



Step Six and Seven: Defects and Short Comings

A lot of Credibility Leads to Integrity
By Rick R.

Sometimes the wording used in The Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) and in The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (12&12) mean something different to individuals often based on how they evolved with respect to Religion, Agnosticism, Atheism, and other developmental histories. This may be confusing to many of us, especially Step Six in the 12&12 as it talks of God removing these defects of character the way God removed the obsession to drink. In simple terms I try to word the Step Six process in a way anyone can understand it and my goal is not to offend anyone by being over simplistic but just about all of our actions and behaviors stem from our thinking and if our thinking is of a fearful nature, we are bound to make bad decisions in an effort to defend ourselves.

The defects we identify in the step four inventory, disclose in step five, and address in step six, are bi products of our fears and insecurities and are of a spiritual nature as in our inner self. The shortcomings we address in step seven are of a material nature (actions and behaviors) that result from those fears and insecurities. If, in the program, we discover a defect of character and address it properly the short coming diminishes and becomes irrelevant. A simpler way I try to describe this process is as follows: Suppose you purchased a new car and drove off the lot and as you reached the first stop sign you hit the brakes, the car slowed down but did not stop as it should and drifted out into the intersection. You then returned to the car lot and explained what happened, they checked it out and discovered that the wrong brakes were installed at the factory. They agreed to correct the mistake. This time when you drove away and approached the stop sign the car stopped as it was supposed to, and it also stopped at every other stop sign or red light. Once the defect was identified and corrected, the short coming went away.

I look at defects as the unseen part of our makeup such as: thoughts, motives, fears, feelings, ego, and so on. I look at shortcomings as the results of those inner thoughts and feelings such as: gossip, lying, verbal abuse, cheating, theft, criticism, and so on. In step four we identified our defects of character (fear and Insecurity) and in step five we owned and exposed them. In Step Six and Seven we start to replace our selfish and shameful thoughts and motives with unselfish habits and deeds. There's no need to overcomplicate the process.

As we begin to stay on the unselfish side of the behavioral ledger, we begin to establish a new track record and if all our motives are of an unselfish spirit, we start to establish some credibility, which, in time, leads to integrity. If individuals employ the dynamics, I described in Step Six and Seven, he/she will be a different person, in Spirit, when they reach the ninth step and it will make it much easier to make amends backed up by a mountain of integrity.

The steps of the program are numbered in order, for a reason and if a person is struggling with one of these steps it might be wise to backup and be sure that they didn't skimp on an earlier step or leave out something important. If an Alcoholic has a desire to live a happy and useful life, the steps of the program are a pathway to achieve that goal provided they stick with the plan. Not everything will go our way in the beginning but, if we persist, in time things will go exceptionally well. In the words of Preacher Roe: "Sometimes you eat the Bear, Sometimes the Bear eats you". I say, "Perseverance will always eat the Bear"!

**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

July 2020

Keystone Jul 5-11

Half Past Five July 12-18

South Shreveport July 19-25

Friday Night Live July 26- Aug 1

***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!

Greetings to all A.A. groups of District 1, Area 27! As your District Committee Members (DCMs), please let us introduce ourselves: Donna M. and Mary M. We are here to serve you. "The strength of our whole A.A. Service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance." - Bill W.

We have a common bond and that is to help each other recover from alcohol. Without communication that would not be possible. One way of maintaining communication with A.A. as a whole is to make sure your group is heard. Your group's GSR is a vital link for sharing the experience and opinions from your group. Please have your GSR attend our District Committee meeting where they will meet other GSRs in our district.

If your group is not registered, please register. If you are a non-registered GSR, please register so you can receive your free packet full of helpful information.

As DCMs, Mary and I act as officers for this committee and represent the whole district One at the state level at the Area Assembly. Your elected GSR can attend the Area Assembly also and vote on important issues in AA for our state. The Area Delegate then takes the group conscience from the GSRs, DCMs and Committee Officers from our Area to the General Service Conference where the decisions are made for AA throughout the world. We each are an important link for keeping an open line of communication. In the meantime, be on the lookout because we are making our way to your group!

