

The 3B/3C District News

Volume 10 Issue 4

October 2011



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



DCM REPORTS

District 3C DCM

Reading the Conference Report

As I near the end of my term as DCM, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve. It has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated and capable trusted servants.

This week I've been reading the final report from the 61st annual General Service Conference. The theme of this year's Conference was "We are responsible for AA's future – let it begin with us." The report is chock-full of information about what is going on with AA as a whole, as well as inspiring talks given by some of the trustees and delegates. It reminds us of the importance of each of our roles in the service structure.

I am somewhat embarrassed to admit that, although I have been involved in service for several years, this is the first time I have made a real effort to read a Conference report. The amount of content is rather daunting, so I thought it might be helpful for me to share some of the highlights of what I have read so far. I encourage each of you to spend some time with the report to see what you might get out of it, and to share it with your groups.

Our outgoing Southwest regional trustee, Conley B., gave the keynote address at the Conference. He raised a series of questions, in which he reviewed the history of our Fellowship and the Conference and gave an introduction to the issues being addressed in the present:

District 3C DCM continued on p. 2

District Servants

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District 3C DCM continued

What sorts of issues will we be dealing with this week? Some may be routine housekeeping issues, but someone has to do it. Others will have a broader policy reach, including topics like: Anonymity – should full face be allowed, and if so, when? Do we need a written Concept V Right of Appeal? Are we capable of taking an inventory of the Conference itself, and if so, when and how? Are our checks and balances in place? How inclusive should our spiritual literature be? Have we selected the full complement of leadership to ensure our future? Do we need a Special Needs pamphlet? How are we going to receive our literature in the future (ie. delivery system)? Is the AA Grapevine and La Viña still an integral part of our World Service, and if so how can we best ensure their survival? How are we going to maintain self-support? Have we undertaken the activities we need to function today? Tomorrow? Next year? Over the next five to ten years, or more? At the end of the week will we have fulfilled our obligations to the members and groups by adhering to all of our Principles in all Three Legacies? Will we have observed the spirit of our Traditions as the guarantor of the Warranties in all our proceedings?

He closed with a reminder that we always invite the God of our understanding into our deliberations and our lives, and led the group in repeating the Responsibility Statement.

The report continues with a review of the Conference Advisory Actions, which address many of the issues Conley mentions. For example, a new “Policy on Actors Portraying AA Members or Potential AA Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates” was recommended for adoption. Some of the other advisory actions involved updating AA materials for the digital age. There is then a presentation from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee, which describes a plan for a Conference inventory to be held in the years 2013–15.

The section “Presentations and Reports” includes a report on the 21st World Service Meeting, a finance report, and presentations on such topics as “Diversity in AA,” “An Informed Group Conscience,” “Sponsorship,” and “AA in a Digital Age.” There are reports from the General Service Board, the AA World Services and Grapevine corporate boards, and each of the trustees’ committees. Area service highlights from the Panel 61 delegates describe how AA service is practiced all over the US and Canada. There is also a section on Additional Committee Considerations (items that were discussed by the Conference committees but did not have any action taken or recommendation made) and detailed financial reports from GSO, AAWS, and Grapevine.

Many of you GSRs have received a copy of the Conference report, but if you haven’t, or if you aren’t a GSR but you would still like a copy, please let me know and I will get you one. They should also be available at the Area 68 Fall Conference and Assembly, October 14–16 in San Antonio.*

Yours in service, District 3C DCM, Julia B.

*** see pages 10-12 for more information about the Area 68 Fall Conference and Assembly**



Treatment Facilities Report

Treatment for Alcoholics Then and Now

I have been reflecting upon the positive changes that have occurred in the treatment facilities since AA was introduced. There was a day, back in the 1930's and before, when those in the medical profession would have nothing to do with alcoholics. Doctors were told not to waste time and money on people like us because there was no cure for alcoholics. After the arrival of Bill and Alcoholics Anonymous and time of proving ourselves, we earned the trust of the professionals who then saw alcoholics change and recover and the doors of opportunity began to open. A spirit of cooperation was born between AA and various types of treatment settings.

