

The 3B/3C District News

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

DCM Reports



District 3C DCM AI E.

Service — Our Third Legacy

Hello Friends. 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.

One of the key components of our Third Legacy of Service is the spirit of rotation. No sooner do we figure out how to perform our service position than it's time to "Pass It On". "Passing It On" is the spirit of rotation in action.

This District has been very active and filled with the spirit of unity and service. We have gone almost the full two years of our term with all of our positions filled and even created a new one, Registrar! We were blessed with committee chairs that were active and shared their experience, strength, and hope with AA in Austin! The district enjoyed outstanding participation by the groups' GSRs. We have all grown up together these 2 years and it has been a wonderful journey. Now it is time to pass this spirit of unity and service on to the newly elected District committee, GSRs, and district servants!

Service work has done more for me than I have done in my service. The payoff has been greater than the investment and that is why I believe in service. The payoff is always greater than the investment! AA has taught me that leadership is equal to trusted service, a lesson that is learned by fulfilling our service commitments. A commitment to service is not only a commitment to AA, but a commitment to our own sobriety and to our spiritual growth.

In the last few months of our service commitments, let's welcome the newly elected district members with arms wide open and pass on what we have been so graciously given. We are sure to receive more, the more we pass on!

Yours in Service, AI E., District 3C DCM

District Servants

District 3B DCM
 Michael E. 512-825-5283
District 3B Alternate
 Stephen S.. 512-259-1579
District 3C DCM
 AI 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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DCM Reports — Continued

District 3B DCM Michael E.

At the end of December, we will come to the end of the current term in our positions. Thank you to all who have taken the time in helping us to learn our positions.

I had one of the greatest experiences of my sobriety in serving with the wonderful people of Districts 3B/3C. I'm proud of the progress made these past two years. AA members in our Districts have shown a great deal of determination and resolve to get ourselves out of financial droughts and to make themselves available to assist many committees, to carry on workshops, as well as to reach out to our community. I write this article late and with a feeling of "I should've done more." Some of you may be feeling the same way. It has been said many times that by the time we learn and fully understand what our positions are about, we are ready to move on to another position.

I see great things happening in and around our District over the next few years, and I look forward to being there for them. One of these events is the Fall Assembly in 2010 which District 3B/3C will host. I look forward to serving with you as we stage the Fall Assembly in 2010.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael E., District 3B DCM

Secretary's Report

Hello, my fellow trusted servants. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your District Secretary for these last 2 years.

During my term, I have learned a lot about myself and the service structure of Alcoholic Anonymous. I've learned to pay attention to business going on around me and to allow God to stretch me through new experiences and fears. I have met many new friends from all over town and I know the importance of embracing and supporting other groups. Group hopping is pretty cool. It is so important to share experience, strength, and hope between groups and to maintain accurate records of groups. **Be sure to let us know who your new group officers are and get them to District meetings.**

We must tap the group conscience to best represent you, the alcoholic, who is the most important part of the service structure. I enjoy being a part of this process that maintains connections for the Alcoholic Anonymous fellowship and I look forward to serving you in another District position. I am responsible — and so are YOU — so stand for service positions in your groups. I look forward to seeing you at the monthly District meetings.

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

Treatment Facilities Report

Thank you to the organizers and host of the September 2009 District 3B/3C Service Workshop. All of the presenters gave a detailed description of how the Area and District committees serve the AA community, carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Allow me to present the part that I summarized during the Workshop. In earlier times the Hospitals and Institutions service work, or 12 step calls, were in the same category that included Jails, Asylums, Hospitals, and eventually, Treatment Facilities. After a time it became necessary to separate Corrections and Treatment. The main function of AA in Treatment Facilities is to support the volunteers who bring meetings into the Facilities.

How do meetings in Treatment Facilities keep us sober? This question opens the dialog touching the relationship between the AA Fellowship, the "candidate", and the professionals who manage the institution. For the Fellowship, we are guided with a Group Purpose as set down in our Traditions. It takes a certain amount of wisdom to maintain serenity so that we can perform our work. Each facility conducts business according to established rules, statutes, restrictions, and laws. The AA Treatment Workbook, Guidelines, and Literature contain ample information on forging the relationship between our Fellowship and the professionals in the Facilities so vital to the preservation of future opportunities to reach the suffering candidate. Solutions may never be known for all the problems this situation may present. This is why it is suggested that we encourage the participation of members with maturity and a broad knowledge of AA; so that the Facilities can easily depend on them for regularity, cheerfulness and humility. It's their turf and we must respect that by knowing and following their rules.

