



# MARCH

AREA 68 AA-SWTA

# Newsletter

DISTRICT 2



From our DCM:



March is already here, and I'm excited for everything this new month brings! February was full of wonderful moments. I had the pleasure of serving alongside our CFC committee at the CFC Conference, where we helped serve lunch to everyone in attendance—it was a truly rewarding experience.

Our Area 68 committees are filled with incredible people serving on Panel 76. Their dedication to supporting our districts is genuinely inspiring. We even ended the conference with some exciting news: District 2 won the bid to host the CFC Conference in February 2027!

It continues to be such an honor representing District 2. I'm committed to visiting all of your wonderful groups throughout this panel. This month, I had the opportunity to visit the San Marcos River Group, and the atmosphere was filled with strength, sobriety, and a powerful message. No matter where I go, I'm always grateful to hear my story reflected back to me.

March is an important month for our groups as we begin reviewing the Spring proposals for the Conference coming up this April in Brownwood, Texas. Please make sure your GSRs share the collective conscience of your groups.

Looking forward to an amazing month ahead!

DCM  
David Pexa



# Area 68 Newsletter Breakdown

as per our DCM

Area 68 Newsletter – Issue 157

Key Highlights (First Quarter 2026)

Welcome to Panel 76

- Area 68 begins a **new service panel (Panel 76)** with newly elected trusted servants.
- Incoming service members are encouraged to learn their roles and connect with experienced members for guidance.



“A.A.’s Legacy of Service”

- The newsletter highlights **Bill W.’s concept of service**—that simple acts like a phone call or sharing a cup of coffee can carry the message of recovery.
- Service work is presented as an essential part of maintaining sobriety and helping other alcoholics.

Spring Assembly 2026

- The upcoming **Area 68 Spring Assembly** will bring together GSRs, DCMs, and other trusted servants.
- Members will:
  - Discuss conference agenda items
  - Participate in workshops
  - Prepare the delegate for the General Service Conference.



Meet the Area 68 Delegate

- The issue introduces **the new Panel 76 Area Delegate**.
- The delegate will represent Area 68 at the **General Service Conference** and carry the collective group conscience of the area.

General Service Education

The newsletter includes information for members new to service, including:

- A **guide to common A.A. service acronyms** such as:
  - GSR – General Service Representative
  - DCM – District Committee Member
  - CPC – Cooperation with the Professional Community
  - PI – Public Information
  - GSO – General Service Office
- Resources to help members understand the service structure.



New Service Resources

- A **new video on the Twelve Concepts for World Service** has been released to help members better understand A.A.’s service principles.
- Educational tools are being developed to help members participate more effectively in service.



# Area 68 Newsletter Breakdown continued...



## Mock Conference Committees Returning

- Mock committees will return as part of the assembly process.
- These sessions allow members to practice reviewing and discussing conference agenda items before the General Service Conference.

## New Pamphlets in Development

Two new pamphlets were authorized by conference advisory actions:

- A pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics.
- A pamphlet for Black and African-American alcoholics.

These aim to help carry the message more effectively to diverse communities.


## Stories Requested

- Members are invited to submit personal recovery stories.
- Deadline for submissions: March 31, 2026



HAVE INFO FOR THE  
**NEWSLETTER?**

Send it to: ReBecca Germer

 [rsgerber@yahoo.com](mailto:rsgerber@yahoo.com)  
(830) 369-2815



# STEP THREE

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

**The One Thing I Need To Know:**  
REAL ACTION STARTS WITH A DECISION



principle.  
FAITH

*“Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us. or we perish.”*

(Big Book – Page 16, Bill’s Story)



## What Can I Surrender in this Step?

- The person I was before taking these Steps.
- My belief that I know better than God what is right for me.



## Step Summary:

Decisions are wonderful. Decision is defined as “making up one’s own mind.” Decisions resolve conflicts. For many, the conflict over drinking and not wanting to drink made a third step decision relatively simple. We were happy to turn over our drinking problem to God as we understood God. However, for many of us, we were not so willing to turn over other areas of our lives so readily.

This step helps shift our mindset from thinking directly into action. It opens the door to conforming our will to that of our Higher Power’s. Step 3 is the first step that requires real and continuous action. The first two steps focus on reflection and introspection. In Step 2, we learned to believe in a Power greater than ourselves (some call that faith). Step 3 allows us the place to solidify and act on our newfound faith in ways we never knew possible before coming to the rooms – some call that trust.

