



My name is Elaine S., I'm an alcoholic.

I've been blessed with a sobriety date of June 2, 1994.

One of our goals for 2021: Our district, District 1, Area 27, has so many groups spread far and wide. There is only one Central Office to service all of these locations for meetings in our District. Your Central Office, located at 2800 Youree Drive, Suite 362A, Shreveport, LA, receives many phone calls and emails asking about meetings in areas that we do not find in the World Services Directory. The internet doesn't always provide the vital information to help these callers. Your Central Office (AACO) covers areas where no Central Office is present. I would ask that, if you are an active group, please register your group with World Services so that your group can be included in the Directory. I would love to see 90% of our groups registered with World Services. Your Central Office can send you the form. It will also be included in "The Message", our newsletter. Step 12 tells us that our primary is to carry the message to alcoholics.

On another note, I encourage you to visit your local Central Office. Many of you in our fellowship have never visited our office/bookstore. You will discover some beautiful personalities working there, you'll discover a well-stocked bookstore, other recovery items including chips, medallions, even recovery gift items, greeting cards, birthday cards, pamphlets and much more. You may also find a meeting taking place while you are there!

There is so much more to our recovery than sitting in an in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting! I've found much of my recovery within the many service opportunities during my years in A.A. I do have to say that the one I probably cherish the most is the opportunity to be involved in the restructuring our Central Office with the help of a fellow A.A., Richard D. I've been privileged to serve as a Group COI (Central Office Intergroup representative at COI meetings with our board), serving on our Board as Treatment & Corrections, secretary, treasurer, and Chairman. I've done many 12th step calls, carried the message to the prisons, jails, and recovery institutions and hospitals. We have a 24 hour hotline for those who need help; I also find that to be a privilege to answer when I'm needed. There are many ways to be involved in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Please reach out to your Central Office, talk to someone in your group, and get involved. These actions will enhance your journey in the A.A. program more than you can imagine.

**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

Jan 2020

Lunch Bunch Jan 4-10

Winners Jan 11-17

Grace Jan 18-24

Half Past Five Jan 25-31

**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!

U.S. and Canada

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEW GROUP 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." — Tradition Three (the long form)

"Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose — that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." — Tradition Five (the long form)

"Unless there is approximate conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the group... can deteriorate and die." — Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 174.

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or member (living or deceased), and that the name of a group not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution.

GROUP NAME: _____ **GROUP START DATE:** _____

GROUP MEETING LOCATION: _____ **NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ **STATE/PROVINCE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

MEETING DAY	MON <input type="checkbox"/>	TUES <input type="checkbox"/>	WED <input type="checkbox"/>	THURS <input type="checkbox"/>	FRI <input type="checkbox"/>	SAT <input type="checkbox"/>	SUN <input type="checkbox"/>
MEETING TIMES	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
LANGUAGE (Please check one ✓) ENGLISH <input type="checkbox"/> SPANISH <input type="checkbox"/> FRENCH <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ (Specify)							

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

NAME: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY/TOWN:** _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

ALTERNATE G.S.R. **OR MAIL CONTACT** **(Please check one ✓)**

NAME: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY/TOWN:** _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

Does your Group meet in a hospital, treatment center or detox center? Yes No
If yes, is it open to A.A. members in the community as well as to patients in the center? Yes No

If the Group is to be listed in the Directory, please provide a telephone number and mailing address for the G.S.R., Alternate G.S.R., or Group contact. Listing in the Directory is for Twelfth Step referral and/or for meeting information. The G.S.R.'s (or other contact) name and telephone number will be included in the Directory with the group's name and service number.

OK TO LIST IN THE DIRECTORY? Yes No

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

THREE WAYS TO RETURN THIS FORM:

- Postal Mail to:** A.A. World Services, Inc.
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163
- By Fax:** 212-870-3137 (Attn: Records)
- E-mail:** records@aa.org

FOR G.S.O. RECORDS DEPT. USE ONLY

DELEGATE AREA NUMBER: _____ **DISTRICT NUMBER:** _____ **GROUP SERVICE NUMBER (ASSIGN BY G.S.O.):** _____

U.S. and Canada ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUP INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

GROUP SERVICE No. _____ **DATE:** _____

DELEGATE AREA No. _____ **DISTRICT No.** _____ **No. OF MEMBERS:** _____

OLD INFORMATION

GROUP NAME: _____

Group Meeting Location: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

MEETING DAY

MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT | SUN

MEETING TIMES

____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (G.S.R.)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone : _____