Also, please feel free to invite us to your business meetings!

Yours in Service,

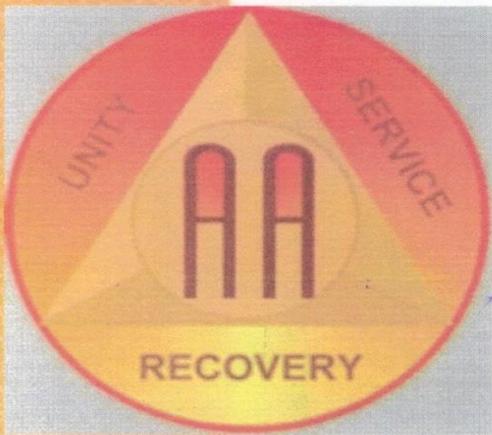
Donna M., District Committee Member (DCM), District 1

318.229.1474 (CELL), donnamelancon@ymail.com

Mary M., District Committee Member (DCM), District 1

318.626.5054 (LANDLINE), marym1996@earthlink.net

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.



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



SERVICE!!!

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

WHEN: The 3rd
TUESDAY of every
month
at 6:30 p.m.

SERVICE!!!

SERVICE!!!

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

STEP SEVEN: *“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”*

Reprinted from AA Big Book, page 59

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)

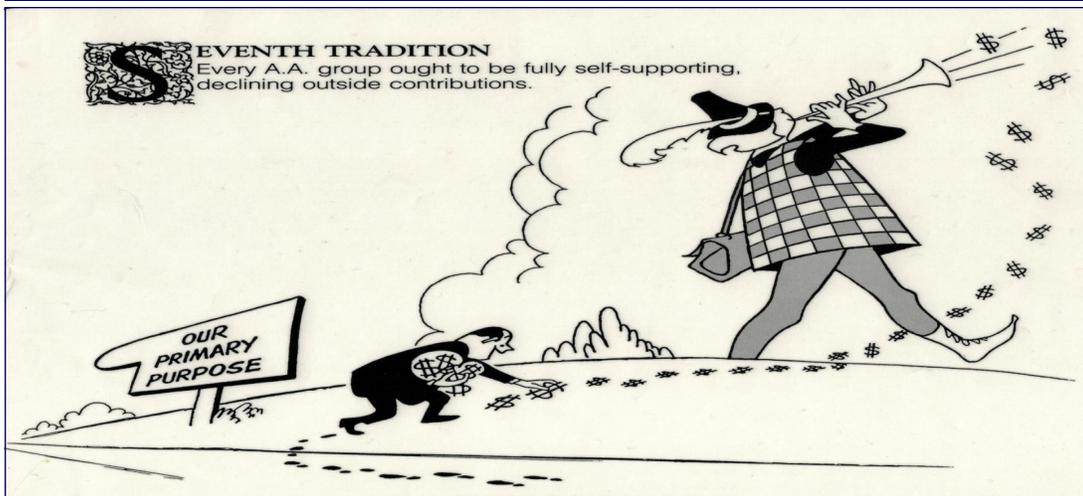
The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other 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
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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?



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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. purse for its effectiveness.”*

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

May 2021 \$1,118.69

May 2021 Personal Donations...\$129.55

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions May 2021...\$356.00**

COI Meeting...\$15.00

That My Soul May Soar...\$151.00

Keystone...\$20.00

Twin City...\$10.00

Sobriety 101...\$40.00

White Dive...\$90.00

Take it Easy...\$30.00

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.

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

THE TULANE GROUP
JULY SPEAKERS

JULY

06

HUGE H.

TERRESA R.

13

JULY

JULY

20

Tommy L.

Jon H.

