

Area 68 AA-SWTA District 2 Newsletter

March 2022

Hello All,

It's March and Spring is right around the corner along with the Pre-General Service Conference and like spring it will be right in our back yard. My GPS is showing a short 34-minute drive to this quarterly Area 68 event that will include a GSR workshop [what do I do?], area committee meetings [what do they do?] and what I'm sure will be a lively discussion on the General Service Conference [GSC] agenda items [what is being discussed in New York?]. You are familiar with the AA service pyramid, the upside-down pyramid with all the groups at the top. The AA groups are the voting body of AA. As GSR of your group it is our responsibility to bring any necessary information like GSC agenda items to your group for discussion. This will give you a clearer idea of how to vote your group's conscience. If you have service questions the conference will also include an "ask it basket" meeting along with many people that are in service and available to answer your questions. Please announce this event in your groups and let's show area 68 that District 2 shows up!

As the sunshine and warm weather bring more people out of their homes and into the rooms, it leaves me thinking of accessibilities, silent groups and how important it is that potential fellows can find us, communicate with us, get into the rooms and that they feel comfortable with us. The dialog has started, and I have been engaged many times in conversation on this topic. People are taking this back to their groups and even though the topic is not necessarily comfortable to talk about, they are talking about it anyway. It is each of our

responsibility to make this wonderful program and fellowship available to all who seek recovery from this malady.

The thing that has been on my mind lately is "people", as in the people that surround me in service. AA service has been a great joy for me and that joy stems from the people that surround me in service. This work is not for everyone but as AA's tend to do, we often sell ourselves short. We feel as if we haven't been sober long enough, or that we are just unworthy of the job. Sometimes I just want to shout the message from the rooftops that there is this whole other side of AA that is fueled by all of these awesome people. All of you, GSR's, Committee Chairs and especially our District Officers, my hat is off to you. When it comes to service, I feel great and that is only because I am surrounded by GREATNESS.

Thank you all and God bless.

In Love and Service, Your DCM
George Thomas
Thank you for your service,

See all human behavior as one of two things: either love or a call for love.

Marianne Williamson

With these simple words, author, activist, and spiritual leader Marianne Williamson exposes the very heart of empathy and compassion. It's easy to let feelings of anger, blame, or judgment cause animosity with others. But if we take a moment to analyze the behavior of those around us, Williamson suggests, we're likely to notice

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that they are either acting out of love or the deeply human fear of living without it. We can always shift perspective and choose to view each other empathetically, recognizing that all human beings are searching for love and belonging.

STEP THREE

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.”

From Takethetwelve.com:

STEP SUMMARY

Decisions are wonderful. Decision is defined as “making up one’s own mind.” Decisions resolve conflicts. For many, the conflict over drinking and not wanting to drink made a third step decision relatively simple. We were happy to turn over our drinking problem to God as we understood God. However, for many of us, we were not so willing to turn over other areas of our lives so readily.

This step helps shift our mindset from thinking directly into action. It opens the door to conforming our will to that of our Higher Power’s. Step 3 is the first step that requires real and continuous action. The first two steps focus on reflection and introspection. In Step 2, we learned to believe in a Power greater than ourselves (some call that faith). Step 3 allows us the place to solidify and act on our newfound faith in ways we never knew possible before coming to the rooms – some call that *trust*.

Have you ever wondered WHY (*in the Third Step Prayer*) we “offer ourselves to Thee?” Answer: So our Higher Power can “build with us and do with us as it will.” Have you ever wondered WHY we ask HP to “relieve us of the bondage of self?” Answer: So that “we may better do HP’s will.” Have you ever wondered WHY we ask HP to “take away our difficulties?” Answer: So that we fully understand that “victory over them may bear witness to those we would help of HP’s power, love and way of life.”

I heard someone share in a meeting once about Step 3 that it’s like when you take your car to a mechanic to have them fix or service it. You trust that they will be able to get it all tuned up and ready to give back to you. They don’t want to KEEP your car, they just want to get it in good working order so you can move on down the road. Making the decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God (trusting God) is much the same thing.

As we’ve learned in our basic text, the spiritual life is not a theory – we must live it. This means we need to begin putting in practice those things that will ultimately be the foundation to the personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism (*once again proving that alcohol is not now, nor has it ever been the problem*). It has been said that “We thought faith said, “I’ll take away the pain and discomfort,” but what it ended up really saying was, “I’ll sit with you in it. I’m here with you and we can walk through this together.”

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*Father of light,
Give us wisdom to know You,
Intelligence to understand You,
Courage to seek You,
Patience to wait for You,
Eyes to see You,
A heart to meditate on You,
And a life to proclaim You.*

THIRD TRADITION

Long Form:

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

From Takethe12.com:

DESIRE IS ALL YOU NEED

Simplicity and perspective are the words that describe the third tradition. I work the third tradition in a personal way by eliminating all my desires in life other than pursuing sobriety.

There is nothing wrong in wanting emotional and financial security. However, when I make obsessions of these goals rather than seeing them as the by-products of giving service in working a program

whose goal is to pursue sobriety – I’m screwed.

