

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

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

Concept I	1
Tradition I Check- list	2
Suggested readings of the month	3
Note From The DCM	4
Step One	6
AA Contacts	7

DISTRICT 12  
NEWSLETTER FO-  
CUS — TO IN-  
FORM THE AA  
COMMUNITY OF  
INFORMATION  
PERTAINING TO  
DISTRICT 12,  
AREA 68, AND  
GSO AND TO  
ENLARGE GROUP  
PARTICIPATION.

# THE STAND

January 2017

## Concept I

**“Concept I: *Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*”**

“Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the ultimate responsibility and final authority for world services resides with the groups, rather than with the trustees, the General Service Board or the General Service Office (AA Group, p. 8.)

This responsibility was handed down to the Fellowship in 1955 at the St. Louis International Convention. Up until that time Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob and some trusted friends were the self-appointed trustees for Alcoholics Anonymous. They alone held direct responsibility for running the General Service Office. Determined that the Fellowship was ready to take responsibility, Bill proposed to form “The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous” The AA delegates would meet yearly and would assume direct responsibility for the guidance of the AA general service headquarters in NYC. This Conference would insure that the headquarters would not be isolated from the Fellowship and direct support from the Fellowship would be available. The headquarters and the trustees would be able to draw upon a reliable cross section of AA experience and speak with confidence that they had the support of the Fellowship in their decisions.

“The entire structure of AA depends upon the participation and conscience of the individual groups and how each of these groups conducts its affairs has a ripple effect on AA everywhere.” (AA Group p. 8) Working through district and area committees, the GSR is the group’s link with the General Service Conference, through which US and Canadian groups share their experience and voice AA’s collective conscience. The GSR keeps the group informed about general service activities in their local areas. GSRs are the point of contact for mail from the GSO, which uses them as the primary link for communicating with the Fellowship. And, GSRs are the majority voice in the election of delegates for the General Service Conference. It is at the group level that the collective conscience of AA begins; it is then supported at the district level and then further developed at the area level. It is then carried by the elected delegates to be combined into what becomes the collective conscience of the Fellowship.

Concept 1 is deeply rooted in Tradition Two, which states “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.” However, it takes the participation of the AA groups to develop an informed collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. We, the members of AA, through our groups’ participation, should support the service structure at all levels so that God can express Himself in our group conscience.

Pam J.

The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called will-power becomes practically non-existent. We are unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink.

*Alcoholics Anonymous pg 24.*

The principle that we will find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.

*- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, 12 & 12 Pg, 22*

Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing A.A.'s remaining eleven steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry the A.A.'s message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect - unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A. and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything that will lift the merciless obsession from us - *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 12 & 12 Pg, 24*

## Tradition One

**“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”**

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

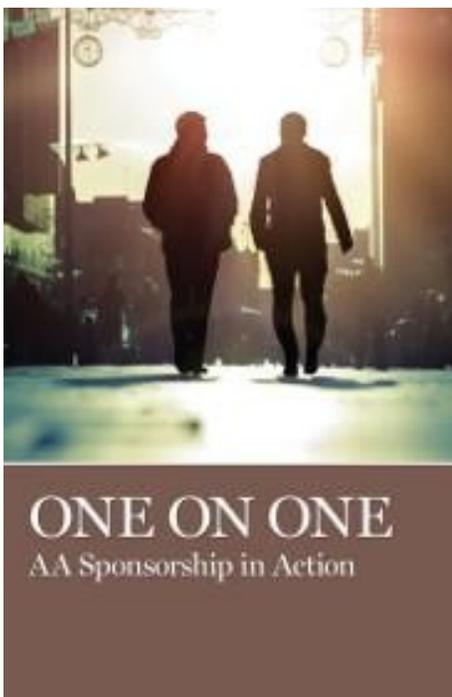
Copyright © The *A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

### Tradition 1 – Principle of Unity

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as “just for the sake of discussion,” plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive remarks, such as comparing or contrasting one group with another?
5. Do I put down some Fellowship activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of it?
6. Am I informed about the Fellowship as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of all the members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough Fellowship meetings or read enough literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of the fellowship?

