

The MESSAGE May 2021



The Rocks, the Stones, and the Pebbles

My conscience would never let me rest.

Coming to Alcoholics Anonymous from a pit of despair was the best decision I have ever made. My life up to that point was in shambles and I was desperate enough to seek outside help. Understanding the part that alcohol played in my life, up to that point, was difficult but I knew that if I did not get a grip on reality, I was going to self-destruct, and the progression of the problem was like going ninety miles an hour down that dead end street.

Hope was established immediately as I was introduced to the possibility that I could be restored to a life that was free of the mental torment that I had been experiencing since childhood. The answers to all my problems came in the form of a *Profound Change of Perception* concerning *how I perceived myself*. Without discipline or structure in my upbringing, I was insecure and afraid that I would never meet up with the standards of my peers and as the results of that way of thinking, I developed a dishonest and selfish lifestyle which eventually caught up with me in the form of a guilty conscience. My drinking solved that problem for a time but when the tolerance for alcohol wore off, I found myself back in that pit of despair. When I looked in the mirror, I hated what I saw, and I could no longer drink it away.

Like everyone else, when introduced to the program, I first had to stop the (emotional) bleeding by dealing with the current issues that I had been neglecting such as: pay the rent, pay the traffic ticket, clear the beer cans off my dresser.... Then I could give the steps of the program the attention they would need if I wanted the relief that they promised. With a new attitude of willingness, I was already getting rid of many of the obvious habits of dishonesty, neglect, irresponsibility, and the like.

Next, I was faced with my biggest challenge which came in the form of *The Wreckage of the Past* that many refer to as a *Sack of Rocks*. If we ever want to be free of the guilt and the shame CAUSED BY the regrettable memories that we have been harboring, in our conscience, we will have to address these issues *when we become strong enough*. My sack contained a few Rocks that were obvious, a handful of Stones, and abundance of, less threatening, Pebbles that were not that obvious to me at the time.

Addressing steps 4, 5, 8, and 9 concerning these issues became my greatest challenge and my first instinct was to skip over the most embarrassing memories. That Idea, I think, is common in many of us, when first faced with reparation process. I gave it my best shot at first but left out a few of the Rocks due to my ego, but my conscience would never let me rest. Later, when, as the result of the progress I had made in the program, I became stronger and had the determination to *revisit those more glaring issues* and clean the slate. Had I not done that, I believe the rest of the program would have been a shallow façade and I would never have attained the peace of mind that I enjoy today. The Stones were the things that got most of the attention as I did the steps initially. As I became stronger, I took that leap of faith and tackled the Rocks.

After cleaning up those issues, the rest of the program became easy. No more denial and much more peace of mind. So, I am finished, Right? Not so fast Huckleberry! Now I become aware of the less threatening pebbles in the form of the selfish motives in my day-to-day decision making which I will gladly correct, one pebble at a time as I become aware of them and it is a Joy to rid myself of the things that used to plague me and today, life is good.

Rick R.

**AA Central Office
of Shreveport**

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

office@aa-shreveport.org

www.aa-shreveport.org

Office Hours

Mon & Thurs 10am-5pm

Tues, Weds, & Fri 10am-4pm

Groups Responsible for

HOT LINE

May 2020

In a Pinch May 3-9

LAMBDA May 10-16

Bellaire May 17-23

COI/Steering Comm.

May 24-30

***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!

STEP 5: “Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 55
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services

