



# DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

March 2019

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



## The Third....

**Step** — Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

**Tradition** — The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

**Concept** — *To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."*

**Promise from the 9<sup>th</sup> Step**— *We will comprehend the word serenity.*

### In this Month's Newsletter.

Concept and Tradition Number Three come to us from the perspective of David M. of the On the Colorado Group (and also the current District 29 Treasurer!

More information on the coming District 29 elections with a look at the District Officers. Along with reports from Debbie M. DCM and Jan S., Alt. DCM. Plus a chance to serve by helping District 29 prepare for the Area 68 Summer Workshop, even just by sharing how you would answer for the AA Family Feud Databanks!

### A Call to Arms... Err... Pens

I've heard – and I'd guess so have you – "The pen is mightier than the sword!" Well... at times I think, too, that a pen (or even a keyboard is heavier than a sword! It seems that when it comes to writing – sponsor suggested or even Newsletter Chari requested – many of us balk, sputter and putt! I'd like a few folks to build up a bit of muscle, helpfully without writer's cramps, and break out the pen! Send

me a story about how recovery has made a difference in your life, the miracle of being sober today, or go all out and volunteer (you can even ask your sponsor to suggest it so it is an assignment) to weigh in with what one of the remaining traditions and concepts mean to you!

I am even willing to help by crafting a draft out of your ideas. Help me make this your Newsletter. Send in your articles or ideas for articles by e-mail [district29.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:district29.newsletter@gmail.com) to or get them to Theol J. in person.

### There's a New Meeting in Town, Chestnut!

Come on down to 1409 Chestnut St, Bastrop, TX 78602 Mondays at 6 p.m., and you'll find a new meeting! With the hopes of setting root to a new Group the Chestnut Meeting – a Closed Literature Study – held its inaugural meeting 2/17 /2019! We'll keep a reminder of this and other printed schedule addenda here in the newsletter for you, this month you'll find this on Page 6!

## Alternate DCM Update March 2019

### Jan S., DCM District 29, Panel 68

Sandy T., our Area68 Treatment Chair gave the District a great presentation on Bridging the Gap in Treatment in January. I'm looking forward to Dean D., our Area68 PI/CPC Chair bringing a workshop in March on Having fun in service. I encourage everyone to make time for these presentations, workshops are not just for district members, all who are interested are encouraged and welcome to come.

I was privileged to attend the SWTA68 January Winter Workshop in Uvalde, where it was good to be back in general service with other trusted servants as we strive to learn and share experiences and ideas to take back to our districts.

At the wrap up of the assembly we got informal notes from the various workshops and I was particularly interested in those from Jose M., GSR from Rule 62 Group in San Antonio. The workshop focuses on happenings in other groups in our area; both problems and solutions get a good airing. I am happy to share those notes with anyone interested; please give me a shout.

I'm reminded that the GSR pamphlet says *"the strength of our whole A.A. structure with the group and with the general service starts with the group and with the general service representative (GSR) the group elects. We cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."*

### 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.

## Where It All Begins

The following are from the A.A. General Service Conference-approved pamphlet *The A.A. Group ...where it all begins.*

### Principles Before Personalities

*Tradition Two: For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

What is an Informed A.A. Group Conscience?

The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind.

On sensitive issues, the group works slowly—discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a “yes” or “no” count—precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience.

The term “informed group conscience” implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group v

### A.A.’s Single Purpose

*Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

*“There are those who predict that A.A. may well become a new spearhead for a spiritual awakening throughout the world. When our friends say these things, they are both generous and sincere. But we of A.A. must reflect that such a tribute and such a prophecy could well prove to be a heady drink for most of us—that is, if we really came to believe this to be the real purpose of A.A., and if we commenced to behave accordingly.*

*“Our Society, therefore, will prudently cleave to its single purpose: the carrying of the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in one area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody.”*

A.A. co-founder Bill W., 1955

*Tradition Five--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.*

### District Committee

DCM Debbie M	Alt DCM Jan S	Secretary <b>Open</b>
PICPC <b>Open</b>	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>		

### District Elections, the Continuing Saga!

This month we take a look at the District Officers – The District Secretary and Treasurer. As District Officers those in these positions vote at District Meetings. These trusted servants keep the business of the District in order. Next Month we will continue to explore the General Service committee

officers and roles. We hope bringing you information on each of the service opportunities in District 29 and the election process will help you make an informed decision on what might be best for if you should feel a call to service.

