

# The 3B/3C District News

Volume 10 Issue 2

April 2011

## News of the Austin Area Alcoholics Anonymous - District Servants And Events



### DCM REPORTS

#### District 3B DCM

#### Test Your AA Knowledge

Thought I knew the steps and traditions pretty well. I am also familiar with the 12 concepts. But reading them in a meeting and having to actually take action with them or practice them... well that is something different.

However, getting into action and getting into service have provided opportunities for me to test what I think I know about these traditions and concepts. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to moderate meetings of group inventories. Like I said, I thought I knew the traditions pretty well. But moderating another group's inventory really puts your knowledge to the test.

My sponsor told me the reason we sponsor people is because it forces us to open the Big Book again. Being in service is forcing me to open the other literature AA has to offer, such as the AA Service Manual, which includes the Twelve Concepts of Service. It is important not only to know what the words say but to understand how to practice the spirit of what our founders created. Interestingly enough, most of the ideas and concepts I am learning can easily be transferred into other areas of my life. Because of the action in service, other areas of my life have grown richer and have deeper meaning.

I share this to challenge you to take on something new in AA. Don't worry about making a mistake or not knowing something. The people who serve the groups, the district and the area are all in place to make sure we all succeed.

Thanks for the opportunity,

Yours in Service

Stephen S., District 3B DCM, North Austin

#### District Servants

District 3B DCM

*Stephen S. 512-259-1579*

District 3B Alternate DCM

*Mike S. 512-653-9872*

District 3C DCM

*Julia B. 512-669-6366*

District 3C Alternate DCM

*Bruce M. 512-970-8411*

Treasurer

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Secretary

*David Mc. 512-618-3495*

#### Committee Chairs

Archives

*Brian M. 512-469-2923*

Corrections

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Intergroup

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## DCMs Can Help Groups Become Ready for General Service

Hello everyone,

It's a privilege to serve as your District Committee Member. This winter has been another great season of service activities.

The Southwest Texas Area 68 winter workshop was held in January in Castroville. It was a great event filled with information and inspiration. Highlights included the archives presentation of the history of the Southwest Texas Area, where several past delegates shared their experience and lots of lore about those who came before us, and Jere J.'s wonderful presentation about pioneer women in AA. District 1E did a great job hosting us.

I've been having a great time visiting groups in the district, particularly those that have not been participating in general service. It's great to see the diversity of groups. Individual styles and formats differ, but all are carrying the AA message of recovery. Thanks to Bruce M., our alternate DCM, for coming with me and sharing his experience, strength, and hope. I like to think our visits will inspire groups that have not been active in general service to elect GSRs and join us on this wonderful path of service.

Another exciting development this quarter has been the Service Manual Study Meeting, hosted by Turning Point group. We have had three great meetings, with our past delegates doing a great job of sharing about the Concepts and everyone participating in discussion of the chapters in the *AA Service Manual*. We have had a great turnout so far. Please join us! We meet the first Monday of every month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at 1347 Lamar Square Drive in South Austin.

The format of the Service Manual Study Meeting includes a speaker on the Concept of the month, followed by discussion of the chapter of the month from the service manual. Attendees are asked to read the chapter before the meeting and come ready to discuss it. The *AA Service Manual* is available as a **pdf at aa.org**, and hard copies are available for sale through our district literature chair or through Turning Point group at the meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Yours in service,

Julia B., DCM, District 3C, South Austin

Find AA Meeting times, locations, and events at:

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

Find Austin District meetings and events under the  
District pull down: select **District 3B3C**

## Treatment Facilities Report

### ADAC New AA Service Entity

Greetings from Norma A.

The last quarter has been fascinating as new avenues of carrying the message have been in the forefront. Ward Ewing, at the regional Forum last fall, commented that we live now in an electronic age which presents us with a new challenge. How do we carry the message of AA to the present generation using these new electronics ? As a result we now have new tools such as animated videos, one of which was produced by younger AA members which we take to treatment centers. Another video titled "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," tells the stories of several individuals who found AA while incarcerated. What about sponsoring the deaf AA members? We now have the technology of video phones where your call is translated into American Sign Language. The deaf member can watch an interpreter on the phone screen; the service is also available on cell phones. In short, we can utilize the technology of today to pass on the message given to us 75 years ago!!

