



The 3B/3C District News

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

DCM Report



District 3B DCM

The Golden Coffee Ticket

When I was new in AA, I often heard the chair person make all kinds of announcements about all sorts of AA stuff. Usually the chair would announce that after the meeting several people met for coffee and everyone was invited to join. I never joined. Surely they were not referring to a miserable loser like me. I was not one of those people they would want at coffee. So I never went to coffee. I never responded to any of the announcements or calls for service.

A few months later I went to my regular Tuesday meeting. The person with the key didn't show up. After 15 minutes we decided there wasn't going to be a meeting. One of the guys turned to me and said "Hey, we are going across the street for coffee. Would you like to join us?"

Wow! There it was a personal invitation to go to coffee! They really did want me to go to coffee with them. I had been offered the Golden Coffee Ticket! I went to coffee with these people and was changed. Here was a group of people talking about God outside of church, outside of an AA meeting and on a day that wasn't Sunday. And I did not get that weird "icky" feeling I used to get when I heard people talk about God.

So I started hanging out with these people. They introduced me to service work. They got me to chair the meeting for the month at their group. The next month I cleaned ash trays. The guys would call me and ask me what I was doing this weekend - there was a district workshop and I should come with them. Eventually they nominated me as GSR when elections were up. That is what launched me into AA Service Work and being a part of AA.

District Servants

- District 3B DCM
Stephen S. 512-259-1579
- District 3B Alternate
Mike S. 512-653-9872
- District 3C DCM
Julia B. 512-669-6366
- District 3C Alternate
Bruce M. 512-707-2403
- Treasurer
Kathy K. 512-413-5179
- Secretary
David Mc. 512-618-3495

Committee Chairs

- Archives
Brian M. 512-469-2923
- Corrections
Todd M. 512-810-0094
- Grapevine
Cookie C. 512-554-7649
- Intergroup
Michael B. 512-983-5799
- Literature
John N. 512-423-2310
- Newsletter
Karen S. 512-394-6467
- PI/CPC
Courtney W. 512-
- Registrar
Rose B. 512-296-0663
- Treatment
Norma A. 512-443-4335
- Web Master
Elise G. 512-367-0717

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DCM Reports — Continued

I never responded to the fliers or announcements for service work. However, when someone approached me and personally invited me to join, I did. I think there are a lot of people out there that are just like me when they hear announcements. "Aw gosh - they don't really want ME." Therefore, I think in addition to announcing an upcoming workshop or service opportunity, approach someone and invite them to come along. Introduce them to service. Make them feel special and needed, like those people did for me when they personally invited me to coffee.

In Service, District 3B DCM, Stephen S.

DCM Reports 3C

A Full Schedule for AA Fellowship and Service

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as DCM (District Committee Member) for District 3C, which covers all groups in Austin south of the river. It is a joy to work with so many dedicated and capable District officers, committee chairs, and GSRs.

I have enjoyed visiting with some of you at your meetings. We are blessed to have so many wonderful groups in our district, and though each group has a unique personality, all are carrying the AA message of recovery from alcoholism.

This exciting year of service events in our area continues to unfold. I am looking forward to the International Convention in San Antonio, which will have already happened by the time this goes to press. Many AAs in our district have been busy planning for this event and recruiting volunteers. When I last heard, almost all of the volunteer slots had been filled and over 42,000 people had registered for the convention!

The Area 68 Summer Workshop assembly will be July 16-18 here in Austin at the Airport Hilton, hosted by our local Spanish-speaking district, District 21. The annual Area 68 PI/CPC (Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community) conference will take place September 17-19 at the Wingate by Wyndham hotel in Round Rock. For more information about either of these events, go to www.aa-swta.org and click on Events.

