



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

June 2019

www.district29aa.org



Six in one, half a dozen in the other!

Step — Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition — An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

9th Step Promise — That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.

Concept — The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Come out this Saturday June 1st!

District 29 will be hosting the SWTA 68 Summer Workshop scheduled for July 26-28, 2019 at the Hampton Inn here in Bastrop.

We are hosting a fundraiser for the Workshop on **Saturday, June 1st from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Janice and Rudy's house located at 333 McAllister Rd. - Bastrop.** It includes a car wash and a bake sale.

We are in need of bake sale items for the sale. We would appreciate any bakery items you can contribute. You may bring them to the above address on Saturday morning or contact Linda D. at (512)581-1012 or Jan S. at (512)947-3554. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Also plan to have your car washed when you come to bring or purchase your Bake Sale items. All funds will be used to pay for the expenses of the Summer Workshop

Due to A.A.'s Tradition 7, *"Every A.A. Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."* Contributions for the Workshop and fund-raisers can only be accepted from members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We respectfully ask your cooperation in this matter.

Gratitude in service, Linda D.

Help us, Help you!

We'd like to hear from you! Share a memory from early sobriety and what it means to you today. Share your Miracle. Help us spread the message of recovery from alcoholism, one story at a time. Contact Theol J. or send your article idea or story to district29.newsletter@gmail.com .

<p>Area Birthday Locations</p> <p>Jan.-Phelan Road Group</p> <p>Feb.-LaGrange Gratitude Group</p> <p>Mar.-Friday Night Group</p> <p>April-Lost Pines Group</p> <p>May-Smithville Group</p> <p>June-Giddings</p> <p>July-On The Colorado (OTC)</p> <p>Aug.-LaGrange Colorado Valley</p> <p>Sept.-Sunday Morning Sidewalk</p> <p>Oct.-The Elgin Group</p> <p>Nov.-Smithville Group</p> <p>Dec. - Legacies Group</p>	<p>What's Happening in District 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2019</p> <p>June 1 -Carwash/Bake Sale Fundraiser SWTA68 Summer Workshop at 9am-2pm 333 McAllister Rd, Bastrop</p> <p>June 1 - Speaker Meeting, On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville 8pm</p> <p>June 8 - Speaker Meeting Lost Pines - 7 pm</p> <p>June 9 - District 29 Meeting - OTC, Smithville 1:30pm</p> <p>June 14 -Let Go Let God Turns One - 7:30 am Meeting 8:30 am. Fellowship with Coffee, Tacos and Donuts provided</p> <p>June 14 -Speaker Meeting, Elgin Group 7pm</p> <p>June 29 - Area Birthday hosted by Giddings Group Potluck at 7pm Meeting at 8pm</p>	<p>District Committee</p> <p>DCM Debbie M</p> <p>Alt DCM Jan S</p> <p>Secretary Open</p> <p>PICPC Open</p> <p>Treasurer David M</p> <p>Literature Morgan P</p> <p>Intergroup Open</p> <p>Webmaster Michael B</p> <p>Grapevine Holly H</p> <p>CFC Mike G</p> <p>Newsletter Theol J</p> <p>Treatment Open</p> <p>Archives Open</p>
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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 finish up looking at the District Committee Chairs – Grapevine, Literature and Newsletter. We also cover the one appointed position on the committee, the Webmaster!

Next month we will finish up this series with the when, where and how of the elections and forming the committee for Panel 70.

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 Intergroup District Chair and those guidelines may be found on the HCIA website at austinaa.org.

Literature

Facilitates purchase of GSO literature for all District 29 Committees and District 29 Groups if requested. May attend other District Group functions and provides a literature display, as well as purchase of available Conference Approved Literature.

Grapevine

Responsible for disseminating information about the Grapevine Magazine and LaVina, and other Grapevine materials that are available. Visits District Groups and encourages the Group and individual members to subscribe to the Grapevine in helping to carry the message of AA to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Newsletter

Prepares and edits monthly District 29 Newsletter as outlined in detail in the current District 29 Procedures and Guidelines. Chair should have computer software capable of the compilation of the Newsletter. Coordinates with all District Committees on input and deadlines for the Newsletter.

DISTRICT 29 COMMITTEE APPOINTED POSTION

Not elected, a chair but definitely always there for the district, the Webmaster position which is appointed by the District Committee Member and does not vote in matters considered by the committee

Webmaster

Maintains the District 29 website (district29aa.org) and keeps up to date information posted to keep the District 29 A.A. Community informed of upcoming events and current contact information of District 29 officers and committee members. Detailed guidelines are listed in the District 29 Procedures and Guidelines.