Bill Wilson talked frequently about the importance of our relationships with outside agencies like the medical profession, the media, and the clergy, to promote mutual benefits. In 1947 Bill wrote. "Despite the general effectiveness of the AA program, we often need the help of friendly agencies outside AA. Nowhere is this more strikingly true than in the field of hospitalization." He spoke of the importance of medical detox, rest and recuperation. Total treatment of body and mind was important in preparing the alcoholic for the message that AA could later present. Bill wrote, "The primary purpose of hospitalization is not to save our prospect the pain of getting sober; its real purpose is to place him in a state with the greatest possible receptivity to our AA program." Finding himself in treatment can be a wake-up call for some, and can clear the path for the acceptance of Step One: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable."

What has not changed is what Bill writes about next: "With each passing year, we increasingly realize the immense importance of adequately presenting the program to every new prospect, who is in the least inclined to listen. Many of us feel this is to be our greatest obligation to him and our failure to do so our greatest dereliction. The difference between a good approach and a bad one can mean life or death to those who seek our help. "

This is where our services, through the District, come in. As Treatment Facility Chair, my goal is to equip each AA member who goes into a treatment facility setting with what they need to carry the AA message. Through the intelligent use of literature, AA DVD's, and the Grapevine, which prepares us to have a good attitude toward the "prospects" and the treatment staff. We AAs' can do a world of good for those who are still suffering, we come ready to inform others about who we are and what AA is all about. We explain why AA exists and what our personal experience in recovery has been like, and we leave the gift of hope in the hearts and minds of future AA members. I frequently meet people who have come out of treatment centers with this careful introduction to AA. These people found the path that led them to a membership in a worldwide society, and it has been a joy to see them doing well. They become part of a home group, get involved in sponsorship, and a find a fellowship that helps them feel useful at last. This is the joy that I and others find from providing this type of service work.

This last quarter, I continued to give information and resources to those seeking AA information and to meet with various treatment agencies. I have also been working as Chairperson of the Austin Deaf Access Committee, focusing on providing AA services that carry the message to the Deaf community.

The next **Treatment Facility Meeting** will be sometime in **December**, information forthcoming after the meeting availability is confirmed. Otherwise, please feel free to contact me for help with resources, treatment center opportunities, and Deaf Access information. As we continue to improve in our obligation to carry the message, we provide AA members, past, present, and future, with a bright hope for the future!!

In love and service,

Treatment Facilities Chairperson, Norma A.

PI/CPC Report

Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community

What An Exciting Experience This Has Been

By the time many of you read this newsletter, a new PI/CPC Chairperson will have been elected for District 3B/3C. Outgoing suggestions in AA are just that, suggestions, based on our experience, strength, and hope. We, as a committee could not have made it 2 days much less 2 years in PI/CPC had it not been for the support of those who have gone before us. We participated in Health Fairs and Wellness Programs, spoke in high schools and college classrooms, adopted libraries, held a PI/CPC workshop, and shared AA with our community to the best of our abilities and with lots of help from HP.

If anything can be gleaned from my own experience, strength, and hope, it goes something like this...

- **PRAY & PRAY**, you're going to need it!
- Find a **service sponsor** as soon as possible. A former PI/CPC Chair is invaluable but anyone with experience in AA service work can help. Mine never told me what to do (which was infuriating at times), but he pointed me towards the traditions and then shared his own experience, strength, and hope with a few suggestions here and there.
- Go to Area Conferences, especially the **winter** and **summer** workshops (Assemblies are great, too!). I learned so much at each conference, even when I wasn't sure what questions I needed answers for!
- Participate in the Area Service Workshops for PI/CPC. Better yet, join a host committee or submit a topic to be able to speak. When I got immersed into the PI/CPC community in Area 68 I found that it was fun, informative, and a great support.
- Stay open to possibilities. People call AA with some interesting requests, but if they are interested in hearing what AA is, what it is not, and how to find AA, then we can help!
- Say yes to every opportunity (see previous bullet) and THEN figure out how it's all going to come together. Sometimes I wanted to say "no" but I was always glad at the end that I said "yes"!
- Gather a great committee of volunteers because it's impossible to do this service without the "we" program. I loved working with fellow servants and always, always felt something was missing when I tried to do anything alone.
- **READ** and **USE** the Literature. I love my literature packet and I carted these essentials to every PI/CPC opportunity we attended. "How to Speak at Non-AA Meetings" and the trusty (Free!) white sheet "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" were never far from reach. Of course there are **many** other resources, and the PI/CPC committee has used most if not all of them these in the last 2 years.

