

AREA 68 AA-SWTA DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

DCM REPORT

Greetings to the Fellowship,

Oh my, I just got back from the Area 68 Summer Workshop. Lots of things to report, but I will get to that in just a bit. I wanted to talk about things coming up in District 2 our community should know about.

Our District picnic is coming up fast 11 September at Rio Vista Park. Activities will begin at 10:00, just a word of advice parking is limited so get there early. Grilled Hamburgers and Hotdogs, Drinks, and chips. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish or desert if they like. We will be having a speaker at 11:00 and 1:00 then at 2:00 District 2 will hold one of its regular meetings. If anyone has ever wondered, “What in the dickens is going on at those District meetings?” Well, here’s your chance to have a look at how your interests are being represented. I look forward to a population large enough to overwhelm the park. Maybe even having to send out for more food. My hope anyway. Oh, hey!! Don’t forget to bring your swim wear. We may be having a wet swim wear contest. 😊

I want everyone to be aware in September’s District meeting we will be opening the floor for nominations and election of Officers and Chair positions for Panel 2022 – 2024. I personally do not believe “railroading” someone into a position is good for our fellowship. Although, if someone needs a little push toward service to our fellows, perhaps that individual may need a little assistance in their personal growth. Service will certainly do that for anyone who is willing to put just a little effort into it. Besides we certainly have a lot of past positions holders who are more than willing to help or assist. You won’t be alone at all. I look forward to nominations and volunteers or voluntolds (as long as a sponsor is involved).

The Area 68 Summer Workshop was extremely interesting to say the least. We began Friday evening with a panel discussion on “Service and the Spirit of Rotation”. I have found many ideas about service are more about the willingness to take on a “job” than actually having any knowledge, skills, or abilities in the task a person is being asked to do. Remember God will never ask any of us to do something He isn’t willing to give a helping hand, we only have to ask. In the same way have strength of character to ask for help and surely it will be provided by any of our brothers and sisters. I just read this paragraph and I’m starting to sound like a TV evangelist. Forgive me.

Saturday morning, we received the Delegate’s report on his attendance of the 71st General Service Conference, all 18 pages. To summarize;

1. Highlights from Cash Flow Statement
 - a. Contributions (to G.S.O.) \$10,256,687.00
 - b. Gross literature sales \$9,468,370.00
 - c. Drawdown from reserve fund \$4,000,000.00
 - d. Intl Convention insur claim pmt. \$2,152,134.00

DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER FOCUS

To Inform the AA community of information pertaining to District 2, Area 68, and to enhance group participation

www.area68district2.org

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The largest uses of cash in 2020 were

e. Salaries	\$9,101,015.00
f. International Convention refunds	\$3,727,864.00
g. Cost of printing, shipping, storing literature	\$2,820,459.00
h. Professional fees	\$2,080,295.00

2. Floor Actions

a. It was recommended that:

i. The Preamble be changed from:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their
....

ii. To:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who....

iii. It was recommended that:

The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble be revised with gender-neutral language by replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people”

iv. It was recommended that:

The Preamble revision replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.

b. It was recommended that:

i. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Native American” be updated to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and update inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet and that a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

c. It was recommended that:

i. The goals expressed in the 2018 Advisory Action establishing a dynamic A.A.W.S. Linked-in page be implemented by G.S.O., to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions; and that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of implementing these updates on the A.A.W.S. Linked-in page be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

ii. The trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee Cooperation with the Professional Community.

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- iii. That the updated pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved with minor editorial changes and retitled “Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.”
- iv. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- v. A draft version of the book “Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)”, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- vi. A feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

There was much more reported, but if you figure our Delegate took 2 hours to reveal his report, then this report would consume the Newsletter. I just can't see doing that is anyone wants to know more about or even see the report, just email me through the website. I will scan it to a digital format and email it to you.

I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to be of service in this capacity, I am truly humbled and blessed by this gift from you.

Your favorite service nut,

Tony Crossett, DCM, District 2

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District 2 Trusted Servants:

DCM: Tony C.
Alternate DCM: Danny H.
Treasurer: George T.
Secretary: Cheryl B.
Webmaster: Rusty C.
Newsletter: Sunshine C.
CFC: Pegge K.
PI/CPC: Jeanine W.
Treatment: Brandie J.
Archives: Monika H.
Grapevine: Holli W.

