

AREA 68 AA-SWTA DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

DCM REPORT

Good day my fellows:

I am by no means someone who serves in ministry, but once in a while I am struck by a profound and often life saving wisdom given to me by this program. Often times (these days) it is something I am reminded of or a new application of something (or a mix of experiences) I was taught either by my Higher Power or members I have participated with during my journey through sobriety.

As clergy do I will begin with a quote from our written reference (the Big Book),:

“It is not the matter of giving that is in question, but when and how to Give. That often makes the deference between failure and success. The minute we put our work on a service plane, the alcoholic commences to rely upon our assistance rather than upon God. He clamors for this or that, claiming he cannot master alcohol until his material needs are cared for. Nonsense. Some of us have taken very hard knocks to learn this truth: Job or no job - wife or no wife - we simply do not stop drinking so long as we place dependence upon other people ahead of dependence on God.”

During meditation one afternoon I remembered an experience shared with my grandfather. I was watching a little chick hatch from its little lifeboat (egg). The poor little guy (or gal, who knows) seemed so weak and in need of assistance. I began to help the little hatchling from its prison. My grandfather noticed my interaction with the young bird and calmly explained what I was doing is actually killing the creature I was trying to rescue. He explained a chick while hatching may seem very weak and in need, but God has given the little guy everything he will need to manage his own opening act in this world. During his hatching process he is building muscles in his neck mostly, but other parts as well. My attempt at lending aid and comfort to him is robbing him of his God given gift of life, because he will be very weak as you can see is not able to hold up his own head let alone get up on his feet. He will die most likely of injuries to his neck or worse starvation.

This was one of my first impressions of service to other people, however; it really didn't sink in until much later as a sober adult. I am incredibly careful about how much I assist my fellows and newcomers because I do not want to rob them of gifts my Higher Power has for them. Just my thoughts during a highly stressful day when I decided to slow things down a bit.

1 Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition,
Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc.,
New York City,
2001

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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This month's District Meeting will be held May 16th at 2:00 PM. We will have a postponed portion of a Workshop from last month with Peter T, Area Technologies Chairperson, presenting on the topic of "Zoom" meetings setups and maintenance. We will all be discussing and hopefully voting acceptance of updates to our District 2 Service and Procedures Manual.

I want to encourage all GSR's and Group Service members to attend our District Meeting as well as AA members of the Groups in our beautiful District. We are always looking for fresh ideas and viewpoints. You never know if your ideas are useful or not if you don't express them.

Your faithful service nut,

Tony Crossett
DCM, District 2, Area 68

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.

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EVENTS MAY - JUNE

District 2 Meeting **May 16, 2021**

1:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Workshop:

Technologies Area Chairperson –
Peter

Topic: ZOOM meetings

Action Items:

Old Business:

District 2 Guidelines And

Procedures Manual

Picnic Preparations

New Business:

TBD – Open For Discussion

Online – Zoom – Hybrid Mtg.

Meeting ID: 879-6890-5774

Passcode: District2

OR

In Person

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:

New Braunfels Group Two Four
Club

1142 Eikel St. New Braunfels,
TX 78130

Trudgefest

May 31st.

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Outdoor Event

Fundraiser for “Capital of Texas
Conference” in July.

For more information go to link
below:

capitaloftexasconference.org/

The 2021 Texas State AA Convention

June 11th & 12th & 13th

74 ½ ANNUAL

A VISION FOR YOU

Register online at

txaaconvention.org through

May 28th

**See Flyer/website for Hotel
Information/Schedule**

District 2 Meeting

June 13, 2021

1:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Online – Zoom – Hybrid Mtg.

Meeting ID: 879-6890-5774

Passcode: District2

OR

In Person

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:

New Braunfels Group Two Four
Club

1142 Eikel St. New Braunfels,
TX 78130

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TRADITION FIVE

“Each group has but one primary-purpose to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

DAILY REFLECTIONS

May 30

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

The more A.A. sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence everywhere.