Copyright © The *A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

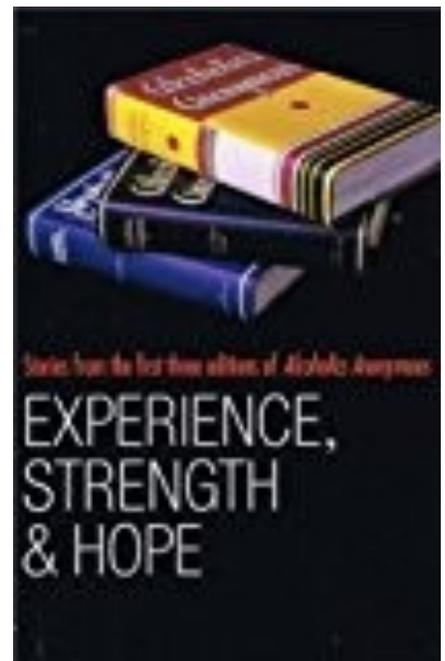
"No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled. Our Twelve Steps to recovery are suggestions; the Twelve Traditions which guarantee A.A.'s unity contain not a single 'Don't'."



Suggested Reading  
**Grapevine Book of  
the Month**



Suggested Reading  
**Pamphlet of  
the Month**



Suggested Reading  
**AA Book of  
the Month**

How do you justify calling alcoholism an illness, and not a moral responsibility? (The Disease Concept)

Early in A.A.'s history, very natural questions arose among theologians. There was a Mr. Henry Link who had written "The Return to Religion (Macmillan Co., 1937). One day I received a call from him. He stated that he strongly objected to the A.A. position that alcoholism was an illness. This concept, he felt, removed moral responsibility from alcoholics. He had been voicing this complaint about psychiatrists in the American Mercury. And now, he stated, he was about to lambaste A.A. too. Of course, I made haste to point out that we A.A.'s did not use the concept of sickness to absolve our members from moral responsibility. On the contrary, we used the fact of fatal illness to clamp the heaviest kind of moral responsibility on to the sufferer. The further point was made that in his early days of drinking the alcoholic often was no doubt guilty of irresponsibility and gluttony. But once the time of compulsive drinking, veritable lunacy had arrived and he couldn't very well be held accountable for his conduct. He then had a lunacy which condemned him to drink, in spite of all he could do; he had developed a bodily sensitivity to alcohol that guaranteed his final madness and death. When this state of affairs was pointed out to him, he was placed immediately under the heaviest kind of pressure to accept A.A.'s moral and spiritual program of regeneration - namely, our Twelve Steps. Fortunately, Mr. Link was satisfied with this view of the use that we were making of the alcoholic's illness. I am glad to report that nearly all theologians who have since thought about this matter have also agreed with that early position. While it is most obvious that free will in the matter of alcohol has virtually disappeared in most cases, we A.A.'s do point out that plenty of free will is left in other areas, It certainly takes a large amount of willingness, and a great exertion of the will to accept and practice the A.A. program. It is by this very exertion of the will that the alcoholic corresponds with the grace by which his drinking obsession can be expelled. (Bill W., N.C.C.A. 'Blue Book', Vol.12, 1960)

## Note From Your DCM

### Wow, 2017 is here!

**Winter Workshop** will be hosted by District 5 **January 13-15, 2017** in Killeen at the Marriot Courtyard. The theme is "rescued From Shipwreck." There will be workshops for GSR, Archives, CFC, Grapevine, /La Vina, PI-CPC, Treatment and Newsletter. Also, Traditions 5, 6, 7, and 8 will be addressed. There will be speakers Friday and Saturday nights. Hope to see District 12 represented at the Area workshop.

In the coming months I hope to see more GSRs from Bandera, Boerne, Centerpoint, Comfort, Fredericksburg, Hunt, Ingram, Junction, Kerrville, and Waring represented at District meetings. Always remember this is a "we" program. The **District Meeting will be January 8, 2017(Sunday) 2:00 PM at the 720 Club.** Sonya D., Area newsletter Chair, will be the guest speaker.

Please continue to announce at meetings that we need men and women to take meetings to the jails in Bandera and Boerne. H & I meets at 3:00 pm the second Sunday of every month at the 720 Club.

In closing :

Look to this day  
For it is life.  
The very life of life.  
In it's brief course lie all  
The realities and verities of existence.  
The bliss of growth,  
The splendor of action,  
The glory of power—

For yesterday is but a dream  
And tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today, well lived,  
Makes tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

Sanskrit Proverb

Gratitude in service—Sandy T., DCM District 12

### At Wit's End ***Lazy does it***

After completing the Fourth Step, Johnny was faced with some big chunks of truth about himself. Hoping to hang on to a few of his character defects, he visited his doctor seeking validation.

