

Greetings fellow travelers,

I have had the privilege to serve as Chairman of your Central Office Steering Committee for almost two years. Prior to that I had the honor to serve two years as Alternate Chairman under the great guidance of then chair, Elaine S. To the best of my knowledge, the board has never made a direct appeal to the fellowship for donations. The reason that an appeal has not been necessary in the past is due to the following: The Steering Committee takes our fiduciary responsibility to the membership very seriously; it is a sacred trust. Equally important is the fact that we are blessed to have a very frugal, competent Office Manager in the person of Lisa M. Lisa, along with her very capable assistants Jeane N., and Christine Z. are constantly exploring ways to cut costs.

Another plus is the prudent reserve. The idea of establishing a one-year prudent reserve as recommended by GSO was brought forth by then Chairman Elaine S., and brought to fruition by the current board at the end of 2019. Due to the planning of your trusted servants, past and present, the Central Office is not currently facing a crisis. The point is that we do not want to arrive at a point of crisis before reaching out to the fellowship.

Due to circumstances beyond our control (the pandemic) income is down 7,533.95 when compared to January thru June of 2019. Some of the reasons for this drop in income are less orders from treatment facilities due to a decrease in their census, no in-person meetings or Intergroup functions, and last but certainly not least is the fact that many members have suffered income loss due to the ongoing shut down.

AA Central Offices are unique in the fact that they are 100% AA, while at the same time they are incorporated businesses. As a business we qualified for the PPP Act, but as a part of AA we are governed by unique traditions that do not apply to other business concerns. The 7th Tradition is in view here. We decided that it would be a violation of our moratorium against "outside contributions" if we availed ourselves of the PPP Act.

I had hoped that the Governor at his last pronouncement would have more fully eased restrictions. I think once this is done the membership will be more comfortable returning to in-person AA functions which in turn will increase donations. Also, easing of the restrictions will mean more income opportunities for those members who have been financially harmed by the shutdown. According to our Governor this is not the proper time to advance to the next phase. Hence, with the continued uncertainty, I decided it is time to reach out to the fellowship.

Thank you for your past, and future support.

Forever grateful,

Maurice W., Jr., Chairman



AA Central Office of Shreveport

24 Hr Hotline
(318) 865-2172

office@aa-shreveport.org

www.aa-shreveport.org

New Office Hours

Groups Responsible for

HOT LINE July 2020

Rise & Shine June 29-July 5

Greater Hope July 6-12

Maverick July 13-19

Southfield July 20-26

Basic Training July 27- Aug 2

This is a great service that you do for the person

THE HOT LINE OUR MISSION:

"When anyone anywhere reaches out I want the hand of A.A. to be there. For that I am responsible."
BW

If your group is not currently taking the hot line at least one week a year, please call us to add your group! Call the Central Office for the schedule!

We need the help of your group and individuals to keep the 24 hour Hotline open for the still suffering alcoholic!



Central Office Intergroup- **First** Saturday every month; generally the even numbered months at Highland Club, odd numbered months at Koala Club

Central Office Intergroup Meetings- **First** Tuesday of every month, 6PM at the *Central Office*, 2800 Youree Drive, Suite 362, Bldg A, Shreveport 71104

Treatment& Corrections Committee Meetings (old H & I Committee) **AND**

PI & CPC (*Public Information & Cooperation w/ Professional Community*)- **Second** Tuesday of every month 6:00 PM at *Central Office*

District 1 -- Area 27- 6:30 PM **Second** Wednesday of every month at the *Highland Club*, 1711 Tulane, Shreveport

General Service- **Becky V., DCM** 318-423-6626 and **Robyn E., DCMC** 318-218-5112

COI Steering Committee Meetings- **Last** Tuesday of every month, 6PM at *Central Office*

Come join us and be a part of service!

NEWS *FLASH!!!*

**Central Office
Open Saturdays
10am– 2pm**

The Message is published to improve communications between local A.A. Groups and encourage the participation of A.A. members in services and activities that promote sobriety. Opinions expressed in letters and articles are those of the authors and do not indicate endorsement by Central Office of Shreveport Intergroup or Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thanks to all the **Central Office Backers** contributions for the month of **April & May 2020**. If you would like to be a Central Office Backer (COB) just give us a call (318-865-2172) and we will happily email, fax or mail the application to you.

