



A New Holiday Perspective Bringing Joy to the Less Fortunate

By Rick R.

How appropriate it seems that there are twelve months in a year, and we have twelve steps in the program. November is often referred to the Gratitude month, mainly due the celebration of Thanksgiving. The joy of good living is the theme of Step Twelve and it blends right in with the Christmas holiday season in December and ending with the New Year's Eve celebration. This time of year does bring a lot of joy to many of us but it also brings *distress to some of the less fortunate ones* who have yet to been blessed with the gift of sobriety and peace of mind, *in and outside of A.A.*

During my drinking days I used to be extremely uncomfortable about the holidays. I never knew how to act around normal people unless I was half smashed. When invited by one of my siblings to Thanksgiving dinner, I felt like *a charity case* and would rather just hang out at the bar where I felt safe. I never got into the spirit of reaching out to others. My family always celebrated the different holidays, especially Christmas, and I would always (due to my discomfort) put a damper on it by complaining about the tacky gifts that people would buy for each other at Christmas and the mad rush to go shopping and the commercializing facade that it had become. Any excuse was better than facing *me* and the miserable wretch I had become.

After being sober for several years it occurred to me that I still had some of those same attitudes, and that I was still holding on to them to some degree largely due to the inconvenience of it all. I explained this problem to a dear friend once, and he asked, "Does the rest of the family enjoy the holidays?" I said yes. He then said, "Why don't you just take a back seat and just watch the joy in their eyes as they experience these things." I did exactly what he suggested and when I started to observe my wife and two adolescent girls and *the childlike innocence and happiness it brought to them*; it gave me a whole new appreciation for this time of year. It brought *tears of Joy* to my eyes and I no longer wanted to be the grouch, putting a damper on the joy that they were having. I have been following this line of thinking ever since and it has changed my whole perspective concerning these things.

This change of attitude has inspired me to apply the unselfish lessons that I have come to understand and now I spend the holiday season filled with Joy. *If it works like that for the holidays, then why can't I bring it with me for the rest of the year?* This has been my mission ever since my friend suggested it, and I am always looking for the opportunity to brighten the lives of people less fortunate than myself. I try to do these things *anonymously and without fanfare*. I also try to consider the discomfort that I used to feel when I was the one on the receiving end of a charitable gesture. I am careful to do these things in a way that *preserves the dignity of that other person*. I do not have to wait for the holidays to do these things. Every day is a holiday in and outside of my home, and you can believe me when I say; I reap more than my share of the joy. I hope this brings a new perspective to those who, like me, had trouble enjoying this time of year and I hope you all have a joyful Holiday Season, and many more.

AA Central Office of Shreveport

**24 Hr Hotline
(318) 865-2172**

office@aa-shreveport.org

www.aa-shreveport.org

New Office Hours

**Mon & Thurs 10am-5pm
Tues, Weds, & Fri 10am-4pm**

Groups Responsible for

HOT LINE

Nov 2020

5:30 Highland Nov 2-8

Greater Hope Nov 9-15

In A Pinch Nov 16-22

It Is What It Is Nov 23-29

Rise & Shine Nov 30-Dec 6

**This is a great service
that you do for
the person
that is still suffering.**

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!

We need you!

A Deeper Look at the Word: LOVE

Love is as Love Does

By Rick R.

The longer I attend A. A. meetings the more aware I become of the evolution of the subject matter of meeting topics. In my early days in the 1970s the topic was normally about drunkalogues or whatever the leader wanted to talk about that day. Most of the meetings that I attend today are literature-based meetings and there is amplifying information in the literature that reinforces the topic. On page 164 in the Big Book it says “*We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.*” Today we have access to all that they had learned up to that point in time plus everything we have learned since then and the sharing in the meetings is so much deeper as the result of those disclosures

I was at a meeting recently and the topic was “*Love without strings*” Sept. 28 in The Daily Reflections. It was interesting to hear the differing perceptions mainly based on the differing lengths of sobriety and how the word Love was perceived. I looked up the word in the Thesaurus and it is all about feelings like fondness, passion, adoration, affection, and many others. Over the years I have heard it said that “I can love him, but I don’t have to like him.” Is it him I don’t like or is it his behavior I don’t like? All of us come to A.A. with behavioral problems. It is not about him. It is about me being judgmental.

There were comments about sexual attraction or “*erotic love*” which are common in most online definitions but that is not our purpose when dealing with the word Love. There are many definitions of the word LOVE and for our purpose, I believe the one that Scott Peck writes about in his book “The Road Less Traveled” He defines love as “*The will to extend oneself for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth.*” He implies that it is not that version that we see on the movie screen.

To me this means that love *is, caring for, and nurturing another person.* I can love everyone, even if they do not love me back. *It is not about them;* it implies that it’s about me and my actions.

As I took this approach, one by one I defused and neutralized all those mental conflicts and accepted everyone exactly as they are. *No longer do they crowd my thinking.* Do those people that still have behavior problems sometimes cross my boundaries? Oh yes, they do. Sometimes their EGO is threatened by something I shared at a meeting or in the community and they need to defend their position.

