

# Area 68 AA-SWTA District 2 Newsletter

## April 2022

**Hello All,**

Just completed the Spring Pre-General Service Conference, held in San Antonio and how cool was that? Our delegate, Barbara Ruiz was reading the room to get our overall input on some of the hotter items on the GSC agenda. There appears to be a common theme among some younger members of Alcoholics Anonymous that AA should change and mold itself to suit their personal situations. My belief is that these ideas have sprouted from a select few and are, by no means the rule among our younger members.” Change, change, change” appeared to be a common war cry at this assembly. Change the big book, change the 12 and 12, change the pamphlets.

Please keep in mind that this is my opinion and as one that is on accessibilities committees at district and area, it is my belief that as a movement, we should do our part to assist the disenfranchised in participating in our awesome fellowship at their leisure, but the vast voting body of AA spoke loudly and clearly by a show of hands. If people can participate in AA, then it is their responsibility to change themselves to fit AA instead of the other way around. The language in our material may be outdated and, in some cases, difficult to understand but make no mistake about it, every word is SACRED!

Some new information that we received at the assembly, from the area secretary, Vince Rendon is that he is planning to start a committee to remap the districts. This is a hot topic for us since our district is cut in half and parts are deleted in the physical maps. If you have any experience with

maps, mapping or even Google maps and are interested in making a difference in this way you can email me at [district2@aa-swta.org](mailto:district2@aa-swta.org) , call or text 512 850 8953 and bring your colored markers!

Vanessa Stallard, our Area Correctional Facilities representative all area jails and prisons are open to AA meetings and they need volunteers to register for training and to take meetings into the jails. Pete Donnelly is our District CFC Chair or Vanessa can be emailed at [cfc@aa-swta.org](mailto:cfc@aa-swta.org) . Any contributions would be welcome as big books are needed.

The Grapevine / LaVina will soon be coming out with a new book, so keep your eyes open for that. Box 459 is also looking for stories from AA members. If you believe yours is worth reading, take some time and jot it down. I can make sure it gets where it needs to go.

That’s all for now, see you all this Sunday, and as always I am so grateful to serve as your district committee member. If there is anything I can do to serve you as individuals or your group as a whole, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

George Thomas  
[District2@aa-swta.org](mailto:District2@aa-swta.org)  
512 850 8953

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*We have to confront ourselves. Do we like what we see in the mirror? And, according to our light, according to our understanding, according to our courage, we will have to say yea or nay — and rise!*

Maya Angelou

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### STEP FOUR

**“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”**

#### **From 12steps.com:**

Step 4 is a proactive form of introspection. The addict digs to his or her core being and as they dig, they free themselves from the waste that they collected within, obscuring their judgment. The open space they clear out by making this “moral inventory” further allows the higher source, spoken about in Step 2 and Step 3 to take root. If anything this is the positive impact of Step 4.

“We want to find out exactly how, when and where our natural desires have warped us. We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves. By discovering what our emotional deformities are, we can move towards their correction. Without a willing and persistent effort to do this, there can be little sobriety or contentment for us. Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith which really works in daily living is out of reach,” reads a quote from 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

Philosopher Michel Foucault compares this step to a confessional, offering the beginnings of exoneration, purification, liberation and salvation. The recovering addict examines past behaviors, seeking the truth about the thoughts and actions that have dominated their thinking or harmed other people in whatever fashion. The Big Book actually recommends list-making each person or principle which is the source of

resentment or violation, along with a list of the events that brought on that resentment.

#### **From alcohol.org:**

Alcoholics Anonymous step 4 requires a clear and frank understanding of one’s self. Through the process of discovering the true nature of personal character, a participant learns to understand identify the weaknesses that may have helped contribute to alcoholism. This also leads you to understand personal strengths that may compensate for the weaknesses and focus on those areas that need the most support in order to continue the 12-step program. This step in the process provides a foundation for future steps.

The fourth step of Alcoholics Anonymous requires a very careful personal inventory of character assets. You must make a list of those areas that affect your life and account for the various decisions that have led them to this stage in their lives. Many groups provide members with workbooks that include lists of adjectives to assist with the classification process. It is very important that these discoveries are written down, as writing them creates a concrete form and helps solidify the concepts involved in the mind of the participant.

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### **Its in the Book**



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### FOURTH TRADITION

"Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."

#### From verywellmind.com:

Tradition 4 gives individual groups the freedom to vary their meetings, including where the meeting will be held; whether it's open or closed; how to begin and end meetings (for example, closing with a prayer or moment of silence); the program content and topics discussed; and how to spend funds as needed.