### DISTRICT 29 OFFICERS

#### The Secretary...

...attends all District monthly meetings and takes and transcribes minutes. Provides a copy of minutes for members attending District meetings if requested and provides a copy of approved district minutes to each District 29 Group in a timely manner by email.

...maintains a current list of the names and contact information of all GSR's and Alternate GSR's, District Committee Chairpersons, and District 29 Officers and provides copies as needed.

...informs District 29 Groups of all upcoming monthly meetings. The reminders should also be emailed to the Webmaster for input on the website.

#### The Treasurer...

...maintains financial records included all monetary contributions. Attends all district meetings and provides a written financial report at each District meeting of Income and Expenses and Current Bank Balance. Keeps separate ledger on earmarked contributions.

...makes the District aware of upcoming expenses and needs by coordination with DCM and Committee Chairpersons.

<b>Area Birthday Locations</b>	
<b>By Month</b>	
<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

## Correctional Facilities Committee

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.

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:

### Tools of the A.A. Program

“My name is David and I’m an alcoholic. I’m currently serving a prison sentence for an alcohol-related incident. Before I ever knew I was coming to prison I decided to give A.A. another try, after hitting bottom and winding up in county jail. Early on I attended as many meetings as I could and followed the advice given to me by the volunteers bringing in the A.A. meetings. I earnestly started working the Steps and reread the Big Book. I say reread because I have been in and out of A.A. for years. I never gave A.A. or myself a real chance. I didn’t listen to anyone, always wanting to do it my way. I’ve just recently been released from confinement after 22 days. During this time I had my Big Book, some Grapevines, pen and paper, and letters from my sponsor and support group. I’m grateful! I’ve also celebrated 21 months of sobriety in December and completed the Twelve Steps. During my alone time in confinement I spent some extra time on Step Eleven. Prayer and meditation are a big part of my life. I still have seven years left before my ‘out date’ and using everything I’ve learned in A.A. I know I’ll make it. With my Higher Power, support group and the Big Book, I know I’ll be just fine. If you’re new to A.A. or coming back like me, please be honest with yourself. Look at where your running the show has gotten you and give yourself a break! Find that Higher Power, get involved, get a sponsor and give yourself a chance. The A.A. program works, but only if you work it!” — David B, Southeast Region

From “SHARING FROM BEHIND THE WALLS” Spring 2015

[https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en\\_US/f-97\\_spring\\_2015.pdf](https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/f-97_spring_2015.pdf)

### A New Freedom and a New Happiness

“I am a very lucky man to have people from A.A. in my life today. They have made it much easier for me to hold my head up high even in the situation I am in. I still have a lot of work to do to feel whole again. That void I have had for so long is starting to be filled with a man that I can live with. I am a responsible human today and that feels great. I no longer need to run and hide in a bottle. What a blessing and a true freedom. I am also much happier. Yes, even being incarcerated, I am a much happier person. Today is a precious moment that is fun to live in.” — Dean M., Pacific Region

“SHARING FROM BEHIND THE WALLS” Spring 2016.

[https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en\\_US/f-97\\_spring\\_2016.pdf](https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/f-97_spring_2016.pdf)

- 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

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](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-26_AAinCF.pdf).

## DCM Report for March 2019 Newsletter

### Debbie M, DCM District 29, Panel 68

Hi Fellowship in District 29!!! Time is flying by when we are having fun and fellowshiping in District 29.