October 15-17 our Districts will be hosting the Area 68 Fall Voting Assembly at the Double Tree Hotel. We had a wonderful time hosting an assembly in summer 2006, and this one should be excellent also. It's a great chance to meet alcoholics from all over Southwest Texas and to learn about the many ways of carrying the message. There will be opportunities for service on many committees, including hospitality, raffle, registration, and entertainment, to name just a few. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the assembly chairs, our Alternate DCMs Mike S. 3B and Bruce M. 3C

I look forward to seeing you at these and other AA events in the coming months. Please continue to let me know how I can be of service to you and your groups.

Respectfully submitted, Julia B. District 3C DCM

Treatment Facilities Report

Greetings from Norma A., your District 3B/3C Treatment Facilities Chairperson! How wonderful it is to find so many people who are involved and interested in organizing our service efforts to carry the message of recovery. We are also learning how to do this more effectively!

This last quarter of the year, many AA members met to learn about the variety of ways to share our experience, strength, and hope, whether we have years of experience or not. We reviewed the Hope DVD, created by GSO last year. It presented it from a new member's point of view, in her first year. The material reviewed sponsorship, anonymity, the primary purpose, and a basic explanation of the steps and the traditions. The materials was presented in English, Spanish, and French. We discussed how the material was an innovative way to jump-start a question-answer session or informational meetings at a treatment center. We also reviewed many other methods that could be utilized by new AA members who may lack experience, but wish to do service. The ideas mentioned were: using short articles out of the Grapevine, or various other Grapevine books, CD's, or tapes that are aimed at specific audiences, such as young people, inmates, or beginners.

Upcoming items of interest are the Austin Area Service Directory, soon to be posted on the District 3B/3C website, which will let AA members know what service opportunities are available, and the next Treatment Facilities workshop. The workshop focus is on understanding our "Special Needs" AA members: those who are deaf, visually impaired, physically handicapped, or homebound. Information from our literature and our founders will be presented on this topic, and then a panel of AA members who qualify in this category, and have long term sobriety, will share their unique experiences . Look for more information about this workshop, which will be mid-August, on the Hill Country Intergroup website! www.austinaa.org

If you would like to participant in these on-going efforts to network service opportunities to carry the message effectively and learn about resources for **treatment center service work**, please join us July 24th at 2:00 p.m., at the 617 Foundation.



Treatment Facilities Continued p.4

Treatment Facilities Continues

Carrying the Message to Special Needs Alcoholics

Dear All,

Thanks for accepting my invitation to you to share at the workshop coming up in August!! We will begin with an overview of the Special Needs alcoholic, what our literature says about helping these AA members, and then I will invite you to come up and share, one at a time, for about 15 minutes. It doesn't have to be that long, and if you go over, it's probably ok, too. I will signal you if seems like it's time to wrap it up. Please share what you want and how you want. Share about your experience, strength, and hope. Below are some questions you may want to include:

1. How did you get started in AA?
2. What barriers did you have to overcome in order to receive the AA message and/or participate in recovery?
3. How can other AA members help you in your efforts to carry the message or do service work?
4. What should other AA members NOT do, just because of your special needs?
5. What is the difference between how you felt about AA as a newcomer, compared to how you feel about it now?
6. Were there any other obstacles you had to overcome as you gained in experience in recovery, and what tools ,literature, or efforts from the fellowship helped you?
7. What do you feel God has given you through it?
8. Would you suggest one or two important things to remember with new people coming in, especially those with special needs such as your own??

In love and service, Norma A

District 3B 3C Treatment Facilities Chairperson

A Call to Service!

Carrying the Message Into Treatment Facilities!



**Sponsored by
District 3b/3c**

Our goals:

Review the new

Service Directory!!

Prepare and plan the next
workshop!!

Explore new ways to reach
out to all the recovery
community to carry the
message!!



Contact info: Norma A

**District 3b/3c
Treatment Facilities
Committee
Chairperson**

443-4335 or e-mail
aanorma@sbcglobal.net

July 24thth

617 Foundation

617 Clifford Drive

At 2:00 p.m.