#### Limits to Freedom

At the same time, it also cautions against straying too far from the program's basic tenets. The autonomy provided in Tradition 4 does not mean an individual group has the authority to reword the 12 steps or Traditions, or to create its own literature. It also doesn't mean that groups should introduce, discuss, or sell outside literature at their meeting places.

Many meetings have gotten away from the look and feel of AA's primary purpose by using non-conference-approved literature, showing videos of popular self-help speakers, or allowing treatment professionals to speak at open meetings on the latest therapy techniques.

There is a saying that there is no right or wrong way to hold a meeting, but the group can cease carrying the message if it strays too far from its traditions and concepts.

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### Fourth Step Prayer

*I am to sit quietly when in doubt, asking only for direction and strength to meet my problems as He would have me. Never am I to pray for myself, except as my requests bore on my usefulness to other. Then only might I expect to receive. But that would be in great measure. Amen.*

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### EVENTS:

#### APRIL 2022

#### 46<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS WOMAN TO WOMAN CONFERENCE

April 8, 9 & 10, 2022

Bridging the Gap between AA & Al-Anon Women for the past 46 years. Conference Site: Texas 4-H Center, 5600 FM 3201, Brownwood, Texas 76801

Online registration available using Paypal:  
[www.texaswomantowoman.org](http://www.texaswomantowoman.org)

#### 72<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

April 23-30<sup>th</sup>

New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge

#### JUNE 2022

#### Texas State Convention, Austin Texas

June 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

550 East Fourth Street

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### JULY 2022

#### North/South Virtual Special Forum

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

“Beyond Language, Culture and Geography: Sobriety Within Everybody’s Reach.”

North/South Virtual Special Forum about Remote Communities Interpretation available in English, French and Spanish. The event will be open to all members. Registration and agenda information to follow.

#### SWTA 68 Summer Workshop

July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

Victoria, Texas

### AUGUST 2022

#### PICPC Conference

August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Corpus Christi, Texas

### OCTOBER 2022

#### SWRAASA 2022

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](http://www.swraasa.org)

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### Online 12 Step Meetings

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many addicts are struggling to find the help they get from meetings. Even without the requirements of staying home or having to

quarantine, going out and being around groups of people may not be the best idea for individuals who are susceptible to getting sick. Regardless of the reason, it is important for members of 12-step fellowships to continue attending meetings as regularly and often as possible.

Go to <https://12steppers.org/online-virtual-12-step-meetings-for-each-12-step-program/> for a list of meetings.

### LOCAL INFORMATION:

#### Speaker Meeting Lineup for New Braunfels Group:

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Jason Wooldridge, son of Kim and Dan

May 21<sup>st</sup>: Connie Hayes

*We hope you can join us for these meetings @ 7:00 on the dates referenced above. If you're interested in telling your story, please contact Brandie J on her cell, 210-667-7987. Thank you!*

#### New Braunfels' Group Conscience

Meets At 12:15pm Every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.)*

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### 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

### Recovery story solicitation for the "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" Pamphlet Update

Please click the following highlighted link to see the recovery story solicitation for the ["A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" Pamphlet Update](#) or go to <https://www.aa.org/news-and-announcements>

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*12 Step Programs have been adopted widely by a variety of self-help groups, and typically they only adopt the Steps with the approval of AA, something each site will make note of. There are now 12 Step Programs for:*

Alcoholism  
Gambling Addiction  
Sex and Sex Addiction  
Depression and Behavior  
Eating  
Emotional Issues  
Misc 12 Step Programs

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*Into Your hands, O Lord, I praise this joy, this sorrow, this problem, this decision.  
Into Your hands I praise each moment as it comes, each event You send to me.  
Into Your hands I put this thing I have to do or suffer.*

*Into Your hands this love, this responsibility.  
Into Your hands this weakness, this defect, this failure, this wrong thing that I have done.*

*And so, finally, into Your hands I place my life as a whole, all that I am; be it done according to Your will.*

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### NEW

Sunday Meeting at 5:30 at the 24 Club on W. Eikel Street in New Braunfels

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ARGENTINA

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

  
CANADA

*“Beyond Language,  
Culture and Geography:  
Sobriety Within  
Everybody’s Reach.”*

**Alcoholics Anonymous®**  
**North/South  
Virtual Special Forum  
about Remote Communities**

Interpretation available in English, French and Spanish.  
The event will be open to all members.  
Registration and agenda information to follow.  
**Saturday, July 16, 2022**

  
UNITED STATES

  
CHILE

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