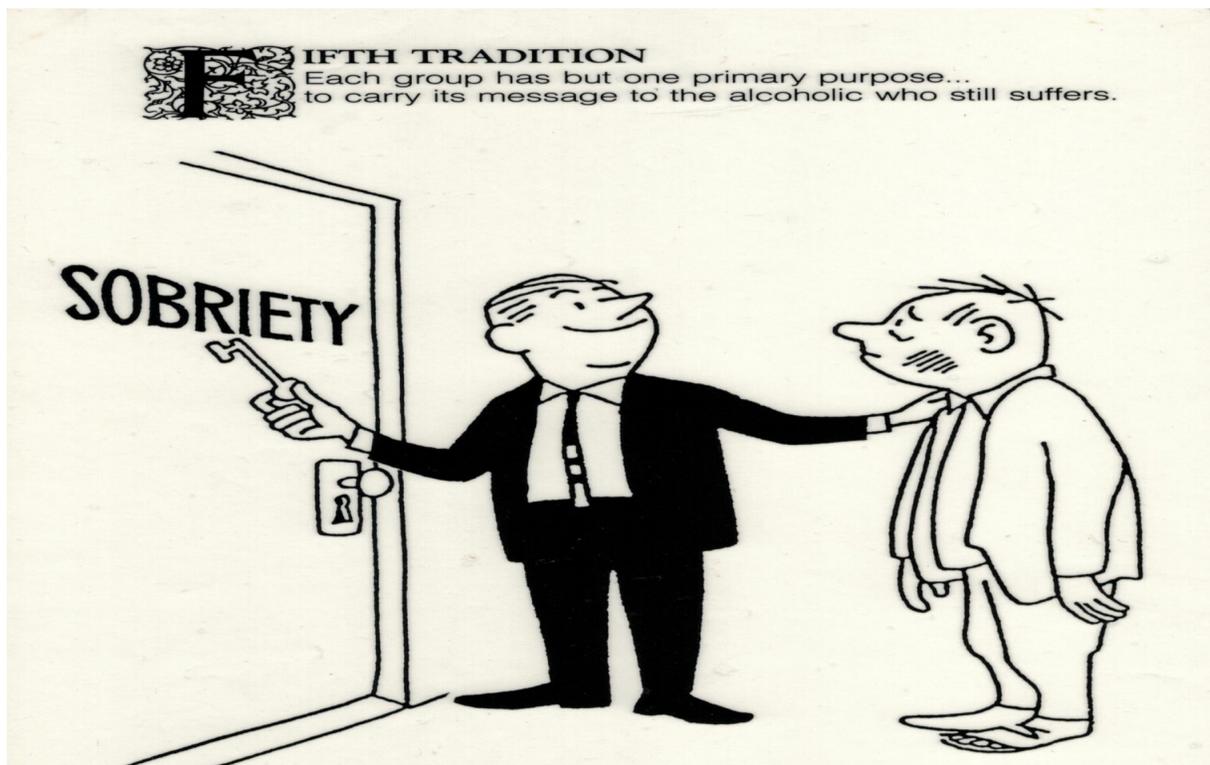
TRADITION FIVE: “Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 151
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Service

Tradition Five:

Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, “I’m not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn’t apply to me”?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?



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CONCEPT FIVE: “Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.”

Twelve Concepts for World Services, pg. 22
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Service

The Future of Our Virtual Fellowship?

The Hybrid meeting may not have been born by the COVID19 pandemic, but it certainly matured during it. Thousands of once thriving meetings were shuttered as meeting places were closed and a 30 day shut-down was affected which now is beyond a year. Alcoholics around the world scrambled to find a way to continue to meet as it is by sharing our experience strength and hope which is the lifeblood of our recovery. So as not to endorse an outside entity I will refer to the most common virtual meeting platform as Boom. Around the world, Boom meeting codes and passwords were flying at the speed of light and within days, a network of Boom meetings was established. Millions were drawn to a new type of recovery.

As this was happening, others were seeking ways to have safe, in person or "live" meetings. New outdoor meetings were born as Churches and other landlords prohibited meetings within their facilities. Meetings moved into homes and back yards. They became what I often joked of as the AA Underground.

There are an awful lot of AA members who have compromised health condition. Years of abuse has taken its toll on our bodies and the slightest infection may be fatal. Alcoholics are also drama queens and experts at projecting the wreckage of the future. In either case, your personal comfort and safety must be paramount in the decision which type of meeting venue you choose for your recovery!

But there is an elephant in the room! Boom goers feel live meeting goers have been irresponsible, careless, and part of the problem spreading a deadly virus. Live meeting goers think Boom people are full of fear and have grown comfortable with armchair recovery in front of phony backdrops.

However, in both cases people have stayed sober and newcomers have found recovery in both formats. This pandemic will pass, they always do. Maybe not this season but eventually it will be a bitter memory. As we begin to open back up, what will become of our fellowship.

I personally believe Boom has proven to be a great alternative to live meetings and AA has a virtual future. Tens of thousands in remote areas can now attend multiple meetings a week. Homebound members can easily find recovery and who does not like dropping by a meeting on another continent? I personally love seeing members back in my home group who have moved away or are traveling.

But is it truly a "fellowship"? I started with Boom but missed the human touch. I missed the meeting before and after the meeting. I missed the laughter as I shared my plan because everyone was muted. I missed "seeing" how a friend was really doing as they entered and sat in a meeting. I missed the misery in the newcomers' eyes who were off camera or the spring in their step when they get 30 days. These are experience I will not want to miss.

The intergroup I am a member of recently did a poll on when its monthly business meeting would go to a hybrid format. They wanted to see what level of support to expect in person. Eleven percent of the respondents voted "Never, I love Boom". A tear formed in my eye.

KEN C.

