

THE STAND

Official Newsletter of SWTA 68, District 12

10 Dec 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 cannot believe that this is my last newsletter article as DCM! Words cannot express my gratitude for this experience. I am so honored to have been chosen by you all to serve you in this capacity. The experience went by so fast, but I will never forget it and hold dearly all the relationships I have built and all of the memories. What I will say is this: I could not have done any of this without you all. I did not quite know going into this what all being DCM was going to entail, but admittedly I was afraid that I was going to have to “manage” (for lack of a better term) all the other chairs or, at the very least, play a role in each committee somehow. But that is not the case, and honestly, not how Alcoholics Anonymous works! We were and are all equals, and I think we functioned incredibly as a team. That is maybe my biggest takeaway from all of this, and I am so grateful beyond words for how much each and every one of you supported me and stood shoulder to shoulder with me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your part in keeping Alcoholics Anonymous alive, well, and accessible to the newcomer across our district!

I intend to still be very much around, especially as I rotate on to my new position as Southwest Area 68 Panel 74 Grapevine/La Vina chair! I hope to see you all at our winter workshop in Castroville January 12-14, especially GSRs. Remember your role is the most important and at the top of the service triangle! Being the link between your groups and the district and area is vital and how all of this works in order to ultimately carry out our primary purpose. I wanted to leave my personal email with you all and I hope you will all continue to stay in touch between district meetings and reach out to me if ever you need anything at all: cadams1115@gmail.com.

Thank you to God and to all of you for my recovery! May God bless you and may you all have a wonderful holiday season!

In love & service,

Courtney L.

Tradition Twelve

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.”

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

Long Form

“And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.”

TRADITION SUMMARY

Principles First – People Second

Why are we repeatedly asked in the Traditions to give up ourselves for the greater good? The answer is because any relationship we have that does not involve sacrifice is a relationship that likely will not endure. Each tradition straightens out a disastrous attitude we had about relationships. The twelfth tradition teaches us that a spirit of sacrifice (often times through anonymity) is vital to good relationships.

Giving up the expectation of rewards for doing good is difficult for most of us. It's easy for us to give and then think, “Well, I'll get a reward, even if I don't get public recognition for what I did.” To remove that reward symbol from the back of our minds for whatever good we do is part of practicing anonymity. The next time you hear a speaker in A.A. whose personality is exciting from the platform, see if you can hear the principles behind their words? To which step, tradition, or concept can you relate their pitch? Setting ourselves aside and focusing on the principles of our program is a crucial component in the foundation we need for studying the Traditions and learning how to be in healthier relationships with our fellow A.A.'s and with those in the world around us.

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Tradition Twelve

Step-Tradition Parallel

The twelfth step poses the question, "What is a spiritual awakening?" I believe that the evidences of a spiritual awakening are found in a person who practices the twelfth tradition in all their affairs. Such a person sacrifices self in order to practice principles. Their motive in practicing all of the traditions is anonymity: they sacrifice to help others.

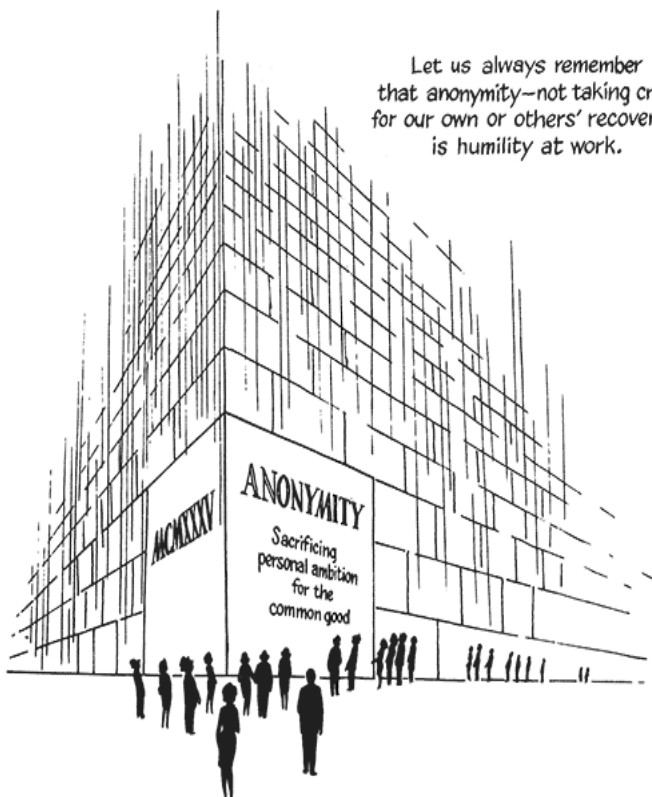
The twelfth tradition completes the twelfth step in the following way: I become spiritually awake when I carry the message by anonymously practicing sober principles.

