

The 3B/3C District News

News Of The Austin Area Alcoholics Anonymous - District Servants And Events

DCM Reports



District 3B DCM Michael E.

The Unity I See

As we come upon the Pre General Service Conference Area Assembly I have been drawn to reflect on last year's report. I was reminded of an editorial on unity.

The unity and sacrifice that I was exposed to when I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous was, at times, overwhelming. I had the same experience when I began to get involved with service work. When I arrived at my first district meeting; however, I was treated to a unity like none I had ever seen. The time, effort, and sacrifice, that those who went before us put into our district to make it the way we found it, was quite a vision to behold.

I have had the great pleasure of being a part of the same type of unity, dedication, and large amounts of sacrifice to help keep our district strong and to move forward with the growth of our fellowship. We've seen some heated topics reach the floor of many district meetings and to see us walk out the doors unified in our decision and willing to take actions accordingly has been an honor to behold. I would be lying if I didn't tell you that I have been surprised on more than one occasion, that we did leave unified.

We have been blessed with the best Alternate DCM's. The humility both Steven and Julia demonstrate is undoubtedly the most genuine that you'll find. Our Committee chairs stay active and sometimes so active that I believe we get scared, and out of fear we tend to pull the reins on their action. This is a great example where the Alt DCM's have stepped in and said, "Let's run with this and see what happens, let us not be so quick to pull the brake handle just yet."

Thank you for the example, which you show me everyday. The amount of Love and Unity that each of you has for our Districts shows through your action. Thank you for the Great Sacrifices all of you make to keep AA in Austin safe and secure.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael E., District 3B DCM

District Servants

District 3B DCM

Michael E. 512-825-5283

District 3B Alternate

Stephen S. 512-259-1579

District 3C DCM

Al E. 512-731-9020

District 3C Alternate

Julia B. 512-474-4971

Treasurer

David Mc. 1-512-618-3495

Secretary

Rose B. 512-296-0663

Committee Chairs

Archives

Charles M. 512-627-7647

Corrections

Ian Mc. 512-784-6331

Grapevine

Patrick Mc. 512-784-2913

Intergroup

Barbara L. 512-630-6641

Literature

Donald B. 512-560-5350

Newsletter

Bruce M. 512-707-2403

PI/CPC

Kay S. 512-964-8246

Registrar

Matt H. 512-539-7726

Treatment

Michael F. 512-785-3069

Web Master

Kathy K. 512-413-5179

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Secretary's Report

This is your District Secretary, Rose B. working along with Matt H., District Registrar, to keep the records of your District 3B/3C monthly meetings. Yes, this is **YOUR** district and I am grateful to be able to serve.

Last year, the District split the duties of Secretary and created the new position of Registrar to keep track of contact information for trusted servants of the District. Matt keeps the database updated and forwards information to a local list and an extended list of members, including Area contacts. It is important to let us know of new GSR's and email changes.

The monthly minutes include a record of the number of members and groups in attendance, with reports from the Treasurer, Webmaster, each service committee chair, DCM's, and GSR's. Is **YOUR** group represented? Each month includes a presentation of a Tradition or Concept. This is your meeting, so you can introduce new business through your GSR. Be sure to your voice is heard through your GSR or better yet attend your District 3B/3C monthly meeting. As a member of AA you are responsible. See you soon.

Respectfully Submitted, Rose B. District 3B/3C Secretary

Bridge the Gap

Temporary Contact Sign Up Form

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

District: _____ Male/Female: _____ Age: _____

Treatment Facilities Report

Bridge the Gap

To those who offer their time and resources to bring the message and meetings into treatment facilities, my sincere thanks and respect. There is only one aspect of this principle I would like to address: eventually all of the patients get out. We all know there is still a lot of work to be done.

For many years the General Service Office has been developing a way of bringing people from institutions into AA groups quickly as possible. The service structure operates to assist and support those groups. After a look at the attempted implementation of the Area 68 Bridging the Gap plan, our District trusted servants are committed to forming a refined, Austin-worthy, streamlined and effective Bridging the Gap program. This means we will have to iron out some rough spots in the Area 68 plan. We can design it to suit the availability of volunteers, cooperating Treatment Facilities, and other local resources. There are many groups that combine the experience and energy of Treatment and Correctional Facilities that are so similar and can help support each other.

When a patient coming out of Treatment receives a phone call on the day of release, by a pre-selected volunteer living in close proximity, inviting the prospect to meet, get some literature, meet other folks at AA, and so on; it makes the transition to regular recovery more leisurely. The goal is to bring them one step closer to the 12 steps so they too can have a satisfying life without alcohol. I call for the involvement of as many GSR's and group Treatment Facilities representatives as possible, who find this effort to be of interest. There are now many details to be discussed and approved.