Have you ever wondered WHY (in the Third Step Prayer) we “offer ourselves to Thee?” Answer: So our Higher Power can “build with us and do with us as it will.” Have you ever wondered WHY we ask HP to “relieve us of the bondage of self?” Answer: So that “we may better do HP’s will.” Have you ever wondered WHY we ask HP to “take away our difficulties?” Answer: So that we fully understand that “victory over them may bear witness to those we would help of HP’s power, love and way of life.”

I heard someone share in a meeting once about Step 3 that it’s like when you take your car to a mechanic to have them fix or service it. You trust that they will be able to get it all tuned up and ready to give back to you. They don’t want to KEEP your car, they just want to get it in good working order so you can move on down the road. Making the decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God (trusting God) is much the same thing.

As we’ve learned in our basic text, the spiritual life is not a theory – we must live it. This means we need to begin putting in practice those things that will ultimately be the foundation to the personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism (once again proving that alcohol is not now, nor has it ever been the problem). It has been said that “We thought faith said, “I’ll take away the pain and discomfort,” but what it ended up really saying was, “I’ll sit with you in it. I’m here with you and we can walk through this together.”

# Myth About This Step:

**If you depend on a higher power, you will lose your individuality.**

On the contrary, turning our will over to a Higher Power leads to true independence of the spirit. As we practice being conscious of a Higher Power, it will gradually turn from a hunch or occasional inspiration to an active, working part of our mind.



*"We can't think ourselves into right acting - but we can act ourselves into right thinking"*



# TRADITION THREE



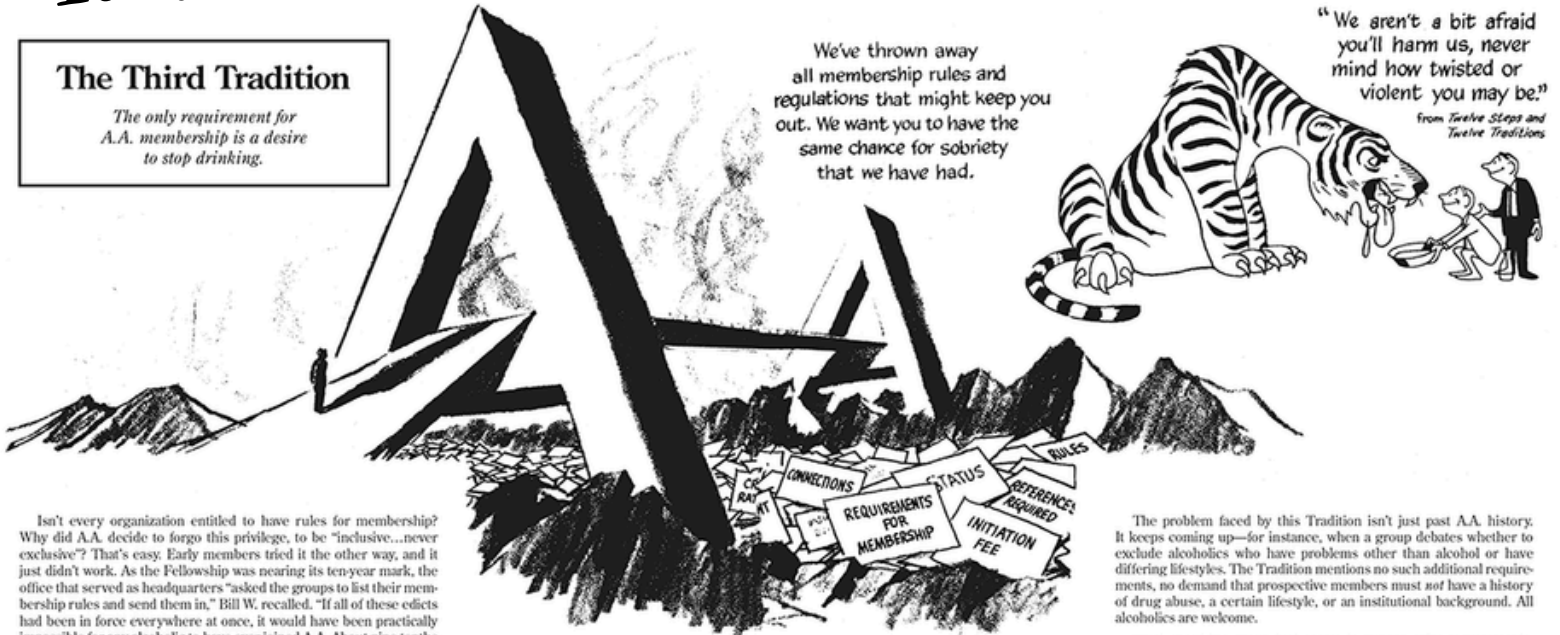
Short Form:

