

# Monthly Newsletter


AREA 68 AA-SWTA

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DISTRICT 2

## Hey District 2 AA!

### **Holiday Cheer is Here!**



As the year draws to a close and the holiday season ramps up, remember to keep it simple and cherish the togetherness with your family and friends. This festive period is a time to reflect on the wonderful moments and accomplishments we've shared over the past year and to plan for the exciting opportunities ahead. Let's embrace the joy, love and warmth that this season brings and look forward to a bright and prosperous New Year.

Happy Holidays to all of you! 

In November we had a packed agenda that included a guest speaker, Gary, the manager of the Hill Country Intergroup Austin (HCIA), and discussions on pending decisions for District 2's treasury. If you missed it, the committee approved the following donations last month:

- \$1,500 from the District 2 general fund to HCIA
- \$3,000 from the District 2 general fund to SWTA 68 General Fund
- \$3,000 from the District 2 Correctional Facility Fund to SWTA 68 Correctional Facility Fund

Since our district meeting in November, Kristi S. our treasurer, **got busy** and reached out to several county and state correctional facilities to inquire about their need for AA literature within District 2. The response from the program officials was overwhelming! All together \$3,900 worth of Big Books, 12x12s, plain language Big Books,

and Grapevines went out to the county jails in Comal, Guadalupe, and Hays as well as correctional facilities in Kyle and Lockhart. Great job, Kristi!  

Given this positive response, Kristi and I decided to hold off on sending the \$3,000 from the Correctional Facility Fund since she successfully utilized much of that resource for literature that was much needed.

Looking ahead, we plan to keep things light for December and hit the ground running in January. Our next district meeting will be on Sunday, January 12th, and the following weekend we will have the winter workshop in Kerrville. Please remember to book your room early and submit requests for GSR scholarships as soon as possible.

I have invited Tony R. who is currently serving as our Alternate Area Chair, to be a guest speaker. I've asked him to initiate the conversation about what a healthy district size should be and to discuss potential approaches for splitting the district if the committee decided to pursue that option.

The December meeting will also be our annual cookie exchange, so start digging out those recipes! Please bring two dozen cookies to share and a container to take some home in.

Gratefully in service,  
Cheryl B.  
District 2 DCM

For more information regarding the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts click [HERE](#).

### In this newsletter:

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## Step 12

“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.”

“Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress.”

### **The one thing I need to know about Step 12:**

Go Give It Away.

**Principle of this step:** Service

**What can I surrender in this Step?**

1. Fear that I don't have anything to give
2. Laziness in practicing these principles in all my affairs

## Step Summary

This step is divided into three 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.

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## Myths About This Step

You're fully cured once you get through all 12 steps. TRUTH: There is no cure for alcoholism – for the physiological chemical imbalance in the body (the allergy) that causes an alcoholic to develop the phenomenon of craving once alcohol enters their system. One CAN become recovered however from the seemingly hopeless state of mind and body that is found in every alcoholic. Through an active taking of the 12 Steps, the alcoholic can find a life beyond their wildest dreams.

### Step Checklist

1. I have an alcoholic[s] (sponsee[s]) that I am teaching how to take the 12 Steps and teaching them how to teach others to take them?
2. I am willing today to understand the difference between sharing my experience and my opinion. (Thought behind this statement: "You can debate my opinion all you want to, but you can't debate my experience because it happened to me.")
3. I am willing to go to any lengths today to maintain my spiritual condition.
4. I am willing to go to any lengths today to carry this message to other alcoholics.
5. I am willing to practice every one of the spiritual principles found in our 12 Steps: Honesty, Hope, Faith, Courage, Integrity, Willingness, Humility, Love, Discipline, Perseverance, Awareness and Service in all my affairs today.

**"It is in the giving of it away that we get to keep it."**

## 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.

**"The only problem we ever really have is separation from God."**

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## Tradition 12

**Short Form:** “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

**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.”

**Overriding Idea:** Principles First - People Second

**Principle:** Principles B4 Personalities

## Concept 12

**Short Form:** “The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

**Long Form:** 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.

**Principle:** Spirituality

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## EVENTS

- District 2 Meeting: December 8th 2-4pm;
  - 1142 W. Eikel St., New Braunfels, TX
  - Zoom ID: 885 4161 6176; PW: 459033
- July 3-6, 2025: International Convention
  - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
  - Registration or Reservation questions call (514) 380-9375 (9am - 5pm EST) or email 20251C@showcarw.com
  - Convention related questions, call G.S.O. (212)870-2025