Any AA member can participate. If you want to get involved, get more involved. Attend District and Area meetings. Support local volunteers carrying the message. Display caring, empathy and compassion for the prospective members this effort will benefit. Seek guidance from God presiding over our group conscience. Accept change and strive for unanimity. Move from ideology to action. I call on detail-oriented people with an accurate understanding of the relevant concepts and principles. The time to act is now. If we don't develop the best plan, someone will come along after us and carry out something not quite as good. The suggestions for the details outlining the Bridging the Gap program must come from a collective of experienced and diligent local AA's. Together we can now create a model Bridging the Gap program we can be proud to pass on.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael F., Treatment Facilities Chair

Correctional Facilities Report

Greetings, my name is Ian M. and I am an alcoholic. I have been taking meetings out to Del Valle, Travis State Jail and Kyle since 2004.

Committing to a weekly jail meeting maintained my sobriety for as long as it possibly could, until issues with my physical health combined with resting on my laurels, and the consequent letting down on the rest of my spiritual program (steps), led to a slip and a change in my sobriety date. God's gift to me today is new hope, new faith that God can do for me what I cannot do for myself, and almost a year of new sobriety. Which means that I should be back out @ Del Valle in a matter of weeks, doing the deal, and carrying the message that: "I was like you, these miracles happened (hindsight is always 20/20!), and this is what I do today to be happy, joyous and free". Since the bondage doesn't always end when you're no longer behind bars. As they say, I'll skip the elevator and take the steps!

Last month several of us from the Austin area were gratified by attending the CFC conference in Kingsville, which really couldn't have been better! Some 40 volunteers sat through State jail orientation to start off the weekend. We had several great speakers including our very own Rhonda R. on Saturday night; a judge and a counselor answered questions on the professional panel, including how we could be more helpful to them. David J. from Round Rock and I gave presentations on the history of taking meetings out to jails, starting with the first meeting held in San Quentin in 1942, where Bill W. was himself the guest speaker on November 28, 1943. Our history continues to the present day, when the media recently documented a first-time freeze in the ever-growing prison population, due to treatment programs including an allowance for AA meetings.

If you're interested in carrying the message, or corresponding with inmates, check out the Hill-country website (austinaa.org) for the Corrections page (under District 3B/3C), and come to our next quarterly meeting on April 12th @ the Intergroup, at 6 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted, Ian M., District 3B/3C CFC Chair
512-784-6331*

The PIICPC Committee Meets: the Third Sunday of the month from 6:15 PM – 7:15 PM at the Northland Group, 2809 Northland Drive. Anyone can attend the meeting to learn what we are doing, to become active, or to present an idea for the committee. See you there!

Group Report — Primary Purpose

I first heard about the Primary Purpose group from my friend Charlie P. I had run into him several times in the months previous to attending this meeting, and he kept asking me and Dave to come to what I learned was a Big Book Study. He said they used a study guide that asked questions about the Big Book. I thought, “Ugh. How dry”. I had seen a few study guides, some put out by the Jaywalker, and other sources, and they looked meticulous and boring. However, Charlie was a good friend, and soon I was embarrassed that I hadn’t even showed up once to check it out. Finally, I came to a meeting, and I was amazed when I arrived, by a number of things. First of all, there were a LOT of people there - more than a hundred. Second, the fellowship was very diverse - from people with many years to people with a few months, and AA members that traveled from all over the Austin area, or from surrounding communities like Pflugerville, Round Rock and Lago vista. There were even a few Alanons coming regularly, and several potential AA members from treatment centers.

As the meeting opened and proceeded, I was impressed with the broad range of experience from members, the variety of responses to the selected passages, and how enlightening an experience it was to concentrate as a group on the text at hand: The Big Book. Not only was this serendipitous, but the geniality of the friendly crowd and the social atmosphere was so inviting. This group seemed to have a personality all its own and it was highly attractive. I was hooked after only one meeting! I regretted taking so long to arrive.

I found out that Charlie had been at a similar meeting in Dallas, liked it, and decided to start a Big Book Study in Austin, dubbed Primary Purpose, as that is the thrust of the group: service. Studying the book to equip us, being available as sponsors, and sharing service commitments are the aim of Primary Purpose.

I have since become the GSR, and have celebrated the first and second anniversaries of the group, and we will soon be approaching our third year, now 200 members strong, and growing.

If you would like to participate in a unique meeting, delve into the Big Book, or enjoy great fellowship, join us on Tuesday nights at 7:30 , at 2701 S. Lamar in the Faith United Methodist church, right across the street from Kerbey Lane. It is an experience you must not miss!!

In love and service, Norma A., GSR, Primary Purpose Group

Grapevine Report

The Grapevine is turning 65 in June!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In celebrating 65 years of stories sharing the experience, strength and hope of AA members around the world, The Grapevine is having a contest. They are looking for that **one special word** that describes what the Grapevine means to you.

