



DISTRICT 29 NEWSLETTER

October

~~September~~ 2018
www.district29aa.org



The Tenth....

Step - Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Tradition - Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Promise - Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us.

Concept - Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

And, since it is October the Newsletter Chair's favorite: The 10th Step Promises

And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone—even alcohol. For by this time sanity will have returned. We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame. We react sanely and normally, and we will find that this has happened automatically. We will see that our new attitude toward liquor has been given us without any thought or effort on our part. It just comes! That is the miracle of it. We are not fighting it, neither are we avoiding temptation. We feel as though we had been placed in a position of neutrality—safe and protected. We have not even sworn off. Instead, the problem has been removed. It does not exist for us. We are neither cocky nor are we afraid. That is how we react so long as we keep in fit spiritual condition.

(Big Book pp. 84-85)

October chock full with celebration

October is ripe with celebrations here in AA within and around District 29 area! Help celebrate at these events!

The Lost Pines Group turn 14

October 13th, our very own Lost Pines Group celebrates its 14th Anniversary! The celebration will begin at 5:30 p.m., potluck at 6, History at 7 and wrap up with Garrett S. from Leander Speaking at 7:30! Come see us and celebrate at 1199 Highway 21 East, Bastrop(Paige), TX 78659.

See the story of the Lost Pines Group Starting on Page 3 of this issue

Area Birthdays in Elgin

Don't miss the monthly area Birthday celebration to be hosted this month by the Elgin Group on Saturday October, 27th! The potluck will begin at 7pm and the chance to celebrate the annual anniversaries of sobriety with folks will start at 8 pm!

Fellowship in the Pines

The 34th annual Fellowship in the Pines is being held October 5-7 in Smithville! Find out about the conference themed "... we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence" at www.fellowshipinthepines.org/.

In need of those willing to carry the message

Michael G., the District 29 Correctional Facility Chair, reminds us that we are in dire need of volunteers to visit with those Bastrop County Jail! We have many opportunities to carry the message, sharing how this program saved our life and can save the life of others. Please 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.

Open District Committee Chair Descriptions

These positions are open as of July 31, 2018. Some may be filled at the district meeting, but it is always good to have a description of the District Committee Chairs and what they do. All Committee Chairs attend District 29 monthly meetings and 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.

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. A Treatment Committee may function within the

What's Happening in and around District 29

October 1 through November 4, 2018

- Oct 5-7** – Fellowship in the Pines at Riverbend Park, Smithville
- Oct 13** – Lost Pines 14th Year Anniversary Potluck 6pm, History 7pm and Speaker Meeting 7:30pm at Lost Pines Group, Bastrop)
- Oct 14** – District Meeting at 1:30pm at Elgin Group
- Oct 14** – CFC Workshop at approx 2:30pm at Elgin Group
- Oct 16** - Service Study Meeting at 7:30pm at Timberline Church, Bastrop
- Oct 19** – Speaker Mtg Hot Dogs 6pm and Speaker 7pm, Elgin Group
- Oct 27** - Area Birthday potluck 7pm meeting 8 pm, Elgin Group
- Oct 30** - Speaker Mtg. 7pm at A Way Out Group (AWOG), Bastrop
- Nov 4** - Speaker Mtg. 8pm, On The Colorado (OTC), Smithville
- Nov 2-4** – SWTA68 Fall Voting Conference, Sonesta Hotel, Bee Caves

Take the Steps, Through a Change

By: Theol J.

When G-d my plans does rearrange,
Let me not feel off or even strange.
Simply let me go with the flow,
For always best He seems to know.
Open eyes and start each day,
Without expectation in any way.
Trust the intuition He does provide,
That second bit of ease or knot inside.
I've found the first, third and tenth are
often mine,
Yet the second is oft divine.
I'm done rambling on, right now,
Off to let it flow, not wondering how.

Lost Pines Group Celebrates 14 years of Alcoholics Anonymous

The Lost Pines Group was started in October 2004 as the result of the Pastor of Timberline Fellowship Church located at 1199 Highway 21 East, Bastrop/Paige, contacting three A.A. members about making the Church available if A.A. wanted to meet there. An organizational and informative meeting was scheduled for members that might be interested in starting and supporting a new group at this location.