— A.A. COMES OF AGE, p. 109

It is with gratitude that I reflect on the early days of our Fellowship and those wise and loving "foresteppers" who proclaimed that we should not be diverted from our primary purpose, that of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I desire to impart respect to those who labor in the field of alcoholism, being ever mindful that A.A. endorses no causes other than its own. I must remember that A.A. has no monopoly on miracle making and I remain humbly grateful to a loving God who made A.A. possible.

AS BILL SEE'S IT

Page 192

Carrying the Message

The wonderful energy the Twelfth Step releases, by which it carries our message to the next suffering alcoholic and finally translates the Twelve Steps into action upon all our affairs, is the payoff, the magnificent reality of A.A.

<< << << >> >> >>

Never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop; simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for his inspection. Show him how they worked with you. Offer him friendship and fellowship.

1. TWELVE AND TWELVE, P. 109
2. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS P. 95

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GRAPEVINE - MAY 2020

TRADITION FIVE: Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Hats Off To Tradition 5

He finally put down the bottle and got to a meeting. But what was everyone talking about? And what did it have to do with drinking?

My first AA meeting was on a Monday in August. That was the day I first reached out for help. I called the local number for AA after people encouraged me to check it out. After a few brutal weeks of not being able to explain to anyone what was happening to me, I made the call, using that "500-pound phone."

A very nice-sounding voice answered my call and I was told about a meeting that night at a church in town. It started at 8:30. The voice asked whether I could not drink until then and I said yes.

I arrived promptly at 8:30 and went into the meeting room. The chairs were all taken so I had to lean against the wall, propping myself up with my crutches since my legs weren't working that well. No one offered me a chair or even acknowledged my presence and I stayed there for the duration the meeting. I don't know why I stayed. I guess I thought it would be rude to leave.

The lady who led the meeting talked about hats. She had this thing about buying hats, she said. She had hats packed in her car and all over her house. She didn't wear a hat all that often, but she had to have them.

I didn't wear a hat. I didn't like hats, so I didn't understand why they were talking about hats. I thought it was going to be

about AA or at least that's what I was told they would be talking about.

I left that meeting and decided AA wasn't for me. They certainly didn't talk about anything that I could identify with and I certainly didn't hear about how to deal with my drinking. I certainly wasn't welcomed.

That was on a Monday. I can't tell you what happened on Tuesday or Wednesday, but on Thursday I decided I had to do something. I was losing my mind. Booze had stopped working. I came to the realization that I was dying just like my father had, just like his sister had and like my other relatives had. I didn't want to go through that horrible final period of life like they had. I had tried everything-even AA, and nothing helped.

I decided that I should just end it all to stop the screaming in my head. I wanted to drive my car into a corner of a bridge that was shaped like a catcher's mitt just outside of town. I thought it would be a perfect spot to drive my car into. I tried seven times that Thursday morning, and each time, as I was about to aim my car into that corner, I was cut off by another car. I didn't want to hurt other people by ramming another car, so I crossed the bridge and made a U-turn on the other side. I came back across the bridge, exited and crossed over the highway. I came down the on-ramp and tried for that corner, again and again. After those seven attempts, I felt like a complete failure. I couldn't even kill myself.

For reasons I can't explain, I went back to that same AA meeting the following Monday. I went a little earlier because I wanted to find a chair before they were all taken. This time I met at the door by someone I knew. My friend took me inside and sat me down and then got me a half a cup of coffee because he could see that my

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hands were shaking, and he didn't want me to spill coffee on myself.

My friend then proceeded to tell me about AA, what it was and what it wasn't. He told me that I had a million friends that I hadn't met yet and that I never had to the way I was feeling ever again. He also told me that I never had to drink again. After the meeting was over, he said something very important. He said that there was another meeting the next day. Would I like to go? Yes, I said.