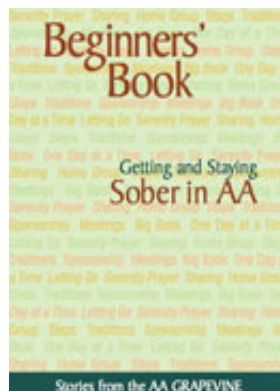
How would you complete this sentence? "Grapevine is...?" Send your word in to <http://www.aagrapevine.org/contest> or to "Grapevine is..." Contest, Room 1040, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10115. Words will be posted on the Grapevine website, in the Grapevine magazine, and in other distributions throughout the fellowship. They say there are "some surprises in store so be on the lookout and stay posted by visiting www.aagrapevine.org."

Also in celebrating the Grapevine's 65th anniversary, and to keep the magazine reading and looking its best, The Grapevine is now in full color and staple-free. The staple-free part is because we want our meeting in print to be there when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help – including the institutions where stapled materials are not allowed.

The website has also been re-designed, stop by and look at that!

Subscriptions to the Sept 2008 issue of the Grapevine in Texas were down 2.79% over the June 2007 issue. This meant that there were 4,109 subscriptions in Sept 08 as compared to 4,227 in June 07. In our Southwest Region during that same time frame, subscriptions were down .22%, from 10,753 to 10,729 subscriptions. Across the US, subscriptions were down .12%, from 89,100 to 88,884 subscriptions. If you are thinking of getting a new subscription, or giving another AA the gift of the Grapevine, now would be a good time to do so! As they say, "**Get it, give it, grow with it!**" The good news is when you add in foreign subscription, subscriptions are up .36% from 96,838 to 97,189!

I have purchased a box of old Grapevines (which anyone can do, 50 copies for \$40. You get 10 copies of 5 different issues). If anyone is taking meetings to treatment facilities, correctional institutions, or would like some of these to use for PI/CPC work contact me at 3b.3c.grapevine@gmail.com and I will be happy to share some of these with you. These issues are stapled. If anyone has old issues they would like to contribute to this, contact me or give them to your GSR and ask that they be given to me at a district meeting. I also distribute old Grapevines and subscription forms at the Austin City Wide meetings.



continued on page 8

Grapevine Report — Continued

The Grapevine's newest book is **Beginners' Book: Getting and Staying Sober in AA**. In this collection of AA Grapevine stories, AA members share what helped them get sober and handle their new lives of recovery. Full of useful suggestions, insights, and solutions to problems common to the newly sober, this book provides solid tools of recovery. The cost is \$8.95 each for 1-4 copies or \$8.50 each for 5 or more. You can read a sample story online at:

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/catalog/shop/beginnersample.php>.

There are numerous other books, audio CDs, and other Grapevine merchandise such as calendars, days planners, posters, traditions checklists for sale at

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/catalog/> .

There are even 3 AA play scripts- "The Man In The Bed", "Ebie" and "Victor E & The Slogans" - that are downloadable at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/reps> .

*Respectfully Submitted, Patrick Mc.
District 3B/3C Grapevine Chair*

Need To Mail Your Contribution?

There is a new address if you want to mail your District Contributions. The new address is:

**District 3B/3C
714 Turtle Creek
Blvd.,
#229
Austin, Texas
78745**

Did You Know Your Group Can Host A District Meeting?

Contact Your GSR Or any District Committee Member



Financial Statement continued on page 10

District 3B & 3C Financial Statement

Cash Balance Statement		thru 02/28/09		2009	
<u>Income</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Ytd Amt</u>	<u>Feb</u>		
	Allendale	70.87	22.67		
	A-Way-Out	50.00			
	Bluebonnet	0.00			
	Bouldin Ave.	100.00	50.00		
	Bridge To Shore	186.90	104.90		
	Brushy Creek Men's Group	0.00			
	Carry This Message	0.00			
	Central	20.00			
	Courage to Change	0.00			
	Desire to Stop	94.91	51.76		
	DSAA	0.00			
	Early Actiion	0.00			
	East Austin	0.00			
	Emmaus	0.00			
	Four Points	20.00	10.00		
	Firemakers	0.00			
	Hilltop	0.00			
	Keep First Things First	0.00			
	Lake TravisSerenity	0.00			
	Last Call	0.00			
	Liar's Club Austin (North)	0.00			
	Liar's Club South	34.80	13.00		
	Lighthouse	40.00	20.00		
	Lambda Live & Let Live	51.75			
	Last House on the Block	0.00			
	Living Faith	40.00			
	Miracles	42.00			
	North Austin 24	50.00	25.00		
	New Beginnings	111.00			
	North 183	25.00	25.00		
	Northland	105.38	105.38		
	Our Gang	0.00			
	Power Hour	0.00			
	Primary Purpose	0.00			
	Renegade Ducks	0.00			
	Saturday Morning Serentiy	19.38			
	So What, Now What?	0.00			
	South Austin BB	0.00			
	Suburban Group	0.00			
	Tarrytown Group	0.00			
	Thursday Night Men's Group	0.00			
	Triangle Group	0.00			
	Turning Point	0.00			
	Unity	0.00			
	What's the Point	0.00			
	We Agnostics Group	0.00			
	Women's Recovery	0.00			
	Western Trails	600.00			
	Westlake	0.00			
	164 Page Winners	0.00			
	1313 Club	48.00			
	Other Donations	0.00			
Sub-Total Regular Income		1,709.99	427.71		