The meeting was held on a Sunday evening and some of those attending that initial meeting still attend Lost Pines and many are still around District 29. At that first meeting the Group decided on a name, ["Lost Pines"](#) and scheduled its first meeting which was the following Thursday at 7:00 P.M. Trusted servants were elected and it was decided to register the Group with the General Service Office (GSO). When registering, GSO informed us that a Group was already registered as "Lost Pines" in 1987 and asked if we wanted to keep that name and registered number. The Group voted to keep the name and group number so the records at GSO actually show the Group as being older.

Lost Pines Group has undergone many meeting changes over the years, but the one constant that has never changed is the decision that all topics in all meetings would come from Conference Approved Literature. The Thursday night meeting is a "closed" meeting and was the first meeting ever scheduled for the Group. We also have an Open Speaker Meeting on the second Saturday every month. Currently, the Group celebrates Annual Birthdays on the third Thursday each month immediately following the Closed Thursday meeting.

We have hosted numerous outstanding and excellent speakers over the years including local Bastrop/District 29 A.A. members and many from out of town including from Austin, Cedar Park, Houston, Round Rock, San Marcos, Lake Jackson, Victoria, Georgetown, Corpus Christi, and McAllen.

The Group conducts regular Group Conscious/Business Meetings to keep members informed and up to date on the Group business, District 29, SWTA Area 68 and GSO activities and upcoming events. The Group is self-supporting and makes regular contributions to all four A.A. entities; District 29, Hill Country Intergroup, SWTA 68 and GSO. In addition, several Group Inventories have been conducted and facilitated by Past SWTA 68 Delegates. Many items were discussed and changes made as needed and assets were discussed as well. The Lost Pines Group also hosts the Birthday Celebration for Bastrop Members and surrounding communities, annually in April on the last Saturday.

Since 2004 the Group has had a GSR and/or an Alternate GSR that has actively participated at the District 29 and SWTA 68 Area level. The Group uses the *"The A.A. Group...where it all begins"* pamphlet and fills officers and service positions including Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Other Service positions for Committee Representatives include

District Committee

DCM Debbie M

Alt DCM Sunny T

Secretary Kathleen P

Treasurer David M

Webmaster Michael B

Intergroup Dan C

Newsletter Theol J

Literature Katie H

Grapevine Holly H

CFC Mike G

Treatment **Open**

PICPC **Open**

Archives **Open**

CFC, Grapevine, PI/CPC, Archives, Treatment and Hill Country Intergroup Representative. Several Lost Pines members have served at the District level including DCM, Alternate DCM, CFC, PI/CPC and Newsletter Committee Chairpersons. Our members have also served on several panels or conducted workshops at the SWTA 68 CFC and PI/CPC Annual Conferences. Two of our members also served SWTA 68 as an Area Committee Chair for CFC and PI/CPC.

In September of 2011, Bastrop County, especially near the Timberline Fellowship Church, suffered a catastrophic wildfire. The Church was spared, but several of our Home Group Members and District 29 members lost their homes during the fire. For about a month, we were unable to meet at the Church since it was used as a shelter for the Church and community members who lost their homes. The Lost Pines Group however did not miss any meetings during that time with the exception of the first weekend following the fire. We met in Group Members homes and even had two of the regularly scheduled Speaker Meetings.

The Group location has been the host of many functions over the years, i.e., District 29 Meetings and Workshops, Fellowship in the Pines Conference Fundraisers, the Bastrop Service Study and is usually available if not being used by the Church. Most recently the Group location was the site of the 2018 Annual District Picnic that included the first ever "District 29 Family Feud". What great fun, food and fellowship that was.

We cordially invite everyone in District 29 and beyond to come visit on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. and the second Saturday for the monthly Speaker meeting. And we would like to extend a special invitation to attend our 14th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 13th beginning at 5:30 pm.