E-mail: _____

ALTERNATE G.S.R. **or MAIL CONTACT** (Please check one ✓)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone : _____

E-mail: _____

NEW INFORMATION

GROUP NAME: _____

Group Meeting Location: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

MEETING DAY

MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT | SUN

MEETING TIMES

____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____ | ____

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (G.S.R.)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone : _____

E-mail: _____

ALTERNATE G.S.R. **or MAIL CONTACT** (Please check one ✓)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone : _____

E-mail: _____

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OK TO LIST IN THE DIRECTORY? Yes No

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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THREE WAYS TO RETURN THIS FORM:

Postal Mail to: A.A. World Services, Inc.
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163

By Fax: 212-870-3003 (Attn: Records)

E-mail: records@aa.org

HOW TO GET A TAX ID NUMBER FOR YOUR A.A. GROUP

We frequently get calls from A.A. groups who want to open checking accounts in their group name and do not wish to use an individual's Social Security number. The following is a simplified set of instructions on how to get your group a Tax Identification number.

- 1) Call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 and ask them to send you Form SS-4 for non-profit organizations. Explain that you want the Tax Identification number for banking purposes only. Or, go on-line to: www.irs.gov and follow the directions.
- 2) Fill out the SS-4 when it arrives. If have questions, call 1-800-829-1040 again and ask for help in completing the form.
- 3) When your form is completed, call 1-816-926-5999 (not toll free). The IRS will ask you for the information on you form and will then give you your new Tax ID number over the phone.
- 4) Put the Tax ID number on the upper right hand corner of the Form SS-4 and make a copy of the form for your group's records.
- 5) Mail the completed SS-4 to the address they give you.

This Tax ID number can be used to open a non-interest-bearing checking account in your group's name. ■

Why Have a Home Group?

BY: R. B. | NEOSHO, MISSOURI

September 1986

In a recent letter to a member of the Fellowship, a member of the General Service Office staff referred to the home group as the heartbeat of AA. That made a big impression on me, and I believe that just as surely as we are aware of, sensitive to, and in need of our own heartbeat, each of us needs a home group.

It all began in the home group, didn't it? Not all of us readily identified that mysterious group of people who were trying to help us get sober as our home group. In fact, I am painfully aware that the commitment to become a part of anything escapes many in the early stages of recovery.

Most members of the Fellowship will never have the rewarding experience of attending a General Service Conference. Only a few are even touched by our area assemblies, state and national conventions, and other functions which bring members together from many home groups. Even the district functions might be attended by only a small portion of the membership of the groups involved. To many, their AA is only the home group. If this is so, what should the home group be to the member, and why should a member have a home group?

When we took those first faltering steps to recovery, many of us would have stumbled and fallen once again if we had to make what was to be a miraculous change by ourselves. In my case, the first rays of hope came from those sometimes loving, sometimes cantankerous old geezers who sat around the table in my hometown. A long time before I believed, or even heard, what they told me, I began thinking there might be a chance simply because I thought if they could do it, so could I.

The first slogans I heard came from them. Later, when I heard the same things from speakers at a convention, I thought it was so wise; but it was months before I realized that I first heard those thoughts from the fat little guy who I thought was so windy and who eventually became my sponsor. In fact, after I got into service work, I thought I needed to go to conventions, assemblies, and forums to get my batteries recharged because things were so dull and routine in my home group.

Now I know that it's not the wonderful people I've met from throughout these great lands who have helped keep me sober most of the time, but those wonderful people sitting around the table in my hometown who loved me when I could not love, who waited for me to quit lying, who tolerated me when I would be part of nothing, and who never asked me to leave when I was obnoxious. Because of their love and patience, I was able finally to get outside of myself and make

some sort of commitment to the group.

It seems to me that, in the beginning, a home group is all most of us can possibly handle. It's where we first find a sponsor, where someone first sees that we get a Big Book, where we first see the Steps on the wall, where we learn again to pray, and where we first begin to recover. (Remember the heartbeat?) But most of all, because of the trust that develops through the meetings of a home group, it is where we might first begin to care about someone else so that we might eventually begin to love again, both in AA and among our friends and family.

It is where we first learn to take responsibility so that we might eventually take responsibility for our lives. In my case, that began with the simple chore of cleaning out ashtrays. (How wise that they knew I could do no more!) It was there we learned to do Twelfth Step work so that we could eventually pass on to others what was so freely given to us, thereby assuring the very future and survival of the Fellowship. It was there we first learned about the rest of the Fellowship, and someone began answering the questions about all the mysteries of what makes the whole thing work.