*Join us at the next
quarterly Austin area
Treatment Facilities
meeting for
fellowship,
refreshments, and
networking!*

GSR's, Treatment

PI/CPC Report

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

PI/CPC chairs all over the world are preparing for an unprecedented Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community service project:

The 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS celebrating AA's 75th year in San Antonio, TX July 1st-4th.

Can you imagine how the city of San Antonio and yes, all of Central Texas (whose hotels will be filled with our members) will have questions about who we are, what we are doing there, and how come there are so many of us!? [And why don't we bring the bars much business?]

What an exciting time to respond with attraction rather than promotion. On a smaller scale, District 3B/3C PI/CPC will be participating in a health fair put on by The RK Group in Austin, TX scheduled for Wednesday July 21st, 2010. When we say 'participate' it means that we set up a table with some of our literature, display our 12 steps and 12 traditions and stand ready to answer questions about AA to a group of employees who are attending a health fair during their open enrollment.

If we can hand a meeting schedule or provide an eye-opening piece of literature to someone who needs to hear about us, then we have been an extension of the hand of AA. We will continue to attend health and resource fairs as opportunities arise.

PLEASE, we need Spanish Speakers for this event! Contact me if you are interested in service work to staff the booth. Two or more could attend and a small training before the day of the fair will tell you all you need to know.

At the Area level, 3B/3C is also supporting District 22 as they host the SWTA 68 PI/CPC Conference in Round Rock, TX September 17 to 19, 2010. There will be an excellent group of speakers sharing on PI/CPC topics such as "Anonymous Not Invisible-What is PI/CPC and Why/How/Where do we need to do it", "Internet: Social Networking and Anonymity", and "PI: The workplace and AA."

This Area level event will provide dozens of service opportunities for 3B/3C members. Please contact me if you want to help with this conference and get connected with some of the other districts in our area.

What a busy year in AA and a year of growth for 3B/3C PI.CPC. I am honored to serve AA in this way.

In service,
Courtney W. District 3B 3C PICPC Chairperson
Courtney . 512.289.0690 ~ for help and information <http://www.austinaa.org/> ~

Secretary Report

Hello All,

I am settling into my new position as your secretary, there is always a learning curve that we must go through when starting in a new service position, but happily I think I'm getting through mine. It's been said that by the time we catch on to our job, it's time to pass it on, fortunately that doesn't seem to be written in stone. I've been working on getting some updates to the guidelines ready for district approval, hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to review the proposal that Bruce and I submitted. If not, hopefully you are able to do so soon. I am really excited about the proposed revisions that we have discussed and am looking forward to discussing them officially in our upcoming meetings.

I am also looking forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio this coming weekend and hope that everyone gets to attend the International convention. Thank you to Jim and all others who are working hard to make this important event go smoothly. It was a pleasure to hear Char's delegate report at Western Trails this past month and I look forward to working closer with her in the future.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone peace and happiness and I will see you at East Austin group on July 11. Thank you to everyone for your service.

Sincerely,

District 3B 3C Secretary, David M.

The next District meeting is on JULY 11 hosted by:

The East Austin Group

Did you know that your group could host a District Meeting?

Ask your GSR how!

Grapevine Report

Ways to Use the Grapevine

Hi to everyone from your District 3B/3C Grapevine rep. Since my term started in January it has been a privilege to learn about the history of the Grapevine. As I said in the last report the Grapevine was the starting point of so many things that are a part of AA's everyday life. Most meetings start with the Preamble which was first introduced in the Grapevine along with the 12 traditions. The Grapevine is also known as our "Meeting in Print" which has helped many alcoholics who could not get to meeting's or who needed something to hold them over until the next meeting. It has been used to hold meetings with the "home bound", AA campouts, treatment/correctional facilities are more ways it can be used in our everyday lives.

Each month the GV presents articles written on a certain topic, along with other topics. I like the part "If These Walls Could Talk" which is pictures of meeting rooms submitted from AA groups all over the country. It is neat to see the different groups and imagine being there during a meeting of alcoholics anonymous. I moved here from Colorado 27 years ago and visit from time to time. The group I attend when I am in Colorado was in one of the recent printings, I noticed a picture of *their* meeting room. It was neat to point that out to people and say I have been to *that* meeting.

