

THE STAND

Official Newsletter of SWTA 68, District 12

12 Nov 2023

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

Greetings District 12 family!

I attended the 2023 Fall Conference & Voting Assembly in Temple a few weeks ago and had a wonderful time! While some may find it tedious, I absolutely love it when we vote on the new officers for the next panel using the third-legacy procedure. The Panel 74 election of officers were held and our new area chair Donita S., (who was Panel 72's area registrar and visited us in September to conduct our district elections) has already selected the committee chairs. The first area conference of the new panel will take place January 12 – 14 in Castroville. I encourage all to attend who are able, especially new GSRs!

I also need to bring a call to action regarding carrying the message to our local treatment centers. I recently received a report from a local treatment center regarding complaints in the community from events that have taken place in recent H&Is. Here are key ideas I want to encourage everyone to remember:

We are the face of AA and could be the patients' first exposure to Alcoholics Anonymous. We want to be of service to the still-suffering alcoholic and to show them that there is a way that they can be free of alcoholic suffering! It is imperative that we carry a message of hope and a solution. Be careful of the war stories or personal grievances with the program Alcoholics Anonymous. These things have no place in an H&I.

In accordance with our singleness of purpose, we need to discuss our experience and solution as it relates to alcohol. In the report that I received, members of our fellowship were going into explicit detail about their use of drugs. Not only did this specifically trigger clients and potentially cause harm, it violates our 5th tradition.

Please keep in mind that the treatment center may have specific rules about dress codes, and we need to honor these out of respect.

Consider rules regarding cuss words as well.

GSRs, please share this information with your groups. Thank you!

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions. My email address is District12@AA-swta.org.

In love & service,

Courtney L.

Tradition Eleven

Short Form

“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.”

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.”

TRADITION SUMMARY

Attraction Rather Than Promotion

Bill W. once said, “We had no public relations policy except for a fear of public relations. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.”

Good public relations are A.A. lifelines reaching out to the fellow alcoholic who still does not know us. For years to come, our growth is sure to depend upon the strength and number of these lifelines.

Conversely, think about this. Should we identify ourselves by our first and last name when we speak at closed meetings of A.A? Does this violate the eleventh tradition? Of course not. We are only anonymous at the level of press, radio, and films. The press has not attended any closed meetings I have spoken at, so I am free to use my whole name. The final paragraph on page 37 of the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” states: “It should also be noted that within A.A., at A.A. meetings and amongst themselves, A.A. members are not anonymous.”

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Tradition Eleven

STEP-TRADITION PARALLEL

The eleventh step is related to the eleventh tradition: by praying only for knowledge of his will for me and the power to carry that out, I become a source of attraction to God and give Him all credit for my wonderful life. The eleventh step poses the question, "How can we improve our conscious contact?" The eleventh tradition answers that question by pointing out that when we do not take credit for the good we do, we become closer to God in our prayer.

The Eleventh Tradition

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.

Ours is not a secret society...
we carry the message
anywhere we can—



Alcoholics who have recovered through our program are themselves the strongest attraction that A.A. has. When people are asked what led them to seek A.A. help, the answer given most often is: "An A.A. member." Their chances would have been slim if all of us had remained completely in hiding. But many of us have chosen to tell our friends, neighbors, employers, co-workers, doctors, or spiritual advisers that we are in A.A.—and when we do so, we are *not* breaking our anonymity in the meaning of this Tradition.

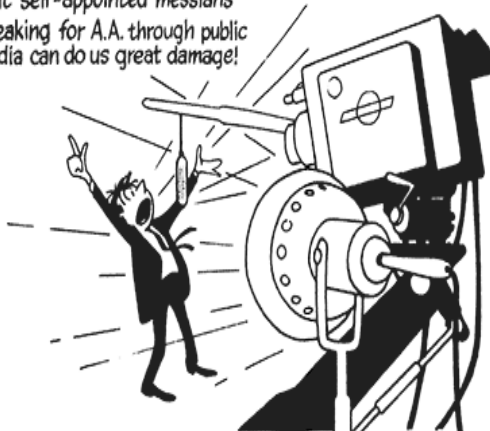
Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks *it* should be anonymous, too. The Tradition is talking about "personal anonymity," remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to A.A. if they don't know that it exists or if they have distorted, unfavorable impressions of its members or its program.

Giving the general public an accurate picture of A.A. is the chief job of our public information committees. In addition, they often carry the message to certain groups—from police officers to personnel directors—whose work includes contact with active alcoholics.



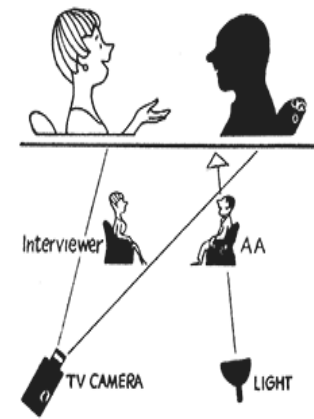
How to Be Anonymous on Television

But we must ever be aware
that self-appointed messiahs
speaking for A.A. through public
media can do us great damage!



Information about A.A. is being offered to the public through all the communications media, in print and over the air. On radio, it's easy to guard members' anonymity, of course. But TV (not in wide use when the Traditions were written) is another matter. According to a Conference opinion, members are breaking their anonymity when they are identified on TV as A.A.'s and their faces are shown—whether or not their names are given. And yet this medium, with its vast audiences, cannot be ignored.

Different techniques have been employed to preserve anonymity on TV: masks; screens; back-lighting that shows A.A.'s only as silhouettes; camera angles showing them only from the back. The "shadow" method diagrammed here is simple, relaxed—and appropriate. For we are not selling personalities—we are explaining A.A. Personal anonymity breaks in the public media not only may discourage timid prospects; they may threaten the anonymity-breaker's own sobriety, by violating the spirit of the A.A. program and Traditions...



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 Eleven Checklist

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around—even within the Fellowship
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven?
Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

Southwest Texas Area 68

Events

HOT

Good afternoon everyone!

This is being shared from the Meeting Guide App,
please see below:

Take the A.A. Membership Survey now! Closes
November 26, 2023

We are asking members to complete an A.A.
Membership Survey.

All A.A. members are invited to participate (not just
the ones from sampled groups).

So please share this link, and encourage any A.A.
member who's interested to jump on and take the
survey. It will only take them a few minutes.

Closes November 26, 2023.

Here's the survey link: [https://
www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNV7DJS](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNV7DJS)

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Southwest Texas Area 68 Events

CFC Conference/Area 68

Feb 2 - Feb 4 2024

Hosted by District 29

Hampton Inn & Suites

240 S. Hasler Blvd., Bastrop TX

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