"Doctor," he cried. "I'm just not able to do all the things around the house that I used to do."

When the doctor's examination was complete, Johnny said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what's wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said Johnny. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

CHRISTOPHER K., Lexington, Ky.

Grapevine, Inc. Reprinted with permission November 2009

24-Hour Help Line  
(888) 816-8800

HOME COMMUNITY MEETINGS ACTIVITIES SERVICE NEWSLETTERS CONTACTS

AA District 12  
Texas Area 68

# Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12

**WELCOME TO DISTRICT 12 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

... serving Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, and Kimble counties in the hill country of Texas.

Anybody can look at the schedules and events here, but if you want the full benefits of the site as a District 12 A.A. member, **please register and login.** The more District 12 A.A. members who sign up, the more useful the site becomes!

**GET INVOLVED!**

There are many opportunities to get help or to help other alcoholics in our district.

To learn more about service opportunities [click here](#)

**Check out the NEW WEBSITE!!**

**www.aa12.org**

The more who register,  
the more useful the website.

Post or Update Your Meetings!  
Post Events!

Everyone who registers can be notified!

## Tradition One: Long Form

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

### **How does your group support newcomers?**

*Giving a newcomer a packet full of great AA info tailored just for them, along with a meeting list and phone numbers is a great start!*

**Public Information Committee has put these together for you to get you started.**

**Call or text Kathleen K. PI Chair, for more info.  
(830) 377-5890**

**If your group has an event coming up and would like it in the newsletter, please contact:**

**PjmcDan@yahoo.com**

## Step One:

***“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives had become unmanageable.”***

When I first read this step I had no trouble admitting I was powerless over alcohol. Much to my chagrin I had received an AA pamphlet in the mail anonymously that asked 12 questions about my drinking. Questions such as, "Do you drink in the morning?" This was one of three or four questions I answered "No." The rest of the answers proved to me that I was an alcoholic. Because I had no trouble with the first half of step one the second half of this step was quite a hurdle. I did not think that my life was unmanageable. I had been married for 18 years, never been separated, had an 11 year old daughter and no financial problems. I had not been homeless, arrested, or had any problems with law enforcement. After all, I was still attending exercise classes and PTA meetings. Looking at my life from afar would seem to indicate that everything was fine. I was not fine.

Sometimes I had to pull over on the way to exercise class due to panic attacks. I hid alcohol so my husband would not find it. I was drunk every night, hung over every day and refused to look at myself in the mirror due to my self hatred. I had stopped telling myself I was not going to drink that day because I knew I was incapable of not drinking. I had stopped going to movies because the theatre did not serve alcohol. I had stopped going out to eat because I didn't get drinks as fast as I wanted them. I did not run out of alcohol. I had a beer refrigerator! People in the program began to convince me that this was not normal behavior. This behavior represented an alcoholic life that was indeed unmanageable. Slowly I began to see this truth. I also began to realize that my self hatred was the most unmanageable part of all.

I had a desire to feel better. I wanted a better life. Once I admitted powerlessness and unmanageability I was able to go on to the rest of the steps. From the first meeting when I learned there was a solution to my alcoholism I was hooked. My life has never been the same, thanks to HP and AA.

Madeline A. Kerrville, Texas

### AA **GRAPEVINE**

THIS sounds like heresy, but two Indiana University pharmacologists fed alcohol to some laboratory rats until the rodents were stoned, then treated them to some coffee. As reported in *The Insider's Newsletter*, the alcohol/caffeine combination apparently intensified and prolonged the alcoholic behavior, with effects continuing even after the alcohol had disappeared from the blood. They haven't tried this experiment on humans yet, so the only assumption we can make at present is that a drunken rat shouldn't drink coffee.

Grapevine Online A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Reprinted with permission August 1962

A man who looked like a high-powered business executive began to drop in at Milton's bar regularly, and his order was always the same: two martinis. After several weeks of this, Milton asked him why he didn't order a double martini instead of two singles.

"It's a sentimental thing," the customer answered. "A very dear friend of mine died a few weeks ago and before his death he asked that when I drink I have one for him too." A week later the customer came in and ordered only one martini. "How about your dead buddy?" Milton asked. "Why only one martini today?"

"This is my buddy's drink," the man said as he gulped the martini down. "I'm on the wagon."