Whenever I complicate my life by having any goal other than pursuing sobriety, I notice that I become ungrateful and take it for granted. Thus, the beauty of the third tradition is that it restores perspective through an attitude of gratefulness for the miracle of my sobriety. The third tradition suggests to me that that I surrender all of the requirements and expectations I have in life beyond sobriety. Emotional and financial successes are the result of being of service. But when these are things that I demand in my relationships with God and others, then I have lost the simplicity and perspective envisioned in the third tradition.

Step-Tradition Parallel:

The relationship of the third tradition to the third step is a profound one. The third step poses the question: What do I need to do in order to turn my will and my life over to the loving care of God as we understand him? The tradition answers the problem posed in the third step. The only requirement I need to fulfill in order to turn my will and my life over to God’s loving care is a desire to stop drinking. It is unbelievable that all the power of the universe is available to care for me if I only have one desire: to stay sober.

(Excerpts from the text above come from the Traditions Study developed by the Unity Insures Recovery Through Service A.A. Group, Los Angeles, CA.)

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As Bill Sees It:

Companion and Partner "Dr. Bob was my constant companion and partner in the great A.A. adventure. As the physician and great human being that he was, he chose work with others as his prime A.A. vocation and achieved a record which, in quantity and in quality, none will ever surpass. Assisted by the incomparable Sister Ignatia at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, he—without charge—medically treated and spiritually infused five thousand sufferers. "In all the stress and strain of A.A.'s pioneering time, no hard word ever passed between us. For this, I can thankfully say that the credit was all his." I took my leave of Dr. Bob, knowing that he was to undergo a serious operation. The old, broad smile was on his face as he said almost jokingly, "Remember, Bill, let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple!" I turned away, unable to say a word. That was the last time I ever saw him. 1. LETTER, 1966 2. A.A. COMES OF AGE, P. 214.

WHAT'S NEW ON AA.ORG:

The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour. Featuring AA members Don and Sam. Starting on October 4, 2021 with a new episode each Monday. Each week Don and Sam will interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner. Special features will enhance each episode.

A new podcast episode will be available in English every Monday. To hear the podcasts go to aagrapevine.org/podcast

EVENTS:

APRIL 2022

2022 SWTA 68 PRE-GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE – IN PERSON

April 1 – 3, 2022

Embassy Suites by Hilton, NW I-10 7750
Briaridge, San Antonio, TX
Hosted by Districts: 1F, 16, 1A, 17, 18, 28
SWTA 68

Pre-General Service Conference "A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service"

Embassy Suites by Hilton, NW I-10 7750
Briaridge San Antonio, TX 78230

210-340-5421 Group Code: SWTA 68 2
Room Suite-1 King Bed Non-Smoking -
\$134.00

46TH TEXAS WOMAN TO WOMAN CONFERENCE

April 8, 9 & 10, 2022

Bridging the Gap between AA & Al-Anon Women for the past 46 years.

Conference Site: Texas 4-H Center, 5600
FM 3201, Brownwood, Texas 76801

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Online registration available using Paypal:
www.texaswomantowoman.org

OCTOBER 2022

SWRAASA 2022

October 7 - October 9, 2022

Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous
Service Assembly 2022

Location: Renaissance Hotel Tulsa, 6808 S
107th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133

Website: www.swraasa.org

*Into Your hands, O Lord, I praise this joy,
this sorrow, this problem, this decision.*

*Into Your hands I praise each moment as it
comes, each event You send to me.*

*Into Your hands I put this thing I have to do
or suffer.*

Into Your hands this love, this responsibility.

*Into Your hands this weakness, this defect,
this failure, this wrong thing that I have
done.*

*And so, finally, into Your hands I place my
life as a whole, all that I am; be it done
according to Your will.*

LOCAL INFORMATION:

Speaker Meeting Lineup for New Braunfels Group:

March 19th: Sam Shae Deas: She's super
hard to book but we got her

April 16th: Jason Wooldridge, son of Kim
and Dan

May 21st: Connie Hayes

*We hope you can join us for these meetings
@ 7:00 on the dates referenced above. If
you're interested in telling your story,
Please contact Brandie J on her cell, 210-
667-7987. Thank you!*

Canyon Lakes Groups 12th Annual Campout

March 25th, 26th, 27th, Mountain Breeze
Campground; for more information call Jim
M. 830-281-1171 or John B. 731-467-2141

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 ... after
all, we can't have a conscience without a
group! ;-)

*(Attendance is mandatory for service
members.)*

Sober on the Square Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Cigar Vault San Marcos, 122 N. LBJ, San Marcos, Texas 78666, Date and Time: Wednesday Nights from 10-11 PM, 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
Passcode: 24Eikel (case sensitive)
Tuesdays-12&12 Study, 12:15-1:15
Thursdays-Big Book Study 12:15-1:15
ID: 9561549506 Password: 123456

NEW

Sunday Meeting at 5:30 at the 24 Club on
W. Eikel Street in New Braunfels



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