



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

January 2020

www.district29aa.org



Starting at One

Step — We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition — Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

9th Step Promise — If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through.

Concept — Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

January!

District 29 will hold the inaugural meeting for Panel 70 January 12th at the On The Colorado Group’s meeting place in Smithville! Be there to welcome in the new slate of trusted servants and be a part of the great happenings here in District 29.

“A VISION FOR YOU”

2020 SWTA 68 Winter Workshop January 17 - 19, 2020

RESERVATIONS

Hampton Inn

2208 HiWay 361, Port Aransas, Texas

361-749-8888

Room Rate: \$89/Night

ASSEMBLY VENUE

Port Aransas Civic Center

710 W. Avenue A

<https://www.aa-swta.org/event/2020-swta-68-winter-workshop/>

Sobriety is a journey... not a destination

This saying reminds me that I need to focus on enjoying today, this moment. It helps me to keep from getting caught up thinking I should have reached some milestone in my recovery because I have been off the sauce for a certain period of time. I find by not imposing expectations of where I “should” be by now, I can better enjoy what happens in today. My recovery has not and will not move in a linear fashion towards a finishing line, but instead I keep meandering along a path of self-discovery. I find the most sanity when I stop and smell the flowers rather than racing along the road of happy destiny!

Welcome Jan S. District Committee Member District 29 Panel 70

A very warm welcome to all new and recycled trusted servants in District 29, Panel 70. Some of us are brand new to District service and some of us have been in service for a while in various positions. I am looking forward to working with everyone as we strive to fulfill the District’s mission statement of assisting the groups in our District in their efforts of carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.

We have scheduled our first meeting for Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 1:30 at the OTC group in Smithville. We will focus this first meeting on getting to know each other and getting our paperwork filled out for the General Service Office so that we can receive our various workbooks and other materials. I’ll have the forms and information available for everyone to complete. Please pass this information on to your groups, especially any new GSRs. We also will need a site for the District meeting in February, which will be on Sunday, February 9th.

The Winter Workshop for Area 68 will be in Port Aransas January 17-20, 2020 at the Port Aransas Civic Center, 710 Ave A. and the hotel is the Hampton Inn. Please see the flier at our Area Web site, aa-swta.org for reservation information. (361-749-8888) rooms are \$89 per night.

Don’t let the distance deter anyone, we have a custom of riding together and rooming together so that everyone can participate. Gather some folks and take advantage of some “windshield time”. This is part of the bright spot of our lives referred to in our Big Book.

In gratitude for the honor and privilege of being a trusted servant for District 29, Panel 70.

Jan S.

A Spiritual Quest

As a recovering member of a 12-step program with over 30 years of continuous sobriety, I feel that I have a few things to contribute to the newcomer. One of these is what I have come to call the Spiritual Quest. A brief description follows.

On page 30 of our basic text, it tells me:

“We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery. The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed.”

This, for me, was the beginning of the Quest. Until I took this vital first step, anything I was doing to further my recovery was mostly ambiguous and dishonest. If I could conceivably believe that at some point, I would be able to return to my old life, I was still the drowning man. Much of the time, that idea

Confidential Document for AA members only



of someday regaining control eluded even me, as I was not yet able to believe. Many years of trial and error finally brought me to the point where I could take this elusive first step and begin to learn and embrace the guiding principles of our program.

Part of this first step was the acknowledgement of my total inability to:

1. Make good, effective decisions on a regular basis.
2. Co-exist with anyone on the planet.
3. To have a true working partnership with another human being.
4. To accept the fact that most of what I knew was either wrong, or, at least wildly inaccurate.

Having come to a place where I can make this all-important concession, I find myself ready to begin the actual Quest itself.

On page 50 of our book:

“Here are thousands of men and women, worldly indeed. They flatly declare that since they have come to believe in a power greater than themselves, taken a certain attitude towards that power, and to do certain simple things, there has been a revolutionary change in their way of living and thinking.”

This is the Quest defined. Plain and simple; black and white. It was important for me to realize some key things about these two simple sentences. One, nowhere within them is God defined. It is simply the “Power greater than myself”. That can mean the world of difference to someone coming in with a bad taste of religion or God in their mouth. Second, it’s the attitude that I take towards that power that is the defining axiom of the results I will receive throughout the course of my journey. I firmly believe that ours is a disease of *perception*. Bill says elsewhere in our book that this illness centers in the mind. By changing my attitude, God now could begin changing my perception.

It is obvious that the Quest itself is the working of the

12 steps as outlined in our text. With a sponsor. Daily. Not always as easy as it may seem. I believe it is vital for us to do the work with another. It is in this process that I begin to learn how to have a true partnership with another human being, just as it is in the rooms, being with others in recovery, that I begin to learn how to be a person among people. I have proven to myself continuously over the years that I am not capable of working this thing out on my own. The input of another recovering member of the fellowship gives me the ability to see things differently, thus beginning the change in my perception that will continue to grow and mature as long as I am willing, honest and open-minded enough to



continue doing the things put in front of me to the best of my ability, each and every day. Bill even warns us in the book:

“This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime.”

Once I am on the Quest, it becomes necessary to begin learning discipline. There *Grapevine Cartoon Winner*

may be other ways to achieve sobriety, but the way I found, the only way that has worked for me, is the program outlined in the 12 steps. Why should I not give myself over to it fully? Easily said, and infinitely more difficult to achieve. This is where the work takes place, and where I could learn and grow, utilizing the design for living laid out in our basic text. It is only through the patient, persistent practice of these principles that I can begin coming into an alignment with Grapevine Cartoon Winner December 2019



Cartoon Winner December 2019 what the Creator has intended for me. Somewhere in the course of this journey, I wake up one day to “suddenly realize that God is doing for me what I cannot do for myself” and had been the entire time.