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

The Twelfth Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Let us always remember
that anonymity—not taking credit
for our own or others' recovery—
is humility at work.



Anonymity, as we observe it in A.A., is at root a simple expression of humility. When we use the Twelve Steps to recover from alcoholism, we are *each* trying to achieve real humility, to put our self-respect on a solid base of truth, rather than on fantasies about ourselves. When we use the Twelve Traditions to work together in A.A., we are *all* trying to achieve humility; as individual members, by recognizing our true place in A.A.; as a fellowship, by recognizing A.A.'s true place in the world.



Tradition One reminds each of us that we are not recovering on our own, that we should control our personal desires and ambitions in order to guard the unity of our group and our Fellowship. We ought not (Tradition Two) fancy ourselves as big shots in A.A., no matter what office we hold.

All of us are just alcoholics together, and in our groups we are not entitled (Tradition Three) to rule on the qualifications of other alcoholics seeking the same help that we've had. Yes, a group needs humility too. It may make its name public, but in the *spirit* of anonymity it should see the Whatever Group as merely part of a bigger whole (Tradition Four), careful in every enterprise to consider the welfare of all the other groups that make up A.A. In both group and individual activities, we should remember what the full name of our

Fellowship is. It does not represent any established religion, nor is it a new religion. We are not evangelists or gurus out to save humanity; we are anonymous alcoholics trying to help other alcoholics (Tradition Five).

In the rising battle against alcoholism, we ought not let our pride in A.A. mislead us into linking our Fellowship with other agencies, in order to bid for a share in their power, prestige, and funds. If we keep Traditions Six and Seven in mind, we will instead direct all our efforts toward A.A.'s own unique purpose.

When we go on Twelfth Step calls, we should not tell ourselves how noble we are for doing such valuable work without pay. The meaning of Twelfth Step work cannot be measured in money (Tradition Eight), and we *have* received advance pay for it, in coin of far greater worth—our very lives. In the same Tradition, it's suggested that a service center maintains A.A. humility by paying its employees decent wages—rather than considering A.A. so virtuous an outfit that employment there is a favor.

When we are given special responsibilities within A.A., Tradition Nine defines these as opportunities to *serve*, not titles to flaunt. The humility of the Fellowship itself is safeguarded by Tradition Ten, with the refusal to set ourselves up as general authorities, swinging our collective weight around in the public arena.

We do not want to sell our program as a "surefire remedy" in the extravagant terms of a promotional campaign (Tradition Eleven), or dramatize it by identifying noted people in A.A., thereby implying that recovery has been for each of us an individual accomplishment. As Tradition Twelve reminds us, we have something stronger than our human personalities to rely on. Our principles come first—and they are not our own invention. They reflect eternal spiritual values. With this Tradition, both as individuals and as a fellowship, we humbly acknowledge our dependence on a power higher than ourselves.



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 Twelve Checklist

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

Southwest Texas Area 68 Events

2024 SWTA 68 Panel 74 Winter Workshop

January 12, 2024 - January 14, 2024

SWTA 68 Panel 74 Winter Workshop *What is our choice to be...*

Castroville, TX

Workshop Locations:

*Jan 12 & 13 Braden Keller Center

1410 Amelia, Castroville, Tx

*Jan 14 Hillside Boutique Hotel

Lodging:

Hillside Boutique Hotel 1651 US-90 West Castroville, TX
(830) 538-3200

Lodging:

Best Western Hotel Sea World West 1605 W. 1604 Loop S
San Antonio, TX
(210) 562-3065

Additional lodging info. call Tegan T. (830) 931-5010

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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