27

JULY

7:30PM
@THE HIGHLAND CLUB

74th Tyler AA Anniversary



July 16-18, 2021

“Life Will Take On New Meaning”

Join us in celebrating seventy-four years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Tyler with speakers, workshops, raffles, food, fun and fellowship!

—NEW LOCATION—

University of Texas Patriot Center
3900 University Blvd., Tyler, TX

(UT Campus is a tobacco free property)

Pre-register for a chance to win a set of speaker CDs!

Host Hotel Information:

Homewood Suites by Hilton
3104 Golden Rd., Tyler, TX
(903) 593-7880

Ask for AA Convention Rate

Follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/TylerAAanniversary](https://www.facebook.com/TylerAAanniversary)

For more information, contact:

Ricky R. (903) 721-0523

Zane McD. (903) 721-3600

aatyleranniversary@gmail.com

Pre-register Online at:

tyleranniversary.com

Friday July 16th

5:00 pm: Registration
6:15 pm: Meet the Speakers
7:45 pm: RAFFLE!
8:00 pm: AA Speaker-
Earl C.- Austin, TX
9:30 pm: Friday Night Social

Saturday July 17th

8:00 am: Coffee and Donuts
9:00 am: AA Speaker-
Bill L.- Fairfield, TX
10:30 am: Finance, Romance and
Circumstances-Chip B. & Angie B.-
Destin, FL
12:00 pm: Lunch Break
1:30 pm: Al-Anon Speaker-
Jenny P. -Eureka Springs, AR
3:00 pm: The Steps We Took-
Adam T.-Santa Monica, CA
4:30 pm: AA Speaker-
Deb H.- Akron, OH
6:00 pm: Bar-B-Que Dinner
7:30 pm: RAFFLE!
7:45 pm: Sobriety Countdown
8:00 pm: AA Speaker-
Adam T.-Santa Monica, CA
9:30 pm: Ice Cream Social & Music by
Clói Crider

Sunday July 18th

8 am @ Lake Street
(1034 E. Lake Street, Tyler TX)
8:00 am: Potluck Breakfast
Hosted by Al-Anon
9:00 am: Al-Anon Speaker-
Angie B.-Destin FL
10:30 am: AA Speaker-
Chip B.-Destin, FL
11:30 am: Close of the 74th Annual
Tyler Anniversary

Raffles – Great Prizes!

JV Audio - Speaker CD's available!
Tyler AA Central Service Booth
Al-Anon Booth On-Site
Northeast Texas Area Archives
Al-Anon Archives and more!

52nd Big Deep South Convention

A VISION FOR YOU

VIRTUALLY

August 14, 2021

****SCHEDULE****

9:00 am Setup/opening
9:15 am mediation
9:45 am Kelley B.—St. Petersburg, FL (AA)
11:00 am Break/ setup
11:15 am Peter M.— Boca Raton, FL (AA)
12:30 pm Lunch break
1:15 pm Juanita U.—Santa Fe, N.M. (Al-Anon)
2:30 pm break/setup
2:45 pm Jeremy W. — Metairie, LA (AA)
4:00 pm Break
4:15 pm Ralph W. — Los Angeles, CA (AA)
5:30 pm Raffle winner announced/close
** CDT
AA Jeopardy following the closing

ZOOM ID: 598 495 7934
Password: service

50/50 Raffle

T-Shirts & Tumblers are available through the
Big Deep South Convention website:

WWW.BIGDEEPSOUTH.ORG

Sizes small, medium, large and extra large \$15.00 1X, 2X and 3X
\$20.00 Tumblers: \$10.00

The Big Deep South Committee is disappointed that we are unable to
host an in-person convention again this year.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the 2022 convention.

In the meantime please join us for our first
(and only we hope) virtual convention.

In lieu of registration fees, please make a contributions via:
VENMO—@BDS_Convention

For more information available at: our Facebook page "Big Deep South Convention"

Our webpage: www.bigdeepsouth.org

62nd International Conference
of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

ICYPAA

NEW ORLEANS

August 26-29, 2021 | The Hyatt Regency



Volunteers Needed!
Make a difference. Get involved.
BE OF SERVICE.

