

# AREA 68 AA-SWTA DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

## DCM REPORT

Season's Greetings,

I will take this time to remind all GSRs, District Committee Officers, and Group Committee members of the 2021 Winter Workshop coming up January 29, 2021 @ 7:00 PM through January 31, 2021 @ 12:00 PM in Temple, Texas. Temple is a lovely town and the groups that meet there are absolutely great. I lived there for a time and learned a lot about AA service during my stay there. So, I truly encourage everyone reading this report to attend this event in any manner you can. Check the Area website for more details.

I would also like to note the Virtual Western U.S./Canada Forum on December 19, 2020 coming up. Again, please check the Area website for more details.

We have a District Meeting coming up December 13, 2020 @ 2:00 PM. Matters on the agenda are: 1. Votes from GSRs concerning District sending money to Area 68 to assist in covering a short fall Area has had to contend with during this past year.; 2. Elections for open positions in District 2 panel. We have open at this time the following: Alternate DCM, PI/CPC Chair, Grapevine/LaVine chair, and possibly the Secretary position.; and 3. Any new business the GSRs or Committee Chairs would like to bring up.

I encourage our GSRs to please have a written report prepared for the District Meetings as this practice has fallen off recently. Our Secretary in the past has relied on them for his/her recordings of the meetings. It also settles any confusion created by an oral report. Please include in those written reports your current meetings and times, any questions, and/or problems your group is having difficulty with and in search of a solution.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve,

Tony Crossett  
District 2 DCM

## District 2 Trusted Servants:

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

## 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](http://www.area68district2.org)

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## EVENTS DECEMBER - JANUARY

### District 2 Meeting

December 13, 2020 & January 10, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:45 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

**Virtual Western U.S./Canada Forum on  
December 19, 2020:**

*“2020: Experience, Strength & Hope – what it was like, what happened, and what it is like now.”*

The one-day event will feature participation from the Pacific, Southwest, West Central and Western Canada Regions. As with traditional Regional Forums, the day will include workshops, presentations, Q&A’s, General Sharing, and much, much more!

Registration: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**All members are invited, so get on the virtual bus! Bring a newcomer!**

In fellowship,  
Sandra W.  
Regional Forums

**2021 Winter Workshop Assembly**

**January 29, 2021 @ 7:00 PM - January 31, 2021 @ 12:00 PM**

- [« Virtual Western U.S./Canada Forum](#)
- [2021 SWTA 68 Correctional Facility Conference »](#)

**The Solution: Step Into the Book**



**Hilton Garden Inn at Temple Medical Center**

I 749 Scott Blvd., Temple TX 76504 • 254-73 3-0200

Rooms are \$110 per night and include breakfast for two.

Reservation Code SWTA 68

**Hosted by District 5 • Contact: Carol B. 254-291-1486**

-  [2021 Winter Workshop flyer](#)  
Date added: September 2, 2020 2:56 PM File size: 108 KB Downloads: 62
-  [2021 Winter Workshop Spanish flyer](#)  
Date added: September 2, 2020 2:56 PM File size: 106 KB Downloads: 28

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## STEP TWELVE

### DAILY REFLECTIONS

December 2

#### SERENITY

*Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, . . .*

— TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 106

As I continued to go to meetings and work the Steps, something began to happen to me. I felt confused because I wasn't sure what it was that I was feeling, and then I realized I was experiencing serenity. It was a good feeling, but where had it come from? Then I realized it had come ". . . as the result of these steps." The program may not always be easy to practice, but I had to acknowledge that my serenity had come to me after working the Steps. As I work the Steps in everything I do, practicing these principles in all my affairs, now I find that I am awake to God, to others, and to myself. The spiritual awakening I have enjoyed as the result of working the Steps is the awareness that I am no longer alone.

December 3

#### IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS

*. . . we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

— TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 106

I find that carrying the message of recovery to other alcoholics is easy because it helps me to stay sober and it provides me with a sense of well-being about my own recovery. The hard part is practicing these principles in all my affairs. It is important that I share the benefits I receive from A.A., especially at home. Doesn't my family deserve the same patience, tolerance and understanding I so readily give to the alcoholic? When reviewing my day I try to ask, "Did I have a chance to be a friend today and miss it?" "Did I have a chance to rise above a nasty situation and avoid it?" "Did I have a chance to say 'I'm sorry,' and refuse to?" Just as I ask God for help with my alcoholism each day, I ask for help in extending my recovery to include all situations and all people!

