



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

April 2020

www.district29aa.org



The fourth.....

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

Tradition — 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.

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.

Breaking News – Things are a Different

This last month has brought a lot of interesting change. It has reinforced my gratitude for recovery! I have lived largely free from fear, thanks to what I have learned in A.A. Most important to me of late is an understanding that it is my job to show up doing my best to live by these principles while leaving the rest to a power greater than myself and making amends when I miss the mark.

Knowing that many things can change in publishing a newsletter intended to provide factual and reliable information about upcoming A.A. events for District 29, the best I know to do is provide a list (see panel at right) of where to get up-to-date information.

I will also take this moment to celebrate the fact that we found recovery and are better equipped to accept the things we cannot change than we were when we were drinking! Enjoy recovery in all its many forms and for all the many victories it brings over addiction and everyday life.

For information regarding Anonymity and the Internet see AA Guidelines at:
https://aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-18_internet.pdf

Important Upcoming Dates

Please refer to the following for up-to-date information on events and other issues.

A.A: <https://aa.org/>

SWTA 68: <https://www.aa-swta.org/>

Hill Country Intergroup: <https://austinaa.org/>

District 29: <http://district29aa.org/>

No internet? Call or Text Theol J. 512.743.6365



No phone and no internet?

Message to the 70th General Service Conference

Dear Conference members,

If there's anybody in the world who doesn't know, please tell them: New York State has shut down 100% of operations of "nonessential" businesses/organizations today!

The 475 Riverside Drive location of the General Service Office is closed for business for an as-yet-undetermined period . We have in place a contingency and business continuity plan, which includes 90% of our employees teleworking, but there is no support staff in the office. In addition, other vendors and suppliers upon whom we depend are experiencing shutdowns. We're all in the same boat, so to speak.

We will not be able to conduct any further planning work even for a scaled-back remote or "virtual" General Service Conference at this time. (We had to cancel a meeting of the trustees' committee today, and the office team is home at present.)

We will communicate further with you when the dust settles and we are able to discern, with the General Service Board, a path forward for the 70th Conference.

A decision regarding the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, based on the new realities all are now facing, is imminent.

In the meantime, we will try our best to keep the lines of communication open, so that you may email (preferable to calls) with questions and concerns you may have as Area delegates and Conference members. We will respond as quickly as is humanly possible, with as much information as may be available at that time.

In the virtual environment, on social media and through electronic communications, we are hearing of much love and a spirit of service being shared in our Fellowship. Groups and members are reaching out to the workers in this office, to local Intergroups and Central Offices, to Area and District committees, with messages of support. We remain in a contingency operations mode to be able to help any and all as best we can.

More to come. Be well and sober and safe, one day at a time.

Yours with an abundance of gratitude,

Greg

G. Gregory Tobin

General Manager

General Service Office of A.A.

475 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10115

Your Source for Meeting Information Here in Central Texas

Having a single reliable source for up-to-date meeting information is a great comfort to many Recovering Alcoholics. For those of us here in Central Texas the Hill Country intergroup website (Austinaa.org) can be that reliable source. If your Group has decided to modify your meeting specifics (time, format, suspended, reinstatement, etc.) please update Hill Country Intergroup! In these uncertain times of meeting cancellations and changes, it might be a worthwhile and bring peace to take a quick look before heading out the door to a meeting. For more information on the current state of things related to Corona Virus Outbreak in the Hill Country Intergroup area check here: <https://austinaa.org/important-notice-on-meetings-covid-19/>. For meeting times and locations, now and after the Corona Virus situation subsides, check here: <https://austinaa.org/meetings/>.

District 29 Panel 70 Meetings

The District 29 Meeting in April will be held on-line to do our part in responsibly carrying the message. All General Service Representatives, Group contacts, Officers, and Service Committee Chairs are encouraged to join the meeting, scheduled for April 19th at 1:30 pm. All current District members will be issued an invitation by email containing the information you need to join the meeting. More information will be forwarded to each of you closer to the date.

Future District 29 meetings are scheduled on the following dates and times, the method of meeting is subject to change.

May 10th – Legacies Group – 1:30
603 Spring St. Bastrop

June 14th - On the Colorado Group - 1:30
591 West Loop 230, Smithville

July 12th - Phelan Road Group - 1:30
267 Phelan Rd, Bastrop

Taking Meetings to Others Pays Big Time

Greetings Fellow Travelers

As we trudge the road of recovery from a hopeless state of mind and body, we learn that we must give “it” away to keep “it”. Thus our 3 legacies of Unity, Service and Recovery come into play; service, being as essential as the other two, comes in many forms.

I have found that carrying the message the message to those in jails and institutions to be a great way to do service work. For many years (18 in California and almost 10 here in Texas) my sobriety has been enhanced by this kind of service work.

I was asked once, by an inmate, if I got paid to come to the jail. My answer was: “I get paid big time! I get to stay sober one more day!” They were helping me as much – or more – then I was helping them.

Are you looking to do some service work? Consider carrying the message to those who can’t get to a meeting? You might even see someone at a meeting after they are released.

