



# DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

July 2019

[www.district29aa.org](http://www.district29aa.org)



## The Seventh!

**Step** — Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

**Tradition** — Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

**9<sup>th</sup> Step Promise** — We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

**Concept** — The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

### The Southwest Texas Area 68 Summer Conference is here!!

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

A few thought provoking questions to stimulate discussion in English [https://www.aa-swta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/en\\_inventory\\_2017.pdf](https://www.aa-swta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/en_inventory_2017.pdf)  
y en español [https://www.aa-swta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/es\\_inventory\\_2017.pdf](https://www.aa-swta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/es_inventory_2017.pdf).

### Miracles on the Road

An Amazing experience in Las Vegas! The August issue brings a chance to read all about the coffee, fellowship sobriety and a chance (?) meeting that raised goose bumps in the middle of Freemont Street! Sin City as I would have never imagined seeing it, through sober eyes and a heart full of the spirit!

Do you have a cool story about finding recovery in your travels? What is the best AA club or meeting you have been to on the road?

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](mailto:district29.newsletter@gmail.com).

### District Elections, Coming to you at the September District 29 Meeting!

With elections coming up at the District 29 September Meeting, now might be a good time to get tuned into what is happening in District 29. Come on out and join us:

1:30 pm on July 14<sup>th</sup> hosted by Lost Pines Group

1:30 pm on August 11<sup>th</sup> Hosted by Giddings Group

1 pm on September 8<sup>th</sup> Hosted by Sunday Morning Sidewalk Group

Also, GSR and Group Representatives, District 29 Officers and Committee chairs in District 29 have one vote in these elections. All are welcome to come join us in September to be part of the event that will help to form the committee for Panel 70.

Area Birthday Locations	What's Happening in District 29	District Committee
<b>Jan.-</b> Phelan Road Group <b>Feb.-</b> LaGrange Gratitude Group <b>Mar.-</b> Friday Night Group <b>April-</b> Lost Pines Group <b>May-</b> Smithville Group <b>June-</b> Giddings <b>July-</b> On The Colorado (OTC) <b>Aug.-</b> LaGrange Colorado Valley <b>Sept.-</b> Sunday Morning Sidewalk <b>Oct.-</b> The Elgin Group <b>Nov.-</b> Smithville Group <b>Dec. -</b> Legacies Group	<b>July/Se 2019</b> <b>July 6-</b> Speaker Meeting, On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville 8pm <b>July 13 -</b> Speaker Meeting Lost Pines - 7 pm <b>July 14 -</b> District 29 Meeting - OTC, Smithville 1:30pm <b>June 19 -</b> Speaker Meeting, Elgin Group 7pm <b>July 26-28</b> SWTA 68 Summer Conference - Hampton Inn Bastrop Tx <b>July 27 -</b> Area Birthday hosted by On The Colorado (OTC)Group Potluck at 7pm Meeting at 8pm <b>Jul 30 -</b> Speaker Meeting at A Way Out Group @ 7:00pm	<b>District Committee</b> DCM Debbie M Alt DCM Jan S Secretary <b>Open</b> PICPC Craig D. Treasurer David M Literature Morgan P Intergroup <b>Open</b> Webmaster Michael B Grapevine Holly H CFC Mike G Newsletter Theol J Treatment <b>Open</b> Archives <b>Open</b>

### 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.

#### 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.

**Group Meeting Schedule Updates**

The Manor Group has a new 12 Steps and 12 Traditions Study Meeting Thursdays at 6 p.m. This is in addition to the existing Tuesday 6 p.m. Open Discussion meeting. Meetings are held at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church 12800 Lexington St Manor, TX 78621

We are sad to announce that the Fearless and Sister of Serenity Groups are no longer meeting in La Grange. Fortunately, the following meetings and groups are still available in La Grange.

- The Colorado Valley Study Group holds a Closed Big Book Study at 8 pm on Wednesdays. They meet at St. James Episcopal Church, 156 Monroe, LaGrange, TX 78945
- The Gratitude Group meets on the backside of MHMR Bldg. at 275 Ellinger Road, LaGrange, TX 78945. They have an Open Step/Tradition Discussion Meeting on Mondays at 8 pm and an Open Discussion meeting on Fridays at 8 pm.

**Hospitality committee for summer workshop is looking for donations!**

**Please help us by making some of your favorite treats!**

**\*Cookies \*Cakes \*Pies \*Fruit \*Pastries**

**Donations can be dropped off at the workshop on Friday July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm or Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> in the morning at Hampton Inn 240 S. Hasler Blvd, Bastrop**

**We thank you in advance for all your help!**

**Any questions you may have, contact Brooke G:**

**512-317-1073 [brookeginsberg@yahoo.com](mailto:brookeginsberg@yahoo.com)**

## **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.

## **From Living Sober Chapter 19 – Being Grateful**

The following illustrations may not be an exact fit for you, but even if the words are new, perhaps your emotions will be moved to recognize familiar emotional tunes accompanying them. Some are intentionally exaggerated, to make the point unmistakably clear. Others may, at first glance, look trivial. Scores of us have found, though, that easy little changes are a good starting point for a big strong recovery.