The AA literature mentioned also gives helpful advice covering the scope and variety of the types of meetings in Treatment Facilities. Also outlined are some possible suggestions on what the District and Area committees can do to be of service to the members. Our District has a fund set aside to ensure there are enough AA Big Books for the Treatment Facility residents to study. Our Area 68 is actively pursuing implementing the *Bridging The Gap* program. This program might someday be the key to saving the life of an alcoholic who participates. The means of successfully organizing an effective plan to guarantee this consistent relationship between all parties involved is the topic I have stressed in previous Newsletter articles.

Bridge the Gap

Temporary Contact Sign Up Form

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

District: _____ Male/Female: _____ Age: _____

Treatment Facilities Report — Continued

AA World Services has produced a video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” which is expected to clarify positions and minimize friction so the future of AA in Treatment Facilities will be a smooth one. All of this and much more would not be possible without the generous altruistic contributions and actions of us all. Together we can work effectively to communicate with service minded entities and to provide resources to Treatment Facilities. My very best to you Austin Districts 3B/3C.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael F., Treatment Facilities Chair

PI/CPC

I am looking back on the last two years as Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) chair and realizing how much I have learned about carrying the message. The overwhelming importance of letting people know about Alcoholics Anonymous is the main thing I have seen in my term of office. People are dying of alcoholism everywhere. I have spoken to people who have told me stories of their alcoholism and their hopelessness, of their families despair, children lost forever, their spirit crushed by this disease. People who cried and shared their desperation. There is no more sacred trust than carrying the message of hope of AA.

In the last two years we have started meetings at institutions, given literature to employers, answered questions about what AA is and isn't, given Big Books to the Austin Public Library and to others who needed them, done workshops, had a PI/CPC conference, spoken to professionals, sent out many speakers, attended professional conferences with literature and information, connected large business with GSO to order literature, written press releases and listened a lot. We have found the Austin community to be very receptive to our message. We have found GSO to be a wonderful support system with wonderful resources available to anyone who calls. I love our District 3B/3C officers and will miss them.

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

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://www.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.

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!

Did You Know Your Group Can Host A District Meeting?

Contact Your GSR Or any District Committee Member

Correctional Facilities Report

My term as chairperson is drawing to a close at the end of December 2009. We should have another Correctional Facilities Committee (CFC) chairperson chosen before I chair my last quarterly meeting on October 11th, Sunday night at 6:00 p.m., at the Hill Country Intergroup. Please join us, as I hope to see you there.

I used to wonder why we take meetings out to the jails. The answer lies somewhere in my expressed willingness to put the welfare of others ahead of my own, and in my interest in witnessing or sharing my experience, strength and hope, which must be sufficient to keep me sober one day at a time.

Faith without works is dead, and there are always alcoholics who have lost their freedom. Working with residents of Correctional Facilities is one way to "perfect and enlarge" the "spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others" (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p.15). I owe so much to AA, which has helped me find a real, workable path to God as I understand him!

Our Big Book also says that "practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics". (p.89) Taking meetings to the jails and other institutions has largely fulfilled this suggestion, while for me and many others, chairing a service committee has added Service and Unity to my program of recovery. Recovery is only as real as I make it happen in my life!

In early sobriety I often feared that I had nothing to give, but I finally determined that I'd keep showing up as long as these inmates did! And, I realize that I'm in poor shape indeed if I cannot bring any gratitude to mind for the hell I have avoided to this day by choosing Recovery and God over the diabolical underpinnings of my addict mind. God has a plan for us, and taking meetings to alcoholics in their cells, could not be said to be truly selfish.

Volunteers continue to take AA to Travis County and TDCJ State facilities in the Austin area and as far as Gatesville. If interested in this kind of service work, visit the District 3B/3C Corrections page from the AA Intergroup site, call them for a CFC contact phone number, or email the CFC Chairperson: 3b.3c.corrections@gmail.com.

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

Little-known landmark day in AA history:

Bill W. himself was the first AA guest speaker in San Quentin Penitentiary, on November 28th 1943, where the warden, Clinton Duffy, had allowed AA meetings to be conducted by the inmates since 1942.

