

AUGUST

2026

FROM OUR
DCM



DISTRICT 2 Newsletter

AREA 68 AA-SWTA



July was an outstanding month for District 2!

We were honored to welcome our Area 68 Delegate, Amanda B., who joined us to present her Delegate's Report from the General Service Conference. Amanda provided a thorough and informative overview of the Conference actions and discussions, while also being transparent about her own perspectives on several agenda items. Her openness and dedication to service sparked meaningful conversation and helped our members better understand the work being carried out on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

The workshop in Castroville served as a wonderful extension of that report. The question-and-answer session provided valuable insight and addressed many of the concerns and questions circulating throughout our Area regarding the founders' writings. The event was exceptionally well attended and made even more special by the presence of four past delegates, whose experience and wisdom added tremendous value to the discussion.

As we look ahead, August is shaping up to be another exciting month! Be sure to mark your calendars for the PI/CPC Conference on August 21-22. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about carrying the message and strengthening our connections with professionals and the public. The flyer and additional information can be found on our website at Area68District2.org.

I'll also be attending the Kerrville Roundup and look forward to enjoying fellowship in the beautiful Texas Hill Country with members from across the Area.

For anyone looking to get involved in service, we have an Assembly coming up in October and would love to put you to work! Service is one of the greatest ways to stay connected, grow in recovery, and help ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous is here for the next person seeking help.

Thank you all for your continued service, participation, and commitment to carrying the message.

In love and gratitude,
DCM
David Pexa

Let humility guide me on this next Chapter of my recovery,,



STEP EIGHT

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”

PRINCIPLE:
LOVE



What Can I Surrender in this Step?

- Fear of telling the truth
- My need to point out “their” part
- Fear of the outcome

Step Summary:

An apology is quite different from an amends.

One dictionary defines an apology as: “an admission of error or discourtesy accompanied by an expression of regret,” and it defines an amends as: “reparation or compensation for a loss, damage, or injury of any kind.” I offer you an apology when I accidentally step on your toe. I offer you an amends when I have caused you hurt or harm in some way. (More on this will be discussed in Step 9)

Many of us were taught by our sponsors that if we wanted to learn how to be in healthy relationships with the world around us, we could take a deeper look at the Traditions. Woven throughout each of the Traditions are wonderful suggestions on how we can better show up to those relationships. Interestingly enough, Steps 8 & 9 do that as well. On page 77 of the 12 & 12 it states, “STEPS Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.”

Important Reminder: As we continue this journey of being of maximum usefulness, when preparing to make our amends it is helpful to remember to not minimize our faults and failures by focusing on the faults of others, and to realize that we hurt others as well as ourselves with our drinking. In looking beyond our obvious defects and in doing a thorough examination of our flaws, we must avoid judgments of others. It's OUR inventory that uncovered harm done – not theirs.

Many members of A.A. think that creating a list of those we have harmed is ONLY about cleaning up the wreckage of our past with those people, places or things. While that is certainly a huge part of it, another reason Step 8 is important is because it's about continuing the process we have already started back in Step 3 of being a maximum usefulness to God and his kids. Is it possible that Steps 8 & 9 are not about getting back in the good graces of those we've harmed, but about being willing to do the footwork and, once again, leave the results up to God? Yes, it's entirely possible. Love of ourselves, love of others and love of God is the foundation to this Step.

Important Side Note: Remember, this Step is **ONLY** about making the list. No action other than writing the list happens in this Step (*EXCEPT OF COURSE having the willingness to act upon the list as you move into Step 9*), so there is no need to fear (as so many of us do when we start thinking about having to make amends). It's JUST a list my friend!