EVENTS AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

District 2 Meeting

August 8, 2021

1:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Online – Zoom – Hybrid Mtg.

Meeting ID: 936 562 4592

Passcode: District2

OR

In Person

District 2 Meeting

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:

New Braunfels Group Two Four Club

1142 Eikel St. New Braunfels, TX

78130

ACTION ITEMS

Old Items:

Picnic Preparations

2020-2022 Spanish Version

Procedures and Guidelines

New Business:

TBD – Open For Discussion

SWTA68

2021 PI/CPC Conference

August 20th - August 22nd

OMNI SOUTHPARK HOTEL

4140 Governors Row

Austin, Texas 78744

Hosted by Districts 3B & 3C

www.aa-swta.org

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District 2 Picnic September 11, 2021

Rio Vista Park
555 Cheatham St,
San Marcos, TX 78666

Food Provided BBQ Hamburgers &
Hot Dogs & Drinks & Sides.
Bring a side dish or desert if you like.
10:00 am to 11:00 am - Activities
11:00 am to 12:00 pm - First Speaker
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm - Lunch
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - Second Speaker
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - District Mtg.
Note: For District 2 Mtg. there is no
Online – Zoom – Hybrid Mtg. for
September in person only.

24th National AA Archives Workshop

‘Today is Tomorrow’s History’

September 30 - October 3

San Antonio, Texas

Hilton, San Antonio Airport Hotel

611 N.W. Loop 410,

San Antonio, 78216 TX

Phone: (210) 340-6060

Reservations: Phone: (866) 238-4218

Online: Hilton.comBooking

Booking Code: “NAAAW”

Special Room Rate: \$110.00 per night

Queen-size beds,

Single or Double occupancy

Rates available from Sep 26 thru Oct 6

Free covered parking

Free Shuttle to/from airport and in

3-mi radius

REGISTRATION FORM go to link

below (Sign up early for discount.)

www.2021NAAAW.org

For more information, contact:

Tami S., Chair: (210)316-0147 -

Paul B., Co-Chair: (210) 885-5848

2021ArchivesWorkshop@gmail.com

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TRADITION EIGHT

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

DAILY REFLECTIONS

August 31

A UNIQUE PROGRAM

Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words "Freely ye have received, freely give." We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix.

— TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 166

I believe that Alcoholics Anonymous stands alone in the treatment of alcoholism because it is based solely on the principle of one alcoholic sharing with another alcoholic. This is what makes the program unique. When I decided that I wanted to stay sober, I called a woman who I knew was a sober member of A.A., and she

carried the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to me. She received no monetary compensation, but rather was paid by staying sober another day herself. Today I could ask for no payment other than another day free from alcohol, so in that respect, I am generously paid for my labor.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS – LONG FORM P. 191

Eight—Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

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GRAPEVINE

August 2020 Edition

TRADITION EIGHT: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

No One's the Boss

Oh, no! what will these AAs make him do? what does he owe? This newcomer's first encounter with the Traditions was a pleasant surprise.

At my very first AA meeting, two large vinyl posters were hanging on the wall. The Twelve Steps were on one poster and the Twelve Traditions were on another.

With a suspicion-filled mind, I read the words on them. What I gathered from the Traditions was that it sounded like no one in particular was in charge, and the only goal was to help. I figured this was like most organizations; its ideals were posted on the walls. I sat in meetings a long time waiting to spot who actually was going to presume they could boss me around and what they would claim I owed.

Turns out I was wrong. As a dear AA friend likes to share at meetings, "When it comes to carrying AA's message, we do it for fun and for free."

My suspicion, which today I consider a fermented form of fear, has never played out. Here and there, AAs might act bossy,

but not one is the boss of another. We are each left to our own path of recovery. We are each subject to our own devices, our own consciences.

And we owe nothing. Matters of money, time and talents are also left to each member to decide whether or not, and how much to contribute. Each member is their own boss and chooses if and how to contribute to AA's collective effort to carry the AA message to alcoholics who still suffer. This approach is best.

