

AREA 68 AA-SWTA DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

MAY – JUNE - JULY 2020

DCM REPORT

Good day District 2,

Our DCM, Marie M. is out sick this month. I spoke with her and her voice was rough. She will be tested for COVID-19, so let us all pray she just has a real bad case of Cedar Fever and she returns to us whole and healthy.

I know everyone is looking forward to the “ONLINE: 2020 Summer Workshop Assembly” held August 1 @ 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Also, the 2020 SWTA68 PI/CPC Conference, being held August 21 -22 in Austin, TX and the 2020 Fall Conference & Voting Assembly, October 16 @ 6:30 PM - October 18 @ 6:30 PM. Details are updated regularly on the Area and District 2 website. I know we are all very weary of this pandemic and how it is affecting our lives, yet we all know...THIS TOO SHALL PASS.

Please be encouraged to endure this pandemic. In the Big Book, chapter two, *“We have a way out in which we can absolutely agree, and upon which can join in brotherly and harmonious action”*. We are all in the same boat and we all look forward to being together again. I wish you all health and serenity.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Tony C.
Alt – DCM

District 2 Trusted Servants:

DCM: Marie M.
Alternate DCM: Tony C.
Treasurer: George T.
Secretary: Cheryl B.
Webmaster: Rusty C.
Newsletter: Sunshine C.
CFC: Pegge K.
PI/CPC: Bob L.
Treatment: Connie H.
Archives: Monika H.
Grapevine: Millie R.

EVENTS

JULY- AUGUST

ONLINE: VIA ZOOM
2020 Summer Workshop Assembly
August 1 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM
“We Have A Way Out”

For more information go to:
www.aa-swta.org

Southwest Texas Area 68
PI/CPC Conference
August 21-22, 2020
[Omni Southpark Hotel](http://www.aa-swta.org)
[14140 Governors Row Austin, TX 78744](http://www.aa-swta.org)
Hosted by Districts 3B & 3C
This Event Will Be Updated with New
Information — Please Check Back.
www.aa-swta.org

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STEP FIVE - MAY

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs”

Spiritual Principle – INTEGRITY

DAILY REFLECTIONS

May 4

"ENTIRELY HONEST"

We must be entirely honest with somebody if we expect to live long or happily in this world.

— ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 73-74

Honesty, like all virtues, is to be shared. It began after I shared ". . . [my] whole life's story with someone . . ." in order to find my place in the Fellowship. Later I shared my life in order to help the newcomer find his place with us. This sharing helps me to learn honesty in all my dealings and to know that God's plan for me comes true through honest openness and willingness.

STEP SIX – JUNE

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Spiritual Principle – WILLINGNESS

DAILY REFLECTIONS

June 6

ALL WE DO IS TRY

Can He now take them all — every one?

— ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 76

In doing Step Six it helped me a lot to remember that I am striving for "spiritual progress." Some of my character defects may be with me for the rest of my life, but most have been toned down or eliminated.

All that Step Six asks of me is to become willing to name my defects, claim them as my own, and be willing to discard the ones I can, just for today. As I grow in the program, many of my defects become more objectionable to me than previously and, therefore, I need to repeat Step Six so that I can become happier with myself and maintain my serenity.

STEP SEVEN - JULY

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Spiritual Principle– HUMILITY

DAILY REFLECTIONS

July 9

I AM AN INSTRUMENT

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

— TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 70

The subject of humility is a difficult one. Humility is not thinking less of myself than I ought to; it is acknowledging that I do certain things well, it is accepting a compliment graciously.

God can only do *for* me what He can do through me. Humility is the result of knowing that God is the doer, not me. In the light of this awareness, how can I take pride in my accomplishments? I am an instrument and any work I seem to be doing is being done by God through me. I ask God on a daily basis to remove my shortcomings, in order that I may more freely go about my A.A. business of "love and service."

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TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE S- PAMPHLET AA.ORG (Concept 5 & 6 & 7)

How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

CONCEPT V

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a "substantial unanimity" is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself.

This is A.A.'s "Right of Appeal" in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees, trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual duty of presenting its views.

This "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel

a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

"Trusted servants," according to Bill, "do for the groups what the groups cannot or should not do for themselves." And in exercising their "Right of Decision" (see Concept III), trusted servants are almost always "a small but truly qualified minority" — whether in the form of area committees, staffs, boards or even the General Service Conference itself. It is incumbent upon them, therefore, in their own meetings, to pay special deference to the minority voice.

This Concept also warns us of "the tyranny of the majority" and points out that in A.A., a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision. That's why we usually require at least a two-thirds majority. Lacking this, it is preferable to delay the decision; or in the case of an election following the "Third Legacy Procedure," to "go to the hat." (See Service Manual, Chapter I)

The "Right of Appeal" also permits any person in the service structure, whether paid or volunteer, to petition for redress of a personal grievance. He or she can complain directly to the General Service Board, without prejudice or fear of reprisal.

CONCEPT VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief

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initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

We have seen that the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” for A.A.’s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. Again, it is helpful if you are familiar with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the trustees must have.

The trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. (which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office) and of AA Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for A.A.’s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They are A.A.’s “bankers,” overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.’s substantial Reserve Fund. (Read the text of Concept XI for a more detailed account of their functions.)

Bill makes the point that although “our objective is always a spiritual one,” nevertheless our world service is a “large business operation.” “Indeed,” he says, “our

whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, at the annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a ‘holding company.’ And this holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two ‘subsidiaries’ (A.A.W.S and AA Grapevine) which carry on the . . . services.

“This very real analogy makes it . . . clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the . . . affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

CONCEPT VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and “balance of powers” between the Conference and the General Service Board. “This . . . may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object.” On the one hand, “the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.’s funds and services; on the other

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hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

“Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members”; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. “Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need.”

The Conference “recommends” — though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation — but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees “simply refrain from using their legal right to say ‘no’ when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say ‘yes.’

“If . . . the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the trustees . . . will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority . . . neither will be seriously tempted to make a ‘rubber stamp’ out of the other . . . In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule.”

WHERE TO SEND YOUR GROUP'S 7TH TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS

DISTRICT LEVEL SUPPORT

DISTRICT 2 TREASURER
P.O. BOX 1202
San Marcos, TX 78667

AREA LEVEL SUPPORT

SWTA68 TREASURER
P.O. BOX 716
BASTROP, TX 78602

WORLD SERVICE SUPPORT

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
BOX 459
GRAND CENTRAL STATION
NEW YORK, NY 10163

District 2 website has a wealth of information you have access to link below:

www.area68district2.org

If you have any short articles or helpful AA information please emails me at:

walkingon_motherearth@yahoo.com

Thank You for letting me be of service!

Sunshine

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