When our favorite toddler falls, bumps her head, and squalls, it's fairly simple to see whether she is seriously hurt or just frightened. Then we have a choice: We can either shriek hysterically because the child got hurt or frightened, and carry on over what could have happened; or we can keep our cool and be comforting, grateful that no serious harm occurred.

When our 90-year-old grandfather, long ill and unhappy, finally dies, we again have a choice. We can insist that the only thing to do is rage in grief and anger at the surprise of it, or wallow in guilt—and perhaps drink in either case. Or we can, besides being sad, remember that he did have a long, often good and happy life; that we did try to be good to him and assure him of our continuing love; and that his suffering and unhappiness are now over. It is doubtful that he would appreciate our using his passing as an excuse to get drunk and endanger our health.

When we finally get to visit a place long dreamed of, we can concentrate on the inconveniences of our lodging and the weather, the passing of the good old days, and the fact that we have only a few days or weeks to spare. Or we can be grateful that we finally got there at all, and keep adding to a mental list of the delights we can find if we look for them.

We can watch out for a tendency to say, "Yes, but—" in response to any optimistic, complimentary, or positive statement. A friend's good luck or his youthful appearance, or a celebrity's plug for a charity may tempt us to say sourly, "Yes, but—" But... does this thinking habit help anyone—including ourselves? Can't we let something good simply be? Can't we just be pleased about it, rather than trying to downgrade it?

Those who try to quit smoking realize two possibilities are open: (1) continual moaning about how hard it is, "This time it won't work, either," and "See, damn it, I just lit another one"; or (2) enjoying a deep smoke-free breath when we think of it, being glad an hour has passed without a drag, and, even when a cigarette is unconsciously started, congratulating ourselves for putting it out without smoking it down to a stub.

If one of us wins only \$500 in a sweepstakes that has a \$50,000 top prize, the sensible mood is easy to pick out. It is *not* bitterness at losing the biggest pot.

We continually find opportunities to make similar considered choices, and our experience convinces us that feeling gratitude is far more wholesome, makes staying sober much easier. It will come as a pleasant surprise to discover that it is not difficult to develop the habit of gratitude if we just make some effort.

## DCM Update July

### 2019 Debbie McD. , DCM District 29, Panel 68

Happy Summer, District 29!!! So the kids are out of school, it already feels like the dog days of summer are upon us, and we are still sharing our experience, strength and hope right here in District 29.

I wanted to share the upcoming District meeting dates and locations. For July we are be hosted by the Lost Pines Group, 1199 East Hwy 21, Bastrop, at 1:30 on July14; for August we will be in Giddings at the Giddings Group, 578 East Industry at 1:30 on August 11, and in September we will be meeting at Sunday Morning Sidewalk Group, 601 Main Street, Bastrop at 1:00 pm on September 8. I hope to be in La Grange in October be that is yet to confirmed. These District meetings are open to all member of A.A. in District 29 fellowship to share their thoughts and suggestions on what the District could do for their home groups and our District 29 fellowship community as a whole.

In November, we will be conducting our District 29 inventory. Our SWTA68 Treasurer Ken D. will be facilitating our inventory. This is a great time to share with us what we did good and where we could improve. We will be conducting our Area 68 inventory at our SWTA68 Summer Workshop that District 29 will be hosting. It will give anyone interested some idea what we will be doing in November. The Summer Workshop will be July 26-28th at the Hampton Inn in Bastrop.

Also at the September District 29 meeting we will have elections. Our SWTA68 Chairperson, Cathy H will be conducting these elections. We will be voting on DCM, Alt. DCM, Treasurer, Secretary and all Committee Chairs. We always hope that the positions will be filled but we do not have to fill the positions. I have always been told the God will put the right person in those positions when it is time (or something like that). Most groups will also be electing a new GSR and Alt. GSR during September also. I will be sending out an email to all past GSR who have been a GSR for a full 2-year term and have not been a DCM before. Watching these elections happen at the Group, District and Area levels are such a spiritual thing to watch and be a part of. Elections for our SWTA68 will be held in October in San Antonio, October 18-20th at The San Antonio Marriott Northwest, 3233 NW Loop 410, San Antonio.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel to contact me. I do love being of service. As always thank you for allowing me to be of service to this wonderful fellowship in District 29.

Thank you,

Debbie M, DCM, District 29, Panel 68.