We would like thank each of you that have visited and participated in the Lost Pines Group throughout the years. You have helped to make the Group a vital part of A.A. in District 29 and beyond.

May God and the Spiritual Principles of Alcoholics Anonymous continue to be the guiding light for each of you and the Lost Pines Group as we endeavor to **"Carry The Message"** using our combined Experience, Strength and Hope.

Blessings to each of you,

The Lost Pines Group

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

Need to Share a special event or meeting going on at your Home Group?

Never fear your District Website is here!!!

If you have a flyer or event that you would like to add to our District calendar, please send the information or flyer to our Newsletter Chair

Theol J. at Theol_Jackman@hotmail.com

Also if you have some spare time check out our District 29 website. It is very user friendly and informative.

Debbie M, DCM District 29, Panel 68

October is upon us; let the last quarter of the year begin. It seems like there is always something going on in AA, there's never a dull moment. I have found that AA in our District and Area is full with fellowship, fun, spirituality, and a drive to do what is best for AA as a whole while keeping with our primary purpose -- to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We do this in many ways. The SWTA68 Fall Voting Conference is coming November 2 -4, 2018 at the Sonesta Hotel in Bee Caves, TX, this is where your group's voice will be heard and counted. While looking through our literature, I came across what I am trying say which is so elegantly conveyed by our founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. in the pamphlet "***The A.A. Group***" the snippet below is part of-- "***The AA Group - the Final Voice of the Fellowship***"

"Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because "the ultimate responsibility and final authority for world services resides with the groups -- rather than with the trustees, the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York." "Twelve Concepts For World Service Illustrated"

The entire structure of A.A. depends upon the participation and conscience of the individual groups, and how each of these groups conducts its affairs has a ripple effect on A.A. everywhere. Thus, we are ever individually conscious of our responsibility for our own sobriety and, as a group, for carrying the A.A. message to the suffering alcoholic who reaches out to us for help. A.A. has no central authority, minimal organization, and a handful of Traditions instead of laws. As co-founder Bill W. noted in 1960, "We obey [the Twelve Traditions] willingly because we ought to and because we want to. Perhaps the secret of their power lies in the fact that these life-giving communications spring out of living experience and are rooted in love."

A.A. is shaped by the collective voice of its local groups and their representatives to the General Service Conference, which works toward unanimity on matters vital to the Fellowship. Each group functions independently, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. A.A.'s essential group work is done by alcoholics who are themselves recovering in the Fellowship, and each of us is entitled to do our A.A. service in the way we think best within the spirit of the Traditions. This means that we function as a democracy, with all plans for group action approved by the majority voice. No single individual is appointed to act for the group or for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Each group is as unique as a thumbprint, and approaches to carrying the message of sobriety vary not just from group to group but from region to region. Acting autonomously, each group charts its own course. The better informed the members, the stronger and more cohesive the group -- and the greater the assurance that when a newcomer reaches out for help, the hand of A.A. always will be there. Most of us cannot recover unless there is a group. As Bill said, "Realization dawns on each member that he is but a small part of a great whole. ... He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not."

To see this unfold -- whether at a group conscious, a District Meeting or at an Area Conference or workshop -- is just amazing. The spirituality within the fellowship is breath taking. I look forward to always being able to take that breath. Hope to see all of you soon.

Your Grateful Servant,

Debbie M.

Grapevine

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

It was in June of 1944 that the first Grapevine was introduced. A group of six alcoholics in New York City approached Bill W. about producing a monthly newsletter. He gave his approval and one month later, the first Grapevine was published. Although there were other such publications in existence at the time, it was the Grapevine that caught on.

“The Grapevine is the mirror of A.A. thought and action, world-wide. It is a sort of magic carpet on which all of us can travel from one distant A.A. outpost to another, and thus it has become a wonderful exchange medium of our current thought and experience.”

[Alcoholic Anonymous Comes of Age, p. 202.]

When the program was new and A.A. was considered a revolutionary solution to the long-standing disease of alcoholism, new meetings began springing up across the country. Then the Grapevine served as a kind of how-to as well as a beacon of hope and a Godsend. It is and always was a meeting in print.

