



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

April 2019

www.district29aa.org



The fourth....

Step — Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition — Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups, or A.A. as a whole.

9th Step Promise — We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace.

Concept — At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Miracle of Gratitude

At the beginning of my sobriety almost seven years ago, my sponsor kept redirecting me every time I complained to her about something terrible happening in my life, and there were of course many, many terrible things going on at that time. She kept asking me to make lists of the things I was grateful for. I did it grudgingly, and it helped, little by little. As time goes on, and my spiritual awakening gradually unfolds, I have realized that for me, gratitude naturally arises when I remind myself to focus on the present moment. I look at the trees on my drive home. I enjoy the physical comforts of life, a warm cup of coffee, or a soft bed. I fully and completely connect with the person in front of me when I interact with other humans (or, you know, pets). When I take a moment of stillness, I can both appreciate the physical reality of my life circumstances and understand that there is something out there that is much bigger than that physical reality, so I don't have to take myself too seriously. In this way my life is an ongoing experience of gratitude, and a sense of well-being I never thought possible before sobriety.

Anonymous

<p align="center">What's Happening, in and around District 29 April 1 through 30, 2019</p>	<p align="center">District Committee</p>
<p>Apr 6 - Speaker Meeting at 8pm at On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville</p>	<p>DCM Debbie M Alt DCM Jan S</p>
<p>Apr 5-7 - SWTA68 Pre General Conference in Seguin, TX</p>	<p>Secretary Open</p>
<p>Apr 13 - Speaker Meeting at 7pm at Lost Pines Group</p>	<p>PICPC Open</p>
<p>Apr 13-14 - Campout hosted by The Chestnut Meeting at Riverbend Park</p>	<p>Treasurer David M</p>
<p>Apr 14 - District Meeting at 1:30pm at Phelan Road Group</p>	<p>Literature Morgan P</p>
<p>Apr 19 - Speaker Meeting at 7:00pm at the Elgin Group</p>	<p>Intergroup Open</p>
<p>Apr 21 - Spring Potluck at 2pm at the Elgin Group followed by an Egg hunt.</p>	<p>Webmaster Michael B</p>
<p>Apr 27 - Summer Workshop Committee Meeting at 10am at Elgin Group</p>	<p>Grapevine Holly H</p>
<p>Apr 27 - Area Birthday hosted by Lost Pines Group</p>	<p>CFC Mike G</p>
<p>Apr 30 - Speaker Mtg. at A Way Out Group at 7pm.</p>	<p>Newsletter Theol J Treatment Open Archives Open</p>

Open District Committee Chair Descriptions

All Committee Chairs attend District 29 meetings monthly, are encouraged to attend SWTA 68 Area Assemblies and other General Service activities to learn what other Service Committee Chairs are doing in their Districts and Groups.

[Intergroup](#)

Participates in intergroup business meetings several times a year to share their groups' experience in carrying the A.A. message. The intergroup representative tries to keep the district well-informed about what the Hill Country Intergroup is doing.

[Archives](#)

Maintains the repository of A.A. related materials primarily relating to the origin and development of A.A. in District 29. Duties include but are not limited to: receives, sorts, indexes and preserves all A.A. related materials pertaining to District 29. Maintains and updates District 29 Group Histories for inclusion in the Archives. Conducts and maintains Oral Interviews of "Old-timers" in District 29.

[Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community \(PI/CPC\)](#)

Distribute A.A. literature/information to the general public and professionals who are in contact with alcoholics. Should be thoroughly familiar with the A.A. program and able to provide consistent and accurate information about the Fellowship. Visits might include schools, local businesses, church and civic groups, clergy, health care providers, lawyers and teachers.

[Treatment](#)

Coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment and outpatient settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the facility to an A.A. group in the individual's community.

District Elections, the Continuing Saga!

This month we start to take a look at the District position. Each of the District Chairs, in District Committee Chairs – The Hill Country 29 vote. We will cover the remaining five Intergruop Representative and Archives chairs in the coming months!

DISTRICT 29 COMMITTEES DESCRIPTIONS

All Committee Chairs attend District 29 monthly meetings and are encouraged to attend SWTA 68 Area Assemblies and other General Service activities to learn what other Service Committee Chairs are doing in their Districts and Groups. Guidelines for all Committees may be found on the A.A. Website at aa.org, except for the Hill Country Intergruop District Chair and those guidelines may be found on the HCIA website at austinaa.org.

