

Monthly Newsletter

AREA 68 AA-SWTA

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DISTRICT 2

Hey everyone from District 2 AA!

Can you believe it? Pumpkin Spice season is almost here!

In case you missed it, our Area Delegate K.C. H. shared some exciting updates from the April General Service Conference in New York:

- **56% of the agenda items** were approved and turned into advisory actions.
- **Finance Update:** As of March 31st, AAWS's prudent reserve stands at 6.29 months of operating expenses, down from the usual 9 months. Expenses are up, and contributions are down.
- The annual individual contribution limit has been **increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500.**
- The **Plain Language Big Book** will be available in Nov. 2024 for \$11.00
- The **5th Edition Big Book** will be ready for the international convention in 2025.

The **International Convention registration** opens on Tuesday, Sept. 10th. More details on registration and housing can be found on AAWS's website.

Mark your calendars:

- **District 2 picnic** is on Sept. 21st. Spread the word at your meetings and encourage everyone to join! Michael M. from Wimberly will be our speaker.

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- The **Area Voting Assembly** is Oct. 4-6 in Victoria, TX. GSRs, make sure you're registered for both the conference and hotel rooms. We'll be voting on:
 - 3 proposals for Agenda Items
 - Funding for the delegate to attend the General Service Conference
 - Election for a Trustee at Large (Class B Alcoholic) to replace Marita R. in April 2025
- **SWRAASA 2024** is almost here! It's being held on Oct. 11-13 in Richardson, TX. All are welcome that want to learn more about service work.

Treasury Discussion: Last month, it was brought to my attention that our district has a surplus in the treasury. Instead of discussing it then, I suggested we table it for the Sept. agenda. Since then, I've had productive conversations with our area delegate, chair and treasurer. Here are some proposals to either spend down or share the funds:

1. **Support Local Initiatives:** Allocate funds to support local AA groups or service committees.
2. **Literature Distribution:** Purchase and distribute AA literature to hospitals, libraries, and other public places.
3. **Event Sponsorship:** Use the funds to sponsor AA events, hospitality suite, or workshops to enhance member engagement and education.
4. **Scholarships for Conferences:** Provide scholarships for members who may not be able to afford important AA conferences or events.

In this newsletter:

Step 9

Tradition 9

Concept 9

Upcoming
Events

Local
Information

I look forward to discussing these ideas with everyone next week!
Gratefully in Service,
Cheryl B.

Step 9

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

The one thing I need to know about Step 9:

The action continues.

What can I surrender in this Step?

Principle of this step:

1. My hesitation to take action,
and

Discipline

2. Fear they won't accept my
amends, and

3. Fear of the outcome

Step Summary

Step 9 is about taking action and making amends through identifying hurt or harm caused and then finding out how we can make it right to those we have harmed with our drinking/thinking. Remember: It's not about saying "I'm sorry." This step will provide us with peace of mind, relief and liberation from the chains of regret. "The readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine." (12 & 12)

That said, it also says on the top of Page 77 in the BB (4th Edition), that the "real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." I don't know how much clearer Bill could be on this Step.

The choice is ours... Do we want more of what brought us to AA ... "We were having trouble with personal relationships, we couldn't control our emotional natures, we were a prey to misery and depression, we couldn't make a living, we had a feeling of uselessness, we were full of fear, we were unhappy, we couldn't seem to be of real help to other people..." 3rd ed. Big Book pg. 52 – OR do we want freedom from the bondage of the flaws in our character that caused our failure in the first place?

If we've been "very careful & thorough" (painstaking) about this part of our growth, we're promised that several things (13 to be exact) will happen for and to us. 1.) We are going to know a new freedom 2.) and a new happiness. 3.) We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. 4.) We will comprehend the word serenity, and 5.) we will know peace. 6.) No matter how far down the scale we have gone; we will see how our experience can benefit others. 7.) That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. 8.) We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. 9.) Self-seeking will slip away. 10.) Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. 11.) Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. (Be careful not to believe that economic insecurity itself will leave us with this promise – the FEAR OF IT will leave us) 12.) We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us, and 13.) We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Myths About This Step

- We have to disclose every detail of our mistakes. Full disclosure may harm the one with whom we are making amends, or quite often, other people. It won't make us feel any better to increase the burden of another.
- It's about getting them to like you again. This Step is not about getting back in the good graces of those we've harmed – it's about our willingness to do the footwork, take the action, and leave the results up to God. We're not in charge of the outcome, only the work to get us there.