Group Report — Bluebonnet Group

Coming into the rooms of AA in December 2006, my life lacked anything consistent or stable. It was all moving parts. I had no foundation and no one to provide the support and nourishment I needed. The Bluebonnet Group provided this for me. They welcomed me. They hounded me. They made me uncomfortable (well, more uncomfortable). They persisted, "See you next week?" I am grateful I came back.

The next week, I went in and saw nearly all the same people, and the next week and the next and so on. I found some consistency on Mondays, and I haven't relinquished it. The newcomer rarely escapes without a list of phone numbers from people he talked to, a book if he doesn't have one, and a meeting companion for Tuesday if he so chooses. Bluebonnet's arms are wide open for the newcomer while maintaining long-term, stable sobriety for the vast majority of the group's regular members. I am so grateful for their lessons in action.

Lives, jobs, schedules and locations change. Bluebonnet doesn't. I'm routinely amazed when "visitors" come to our meeting intimately conversing with regular members. I realize quickly that they formerly attended Bluebonnet regularly for years before moving for work or school or family. Bluebonnet is here, weekly sharing experience strength and hope with rich stories and valuable sobriety. I am grateful that the group remains.

The Bluebonnet Group first gathered on the first Monday of 1980 at the Triumphant Love Lutheran Church on Jollyville Road and followed the church to its current location on Great Hills Trail in 1986. Through different buildings at different locations, the group persevered due to loyal attendance by core members. Having a home group is an important part of my sobriety today because of this group. In the relatively short period I've been around, Bluebonnet has maintained a focus on providing a welcoming environment to the newcomer and caring fellowship for those who seek it. On January 9, 2010, we will gather to celebrate thirty years with a dinner and a dance. All are welcome.

Join us Mondays to talk about what we were like, what happened and what we are like now. The first Monday of the month is a closed step meeting from the 12 x 12, while we celebrate birthdays the last Monday of the month. Other Mondays are closed discussion meetings led by a chairperson who chooses the topic. We consistently have twenty or so people reliably sharing on topic at Bluebonnet every Monday from 8:00 — 9:00 p.m. at the Triumphant Love Lutheran Church (9508 Great Hills Trail Austin, TX 78759) near the Arboretum. All are welcome. Join us!

In love and Service, Mike S., GSR, Bluebonnet Group



Grapevine Report

As my two-year term as 3B/3C Grapevine chair is quickly winding down, the issue of time is on my mind. Did you know that the 2010 wall calendar, which has full-color photographs taken by readers and accompanied by brief quotes not directly related to either AA or alcoholism (so the calendar may be displayed anonymously), has a photo in it by a local photographer? Or that at AAGrapevine.org, you can count how many seconds/minutes/days/months/years of sobriety you have strung together, one day at a time (at the time I am writing this, I have 3,571 days)? Speaking of calendars, the 2010 pocket calendar is also now available at <http://www.aagrapevine.org>, along with a variety of Grapevine related materials, including books and CDs.

In the time since the last newsletter, I have had the opportunity to visit a few other groups and mention the Grapevine, make subscription forms available, and inform AAs that they can also subscribe to the Grapevine online at <http://www.aagrapevine.org>. At one of these meetings I was invited to attend by and got to meet Haili H., whose story "Dream Big", was published in the August issue of the Grapevine. I have set up my Grapevine display at the ACWG meetings, and the Victor E. that I made traveled with me to the SWTA68 summer workshop in Round Rock in July. On September 12, 2009 at the Lambda Live and Let Live Group in Austin, we held the 5th annual District 3B/3C Service Workshop. James H., the SWTA68 Grapevine chair and I combined our displays to make a rather eye-catching display! Victor E. also made an appearance at this workshop. While I am on the topic of the Service Workshop, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the area and the district people who set up their displays, made presentations on their committees and/or offices, and helped make this workshop a tremendous success. I also want to thank all the people who attended the workshop, and especially those who helped out with the set-up/organization/food/clean-up, and the Lambda Live and Let Live group for letting us use their upscale facilities.

While I am in this appreciative mood, I will also thank the best small home group in Austin, The Turning Point Group, for their continued support and shared sobriety. They make trudging this road of happy destiny so much easier and fun in our meetings on Fridays and Tuesdays at 8:00 PM and Sundays at noon.