Correctional Facilities Committee Needs Volunteers

Help with bring the message to the correctional facilities here in the Bastrop Area. New and improved process reduces the cumbersome paperwork to get started! The new application is available from Michael G. and once completed and be turned in along with the PREA completion certificate to the Bastrop County Jailer.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Step 12 – Page 106-107

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others. And these things which they have in common are not too hard to understand. When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. He has been set on a path which tells him he is really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered. In a very real sense he has been transformed, because he has laid hold of a source of strength which, in one way or another, he had hitherto denied himself. He finds himself in possession of a degree of honesty, tolerance, unselfishness, peace of mind, and love of which he had thought himself quite incapable. What he has received is a free gift, and yet usually, at least in some small part, he has made himself ready to receive it.

New from G.S.O.:

New and Revised pamphlets:

- Women in A.A.
- A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues — and Their Sponsors
- The "God" Word: Atheist and Agnostic Members in A.A.
- LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.
- Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services

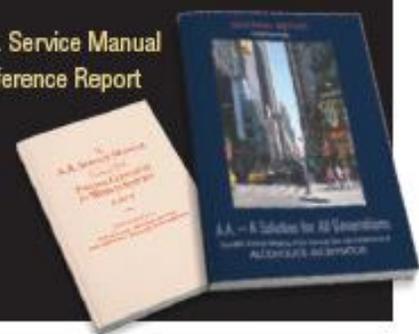


These items have new covers and are now available in English, French and Spanish:

- A.A. for the Native North American
- A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic

Also available:

- 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual
- 2018 Final Conference Report



Alternate DCM Ponderings May 2019 Jan S., Alt. DCM District 29, Panel 68

How much is enough? How will I know when I have done enough to repay Alcoholics Anonymous for what the fellowship has done for me? Many times, when asked to do something for Alcoholics Anonymous, several thoughts race through my mind:

- I'm too busy
- I'm too tired
- I'm too old
- I already did that, let someone else do their share
- I don't know how; I'm not capable

This is my short list, not every excuse I've had is on the list, I'm sure I could add many more. One by one, these and other excuses have fallen by the wayside as I realize that I use them out of fear of not being able to do the job asked of me.

As other trusted servants have provided examples of service (in whatever way they choose) they have shared their experience, strength and hope with me so that the following question never goes unanswered...How did/do you do that? How many times did I hear them say that they just followed the suggestions of those who had come before them in an area of service, one day at a time. Another familiar response has been that they stepped out in faith in their Higher Power and the Fellowship of the Spirit as they began a two-year commitment and didn't really understand the full scope of their responsibility until they reached the end of it.

Sometimes I wonder at my self-centered selfishness as I realize the "we-ness" of our beautiful steps and traditions. I'm never alone when I decide to ask for help. It's always been there, and now, I have something I can pass on to someone else and begin to be of service to God and my fellows.

Dr. Bob's response resonates with me:

"I spend a great deal of time passing on what I've learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:

1. Sense of duty
2. It is a pleasure
3. Because in so doing I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

Thank you for my sobriety. Jan S.

Get Ready! International A.A. Convention: July 2-5, 2020, Detroit, MI

July 2-5, 2020 — the International Convention will celebrate A.A.'s 85th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan. With a theme of "Love and Tolerance Is Our Code," A.A.s from around the world will converge on Detroit to celebrate sobriety and to share experience, strength and hope in meetings, panels and workshops at the COBO Center, the Ford Field stadium and at other locations throughout the friendly city. Members of the Fellowship are now gearing up for this wonderful event, and the General Service Office is beginning to receive inquiries. So here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the Convention. Animated invitations are available here:

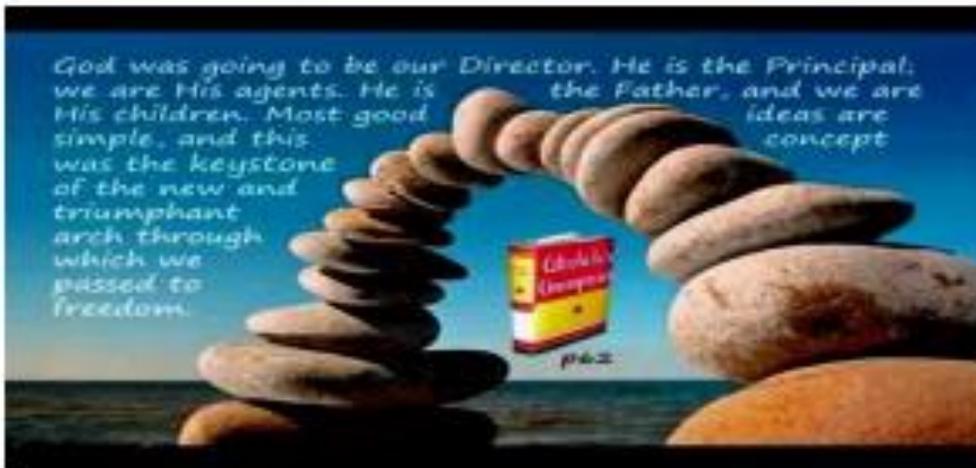
https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/international-convention-2020

2019

Southwest Texas Area 68 Summer Workshop

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

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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

This is the last month to respond! Please submit your answers to Debbie before the June 30th deadline!