Thanks to all the **Central Office Backers** contributions for the month of **March 2021**. 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.

March 2021 \$1,267.52

March 2021 Personal Donations...\$147.87

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions March 2021...\$308.10**

COI Meeting...\$21.00 Twin City...\$10.00
Five-Thirty...\$140.00 White Dove...\$100.00
Sobriety 101...\$37.10

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%)

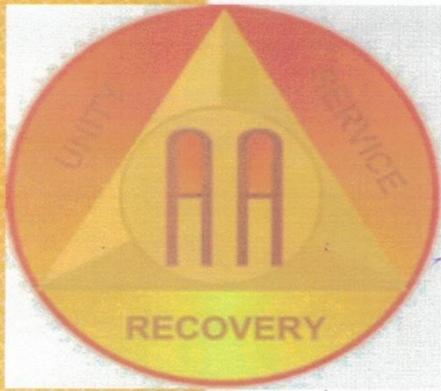
Louisiana Area Assembly, Inc.

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***



District 1, Area 27 Now meeting IN PERSON at the Highland Club

SERVICE!!!

Your AA group needs to make its voice heard. Please elect and have your group's G.S.R. come join us at the District 1 monthly meetings

When: at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month

SERVICE!!!

SERVICE!!!

Where: Highland Club
1711 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport, La 71103

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.

THE 5:30 GROUP & LAMBDA GROUP Present:

JUNE INTERGROUP

**COME JOIN US FOR FOOD FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP!**

June 5, 2021

**AT THE HIGHLAND CLUB
1711 TULANE AVE.
SHREVEPORT, LA 71103**

DINNER @ 6

SPEAKER @ 7:30

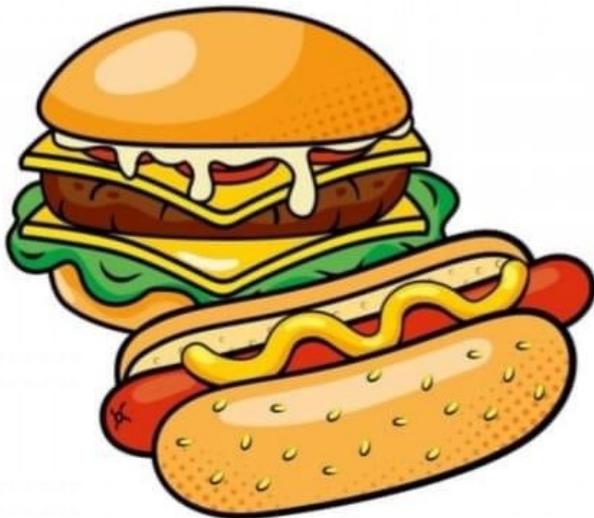
Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

SPEAKER

George F.

(Jamaica George)

from Monroe



*\$\$ bring your cash \$\$
Sweet tooth auction
50/50 raffle*

please bring a dessert

TULANE GROUP

MAY SPEAKERS

7:30 PM

**4
MAY**

STACIE T.

ALFRED W.

**11
MAY**

**18
MAY**

CARIN C.

ROD S.

**25
MAY**

HIGHLAND CLUB
1711 TULANAE AVE.
SHREVEPORT, LA 71103

**FUN FOR ALL
AGES**

**THE TRI-STATE
COMMITTEE
PRESENTS**

**BRING A
LAWN CHAIR**

SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY & BBQ COOK OFF COMPETTION

FOOD | MUSIC | GAMES | CORN HOLE

KICKBALL TOURNAMENT | BOUNCE HOUSES

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 12TH**

STARTS AT 10AM

**SPEAKER AT 5:00PM
BILL ROSE-JULY 18,1988**

**THE SERENITY CLUB
1506 ABBIE ST, SHREVEPORT, LA 71103
CALL 318-865-2172
FOR MORE INFO**

SEPERATE REGISTRATION THE BBQ COOKOFF REQUIRED

*In Conjunction with Summer
Family Fun Day*

2ND ANNUAL TRI-STATE BBQ COOKOFF COMPETITION

CHICKEN-PORK-BRISKET

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD TROPHY

1ST PLACE

2ND PLACE

3RD PLACE

Saturday
June 12, 2021
The Serentiy Club
1506 Abbie Street
Shreveport, LA 71103

Rules and reminders:

- ~\$30 Registration fee/ team
- ~Contestants provide grill
- ~Space for grilling provided,
First come first serve
- ~Only required to fill 4 containers(
provided) for judges
- ~No electricity provided and no
open fires
- ~Future Emails will include setup
details

REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE JUNE 10,2021

TEAM NAME _____ TEAM CAPTIN _____

PHONE# _____ Email _____

Register by calling or mail form to Central Office

2800 Youree Dr. Ste. 362 Shreveport, LA 71104

Phone: 318-865-2172

For more info call the Central Office or

Email tristateconvention@yahoo.com



Founders' Day 2021

86th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Save the dates:
June 12th & 13th**

The 86th annual Founders' Day celebration will be held as a virtual event.

