

Area 68 AA-SWTA District 2 Newsletter

February 2022

Hello All,

Having just returned from the winter workshop in Temple, TX I am much impressed with the new panel 72 officers and chairpersons and especially with our district GSRs, officers, and chairpersons.

While there I attended some workshops and made some connections with our area officers, committee chairs and fellow DCM's. The service conference inspired me and would like to share some thoughts that resonated with me from that experience in my report.

The theme of the workshop was "The Solution: Step Into The Book", very creative but it left me thinking if I was to condense my experience into a short phrase it would have to be "primary purpose, one alcoholic working with another alcoholic". This can be accomplished by attending a local meeting, putting our hand out there to help, or to be helped, and following up on those encounters. But what about the alcoholic who does not have access to local meetings due to a lack of resources, information, or has some other type of physical or communication challenges that may be present in their lives?

We are living in a time of great change and upheaval from the norms we may have been accustomed to. Even in a post pandemic society some members still may

not be able to attend live meetings due to health issues, or some may not want to because they prefer the use of new technologies that are available.

It's my belief that the message of hope and recovery should be available to all who suffer from the malady of alcoholism, not just the fortunate who live near an awesome group. But what about those with accessibility challenges? Are we ready for these members at our meetings? Although Alcoholics Anonymous is widely known and publicly accepted many with special accessibility needs lack basic access to our fellowship. What can we do to accommodate these members? I realize, this puts an enormous weight on our shoulders and changes will not occur overnight, but it may be time to start thinking about bringing up recommendations before our groups. More information about AA accessibilities can be found on our area's website at <https://www.aa-swta.org/committees/accessibilities-chairperson/> that includes a group special needs access survey.

Along the lines of accessibility...last month, we designated a district sub-committee to seek out the silent groups within our district. The purpose of this sub-committee is to reach out to these silent groups to

(continued)

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confirm they are indeed meeting, ensure their group information is up to date on local websites, and to inform and invite them to participate at district and area. If you specifically know of a group that is not represented at district and have a contact number or meeting information, please forward to me at 512-850-8953 and I would be happy to follow up. As a District Committee Member, it is my mission and responsibility to inform and engage Group Service Representatives, not to sway or influence them in any direction. The GSR serves as a critical link between their group and AA as a whole therefore participation and input at the district and area level is important and highly valued.

Thank you for your service,

Your DCM,
George Thomas

STEP TWO

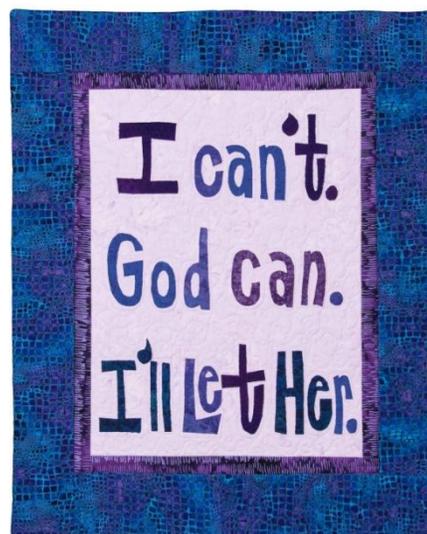
"Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

From 12Step.com:

Step 2 begins the climb out of the darkness of despair for the addict. The sources for this step are endless and find their roots in the bible itself. By giving the addict a connection with the infinite,

Step 2 establishes a foundation rooted in hope. A process of self nullification or at least the nullification of the addictive self occurs with Step 2, yet this step can only occur when the addict reaches out to a higher, infinite power.

"As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built," reads a quote A.A. Big Book. This spiritual structure is the inner reflection of the addict waiting to be uncovered.



A crucial moment, step two also has some roots in the work of Carl Jung, who argued in short that a spiritual transformation was required to overcome an addiction, without which the addict faced insanity or death. In other words, step two requires a desire to make a change and a willingness to accept

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help from a source outside one's self. The "power greater than ourselves" has been the subject of some controversy in large part because it is so vague.

Said Bill W, "It was only a matter of being willing to believe in a power greater than myself. Nothing more was required of me to make my beginning."

I will sit down, quiet my mind, and connect with that which is greater than my small self and pray:

May I be free from fear.

May I be free from suffering.

May I be free from my ego.

May I be filled with loving-kindness.

May I be happy.

SECOND TRADITION

"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."

From Takethe12.com: God Speaks Through His Kids

In a relationship based upon the Traditions there is no such thing as individual authority. All decisions are arrived at by a majority agreement,

reached after all elements of the problem or situation have been considered and a Higher Power has been contacted for guidance in the making of the decisions (an informed group conscience). Unfortunately, however, many times our relationships are unhealthy due to the dominance of one person or the other. The uninformed often times feels he/she has the ability to "know best" for its individual participants and tries to impose this attitude of "playing God" in the relationship.

All my life I feared authority. I had a very strange idea about it. I didn't like anybody else's authority. I only liked my own authority. Maybe it is not so strange if you're a sick alcoholic like me. But I certainly did not have any respectful attitude for authority.

My first successful experience in not being fearful of authority was in A.A.. I did not fear my sponsor but relied on him. I saw my sponsor as the expression of a loving God. My second experience in not being fearful was when I started listening to the group conscience. The more I followed what I heard in A.A. through the group conscience, the better my life became. Gradually I have extended this trust in the group in A.A. to that of the world. Tradition 2 encourages me to listen in order to have good relationships with you and to trust you as part of the group conscience. God may, just may, be speaking through you.

Life forces me to become an elder statesman or a bleeding deacon. The group

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conscience will correct me if I am out of line and I have a choice to complain like a bleeding deacon or lead by humble example like an elder statesman.

THANK GOD A.A. is SELF-CLEANING (with God's help of course).