## LOCAL INFORMATION

- **New Braunfels Group**
    - Birthday Night: December 7th; to celebrate the previous month's birthdays. Put your name up on the whiteboard. Potluck 6pm (arrive with food by 5:45pm)
      - Celebration 7pm
    - Wednesday December 11th 6-7pm
      - Annual A.A./Al-Anon Christmas Dinner
      - Text Becky to sign up
    - December 14th 8pm
      - Campfire meeting out back of the 2-4 Club
    - December 15th;
      - Group Conscience: meets at 12:15pm every 3rd Sunday of the month. All members of The NB Group are encouraged to attend. Attendance is mandatory for service members.
    - Zoom
      - Noon every day M - F
      - Meeting ID: 86494683219
      - PW: 24Eikel
    - Sober Watch
      - Christmas Dec. 24th 5:30pm till Dec. 25th 5:30pm
      - New Years. Dec. 31st 5:30pm till Jan. 1st 5:30pm
      - Potluck on Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st at 1pm
    - Every Monday Night 7pm Beginners Speaker Meeting
    - December 21st 7pm: Speaker Meeting
    - December 28th: 7-8 pm: Area 68-PI-CPC Committee meeting
      - Zoom info: Meeting ID: 872 2638 6440 PW:PICPC68
      - Questions: contact Kaylyn J. (512) 994-5194 or pi-cpc@aa-swta.org
  - **Into Action Group** December 15th (1302 South Main St., Lockhart, TX 78644):
    - Hee Haw Concept Meeting
    - 3rd Sunday of each month; 6pm
  - **Gruene Rd. Group:** (GSR: Becky B. (281) 705-2041)
    - Last Saturday of each month 10am
    - Birthday celebration. CAKE!
  - **Windmill Women's Meeting** (Windmill Wellness Ranch, 26229 N Cranes Mill Rd., Canyon Lake)
  - **Dam River Group** (121 Spring Mountain Dr., Canyon Lake):
    - Tuesday night of each month 6:30pm
    - Big Book Study
  - **Promises Group** (701 Roland Lane, Kyle 70640)
    - GSR: Tom V.
    - Tuesdays 6pm: Big Book Study
    - 1st Thursday of every month 6pm: Birthday Night - CAKE!!
    - This is a small group, so let's show them our support!
  - **Seeds of Grace Group** (Hillside Fellowship Church, 7055 US Highway 281 N, Spring Branch, TX 78070). **We celebrate birthdays at every meeting.**
    - Every Tuesday morning 8:30am - 9:30am.
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## Letter From General Service Board

To: GSRs, Alt GSRs, DCMs and Chairs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Alt Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Non-trustee Directors, Trustees, GSO Employees, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts

Dear A.A. Friends:

The response to the release of the Plain Language Big Book has been heartwarming. The initial print run of just over 70,000 copies sold out in only two weeks!

In preparation for a second printing, the General Service Board noted revisions that better align with the 74th General Service Conference's recommendation (Advisory Action) to move ahead with the printing of the book.

Prior to the first printing, the General Service Board made adjustments to align with the Conference's direction. However, the Board now realizes the adjustments that were made fell short. A regrettable and unintentional mistake had been made. We have worked together to correct those mistakes quickly.

The changes outlined below may be very consequential for some, and less significant for others, but the Board feels responsible to see that the Advisory Action from the Conference is carried out.

In addition to the changes to the text of the Plain Language Big Book outlined below, the language on the back flap will be amended to better reflect the progress of this project. The third sentence will now read, "The 72nd GSC reviewed a progress report, and sample chapters were reviewed at the 73rd GSC."

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused any of our members, and I appreciate your patience and understanding. The order for the second printing has been placed to include the changes outlined below. We expect the book to be back in stock in approximately 4-6 weeks.

Thank you again for your understanding. I hope you find the Plain Language Big Book a useful tool for reading the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and helpful with carrying our life saving message.

Scott H.

Chair, General Service Board

- On page 64, remove the sentence "It seems to control and punish people who are addicted to it" from the last paragraph.
- On page 9, remove the definition of "Addiction" from the Glossary section.
- On page 11, revise the sentence "Dr. Silkworth ran the Charles B. Towns Hospital for Drug and Alcohol Addictions in New York City during the 1930s." To read:
  - "Dr. Silkworth ran the Charles B. Towns Hospital for alcoholism and drug addiction in New York City during the 1930s."
- On page 14, revise the sentence "I help people recover from their alcohol and drug addictions" To read:
  - "I help people recover from their alcoholism and drug addiction."
- "On page 139, revise the sentence "In one of these cities there is a well-known hospital for the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction." To read:
  - "In one of these cities there is a well-known hospital for the treatment of alcoholism."

## **Announcement on Service Manual**

Dear A.A. Friends,

We are delighted to announce that the new A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service: 2024-2026 Edition, Revised and Updated (Item BM-31) is now available in digital format.

NOTE: French and Spanish digital editions will follow.

Print editions will be coming off press soon, and we will update you when they are available for ordering.

With all best A.A. wishes,

David R.  
Publishing Director

Karina C.  
Group Services Staff coordinator

Malini Singh  
Director of Operations.