Since my last newsletter report in February, I attended the 65th Coastal Bend Jamboree in Corpus Christi. This was my first Jamboree and there were many alcoholics from all over the area sharing their experience strength and hope. One thing they did at the Jamboree, that sent chills up my spine was they had a flag ceremony of all the groups from the Coastal Bend Intergroup. Each group was represented and it looked like each group made their own Group flag. So creative and beautiful! It was such a cool way to show unity in the Coastal Bend Area. It reminded me so much of the flag ceremonies at the International Conventions. A great time was had by all.

But getting back to our home District; I am pleased to share with the fellowship that our own Kim R. L. has been named the 1st SWTA 68 Accessibility Chairperson. Kim is such a beacon of light and spirit. I know she will be amazing. Congratulations Kim!!! The Accessibility Chair was passed in November 2018 at the SWTA 68 Fall Voting Conference and she will make her Accessibility Chair debut at the SWTA 68 Pre-General Conference in April 2019 in Seguin, TX.

I do hope that to see you at the Pre General Conference in April. We have 4 proposals that we will be voting on and District 29 Groups' voices need to be shared with the area. We will also be doing a "mock conference" on agenda items that will be talked and voted on at the General Service Conference in May. These "mock conferences" gives our Delegate, Jonathan S. an idea about how our Area views different subjects that are coming up.

Doing service is not for everyone and I know that. It is volunteer basis. Service is done in many ways from welcoming people at the door to being an Area Delegate and all the opportunities in between. I personally love doing service. It reminds me daily what Alcoholics Anonymous has done for me and for that I want to share this most wonderful gift onto others. One of the things that I am always reminded of is that our common purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to help the still suffering alcoholic. To be able to share with them what life could possibly be once they become open, honest and willing. What a beautiful blessing and opportunity for growth that we get to do while helping the still suffering alcoholic.

As always thank you for allowing me to be of service to this wonderful fellowship in District 29.

Your Grateful Servant,  
Debbie M.

#### District 29 Printed Schedule Addenda

These updates have been added, via a sticker or label, to the existing paper schedules left. If you need schedules please get with your GSR or Debbie M, DCM. If you have updates for your Group's schedule send them in so we can get the word out and updated on the District 29 website [www.drstrict29aa.org](http://www.drstrict29aa.org).

**The Manor Group** now meets every Tuesday at 6 pm at 12800 Lexington, Manor, TX in the building behind the main church. This is an Open Discussion Meeting.

**Let Go Let God** meets every Friday at 7:30 am (yes in the morning) at 1109 N Main Street, Bastrop TX, 78602. This is an Open Literature Meeting

This meeting will be listed in the newsletter as these folks set out to set root as a Group!

**The Chestnut Meeting** is held each Monday at 6 pm. Folks gather for a Closed Literature Study at 1409 Chestnut St, Bastrop, TX 78602

*Confidential Document for AA members only*

2019

Southwest Texas Area 68 Summer Workshop

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

page 62



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)



We are in full swing planning for hosting the Area 68 Summer Workshop in Bastrop, July 26-28, 2019 at the Hampton Inn.

Committees are working on hospitality, registration, greeting, entertainment and fundraising for this area assembly. We're lucky to have it so close that we don't have to travel to get in on the learning and fun that goes with this event. As one of Area68's past delegates used to say..."we are a spiritual entity with a little bit of business". We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are interested in volunteering to help, let your group GSR know, or one of the following

- Jan S., Kathy M., Anita W. – Elgin Group
- Brooke G. – Legacies Group
- Linda D. – Lost Pines Group
- David M. – OTC Group
- Theol J. – Let Go Let God Group
- Debbie Mc – Sunday Morning Sidewalk Group

From the Grapevine April 2014



"Once upon a relapse dreary, I pondered first Steps weak and weary..."—Mark S., Sammamish, Wash.

