
March Newsletter




Hello District 2 AA,

 Welcoming the Vibrance of March 

As March unfolds, it's a time of renewal and growth, ushering in the first blooms of spring and the promise of brighter days ahead. Let's carry forward the love and compassion we celebrated in February, infusing it with the energy and optimism of a new season.

With winter's chill giving way to spring's warmth, it's the perfect moment to nurture the world and ourselves. Take inspiration from nature—embrace new beginnings, let go of what no longer serves you, and allow yourself to bloom.

Let's make this March a month of kindness, growth, and hope, whether it's soaking in the sun, planting something new (literally or figuratively), or simply pausing to appreciate the beauty of change. 

During the district meeting in February, we reviewed several of the Preliminary Agenda Items (PAI's) for the April General Service Conference (GSC). Please note that the final list, along with the background information, has now been published. This update includes the removal of some PIA's and the addition of new ones. You can find this information on Area 68's website under the Delegate's Corner at <https://www.aa-swta.org/> using the password **Panel74**.

Additionally, we discussed a proposal for introducing a process for presenting a Proposed Agenda Item to SWTA 68 for the GSC. This process will be included in the Area Service Structure and Procedures Manual.

For the upcoming March District Meeting, we will continue to review the final agenda items, and I will do my best to answer any questions GSR's may have. I would like to take a moment to discuss the controversial topic regarding the Founder's Writings. Many members of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) believe that past changes to the original text were made hastily and not communicated effectively within the AA Fellowship. Consequently, there are two agenda items proposed for the upcoming General Service Conference (GSC) aimed at addressing this issue.

Agenda Item #36

Propose that an Advisory Action be issued requiring any future motion voted on by the General Service Conference to change or amend the Founders Literature to obtain a Super Majority for passage.

This policy would require substantial unanimity on any changes to...

- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, including, but not limited to, the first 164 pages, the Preface, the Forwards, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendix "Spiritual Experience."

Agenda Item #81

Add to AA's Current Conference Charter under article #3 that A.A.W.S. and Grapevine publications of pre-1972 "Founders Writings" have no contextual changes to their writings without a supermajority of $\frac{3}{4}$ approval from the full General Service Conference.

This includes but is not limited to AAWS publications of the books:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book), specifically The Doctor's Opinion, the first 164 pages of two stories, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, along with AA Number Three and Appendix II Spiritual Experience,
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
- As Bill Sees It,
- Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age,
- Our Great Responsibility,
- Twelve Concepts essays currently in the Service Manual
- AAWS pamphlets: Problems other than Alcohol and Let's be Friendly with Our Friends, etc.
- Grapevine publications, Language of the Heart and Best of Bill along with any archival articles pre-1972 written by our Founders, both Alcoholic: Bill W., Dr. Bob S., Hank P., Bobbie B., etc., and non-alcoholic: Dr. Silkworth, Father Dowling, Dr. Harry Tiebout, Bernard Smith, Frank Amos, etc.

FAQs - As a member of AA, you might be asking?

How would this work in reality?

The English-language versions of the Founders' Literature may not be changed or amended by the GSC without first obtaining the consent of the AA groups in the US and Canada. These groups will be properly notified of any proposed changes and will have no less than six months to consider them. Additionally, before any action is taken by the Conference to change or amend the English-language versions of the Founders' Literature, it is required to receive written consent from three-fourths of the respondents within the allotted time.

What is considered a Super Majority?

There are an estimated 71,000+ groups in the US and Canada. A three-fourths majority would mean that approximately 53,000 or more groups would need to respond in favor of a proposal for it to pass.

One of the agenda items proposes a worldwide supermajority, consisting of an estimated 123,000 groups. It is important to note that, currently, there is no documented process for carrying out worldwide communications.

As a reminder, GSRs should discuss proposed agenda items for the area along with any items for the General Service Conference (GSC) that they believe their respective groups would find significant in order to gather an informed group conscience.

Here's some information on other things going on...

The picnic committee has confirmed the date and location in Lockhart, TX. Please see the flyer for more information. If you're interested in helping with the planning, reach out to Don B., Alternate DCM, for more details.

This week I will be hosting an initial Zoom meeting this Thursday at 7pm to begin planning for a service-related workshop in the summer. If anyone is interested in getting involved, contact Cheryl B., DCM. More details to follow on that soon.

Have you heard about the new AAWS podcast, "Our Primary Purpose"? Season 1 has released 8 episodes, including one that provides more information about the Plain Language Big Book. I've listened to a couple of episodes so far and learned some valuable insights regarding the service structure and the operations of the General Service Office (GSO).