At the last SWTA Area meeting, Cheryl F., the Area Treatment Facilities Chair, was kind enough to ask for a report on the latest development of Special Needs Alcoholics. I was happy to provide that material. I facilitated a Special Needs workshop to discuss those issues. So, just how does AA support the special needs alcoholics? The group discovered that while many special needs alcoholics could easily have their requirements met by the home group with providing space for wheelchairs, rides for the blind, and reading to the learning disabled, the deaf alcoholic was being left out of the loop. While it is true that interpreters have been available to the deaf AA members, sponsorship has been lacking. Sponsorship for the deaf AA member has not been easily attained, and relationships between hearing AAs and deaf AAs is almost non-existent.

In an effort to resolve these issues a new service entity has been created to serve the deaf AA members. It is called **ADAC**: Austin Deaf Access Committee. It exists to bridge the gap between hearing AAs with deaf AAs. Why does this gap exist? There are many reasons, which will be explored through an upcoming workshop in May. This workshop will be presented by District 3b/3c Treatment Facilities and will offer "bridge the gap" information for special needs AAs. AA meetings, fellowship, and recovery are things we wish to extend to all AA members, and you can help! Be looking for **ADAC** sponsored events and be open to getting past the awkwardness of communicating through an interpreter. These up and coming speaker meetings and events will include our deaf AA members. I am visiting a number of meetings and group consciences to inform and answer questions about the details of this new service entity (**ADAC**).

Please call or e-mail me if your group would like more information.

It is an exciting time for us to be able to find new and innovative ways to carry the AA message. Taking seriously our responsibilities to every newcomer, we are responsible in carrying this message of hope to all who suffer from the grip of alcohol.

We are truly living in the age of miracles!

In love and service,

Norma A. District 3B/3C Treatment Facilities Chairperson

In MAY look for the District 3B/3C  
Treatment Facilities Workshop  
Special Needs & ADAC (a New AA Service Entity)

## PI/CPC Report

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### AA Service Reaches Austin High Schools

It has been an exciting few months for PI/CPC! I attended the Southwest Texas Area 68 Winter Workshop January 21-23, 2011, in Castroville, TX. At the workshop I sat down with the PI/CPC Chairpersons from Districts 21 and 29 (Shout-out to Patricia and Robert!), and our Area PI/CPC Chairperson, Denise. We exchanged ideas on how to get started on an education project. Since then we have been very busy...

The project began with a "packet stuffing party." How else would we get over 300 packets of AA material ready to pass along to students, teachers, and administrators?

A south Austin high school invited us to bring the message of AA into a health class. Or rather, six health classes over a two day period! Here is what we experienced... After we got the packets finished the project came up so FAST we were not able to get out a mass call for volunteers with time to train. **A special thanks to District 21 and Patricia, who got us a bilingual volunteer to join me!** They also provided Spanish literature and allowed us to do some of the presentation and Q&A in Spanish.

The two days went really well. Tony M., the PI/CPC rep from Western Trails emailed me several questions and I will answer them here:

#### **What did you do?**

We attended six health classes in all, three on Thursday and three on Friday. Students ranged in grades from 9th grade to 12th grade. Some classes had up to 30 kids; a few had 12-14 students. We were given about 20-30 minutes to share in each class. Our format was general; introduce AA, what we are, what we are not, give intergroup website and Hotline information (in English and Spanish) and talk a little bit about how to use the website to find meetings. Then we showed the five minute animated young people's video and left time for Q&A. We left packets for the students that included "Message to Teenagers", "AA at a Glance", "About AA", and "Problems other than Alcohol". We also used the Young People's poster, "Can you spot the alcoholic?" for discussion about who might need AA. In the context of this outline we shared little parts of our stories when appropriate (for example: What was your first meeting like? Were you scared?).