Grapevine Online A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Reprinted with permission August 1966

**“SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE  
MONEY AND SPIRITUAL-  
ITY 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 720651  
MCALLEN, TX 78504

**WORLD SERVICE SUPPORT -**

THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE  
GRAND CENTRAL STATION  
P.O. BOX 459 NEW YORK, NY  
10164-0423

**District 12 Trusted Servants**

DCM - Sandy T.  
Alt DCM - Tracy Mc.  
Treasurer - David S.  
Alt Treasurer - Brian M.  
Secretary - Sarah J.  
Alt Secretary- Whitney W.  
PICPC - Kathleen K.  
CFC - Marty M.  
H&I - Jim W.  
Newsletter- Patrick Mc.  
Grapevine– Ladara  
Archives - Jayson J.  
Bilingual - Greg M.  
Webmaster - David H.

**SWTA 68 Panel 66 Area Officers &**

**Committee Chairs**

Delegate	Denise T.	delegate@aa-swta.org
Alt. Delegate	Jonathan S.	altdelegate@aa-swta.org
Chairperson	Michael P.	chairperson@aa-swta.org
Alt. Chair	Cathy H.	altchair@aa-swta.org
Area Registrar	Barbara R.	registrar@aa-swta.org
Secretary	Rae T.	secretary@aa-swta.org
Treasurer	Dean D.	treasurer@aa-swta.org
Archives	K.C. H.	archives@aa-swta.org
Grapevine/La Vina	Mari G.	grapevine@aa-swta.org
Treatment	Cherie R.	treatment@aa-swta.org
Bilingual	Mario R.	bilingual@aa-swta.org
Newsletter	Sonya D.	newsletter@aa-swta.org
Webmaster	Rob. C.	webmaster@aa-swta.org
C.F.C	Randall T.	cfc@aa-swta.org
P.I./C.P.C.	Larry L.	pi-cpc@aa-swta.org
SWTA 68 WEBSITE		http://www.aa-swta.org

**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

**WE NEED YOU! HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE BY SHARING YOUR STORY WITH THE DISTRICT! ALSO LOOKING FOR GROUP HISTORIES, UPCOMING GROUP EVENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS! REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! BE A PART OF IT! Contact:**

**Pjmcdan@yahoo.com**

# Grupo El Libro Azul

(The Blue Book Group)

## Reunión en Español

(Meeting in Spanish)

**6:30 pm**

## Todos los Martes

(Every Tuesday)

## En el Club 720

(At the 720 Club)

**980 Barnett**

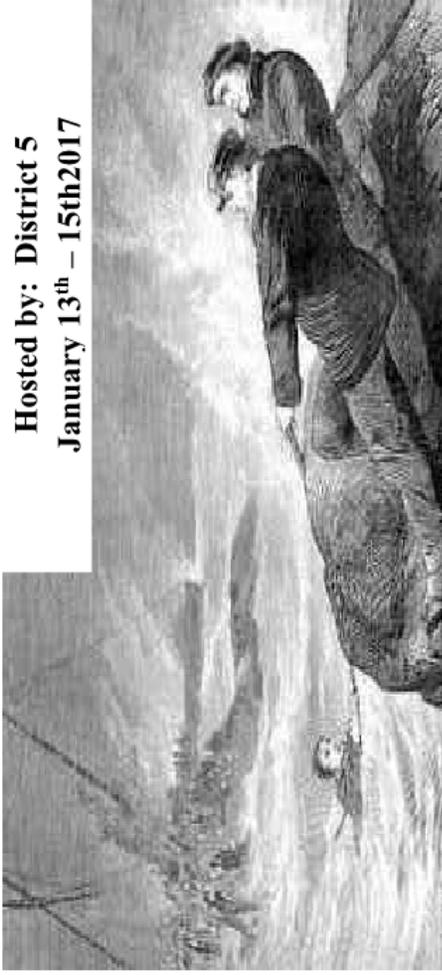


Winter Workshop

**“RESCUED FROM SHIPWRECK”**

Hosted by: District 5

January 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>2017



*Killeen Courtyard by Marriott*

*1721 e Central Texas Expressway*

*Killeen, TX 76541*

**Room Rates: \$99 / Night Standard**

**\$109 / Night Double Occupancy**

**\$199 / Night Suite**

**Saturday and Sunday breakfast included**

**Reservation cut of: December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Booking Code: AACR (On line or phone)**

**Contact information: Melanie T 254-654-4734**