

The 3B/3C District News

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

3C DCM Report



District 3C DCM Al E.

A.A.'s Third Legacy

Thank you all for allowing me to be of service to the district and to Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you also for making yourselves available to participate in our Third Legacy of Service.

In June I finished listening to Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age on CD's. One thing that jumped out at me while listening to these CD's was the tremendous length that Bill, the old timers, and the original trustees went to building what we now know as The Third Legacy. How much do we really know about our Third Legacy? How much do we know about the history of GSO or the General Service Conference? I have to admit that I am as ignorant as the next A.A.

There were a couple of paragraphs in the book (page 140) that really summarized the Third Legacy for me and I would like to share them with you now:

Yet some of us are still a bit confused about A.A.'s Third Legacy. We still ask, "Just what is this Third Legacy business anyhow? And just how much territory does 'service action' take in?"

The answer is simple. An A.A. service is anything whatever that legitimately helps us to reach fellow sufferers. As we have seen, the Twelfth Step call is the greatest of A.A.'s services. But the publicity that caused the prospect to get in touch with us, the car we rode in, the gasoline we paid for, and the cups of coffee we bought him—all of these aids were necessary to make our call possible and effective. And this is only the start. Our services involve meeting places, hospital co-operation, Intergroup offices, and pamphlets and books. Services can require committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. They involve small voluntary money contributions so that the group, the area, and A.A. as a whole can function. They range all the way from the cup of coffee up to A.A.'s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum of

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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
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 Donald B. 512-560-5350
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3C DCM Report — Continued

all these services is A.A.'s Third Legacy. Such services are utterly necessary to A.A.'s existence and growth. Yearning for simplicity, we often wonder if we could not do away with many of A.A.'s present services. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have no bother, no politics, no expense, and no responsibility! But this is only a dream about simplicity; it would not be simplicity in fact. Without its essential services, A.A. would soon become a formless, confused, and irresponsible anarchy.

If we do not talk about The Third Legacy to our groups who will? If we do not talk to our groups about supporting the service entities who will do it? I would like to encourage all GSRs to read the book Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age or listen to it on audio CD's. It has helped me gain a further appreciation of GSO and the General Service conference and I think it will have the same effect on you!

Respectfully Submitted, Al E., District 3C DCM

Secretary's Report

What's going on in Districts 3B & 3C???

Greetings — and way to go fellow alcoholics!!! Thank you for allowing your District to get to know your group. We have had several new GSRs show up to represent groups who have not been represented in the service structure before. We also have several new groups celebrating 1 and 2 years of existence. Many groups are doing group inventories.

These activities mean we are growing in Austin and you are plugged in. As a result, your voice is heard through the conscience of your group and you have a true interest in carrying the message and in A.A. as a whole. More groups are funding their GSRs to go to the SWTA and even more are contributing to the service structure — the District, Area, Intergroup, and GSO. We are self supporting through our own contributions — from Austin, to Texas, to New York.....**YOU ROCK!**

Not only have we had great response from the groups, but we also have members of your groups sitting in on the meetings....interested in a District meeting without a service commitment.....**What a Concept!** We welcome more of you to attend your District meeting on the 1st Sunday of every month. You **are** responsible....**RIGHT?**

Your GSR shares what's going on at your group, but also gets to hear what's happening around the city. Whether it's taking a meeting into a treatment center or prison, donating Big Books, celebrating an anniversary, staffing an information booth, meeting an Area Chair, hosting a workshop, learning about Concepts of A.A.....there is much to enjoy. Whether it's a Wienie roast, banquet, or black-tie dinner we love to fellowship, so get out and "meeting" hop. "**We are not a glum lot.**"

We have taken care of your New and Old business. Whether it's the legal business of filing your 501c forms, keeping the Traditions and anonymity in treatment centers, monitoring the expenditures of your contributions, or buying literature at the best price-- we always keep your best interests in mind. Your vote counts....through your GSR. Join us in Unity, Service, and Recovery. I'll look forward to seeing you next month.

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

Treatment Facilities Report

Working with Others - Fueling Our Spiritual Lives

The Temperature is rising. People are making plans for their getaways. Sometimes the energy used for helpfulness and understanding slows down to a meager crawl. Maybe it's just too hot to make the effort. That's when it's a good time to take our Spiritual temperature. How is yours today? Are you spreading the message? Have you seen a newcomer's eyes light up when he finally gets it?