#### **Was there curiosity about the program and what type?**

Yes, but in a general way rather than an "I need to come there" way. Lots of questions about what AA is - - is it counseling or therapy or a class, etc. One student expressed to me privately that he may have a problem and I gave him the appropriate contact information. Any further contact with students was not welcomed (in a nice way). The teacher noticed the student who asked for help.

#### **How packets were requested by the professionals and students?**

I gave three professional packets (made by volunteers) geared to the professional and presented them in an AA brochure sleeve. I told the health teacher that she was free to share them with the guidance counselor or other appropriate staff.

I left 20+ packets with the teacher for students who expressed more need/interest in the literature. She was responsible for getting that information into the hands of students who may need it.

As mentioned, each student got the basic packet handed out by the teacher, which was included as part of the presentation and was also a specific request.

I left them a young people's poster and a copy of the video; she said she could use them again. We gave them a Big Book and a 12 & 12 for the library or resource room.

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## PI/CPC Report continued

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### How did you feel giving the presentation? Were the students receptive?

With the outline in place, I mostly read from the literature and showed the video, then had literature to answer Q&A, which made it easier! We don't reinvent the wheel or have to come up with slick answers - the literature, the literature, the literature! Yes, they were receptive, but they are also teenagers who can be sometimes silly, unruly, asleep, on cell phones, or flirting. It was great because we were there, just as with our program anywhere, for those who want us.

We have been in contact with another high school who asked us to drop off materials. We will continue to be available for similar education projects in the future. We are also available to attend health fairs, speak for brown bag lunches and staff trainings, or organize a literature rack or materials in places where it would be helpful.

In Service,

Courtney W. District 3B/3C PI/CPC Chairperson

## Grapevine Report

### The AA Grapevine: An AA Meeting in Print How can I Participate?

I can't believe that approximately three months have passed in the second year of my term as District GV chair. It has been so awesome to go to groups and provide a workshop or presentation on the GV or woman the GV booth at the Austin City Wide Meeting every month. (I want to add a thank you to the GV rep. from Northland, who has been attending these meetings with me every month— his service has been awesome, thanks Rob.) I also have the pleasure of working with other GV reps. from various groups around town. There are about 4 or 5 that I have been in contact with. If your group does not have a GV rep and you think it might be a good addition to your group's service plan, please let me know. I can provide a presentation for your group on the importance of having a GV rep at your Steering Committee/Group Conscience meeting. If you would like to learn more about the GV in general, as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, you can attend the next Grapevine Committee Meeting. The WHO, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY are listed below:

#### New Grapevine Quarterly Planning Meeting

**Who:** Group Grapevine Representatives and AA members who want to know more about AA's magazine the "AA Grapevine." Learn how they get the word out to our AA community on the importance of keeping the GV alive and how it can be used to carry the AA message. Persons who are interested in serving as the GV rep for their group and learning what a GV rep does.

**When:** 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. the second Sunday of every third month (quarterly); next meeting April 10, 2011

**Where:** Hill Country Intergroup, 1825 Fortview Road, Suite 104. One block west of Western Trails on the south side of Fortview Road.

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## Grapevine Report — Continued

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**Why:** We meet every third month to discuss ways the GV rep and AA members can get their group involved in getting to know the GV and its many uses, including all of the GV literature and other GV items available.

\*GRAPEVINE PUBLICATIONS ARE FINANCED ENTIRELY BY THE SALES OF THE GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE, AUDIO GRAPEVINE, DIGITAL ARCHIVES AND OTHER RELATED BOOKS AND CD'S. THE AA GRAPEVINE, INC. IS TOTALLY SELF-SUPPORTING AND DOES NOT RECEIVE AA GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS OR INCOME FROM ADVERTISING OR MEMBERSHIP FEES.\*

### Other Items of Importance about the Grapevine

The AA Grapevine magazine can now be read on line. Subscription cost for the Digital Magazine for one year is \$19.97, or you can still subscribe to receive the magazine at your home and the cost is now \$26.97 for one year. You can subscribe on line at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org).