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 languages 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.



DISTRICT 29 HOSTING CAR WASH/BAKE SALE
FUNDRAISER FOR
SWTA 68 SUMMER WORKSHOP

WHEN: Saturday June 1st.
Where: Janice & Rudy's 333 McAllister Rd. Bastrop.
Time: 9:00am-2:00pm
Suggested donation per car: \$10.00



BAKE SALE

**VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN HELP ON A SHIFT OF CAR WASHERS BETWEEN
9:00 AM AND 2:00 PM PLEASE CONTACT LINDA D. 512/581-1012**

Due to A.A.'s Tradition 7, "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions", contributions for the SWTA 68 Summer Workshop and fund-raisers can only be accepted from members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you.

The AA Traditions and Concepts Series 2019

The month of June brings us to Tradition 6 and Concept VI! We are now halfway through the year and looking for a few volunteers to help finish the series of traditions and concepts.

This month Milan K. shares how the program and trusting the structure of those who've traveled the path ahead have helped him find a closer walk with God, peace and more with less.

Tradition 6:

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

Long form: Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

It was explained to me very early on that the Steps are to prevent me from committing suicide; the Traditions from committing homicide and the Concepts from committing genocide. As I learn and grow through the steps, it becomes necessary for me to explore new avenues of growth. On page 164 of the Big Book, it tells me that "We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us." By learning about the Traditions, and how they help the Fellowship to survive the world at large, I begin to learn how to incorporate that survival into my own life, and that part of the world with which I come in contact.

By never endorsing, financing or lending the AA name to any outside enterprise, we protect our fellowship from that most base of human frailties; greed. Of all the character defects I possess, this one can be the most prevalent, and the most elusive. The more I want to do, the more it becomes apparent that I need to do less.

In its simplest form, the program affords me the opportunity to remove the things from my life that will ultimately stand between God and me. By learning the principles of our program and following the simple directions of those that came before me, I begin to understand the concept of over-kill. I spent a lifetime kneeling before the god of excess, only to be shown that less is more. As much as I desire to run out and 'Save The World' as a newcomer, floating on that pink cloud, the more important it becomes for me to pay heed the words of those grumpy old-timers...telling me over and over to slow down; smell the flowers and above all else, learn to pause.

For me the 'pause' is the catalyst for the success of the entire program in my life. It is through slowing down and sharing my thoughts and feelings with others in the fellowship that I begin to see the benefits of staying focused on the simple things. Learning each day to enjoy a thing just as it is and being OK when I believe things are not as they should be. For me, Tradition Six, as incorporated into my life, is about the freedom to not make myself responsible for everything.

Concept VI

Short form: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the conference acting as the General Service Board.

Long form: On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principle responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Because I failed miserably at my own life, I am blessed to have been afforded a new one through the Graces of God and the Fellowship. But there the work begins, and a daunting task it can sometimes seem

Behind the wording of Concept Six is the basic premise that wellness of AA as a whole is the primary goal, but it becomes dependent on the actions of the Area Members. Therefore, by Proxy, it becomes dependent on the Actions of the AA Group.... down to the individual Alcoholic. Not many of us have the wholesale time and resources to make a sole vocation of this work, nor do many of us wish to. Therefore, it becomes necessary for the Board of Trustees to have a certain latitude in their decision-making processes.

In early sobriety, my Sponsor only let me make limited decisions; what to wear, what to eat, which meeting to go to next. I needed that structure in my life. But ultimately, his directions were based on

- A) His personal experiences and
- B) the shared experiences of those who came before him.

Therefore, do we trust in the experiences of our Trustees, both Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic. Elsewhere in our traditions and Concepts are the safe guards that prevent the over-use of power and ensure that our Society will continue to grow and flourish. As in our Steps, it is only by admitting complete defeat and surrendering that we can begin to grow in understanding and effectiveness. As well with the Concepts, as we learn to have Faith in God that he will guide and lead us to the right actions in all things.

Fellowship in the Pines Right Here in Our Neck of the Woods

Welcome to the 35th Annual Fellowship in the Pines Conference 2019, our history says that it went from one day to two days to what it is today. So to keep the spirit going, the speaker lineup this year is very exciting. Our committee chairs have so much excitement already around this year's conference, it's one you won't want to miss. Registration opens August 1, with PayPal and paper registration can be mailed in to FITPS, PO BOX 718, Bastrop, TX 78602.

Plan on attending our next planning/committee meeting which is July 13, 9 am, at Fisherman Park, Bastrop, if you would like to see what it's all about. We would love to have you.

Pre-Registration is \$20.00, at the door is \$30.00. Registration forms will be ready early June. If you would like to volunteer contact Kim 512-808-3873 or Brooke or simply email us at hollyrobitps@gmail.com.