Archives

Maintains the repository of A.A. related materials primarily relating to the origin and development of A.A. in District 29. Duties include but are not limited to: receives, sorts, indexes and preserves all A.A. related materials pertaining to District 29. Maintains and updates District 29 Group Histories for inclusion in the Archives. Conducts and maintains oral and/or Interviews of "Old-timers" in District 29.

Hill Country Intergruop Representative

Hill Country Intergruop (HCI) Representative represents District 29 by attendance at monthly HCI meetings. Provides information to the District about local A.A. community events and other events of interest including volunteer opportunities. It is suggested the HCI Representative have a minimum of one year of sobriety.

Area Birthday Locations By Month

- Jan.-Phelan Road Group
- Feb.-LaGrange Gratitude Group
- Mar.-Friday Night Group
- April-Lost Pines Group
- May-Smithville Group
- June-Giddings
- July-On The Colorado (OTC)
- Aug.-LaGrange Colorado Valley
- Sept.-Sunday Morning Sidewalk
- Oct.-The Elgin Group
- Nov.-Smithville Group
- Dec. - Legacies Group

Correctional Facilities Committee

Here in district 29 we desperately need volunteers to help bring the message to Bastrop Count Jail. Michael G., the District 29 Correctional Facility Chair, implores you to come share your experience strength and hope. You will find all the information you need to help and how to contact Michael at webpage <Http://district29aa.org/district-resources/>. Look for the PREA Volunteer Flyer, Jail Volunteer Rules and Volunteer Application.

The corrections committee assists individuals, groups and districts in carrying the AA message to the alcoholics who are confined in, or recently released from jails, prisons, and other correctional facilities. Committee work includes:

- Providing AA Literature to inside AA members and groups
- Serving as a contact for correctional facility administrators to promote cooperation
- Administering a correspondence program focused on sharing the AA message
- Providing AA contacts for inside AA members who are about to be released from their facility
- Increasing awareness of the need for corrections service work

For additional information and to gain “..a clear understanding of what A.A. can and cannot do to help alcoholics — in correctional facilities and after they are released” read A.A. in Correctional Facilities available at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-26_AAinCF.pdf.

Here’s What’s in Stock for You

Howdy District 29! The Literature Chair, Morgan is rounding up the next order of literature! Get in touch with Morgan if you or your group are need literature! If we put together a large enough order the shipping is free. Morgan can be reached through District29Newsletter@gmail.com. Here’s what was is in stock as of March the 11th.

- Large Print Big Book – 2
- 12 Steps and 12 Traditions – 2
- Large Print 12 Steps and 12 Traditions – 2
- Small 12 Steps and 12 Traditions – 1
- Small Spanish 12 Steps and 12 Traditions – 1
- Living Sober – 5
- Experience, Strength and Hope – 1
- As Bill Sees it – 1
- Questions and Answers on Sponsorship -- 9
- Serenity Prayer Cards – 100

District 29 Printed Schedule Addenda

These updates have been added, via a sticker or label, to the existing paper schedules left. If you need schedules please get with your GSR or Debbie M, DCM. If you have updates for your Group’s schedule send them in so we can get the word out and updated on the District 29 website www.drstrict29aa.org.

The Manor Group now meets every Tuesday at 6 pm at 12800 Lexington, Manor, TX in the building behind the main church. This is an Open Discussion Meeting.

Let Go Let God meets every Friday at 7:30 am (yes in the morning) at 1109 N Main Street, Bastrop TX, 78602. This is an Open Literature Meeting

This meeting will be listed in the newsletter as these folks set out to set root as a Group!

The Chestnut Meeting is held each Monday at 6 pm. Folks gather for a Closed Literature Study at 1409 Chestnut St, Bastrop, TX 78602

Alternate DCM Update April 2019 Jan S., Alt. DCM District 29, Panel 68

This report was unveiled Sunday March 10th, 2019 at the District 29 hosted by the Hope Floats Group in Smithville. Updated for publishing in the April 2019 edition of the District 29 Newsletter.

I attended the CFC workshop in Killeen on February 16 to update my certification for Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I always get a rush of energy when I travel with other women in sobriety, half the fun of a trip is what we call “windshield time”, sharing experience, strength and hope in an informal setting. If you haven’t taken an opportunity to do that lately, I highly recommend the experience.

On Monday, March 4th I took the opportunity of visiting the new Chestnut Meeting in Bastrop. I subsequently echoed our DCM’s support and let them know that District 29 stands ready to offer any assistance they may need and encouraged them to send a representative to the upcoming district meeting.