“I'm not addicted to alcohol – I'm addicted to MORE.”

Help me this day, Higher Power, to run with patience the race that is set before me.

May neither opposition without nor discouragement within divert me from my progress in recovery.

Inspire in me strength of mind, willingness, and acceptance, that I may meet all fears and difficulties with courage and may complete the tasks set before me today.

WHAT'S NEW ON AA.ORG:

Dear A.A. Friends,

[It is my pleasure to announce the launch of our newly updated Alcoholics Anonymous \(A.A.\) website www.aa.org.](#) What a great time and privilege to serve as the General Manager of your General Service Office (G.S.O.).

G.S.O. coordinates many services that help groups and members fulfill their purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers, and aa.org plays an important role in that work.

Among the many benefits of our new website, it will serve as a significant resource for A.A. members, those seeking help from A.A., professionals working with alcoholics, the media, and the public at large. Above all, it will provide consistent information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Box 4-5-9 Winter 2021

[This issue](#) highlights important A.A. events, both in the U.S./Canada and around the world. The issue also reports on some developments at G.S.O. that will help A.A. members in custody and A.A. members on the outside to connect more quickly and to share experience, strength and hope through correspondence. There is also some information about the annual anonymity letter distributed to the media by G.S.O. and an article about how group problems can actually be a good thing.

Highlights from A.A.W.S. October 29, 2021

We are delighted to announce our line-up of A.A.W.S. literature [2021 Holiday Special Offers](#), including 10% off all Big Books (all formats, all languages); 15% off all orders over \$100; and 10% off A.A. items focused on spirituality.

A.A.W.S. is pleased to announce publication of the revised and reformatted General

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Service Conference-approved [A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023](#), now available in PDF format in English, French and Spanish. Print edition coming soon.

The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour. Featuring AA members Don and Sam. Starting on October 4, 2021 with a new episode each Monday. Each week Don and Sam will interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual “meeting after the meeting” manner. Special features will enhance each episode.

A new podcast episode will be available in English every Monday. To hear the podcasts go to aagrapevine.org/podcast

EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 2022

68th Annual Coastal Bend Jamboree

Feb 4th – 6th, 2022

Omni Bayfront Hotel’ 900 North Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

More information to be announced on our website www.cbiasa.org under events, including Registration, Hotel Reservation, and list of scheduled speakers.

SWTA68 CFC Conference – In Person

February 25 - February 27, 2022

"Freedom From Bondage" SWTA 68 Annual CFC Conference

Location: Wingate by Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center, 1209 N Interstate 35, Round Rock, TX 78664

Link for discounted hotel at <https://www.aa-swta.org/event/save-the-date-2022-cfc-conference/> or [Click here!](#)

OCTOBER 2022

SWRAASA 2022 – In Person

October 7 - October 9, 2022

Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly 2022

Location: Renaissance Hotel Tulsa, 6808 S 107th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133

Website: www.swraasa.org

Grapevine, December 18 2021:

“When I call my sponsor, my friends, someone on my home group’s phone list, or someone who scribbled their number on a napkin after a meeting, I make progress ... If we just call, we help one another stay sober, one call at a time, one connection at a time.

“Just Call Me,” Morristown, New Jersey, May 2003, Beginner’s Book: Getting and Staying Sober

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LOCAL INFORMATION:

Canyon Lakes Groups 12th Annual Campout

March 25th, 26th, 27th, Mountain Breeze Campground; for more information call Jim M. 830-281-1171 or John B. 731-467-2141

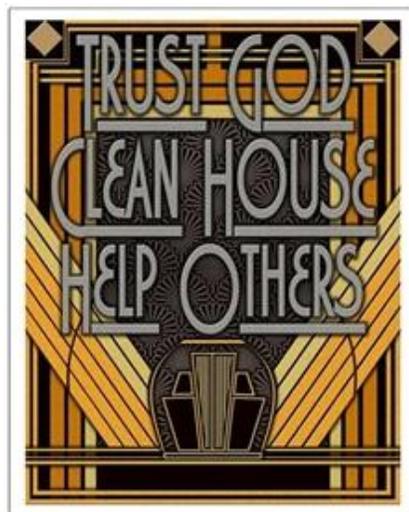
New Braunfels' Group Conscience

Meets At 12:15pm Every 3rd Sunday of the month. All members of New Braunfels Group AA are encouraged to attend...after all, we can't have a conscience without a group! ;-)

(Attendance is mandatory for service members.)

Sober on the Square Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

Cigar Vault San Marcos, 122 N. LBJ, San Marcos, Texas 78666, Date and Time: Wednesday Nights from 10-11 PM, Meeting Type: Open discussion. Smoking is permitted. For more information, please contact Devon at 915-526-7577



Zoom Meetings

Noon every day except Saturday
ID: 864 9468 3219
Passcode: 24Eikel (case sensitive)

Tuesdays-12&12 Study, 12:15-1:15
Thursdays-Big Book Study 12:15-1:15
ID: 9561549506
Password: 123456

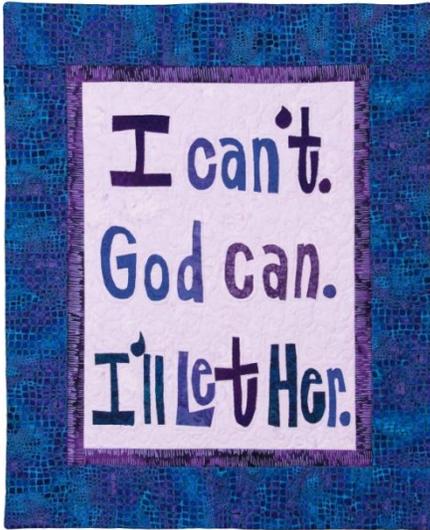
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