*Confidential Document for AA members only*

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 28<sup>th</sup>

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](http://www.district29aa.org)





## **The AA Traditions and Concepts Series 2019**

The month of July brings us to Tradition 7 and Concept VII! We need only four more volunteers to finish the series as we already have someone lined up for September! Theol J. is back at the keyboard this month, willing to accept things I cannot change and finding balance hopefully not based in fear.

### **Tradition 7:**

**Short form:** Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

**Long form:** The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

My experience around how most uphold this tradition has allowed me to practice acceptance. I accept that many have a more restrictive interpretation of this tradition than I do and yet I can participate in any of the fundraising efforts governed by these different views and have just as much fun, do just as much service and stay just as sober as I could if I had the exact same interpretation as those around me. I can accept that disallowing contributions from any non-A.A. source is what works to keep peaceful balance in the groups involved. I can see the merit in the different than my opinion and be open to talk about our differences in how we interpret this tradition and because I can accept that neither of us are going to necessarily change our minds I can peacefully support our fundraising. Who would have thought... I can entirely support and get behind something that I don't fully agree with definitely not the fellow I was when I was drinking, I would have set all my energy to proving my side of the interpretation was correct.

Also I can state, in writing, no less that I support this view which is different than mine but I think does a reasonably good job of summarizing the prevailing interpretation of Tradition 7 which I have encountered...

We shall not accept any amount of money no matter how small from any organization nor shall we accept donations from non-members. If we become aware of attempts from non-A.A. members to contribute we are charged with the responsibility to politely decline on behalf of A.A.'s tradition of self-support.

## **Concept VI:**

**Short form:** The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

**Long form:** The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

Finding balance in all things, to me is what this program is about! Concept VII shines a light, I think, on the balance of running of A.A. Pointing out the General Service Board has the legal right to run the organization without regard for what the Conference suggests to implement. Two-thirds of the Conference are delegates from the individual groups. The group's contributions are what fund (the "purse") the General Service Board. The groups could withdraw financial support, if the General Service board went too far afield of the wishes of the Conference. To-date there have been no Conference recommendations vetoed by the General Service Board. There is a certain trust and respect between the two organizations that has developed a working relationship that keeps A.A. going. This balance with a not often (or ever) needed to be used ability of each party to keep the other in check, is something I seek in my individual relationships with others. I hope that through mutual trust these relationships are able to stay in harmony and balance, not because of fear inspired by the implied threat of dissolution or withholding something but rather balance brought about through mutual respect and openness which allows both parties to openly express their opinions and feelings. As I learn daily, at times I must overcome my past to feel secure enough to stay in this balanced place. I hope that like A.A. there is a graceful balance of power in all of your relationships.

## **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 hollyrobfitps@gmail.com.





# OCTOBER 4TH - 6TH 2019

"WE HAVE BEEN ROCKETED  
INTO A FOURTH DIMENSION OF  
EXISTENCE..."

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP IN THE PINES



### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

8:00 PM VICTOR V. AA SPRINGDALE, AR

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

10:00 AM BRIAN M. AA NM

1:00 PM STEPHANIE B. AL-ANON MARBLE FALLS, TX

3:00 PM TBA SERVICE

5:30PM BBQ DINNER

6:45PM

7:00PM

7:00PM

RAFFLE

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

PRESENTATION

SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN

8:00 PM NELSON S. AA HOUSTON, TX

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

8:00 AM SOLIS R. AA AUSTIN, TX

Hospitality: Will Be OPEN Before & After All Meetings --- CLOSED During Meetings

For More Information contact:

Kim R. 512-808-3873/hollyrobftps@gmail.com

[www.fellowshipinthepines.org](http://www.fellowshipinthepines.org)

PARK CAMPING IS AVAILABLE ON A RESERVATION ONLY BASIS - CALL EARLY  
512 237-3282 ext. 2322 | 107 Hwy. 71 W., Smithville, TX 78957 (Park Physical Address)

### We Pay Our Own Way

Conventions and conferences are Special Events, the cost of these events are paid through Registration Fees.

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES  
WITH THE HORSESHOE  
TOURNAMENT, AND  
MORE TO COME!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME DESIRED ON NAME BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY DESIRED ON NAME BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Info: E-Mail or Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:  
REGISTRAR  
P.O. Box 718  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS  
PAYABLE TO:  
FELLOWSHIP IN THE PINES  
Pre-registration opens  
August 1, 2019

☐ Adults (Ages 17 & Over) - Pre-Registration \$20.00 (\$30.00 at Door) \$

☐ Ages 12 - 16 Registration \$5.00 (BBQ) \$

☐ Ages 11 & Under - FREE • Only service dogs allowed in conference area.

Scholarship Fund \$

Coffee Fund \$

GRAND TOTAL \$