

Dear District 2 AA Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to share my reflections on the recent Area Assembly for Panel 74, which took place from January 12th to 14th and was graciously hosted by District 1E in Castroville.

The assembly's theme, "What is your choice to be"? resonated deeply with me. It explored the fundamental choices we, as alcoholics face: to either continue down a destructive path or accept spiritual help and embrace a life founded on spiritual principles. This decision, though challenging, lifts the obsession to drink, marking a crucial turning point in our journey to recovery.

Personally, I recall grappling with this decision early in my sobriety. The entrenched belief that I could drink like a normal person had to be shattered, opening the door to a new and sober life within the fellowship of AA.

As the District 2 representative, this assembly held special significance for me. While I've attended numerous assemblies in the past, this was my first time contributing as the DCM, and I must admit, there were some nerves. Currently, all positions at the area level are filled, except one- the role of Bi-Lingual Chair. Chris, the Panel 72 chair, graciously supported the January assembly but emphasized the need for someone with even basic Spanish language skills to step up and volunteer. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please reach out to the Area Chairperson, Donita S., at chairperson@aa-swta.org for more information.

During the assembly, I participated in various workshops and meetings, including officer and chair reports, PI/CPC, Treatment, and CFC workshops. Here are some key takeaways that I believe will inform and benefit our district.

1. ****New Contribution Address**** AA groups and members can now send their contributions to Southwest Texas Area 68 at the following address:

Southwest Texas Area 68
PO BO 681071
San Antonio, TX 78268

2. **New GSR Kits:** New GSR kits are now in stock and will be mailed out upon request.

3. **Important information from SWTA 68 Delegate:** Our SWTA 68 Delegate shared crucial information on GSO finances, the agenda for April's General Service Conference, and a survey on preserving the founder's writings. We'll delve into this further at our January district meeting.

Additionally, I want to bring to your attention a few upcoming events. Please refer to the flyers on the District 2 website for full details at www.area68district2.org

- CFC Conference: Feb 2-4, hosted by District 29 in Bastrop
- Coastal Bend Jamboree: February 23-25, hosted by area districts.
- Canyon Lake Campout: March 22-24, hosted by Canyon Lake Groups.
- Pre-General Voting Assembly: March 15-17, hosted by District 10 in Mission, TX
- Seguin Oasis Group 77th Anniversary Party: April 20th from 5-11pm, hosted by Seguin Oasis Group.
- PI/CPC Conference: August 9-10, hosted by District 22 in Round Rock.

I look forward to our January district meeting on Sunday, January 21st, at 2pm at the 2-4 club in New Braunfels. Presence and input from the service committee and GSRs are invaluable.

Gratefully in service,
Cheryl B.

NEWSLETTER

AREA 68 AA-SWTA

● JAN 2024

● DISTRICT 2

STEP 1

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanegable."

THE ONE THING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STEP 1:

Alcohol Isn't My Problem

Principle of this Step:
Honesty

Reading Assignment:
BB pgs: 30-43/ 12&12 pgs. 21-24

Literature Reference: "Nothing counted but thoroughness and honesty"
(BB page 65)

What Can I Surrender in this Step?

1. The delusion that in and of myself I have power
2. The belief that alcohol is my problem

TRADITION 1

Long form: "The final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."

TRADITION 1 EXPLAINED

Groups Have Ultimate Authority

AA groups themselves make ALL final business decisions for the Fellowship.
How?

A group's General Service Representative (GSR) votes the conscience of their group on agenda items for discussion at the General Service Conference (GSC) once a year, which is where all AA business is decided.

● ONE DAY AT A TIME ●

STEP SUMMARY

When we first walked into the rooms of AA, we thought our lives were unmanageable because when we drank, we wound up in strange places, with strange people, in strange positions (some of us- literally). How grateful we were when our sponsor, or other caring members of the Fellowship, helped us fully understand what co-founder, Bill W. meant in More About Alcoholism (top of page 35 in the Big Book-4th Edition) when we said "So we shall describe some of the mental states that precede a relapse into drinking, for obviously this is the crux of the problem"

We are grateful that we were helped to understand that our mental states, or our thinking WAS/IS the crux of our problem. Selfishness/Self-Centeredness! That, we are told, is the root of our troubles (not alcohol). Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self-pity, we go to the only thing that has proven to provide us the release we seek from these "fleeting forms"-alcohol.

If we ever need proof of our powerlessness over "a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body" (which is one definition of alcoholism), all we have to do is look at the many examples of how our life was unmanageable while drinking- and how it wasn't the alcohol that made our life unmanageable.

Interesting side note: Step 1 is the only step that talks about alcohol. The remainder of the Steps share solutions on how to deal with what the REAL problem is- the noise that lives between my left ear and my right ear (more commonly referred to as our defects of character).

Step-Tradition Parallel

Each tradition answers the question raised by the parallel step. The connection between the First Step and the First Tradition is that I am powerless over alcohol and have an unmanageable life, so I am dependent upon initiating myself with AA for my personal recovery. The Step states the problem and the Tradition states the solution. What do I do about my powerlessness and unmanageability? I join AA and place our common welfare first, since my personal recovery depends upon doing this.