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## Spiritual Principle - SERVICE

December 8

### SERVICE

*Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends—this is an experience you must not miss. . . . Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.*

— ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 89

It is through service that the greatest rewards are to be found. But to be in a position of offering true, useful and effective service to others, I must first work on myself. This means that I have to abandon myself to God, admitting my faults and clearing away the wreckage of my past. Work on myself has taught me how to find the necessary peace and serenity to successfully merge inspiration and experience. I have learned how to be, in the truest sense, an open channel of sobriety.

## GRAPEVINE

### Grapevine Factoid

In 1987, the Grapevine Conference Committee recommended: “Delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool.”

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

## TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE S- PAMPHLET AA.ORG

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

This is a pamphlet about the Concepts; it is NOT the Concepts themselves. They are found in the book *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and should be read by every “trusted servant.”

As A.A. grew up, it began with the groups — first only a few, then hundreds and then thousands. Very early an Alcoholic Foundation, later renamed The General Service Board, was formed to be responsible for our affairs. And with Dr. Bob’s death and Bill’s facing up to his own mortality, a General Service Conference assumed the leadership which had fallen to the co-founders. Meanwhile, a tiny publishing operation and service office had grown in size and importance to the Fellowship, and a monthly journal, the AA Grapevine, was being published.

Which of these entities was supposed to do what? Little wonder there was confusion! What was their relationship? Who was in charge? What were their responsibilities — and what were their rights? Bill W. himself was sometimes part of the pulling and hauling that took place, and so he saw the need to “reduce to writing” his concepts of the “why” of the whole structure, the lessons to be drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles.

As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts III through V, IX and XII deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual

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overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together.

What follows in this pamphlet is an illustrated introduction to the Twelve Concepts. If it is answers or guidance you are seeking, go to the Concepts themselves.

Throughout this pamphlet, wording from the Twelve Concepts themselves (subject to some editing for clarity) is indicated by quotation marks; the rest of the text is either descriptive or explanatory.

### CONCEPT XII

*General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.*

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other

Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter “can be readily amended,” these General Warranties — like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions — be changed only by “written consent of three- quarters of all A.A. groups” in the world!

Why?

Because “these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess . . . . These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.” The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one by one:

**Warranty One:** “The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.” The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual member’s donations, “we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.” And if we live by Tradition Two — that “our ultimate authority is a loving God” and that “our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern” — then we are safe from perilous power.

**Warranty Two:** “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.” Although many of us as active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting “A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant.” Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year’s operating expenses of the

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G.S.O. and Grapevine. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services.

**Warranty Three:** “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.” This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but “it is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty” — a “strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure.”

**Warranty Four:** “That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity.” This Warranty is, on the one hand, “a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision.”

**Warranty Five:** “That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.” Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or laws, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary. When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which

we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishment. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger. For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

Some situations which may require Conference consideration are:

A.A. may come under “sharp public attack or heavy ridicule” — perhaps “With little or no justification in fact. Our best defense in these situations would be no defense whatever — namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this privately to the critics — with our thanks.”

Public violations of A.A. Traditions.

Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purposes. “Aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately, we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use such other resources of persuasion as we have. In the long run, though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion.”

“Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention.” As G.S.O. “is not a police operation,” we can only offer A.A.’s experience as a matter of information.

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**Warranty Six:** “That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A.s probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death.

“Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any way curtail A.A.’s freedom under God. We expect our Conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member to another.

“Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.”

## **I am responsible...**

When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help, I want  
the hand of A.A. always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible

## **A Declaration of Unity**

This we owe to A.A.’s future:  
To place our common welfare first;  
To keep our fellowship united.  
For on A.A. unity depend our lives,  
And the lives of those to come

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## RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MEETINGS

**Alcoholics Anonymous: GSO**

[https://aa.org/pages/en\\_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus](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.cbiaa.org/>

## OTHER AA RESOURCES

**San Antonio Central Service Office Information:**

[www.aasanantonio.org](http://www.aasanantonio.org)

**The NightCap Newsletter**

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

[csosamanager@aasanantonio.org](mailto: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](http://www.area68district2.org)

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

[walkingon\\_motherearth@yahoo.com](mailto:walkingon_motherearth@yahoo.com)

Thank You for letting me be of service!

Sunshine

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