

# NEWSLETTER

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AREA 68 AA-SWTA ● DEC. 2022 ● DISTRICT 2

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HOHOHO and away we go. Welcome to December, the fall season brought rain and some, much anticipated, cooler weather. I went to see Santa in the Arctic last month and he is incredibly pleased with the service minded people of District 2. You have all been put on the NICE list. Santa's all about service.

Speaking of service, this paragraph is about AA's service structure. Many of you already know much or all of this information so please bear with me if you do. The General Service Conference is made up of about 134 members, 93 of which are delegates and each one of those represents the area of U.S. and Canada. There are 21 trustees, 7 of which are Class A nonalcoholic and 14 are Class B alcoholic trustees at large and regional trustees. Barbara Ruiz is our Area 68 Delegate and Jimmy Dean is our Regional Trustee. (Our region is made up of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.) The rest are directors Directors, GSO and Grapevine staff, one of which suggested shipping the Big Book without dust covers instead of holding up the book shipments due to "no show" dust covers.

Do you remember the name Jack Alexander? Jack was a journalist for the Saturday Evening Post. Not only was he a journalist but he specialized in uncovering and exposing frauds, which he originally believed AA to be. Upon researching Alcoholics Anonymous, he portrayed it in such a gleaming light that his 1 article gave AA its first legs. This is all common knowledge but what really captured me was the fact that Jack later became a Trustee at Large for AA. The book describes a spiritual experience as a rearrangement of our thoughts and ideals. I believe Jack had one of those. Can you stand one more? I will keep it short: I promise. There are 63 General Service Office's around the world. Do not get too excited yet as some of these may only be staffed by 1 or 2 people but the fellowship is growing and, just like Jack, people are having spiritual experiences as a result. Ok, enough of my geeky AA trivia stuff. This report is supposed to be about District 2 business so let us talk about out next assembly. The winter workshop will be coming up on January 13 through the 15 in Corpus Christi at the Omni Hotel. This is an excellent location for a conference because of all the good eateries within walking distance and it's right on the seawall. This assembly is a good opportunity for incoming GSR's to get their feet wet and start shaking some hands in preparation for their potentially long and extremely fulfilling service career.

That's it for me, and just like Santa, I love and appreciate each of you. I pray that each one of you reading this message recognizes your value to this program because it is in that recognition that we find the desire to fulfill our potential.

God Bless you all

Humbly yours in service

George Thomas DCM District 2

● ONE DAY AT A TIME ●

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

## **STEP SUMMARY**

This step is divided into three (3) very separate and distinct parts. First, it's an assumption that as a result of taking Steps 1-11, we've actually had a spiritual awakening. Bill W. describes for us his definition of the spiritual awakening (or experience) on page 567 (4th Edition) of the Big Book where he states that a spiritual experience is "a personality change sufficient to recover from alcoholism." Once we have taken the first eleven Steps, it is widely believed that the alcoholic undergoes the kind of transformation needed to be able to actually BE a different person. A spiritual awakening is nothing more than a psychic change that, among other things, eliminates our obsession to drink. It is that change that becomes the foundation to the 2nd part of Step 12.

Going out and giving away what has been so freely given to us is our last and final written direction in our basic text. It's no mistake that giving away the message that one can become recovered (not "cured") from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body is the ultimate paradox in our program of recovery. It's in the giving that we receive. Working with others has been the bedrock so many members of A.A. have found that will not only carry them through the hard times in their own recovery, but will strengthen and inspire their willingness to continue to "trudge" (one definition: to walk with purpose) our Road of Happy Destiny.

A.A. experience has proven that NOTHING will insure immunity from drinking as much as intensive work (not just work, but INTENSIVE work) with other alcoholics, it works when other activities fail. You can help when NO ONE else can. It was the basis of Bill's conversation with Dr. Silkworth shortly after his "white light" experience. One of Bill's first thoughts (sitting on that bed) was that other people suffering from this illness could benefit from an understanding of what a personality change can look like for them too. So it was that God led Bill to Dr. Bob and what was to be a 15-minute first meeting, turned into over 5 hours.