There's a line in the Tradition Eight essay from our book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* which says, "Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid Twelfth-Stepper." I identify. This principle of "non-professionalism" when it comes to carrying AA's message saved me from my fearful, suspicion-driven mind. As I sat reading those Traditions on the poster that day, I decided that if someone attempted to boss me, I wasn't coming to another meeting. I would take my alcohol-soaked resentment home and not come back!

Thankfully no one bossed me. Rather, many helped, and the Steps provided a path to freedom from alcohol and the resentments that I have continued to enjoy for more than 20 years now.

Another influence, more subtle but as great in importance, also stemmed from Tradition Eight as I look back. The first meeting I attended included about six or seven regulars. I took quick measure of them, as I had to spot who the boss really was among them. The suspicion in my keen alcoholic mind was dulled and ultimately outdone by openness. Not one of the six or seven took on being "the boss" and not one of them was getting paid. The real kicker though, what kicked down my suspicion and made room

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for some open-mindedness, was the fact that they were there in our meeting every week just to be helpful-and they were having fun.

I wasn't having much fun in those days. Being afraid and resentful of everyone and everything is serious stuff. Also, I wasn't interested in doing anything without getting paid, even though I was a lousy employee and hardly employed.

When it came to AA's message being carried, non-professionalism was in effect at that first AA meeting I attended-no bosses and no one getting paid. There's more to Tradition Eight, including the whole bit about service centers and employment and support of AA members' Twelfth Step efforts. But this article is short, so I hope you review for yourself, in full, the Tradition Eight essay in the "Twelve and Twelve".

Tradition Eight, and all Twelve Traditions on the one poster, were all in effect and a part of the AA group I was so fortunate to find. I am grateful because! know today that those Traditions fostered the group's environment of love and tolerance as well as singleness of purpose. All of which were essential so I would stick around long enough to experience the amazing gifts along the path described on that other poster, the one with the Twelve Steps.

Steve S.
Bloomfield, N.J.
www.grapevine.org

DIGITAL ARCHIVES EXHIBITS

When the A.A. Archives formally opened, November 3, 1975, its goal was to preserve the Fellowship's original documents and artifacts and to keep open communication regarding where we came from and how the A.A. program developed. This goal has remained unchanged to date.

Nell Wing (nonalcoholic), G.S.O.'s first archivist, wrote: "The A.A. Fellowship is one of the world's major sociohistorical movements. We owe it to future A.A. members, as well as to historians, scholars and researchers, to maintain as complete a record as we can of this society at all times, so its message, meaning, and contributions, not only to alcoholics but in other problem areas, can be recalled and assessed for whatever future purpose, fully and accurately."

The Archives is a special place full of rich resources chronicling our history. Visitors can take a tour, spend some quiet time with the history of our Fellowship, enjoy our exhibit area, and delve into the extensive collection of books or newspaper articles located in our library.

We invite you to explore our online exhibits emphasizing some of the events, individuals, and works that shaped our beginnings. We hope this material will inspire interest and spread understanding of Alcoholics Anonymous.
www.aa.org

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RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous: GSO
https://aa.org/pages/en_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus

Online Intergroup:
Alcoholics Anonymous
<http://www.aa-Intergroup.org>

AA Grapevine: They are
providing **FREE** Access to most of
Grapevine 2020
<https://www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help>

Hill Country Intergroup
<https://austinaa.org/>

Deaf Intergroup of Central Texas
<https://centexdeafintergroup.org/>

San Antonio Central Service Office
<http://www.aasanantonio.org/local-virtual-meetings>

Coastal Bend Intergroup Association
<http://www.cbiasa.org/>

OTHER AA RESOURCES

**San Antonio Central Service Office
Information:**

www.aasanantonio.org

The NightCap Newsletter

**To be on the NightCap email list
contact below.**

csosamanager@aasanantonio.org

**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.
GSR's if you have any meeting
updates go to link below:
www.area68district2.org**

If you have any short articles or
helpful AA information please email
me at:
walkingon_motherearth@yahoo.com

Thank You for letting me be of
service!

Sunshine

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