



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

December 2018

www.district29aa.org



The Twelfth....

Step - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Promise - We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us - sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

Concept - The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that everyone has access to guaranteed loans, that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action..

A Bit of Cheer for the End of the Year

Howdy, Y'all! We've tried to fill this issue and last with a bit of cheer and a few thoughts on staying sober through the holidays. We hope it has helped all y'all.

We look forward to sharing some good times throughout District 29 in 2019! Starting in January and throughout the year we look to cover the GSO Service Concept and A.A. Tradition which corresponds with each month.

If you have ideas for or would like to see other series or individual articles let us know. We here would like to hear from you on how this Newsletter can help

share the message and make recovery more available here in our area! Help District 29 know more about your AA group and its goings on! Share some of your personal experience or inspiration! Be a contributor and help the District 29 Newsletter spread the good news of living sober out here in the Lost Pines! Send in your articles by e-mail to theol_jackman@hotmail.com or get them to Theol J. in person.

Many wishes for a great and sober close to 2018!. We look forward to the journey of our shared path in sobriety through 2019!

Confidential Document for AA members only



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Nothing Quite Like an A.A. Christmas

This article from the Holiday Issue 1967 of BOX 4-5-9, NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A. A., seems still fitting 51 years later.

Whatever holidays may have meant to us in drinking days, a real A.A. holiday is unforgettable for most of us whether it is New Year's Day, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving, or Christmas.

"There's nothing quite like an A.A. Christmas," one member writes, "Maybe not the first Christmas you are in A.A., but certainly the first Christmas A.A. is in you.

"A magic fills the air for everyone, but in an A.A.'s life it's very special, as his heart and life are filled with so many gifts. The gift of being loved, and of loving; of being understood, and of understanding; of being wanted, and of wanting; of being given to, and of giving.

"Money cannot buy these priceless gifts. An A.A. has love, friendship, an opportunity to contribute and add to the world, a feeling of belonging, and a desire to grow in A. A. so he will not have to reach for the first drink.

"As we look at Christmas lights we can look at all the enlightenment the 12 Steps have brought to us; of how we are now 'part of' a worldwide fellowship and are beginning to sense unity within through our 12 Traditions.

"We need never be alone again, need never reach for a drink at least today.

"As we look at beautiful Christmas wreaths we can think, too, of the circle of unending love and friendship surrounding A.A.'s triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

"We think quietly and gratefully of Bill and Dr. Bob and the other early A.A.'s of the A.A.'s around the world now of the Loners and our seagoing Internationalists and say, 'Merry Christmas to all, regardless of religious belief.'

"Yes, Christmas is a special 24 hours for A.A.'s. The phone rings and it is a 12th-Step calla call for help. What greater gift can anyone have than the opportunity to give life to another suffering alcoholic as it has been given to us?

"In A.A. we call this service, and surely it is among the most precious gifts that we in A.A. share with one another.

"Every service that A.A. gives to alcoholics has come about as the result of a demonstrated need and is based on experience. The Steps were written from the pooled experience of 100 recovered alcoholics and given freely to any of us who wants to follow them to recovery. The Traditions, too, were evolved from the actual experience and activity of early A.A. 's and given freely to us as guidelines to growth, and to unity to 'at-oneness' with each other and the rest of the world.

"The aim of all A.A. service – of all A.A. giving— is identical with A.A.'s primary purpose to give A.A. to all who want it."

Thank you, dear friend, for that lovely and thoughtful A.A. letter. And thanks, too, for all the other holiday messages we always are showered with here at G.S.O. Our Christmas prayer for all of you is Bill's favorite, that of Saint Francis:

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

DCM Report for December Newsletter

Debbie M, DCM District 29, Panel 68

Season's Greetings to everyone in District 29!!! This first year of Panel 68 has flown by so fast with so much growth on the way. I have many fond memories of this past year and I cannot wait to be a part of the journey for District 29 ahead in 2019.

I attended the Fall Voting Conference in Bee Caves this past month. Some may think that the SWTA 68 Voting Assemblies and Workshops are all business and possibly some may even say boring. In my eyes, they are so much more. Grant it we get together to take care of business in the Area and sometimes we may not all agree with the decision we make as a collective informed group conscience, but there is so much more. At the Assembly we had three speakers on Friday night. The first speaker was a deaf woman that shared her story in sign language. They provided an interpreter, so we could understand what she was saying. Next we heard from two gentlemen who shared their stories in Spanish. Again, an interpreter was provided. I was on the edge of my seat engulfed in their stories and experiences. I was so glad to be able to be a part of the event.

The next day was business but we had a break from the business to hear from a non-alcoholic speaker. He spoke on A.A. and treatment centers. I learned so much. My pen was flying off my notebook paper trying to keep up with all the things I was learning from his share. I can honestly say I have a better understanding of A.A. working alongside treatment centers then I ever had before.

Food at the Assemblies and Workshops, what can I say. The Groups and fellowship that are in those Districts that host these assemblies and workshops give so much of themselves to provide a wide range of flavorful food and snacks. The food makes our stay so fulfilling in such a delicious way. I always tend to gain a pound or two when I get home from these Assemblies and Workshops.

If you ever get a chance to attend an Assembly or Workshop for SWTA68 please do so. You will get a wealth of knowledge, great fellowship from all over the Area and wonderful food and laughter. We do take care of business, but we always have fun, food and fellowship.

Hope to see y'all soon. As always thank you for the opportunity to serve District 29.

Your Grateful Servant,

Debbie M.