It's here that Part 3 of Step 12 starts. I get to practice these principles in all my affairs when I realize that my experience can help you and your experience can help me in ways that nothing else can. Practicing each of our spiritual principles is truly found in teaching another alcoholic how to take (not work) the 12 Steps of A.A. (and teaching them how to teach others). This will not only provide us self-centered alcoholics with a sense of joy in giving, but will help us to continue to uncover the flaws in our own character that continue to cause our failure along our journey.

# TRADITION 12

**Long form:** “And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.”

## TRADITION 12 EXPLAINED

### Principles First – People Second

Why are we repeatedly asked in the Traditions to give up ourselves for the greater good? The answer is because any relationship we have that does not involve sacrifice is a relationship that likely will not endure. Each tradition straightens out a disastrous attitude we had about relationships. The twelfth tradition teaches us that a spirit of sacrifice (often times through anonymity) is vital to good relationships.

Giving up the expectation of rewards for doing good is difficult for most of us. It's easy for us to give and then think, “Well, I'll get a reward, even if I don't get public recognition for what I did.” To remove that reward symbol from the back of our minds for whatever good we do is part of practicing anonymity. The next time you hear a speaker in A.A. whose personality is exciting from the platform, see if you can hear the principles behind their words? To which step, tradition, or concept can you relate their pitch? Setting ourselves aside and focusing on the principles of our program is a crucial component in the foundation we need for studying the Traditions and learning how to be in healthier relationships with our fellow A.A.'s and with those in the world around us.

### Step-Tradition Parallel

The twelfth step poses the question, “What is a spiritual awakening?” I believe that the evidences of a spiritual awakening are found in a person who practices the twelfth tradition in all their affairs. Such a person sacrifices self in order to practice principles. Their motive in practicing all of the traditions is anonymity: they sacrifice to help others.

The twelfth tradition completes the twelfth step in the following way: I become spiritually awake when I carry the message by anonymously practicing sober principles.

# EVENTS:

## DECEMBER 2022

24-Hour Sober Watch and Christmas Day Lunch @ the 24 Club in New Braunfels

24-Hour Sober Watch and New Year's Day Lunch @ the 24 Club in New Braunfels

## JANUARY 2023

13th-15th 2023 SWTA 68 Winter Workshop/Assembly in Corpus Christi, TX

## FEBRUARY 2023

3rd-5th 2023 Coastal Bend Jamboree, Corpus Christi TX

59th International Women's Conference February 16-19, 2023

### AS BILL SEES IT

#### THE SHARED GIFT

A.A is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Faith is more than our greatest gift; it's sharing with others is our greatest responsibility. May we of A.A continually seek the wisdom and the willingness by which we may well fulfill that immense trust which the Giver of all perfect gifts has placed in our hands.

### SPRING BRANCH

### ZOOM MEETINGS

**12:15-1:15**

Tuesdays: 12&12 Study  
3rd Tuesday: Grapevine

1st Thursday: Big Book Study  
2nd Thursday: Big Book Study  
3rd Thursday: Speaker  
4th Thursday: Drop the Rock

**ID: 9561549506**

**PASSWORD: 123456**

# LOCAL INFORMATION:

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

The district Treatment Committee is looking for volunteers to help carry the message to local treatment centers. The Treatment Committee meets on the second Sunday of every month at 1pm, 1142 Eikel Street, New Braunfels

## REQUEST FOR TRANSLATOR

The Publishing department at the General Service Office is seeking professional freelance translators who have a familiarity with AA structure and content to join our publications team (English to French/Spanish; Spanish/French to English). We work on various projects spanning books, pamphlets, correspondence and reports and material that helps French and Spanish speaking members carry the AA message of recovery. Send your resume and cover letter to [aapublishing@aa.org](mailto:aapublishing@aa.org)

## 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.

## SOBER ON THE SQUAR MEETING

Cigar Vault San Marcos, 122 N LBJ San Marcos, TX 78666,

Date and Time: Wednesday nights from 10-11pm.

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

PASSWORD: 24Eikel