

THE STAND

Official Newsletter of SWTA 68, District 12

10 Sept 2023

- From your DCM
- Tradition Nine : Organization and Service Aren't Mutually Exclusive
- Tradition 9 Short and Long Form
- Tradition 9 Step - Tradition parallel
- Tradition 9 Checklist:
- SWTA 68 Events



"Whenever anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that, I am responsible" ·

Greetings District 12,

It is with great sadness that I inform you all of the passing of one of our dear trusted servants, Patrick Mc. who passed away on Thursday, August 24 at St. Luke's Baptist Hospital in San Antonio after suffering a stroke in his home earlier that week. Patrick was most recently serving District 12 as our district Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community chair but has served in a multitude of capacities on both a district and area level. He was a dear friend of mine during my entire 7 years in district service and someone whose guidance I sought out frequently, even as recently as our last district meeting in August. He was a presence at most of the area assemblies that I have attended, and we had discussed riding to the upcoming Regional Forum together. Patrick attracted many of us including myself to service and was a tremendous asset and resource to us all. To say that he will be missed is an understatement and I am deeply saddened and in shock over this devastating loss. A memorial service is in the works for the end of this month. Please refer to Patrick's Facebook page as his partner, Brian, has posted on his Facebook page that he will post more details as they are finalized. You may also reach out to me at district12@aa-swta.org and I will do my best to get you information as I receive it.

In the meantime, I do not have much more to report as my husband was unexpectedly hospitalized for over two weeks following his surgery on August 16. I touched base with Donita S., our Area 68 Registrar who I asked at the summer area assembly to facilitate our elections at our district elections at today's meeting. I am hopeful that I will still be able to attend the Regional Forum at the end of this month and looking very forward to our Fall Area Assembly and Voting Conference coming up on October 20-22 and hope to see you all there!

In love & service,

Courtney L.

Tradition Nine

TRADITION SUMMARY

Organization and Service Aren't Mutually Exclusive

In the beginning, our founders really felt like we didn't need much organization and structure in the Fellowship, and then they went and created a bunch of it. "It is clear that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service." (12x12, Page 174)

One of the best examples of this is if you should ever find yourself needing to reach out to GSO for their ideas on a specific issue that your group, District or Area may be having; you can be relatively sure regardless of what you are asking about will garner a response that generally starts off with something like, "That's a great question. Our shared experience in A.A. is...." and they will offer suggestions of solutions from those that have gone before us to help you with your concern. They cannot tell us what to do, but they can help us.

The organization of our Fellowship is crucial to our being able to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, but that structure is not there to govern, but to serve.

Short Form:

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Long Form:

"Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

Tradition Nine

STEP-TRADITION PARALLEL

The first nine steps delivered us from the bondage of our past experiences with alcohol. We finally arrived at the place where we could say to ourselves, "I have totally faced my past. And there is nothing left in my past that I'm ashamed of. There's nothing left that hurts anymore. There's nothing left in my past that's painful. There's nothing left in my past I need to forgive or need to be forgiven for. I'm at total oneness and peace with my past." Well, that's a tremendous statement to be able to say. That's an enormous statement for any person to be able to say about their life. And that's what the first nine steps give us. And the ninth tradition assures me that once my ninth step amends have been made, I will be led to that profound place of peace I have always sought in my life: divine order.

The ninth tradition not only contains the secret of divine order but also contains the personal principle that will keep an alcoholic like me in divine order. It is so simple. I give up control. I stop organizing myself. I stop trying to organize God into my limited ideas of order.

How does this ninth tradition relate to the ninth step? My life gets unimpeded flow of divine love in a triangle consisting of you, myself and God. Whenever the divine order of that relationship is disturbed, I can restore order by making the unmade amend that put my life out of order. The ninth step poses the question, "After making amends, how do I stay reconciled with you today?" The ninth tradition answers that question by implying that I remain in the divine order by not organizing you, myself or God and spontaneously being of service to you and God.

(Excerpts from the text above come from the Traditions Study developed by the Unity Insures Recovery Through Service A.A. Group, Los Angeles, CA.)

Traditions Checklist

These questions * were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.

Tradition Nine Checklist

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Southwest Texas Area 68 Events

2023 SW Regional Forum

September 29, 2023 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel El Paso, TX

Stay tuned for more details!

The Grapevine and La Viña Apps are here!

7 Oct 2023

2023 Fall Conference & Voting Assembly

October 20 - October 22

Hosted by District 5

Hilton Garden Inn Temple Medical Center

Southwest Texas Area 68

Events

2024 Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly (SRAASA)

October 11, 2024 - October 13, 2024

Richardson TX

2024 SRAASA Service: Vital to Our Growth
Hosted by Northeast Texas, Area 65
Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel 900 E
Lookout Dr, Richardson, TX 75082 Register
here: <https://swraasa2024.org/register/>

Group Events.

The 2211 Group has:

- Speaker Meetings the second Sat. of the month at 6:00 PM
- Beginners Meetings Tuesdays at 8:00 pm
- Men's Meetings Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- Woman's Meetings Thursdays at 5:30 pm
- Group Conscience the last Saturday of the month at 11:15 AM
- Birthday Night the last Saturday of the month with a pot luck dinner at 7:00 and birthday meeting at 8:00pm
- Big Book Studies Sundays at 8:00 pm

Bandera Group has:

- Speaker Meeting, second Sat. of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Open discussion meetings at Noon, Monday—Saturday
- 12 and 12 Meeting Monday 8:00 pm
- Grapevine Meeting Tuesday 8:00 pm
- Big Book Meeting Wednesday 8:00 pm
- NA Meeting 6 Thursday 6:30 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Thursday 8:00 pm
- Open All Woman's Meeting Friday 6:30 pm
- Popsicle Stick Meeting Friday 8:00 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Saturday 8:00 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Sunday at 8:00 pm