The strongest feeling of confidence I experience is when I make that one-on-one connection with the alcoholic who is still suffering - when he recognizes that the message I bring is the solution he has been seeking for relief from his problem. This strengthens my recovery. However, my position in the district is not about me. Nor is it about mediating the coordination between the treatment facilities' meetings and volunteers that I've recruited to man those meetings. I am primarily a contact for resources in the form of literature and the gathering of self governed A.A.'s experience and ideas on how to pass on the opportunity to make the one-on-one experience I mentioned available to everyone who will try.

When the seed of hope is planted in the fertile ground of futility, the spiritual life is fueled, both for the seeker and the messenger. My call today is for those who have been successful in planting those seeds to group together so the body of strength can advise others who are willing to go to any lengths to carry this message into these institutions and thereby safeguard their own sobriety. I look forward to hearing from all of you interested in making this committee a reality.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael F., Treatment Facilities Chair

Bridge the Gap

Temporary Contact Sign Up Form

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

District: _____ Male/Female: _____ Age: _____

Need To Mail Your Seventh Tradition Contribution?

**The address if you want to mail your District Contributions is:
District 3B/3C, 714 Turtle Creek Blvd., #229, Austin, Texas 78745**

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.

Correctional Facilities Report

Carrying the Message to Inmates

One night in June, I got another opportunity to carry the message to a couple of men at the Del Valle correctional facility. In this small meeting of 2, with 2 volunteers, we got to hear the men's stories, and invite God into our lives by taking action ("Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed", *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p.102).

Today we get to pray to channel our experiences and conclusions, the ones that finally granted us enough humility to seek our Higher Power with the desperation of drowning men. This was an incident of Grace not generated by me. Our hope is that the same light we have experienced will also burn in the eyes of the men to whom we carry the message.

Cosmically, I don't know why I didn't spend time incarcerated, as I could have, and my alcoholic mind tells me I should have. And every meeting spent considering the needs of these guys in the black and white stripes, and asking God for His Guidance to say what needs to be said, is my surrender to the need for a daily living amends from a life of self-defeating alcoholism.

There is also an opportunity to twelve-step via mail correspondence, to inmates being released into the Austin area, or who want support and guidance in recovery while incarcerated. If interested, write to: Bridge the Gap, PO Box 40003, Austin, Texas 78704. God and recovery works through the post too! And you're under no obligation to keep up the correspondence.

A.A. volunteers continue to carry this simple message of hope: We drank like you did, became powerless, lived unbearable lives, and eventually cried out for help. The help came, and today we enjoy the fruits of the manageability of sobriety. The Big Book tells us we cannot give away what we don't have, which may be partly why I want more for myself, to have more to give away!

We continue to carry meetings out to these facilities: Travis State Jail, Kyle, Gatesville, Burnet, the Bartlett jail in Georgetown, the (2) County jails, the Federal prison in Bastrop, and half-way houses such as the McCabe Center. Volunteers must have a year of sobriety and be working the steps, and apply separately for State and County approval.

For more information, come to our next Quarterly CFC meeting at the Hill Country Intergroup on Fortview Rd. on Sunday, October 11th, at 6 p.m.; or visit the Corrections page of the District 3b/3c website via the Intergroup webpage <http://austinaa.org/>, or write to: 3b.3c.corrections@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted, Ian M., District 3B/3C CFC Chair

District 3B/3C has an informative website. You can catch up on District News and read back issues of the Newsletter at our website: www.austinaa.org/aa_files/districts/d3bc/.

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 the District 3B/3C Website or call Bruce M. at 512-707-2403

PI/CPC

PI/CPC Press Release May 30, 2009

The following is a press release of May 30, 2009 by the Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) committee that I wrote for the 64th Annual Texas State A.A. Conference which I believe to be a solid introduction to A.A. for the media.

"The 64th Annual Texas State Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will meet on June 12-14th, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel. The conference will have speakers Friday night, during the day Saturday and Sunday morning, with a dance Saturday night and constant opportunities for fellowship and sharing among members.

A.A. is defined in its Preamble as "a Fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help other alcoholics to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions."