STEP EIGHT

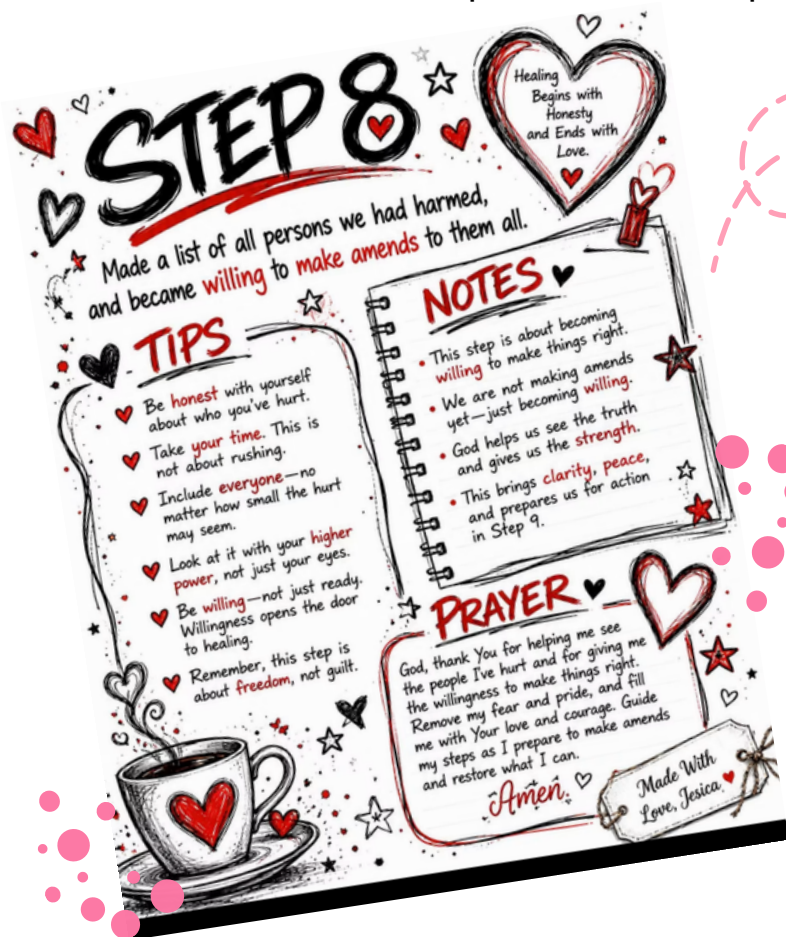
“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”

THE ONE THING I NEED TO KNOW:

An apology is NOT the same thing as an amends.

Myths About This Step:

Your drinking hasn't harmed anyone but yourself. People often think that if the damage isn't extreme and noticeable, then there isn't anything beneath the surface. This is a dangerous misconception and something AA calls “purposeful forgetting.” We can't get the most out of the 12 Steps if we aren't willing to be vulnerable and rigorously honest—even if what we discover about ourselves and others is painful to accept.



Visit our
WEBSITE
www.area68district2.org



“But this is not an end in itself. Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us.”
(Big Book, Page 77, Into Action)

TRADITION EIGHT

PRINCIPLE:

NON-PROFESSIONAL

Short Form:

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Long Form:

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for."

Tradition Summary:

Paid Staff Help Make 12 Step Work Possible

The eighth tradition makes it clear that A.A. may employ professional secretaries and other professional staff members. Their job is not to DO Twelve Step work; but to make Twelve Step work possible. "Our Twelfth Step is never paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire." (12×12, Page 171)

There is a difference between doing twelve step work for pay and working for a master's degree as a counselor in the field of alcoholism and being of service in a hospital where more and more newcomers first find sobriety. Professional counselors do their counseling job and THEN go to A.A. meetings and carry the message "for free and for fun" just like the rest of us. Their job is not a substitute for working an A.A. program.

We must always remember that we cannot do the work of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic if we don't have people in our various service centers assisting us in the logistics of US carrying out our primary purpose. We see that our few paid workers are performing only those service tasks that our volunteers cannot consistently handle. Primarily these folks are not doing Twelfth Step work. They are just making more and better Twelfth Step work possible.

We give freely what has been given freely to us.

Step-Tradition Parallel

The spiritual principle behind the eighth step is “willingness and love” to work the steps. The eighth tradition takes that idea one step further and teaches me that to have good relationships with other people, I must be “zealous” in carrying the message. Otherwise my message is suspect. In our meditation, let us examine the state of our “zeal” in our relationships with God, A.A., mates and work. Let us begin with the state of our “zeal” in carrying the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic.

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

The Eighth Tradition

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.



Spiritual as it is, A.A. remains very much of this world. The Eighth Tradition, like the Seventh, focuses on a vulgar five-letter word that isn't actually mentioned in either: money. Many of us have had to explain to some cynical prospect, “No, I'm not a social worker. I don't get paid for talking with you. I'm doing it because it's the best way to stay sober myself.”

