



THE ANCHOR LINE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA 68
DISTRICT 12 OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

DEC 2013

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A LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

ANONYMITY AND THE INTERNET

HOW TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS IN A CHANGING WORLD

TWELVE TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON SOBER AND JOYOUS

SPECIAL RECOVERY TIPS FROM BOX 4-5-9

MEETING ROOM WALLS

IF THESE ROOMS HAD EARS...

DISTRICT 12 AND AREA 68 UPCOMING EVENTS

SEVERAL WAYS TO GET CONNECTED AND BE OF SERVICE



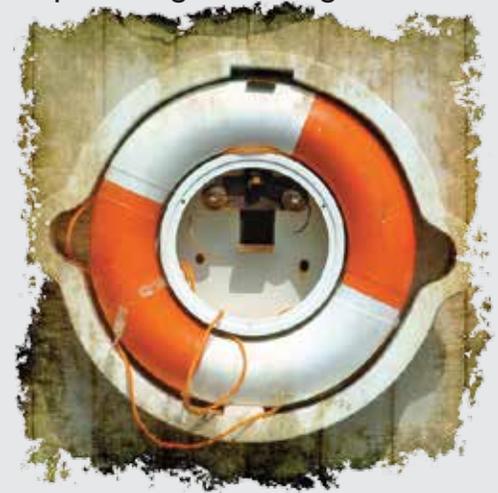
**DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER FOCUS –
TO INFORM THE AA COMMUNITY OF
INFORMATION PERTAINING TO DISTRICT 12, AREA 68, AND GSO AND TO
ENLARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION.**

A Letter from the Newsletter Committee

“We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, know thousands of men and women who were once just as hopeless as Bill. Nearly all have recovered. They have solved the drink problem.

We are average Americans. All sections of this country and many of its occupations are represented, as well as many political, economic, social, and religious backgrounds. We are people who would normally not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness, and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain’s table. Unlike the feelings of the ship’s passengers, however, our joy in escape from disaster does not subside as we go our individual ways. The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined.

The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution.” Alcoholics Anonymous pg.17



Welcome to the first edition of District 12’s monthly newsletter! In the process of compiling and editing all of the content for this first edition I have revisited page 17 of the Big Book quite often. The stories and personal adventures we will be seeing on these pages in the coming months hold true to the “tremendous fact” and promises written on that page. Stories of how thousands of men and women have entered the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous and became a part of a fellowship that only begins with the commonality of the disease of alcoholism are all around us.

The twelfth step is all about carrying the message of recovery and showing others that it is possible and there is a solution. Just as the Grapevine, AA meeting in print, helps to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, the same goes for The Anchor Line. We hope to help you stay connected to the people and events in the area and district!

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!**

ROADIEJAMES@GMAIL.COM

Meeting Room Walls

*Like bathroom walls,
just a little more inspirational...*

***"Im not just reading,
Im looking for God in
these pages."***

***"The monkey
is off your back
but the circus
is still in town"***

***"We're just sick individuals
that make bad decisions. If you throw
alcohol into the mix we make really
bad decisions."***

***"If you cant remember your last drink
it probably wasnt your last. Never ever
forget that one."***

***"The best definition of a good sponsor/sponsee relationship
is when the sponsor stays sober."***

I PROMISE

I promise each and every day
That I am here that I will pray
To the God above whose power I know
Through me and others does ever flow.

I promise to put my recovery first
Even when feelings inside me burst
That make me feel I must do something else
For without this promise my life goes to hell.

I promise to love with all I have
To not be scared because of things I lack
To put the other first in all that I do
Except when it would harm me or you.

I promise to never let one person hold
The power over me to make me let go
Of the things most important like my will to live
Not just exist but thrive and give.

I promise to remember where I come from
To be grateful for things sent from the Father above
To count my blessings every day
Even when I am hurting in an awful way.

These promises I make with a wholesome heart
Because once again I almost fell apart
But if these promises I keep
I will succeed with bounds and leaps.

Alana F

Anonymity on the Internet

The traditions are of the utmost importance for the survival of AA as a whole, but they were written in an era when methods of communication were fairly limited, consequently leaving holes for the AAs of today to fill in. I remember when I first started thinking about anonymity, the Eleventh Tradition and the Internet. Turning to the AA World Service pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," I looked for answers. The pamphlet says that websites should be considered public media, and therefore we shouldn't use our full name or any images on any public site. It goes on to say that "...the level of anonymity in emails, online meetings, and chat rooms would be a personal decision."



At first glance, this seems pretty clear: no full names or pictures on any publicly accessible website, but chat rooms, online meetings, and emails are acceptable places to break our own anonymity, if we wish to. The pamphlet is trying to set up a distinction between "private" and "public" Internet usage. Unfortunately, I believe it falls well short of comprehensively defining this distinction. One could easily say that breaking anonymity on a national news organization's site is forbidden, but a break in an email to a friend is acceptable. A personal blog that is publicly searchable would also fall into the "public" category. But what about social networking sites? These widely used sites have their own security protocols, some of which are fully customizable by the individual users. They have their own levels of public and private, further complicating the issue. For instance, I can set my personal page to be viewed by my "friends" (people I've approved to view my page) only, preventing anyone else from seeing the information listed. Can I break my anonymity on this level, where only my friends can see? Wouldn't this be merely the virtual equivalent of gathering all of my friends in a room and telling them I am in AA?