April & May 2020 \$254.73

April & May 2020 Personal Donations...\$1,209.47

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions April & May 2020...\$1865.00**

First Things First...\$40.00
Five Thirty...\$200.00
Grace...\$310.42
On the Way Home...\$106.00

Rise & Shine...\$182.00
Twin City...\$20.00
Unity...\$688.00
Winners...\$318.58

Bill W. said "I am responsible. When anyone reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. to always be there. And for that I am responsible."

Thanks for helping your Central Office be responsible.

Addresses for Group Contributions for 2020:

Central Office of Shreveport

2800 Youree Dr., #362A, Shreveport, LA 71104 (50%)

District 1, Area 27

P. O. Box 3924, Shreveport, LA 71133 (10%)

Louisiana Area Assembly, Inc. (ADDRESS CHANGE!!!)

7350 Jefferson Hwy., Suite 485-179
Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (10%)

The General Service Office

P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163-0459 (30%)

***(Percentages are suggested based on support of four service entities)
(Use your group conscience)
August 2014 updated***

TRADITION SEVEN: *“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”*

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 160
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TRADITION SEVEN: (The Long Form)

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

The A.A. Group...Where it all Began Pg 45
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services

Tradition Seven:

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

“Our Traditions are set down on paper. But they were written first in our hearts. For each of us knows, instinctively I think, that AA is not ours to do with as we please. We are but caretakers to preserve the spiritual quality of our Fellowship; keep it whole for those who will come after us and have need of what has so generously been given to us.”

“AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1950, “AA Is Not Big Business”, The Language of the Heart



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CONCEPT SEVEN: *“The conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the worlds service affairs of Alcohol Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. pursue for its effectiveness.”*

Lunch Bunch

Presents

JULY INTERGROUP **SATURDAY**



Zoom Meeting

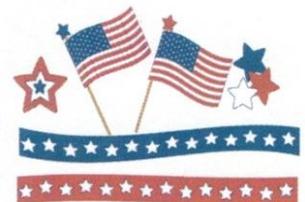
7:45pm-9pm

ID # 490 497 0277

Password 928784

Speaker

Britt H.



Relapse: Like Dancing with a Gorilla

Praying for Potatoes

By Rick R.

One of the things I have always enjoyed about A.A. meetings is our ability to poke fun at each other, in a lighthearted way. We laugh at things that others would consider to have been tragic incidents in our lives but we seem to have come to terms with these past negative experiences and what we are really laughing at is the absurdity of what our old way of thinking. Sometimes we need to have things explained to us in simple terms. The world of A.A. is ripe with metaphors, similes, and allegories that make the learning process much easier to understand. With all of the re-learning we go through to help us in changing our old way of thinking, we are faced with the task of setting new principles, new disciplines and new priorities in place for our actions and behaviors in the future.

Starting with the first and most important priority, we have to be convinced that, we "*are like men who have lost their legs, they never grow new ones*". (BB CH.3) It can't be put any better than that. Then you may hear it said about relapse: *It's the first drink that gets you drunk, not the forth fifth or, you may hear, Taking that first drink is like dancing with a gorilla, the dance isn't over till the gorilla says your done.* These things are truths that we all hear at meetings but these things won't stop anyone from picking up a drink if they're not done yet

In A.A. we hear a lot about prayer and meditation and it seems that everyone has their own way of defining what that means to them. Some may be reunited with the religion of their childhood, while others may feel that they are agnostics and seem to find a sort of neutral approach in finding a power greater than themselves, and that seems to work for them. Then there are those that consider themselves atheists and, as it says in the 12X12 (step two). "A, one-time, Vice President of the American Atheist Society got through with room to spare." However we, as individuals, frame our own approach to how we incorporate this concept into our lives is equally acceptable, as long as it replaces our own, failed way of thinking.

What we pray for is another, sometimes, misunderstood practice that may be clarified by a few metaphors that we hear in meetings. Asking God to cure someone of an illness seems, well meaning but misguided. If God worked his wonders at that level, *the hospitals would be full of sinners and the people we pray for would all be healthy and happy.* I can only pray for the understanding and strength to deal with these things when they are presented as it is suggested in step eleven, "*praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.*" (step 11) i.e. God, please show me what to do, and please give me the

A Life of Principles and Purpose

Rebuilding Our Morality

By Rick R.

The twelve steps of the A.A. program are placed in numerical order for a reason. Each step is preparatory to the next step and each step requires a certain amount of attention before we can successfully move on to the next step. Simply put, Step one is acknowledging that we have a problem. Step two is about accepting outside help. Step three is where we surrender to that outside help. (A power greater than ourselves) Step four is the beginning of the *action* steps where we acknowledge and document the immoral behaviors of our past and those we offended.