## What's Happening, in and around District 29

### March 1 through 31, 2019

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

**Mar 9** - Speaker Meeting at 7pm at Lost Pines Group

**Mar 10** - District Meeting at 1:30pm at Hope Floats)

**Mar 10** - Having Fun in Service presented by Dean D SWTA68 PICPC Chair at Hope Floats after the District 29 Meeting approx. 3:00pm

**Mar 15** - Speaker Meeting at 7:00pm at the Elgin Group

**Mar 17** -SWTA68 Summer Conference Committee Meeting Noon at Sunday Morning

**Mar 26** - Speaker Mtg. at A Way Out Group at 7pm.

**Mar 30** - Area Birthday hosted by Friday Night Group



### AA Family Feud Survey Questions

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 FUED it next!" Help the District 29 Area 68 Summer Workshop Committee fill up a bank of answers for some good clean fun and friendly participation. Please send in 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 language 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 wrongs answers. Please send answers to Debbie M.-District 29 at [district29@aa-swta.org](mailto:district29@aa-swta.org) or you could fill them out and hand them to Debbie M.

## The AA Traditions and Concepts Series 2019

This series of articles on the Concepts and Traditions is inspired by my desire to better understand Service in the A.A. General Service structure. This month David M. brings us the how he sees it of Tradition 3 and Concept 3.

Note – In the articles that follow, I'll confess I've relied heavily on Copyrighted AA literature (no kidding) and in many cases exact excerpts from that literature. I've tried my best to indicate, with quotation marks and additional comments, where I've used exact copy. Any oversight and imperfect referencing is due to my ignorance. :')

### 3rd Tradition

The third tradition of AA goes like this: ***The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.***

Ok, so EVERYONE wants to see the long form too, here it is: Tradition 3 – Long form says, ***“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.*”**

I love that. Thank you God! I was asked to make a presentation recently about this very tradition. As I pondered what to say, the Responsibility Statement seemed to fit the bill perfectly. The Responsibility statement says, ***“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous to ALWAYS to be there – and for that, I am responsible.”***

I'd like to reiterate part of that statement. It says, ***“...anyone, anywhere...” and “ALWAYS...”*** Not much wiggle room there about who is welcome in AA. Everybody who is an Alcoholic!

If you believe in what the steps tell us, and I do because they've worked for me and saved my life, then you must believe and DO Step 12. Step 12 says, ***“we tried to carry this message to alcoholics...”***

Also, the 5<sup>th</sup> Traditions says, ***“Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”***

I see third tradition from two primary aspects, neither more important than the other. One is called Singleness of Purpose. If your group reads the blue card before your meetings, it says, ***“...In keeping with our singleness of purpose (Tradition 5) and our Third Tradition (Tradition 3) which states that “The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop DRINKING...”*** What that means to me is that this program is about how to help with ALCOHOLISM. That's what our primary purpose is. This may be one of the most hotly debated issues my home group has (other than making meetings non-smoking!) I am a true believer that the magic that happened between Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson was sparked by the fact that they could relate to each other's experience WITH ALCOHOL. If you believe this story is true, then it's hard to deny how important and sacred this aspect of the 3rd tradition and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is.

The second aspect of the third tradition is what I call the annoyance factor. If there's someone in a group that annoys the %^&\*! out of the members of the group, that's no reason to kick them out. Lord knows I annoyed and embarrassed folks when I arrived! If they say they're an alcoholic,

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*“We've thrown away all membership rules and regulations that keep you out. We want you to have the same chance for sobriety that we have had.*

***The TWELVE TRADITIONS Illustrated***

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then they're welcome. Of course, safety and unity come into play. When everyone in the group is shocked and disturbed when that individual starts on a rant, someone might suggest they get a sponsor who will guide them until the rough edges wear off. I think God puts these folks in my life to teach me patience and tolerance.

Remember the Twelve and Twelve on p.364 says, "So beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots, and fallen women were definitely out." So funny. I laugh every time I read that. I think Bill Wilson wanted us to laugh so we could see how ridiculous that would be. For some perverse reason, the "fallen women" always cracks me up!

In the recent issue of "Box 459" the lead article is all about 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition. They use more modern terms. It says, "Sadly, some of this continues to this day (reactions to those that are "different"), perhaps not in the explicit use of racist, sexist, homophobic or gender non-conforming slurs, but with silence – a silence that can be just as alienating as hurtful words." Remember the responsibility statement – anyone, anywhere. The Box 459 article goes on to say how "important it is to have a greeter in the group - that it's hard enough for a newcomer that's hit bottom to even be there, especially if they feel different. And then to NOT feel welcome could be all it takes to keep them from coming back. A smile and an offer of a cup of coffee can be a lifesaver."