One interesting fact is that the accounting group at the GSO processes about 4,000 physical checks each month. If they cannot verify that a check is from a member of AA, they return it with a letter explaining the reason. This means that if an individual sends a contribution directly to the GSO, they must indicate that they are a member of AA for the payment to be accepted.

I believe K.C. H., our Area Delegate, will be polling the Area at the voting conference later this month. Please listen so he can share our thoughts with the GSC in April.

Lastly, I wanted to share my experience attending an informative workshop in San Antonio on Safety in AA meetings, presented by members of the Area Accessibilities Committee. Topics covered included addressing integration issues, managing disruptions, and recognizing predatory behavior, both in person and online.

Some Key Takeaways Include:

- Safety has been an issue in AA since 1936, beginning with integration concerns, such as allowing women and people of color to attend meetings.
- Today, integration issues persist, now addressing LGBTQ+ individuals, members of non-English speaking communities, etc.
- Handling disruptions - If someone shows up to a meeting intoxicated, be kind and remember the safest place for them is in the rooms of AA; however, this does not give a license for them to harm the unity of the group.
- Predatory behaviors like sexual harassment/assault, bullying, and discrimination. Concerns should be reported to the proper authorities. Remember, just because we are anonymous doesn't mean individuals get to treat others poorly or, worse, commit a crime.
- We should do our best to balance safety with inclusiveness!!

The Pre-General Service Assembly is coming up at the end of this month in Laredo, TX. If you have not booked a room already, please do so ASAP! Any GSRs requiring a scholarship should make those requests at the March meeting.

Gratefully in service,
Cheryl B.
District 2 DCM

Step 3

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

Spiritual Principle of Step: FAITH

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.”

What Can I Surrender in this Step?

- 1.) The person I was before taking these Steps.
- 2.) My belief that I know better than God what is right for me.

MYTHS ABOUT THIS STEP

If you depend on a higher power, you will lose your individuality. On the contrary, turning our will over to a Higher Power leads to true independence of the spirit. As we practice being conscious of a Higher Power, it will gradually turn from a hunch or occasional inspiration to an active, working part of our mind.

--TRADITION 3--

Short Form:

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Long Form:

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

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.

--CONCEPT 3--

Short Form:

“To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Long Form:

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Principle of Concept:

TRUST

One thing you need to know:

Trusted Servants Have a Right Decision

Trusted Servants Have a Right of Decision

There will be times where we’ll need to trust our trusted servants to make decisions without a group or service entities approval. Concept 1 & Concept 2 by themselves cannot ensure smooth operation of A.A. business. There will be times that full facts (additional background information) and debate not available to groups, will help further inform our trusted servants and their decisions (and their votes on our behalf).

Those decisions may ultimately differ from original consciences’s given to them when we ask them to vote on our behalf – but those differently made decisions are vital in allowing them to be more than mere messengers. They have a brain, let’s let them use it.

LOCAL INFORMATION

Into Action Group - Lockhart
March 8th 6pm
Speaker Meeting (speaker TBD)

New Braunfels Group
March 15th 7pm Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Clay A.

Canyon Lake Group's 15th Annual Campout 2025
March 21,22,23
Mountain Breeze Campground
9250 River Road
New Braunfels, TX
For information call: George T. (512) 850-8953 or
John B. (731) 467-2141

New Braunfels Group
Birthday Night
4/5
6pm Potluck (bring your dish by 5:45)
7pm Celebration.

Seguin Group 78th Anniversary
Chili Cook-off and Cobbler Contest
April 19th 5-11pm
Speaker: Stacy S.
2365 Huber Rd.
Seguin, TX 78155
For information call: Meg P. (618) 660-6660 or
Brian H. (830) 243-8934

Area 68 District 2
Annual Picnic
May 17, 2025 !0-2
Speaker meeting at 11am with lunch afterward
Lockhart City Park
504 E City Park 78644

EVENTS

Southwest Texas Area 68
Pre-General Assembly
March 28-30th
La Posada Hotel
1000 Zargoza St.
Laredo, TX 78040
Room Bock Code: 10W3UX \$139
(956) 722-1701

Spirit of the Pines Weekend Retreat
April 11-13 (4pm 4/11 - 12pm 4/13)
Camp Olympia in Trinity, TX
Registration is open
www.spiritofthepines.org
For information call Angela P. (972) 672-2965

The 90th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrated at the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada, from Thursday July 3rd to Sunday, July 6th, 2025.

- The registration hall will be open on Wednesday.
- The block party will be on Thursday.
- The daytime A.A. meetings will be held on Friday and Saturday throughout the Convention Campus
- The three big meetings will be held at BC Place Stadium, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

For more information go to www.aa-SWTA.org