Which brings me at last to the end game; the destination of the Quest. It appears in the 12 and 12 on pages 124 and 125:

“True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.”

The kind of deep desire I had to make my own rules; to stay torn up from the floor up. That kind of desire. The understanding of what it means to live usefully. To reach out to my fellow beings and be of service wherever I can be, without thought of reward or pay back. The absolute realization that I must give credit where credit is due and be humbly grateful to that Power for allowing me to even have a chance at a revolutionary change in my way of living and thinking.

Peace, prosperity and the Love of God be with you on your Quest.

Milan K.

12/20/2019

Literature Committee Update

Thanks to the contributions from the groups to the CFC cans we were able to order two cases of Big Books for our Correctional Facilities to take into the local jails. We also ordered a large variety of pamphlets for our Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community committee, and a case of Big Books for our Literature Committee to add to our current stock. These will be distributed as requested by the district groups. District 29 has the following literature in stock as of 12/8/2019. Please let me know if anyone needs any Big Books, 12x12's or other literature. Phone or Text Morgan P. 979/549-1484.

Alcoholics Anonymous (hard cover) 20	Living sober 4
Alcoholics Anonymous (large print) 2	Our great responsibility 4
Twelve Steps and twelve traditions (hard cover) 6	Women in sobriety pamphlet 50
Twelve Steps and twelve traditions (soft cover) 2	Questions and answers on sponsorship 3

Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee

Boy let me tell you the word is getting out. The PI/CPC Committee has been out and about in the District 29 communities! David M. and Craig D. have been working with the District 29 Committee, Literature Chair, Correction Facilities Chair and professionals in the community to help make sure the helping hand of AA is there now and in the future! Over the last few months this committee has been picking up some steam in getting the word out that AA is here and ready to help those looking for Recovery from Alcoholism! You can help too! This committee needs help with making sure there is literature available in and around the District and they are working with the schools to help make sure that there is information available for younger folks who may be struggling with alcoholism. They have also identified a way you can be of service in three committees at one time! Send a subscription of the Grapevine to Inmates at the Bastrop County Jail! This helps to spread the message in correctional facilities, increase Grapevine subscriptions in the District and support the PI/CPC Committee! A trifecta of service.

SEND GRAPEVINE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:

Bastrop County Jail
 ATTN: Programs Director – Amanda Grayson
 1601 Mills Ave.
 Bastrop, TX 78602

A Crazy (and
 hopefully funny, too)
 Thought!

Being of service as part of the Public information/Cooperation with the Professional Community committee is a great a way to help make Alcoholics Anonymous not so ... well... not so Anonymous!

Finding My Right Expectations

What kept me in the bottle most?

Fear of your expectations, I had a host!

It was what you all thought and did,

That kept me in the bottle hid!

I lived in fear of what you did think,

Convinced it was the reason I did drink!

When I got be honest from within

Decided to start to clean my din,

I asked G-d to help me His actions take,

Remove emotional ills flake by flake!

I found the answers no longer in the booze,

Nor trying to change what think or want to choose!

When I asked G-d's help to find life anew,

Found my expectations were why my addiction grew

Read it in the Grapevine

From the April 2012 magazine.

A New Kind of Love

In sobriety, she learned how to love herself and others

I'm sitting at the base of Greylock Mountain, in Atlanta, Idaho. It's very quiet and I have the gift of this opportunity to contemplate. Soon, I will have my three-year sobriety birthday. It doesn't sound like long, but it's not been easy for me.

I am one who has had to work at it. It took lots of changes, transformations, experiences to get here. It's been worth it, though. My heart is beating a sober rhythm. I feel so clear and am filled with gratitude. I am experiencing a love I have never known and it truly is grace.

-- Brenda M.

Boise, Idaho

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/feature/3093>

Area Birthday

Celebration Locations

- 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

What's Happening In District 29

January 2020

- Jan 4-** Speaker Meeting, On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville 8pm
- Jan 12 -** District 29 Meeting - OTC Group - 1:30 pm
- Jan 11 -** Speaker Meeting Lost Pines - 7 pm
- Jan 17 -**Speaker Meeting, Elgin Group -- 7pm
- Jan 28 -** Speaker Meeting at A Way Out Group - 7:00pm
- Jan 25-** Area Birthday, Phelan Road - Potluck at 7pm Meeting at 8pm

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

**“FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE
BEHIND THE WALLS”**

2020 SWTA 68 CFC conference

February 21- 23, 2020 - \$15.00

Hosted by Districts 8E & 8D

Held at the Emerald Beach Hotel

1102 South Shoreline Corpus Christi, TX 78401

<https://www.aa-swta.org/event/2020-swta-68-cfc-conference/>

The new (red) 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 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 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.

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.

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"I AM A MIRACLE"

January

The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves.

— ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 25

This truly is a fact in my life today, and a real miracle. I always believed in God, but could never put that belief meaningfully into my life. Today, because of Alcoholics Anonymous, I now trust and rely on God, as I understand Him; I am sober today because of that! Learning to trust and rely on God was something I could never have done alone. I now believe in miracles because I am one!

From the book Daily Reflections
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