One of the best things about the Grapevine, then and now, is that nearly every article in every issue is as relevant now as it was when it was originally written. Five new, previously unpublished, stories appear in each issue. Most of them are written by alcoholics, from an alcoholic’s unique perspective. Usually the stories are first-person accounts of experience, strength and hope and describe drinking days or they focus on recovery through the A.A. program. The goal of the stories is to reflect the joys and sorrows of living sober in A.A.

Since each alcoholic/writer has an individual way of working the program, articles may be published that appear to contradict each other – because what works for one person may

not work for another. Take what you like and leave the rest.

The estimated “pass along” readership of Grapevine is 175,000. Even so, the magazine needs more support. Currently, there is a 2018 Subscription Challenge to increase subscriptions as well as to increase the sale of related materials (such as books, CDs and more) to make the magazine self-supporting. Right now, with its limited budget, the magazine cannot pay for submissions, and therefore, A.A. members are asked to write and submit their own stories, art work, cartoons, etc. Consequently, the entries are as diverse as the alcoholics who write them.

This past July, District 29 hosted a ‘Writing for the Grapevine Workshop’ at Lost Pines. Jenna Clamo, Area 68’s Grapevine Chair, ran a lively presentation encouraging the dozen of us in attendance to actively participate in the workshop. Jenna has been active in service for years now and her current position as Grapevine Chair is perfect for her. She’s been a long-standing friend and fan of the Grapevine and is a published author of her story published in April of 2014. She gave us time to write a draft of our own story and, at the end of the workshop, encouraged us to submit a polished version directly to the Grapevine. You don’t need prior publishing experience, just a little willingness and a desire to share. How-To Guidelines for contributing to the Grapevine are available at meetings or on-line.

As well as the printed Grapevine, there is an online version available which comes with additional bonus options. This online access is available for a free trial of 7 days during which time, the following is accessible: a Story Archive that includes every story and joke since the first issue in 1944. In addition, there are hundreds of web-exclusive stories, some available in an audio format, a Daily Quote, as well as a monthly audio

version of the current print magazine. And if you use your phone for internet access, you can download the App. The How-To and relevant details can be found at: aagrapevine.org.

La Viña is the Grapevine in Spanish. It has been around for 22 years and has a monthly circulation of approximately 25,000 copies. In addition to the magazine, there are 6 books in Spanish, 3 ebooks and 11 compact disks. See aagrapevine.org/info for details.

As Jenna is the Area 68 Grapevine Chair, I am the Representative for our District 29. We currently have one Grapevine rep from among the meetings in our district. What do you think about volunteering for your home group? Have you considered it?

What can you, if you were a Grapevine representative, do for your meeting? The Grapevine is raising its profile to become more

solvent and even more relevant to A.A. members. Hence, the following objectives have been set.

- Announce the latest issue at your meeting and, ideally, have issues available for sale;
- Encourage group subscriptions – for the group itself or as a Twelfth Step to pass along to institutions – prisons, hospitals, schools, etc.

Let members know how they can participate by sending in materials – stories, feedback, photographs, jokes and original art.

Writing a Grapevine article is a form of Twelfth Step work. It will carry the message. An article written today may end up in a packet of back issues sent to a prison or hospital, for example. So whereas the articles carry the message, they do it, not just once, but every time the magazine is opened and read. So the article you write today can reach a still-suffering alcoholic in the future.

Holly H., District 29 Grapevine Representative

New from Grapevine

One Big Tent

Atheists, agnostics, nonbelievers and secular alcoholics have been members of the AA Fellowship since its earliest days, making significant contributions to the development of the program, helping to swing the doors of AA ever-wider. But finding their path has not always been easy. *One Big Tent* is a collection of stories, originally published in Grapevine, which represent the shared experience of secular AA members who have struggled with alcoholism, yet ultimately found a common solution in AA. These members share how they found their place in AA, work the program, do service and sponsor others.

Order your copy today.