The AA Grapevine editor's review all articles, pictures; jokes and art that are submitted to Grapevine and choose the ones that are within the AA traditions for each issue. Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approved process, the General Service Conference recognized the Grapevine as the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have been busy since the last newsletter. I am continuing to attend the monthly Austin City Wide meetings where I set up a Grapevine Display. I am amazed each month when I get to talk to someone about the Grapevine who has either read it or has never read it. I think it is important to remind AA's about this wonderful piece of AA literature and the rest of the books, CD's, Digital Archives etc. that are published by Grapevine Inc. I also did a Grapevine workshop at the Lambda Live & Let Live Group which was great and a Grapevine presentation at the Bridge to Shore Group Conscience. Each group is different, which is so neat about AA, and how they want to share the news about the Grapevine is unique to each group. Some have started a library of old Grapevines brought in by members, some actually hold a weekly Grapevine Meeting, and other's encourage their member's to chair a meeting using the Grapevine. Some groups have the various committee chair positions represented but only a few of the AA groups in our district have a Grapevine Rep. I am hoping through encouraging the GSR's to invite me to their groups they will be encouraged to try and fill that position. Having a Grapevine rep. at your group can really help get the word out about the Grapevine and the importance of subscription sales to keep it self-supporting. If your group already has a Grapevine rep., be sure that they go to www.aagrapevine.org and register. This will give them access to reading about what other GV reps. are doing in other parts of the country and access to some free materials. I would also like for you to tell your GV reps. to contact me with their contact information so I can inform them with any updates and new information regarding the GV. I can be contacted through the www.austinaa.org website where a link can be found to District 3B/3C. Once I know who the Grapevine reps. are I will start holding a quarterly GV meeting where I and the GV reps. from our District can exchange idea's and support each other on ways to better inform the AA community about this wonderful little magazine of recovery. If anyone is interested in submitting articles, pictures, jokes and art work the guidelines on how to submit yours can be found at www.aagrapevine.org.

In love and service, Cookie District 3B 3C Grapevine Chairperson

Corrections Report

Do I have What It Takes?

The first time I participated in taking a meeting into a prison, I was nervous about what to expect and how I'd be received. I haven't had to do real prison time, but I've spent a few overnights in the "drunk" tank. Would that be enough, or was it still too trivial to be taken seriously?

The volunteer coordinator tried to put me at ease, asking me to just tell my story so that the guys could get to know me. Truthfully, that made me even more nervous. They would laugh me out of there for sure.

Partway through telling my story, a shift happened inside me, making me realize that this was still just one drunk talking to another. I guess I'd finally let God in, rather than letting my ego continue to 'Edge God Out'. As the guys began telling their stories I quickly realized that the only difference between them and me was that they had gotten caught, or they'd done something that I just haven't done yet. It was clear that we were brothers in sobriety. The fear disappeared.

During the meeting I realized that despite having a disease that constantly tells me that I don't belong anywhere for 100 different reasons, I definitely belong; even in prison meetings.

After the meeting was over, a line of inmates came up to me and thanked me for bringing a meeting to the prison. It was incredibly humbling. They aren't able to have a meeting unless someone from the outside brings one into the prison. To think I make a big deal about driving across town sometimes; I can go to a meeting whenever I choose.

Whether you've spent time locked behind bars, or years *inside* of a bar, or if you were just so locked in the bottle itself you couldn't even make it outside of your front door, we still share a common disease. The participation in this service work is the same simple and beautiful action of one drunk talking to another. An experience you must not miss! Indeed!

Announcements: The Kyle facility Volunteer Coordinator position will be opening up in August. Please contact me if you're interested in volunteering for that position.

Next Quarterly CFC Meeting: July 11 at 6:00-7:00pm at Hill-Country Intergroup (1825 Fortview Ste. #104).