We met at that meeting and when it was over, he said to me that there was another meeting the next day and asked if I would like to go. Yes, I said.

The pattern for my recovery was established in those first few days and it has continued ever since. I've had ups and downs like everyone else has, as promised, but I've never had to drink another drink and I've never felt the same way I felt back then. Life has since become something that I really look forward to every day.

It's been almost 40 years since that awful Thursday morning. I no longer think about driving my car into that bridge. Maybe if I had made one more crossing of that bridge or if hadn't been met by someone who welcomed me into AA, my life's outcome would have been different.

I sometime wonder if we haven't lost other suffering alcoholics because we forgot to stick to our message and told stories at our meetings that didn't focus on our recovery from alcoholism. Our message of recovery is important. It can save a life. Sharing about hats that day almost cost me mine.

Morgan J.
Annapolis, Md.

www.grapevine.org

AA AROUND THE WORLD

[The World Service Meeting Final Report](#)

Since its inauguration in 1969, the World Service Meeting (WSM) has provided an ongoing international forum for shared experience and ideas on carrying the A.A. message of recovery from alcoholism. Held biennially, the event alternates between New York and other locations around the globe, and has convened in such diverse cities as Cartagena, Colombia; Auckland, New Zealand; Oviedo, Spain; Malahide, Ireland; Mexico City, Mexico; and Warsaw, Poland. Due to the pandemic, the 26th World Service Meeting was held virtually, in November 2020.

The primary purpose of the World Service Meeting is the same as that of all A.A. activity: to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers, wherever in the world he or she may be, whatever language he or she may speak. The World Service Meeting seeks ways and means of accomplishing this goal by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of WSM delegates who come together every two years from all parts of the world.

Described as a living and growing exchange of experience responding to the needs of A.A. worldwide, WSM sessions cover a broad range of issues pertinent to the development of A.A. in the participating countries.

A detailed report of the biennial World Service Meeting includes presentations, country service highlights, committee reports, reports of interim and zonal meetings and workshop reports.

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Note: The World Service Meeting Final Report is published in English and Spanish, which are the two official languages of the World Service Meeting. In accordance with World Service Meeting policy and practice the report is made available in English by the General Service Office of the U.S. and Canada and in Spanish by the General Service Office of Mexico

www.aa.org

TIMELINE OF AA HISTORY

Origins

The origins of Alcoholics Anonymous can be traced to the Oxford Group, a religious movement popular in the United States and Europe in the early 20th century. Members of the Oxford Group practiced a formula of self-improvement by performing self-inventory, admitting wrongs, making amends, using prayer and meditation, and carrying the message to others.

In the early 1930s, a well-to-do Rhode Islander, Rowland H., visited the noted Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung for help with his alcoholism. Jung determined that Rowland's case was medically hopeless, and that he could only find relief through a vital spiritual experience. Jung directed him to the Oxford Group.

Rowland later introduced fellow Vermonter Edwin ("Ebby") T. to the group, and the two men along with several others were finally able to keep from drinking by practicing the Oxford Group principles.

One of Ebby's schoolmate friends from Vermont, and a drinking buddy, was Bill W. Ebby sought out his old friend at his home at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn, New York, to carry the message of hope.

Bill W. had been a golden boy on Wall Street, enjoying success and power as a stockbroker, but his promising career had been ruined by continuous and chronic alcoholism. Now, approaching 39 years of age, he was learning that his problem was hopeless, progressive, and irreversible. He had sought medical treatment at Towns Hospital in Manhattan, but he was still drinking.

Bill was, at first, unconvinced by Ebby's story of transformation and the claims of the Oxford Group. But in December 1934, after again landing in Towns hospital for treatment, Bill underwent a powerful spiritual experience unlike any he had ever known. His depression and despair were lifted, and he felt free and at peace. Bill stopped drinking, and worked the rest of his life to bring that freedom and peace to other alcoholics. The roots of Alcoholics Anonymous were planted.

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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