Movie night was held at the Elgin Group on February 17th as a fundraiser for the upcoming July Summer Workshop that District 29 is hosting. We had a great time eating hot dogs and enjoying the movie “First Man”. Many thanks to our Fundraising Committee and to all who donated money and/or attended. Keep your eyes open for fliers announcing upcoming fundraising events.

The March Summer Workshop planning meeting was held on Sunday, March 17th at noon at Mina Lodge (600 Main St. Bastrop) following the Sunday Morning Sidewalk Group meeting. District 29 needs the support of all our groups in this effort, so please let your groups know that all are welcome and needed to help. Please contact Linda D. with your fundraising ideas, or come on out to the meeting and lend a hand in this service; hope to see you there. Come join us at the next planning committee meeting 10 a.m. April 27th at the Elgin Group 124 Fisher Street, Elgin, TX 78621.

In gratitude and love,

Jan S.

And We’ll Have Fun, Fun, Fun During AA Service Today

Our March District 29 meeting was facilitated by our Alt DCM Jan and Dean D., SWTA68 PICPC Chairperson, came to talk to us about "Having Fun in Service". This session was an enlightening view of FUN in AA General Service..... Errrrrrt (or whatever onomatopoeia is for sound a needle scratching across a record – that is if you are geeky enough to have one)!

Did he really say that? FUN in AA General Service? You have got to be kidding me! Just when we were starting – rigorous honesty in the program and all – to think this District 29 Newsletter might be a reasonably credible source! He said – with a straight face – FUN in AA General Service! Indeed, folks! I did say FUN in AA General Service!

Dean D. shared his message, we laughed, we shared what fun we have had in AA general service! Laughter filled the room, most of the time! Some of the time we simply reflected on friends met across Texas as part of AA General Service. We talked about the peace and joy to be had as a result of meeting folks and having fun in AA General Service! There was no denying by the end of our time that AA General Service can be fun and rewarding. We also learned that while AA General Service is not everyone’s cup of tea, there are plenty of other ways to be of service, find one that’s fun for you!

A great big District 29 thank you Dean D for coming up from the Rio Grande Valley to share a bit of fun and positivity with us! Dean D. thanks for leaving us with a smile and for taking us from 🤔 to 😍 !

Dean D. left us with the article “Confessions of a General Service Geek” shared next. He also left us with an AA questionnaire which we will include in this newsletter next month, giving you plenty of time to dust off your AA thinking caps.

Web Exclusive: Confessions of a General Service Geek

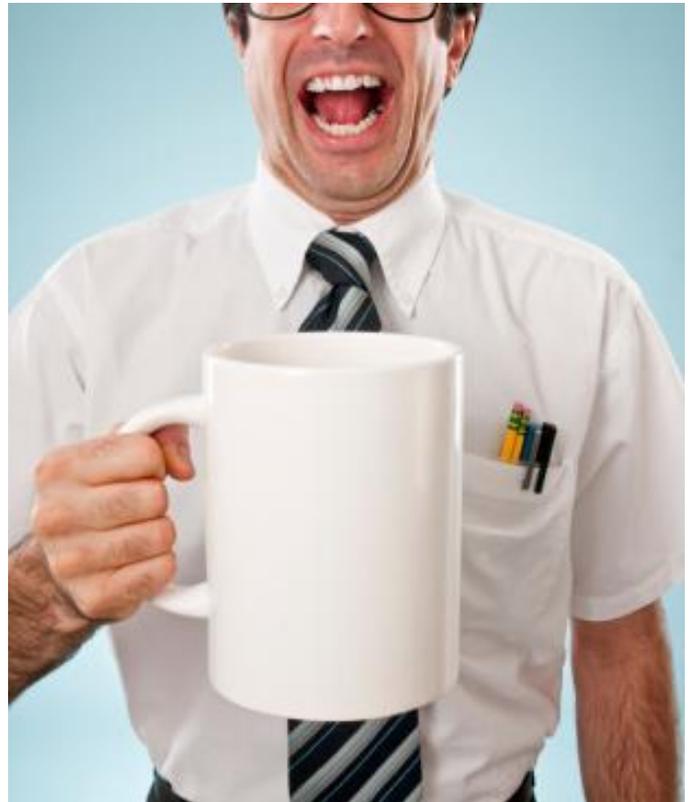
Published March 2011 as a Grapevine Web Exclusive. Available at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/feature/276>.

Don't be afraid. You can love General Service too.

"Don't be ashamed of your geekitude, embrace it! Be it!"