**"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking."**

## Illustrated

### The Third Tradition

*The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.*



Isn't every organization entitled to have rules for membership? Why did A.A. decide to forgo this privilege, to be "inclusive...never exclusive"? That's easy: Early members tried it the other way, and it just didn't work. As the Fellowship was nearing its ten-year mark, the office that served as headquarters "asked the groups to list their membership rules and send them in," Bill W. recalled. "If all of these edicts had been in force everywhere at once, it would have been practically impossible for any alcoholic to have ever joined A.A. About nine-tenths of our oldest and best members could never have got by!" So the rule books went out the window and were replaced by one uncomplicated sentence: Tradition Three.

But, somebody may ask, isn't this Tradition itself a rule? It does state *one* requirement for membership. Let's read it again, and ask another question: *Who* determines whether or not newcomers qualify, whether they do want to stop drinking? Obviously, nobody except the newcomers themselves; everybody else simply has to take their word for it. In fact, they don't even have to say it aloud. And that's fortunate for many of us who arrived at A.A. with only a half-hearted desire to stay sober. We are alive because the A.A. road stayed open to us.

We've thrown away all membership rules and regulations that might keep you out. We want you to have the same chance for sobriety that we have had.

"We aren't a bit afraid you'll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be."  
*from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

The problem faced by this Tradition isn't just past A.A. history. It keeps coming up—for instance, when a group debates whether to exclude alcoholics who have problems other than alcohol or have differing lifestyles. The Tradition mentions no such additional requirements, no demand that prospective members must *not* have a history of drug abuse, a certain lifestyle, or an institutional background. All alcoholics are welcome.

What about the group that seems to impose extra requirements, beyond "a desire to stop drinking"? This might be a "special interest" group or collection of groups in which, for example, each member must be a physician—or a young person, a man, a woman, a priest, or a law-enforcement officer. By their own account, those attending special interest groups consider themselves A.A. members *first*. They attend general-membership meetings as well as those that fill their other individual needs, and they remain devoted to A.A.'s primary purpose.

These "special interest" groups offer only one instance of the diverse and inclusive membership within our Fellowship. Our Traditions allow unparalleled freedom, not only to every A.A. member, but to every A.A. group.



## Tradition Three Long Form:

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism.

Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

"A.A.'s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows."

(From the Foreword of the 12 & 12)

*Overriding Idea*  
DESIRE IS  
ALL YOU NEED



## Tradition Summary

### **DESIRE IS ALL YOU NEED**

Simplicity and perspective are the words that describe the third tradition. I work the third tradition in a personal way by eliminating all my desires in life other than pursuing sobriety.

There is nothing wrong in wanting emotional and financial security. However, when I make obsessions of these goals rather than seeing them as the by-products of giving service in working a program whose goal is to pursue sobriety – I'm screwed.

Whenever I complicate my life by having any goal other than pursuing sobriety, I notice that I become ungrateful and take it for granted. Thus, the beauty of the third tradition is that it restores perspective through an attitude of gratefulness for the miracle of my sobriety. The third tradition suggests to me that that I surrender all of the requirements and expectations I have in life beyond sobriety. Emotional and financial successes are the result of being of service. But when these are things that I demand in my relationships with God and others, then I have lost the simplicity and perspective envisioned in the third tradition.



## Step-Tradition Parallel



The relationship of the third tradition to the third step is a profound one. The third step poses the question: What do I need to do in order to turn my will and my life over to the loving care of God as we understand him? The tradition answers the problem posed in the third step. The only requirement I need to fulfill in order to turn my will and my life over to God's loving care is a desire to stop drinking. It is unbelievable that all the power of the universe is available to care for me if I only have one desire: to stay sober.