Keep it REAL!

WE BEFORE ME

Unity begins with an individual. Having unity within oneself and one's Higher Power is vital to expressing unity in any other relationship. When one is following the guidance and will of a Higher Power, inner balance is achieved and then the ability to participate in a healthy relationship is greatly improved. Thus the relationship's unity is best serviced by each individual's unity with a Higher Power.

The Twelve Steps produce recovery and enable us to match calamity with serenity without taking the first drink. Recovery is the restoration of our relationship with God through sobriety. Our happiness, though, is incomplete unless we expand our loving relationship with God to our relationship with each other.

The Traditions show us how to love each other. The principles of the group apply to the individual. Through working the principles of the traditions we carry out the steps in the world. We live in the solution, not the problem. We are united with each other in love. When we love, we want to serve. The concepts of service then show us how to love each other through being of service to the world. Hence, AA has a three-word motto, "Recovery-Unity-Service", based on the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service.

Since the bottom has risen in AA there has been a need to go beyond recovery into learning how to get and maintain relationships. We must apply the First Tradition in all areas of our life (AA, work, home, etc.) so our sobriety isn't threatened. If we do not place our common welfare first, we could easily stay a loner and eventually drink out of loneliness.

EVENTS:

2024 Area CFC Conference: February 2, 2024 at 8:00am- February 4, 2024 at 5pm
240 S Hasler Blvd. Bastrop, TX
Area 68 Correction Facility Committee (CFC)
email: district29@aa-swta.org

2024 SWTA 68 Pre-General Voting Assembly: March 15-17th
Mission Event Center

CFC Conference: Feb. 2-4 2024
240 S. Hasler Blvd., Bastrop TX 78602

Canyon Lake Campout: March 22nd-24th

SWTA 68 Annual PI/CPC Conference: August 9-10 2024
Williamson Conference Center

The Southwest Texas Area extending from Del Rio and Ozona on the West, to Wharton and Giddings on the East from Coleman and Brownwood on the North and Brownsville on the South does and will continue to function as a Service body. Always protecting and respecting autonomy and the privilege of dissent of any AA group in the Area.

The Area assembly will always be mindful of the ideals expressed in the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts and the AA Service Manual, and try to be the voice and group conscience of the Area AA.

Service to the Area Districts and Area Groups is its primary purpose and every attempt will be made to encourage all area groups to participate and support the Area Assembly, the General Service Office, and the AA World Services. It shall be the responsibility of the Area Assembly to elect an Area Delegate Service Conference, an Area Alternate Delegate, and the Required Area Assembly Officers, and to give financial support to the Area Delegate as required to perform the duties of the office

ZOOM MEETINGS

District 2 Area Zoom Meeting:
Second Sunday from 2pm-4pm
Jan 14 to Sun Dec 14, 2025

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

The Central Service Office Helpline Committee has Volunteer shifts open.

Friday 9am-1pm and Thursday 1pm-5pm, may work at CSO or from home.

After hours helpline chairperson: Requires 1 year sobriety, a home group, and regular meeting attendance.

Please contact Virginia B: (210) 821-6325 or grpserv2019@att.net

AREA 68 TREASURER

New mailing information for Area contribution to groups.

PO BOX 681071 SAN ANTONIO TX, 78268

ZOOM MEETINGS

Noon every day except Saturday

ID: 864 9468 3219

PASSWORD: 24Eikel

JOIN US!!

We're launching a new celebrate recovery ministry at Crossroads Church, Thursday nights 7pm-9pm, dinner at 6:30pm. Find freedom from hurts, habits and hang ups! At Crossroads Church, 3455 W Hwy 90 in Seguin. (830) 251-2080

LOCAL INFORMATION:

ON FIRE FOR RECOVERY

Oxford House, Trouvalle. We are a Women and Children's home. Must have drive and desire to stay clean, must work a program.

Please put in an application online at www.oxfordvacancies.com after applying you will receive a call to set up an interview with the house if we have spots available. Contact Jessica Waggoner: (830) 500-1308

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. Attendance is mandatory for service members.

FAMILY GROUP EDUCATION AND YOUNG ADULTS MEETING

Helping young adults and families heal fo the effects of substance use disorder. Ages 18-24. every Thursday 7pm-8:30pm.
790 Landa Street, New Brauanfels, (830) 312-3612

HEE-HAW CONCEPT MEETING

Third Monday of each month at 6pm. Into Action group:
1302 South Main, Lockhart TX, 78644

BEGINNERS SPEAKER MEETING

Monday at 7pm, 1142 East Eikel

WINDMILL WOMEN'S MEETING

Saturday 7pm-8pm, Windmill Wellness Ranch
26229 N. Cranes Mill Road, Canyon Lake

NEW MEETING

2 Rivers Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays at 7pm New Braunfels 2-4 Club,
for more information contact: Vicki B: (201) 728-8769