**CHRISTMAS PARTY @ THE 720 CLUB
DECEMBER 21ST
6PM**

**IF YOUR GROUP HAS AN EVENT COMING UP
AND WOULD LIKE IT TO BE IN THE NEWSLETTER
CONTACT JAMES M- ROADIEJAMES@GMAIL.COM**

One popular networking site has “groups” where likeminded people and sign up and post messages on discussion boards. Many of them are twelve-step-related. There are multiple unmoderated groups titled “Alcoholics Anonymous,” one with over 9,000 members. Any member can access this group and its member list, most of whom use their full names (a requirement for one social networking site). One could argue that this in a public anonymity break because it falls under the banner of Alcoholics Anonymous. But what about the “Friends of Bill W.” group that has over 12,000 members? It is public (to members of the site), but specifically states that it is not affiliated with any organization.

I think that the solution here has more to do with Tradition Six than with Tradition Eleven. Calling a group “Alcoholics Anonymous” implies affiliation, despite disclaimers. If all of these internet groups were titled something like “Friends of Bill W.” or “Alcoholics in Recovery,” then we would be solving two problems at once: ending affiliation with AA and allowing members to not worry about breaking their anonymity at a public level by merely joining the group. Each individual would be responsible for maintaining his or her own anonymity in these groups in discussions, but they would no longer have to worry about their anonymity being broken just by joining the group. At the time the Traditions were published, this conversation about anonymity would have been inconceivable. As our world changes and evolves, AA, too, must change and evolve. AA members must meet new challenges head-on, inside and outside of AA.



Dave S.
Cleveland, Ohio
Grapevine Oct 2010

AA GRAPEVINE

THE AA GRAPEVINE IS THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. WRITTEN, EDITED, ILLUSTRATED, AND READ BY AA MEMBERS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE AA PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM, THE GRAPEVINE IS A LIFELINE LINKING ONE ALCOHOLIC TO ANOTHER.

WIDELY KNOWN AS A "MEETING IN PRINT," THE AA GRAPEVINE COMMUNICATES THE EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE OF ITS CONTRIBUTORS AND REFLECTS A BROAD GEOGRAPHIC SPECTRUM OF CURRENT AA EXPERIENCE WITH RECOVERY, UNITY, AND SERVICE. FOUNDED IN 1944, THE GRAPEVINE DOES NOT RECEIVE GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT IS SUPPORTED ENTIRELY THROUGH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION SALES AND ADDITIONAL INCOME DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF GRAPEVINE ITEMS.

AA MEETING IN PRINT!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GRAPEVINE
OR INFORMATION ON SHARING
YOUR STORY WITH OTHER ALCOHOLICS
CONTACT JAMES M - ROADIEJAMES@GMAIL.COM

CALENDER OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2013						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 2:00pm District 12 720 Club	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 3:00pm H&I Sign-Up 720 Club	16	17	18	19	20	21 PARTY @ 720 6PM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

"CREATE THE FELLOWSHIP
YOU CRAVE"

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PAGE 164



District-2 is Proud to Host the

**Southwest Texas Area 68
2014 Winter Workshop**
Friday, January 17 - Sunday, January 19

Location:
Courtyard by Marriott River Village
750 W 35 North
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Make Your Reservations & Join the Fun!
The Marriott Reservation number is:
1-800-321-2211
Ask for SWTA 68 CONFERENCE

Room Rates: \$99.00 per night

CONTACTS:

Theron W. 210-508-3202, T@GVTC.COM
John B. 731-467-2141, jbarchives68@yahoo.com

S.W.R.A.A.S.A

The Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is a 3-day meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Every two years, Areas in the Southwest Region take turns hosting SWRAASA to share with each other how they carry the AA message of recovery.

Your chance to share
with 11 Areas of A.A.



Be A part of A.A. Regional
Picture

Information on How to Carry the Message of A.A. in new and exciting ways.

Group Problems- This is your chance to learn how over 4,000 other groups have solved theirs.

Omni Hotel
960 North Shoreline Drive
Corpus Christi, TX
Reservations: omnihotel.com or call 800-843-6664
Room Rates \$129.00 Single, Double

Questions?

Email Jamie W. gladandgrateful1@gmail.com
Cathy H. cath91754@gmail.com
Or call 361-549-5755
Or Visit our website
www.aa-swta.org

JANUARY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2:00pm District 12 720 Club 12	13	14	15	16	Area 68 Winter Workshop 17 ^{Fri-Sun}	18
3:00pm H&I Sign-Up 720 Club 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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

3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

IF YOUR GROUP HAS
AN EVENT COMING UP
AND WOULD LIKE IT IN

THE NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE CONTACT

JAMES M

ROADIEJAMES@GMAIL.COM

Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1 *Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season.* Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 *Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.* If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 *Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time.* If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4 *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations*

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 *Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about.* Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6 *If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.*



7 *Don't think you have to stay late.* Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8 *Worship in your own way.*



9 *Don't sit around brooding.* Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10 *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations.* Remember—"one day at a time."



11 *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy.* Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



12 *"Having had a . . ."* No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.