Financial Statement continued from Page 9

Expenses

Bridge the Gap	0.00	
Conferences	1,219.69	1,037.77
Correctional Facilities	210.80	
District Literature	32.41	
Grapevine	0.00	
History of AA Presentation	0.00	
Miscellaneous:	0.00	
Newsletter	115.00	
Office supplies/Postage	0.00	
Organization: 501(c)(3)	0.00	
PI/CPC	0.00	
Printing/Reproduction Supplies	0.00	
Treatment Facilities	0.00	
Bank Service Fee	0.00	

Sub-Total Regular Expenses 1,577.90 1,037.77

Monthly Gain/Loss (610.06)

YTD Net Income (Expense) 132.09

Cash Balance @ December 31, 200 2,518.22

Regular Net Income (Expense) Year 132.09

Cash Balance @ 2,650.31

**All donations should be made to District 3B/3C & mailed to:
714 Turtle Creek Blvd. Apt. 229 Austin, TX 78745

Respectfully Submitted, David A. McG., District 3B/3C

Upcoming District Meetings

District Meetings are held the first Sunday of the month at 2pm.

The District meetings alternate between North and South Austin so we can get to know groups while they get to know us.

Would you like to attend? Have questions about service work? You are always welcome!

Visit:

<http://austinaa.org/DX/D3BC> for more information or call any of the District Servants listed on the front page of this newsletter with any questions.

The District Financial Statement is available at any District Meeting. You may also request a copy from the District 3B/3C Treasurer or from your DCM.

This Newsletter Is For You

We would like to know what you think of your District 3B/3C Newsletter.

Please direct any correspondence, or submit news items and articles by email to:

millarbam@yahoo.com

or call Bruce M. at 512-707-2403

Keep Coming Back, It works.

It's that time again.....

7th Annual **Old Timer's Banquet**



Honoring All AA Old Timers (25 years or more)
In the Greater Austin Area

Saturday May 2, 2009

6:30 – 10pm (Doors Open at 5:30)

Speaker: Joanie M. – Houston, TX

**Buffet Dinner, Sobriety Countdown,
Open Mike, Raffle & Door Prizes**

Admission \$20 per person
Old Timers (25 yrs or more) **FREE!**
(Sign In at the door)

American Legion Knebel Post 83
4401 E. St. Elmo Road
Austin, TX 78744

*Tickets available March 1
(only 250 available)*



Hill Country Intergroup

Serving Austin and the Texas Hill Country

1825 Fortview Road

Suite #104

Austin, TX 78704

512-444-0071

www.austinaa.org



WELCOME TO
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



We're Glad You Are Here

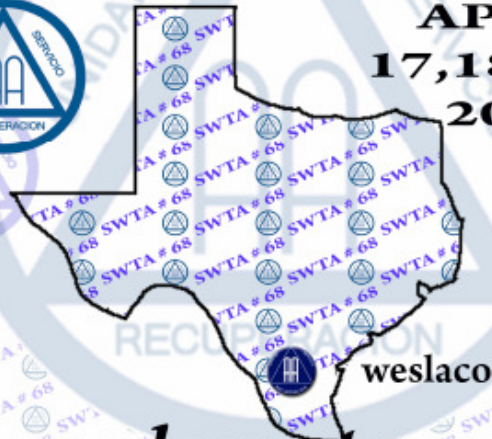
Keep Coming Back, It works.



SWTA
Pre-General Service Conference
Alcoholics Anonymous

**"Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message -
Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action"**

APRIL
17, 18 & 19
2009



weslaco

weslaco, texas

Hotel Best Western
415 Internacional Blvd
& Hwy. 83 Weslaco Tx.
TEL. (956)969 2412 ext 3
"CODE: SWTA 68"
\$50 day
Deadline;3-27-09

Hosted by: District 20
131 E. 6Th St.
SAN JUAN
TX 78589
TEL (956) 655 8202
fred9710@msn.com

FIND US ON THE INTERNET

[HTTP://AUSTINAA.ORG/DX/D3BC](http://austinaa.org/dx/d3bc)

**WELCOME TO
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**



We're Glad You Are Here