Today A.A. has a presence in more than 180 countries, with an estimated total of 113,168 groups and more than 2 million members worldwide. Said A.A. cofounder Bill W. in 1960, nine years before he initiated the first World Service Meeting: "From the beginning, communication in A.A. has been no ordinary transmission of helpful ideas and attitudes. Because of our kinship in suffering, and because our common means of deliverance are effective for ourselves only when constantly carried to others, our channels of contact have always been charged with the *language of the heart*."

A.A. traces its beginnings back to Bill W.'s 1935 meeting with cofounder Dr. Bob S., an Akron, Ohio, physician who also suffered from alcoholism. After Dr. Bob took his last drink on June 10 of that year, the two men set about to aid other alcoholics. The Fellowship had about 100 members by 1939, when they published "Alcoholics Anonymous," the society's basic text, which is now in its fourth edition and has been published in 58 languages (commonly referred to as "The Big Book"). By 1950, the year of Dr. Bob's passing; A.A. had 100,000 members and was reaching out to many countries. Bill W. authored the now-famous Twelve Steps as well as the Twelve Traditions which serve as A.A. guidelines. He addressed the issue of worldwide A.A. activity in another publication, "Twelve Concepts of World Service." A.A. publishes a magazine monthly called "The Grapevine" which is "our meeting" in print.

Though Bill W. worked in New York, his belief was that A.A. membership on other continents would someday exceed that of the U.S. and Canada. While A.A.'s General Service Office in New York continues to serve A.A. groups and members in these two countries, Bill W. insisted that A.A. service centers in other countries should be independent. There are currently 61 autonomous A.A. service offices worldwide, including the New York office.

A. A. is grateful for the friendly support and cooperation from the media which has made it possible to carry its message of hope in the U.S. and Canada, and beyond these borders. A.A. would not have reached many thousands of men and women without this assistance.

A.A. is founded on the principal of anonymity. Please do not use the names or photographs of our members in your publications."

Respectfully Submitted, Kay S., District 3B/3C PI/CPC Chair

The PI/CPC 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 — Bouldin

We absolutely insist on enjoying life

The Bouldin Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is located in South Austin south of Barton Springs Road at 601 Bouldin Avenue. It was founded in December of 1962 by the members of the South Austin Alcoholics Foundation which rented the former parsonage of the Church of Christ which is located next door to the Bouldin club house. The building was purchased in 1981 from the church parsonage and is overseen and maintained by the South Austin Alcoholics Foundation, a separate entity from the Bouldin A.A. Group.

Meetings are held daily at 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm. The Friday 5:30 pm meeting is a beginner's meeting where only beginners are allowed to share during the first half of the meeting. Monday through Friday there is a noon meeting, and on Saturdays there is a men's meeting at 10:00 am, a women's meeting at 11:30 am, and a beginner's meeting at 1:00 pm. On Sundays, there is an additional meeting at 1:00 pm.

If the Bouldin Group has a motto it would be definitely be "We are not a glum lot." Meetings at Bouldin are notable for their sense of humor and there is much laughter throughout: "If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life." Over the years a tee shirt has been printed, and reprinted, that has "Bouldin Group" on its front, and "Ask us about our humility" on the back.

The membership is comprised of a wide spectrum of individuals ranging from professional people to the homeless and is best expressed by the nursery rhyme: "Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief...Doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief." On one night an inebriated new comer showed up wearing a war bonnet claiming to be a chief of the Comanche tribe. New comers are especially welcome.

Because the Bouldin Group is located in the Bouldin neighborhood, we try to be especially mindful of our neighbors and to maintain a good relationship with them. We ask that anyone attending meetings not park on Bouldin Avenue or in the church parking lot located next door to the meeting house. We rent 10 parking spaces from the Elks Club located at 700 Dawson and parking is also available at the Dougherty Art Center at 1110 Barton Springs Road. Both locations are a short walking distance from the Bouldin club house.

Over its 47 year history, "The Little Pink House," as the Bouldin Group is also known, has helped many grateful alcoholics find sobriety, the present writer being one of them. For further information please call 512-444-9002 during the meeting hours listed above.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim C., Bouldin Group

***Did You Know Your Group Can Host A District Meeting?
Contact Your GSR or any District Committee Member.***

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/aa_files/districts/d3bc/

for more information or call any of the District Servants listed on the front page of this newsletter with any questions.