PI/CPC Report Continued

Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community

- Enjoy the step work that comes out of service work. Ha! I didn't love everyone I came across, enjoy every business meeting, or always feel thrilled with every opportunity, but I got to work the steps and get on with service and it was great.

Did I say have fun? "Have fun!"

Thank you for a chance to serve as your PI/CPC committee chair. A special thanks to Stephen S., Denise T., and Roger L. for all of their guidance; PI/CPC Chairs, committees, and workshop committees in Districts 21, 22 and 29; and your own 3B/3C committee: Tony M., Kelles M., Tim C., Ani F., and sometimes Josh; thank you to the many volunteers who helped with individual projects and of course THANK YOU to our Higher Power who makes in all work out! If even one alcoholic who still suffers is helped through our fellowship, then every effort is worth it!

Blessings, District 3B3C PI/CPC Chairperson, Courtney W.

Grapevine Report

I Loved the Opportunity to Serve You As Grapevine Chairperson

Well, hello, fellow AA members. I can't believe that three months have passed since my last writing. I have been a busy girl with my efforts of getting the word out about the Grapevine. My desire is to encourage the AA fellowship to support the Grapevine by purchasing either a subscription or Grapevine literature or other items available through the internet at aagrapevine.org. The Grapevine does not receive group financial support; so it relies solely on the sales of subscriptions and literature in order to be fully self supporting. The Grapevine has been struggling financially and has become creative in offering a variety of subscriptions: you can receive the print magazine that can be delivered to your door (my favorite), or you can now receive the print issue on line. Check out the web site for more subscription options and cost. While you are there, take a look at the Grapevine literature and other items available.

In July the Western Trails AA group (my home group) and I organized an all day "Grape-a-thon" as a Western Trails fundraising event. There were a total of seven meetings; each assigned a topic and the chair people were asked to search the Grapevine digital archives for Grapevine articles on their topic. They read and shared their experience and then opened the meeting for discussion. I, of course, dressed up like a cluster of grapes, and the District 29 Grapevine Chair, Lauren, dressed up like a vine. We had created a Grapevine history presentation ending with trivia questions with each winner receiving a copy of a Grapevine magazine. Yes, I was dressed as a cluster of grapes all day. We also served grape juice and grapes and the room was decorated with purple balloons. The day ended with a raffle, which was a great success. All in all I think everyone had a great time. It was a great way to introduce the Grapevine to newcomers and rekindle the enthusiasm towards the magazine for the old timers. Grapevine needs all of our support to keep this treasure chest alive. For more information go to aagrapevine.org

District Grapevine Report continued on p. 6

Grapevine Report continued

I continue to have a Grapevine display table along with offering Grapevine literature for sale at the monthly City Wide AA Speaker Meeting. There are a lot of treatment centers who bring their residents to this meeting. It is a great opportunity to introduce the AA magazine in print and to show them how it can be an aid to their recovery.

On October 9, from 4:30-5:30 I will be having the next Grapevine Representative committee meeting at the Hill Country Intergroup at 1825 Fortview Rd. Suite #104. So, if you have been newly elected as a Grapevine rep for your group or are interested in becoming a Grapevine rep. or just want to learn more about the Grapevine, please come and join us.

I am also available to come to your group and either chair a Grapevine meeting, do a short presentation on the Grapevine, at your group conscience or steering committee meeting or facilitate a workshop about the Grapevine. You can get in touch with me by going into austinaa.org and clicking on to the link "Districts" then click on 3B/3C, look for the Grapevine Chair section. There you will be able to send me an e-mail or contact me by phone.

My two year term is over at the end of the year and it has been the best experience, contact me if you want to know more about the GRAPEVINE!!!!!!!

In love and service, District 3B/3C Grapevine Chair, Cookie

Wanting to find a service committee? **Here is how**

austinaa.org

Select the pull tag marked District 3b/3c—or—

Call the committee members listed on the front of this publication



Grapevine Report continued

The NEW AAGRAPEVINE.org website launched April 29.