The AA Grapevine needs stories. Go to the AA Grapevine web site for further details on submitting stories, art or pictures. **What they do not publish: Poems, prayers, song lyrics, tributes to individuals, plays, previously published material or anything unrelated to AA or that violates the principles of AA.**

### August 2011 \*Relationships in the Rooms

As we know, fellowship is one of the cornerstones of recovery. The relationships and bonds that we form in the rooms (friends, sponsors, etc.) can have a big impact on recovery. Send us your stories of recovery and relationships and bonds that you have formed within the rooms. Deadline for submissions is April 25, 2011.

### September 2011 \*Dealing with Loss

Loss happens as a part of living life on life's terms. It's our reaction that makes a difference. This issue will focus on members' stories of loss and how their program helped them to cope. Deadline for submissions is May 25, 2011.

So, I would love to come to your group and talk about the Grapevine. If you are interested in being a GV rep. for your group please contact me at [3b.3c.grapevine@gmail.com](mailto:3b.3c.grapevine@gmail.com) or call **Cookie at 512-554-7649.**

In love and Service,

Cookie C. District 3B/3C Grapevine Chairperson

Grapevine Committee Meetings  
At Hill Country Inner Group Office  
**April 10th Sunday**  
**4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**



## Group Report

### What I Learned From A Group Inventory

The North Austin 24 Hour AA Group has recently completed a Group Inventory that I can personally say was very enlightening and informative. I have the privilege of holding the GSR position with the Group, and now I understand how important it is for every Group to practice the Twelve Principles of AA in all we do.

We were told by various members of AA that our group was somewhat "healthy" simply because we were willing to conduct the inventory. At this point the Group and I would like to extend a very sincere "thank you" to Stephen S., Jamie, and Roger L. for guiding us through the process and working with us to the very end. We have had the opportunity to learn great insights about individuals and their place in AA, how the Group needs to improve, and what our Group is doing well according to the AA Traditions.

Each AA group has a somewhat different "personality" based on the members and the demographics of the group as a whole. We are who we are, but whatever we do, we MUST do our best to maintain and practice the group's Primary Purpose Tradition One: "To stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

We learned that EVERY individual has the right to his or her own opinion. We as a group must listen to these opinions and see how applicable they are to AA. No matter what happens, we are people who have the right and ability to make mistakes and correct them in our daily lives. It's the way we are!

The details of the inventory belong to and should stay within the group. I will say that we identified three principles that we need to work on: three, five, and eleven. Some minor, some more so than others.

In my opinion, it comes down to asking the Group, and its individual members, if we are willing to carry THE message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the newcomers, and to educate ourselves and them in the proper way, so we may continue to grow and nourish ourselves within the principles of AA.

"Attraction rather than promotion" must be the way we present ourselves and AA as a whole, and "personal anonymity" needs always be maintained without question or hesitation. Find God, as I understand Him, clean house, and help a fellow alcoholic. We must or we die!!