In Service, Todd B. District 3B 3C Corrections Chairperson

3b.3c.correctional@gmail.com

Where can you do service?

Ask your GSR to take you to a District meeting.

Any of the District 3B/3C service committees would love to hear from YOU!

Group Report — Northland

As I drive up the drive way, under the canopy of trees I can finally take a breath. I've entered the parking lot of Northland AA, the twilight zone. This club has been around for 50 years and hopefully many more. It is through these doors that sobriety and my Higher Power met me.

There are meetings 7 days a week. - 7:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. meetings on both sides of the building. We have the usual cast of characters from all walks of life and every shape and size. I feel right at home and safe here.

The Suburban Foundation is in the process of updating and cleaning the facility. In the past year the bricks have been sandblasted and the old smell of smoke from a million cigarettes has been reduced. The chairs and tables are new and the floors stripped and waxed. All the doors have been replaced as well as all the couches in the "Half Measures" room.

Everywhere you look is clean and new. The foundation wanted to honor the people that started this meeting place of freedom and for the thousands that have passed through the doors.

Please come and visit and enjoy the view!

Respectfully Marcella W., GSR Northland Group



*Because of your service AA
can celebrate 75 Years!*

District 3B & 3C Financial Statement

Cash Balance Statement thru		5/31/2010	2010	
<u>Income Contributions</u>			<u>Ytd Amt</u>	<u>May</u>
	Allendale		139.93	
	A-Way-Out		300.00	
	Bluebonnet		25.64	
	Bouldin Ave.		95.00	
	Bridge To Shore		403.00	130.00
	Central Group		65.00	15.00
	Courage to Change		0.00	
	Desire to Stop		0.00	
	Dharma		10.00	10.00
	DSAA		0.00	
	East Austin		226.46	
	Emmaus		0.00	
	Four Points		40.00	
	Firemakers		0.00	
	Keep First Things First		340.90	
	Keystone Group Lakeway		43.13	20.35
	Lake Travis Serenity		100.00	
	Liar's Club South		0.00	
	Lighthouse		40.00	40.00
	Lambda Live & Let Live		196.69	
	Lighthouse Group		20.00	
	Living Faith		40.00	
	Miracles		50.00	50.00
	Men's Literature		116.25	80.25
	North Austin 24		100.00	
	Nada Gium Lot		87.00	
	New Beginnings		118.54	
	North 183		0.00	
	Northland		472.12	167.92
	Our Gang		20.00	
	Power Hour		0.00	
	Primary Purpose		0.00	
	Saturday Morning Serenity		50.40	
	So What, Now What?		0.00	
	South Austin BB		26.35	
	Spiritual Awakenings		0.00	
	Suburban Group		0.00	
	Triangle Group		52.85	52.85
	Turning Point		0.00	
	We Agnostics Group		20.00	20.00
	Western Trails		65.00	
	Westlake		183.00	
	164 Page Winners		75.00	
	1313 Club		0.00	
	Other Donations		51.00	
	Sub-Total Regular Income		3,575.26	586.37
	<u>Expenses</u>			
	Conferences		1,258.48	201.38
	Correctional Facilities		893.34	
	District Literature		77.33	
	Grapevine		98.85	
	Miscellaneous:		0.00	
	Newsletter		166.80	
	Office supplies/Postage		0.00	
	Organization: 501(c)(3)		100.00	
	PI/CPC		70.93	
	Printing/Reproduction Supplies		117.01	11.39
	Treatment Facilities		323.44	29.92
	Treasurer PO Box		42.00	
	Bank Service Fee		89.00	
	Sub-Total Regular Expenses		3,239.18	242.69
	Monthly Gain/Loss			343.68
	YTD Net Income (Expense)		336.08	
	Cash Balance @ December 31, 2009		4,328.37	
	Regular Net Income (Expense) Year To Date		336.08	
	Cash Balance @ 5/31/2010		4,664.45	

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