(Excerpts from the text above come from the Traditions Study developed by the Unity Insures Recovery Through Service A.A. Group, Los Angeles, CA.)

# CONCEPT THREE

Principle of the Concept:  
**TRUST**

One Thing You Need To Know:  
**Trusted Servants Have a Right of Decision**

## Short Form:

“To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives —with a traditional “Right of Decision.””



## Long Form:

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

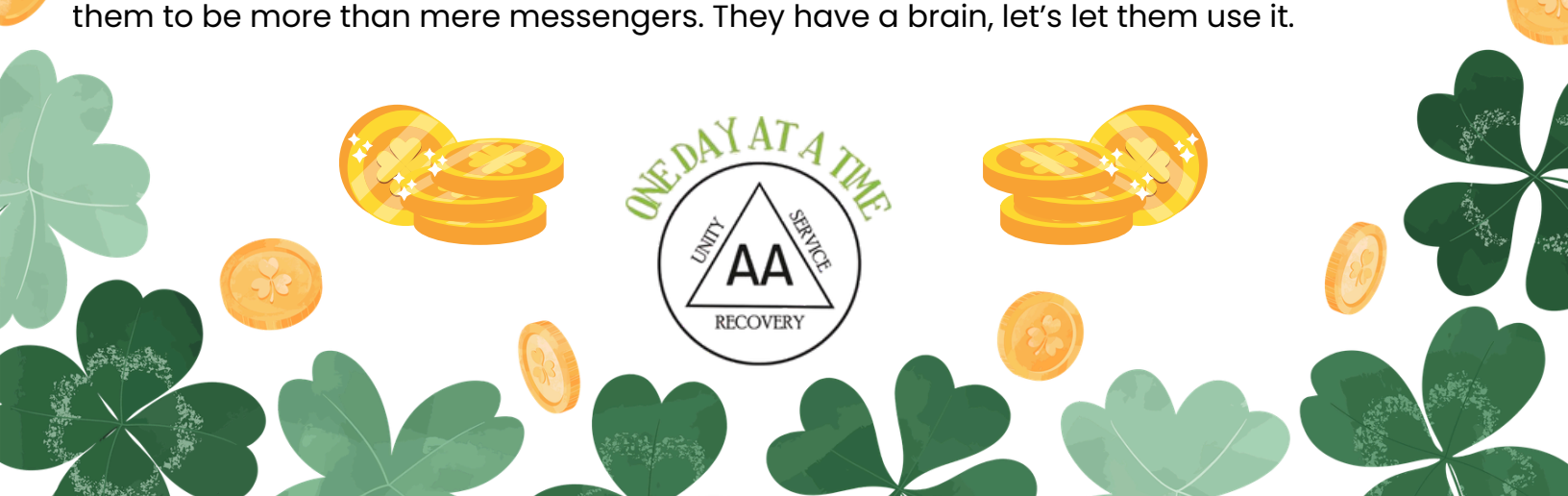


# SIMPLIFY

## Trusted Servants Have a Right of Decision

There will be times where we’ll need to trust our trusted servants to make decisions without a group or service entities approval. Concept 1 & Concept 2 by themselves cannot ensure smooth operation of A.A. business. There will be times that full facts (additional background information) and debate not available to groups, will help further inform our trusted servants and their decisions (and their votes on our behalf).

Those decisions may ultimately differ from original consciences’s given to them when we ask them to vote on our behalf – but those differently made decisions are vital in allowing them to be more than mere messengers. They have a brain, let’s let them use it.



# LOCAL EVENTS

Visit our  
**WEBSITE**

[www.area68district2.org](http://www.area68district2.org)



## Blanco Spiritual Retreat

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2026

### OUR 38TH RECOVERY FAMILY EVENT

COME JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP, CAMPING, SWIMMING, FISHING, MEETINGS, AA & AL-ANON SPEAKERS, RAFFLE, FOOD AND GAMES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!