Contact volunteer@icyghost.com

Pre-registration \$30



Scan here to register!
Or go to

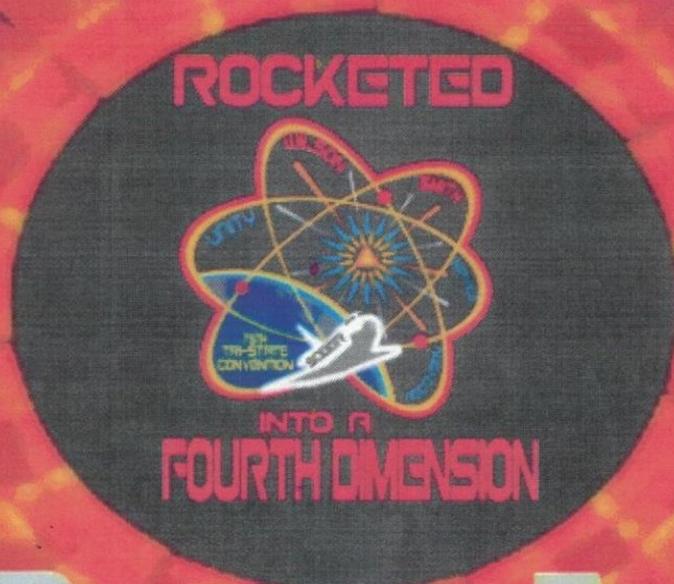
www.ICYPAA.ORG/Registration

Scan here to book
your room now!



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 DEMINSION

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

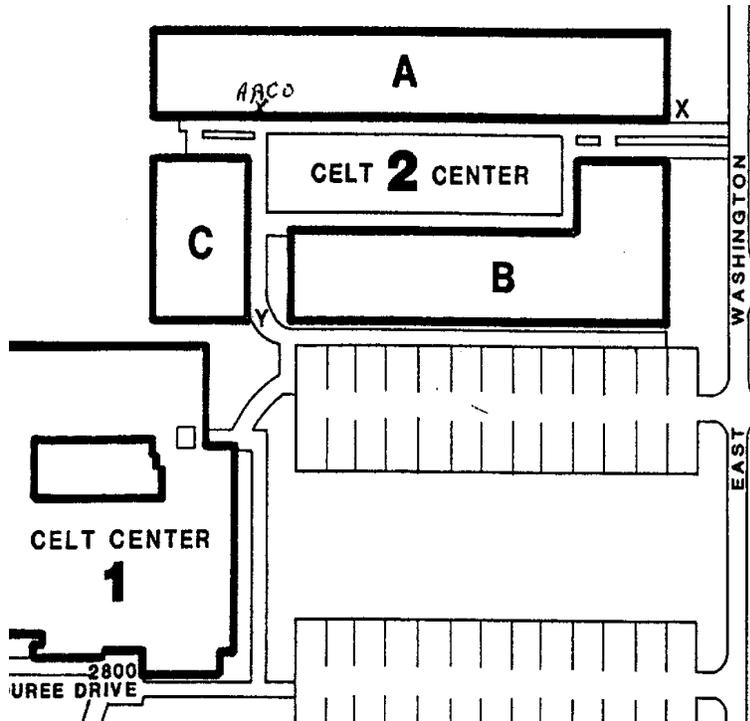
7:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE
8:30AM PANEL-RELATIONSHIPS IN SOBRIETY
10:00AM AA SPEAKER
11:30AM CONVENTION CLOSES
12:00PM POST CONVENTION LUNCHEON
AT CLUBS

PRE-REGISTRATION RECIVED 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 _____	RECIVED BY _____
REGISTRATION AT \$20 EACH _____	TRI-STATE CONVENTION
DONTATION \$ _____	AA CENTRAL OFFICE
TOTALS \$ _____	2800 YOUREE DRIVE STE.362 A
MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:	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**

