



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

November 2018

www.district29aa.org



The Eleventh....

Step - We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and power to carry that out.

Tradition - Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

Promise - We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.

Concept - The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Celebrate Sober

Celebrating with our sober family can be helpful in navigating the holidays. Plan some time over the holidays with sober friends, at meetings and at sober celebrations. It is always a good idea to have your next sober function planned. The holidays can be too much for some without the fellowship. Find your reason this season to join in the sober fun around District 29. This issue and next will highlight sober holiday celebrations as well as have information on staying sober during the holidays.

Gobble, Gobble where to go?

Phelan Road Group will celebrate the harvest season with get together on Thanksgiving Day. The fun, food and fellowship start at 2 p.m. on! A Ham and Turkey will be provided, along with Tea and Coffee. Please bring a side dish or desert. The address is 267 Phelan Rd. Bastrop, TX 78602. Regardless if this is your first harvest sober or you have been working the steps since the Pilgrims planted their first crops in Massachusetts bring your favorite dish and join in a sober Thanksgiving celebration. Families are welcomed. Come enjoy unity and fellowship while celebrating sobriety, sober!

Fellowship in the Pines

With a mess of great speakers, marvelous food and astounding amount of fellowship, the 34th annual Fellowship in the Pines was a big hit in Smithville! Let's all give a big thanks to the Fellowship in the Pines Committee for rocketing us into the fourth dimension. Hope to see everyone again next year for the 35th annual Fellowship in the Pines.

Lost Pines Group turned 14

On October 13th, 2018, tens of our very own and some from near and far came to Lost Pines to celebrate the Group's 14th Anniversary! Thank you to Garrett for sharing



his story and we'll let everyone else except the cake remain completely anonymous!

Confidential Document for AA members only

How to Stay Sober During the Holidays

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.

1



Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.

Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.
If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.

2



3



Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.

Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.

4



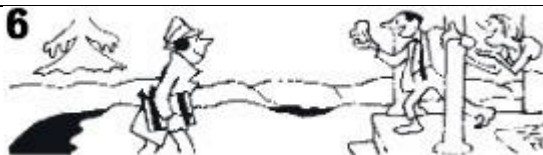
5



Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.

If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.

6



How to Stay Sober During the Holidays



Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.

Worship in your own way.



Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.

Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.

"Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.



Source - AA Grapevine

The content of this article is from Box 459 "News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A.®" Vol. 60, No.4 / Winter Issue 2014.

Do you have something that helped you to make it through the holidays with your sobriety intact or a fun or touching experience from a holiday party at an AA Club? Send them to the newsletter chair for consideration of being published in the December issue.

DCM Report for November Newsletter

Debbie M, DCM District 29, Panel 68

November is here and most of us are thinking how grateful we are. The topic of a lot of meetings in November will probably be on Gratitude. This has rung true in previous November meetings I have attended and I am looking forward to it again. We, as alcoholics, have so much to be grateful for. We have been given a second chance to live life to the fullest

I recently reading the A.A. Pamphlet "This is A.A. An Introduction to the A.A. Recovery Program" on page 18 which is called "A New Dimension" it states. "There was a time when many of us believed that alcohol was the only thing that made life bearable. We could not even dream of a life without drinking. Today, through the A.A. program, we do not feel that we have been deprived of anything. Rather, we have been freed and find that a new dimension has been added to our lives. We have new friends, new horizons, and new attitudes. After years of despair and frustration, many of us feel that we have really begun to live for the first time. We enjoy sharing that new life with anyone who is still suffering from alcoholism, as we once suffered, and who seeks a way out of the darkness and into the light."

I am grateful to be living in the light today. I have opportunities given to me beyond my wildest dreams. I have friends that I would have never met and serve others who still suffer with alcohol just as I have been helped from those before me in service. I attended Lost Pines Group 14th Anniversary in October and their speaker Garrett S. had said in closing that he had been told and I am sure others have been told, "Don't neglect your A.A. life for the life A.A. has given you." I try to remember this statement every time I am getting into self and not being grateful for the life I have been given. This is just a piece of some of things that remind me how grateful I am to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship and the "New Dimension" I live in today.

Hope to see everyone at SWTA68 Fall Voting Conference November 2-4, 2018 at the Sonesta Hotel in Bee Caves, TX. Don't forget to check the calendar for all the events happening in our District in November! Hope to see ya'll 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

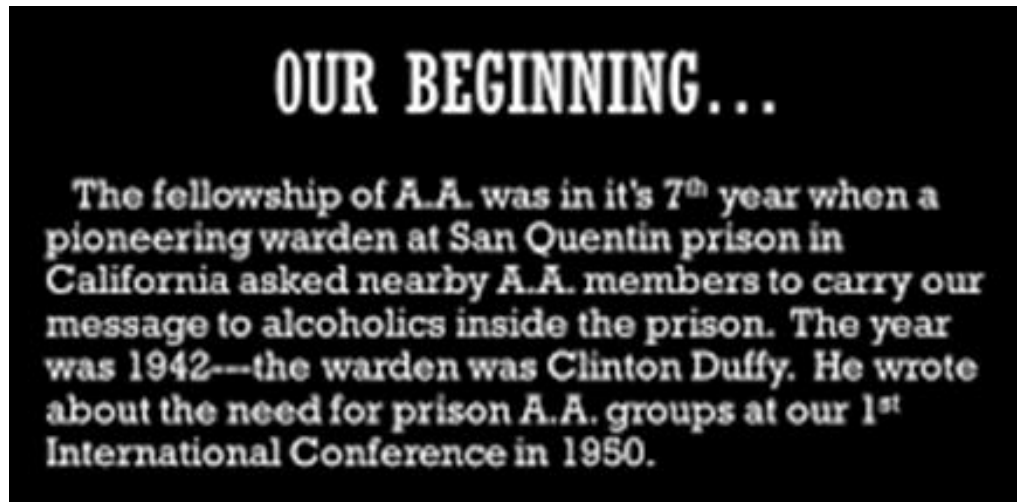
Nov.-Smithville Group

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.

In the **Box 4-5-9 1968 Holiday Issue** Bill W. shared "...For A.A., this is a very special time – a time for remembering God’s gifts to each of us, a time to remember our responsibility to all who suffer alcoholism, a time to remember that to freely give is freely to receive...". Finding neat tidbits like this while searching for newsletter material are good reminders to this writer that the core of sobriety in A.A. is and has always been a spiritual basis of sharing and helping others. The full issue is available at https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/en_box459_holiday68.pdf. Perhaps you will find some interesting, to you, tidbits searching the internet for A.A. facts!

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)

Distributes 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.

What’s Happening, in and around District 29

November 1 through 30, 2018

Nov 2 - Speaker Meeting at 8pm at On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville

Nov 2-4 - SWTA68 Fall Voting Conference, Sonesta Hotel, Bee Caves

Nov 10 - Speaker Meeting at 7pm at Lost Pines Group

Nov 11 - District Meeting at 1:30pm at Gratitude Group in La Grange

Nov 16 - Speaker Mtg. at Elgin Group. Hot Dogs at 6pm and Speaker at 7pm

Nov 20 - Service Study Meeting at 7:30pm at Timberline Church, Bastrop

Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Dinner at 2pm at Phelan Road Group

Nov 24 - Area Birthday Potluck at 7pm Meeting at 8 pm hosted by Smithville Group

Nov 27 - Speaker Mtg. at 7pm at A Way Out Group (AWOG), Bastrop