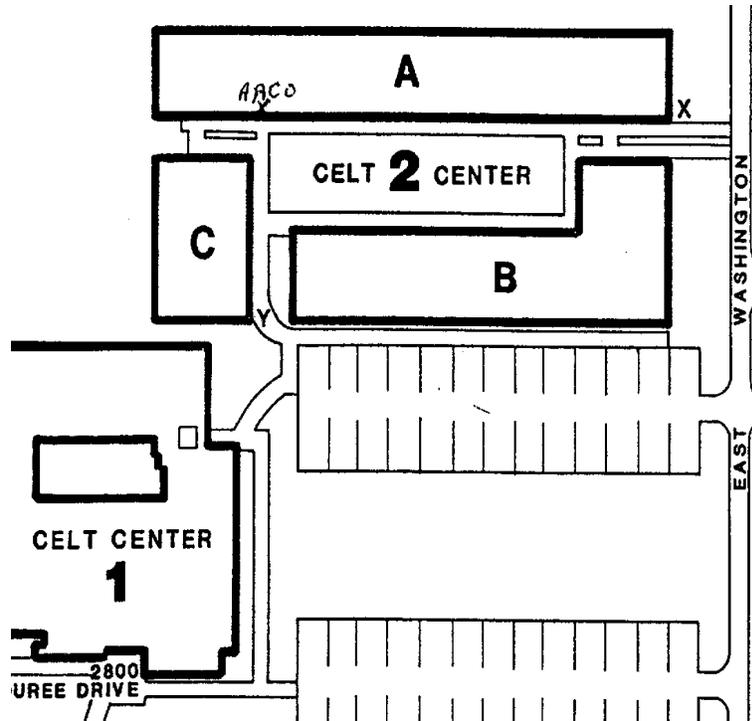
Step five may be the most difficult step where we must admit to God, to our self and to another human being, all those faulty deeds and habits. It was that “other human being” part that I found to be the most difficult thing and it delayed my progress for a short time. We cannot change one moment of the past, but we can change our habits and behavior as we begin our journey into the future and that is where Step Six and Seven come in. To simplify my understanding of these two steps it occurred to me that most of my faulty behaviors (shortcomings) are the result of my (defective) thinking. Once I discovered the defect in my motives, it was not too difficult to change my behaviors. On the last page of Step 7 in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions it says, “The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear.” Most of my fears were of the irrational variety as I discovered that they stemmed from experiences in my youth that caused my fears and insecurity and to do things that were morally wrong. Those actions were the Shortcomings that stemmed from my Irrational Fears.

Once I recognize the defect (fear), the Shortcomings (Behaviors) were much easier to change. “Selfishness--Self-Centeredness! That we think, is the root of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of Fear, Self-Delusion, Self-Seeking, and Self-Pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate.” (BB pg.62) If, in fact, Selfishness-Self-Centeredness is the root of our problems it is plain to see that Unselfishness just might be solution to my problems. I could not have understood this line of thinking when I was still using alcohol to mask these problems. I do not believe that I would have been strong enough to follow these guidelines had I not completed Step Five an admitted my fault to God, to myself, and to another human being. The proper completion of Step Five was the most humbling experience of my life, but it opened the door to the rest of the program. Had I not done that I could never have taken my ego out of the game and the rest of the program may have been a shallow facade.

The only requirement for A. A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. Those words were put in place by the Co-founders of the program Alcoholics Anonymous and it gives each of its members the opportunity to choose their own degree of thoroughness when it comes to practicing the AA principles. I am so thankful that I did not let my ego stand in the way of my spiritual development and all the progress that I have made in the program. I have experienced all the promises and I encourage anyone who is still caught up in the Fear of Step Five to take the leap of faith, revisit it, get your ego out of the way and clear your conscience. We only live once, and it would be a shame to waste this precious gift.

Central Office

Please come by to check out our selection of approved AA World Services Books, Step workbooks, daily meditations, Bill W.'s Autobiography, Al-Anon books and workbooks and more. Colorful tri-plate medallions, recovery jewelry and greeting cards that make *our anniversaries memorable*.
If you don't see what you are looking for we will order it for you upon availability.



The Central Office Intergroup

**The Central Office of Shreveport
2800 Youree Dr., Suite #362 Bldg A
Shreveport, LA 71104-3646**