District Committee

DCM Debbie M

Alt DCM **Open**

Secretary Kathleen P

Treasurer David M

Webmaster Michael B

Intergroup **Open**

Newsletter Theol J

Literature Katie H

Grapevine Holly H

CFC Mike G

Treatment **Open**

PICPC **Open**

Archives **Open**

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

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

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/](http://district29aa.org/district-resources/). Look for the PREA Volunteer Flyer, Jail Volunteer Rules and Volunteer Application.

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.

As the Holidays Roll In A.A. Love Makes a Difference

"Loneliness is no stranger to those of us who suffer from alcoholism," says Bob G., correctional facilities chairperson for Southeast New York. "But there is a special kind of emptiness that is experienced by A.A. members getting sober inside prison walls, especially at the holiday season."

Bob urges A.A.s to write to their fellow members behind bars - "even a few lines, or a card." He remembers another Christmas some years ago when, as a member of the Institutions Correspondence Committee, "I always sent a cheerful Christmas card to whomever I was writing. One fellow wrote back, 'Your cards and letters at Christmas make all the difference between depression and joy.'"

From [Box 4-5-9 Holiday 1985 Issue](#)

What's Happening, in and around District 29

December 1 through 31, 2018

Dec 1 - Speaker Meeting at 8pm at On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville

Dec 8 - Speaker Meeting at 7pm at Lost Pines Group

Dec 9 - Christmas Brunch at 12 noon at Sunday Morning Sidewalk Group, with a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Dec 9 - District Meeting at 1:30pm at Legacies Group in Bastrop

Dec 18 - Service Study Meeting at 7:30pm at Timberline Church, Bastrop

Dec 21 - Speaker Mtg. at Elgin Group. Hot Dogs at 6pm and Speaker at 7pm

Dec 25 - Speaker Mtg. at 7pm at A Way Out Group (AWOG), Bastrop

Dec 29 - Area Birthday hosted by Legacies Group

Meet the District 29 Webmaster

When Jorde moved off to the far northern fringe of the Austin Metroplex, the District 29 Webmaster role became vacant. Fortunately, it was not long until the District was blessed with a friend to fill the role! Let's all welcome Michael to Texas, Bastrop and District 29! I've come to know him well and he that is well-armed with a practical and Big Book based approach to life. The start of his letter of introduction shows he's already become accustomed to the local lingo and should easily integrate folk 'round 'bout these parts.

Howdy Y'all.

My name is Michael Bruch and I will be serving as the web servant for District 29. I am a recent import from Red Bluff, CA (home of the Red Bluff Round-Up, the largest 3-day rodeo in the country). I presently live in Bastrop with my wife and son as well as his fiancé.

The web servant position varies from committee to committee, but the basic functions are the same. The site should be kept up to date with various events and information pertinent to the respective area. Maintenance of the site should be conducted on a regular basis. Most importantly, as our function is to follow AA's principles, is to keep the site in line with the Traditions. I will also be available to provide guidance on exercising the principles of AA in a technological forum. This can be challenging for some who are unaware of the practice of the principles in this new medium.

Presently I have 18 years of sobriety with an anniversary coming up on 1/5/2019. In the past I have served various roles but as it pertains to the web servant I have been a web servant for the Delta Intergroup (aadelta.org), California Northern Interior Area 007 (cniia.org), and Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (norcalaa.org). Other positions I have held include secretary, treasurer, GSR, Intergroup Rep, DCM, and a few area positions. I actively sponsor and am actively sponsored.

I look forward to meeting many of you as I settle into the area and I greatly appreciate the hospitality extended thus far.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Michael Bruch

Web Servant

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.

[Alternate District Committee Member](#)

The alternate is a backup for the D.C.M. If the D.C.M. resigns or is unable to serve for any reason, the alternate steps in.

[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.

Staying sober during the holidays, for me

A friend of ours suggested a few months ago that it might be helpful if the newsletter contained some tips to help stay sober through the first holiday season. I am not sure if any of the articles around staying sober or which groups in town will have a sober celebration have helped them or others, but it has helped me to realize some of what keeps me sober, holidays or no. Looking for the things to be grateful about, researching things for friends and neighbors, having fun with words and singing, looking at things in a different way, looking at me in different ways and simply finding humor in the interesting things life brings my way.

I also realized how much the 12 Steps have helped me to not only keep away from drinking but also to help me truly enjoy life. How the Steps have allowed me to be present and enjoy the holidays however the season greets me. So, I decided to work the steps a bit into one of the holidays while getting to enjoy a bit of writing and singing along the way! Find your way to stay sober while enjoying your holidays! If you like singing, let's get a few of us together and practice this take on a Christmas Classic, possibly sing it at one of the group holiday gatherings.

Wishing you peace, joy and many belly laughs,

Theol J.

Because I do exercise a bit of artistic license below, I thought it appropriate to list the 12-steps here.

The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

The 12-steps of Recovery (to the tune of the 12 Days of Christmas)

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| <p>On the first step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the second step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the third step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the fourth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the fifth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the sixth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the seventh step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Seven shortcomin's taken, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the eighth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Eight amends a written, Seven shortcomin's taken, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> | <p>On the ninth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Nine make goods offered, Eight amends a written, Seven shortcomin's taken, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the tenth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Ten admitted promptly, Nine make goods offered, Eight amends a written, Seven shortcomin's taken, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the eleventh step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Eleven prayers we offered, Ten admitted promptly, Nine make goods offered, Eight amends a written, Seven shortcomin's taken, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> <p>On the twelfth step of twelve steps my HP gave to me, Twelve newcomers awakened, Eleven prayers we offered, Ten admitted promptly, Nine make goods offered, Eight amends a written, Seven shortcomin's taken, Six defects noted, Five shared past things, Four reflective words, Three white flags, Two sanity troves, and I'm powerless to clearly see.</p> |
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