I am that strange breed of AA animal called a General Service Geek. I actually can pinpoint the exact moment when my geekiness was birthed. I had been sober for a year and a half and thought I knew everything there was to know about AA, the Twelve Steps, and Twelve Traditions, yada yada yada. Then I got a sponsor who started to talk about the Twelve Concepts and warranties and charters and all those strange acronyms I had never come across before. I was intrigued that there was a huge part of AA that I had somehow been completely ignorant about.

In hindsight there were telltale signs that I destined for general service. One was that I actually enjoyed business meetings. The first home group I belonged to had a simply phenomenal business meeting. I came to my first one with a written list (!) of things I thought the group should change about the way they ran their meeting. Instead of dismissing me as a confused and arrogant newbie, they listened to each and every one of my concerns and discussed them thoroughly (before voting them all down!). I was most impressed by how the group actually did place principles before personalities. I got to see how the traditions really can and do work in a group. One of the most remarkable things I experienced was when I was arguing heatedly with a member of the group about some matter of earth-shattering importance (like how much coffee we should make) and he all of a sudden heard something that clicked and immediately changed his mind and his vote. I was floored. I would *never* do that. I would be in an argument, knowing I was wrong, and yet still keep pleading my case. To really listen to other viewpoints and honestly assess them alongside my own was a skill I learned in AA business meetings.



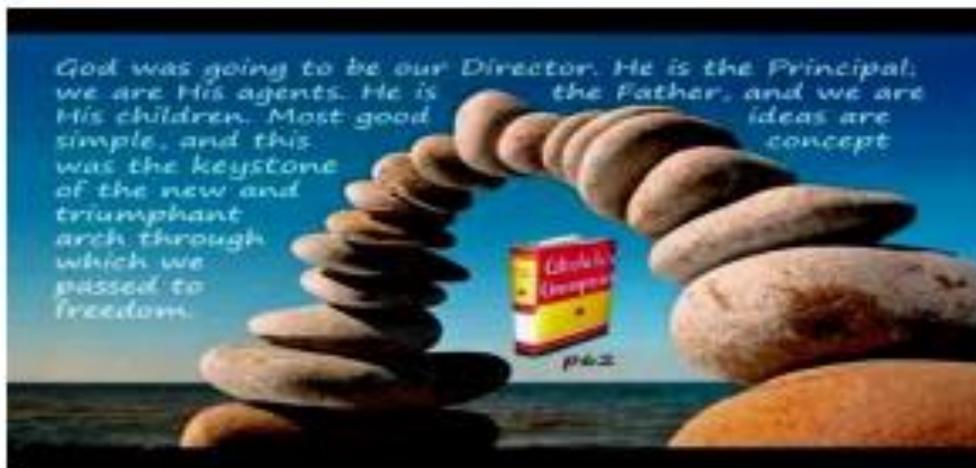
-- Tony W.
Fairfield, California

2019

Southwest Texas Area 68 Summer Workshop

“...THE NEW AND TRIUMPHANT ARCH THROUGH WHICH WE PASS TO FREEDOM.”

page 62



Friday July 26th- Sunday July 28th

Hampton Inn

240 S. Hasler Blvd., Bastrop, TX 78602

512-321-2898

For More Info Contact
Jan S., 512-947-3554

Nightly Room Rates:
\$88 for King/ \$119 for King Suite
\$99 for 2 Queen Beds
Ask for Code SWT



Hosted by District 29
www.district29aa.org



AA Family Feud Survey Questions

District 29 and other Members were polled, the top answers will be on the board! Following the astounding success at the District 29 2018 Picnic "The FEUD is next!" Help the District 29 Area 68 Summer Workshop Committee fill up a bank of answers for some good fun and friendly participation. To have your opinion included in the tally for "The Survey Says...." You'll need to send your responses to Debbie M.-by June 30th, 2019. Provide your answers to the following:

1. Name an influential person in AA other than Bill W. or Dr. Bob?
2. What AA Step is the hardest to do?
3. What AA Literature is the most popular to purchase most other than The Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book?
4. Name a common "Character Defect"?
5. Name a state that has hosted the AA International Convention.
6. The AA Big Book has been written/translated in many language name one other than English.
7. Name your favorite AA Slogan.
8. Name your favorite AA Promise.
9. What do you think is one of the "hardest" times to stop drinking?
10. Name your favorite AA Grapevine literature.
11. Name a favorite chapter in AA Big Book.
12. Name your favorite AA service opportunity.
13. Name a way someone could find out where an AA meeting is at?
14. Which of the 12 Steps do you find yourself using most often?
15. How many sponsors did you have in your first year of sobriety?
16. Name something you see when you walk into an AA meeting.
17. Name an influential woman in AA history?
18. Name a famous "place" in AA History or even now.
19. Name your favorite story in the Big Book from all editions (1-4).
20. Which of the 12 steps do you find yourself using the least?