Oh yes, the home group is the heartbeat of the Fellowship. There are many reasons why the Fellowship needs these wonderful groups, and there are many reasons why the groups need each and every member running through their life veins. But most important, we need our home groups. That's where it all began, and it's where it will all end for us. Yes, all of us have also had the job of burying some of those people who passed the recovery program on to each of us.

With this week at the Conference, this phase of my service to the Fellowship, of paying back a small measure of my gratitude, begins to wind down. What will I do now? If I am very, very lucky, those who are doing such a marvelous job of serving the Fellowship in my home group might, just might, allow me to make coffee next week and maybe even talk to a drunk.

Reprinted with permission, The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA, AA Grapevine

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 ONE:

We admitted to ourselves we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable.

TRADITION ONE: “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.”

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 129
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Ser*

TRADITION ONE: (The Long Form)

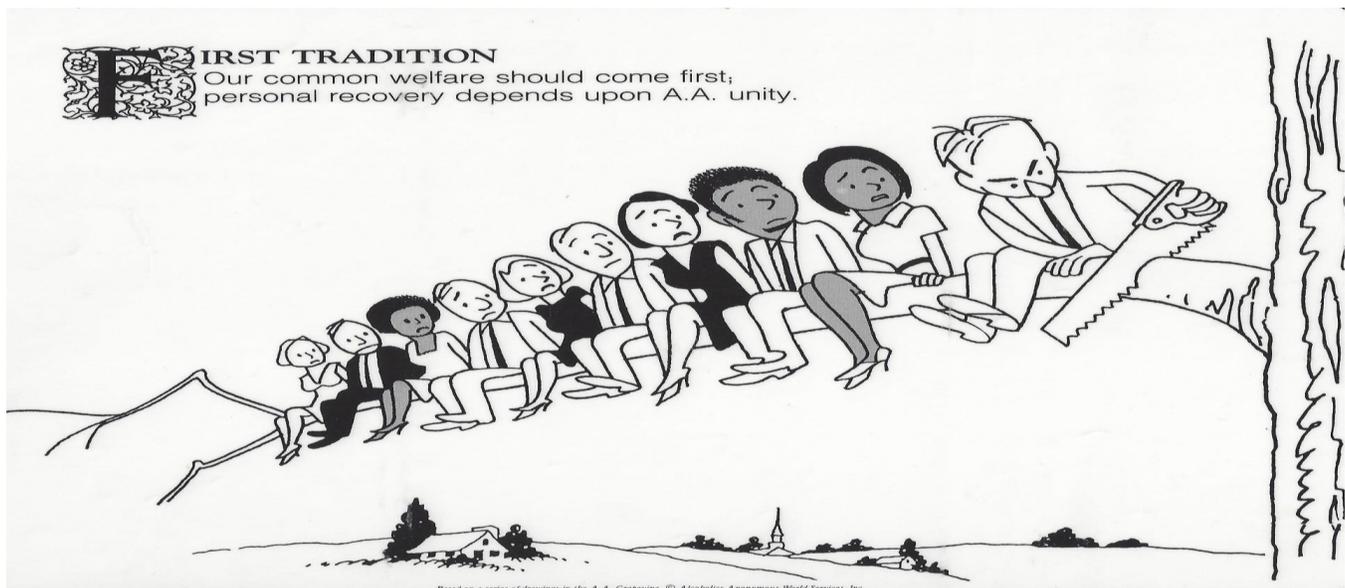
“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

*The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins Pg. 44
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services*

Tradition One:

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as “just for the sake of discussion,” plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving help of fellowship?



Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services

CONCEPT ONE: “The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscious of our fellowship.”

*Reprinted with permission from World Services
Twelve Concepts for World Services, pg.6*

The Delusion Had to be Smashed

Like Men Who Had Lost Their Legs

By Rick R.

As a kid approaching adolescence, I had my first encounter with alcohol, and it did something for me that I had never experienced before. It brought about a degree of peace and serenity in those first few minutes that I could not dismiss as just another good time. It started me on that road to fantasy land and thank God it only lasted fourteen years. I was quick to burn through those years starting off as lampshade drunkenness, and then the tolerance started to develop to the point that I was pretty good at drinking and that only lasted for a short time, then I enter into the black-out phase and that wasn't a pretty sight. My first wife left me and for the next two years I went through the self pity phase when I hung out in bars and got into fights, got locked up, and cried in my beer a lot. I spent much of those last few years thinking that one day I would evolve into a responsible adult and put all of it behind me, but that never happened. Then one day I woke up from a black-out drunk and somehow realized that if I didn't do something about my drinking, I was going to die a young and horrible death, I threw in the towel, called AA, and started this wonderful journey.