\$20 Registration fee per person (pay @ time of entrance)  
3 meals included. Daily Entrance Fee to Blanco State Park-Adult \$5, Child 12 and under free

#### Speakers

AA - Fri 7p.m. Billy D. / Sat 7p.m. TBD  
Al-anon - Sat 2p.m. TBD

#### Meetings

Campfire meetings Fri & Sat 9p.m. ish  
Saturday - 10a.m. Men's and Women's morning meetings

#### Meals

Friday Evening - 5:30p.m. Chili Dogs  
Saturday Morning - 8:30a.m. Breakfast Tacos  
Saturday Evening - 5:30p.m. BB Dinner

#### Bake Sale

Bring your finest baked goods to help us raise money to keep bringing the BSR back each year!! Saturday at noon.

#### Raffle

Raffle items will be on display all day Saturday w drawing to be held after Speaker Meeting (8p.m. ish). To donate NEW items, gift cards or cash donations please contact a BSR Committee Person.

### Blanco State Park

Reserve by phone...  
(512)-389-8900

101 Park Road Blanco,  
TX 78606

**For Camping or Shelter  
Reservations contact  
Park directly  
Reservations open  
MAY 9th**

Make Reservations [online](http://online.texasreserveamerica.com).  
[texasreserveamerica.com](http://texasreserveamerica.com)

Dogs Welcome on  
Leash w/ Proof of  
Vaccination

### RETREAT INFO & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Beverly H 713-417-0534  
Vicky M 956-458-8492

# SPIRIT ON THE RIVER

June 4-7, 2026

KL Ranch Cliffside 5300 River Road  
New Braunfels, TX 78132

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jenna T. 281-788-1833

- Thurs. 6/4 8pm** Open Discussion Jenna T. Happy Hour Group
- Friday 6/5 7:30am** Bike Run Roy V. Badiff Group
- 9am** Open Discussion Tiffany M. Buda Big Book Group
- 6pm** "Dam" Meeting Sarah E. & Rosemary L. Happy Hour/Zoom Group (Sites 12 & 13)
- 7:30pm** Speaker Summer O. (2 yrs) New Braunfels Group
- 9pm** Speaker Pat C. (9 yrs) Houston We Have a Solution Group
- Saturday 6/6 7:00am** Morning Meditation & Hike Rosemary N. Hobbs Original Group
- 9am** Open Discussion Alan V. Night Owls Group
- Noon** Water Meeting Roy V. Badiff Group
- 6pm** Community Dinner (please bring a side dish or dessert to share)
- 7:30pm** Speaker Josh B. (8 yrs) Alano Group
- 9pm** Speaker Neleigh C. (6 yrs) W TX Primary Purpose Group (Odessa)
- Sunday 6/7 7:00am** Morning Meditation & Hike Rosemary N. Hobbs Original Group
- 8:30am** River Trash Meeting Jay S. Young, Wild & Free Group (Location down by the river)

To reserve your spot, call KL Ranch Cliffside at 830-626-3663

\*Location of meetings will be at sites 12 & 13

Look for us on Facebook!  
"Spirit On The River 2026"

Daily Rates for KL Camp:  
\$5/person for a day from 8am-9pm  
Weekend Permit:  
Thurs-Sun = \$42/adults-\$24 kids (3-12)  
Fri-Sun = \$25/adults-\$16 kids (3-12)  
Sat-Sun = \$14/adults-\$5 kids (3-12)  
May come and go except from 12a-5am (may go out, just not come in)

Please note: NO PETS or ESA's allowed!! Service animals must be registered!

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

# BACK TO BASICS

## WORKSHOP CANCELLED

FOR THE MONTH OF

# MARCH

### WE'LL RESUME IN JUNE!



# RECOVERY 20 TAKEOVER 26

MOHAWK | MARCH 21 | DOORS 4PM | MUSIC 5PM | ENDS 9PM

PRESENTED BY GLAD YOU MADE IT | POWERED BY RISE RECOVERY SERVICES | BENEFITTING SIMS FOUNDATION & RECOVERYATX

ALL AGES | RAIN OR SHINE | ZERO ALCOHOL

OUTSIDE: ALIEN ANT FARM, SKATING POLLY, NOLO | DOSSEY

INSIDE: ELEKTRIC ANIMALS, SAM EHRNSTEIN, CYNTHIA WELCH

ART: PEELANDER-YELLOW | SKELE, RABBITSNAKE | JONATHAN HIEBERT, JUAN & ROSEMARY VILLEGAS, KYLE DUCE | TERYN SCAFF

## DISTRICT 2 Happy Joyous & Free ANNUAL PICNIC

**Schedule:**

- 10:00-11:00am: Set-up and music by Dylan Gully.
- 11:00am: Speaker, Mary T., Round Rock, TX.
- 12:30-1:30pm: Lunch and dessert. Main entree provided by District. Please bring side dishes and desserts if you choose.
- 1:30-4:00pm: Cornhole Tournament, Fun & Games. Music by Dylan Gully.
- 4:00-Dark: Whatever floats your boat. There is Guadalupe River access.