Today I recognize these symptoms in others, and I try to be understanding about what I say at a meeting as to not make him/her uncomfortable. This takes time and I never respond to inuendoes when someone is trying to draw me into an argument. It takes two to tango and over a period of time he gets to know who I really am, and he is no longer threatened by the thing I share. I try to Care for and Nurture everyone and at some point, in time I have run out of adversaries, that I know of, in fact, I become their best advocate.

Today, the word Love is not a noun. Love is a verb. Love is as Love does. *Understand them, wish the best for them, and be willing to help them when you can.* Who could understand the behavior of an alcoholic more than another alcoholic who has experienced their own development in the program? The founding principles of A. A. is the caring for and nurturing of another alcoholic. If that is not love, then what is? With all my love, I rest my case.

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.

Step 11: “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out..”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg . 96

TRADITION ELEVEN: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 180
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TRADITION ELEVEN: (The Long Form)

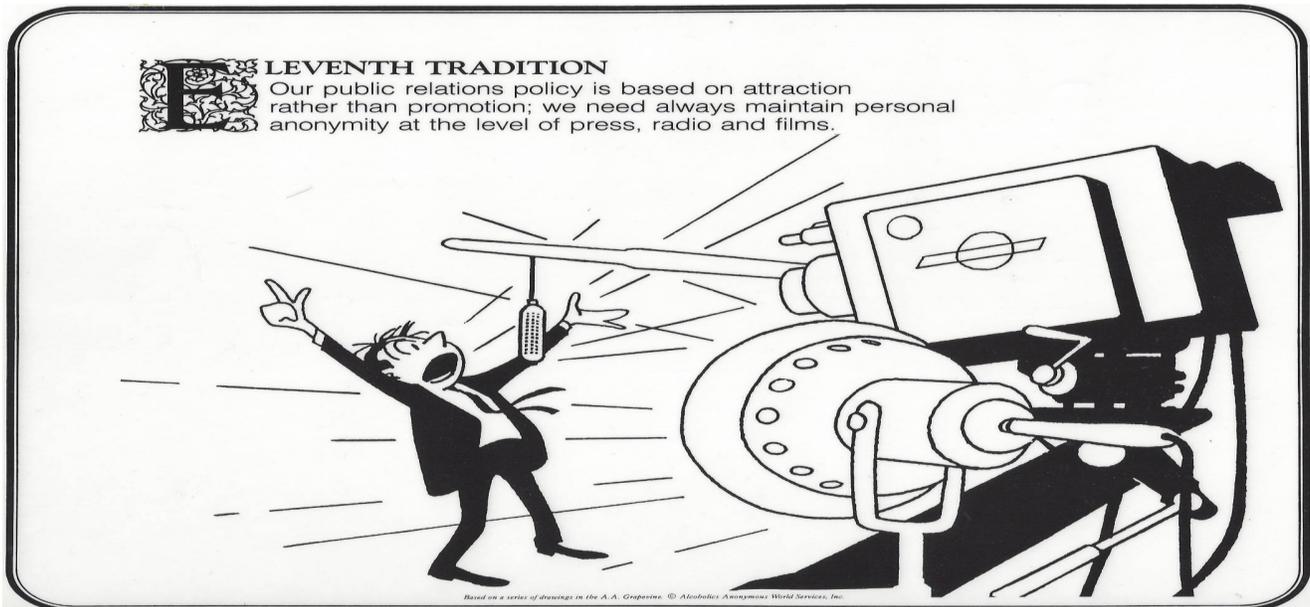
“Our relations with the public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

*The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins Pg. 45-46
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Tradition Eleven:

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around — even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in the Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?



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CONCEPT ELEVEN: “While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.’s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters fore serious care and concern.”

Reprinted with permission from World Services Twelve Concepts for World Service, By Bill W. Page 48

Thanks to all the **Central Office Backers** contributions for the month of **September 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.

September 2020 \$194.58

September 2020 Personal Donations...\$842.70

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions September 2020...\$524.50**

LUCUSU...\$50.00

Saturday Night Live...\$112.00

Shreveport Young People...\$200.00

Sobriety 101...\$33.00

That My Soul May Soar...\$119.50

Twin City...\$10.00

September Intergroup: Blanchard & Fairfield...\$703.00

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



EAT *Pray*
& BE
thankful
November Intergroup

NOV. **7** 2020

Speaker: Dick K.

Dinner @6:00pm Speaker @7:30

Loaded Potato Chicken Casserole

Highland Club 1711 Tulane Ave

50/50 Raffle Please bring a dessert to share!

Presented by the 426 Mens Group



NOVEMBER

TULANE GROUP SPEAKERS

NOV 3

MIKE W.

GARRET C.

NOV 10

NOV 17

JOHN T.

SHERRI K.