This does not mean, of course, that the idea of turning professional has never entered any A.A.'s mind. In the lean years, Bill W. did think of becoming a lay therapist to earn money through his experience in helping alcoholics. But, with a strong nudge from the group conscience, he soon realized that he could never hang out a shingle reading “Bill W., A.A. Therapist, \$10 an Hour”. It became clear to the early members that no A.A. should ever ask or accept payment for “carrying this message to somebody else, person to person and face to face.”



But new questions arose as membership grew and the word of hope spread, sending thousands of alcoholics in search of A.A. The first intergroups or central offices were usually manned by A.A. volunteers; now, most such offices are so busy that full-time employees are needed as well. Naturally, A.A.'s are better suited to such jobs than are nonmembers—but these A.A.'s are then being paid for doing Twelfth Step work? No. In the office, they are just paving the way for this work. Arranging to get a sick drunk into a hospital, telling a shaky newcomer where the nearest meeting is tonight, they are helping to make it possible for that alcoholic to hear the message “person to person and face to face.”

A similar development has taken place at the Fellowship's “headquarters.” Once a tiny office for one co-founder (Bill) and one secretary, it has grown into the present General Service Office, fully staffed, with a big mailroom keeping the lines of communication open throughout A.A. worldwide. The employees, both A.A. and nonalcoholic, are paid on a scale comparable to that in profit-making enterprises, so that the office force can function dependably. And the A.A. staff members are in exactly the same position as the A.A. intergroup employees. Suppose you drop in at G.S.O. one day when you're in New York. Staff members who pause to chat with you may have been working on next year's Conference or corresponding with a group in your home area, helping it to carry the message more effectively. For that, they are paid biweekly checks. But you may also hear them mention to other staff members plans for taking a newcomer to a meeting in the evening or for giving an A.A. talk to a neighborhood group the next week. For that, they are paid only with their own continuing sobriety.

In these office jobs and in other assignments, members are actually paid for their business and professional skills. Working at a G.S.O. desk, on Conference-approved books and pamphlets, or on the Grapevine, these A.A.'s use their abilities as correspondents, managers, writers, editors, artists, proofreaders—as well as their understanding of A.A. from the inside. On occasion, volunteers have given their time and talent to all these services, and their contributions are deeply appreciated. But what if the Fellowship decided that all such assignments should be handled *only* by unpaid volunteers? In present-day A.A., there's too great a volume of work to be done in spare hours here and there, and only the rich or the retired could afford to work full-time. If we tried to find in this limited group people qualified for particular tasks, obviously the field would be narrowed down—too often, down to nobody at all.



There would be another problem in using volunteers alone: It seems ungrateful—or, at least, it's socially awkward—to criticize or reject a job done for free. But paid jobs for A.A. get quite a going-over! Take our literature, for instance (like this pamphlet). Whatever the subject, we want to be sure that each piece expresses as clearly as possible the view of the group conscience of A.A. as a whole. So any new project must first be approved by the Conference. Once it is in process, the Literature Committee of the General Service Board keeps a careful eye on it at every stage. Frequently, drastic changes are required. The “finished” product then must be okayed both by that committee and by the Conference Literature Committee, and further revisions are often—

“Now wait a minute!” some old-timer may interrupt. “What's going on here? Didn't Dr. Bob say, ‘Let's keep it simple?’...”



CONCEPT EIGHT

PRINCIPLE: CONSISTENCY

Short Form:

"The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities."

Long Form:

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

simplify.

Trustee Oversight Had 2 Primary Parts

1. They plan, manage and execute large matters of overall policy and finance, and...
2. They oversee both of our corporations (A.A. World Services, Inc. [which includes the General Service Office] & A.A. Grapevine, Inc.).

Trustees have the responsibility of ensuring good conduct of all our world service affairs. Their attitude is one of custodial oversight instead of executive order. They are guarantors of good management as opposed to micro-managers. The in's and out's of day to day operations are not for them. They leave that up to those they elect to run the organization. Their broad brush strokes strategically guide the entities they oversee.

LOCAL EVENTS

Blanco Spiritual Retreat

Oct 9th - 11th 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. Maston N.
Al-anon - Sat 2p.m. Sue F.