**Family Friendly**

**Games & Swimming**

**Food**

**Speaker**

**Saturday, April 25th**  
Cypress Bend Park Pavilion  
503 Pease Ave., New Braunfels  
10am - 4pm

Sharing experience, strength, and hope.  
Fun, fellowship, and games!  
We absolutely insist on enjoying life.

Want to get involved or have questions? Steve C. 512-983-3486

## TICKETS ARE LIVE!

# LAKE TRAVIS CAMPOUT

MARCH 27-29

**HAVE INFO FOR THE NEWSLETTER?**

Send it to: ReBecca Germer  
rsgerber@yahoo.com  
(830) 369-2815



## CANYON LAKE GROUPS 16th ANNUAL CAMPOUT 2026

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
At MOUNTAIN BREEZE CAMPGROUND

**FRIDAY: 8pm:** Speaker Meeting  
**10 pm:** Campfire meeting  
**SATURDAY: 7am:** Morning Meeting  
**11am:** Al-Anon Speaker

**SATURDAY: 8pm:** Speaker Meeting  
**SUNDAY: 7am:** Morning Meeting  
**10 am:** Gratitude Meeting

Included with Registration! Friday: Dinner. Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. Sunday: Breakfast  
(Please bring side dishes for Saturday BBQ dinner, Thank you.)

**Come and join us in**  
**The Sunlight of the SPIRIT**  
**FOR A FAMILY FUN FILLED WEEKEND**

**LOCATION:** Mountain Breeze Campground 9250 River Road New Braunfels, Tx  
**CABINS AVAILABLE** Thru MOUNTAIN BREEZE CAMPGROUND  
Mention **Canyon Lake Campout** to get discounted price, 2 nights **REQUIRED**.

**CAMPING:** RV's \$25, TENTS \$15 Per Night, reserve with the Campout Committee

**\$25 Registration Fee at the Gate**

**T-SHIRTS/SWEAT-SHIRT SALE TO HELP FUND EVENT**  
RAFFLE AND AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR DONATION

**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
24 Club  
**Speaker MEETING**

Saturday, March 21  
7 p.m.  
**RICKEY RUSSELL**  
Jacksonville Fellowship Group  
Jacksonville, TX

# Seguin Group's 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*"Freedom from Bondage"*  
 April 18, 2026 • 3pm - 11pm  
 Seguin Elks Lodge  
 1331 C H Mathis Jr, Seguin  
 Tx, 78155



- 3:30pm - Al-anon Speaker Becky F. From Kerrville Tx
- 5:00pm - Chili cook-off and cobbler contest - \$10 per entry to participate
- 7:00pm - Speaker: Bob D from Las Vegas NV
- 8:30pm - Raffle winners
- \$5 to register (waived for cook off participants) Use Cash app, Venmo, or pay at the door.
- Drinks and food provided with entry
- Vegas attire recommended



Contact: Meg P. @ 618-660-6660  
 or David P @ 830-534-6136



## Taco 'Bout Easter!

• A Fun Family Celebration •

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Activities Include

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Make Your Own Taco Bar
- Drinks Provided
- Crafts for Kids
- Fun Games

Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!

**SCHERTZ CIBOLO GROUP**  
 All families welcome!

Join Us For The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP**  
 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**BARBEQUE**  
 Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Dinner @ 6pm Meeting @ 7pm

Welcoming  
 ★ **Gail L.** ★  
 For an  
 ★ Incredible Presentation ★  
 on how  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
 Came About

2701 South Lamar Blvd,  
 Austin, TX

## NEW MEETING TIME!

**NEW BRAUNFELS GROUP**  
**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1142 EIKEL STREET**  
**TOPIC MEETING**  
**BEGINNING ON MARCH 3RD**