Stories page, Service/GVR page, Share page, I-Say/I-Poll, Calendar, Humor, Español/La Viña page, Grapevine Store, And More!

The NEW Grapevine online subscription has arrived!

A subscription includes: Current prices

- Never before published Grapevine stories
- Weekly themed story packages
- Story (Digital) Archive – a \$26.97 value
- Audio Grapevine – a \$19.97 value
- Current issue of Grapevine online– a \$19.97 value

All the items above for \$34.97 a year. For additional subscription offers visit us at AAGrapevine.org. Take advantage of the 7-day free trial.

Grapevine Annual Subscription Prices - Effective July1, 2011

- Grapevine Online \$34.97 – All Inclusive and Unlimited Access
- Grapevine Story (Digital) Archive \$26.97
- Audio Grapevine magazine \$21.97
- Grapevine Print magazine \$28.97
- Grapevine Digital magazine \$21.97

New Discount: Subscribe to any two versions or more and receive \$12.00 off your purchase.

In love and service,

Cookie, Grapevine Committee Chairperson, District 3B3C



How My Home Group Helped Me

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the members of **Desire to Stop**, past and present. They have given me unconditional love, compassion, and understanding when I had none. Regardless of what their range of time in AA their sobriety or desire for sobriety has encouraged me to continue my journey. With your support I was inspired to do the footwork necessary to complete the steps and they will continue to guide me through the next level of giving back to my community. They embraced me with their loving hands, hearts, and souls through a process that helped me to learn and to live this new way of life and to share that with those who still suffer.

I am able now to sponsor others as I have been so carefully and lovely counseled. I continue to find humility through the AA principles that support me in my human relations. Thank you for showing me how to love my fellows on a deeper level, and for allowing me to see the beauty in life rather than believing the overwhelming negativity that kept me blind and desperately hopeless and insane.

I am grateful to my fellows at DTS for sharing this new and beautiful way of life with me.

Michael ? Member of the Desire to Stop Group



Treasurer's Report

District 3B & 3C Financial Statement

Cash Balance \$: thru <u>Income Contributions</u>	8/31/2011	2011		
		Ytd Amt	Aug	
Allandale		465.17	202.35	
Any Lengths		705.12		
A-Way-Out		275.00		
Bluebonnet		147.58	33.52	
Bouldn Ave.		0.00		
Bridge To Shore		1,002.74	118.45	
Central Group		69.00		
Courage to Change		23.75		
Desire to Stop		288.26		
Dharma		10.00		
East Austin		173.53		
Free at Last		10.00		
Freedom from Bondage		0.00		
Four Points		0.00		
Firemakers		50.00		
Keep First Things First		402.36		
Keystone Group Lakeway		107.98		
Lake Travis Serenity		50.00		
Liar's Club South		0.00		
Lambda Live & Let Live		0.00		
Lighthouse Group		40.00		
Living Faith		35.00		
Men's Literature		0.00		
North Austin 24		0.00		
Nada Glum Lot		112.50		
New Beginnings		143.75	143.75	
North 183		45.00		
Northland		634.32	50.00	
Nada Glum Lot		105.00		
Our Gang		26.50		
Pennsylvania Group		50.00		
Power Hour		0.00		
Primary Purpose		50.00		
Saturday Morning Serenity		103.65		
So What, Now What?		0.00		
South Austin BB		41.55		
Spiritual Awakenings		8.89		
Suburban Group		10.00		
Sunday South Group		19.27		
Triangle Group		84.32		
Turning Point		33.00		
We Agnostics Group		0.00		
Western Trails		111.00	16.00	
Westlake		500.00		
What Its Like Now		10.24		
Women's Recovery		233.42		
164 Page Winners		0.00		
1313 Group		290.62		
Other Donations	(\$1000 from conference seed money)	1,000.00		
Sub-Total Regular Income		7,468.52	564.07	
Expenses				
Conferences		2,655.24	927.49	Hill Country InterGroup \$3,000.00
Correctional Facilities		1,713.60	285.60	ADAC Fundraiser \$458.00
District Literature		106.71	13.60	ADAC Fundraiser \$15.00
Grapevine		192.51		Peggy Point \$50.00
Newsletter		145.80		Lambda Live & Let Live \$50.00
Organization: 501(c)(3)		150.00		Allandale \$50.00
PI/CPC		570.63	46.80	BridgeToShore \$113.10
Printing/Reproduction Supplies		201.55	21.05	Total Donations \$3,736.10
Treatment Facilities		461.20		May Interpreters \$270.00
Treasurer PO Box		40.00		June Interpreters \$107.56
Bank Service Fee		0.00		July Interpreters \$400.00
A/V Equipment for Area 68		238.17		Aug Interpreters \$441.00
Sub-Total Regular Expenses		6,475.41	1,294.54	Total Expensive \$1,218.56
Monthly Gain/Loss			(730.47)	
YTD Net Income (Expenses)		993.11		Balance \$2,517.54