As I look back on it now, I can understand why alcohol had the effect on me that it didn't have on, nine out of ten, of the others that I drank with in those early days. We were all partying and the alcohol masked the differences between them and me. They enjoyed it all right but they went home and went to work the next morning. I went right back to the bar again and in search of that euphoria I experienced that first time I drank and every time there after.

After years of sobriety, it occurred to me that the drink quelled all of those fears and inhibitions that we alcoholics face each morning upon awakening that the normal drinker never has to face. That is what makes us different. Once our tolerance for alcohol is depleted, it never returns. That is the hardest fact for the alcoholic to face. In Ch. 3 of the Big Book it states: (The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed. We know that no real alcoholic ever recovers control.) In my early days of sobriety at the meetings in Los Angeles, most of the meetings that I attended read a portion of chapter 3 as well as the portion of chapter five that we do here. That portion of the book drives home the true nature of this disease but they stopped reading at the words: ad infinitum. I suggest that a person read one more paragraph after that. That always brought home the fact that I was responsible for my own recovery if I had a desire to stop drinking AA could help me accomplish that but by no means will it work for me until I except that devastating fact.

The abnormal fears and inhibitions that I faced in the beginning of my AA journey are no longer a problem now that I have embraced the program in the spirit that is suggested. All I would need to do to have them return would be to rest on my laurels and ignore the wisdom of those who came before me and that is not going to happen here. I may be sick but I'm not foolish. We get a daily reprieve based upon the maintenance of our spiritual condition and as long as I have days left, I am not finished.

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

November 2020 \$218.99

November 2020 Personal Donations...\$350.39

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions November 2020...\$993.20**

Basic Training...\$257.00

COI Meeting...\$8.45

Margaret Place...\$300.00

On the Way Home...\$234.00

Sobriety 101...\$33.75

T.I.E....\$50.00

Twin City...\$10.00

White Dove...\$100.00

Intergroups: 426 Group...\$200.00

Tri State...\$154.00

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."

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)*

January 2021
INTERGROUP

Hosted by



Saturday, January 9 (2nd Saturday)

@ The Highland Club
1700 Tulane Ave., Shreveport 71103

AND

Zoom ID # 302 894 2253

(NO Password)

6:30 pm Dinner:

JAMBALAYA

7:30 PM Speakers:

Monica & J.D. C.

Please Bring Deserts

50/50 Raffle

JANUARY

TULANE GROUP SPEAKERS

JAN. 5

THOMAS D.

JESSE F.

JAN. 12

JAN. 19

GREGORY T.

MALLORY L.

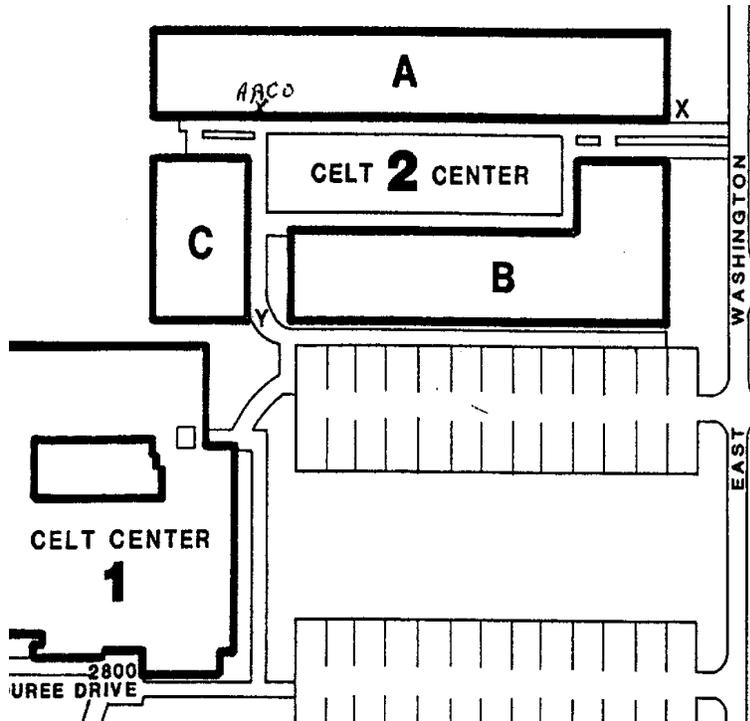
JAN. 26

8:00 PM @ THE HIGHLAND CLUB

1711 TULANE AVE. SHREVEPORT, LA 71103

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