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.
texasreserveamerica.com

Dogs Welcome on
Leash w/ Proof of
Vaccination

RETREAT INFO & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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

16TH ANNUAL WESTERN TRAILS Grape-A-Thon

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

Open discussion meetings of AA Grapevine Articles throughout the day.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS		
8:30 AM	Serenity Prayer	Rita L.
9:45 AM	Mini Grapevine Service Workshop	Ashley H.
10:30 AM	Emotional Sobriety	Cookie C.
12:00 PM	Service	Scott G.
1:30 PM	Homegroup	Nancy J.
3:30 PM	Special Guest via Zoom: Co-host of the AA Grapevine Podcast	Olis S.
5:45 PM	Beginners/Newcomers	Nathan P.
7:00 PM	Birthday Night	Celebrating Years of Sobriety

Trivia & Prizes
All Day!

All Day
Baked Goods
Fundraiser

Breakfast
Tacos
@ 8:30 AM

THIS IS A HYBRID EVENT

Zoom Meeting ID: 373 964 8806
Passcode: BillW1935!

1800 FORTVIEW RD.
AUSTIN, TX 78704

Join us for a day of
SHARING • SERVICE • FELLOWSHIP
THROUGH THE AA GRAPEVINE

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & HOPE • ONE ARTICLE AT A TIME

"There is no more aloneness, with that awful ache, so deep in the heart of every alcoholic that nothing, before, could ever reach it. That ache is gone and never need return again. Now there is a sense of belonging, of being wanted and needed and loved. In return for a bottle and a hangover, we have been given the Keys of the Kingdom."

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SOBER SWIM

8/22 @
NOON

\$33



Texas Ski Ranch

6700 IH35 78130

Be on time to get in!

Bring towel & water

Brooke 512-296-6994

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Women's Big Book study!

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Every Monday,
time is 4PM-PST, 5PM-MST, 6PM-CST,
7PM-EST.
Meeting ID is 810 8521 4087,
password is 121212.

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Join us! Bring a friend,
sponsor, or sponsee!
This is a wonderful,
intimate yet powerful meeting.

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AA History Group

**WRITING
the
BIG BOOK**

THE CREATION OF A.A.

WILLIAM H. SCHABERG

William Schaberg presents:

The Family Afterward

Sunday, Sep 6'th
at 3 PM EST / 12 PM PST / 8 PM UKT
Zoom: 841 2589 6769
PW: 121212

Each week AA Grapevine holds an open virtual AA meeting with a host and two speakers. We record the meeting to create this podcast. The podcast is available on your favorite podcast platforms and via the player below.

Grapevine Week...
Episode 6 • 7th August 20...

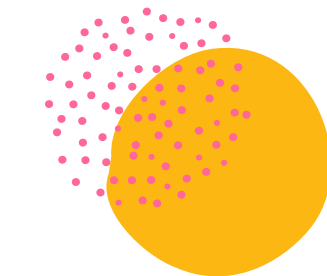
00:47:10 / 00:03:36

More Episodes

Season 2

6. Grapevine Weekly ... 00:50:26

5. Grapevine Weekly ... 00:53:24



WAKE UP, BE KIND, STAY SOBER

REPEAT

WEBSITE

www.area68district2.org

AA AA AA

**BETTER TOGETHER
WOMEN'S
OPEN AA
WOMEN'S MEETING**

📺 **zoom** **ZOOM ID: 245-443-4429**
PASSWORD: grateful

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
9 A.M. EASTERN	9 A.M. EASTERN	9 A.M. EASTERN
TIME ZONES:	TIME ZONES:	TIME ZONES:
8 A.M. CENTRAL 7 A.M. MOUNTAIN 6 A.M. PACIFIC 5 A.M. WESTERN	8 A.M. CENTRAL 7 A.M. MOUNTAIN 6 A.M. PACIFIC 5 A.M. WESTERN	8 A.M. CENTRAL 7 A.M. MOUNTAIN 6 A.M. PACIFIC 5 A.M. WESTERN

**WEDNESDAY
6 P.M. EASTERN (SPEAKER)**

5 P.M. CENTRAL | 4 P.M. MOUNTAIN | 3 P.M. PACIFIC | 2 P.M. ALASKA | 1 P.M. WESTERN

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.
♥ O.D.A.A.T. ♥