution now. AA is a spiritual entity. When I remember that fact and go into action on it, the original awe of Step Two stays alive in a calmer and more peaceful way. Take a look at the phrase "spiritual entity" in the Grapevine's Digital Archive. I think there are 33 entries, most of them by Bill W. and Dr. Bob. The last one is from May 2006, and talks of Tradition Five. I agree with the alcoholic who wrote that. When I put that into practice along with Step Two, all of my character defects are included in the lightning bolt, and become manageable now, one day at a time. If I want to have a reasonably happy and productive life, and an enjoyable degree of serenity, then I have to pray, meditate and do some spiritual reading--in other words, lead a spiritual life. I've never been able to find another way that works. How about you?

# 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas State Convention

June 7-8-9, 2019 - Houston, TX

"We absolutely insist on enjoying life." -p132, Alcoholics Anonymous

## AA Speakers

James H., Corpus Christi, TX  
Amalia C., Newington, CT  
Karl M., Covina, CA  
Diana M., W Largo, FL  
GSO, New York, NY

## Al-Anon/Alateen

Al-Anon Speaker - TBA  
Alateen Speaker - TBA



Please make hotel reservations directly with:

## Westin Galleria Hotel

5060 West Alabama  
Houston, TX 77056

(713) 960-8100 or (800) 937-8461

## \$129 Room Rates

Mention 2019 TX State Convention

Cut-off for \$129 room rate is **May 20, 2019**

<https://book.passkey.com/e/49628525>

## Convention Attractions

- 1st Timer Contest
- Hospitality Rooms
- Al-Anon Luncheon & Speaker
- Marathon Meetings
- Archives Room
- Saturday Night Dance
- Fellowship, Food, and FUN!!!
- Spanish Translation Provided

## PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR AL-ANON LUNCHEON AND CONVENTION: **MAY 20, 2019**

Onsite Registration Fee is \$35 per person at the door.

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge name: ☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen  
Badge name: ☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Use this form and send payment to:  
Texas State Convention  
PO Box 10784, Houston TX 77206

# \_\_\_\_\_ AA/Al-Anon @ \$30 before **May 20** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Al-Anon Lunch @ \$28 before **May 20** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Alateen @ \$5 before **May 20** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Dance only @ \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Scholarship donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Alateens must have signed permission forms!**

Please indicate any special needs on pre-registration form.  
Spanish translation will be provided.

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [2019txstate@gmail.com](mailto:2019txstate@gmail.com)

Website: [txaaconvention.org](http://txaaconvention.org)

## "Our Big Book-80 Years, 71 Languages"

## SWTA Pre-General Service Conference

April 5, 2019-April 7, 2019

Hosted by District 2

## Conference Location:

Knights of Columbus Hall  
1015 S. Guadalupe St., Seguin, TX 78155

## Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Express  
830-379-4440  
2801 Jay Rd, Seguin, TX 78155

Room Rate per Night: \$99.00

Group Rate Code: SWTA 68

Questions? Contact Larry T. at 210-636-8522 or email [swtaconference2019@gmail.com](mailto:swtaconference2019@gmail.com)



## **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**

Delegate	Jonathan S.	<a href="mailto:delegate@aa-swta.org">delegate@aa-swta.org</a>
Alt. Delegate	Michael P.	<a href="mailto:altdelegate@aa-swta.org">altdelegate@aa-swta.org</a>
Chairperson	Cathy H.	<a href="mailto:chairperson@aa-swta.org">chairperson@aa-swta.org</a>
Alt. Chair	Barbara R.	<a href="mailto:altchair@aa-swta.org">altchair@aa-swta.org</a>
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Secretary	Stacy V.L.	<a href="mailto:secretary@aa-swta.org">secretary@aa-swta.org</a>
Treasurer	Ken D.	<a href="mailto:treasurer@aa-swta.org">treasurer@aa-swta.org</a>
Archives	Daniel B .	<a href="mailto:archives@aa-swta.org">archives@aa-swta.org</a>
Grapevine/La Vina	Jenna C.	<a href="mailto:grapevine@aa-swta.org">grapevine@aa-swta.org</a>
Treatment	Sandy T.	<a href="mailto:treatment@aa-swta.org">treatment@aa-swta.org</a>
Bilingual	Richard S.	<a href="mailto:bilingual@aa-swta.org">bilingual@aa-swta.org</a>
Newsletter	Jimmy F.	<a href="mailto:newsletter@aa-swta.org">newsletter@aa-swta.org</a>
Webmaster	Scott A.	<a href="mailto:webmaster@aa-swta.org">webmaster@aa-swta.org</a>
C.F.C	Bill T.	<a href="mailto:cfc@aa-swta.org">cfc@aa-swta.org</a>
P.I./C.P.C.	Dean D.	<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>

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

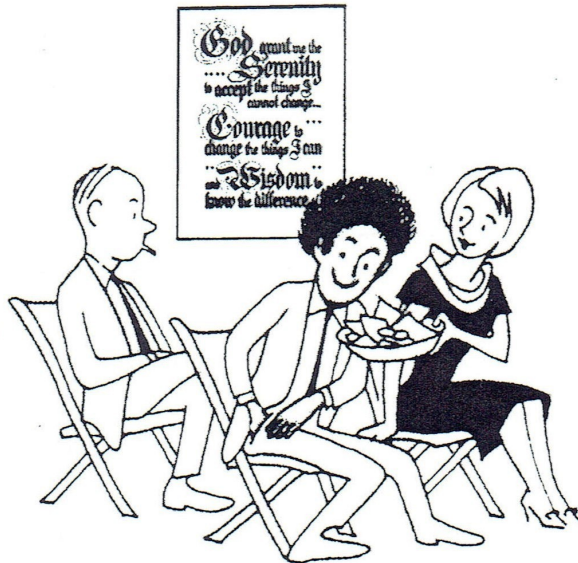
**DISTRICT12 NEWSLETTER FOCUS — TO INFORM THE AA COMMUNITY OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO DISTRICT 12, AREA 68, AND GSO AND TO ENLARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION.**

## PLEASE POST

This is Twelfth Step Work...



So is this...



## CONTRIBUTIONS EQUAL SERVICE

Money in the basket is Twelfth Step Work

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, INC. P.O. Box 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10163  
(212) 870-3400 • FAX: (212) 870-3003 • [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)