Your humble servant in recovery,

Larry D. North Austin 24 Hour Group Member of Alcoholics Anonymous



Treasurer's Report

District 3B & 3C Financial Statement

Cash Balance Statement thru		2/28/2011	2011	
<u>Income</u>	<u>Contributions</u>		Ytd Amt	Feb
	Allendale		0.00	
	Any Lengths		157.50	54.00
	A-Way-Out		75.00	
	Bluebonnet		81.74	81.74
	Bouldin Ave.		0.00	
	Bridge To Shore		259.52	126.79
	Central Group		16.00	
	Courage to Change		0.00	
	Desire to Stop		110.26	
	Dharma		10.00	
	East Austin		108.93	
	Free at Last		10.00	10.00
	Freedom from Bondage		0.00	
	Four Points		0.00	
	Firemakers		0.00	
	Keep First Things First		94.83	94.83
	Keystone Group Lakeway		22.58	
	Lake Travis Serenity		0.00	
	Liar's Club South		0.00	
	Lambda Live & Let Live		0.00	
	Lighthouse Group		0.00	
	Living Faith		15.00	
	Miracles		0.00	
	Men's Literature		0.00	
	North Austin 24		0.00	
	Nada Glum Lot		0.00	
	New Beginnings		0.00	
	North 183		45.00	
	Northland		77.32	
	Nada Glum Lot		105.00	105.00
	Our Gang		26.50	
	Pennsylvania Group		25.00	25.00
	Power Hour		0.00	
	Primary Purpose		50.00	
	Saturday Morning Serenti		57.69	
	So What, Now What?		0.00	
	South Austin BB		14.00	
	Spiritual Awakenings		0.00	
	Suburban Group		0.00	
	Sunday South Group		0.00	
	Triangle Group		0.00	
	Turning Point		33.00	33.00
	We Agnostics Group		0.00	
	Western Trails		75.00	75.00
	Westlake		0.00	
	Women's Recovery		233.42	
	164 Page Winners		0.00	
	1313 Group		78.60	
	Other Donations (\$1000 from conference seed money)		1,000.00	
	<b>Sub-Total Regular Income</b>		<b>2,781.89</b>	<b>605.36</b>
	<u>Expenses</u>			
	Conferences		565.67	565.67
	Correctional Facilities		0.00	
	District Literature		0.00	
	Grapevine		0.00	
	Newsletter		51.20	
	Organization: 501(c)(3)		150.00	
	PI/CPC		27.90	
	Printing/Reproduction Supplies		101.19	13.46
	Treatment Facilities		0.00	
	Treasurer PO Box		40.00	
	Bank Service Fee		0.00	
	Seed money for Oct 2010 conference		0.00	
	<b>Sub-Total Regular Expenses</b>		<b>935.96</b>	<b>579.13</b>
	<b>Monthly Gain/Loss</b>			<b>26.23</b>
	<b>YTD Net Income (Expense)</b>		<b>1,845.93</b>	
*****				
	Cash Balance @ December 31, 2010		4,532.16	
	Regular Net Income (Expense) Year To Date		1,845.93	
	Cash Balance @ 2/28/2011		6,378.09	
*****				

\*\*All donations should be made to District 3B/3C & mailed to: P.O. Box 170232, Austin, Tx 78717

## **Carrying the Message**



To alcoholics with special needs!!

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### **Please Get this Information to Your Group**

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that:  
I am responsible."

It has recently come to the attention of the AA fellowship that our Deaf and hard of hearing AA members need our assistance in order to both receive the message and be able to interact with other AA members and be a part of the group. A special AA entity is being formed now to:

- arrange recovery events to help bridge the gap
- foster relationships between the hearing and the deaf AA
- insure consistency of AA meetings with qualified translators.

Because the financial burden of this is too much for any one AA member or for any one home group, we are requesting that every AA group consider designating a portion of their 7th tradition funds toward our spiritual responsibility: When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there!

Please bring this request to your home groups for consideration. Bill W. said, "When we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all who still suffer."

Norma A.  
Chairperson  
Austin AA Deaf Access Organization



**AA Groups Use this Form for**  
**Special Needs 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions**  
**For Bridging the Gap for Deaf and Hard of Hearing AA Members**

To contribute toward our primary purpose in helping carry the message to our deaf AA members, some groups pass a separate basket designated for this purpose, and some groups set aside a specified amount per month or quarter. After consulting with your home group members, please send designated amounts to the following address:

Payable to: District 3B/3C

P.O. Box 170232  
Austin, TX 78717

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Please write "special needs" on the memo portion of the check, to insure that the donation goes for this purpose.

Individuals may contribute to the Special Needs committee as well. If anyone would like additional information, please contact Norma A., at [aanorma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aanorma@sbcglobal.net), 512-443-4335, for Austin AA Deaf Access Committee.

Thanks to all who are willing to assist in carrying the message to our deaf AA members, who are reaching out for our help and want to have the same access to the message of hope as other members of our fellowship.

**I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the  
hand of AA always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible.**