Step Checklist

1. Do you understand that one of the main components of Step 9 is to take action and make right those harms you have caused others with your drinking?
2. Do you understand that this step will provide you with peace of mind, relief and liberation from the chains of regret?
3. Are you ready to take the full consequences of your past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others?
4. Are you ready to use good judgment, have a careful sense of timing, and to be courageous and cautious?
5. Are you prepared to take your time, not say anything that will harm others, and not mistake "carefulness" for avoidance?
6. Are you now fully ready to fit yourself to be of maximum service to God and to the people about you?
7. Are you really ready to go to any lengths to find a spiritual experience?
8. Are you ready to admit that God can't do for you what you CAN do for yourself because you understand that God has God's job, and you have yours?
9. Are you ready to admit that God CAN do for you what you can't do for yourself?
10. Have you begun the process of your amends from Step 8?

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

Step-Tradition Parallel

The first nine steps delivered us from the bondage of our past experiences with alcohol. We finally arrived at the place where we could say to ourselves, "I have totally faced my past. And there is nothing left in my past that I'm ashamed of. There's nothing left that hurts anymore. There's nothing left in my past that's painful. There's nothing left in my past I need to forgive or need to be forgiven for. I'm at total oneness and peace with my past." Well, that's a tremendous statement to be able to say. That's an enormous statement for any person to be able to say about their life. And that's what the first nine steps give us. And the ninth tradition assures me that once my ninth step amends have been made, I will be led to that profound place of peace I have always sought in my life: divine order.

The ninth tradition not only contains the secret of divine order but also contains the personal principle that will keep an alcoholic like me in divine order. It is so simple. I give up control. I stop organizing myself. I stop trying to organize God into my limited ideas of order.

How does this ninth tradition relate to the ninth step? My life gets unimpeded flow of divine love in a triangle consisting of you, myself and God. Whenever the divine order of that relationship is disturbed, I can restore order by making the unmade amend that put my life out of order. The ninth step poses the question, "After making amends, how do I stay reconciled with you today?" The ninth tradition answers that question by implying that I remain in the divine order by not organizing you, myself or God and spontaneously being of service to you and God.

Tradition 9

Short Form: "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Long Form: "Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

Concept 9

We Lead to Serve Rather Than Leading to Govern

As we study the Concepts, the ninth change that is taking place in us is that we understand we must become selfless leaders.

What are the changes that need to take place in our lives in the ninth concept in order to serve as good leaders? We need to surrender old ideas about leadership and be willing to put aside any personal ambitions, feuds, and controversies that prevent us from offering effective leadership.

We need to become a spiritual example, someone who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that others want to back us up and help us with our job.

EVENTS

- September 6-7: Bill W. Round-Up
 - See flyer
- September 8: Wimberly Group 12-step Workshop
 - 12-2 pm www.wimberlygroup.org
- October 4-6: Southwest TX Area 68 Fall Assembly & Conference
 - See flyer
- October 4-6: 40th Annual Fellowship in the Pines
 - See flyer
- October 11-13: SWRAASA SW Regional AW Service Assembly
 - 900 E Lookout Dr. Richardson, TX 75082
- October 26: Weekend in San Antonio with A.A.
 - See flyer
- Last Saturday of every month: 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

LOCAL INFORMATION

- **New Braunfels Group Conscience**
 - Meets at 12:15 pm every 3rd Sunday of the month. All members of New Braunfels Group AA are encouraged to attend. Attendance is mandatory for service members.
 - **Hee-Haw Concept Meetings**
 - Third Monday of each month at 6pm. Into Action group: 1302 South Main, Lockhart, TX 78644
 - **Beginners Speaker Meetings**
 - Monday at 7pm, 1142 East Eikel
 - **Windmill Women's Meeting**
 - Saturday 7-8pm, Windmill Wellness Ranch, 26229 N Cranes Mill Rd, Canyon Lake
 - **NB Group Zoom**
 - Noon every day except Saturday. Meeting ID: 864 9468 3219 PW: 24Eikel
 - **District 2 Area Zoom Meetings**
 - Second Sunday 2-4pm Jan. 14 to Dec. 14, 2025
 - **Service Opportunity**
 - The Central Service Office Helpline Committee has volunteer shifts open. Friday 9am-1pm and Thursday 1pm-5pm, may work at CSO or from home. After hours helpline chairperson: Requires 1 year sobriety, a home group, and regular meeting attendance.
 - Questions: contact Virginia B. (210) 821-6325 or grpserve2019@att.net
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