I am eagerly anticipating the next SWTA 68 conference and assembly in Port Aransas the first weekend in October. Another upcoming highly anticipated event is the 2009 Southwest Regional Forum in Dallas the second weekend in October! This will be my second Southwest Regional Forum. The 2007 Forum in Denver helped open my eyes to a greater view of AA than I had ever imagined. This new world, which AA is continually revealing to me, far exceeds my wildest dreams! One of the highlights of that forum for me was the lunch that Grapevine reps had with the editor of the Grapevine! November is gratitude month; I am letting my gratitude show early!

If you know an AA who is a Spanish speaker, there is also a Spanish edition of the Grapevine, La Vina. In July 1995, the first special edition of stories translated into Spanish appeared. In June 1996, La Vina started to be published on a bi-monthly basis. These are not simply translated stories, but stories written in Spanish by Spanish speaking AAs. The number of subscribers has grown slowly but steadily.

I want to begin to express my gratitude to all the friends I have made during my term as Grapevine Chair for 3B/3C in the groups, the district, the area and beyond. I am looking forward to seeing and working with everyone as we wind up the last few months of this term, and to moving into the future in whatever service positions God sees fit for me to perform.

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

District 3B & 3C Financial Statement

Cash Balance Statement		thru	08/31/09	2009	
Income	Contributions			Ytd Amt	Aug
	Allendale			174.59	
	A-Way-Out			245.00	
	Bluebonnet			63.31	
	Bouldin Ave.			263.00	
	Bridge To Shore			525.24	10.00
	Brushy Creek Men's Group			0.00	
	Carry This Message			0.00	
	Central			87.00	15.00
	Courage to Change			0.00	
	Desire to Stop			247.85	42.33
	DSAA			75.00	
	Early Action			0.00	
	East Austin			111.42	
	Emmaus			90.92	16.65
	Four Points			120.00	20.00
	Firemakers			0.00	
	Hilltop			0.00	
	Keep First Things First			262.36	169.05
	Lake Travis Serenity			50.00	
	Last Call			0.00	
	Liar's Club Austin (North)			33.00	
	Liar's Club South			54.90	
	Lighthouse			80.00	20.00
	Lambda Live & Let Live			116.92	
	Last House on the Block			0.00	
	Living Faith			40.00	
	Miracles			42.00	
	North Austin 24			200.00	25.00
	New Beginnings			227.47	
	North 183			25.00	
	Northland			718.81	59.57
	Our Gang			0.00	
	Pennsylvania			25.00	
	Power Hour			25.00	25.00
	Primary Purpose			100.00	
	Renegade Ducks			0.00	
	Saturday Morning Serenity			62.60	
	So What, Now What?			32.00	
	South Austin BB			53.00	
	Suburban Group			40.00	10.00
	Tarrytown Group			0.00	
	Thursday Night Men's Group			0.00	
	Triangle Group			40.00	40.00
	Turning Point			10.00	
	Unity			0.00	
	What's the Point			0.00	
	We Agnostics Group			0.00	
	Women's Recovery			0.00	
	Western Trails			800.00	
	Westlake			550.00	550.00
	164 Page Winners			0.00	
	1313 Club			234.00	
	Other Donations			0.00	
			Sub-Total Regular Income	5,825.39	1,002.60
	Expenses				
	Bridge the Gap			0.00	
	Conferences			1,856.36	22.61
	Correctional Facilities			1,401.42	
	District Literature			180.01	
	Grapevine			40.00	
	History of AA Presentation			0.00	
	Miscellaneous			0.00	
	Newsletter			327.00	
	Office supplies/Postage			0.00	
	Organization: 501(c)(3)			165.70	
	PW/CPC			46.61	
	Printing/Reproduction Supplies			99.09	11.88
	Treatment Facilities			24.91	
	Bank Service Fee			0.00	
			Sub-Total Regular Expenses	4,141.10	34.49
			Monthly Gain/Loss		968.11
			YTD	Net Income (Expense)	1,684.29
			Cash Balance @ December 31, 2008	2,518.22	
			Regular Net Income (Expense) Year To Date	1,684.29	
			Cash Balance @ 08/31/09	4,202.51	

**All donations should be made to District 3B/3C & mailed to:
3411-B Dunliegh Drive Austin, TX 78745