Grapevine Report

I hope you have had a chance to read the new and improved AA Grapevine! It is now staples-free, making acceptance at correctional facilities easier, and color has been added. Our Grapevine has a very sleek look!

At an area function, I was speaking with a young lady. She told me she had met me at the Young People in AA conference and I had given her a back issue of the Grapevine. A few months later found her at a low point in her sobriety. She stumbled upon that unread issue of the Grapevine, started to read it, and re-discovered her willingness to work her program.

Have you heard any of the Grapevine's CDs? CDs available are "Emotional Sobriety," "Spiritual Awakenings," "Powers of Example," "The Story of AA," "The Best of Bill," "The Twelve Traditions," "Sponsorship," and many more. You can listen to the Grapevine in your car, on the go, and while you exercise!

Along those same line is the AudioGrapevine, the AA Grapevine magazine in audio format. Download the AudioGrapevine and listen to two months of the AA Grapevine magazine including the Editor's note; PO Box 1980; all the stories from AA members sharing their experience, strength and hope; plus the humor section of the magazine. Subscribe, download, and listen - anytime, anywhere. On the 21st of each month, the new issue will be available for download along with the previous month's issue. This allows AudioGrapevine subscribers to have 2 issues (current and past), each month that they subscribe. You can subscribe to the AudioGrapevine at:

<http://www.aagrapevine.org>. That way you can listen from your desktop, MP3 or CD player.

The Grapevine's newest book is "Voices of Long-Term Sobriety". In this collection of stories from the AA Grapevine, old-timers share their wealth of experience in staying sober through good times and bad. You can read a sample story online at www.aagrapevine.org. This joins a host of other books published by the Grapevine, such as "Language of the Heart," "As Bill Sees It," "I am Responsible, The Hand of AA," and many others.

Does your group have a Grapevine Rep (GvR)? The GvR acts as an advocate for the Grapevine at the group level, alerting their groups to the use of the magazines as recovery tools. It is, many say, the best service job they've ever had.

What Do GvRs Do?

Group GvRs take the following actions:

- suggest a Grapevine or La Viña topic meeting for the group.
- make sure that copies of the magazines are available and displayed at meetings.
- announce the arrival of each new issue and share about articles in the magazines.
- encourage the use of Grapevine or La Viña subscriptions as gifts and make Grapevine order forms available or post them on the bulletin board.
- encourage individual subscriptions and group subscriptions in the group's name. The GvR may receive the magazine on behalf of the group, or ask the group to relegate this job to another member.
- stock Grapevine items on the literature table and announce the publication of new items.
- encourage members to submit articles and humor pieces.
- announce special features on the Grapevine website and refer members to the Digital Archive for articles about AA history or discussion topics.
- initiate efforts to donate subscriptions to public/school libraries, hospitals, prisons, doctors' offices, churches, etc. Some GvRs order back issues to give away.

Respectfully submitted, Patrick McD., 3B/3C Grapevine Chair

Keep Coming Back, It works.



“Gratitude in Service”

S.W.T.A. 68
Summer Workshop
July 10-12, 2009
Round Rock, TX.

We are currently looking for volunteers who would like to help with this workshop. If you would like to be of service, feel free to contact: David M. via email at: dlimlegal@juno.com

- Service Committee Workshops*
- GSR
 - Correctional Facility Committee
 - Treatment Facility Committee
 - P.I./C.P.C.
 - Bilingual Committee
 - Newsletter, Archives, & Grapevine Committee
 - RAFFLE- (Not a S.W.T.A. 68 event)
- And much more....*

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 22
 Chairperson: Margret S.
 Co-chairperson: David M.

Hotel: Wingate By Wyndham Hotel
 1209 I-35 N.
 (Take exit 253/Hwy. 79)
 Round Rock, Tx. 78664

Hotel Ph.#: (512) 341-7000

Room Rate: \$89.00/night w/ Hot Breakfast
 (The cut-off date for this room rate is June 19, 2009. Please let the hotel know you are with the S.W.T.A. 68 event.)

Check in: 3:00 p.m.
 Check out: 11:00 a.m.

Registrar: Dena C.
 Contact Phone: (512) 635-2142

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