NOV 24

8:00 PM @ HIGHLAND CLUB

1711 TULANE AVE.

SHREVEPORT, LA 71103





Area Assembly + Elections

Nov. 7th-8th

Zoom ID for voting members: 889 1784 2701

Password: area27

Call in: 1-346-248-7799

***Note that this meeting is only valid during the elections Sat. morning, after elections, members should use the zoom ID directly below**

Zoom ID for non-voting members: 847 7110 5123

Password: none

Call in: 1-346-248-7799

**Practice voting session,
Thurs. Nov. 5th, 8 pm**

Zoom ID for practice session (anyone may attend): 881 2811 3360

Password: 687385

Call in: 1-346-248-7799

District 1, Area 27 Special Elections Meeting December 9, 2020 TBD: virtual/in person

Any AA member from District 1 is eligible to serve on the District committee as an officer. Certain positions have specific suggested job qualifications, such as length of sobriety. Familiarity with the General Service structure is helpful. Past experience as a GSR is also preferred. Above all, the individual must be willing and able to serve.

DCM: Responsible for maintaining communications between GSRs and Louisiana Area 27 Committee. The DCM fulfills the duties described in the AA service Manual (p.S-32/duties) & Your DCM (F-12 pamphlet). The DCM conducts monthly District Committee meetings and provides the agenda. The DCM appoints Ad Hoc Committees at the suggestion of the District Committee. The DCM promotes Unity and Service by visiting AA Groups in the District area. The DCM communicates business before the District Committee, Area Assembly and General Service Conference to local AA Groups. The DCM should have a suggested 5 years of sobriety. Above all time, energy, and desire to serve.

Secretary: Responsible for taking minutes of District committee meetings, publish and distribute via email or text to the District committee before the next District meeting. The secretary reports previous month's minutes at District meetings. Maintains and distributes a current phone number and email address list of the committee. The secretary should have a suggested 2 years of sobriety. Above all time, energy, and desire to serve.

Treasurer: Maintains a record of monies received and disbursed. The treasurer maintains bank account with signature cards to be signed by DCMs and treasurer. Reports in writing to District meetings bank account activity. Is in-charge of passing basket at District meetings and paying rent. The treasurer should have a suggested 2 years sobriety. Above all time, energy, and desire to serve.

Alternate Positions: All elected officers may have an Alternate. Alternate positions are elected at the discretion of the District Committee. The Alternate will fulfill the duties of the respective officer or committee member temporarily, in the case of absence. The Alternate will assume the duties of the respective officer or committee member if that officer or committee member is no longer able to fulfill said duties. Serve 2 year-term. Is nominated by the District Committee. Suggested 2 years sobriety. Above all time, energy and desire to serve.

Please come to our next District 1 meeting
on 11/11/20 @ 6:30p.m. via
Zoom#2399905603, pswd 765110

For any questions, please contact Donna M.,
DCM at 318.229.1474

"If we expend even five percent of the time on Step Eleven that we habitually (and rightly) lavish on Step Twelve, the results can be wonderfully far-reaching."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1958, "Take Step Eleven," The Language of the Heart

"We shall always have to deal with the fearful forces which are released when the human ego runs amok -- the same forces that are shattering the world of our time. Deliver us from temptation must therefore continue to be a prime ingredient of our every attitude, practice, and prayer."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1960, "Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours", the Language of the Heart

GRAPEVINE



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AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1959, "An Anniversary Letter", The Language of the Heart

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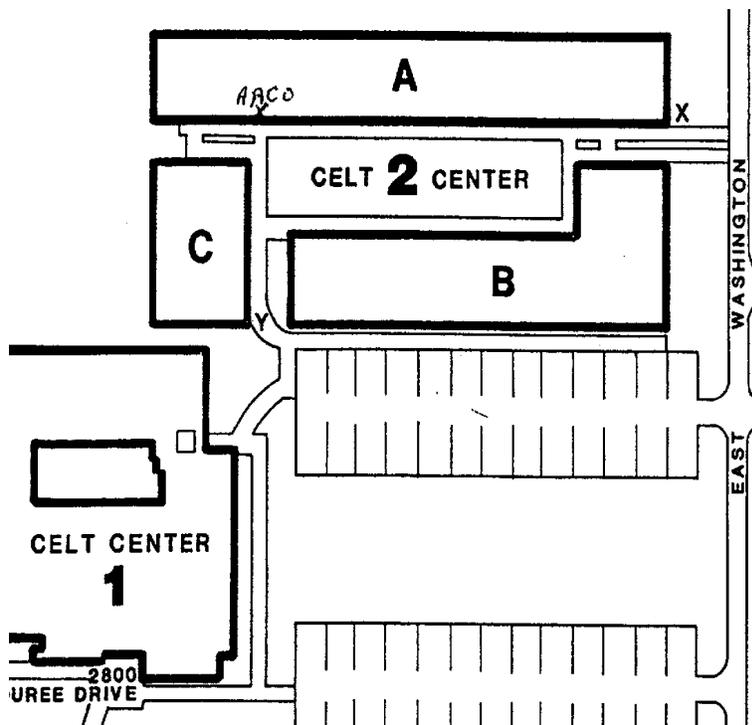
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Central Office

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