So, let's keep it about alcohol. And let's offer a smile, a seat and a cup of coffee to anyone who's arrived to our fellowship with their ass dragging, thinking they may be an alcoholic.

### Concept III

To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.-the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives--with a traditional "Right of Decision."

The way I see it the AA pamphlet – The Twelve Concepts for World Service – does a great job describing Concept III. The Pamphlet is subtitled "How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together." and I am not sure I could do better – unless you have a few pages more reading in you and want me to tell you the one about how a Group Service Representative decides how to vote....

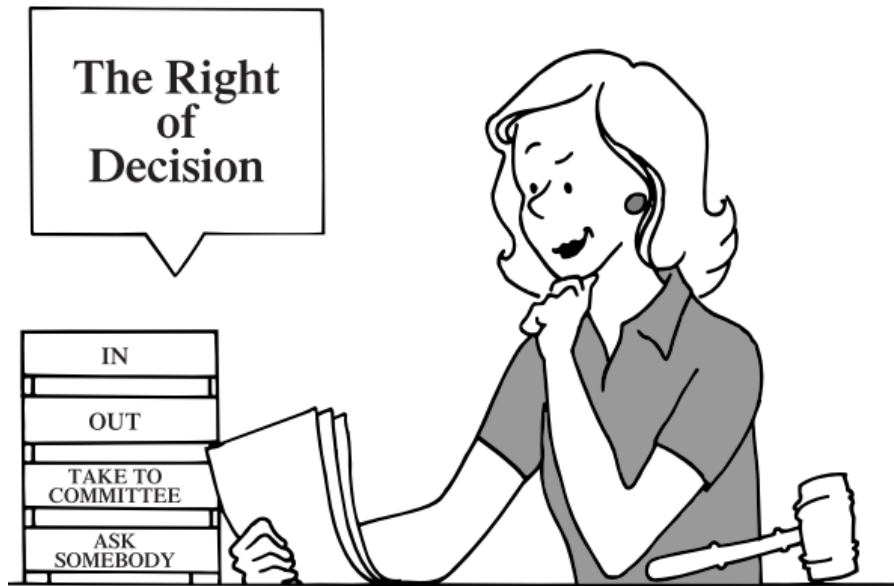
#### **The Right of Decision at All Levels of Service**

"As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."



“A background for this Concept, you should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, both of which are found in The A.A. Service Manual. Except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service — has the right “to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” That is, they can “decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.” This is “the essence of ‘The Right of Decision.’” But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its “trusted servants.” If the groups instruct their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s instruct the area delegates rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, “our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.” Similarly, if the General Service Board,

acting through its subsidiary boards, “were to attempt to manage” the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine “in detail, then . . . the staff members . . . would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot.” Bill warns against using “The Right of Decision” as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes: “Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust.



## AT ALL LEVELS OF SERVICE

We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other.”

I like Bill W’s example in the Service Manual p. 12 in the Concepts section, “...were the groups to carry their instruction of Delegates to extremes, then we would be proceeding on the false theory that group opinion in most world service matters would somehow be much superior to Conference opinion. Practically speaking, this could almost never be the case. There would be very few questions indeed that “instructed” Delegates could better settle than a Conference acting on the spot with full facts and debate to guide it.” “...Nevertheless the “instructed” Delegate who cannot act on his own conscience in a final Conference vote is not a “trusted servant” at all; he is just a messenger.

If you would like to read about the other concepts they are also included in the pamphlet which can be found at [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-8\\_thetwelveconetps.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-8_thetwelveconetps.pdf).

After all my studying and writing one thing I have come to believe on this concept is it is hard to put into better words something that Bill W. pondered on for years how to put into words.

David M. - On The Colorado Group! AKA OTC

**Confidential Document for AA members only**