For registration and details, please refer to Foundersday.org

*In love and service,
The Founders' Day Committee*

"We need to constantly scrutinize ourselves carefully, in order to make everlastingly certain that we shall always be strong enough and single-purposed enough from within, to relate ourselves rightly to the world without."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., August 1945, "Modesty One Plank for Good Public Relations", The Language of the

"All AA progress can be reckoned in terms of just two words: humility and responsibility."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1966, "The Guidance of AA's World Affairs", The Language of the Heart

"Serenity and peace of mind are a direct result of accepting our lives as they are at this moment, and all the money in the world cannot purchase this kind of peace."

"From Rags to Riches," Cornwall, Ontario, January 2005, Voices of Long-Term Sobriety

Founders' Day 2021

June 12 & 13 2021

Founders' Day 2021 will be a virtual event. Registration is required and opens on March 15th. There is no fee to register, although donations are greatly appreciated. An exciting lineup will be released soon. The Founders' Day Committee encourages you to check back for schedules and details.

<https://foundersday.org>

The History of Founders' Day

Founders' Day has been an important part of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our current celebration has its roots from our humble beginnings. Here are a few events which have helped shape our annual Founders' Day celebration.

1941 Bill W. and Dr. Bob were the featured speakers.

1942 Dr. Bob traced the early history of our movement, introduced early members, followed by a buffet supper served by wives of Akron Group #1.

1945 Dr. Bob and Bill W. spoke at a dinner at the Mayflower Ballroom.

1945 A modest celebration was held at the M. O'Neil Auditorium with the co-founders present.

1947 Dr. Bob and A.A. #3 Bill D. were the speakers.

1948 The Akron Armory was used and talks were given by Dr. Walter Tunks, Bill W. and Dr. Bob.

1951 Dr. Bob had died. An open house was held at 855 Ardmore. (Dr. Bob's Home) Bill spoke at the Goodyear Theater.

1953 Bill W. attended an open house at St. Thomas Hospital.

1957 The first "Play" was introduced and a Sunday morning breakfast was held at The University of Akron's Memorial Hall.

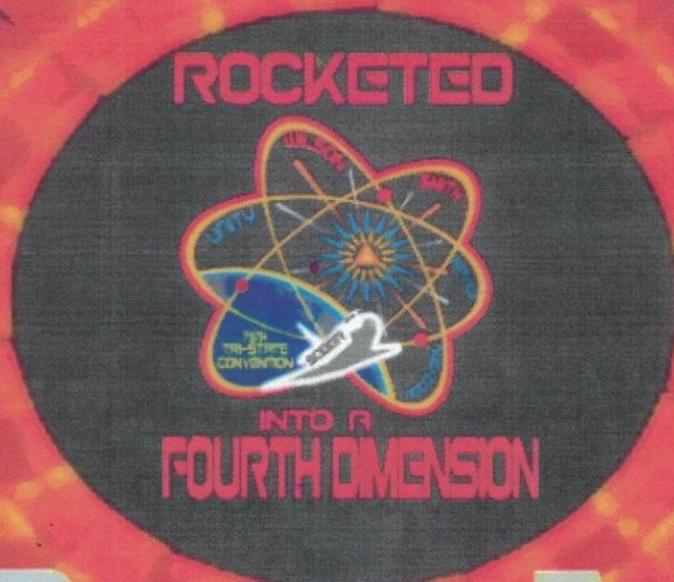
1958 Bill W. his wife Lois W. and Ethel M. were speakers at The University of Akron's Memorial Hall.

1961 This was the start of the memorial for Dr. Bob at 9:00 am.

1965 The "Modern" Era of Founders' Day begins with the first Friday-Sunday Weekend. Founders' Day is an integral piece the legacy our co-founders have left for us. Founders' Day has grown to where 10,000 visitors from around the world come each year. Please come to Akron to see, to feel, and to be part of The Fellowship of the Spirit.