My name is Bill, and I’m a gradually recovering alcoholic. (Written by Bill R., Giddings, TX March 11, 2020)

Confidential Document for AA members only

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.

Hill Country Intergroup Representative

Hill Country Intergroup (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.

Treatment Facilities

Coordinates the work of individual AA Members and Groups interested in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to alcoholics in Treatment facilities located in District 29. Coordinates with SWTA 68 Treatment Chair a means of "bridging the gap" from a treatment facility to an AA Group in District 29.

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.

Literature report

For the period of 2/10/20-3/8/20 there were no literature orders placed. The in-stock inventory has changed slightly as a few books were sold. I have 1 check for \$10 to be deposited. I have inventoried what is available and will email this to Theol to include in our monthly newsletter. Please feel free to call/text/or email me if I can be helpful in the anyway.

Thank you,
Morgan P

In stock inventory as of March 8th, 2020

Alcoholics Anonymous (hard cover) 20 @ \$9.50
 Alcoholics Anonymous (large print) 2 @ \$10.30
 Twelve steps and twelve traditions (hard cover) 5 @ \$8.90
 Twelve steps and twelve traditions (soft cover) 2 @ \$8.25
 Living sober 4 @ \$5.00
 Our great responsibility 3 @ \$10.00
 Pamphlet I-women in sobriety 50 @ \$.30
 Pamphlet Q & A on sponsors 3 @ \$.15

AA GRAPPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Dear Trusted Servants:

Want to help another alcoholic? Join us in our 2020 Carry the Message Project and give Grapevine or La Viña to an alcoholic in need.

To learn more, visit our website at aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message

or visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/aagrapevine.

Please share these links with your districts and groups.

The "Carry The Message" effort, with your support, is reaching many of our members behind the walls, in nursing homes, and remote communities.

I want to thank you in advance for your service and support.

Sincerely,

AA Grapevine, Inc.



www.AAGrapevine.org

Area Birthday

Celebration Locations

- Jan.-Phelan Road Group
- Feb.-LaGrange Gratitude Group
- Mar.-**CANCELLED**
- 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

What's Happening In District 29

April 2020

MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Check Here First: <https://austinaa.org/meetings/>

Apr 4 - Speaker Meeting, On The Colorado (OTC),

Smithville 8pm

Apr 11 - Speaker Meeting, Lost Pines 7 pm

Apr 17 -Speaker Meeting, Elgin Group 7pm

Apr 19 - District 29 Meeting, On-Line

Apr 26- Area Birthday Meeting

Hosted By: Lost Pines Group

Time: Potluck at 7pm Meeting at 8pm

Apr 28 - Speaker Meeting, A Way Out Group

7:00pm

District Committee

DCM	Jan S.
Alt DCM	Kathy A.
Secretary	Tasha S.
PICPC	Open
Treasurer	Craig D.
Literature	Morgan P
Intergroup	Open
Webmaster	Michael B
Grapevine	Open
CFC	Mike G
Newsletter	Open
Treatment	Open
Archives	Steve VL

The latest update to District 29 schedules are available! A few corrections to be noted:

- 1. Published 2019.**
- 2. The Let Go Let God group meets each Friday at 7:30 AM.**

Correctional Facilities Committee

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

Here in district 29 we desperately need volunteers to help bring the message to Bastrop Count Jail and Giddings School. Michael G., the District 29 Correctional Facility Chair, implores you to come share your experience strength and hope.

The Application

<http://secureservercdn.net/166.62.115.136/2vt.a21.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/Volunteer-Application-v06-2017.pdf>

The Rules

<http://secureservercdn.net/166.62.115.136/2vt.a21.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/Jail-Volunteer-Rules.pdf>

Information on being a volunteer:

<http://secureservercdn.net/166.62.115.136/2vt.a21.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/PREA-Volunteer-Flyer.pdf>

The whole kit and caboodle (all the forms):

<http://district29aa.org/district-resources/>

Meetings at the Bastrop County Jail are: Women's Fridays are 7:30; Men's Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30.

Meetings at the Giddings School usually on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., however in the past meeting schedules have been adjusted to meet the schedules of certified volunteers.

Daily Reflection for April 15 THE BONDAGE OF RESENTMENTS

*... harboring resentment is infinitely grave.
For then we shut ourselves off from the
sunlight of the spirit. — AS BILL SEES IT, p. 5*

It has been said, "Anger is a luxury I cannot afford." Does this suggest I ignore this human emotion? I believe not. Before I learned of the A.A. program, I was a slave to the behavior patterns of alcoholism. I was chained to negativity, with no hope of cutting loose. The Steps offered me an alternative. Step Four was the beginning of the end of my bondage. The process of "letting go" started with an inventory. I needed not be frightened, for the previous Steps assured me I was not alone. My Higher Power led me to this door and gave me the gift of choice. Today I can choose to open the door to freedom and rejoice in the sunlight of the Steps, as they cleanse the spirit within me.

From the book *Daily Reflections*

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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.