Cash Balance @ December 31, 2010		4,532.16		
Regular Net Income (Expense) Year To Date		993.11		
Special Needs Income Year to Date				
Cash Balance @ 8/31/2011		5,525.27		Checking Balance 8,042.81

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

Southwest Texas Area 68 Fall Conference and Voting Assembly October 14 to 16, 2011



**Holiday Inn San Antonio
International Airport**
\$99.00 per Night plus Tax
210-349-9900
Group Code SAA
Southwest Texas Area 68 of AA



77 Northeast Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216

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Registration \$15.00 (No charge for business meeting)
Please make checks payable to SWTA 68 and mail to
SWTA 68 Conference Registration
P.O. Box 28683
San Antonio, TX 78228

For more information please Contact: Bill S. at 210-843-2830 or wascho@grandecom.net.

Voting Proposals – October 15, 2011

Two first-time proposals will be discussed and voted on at SWTA Fall Conference business meeting. A simple majority sends the proposal to the groups for consideration and possible adoption at the 2012 SWTA Pre-General Service Conference Area Assembly.

Proposal 1

We suggest that any meeting affiliated with the Back to Basics Foundation be removed from AA Directories and Schedules.

Proposal 2

District 1E proposes that Area have a one day Area Assembly rather than a weekend long assembly replacing either the Summer or Winter Workshop.

Rationale:

- In these difficult financial times, this is a more responsible use of area funds than repetitive area “workshops”.

This would increase area participation and rotation by allowing smaller districts a chance to host an area assembly.

Votación de Propuestas de Octubre de 2011

Se hablará de dos propuestas nuevas y votadas en la reunión de negocio de Conferencia de Otoño de SWTA. Una mayoría simple envía la propuesta a los grupos para consideración y adopción posible en la Asamblea del Área de Conferencia de Servicio Pre-General SWTA 2012.

La Propuesta 1

Sugerimos que se quite de Directorios AA y Listas cualquier reunión que esté afiliada a “La Vuelta a la Fundación de Fundamentos.”

La Propuesta 2

El distrito 1E propone que se reemplaza o el taller de verano o el taller de invierno por una asamblea del área que dure sólo un día, no un fin de semana entero.

Razones:

En esta temporada de dificultades económicas sería mejor uso de los recursos económicos.

Habría más participación y los distritos más pequeños tendrían la oportunidad de ser la sede de una asamblea del área.

Area 68 del Suroeste de Tejas Conferencia y Asamblea de Otono Octubre 14 – 16, 2011



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El precio del cuarto es
\$99.00 por noche
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**Para hacer su reservacion llame al
210-349-9900, con la clave "SAA"
para obtener su descuento.**

[Southwest Texas Area 68 of AA](#)

77 Northeast Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216

“En el Espíritu de la Rotación”

Conducido por Distritos de San Antonio 1A, 1F, 16, 17, 18, 28

Hospitalidad * Rifa * Oradores * Votacion

¡Traiga a su RSG nuevos o recién llegado! ¡Nos vemos allí!

Nombre: _____

Direccion: _____

Ciudad/Estado/Codigo Postal: _____

Telefono: _____

Correo electrónico: _____

Servicio de Posición: _____

Registracion es \$15.00 (No hay ningun cargo para las reuniones de negocios)

Escriba el cheque a nombre de "SWTA 68"

Mande su inscripcion por correo a: SWTA 68 Fall Conference Registrar

P.O. Box 28683

San Antonio, TX 78228

Para mas informacion por favor llamen a: Bill S. at 210-843-2830 or wascho@grande.com.net