THE 75TH TRI-STATE CONVENTION

Celebrating 75 Years of Fellowship in
Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Beyond
NOVEMBER 5-7, 2021



LEBOSSIER EVENT CENTER

HOST HOTEL

ALL EVENTS ONSITE

LeBossier Hotel & Event Center
4000 Industrial Dr.
Bossier City, LA 71112

To Book a Room call (318) 747-0711
Mention Tri-State for a special rate of
\$69/night + tax

FOR MORE INFO:

Email: tristateconvention@yahoo.com
AA Central Office (318)865-2172

THE 75th TRI-STATE CONVENTION

**ROCKETED INTO A FOURTH
DIMENSION**

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2021

LEBOSSIER EVENT CENTER

BOSSIER CITY, LA

**HOST HOTEL
ALL EVENTS ONSITE**

**LEBOSSIER HOTEL AND EVENT CENTER
4000 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
BOSSIER CITY, LA 71112
318-741-8502
CALL AND MENTION TRI -STATE TO RECEIVE
SPECIAL RATE OF \$69/NIGHT +tax.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL: tristateconvention@yahoo.com

AA CENTRAL OFFICE (318)865-21724

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:
aa-shreveport.org**

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY- NOVEMBER 5th

3:00PM REGISTRATION OPENS
4:00PM OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING
5:00PM AA SPEAKER
6:30PM GUMBO DINNER
7:45 INVOCATION
Tommy Chandler, Mayor of Bossier City
8:00PM AA SPEAKER
9:30PM SOCIAL /DANCE
11:00PM NIGHT MEETINGS BEGIN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

7:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE
9:00PM PANEL-SOBER THROUGH THE
PANDEMIC
10:00AM AA SPEAKER
11:30AM OLD TIMERS 25 YEARS AND UP
LUNCHEON
11:30 LUNCHEON ALL
2:00PM AL ANON MEETING
3:00PM AL ANON SPEAKER
5:30PM DINNER ON YOUR OWN
7:15PM RAFFLE
7:40PM SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN
8:00PM AA SPEAKER
9:30PM SOCIAL/DANCE
11:00PM NIGHT MEETINGS BEGIN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

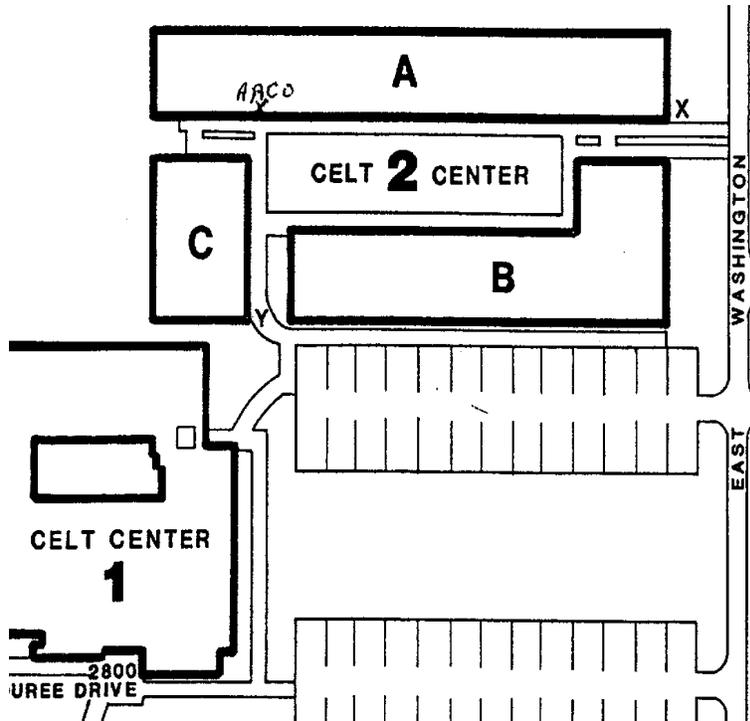
7:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE
8:30AM PANEL-RELATIONSHIPS IN SOBRIETY
10:00AM AA SPEAKER
11:30AM CONVENTION CLOSES
12:00PM POST CONVENTION LUNCHEON
AT CLUBS

PRE-REGISTRATION RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 5, 2021 \$15 PER PERSON, AFTER DATE REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20 PER PERSON

NAME _____ NAME ON BADGE _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
EMAIL _____
ADDITIONAL REGISTRATIONS
NAME _____ NAME ON BADGE _____
NAME _____ NAME ON BADGE _____
EARLY REGISTRATION AT \$15 EACH _____ RECEIVED BY _____
REGISTRATION AT \$20 EACH _____
DONATION \$ _____
TOTALS \$ _____
MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO: TRI-STATE CONVENTION
AA CENTRAL OFFICE
2800 YOUREE DRIVE STE.362 A
SHREVEPORT, LA 71104

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**