These are survey questions. There are no wrong answers. Please send answers to Debbie M.-District 29 at district29@aa-swta.org or you could fill them out and hand them to Debbie M. Answers need to be to Debbie by June 30, 2019.

SWTA 68 – Accessibilities Committee

Area 68 here in Southwest Texas now has an accessibilities committee. Our very own Kim R-L felt the calling and was elected into the role of Chair. Kim is settling into her new role and will be gracing our pages with an article next month.

While we wait to hear from Kim next month here is a call for Rick Walker on the Accessibilities Assignment at the General Service Office for your story.

There is a call for Grapevine stories by A.A. members who deal with Accessibilities issues.

This includes those who have overcome or are facing barriers to accessing A.A. meetings or the A.A. message (such as wheelchair users, members who are deaf and use ASL, members who are blind or have hearing loss, members who may be homebound or face geographical challenges, etc.).

Grapevine would also like to hear from members who do service in overcoming barriers (accessibilities committee work, interpretation into other languages, translation, etc.).

Some questions to spark ideas are: What has your journey in A.A. been like? Has your home group dealt with these issues? How did you resolve them?

The deadline is APRIL 15, 2019.

Stories can range in length from 400 words to 1800 words. The more personal the better.

Stories can be submitted by email to Jon Witherspoon at senioreditor@aagrapevine.org. Please include "Accessibilities Story" in the subject line. If you have any questions, you can contact Jon.

How Can I Help?

Here's Some Ideas for Accessibility Needs: For AA Members

- Recording of meetings or books - For Visual Impaired*
- Video or FaceTime with Signers - For Hearing Impaired*
- Regular telephone/teleconferencing Audio Calls*
- Meetings Dedicated to Parents with Childcare Needs, Seniors in Sobriety
- Home Bound meetings, in home, elderly or senior facilities
- Sign-up Sheets - Rides to Meetings For;
 - Visual Assistance,
 - Don't Drive at Night,
 - Age Impaired, and
 - Memory Impaired.

This is just a start of ideas that we can begin to look at?

For more information,
send emails to accessibilities@aa-swta.org or your DCM.

* With Approval of Participant

The AA Traditions and Concepts Series 2019

This series of articles on the Concepts and Traditions is inspired by my desire to better understand Service in the A.A. General Service structure. This month a bit on how Concept 4 struck me and how it weaves into my inspiration for this series. Straight from the book in both the short and long form Tradition 4 is also a good reminder of the inspiration for this article.

Concept 4

Short From: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Long form: Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation”, taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

No matter how many times I read Concept 4, I always hear the words “Right-Sized” rattling around in my brain! This series about the Concepts and Traditions is here specifically to help us better understand what being an of service in AA’s General Service Structure means. A study through others’ eyes of each of the Service Concepts will hopefully bring AAs General Service into focus, help it to become clear, and just “right-sized” for each of us. For me, things like being able to weave my intuitive reaction – “right-sized” – to Concept 4 into a statement about the reason for this series helps to better connect the dots on what service means to me and AA.

This Concept focuses on voting and the Right of Participation world servants “right-sizes the vote to the responsibility. I feel that finding my way in AA service is about right sizing my service to what I need in recovery. I see service opportunities as a way of right sizing what I need from service for my recovery and growth by the service opportunities I take on! As you’ll read in another article the month, Dean found his right size in service is about fun, peace and fellowship as he has navigated the “Right of Participation” through several Group, District and Area level service positions.

For me I am finding my right sized in service is about writing the newsletter which to me means helping spread the miracle of recovery and helping others find where they best fit in along with helping keep a seat warm and the door open in a group or two...

Tradition 4: AA Group Autonomy and Responsibility

Short From: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups, or A.A. as a whole.

Long form: With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

SLEEP UNDER

The Stars



Check in at
noon on 4/13
Farewell 11am
4/14

**BBQ Chicken
Dinner
at 6 o'clock
Meeting at
8 o'clock**

Hiking
Biking
Fishing
Disk golf
Star gazing
S'mores

Fellowship
Food &
Lots of
fun

\$20 Donation
Per Person
Includes
Dinner &
Breakfast

RSVP to
Linda D
or Jami
(512)-581-1012

Vernon
Richards
Park
Smithville TX

ALL PROFITS ARE TO SUPPORT THE AREA SUMMER WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY THE CHESTNUT GROUP.
"LITTLE MEETING, BIG SERVICE"