



Those Friends Thou Hast

Friends and Acquaintances

By Rick R.

Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, Grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel.

(William Shakespeare)

Every so often at an Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) meeting I hear a newcomer share that most of his old friends stopped coming around and that he thought that he was losing them. Sometimes this may be distressful and may cause a person to question whether the sacrifice is worth the loss of those old acquaintances.

Sometimes the word friend is misunderstood. We often refer to people we are associated with as friends. Others will say that you can count on one hand the true friends you will have in a lifetime. So where do these associates/acquaintances come in?

I played golf for about 35 years and had many so-called golfer friends but when the round of golf was over, we put our clubs in the car and went our separate ways. Fishing was the same. When we finished fishing, we put the rods and tackle box in the car and went home.

With these acquaintances, the common denominator was the golf or the fishing. That is what bound us to each other. I quit playing golf about 15 years ago and when the common denominator was gone, I did not continue to go to the golf course to hang out with them. I seldom saw my old golfing friends except in passing where we exchanged pleasantries and again were on our separate ways.

Most of the, so called, friends I had before I got sober had only one thing in common with me and that was the drinking. Unlike the golf and the fishing, we could drink 24 hours a day if we wanted to. We did not need a boat or even a set of clubs to associate with each other. The bottle was all that was necessary and without it we had little in common. When the common denominator was gone, trying to hang out with them became awkward for them and for me. I had to accept the reality and let them be. If we have anything else in common, we will know it and share that association with each other, but that was seldom the case except for family members or work associates.

We, in A.A. are fortunate indeed for we have a common denominator that has been likened to the survivors on a sinking ship, in a lifeboat, caring for each other. We associate at such a deep and intimate level that we develop true friendships that the average person seldom is exposed to. Understanding this can be a great comfort to those new members who may need to be prepared to move on with their lives.

If that new member is fortunate enough to adopt the A.A. program for the long haul, he may become the true friend that those old acquaintances in the bar room may need should they become a troubled alcoholic seeking help themselves. I cannot tell you how many true friends I have developed in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, but *I have been grappling them unto my soul* for over 50 years now. Thank you for the advice Mr. Shakespeare.

**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
June 2020

Lunch June 7-13

Five-Thirty June 14-20

On the Way Home June 21-27

Maverick June 28-July 4

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 6: *“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”*

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 63
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TRADITION SIX: *“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”*

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 155
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Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

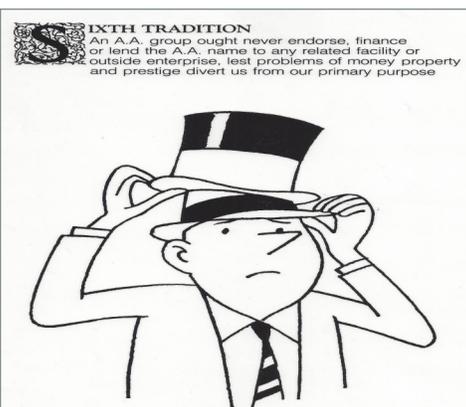
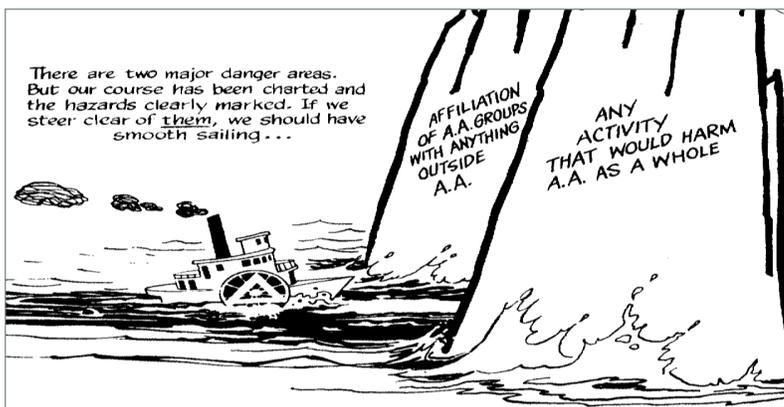
Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A. such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But for hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

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

Tradition Six:

An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with “Guidelines on Clubs,” which is available free from GSO?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor’s advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?



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permission of A.A.
World Services

CONCEPT SIX: *“On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”*

Twelve Concepts for World Services, pg. 26 Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services

The Wilmington Preamble (pre-1947)

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves. We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment with which we are familiar, permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A. A.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover.

An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A. A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form. The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it.

We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity, but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set our tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation.

I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment. We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit. In fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A. A. Big Book.

If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought one. Read it, study it, live with it, loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be an A.A.

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

April 2021 \$290.48

April 2021 Personal Donations...\$159.50

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Awakenings...\$148.50 | Margaret Place...\$175.00 |
| Basic Training...\$93.00 | On the Way Home...\$250.17 |
| Blanchard...\$82.12 | Personal Recovery...\$123.00 |
| COI Meeting...\$21.00 | Sobriety 101...\$25.20 |
| Grace...\$123.00 | Twin City...\$10.00 |
| Keystone...\$38.00 | Ya Ya...\$129.00 |
| LUCUSU...\$100.00 | |

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.

7350 Jefferson Hwy., Suite 485-179

Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (10%)

The General Service Office

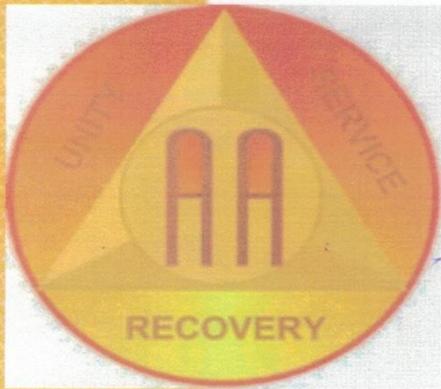
P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station,

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 it's 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.

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

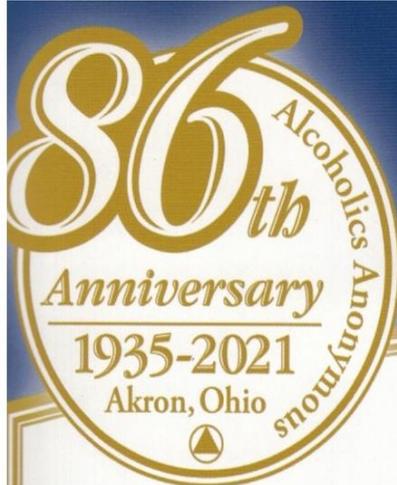
**SPEAKER AT 5:00PM
BILL ROSE-JULY 18,1988**

**THE SERENITY CLUB
1506 ABBIE ST, SHREVEPORT, LA 71103**

CALL 318-865-2172

FOR MORE INFO

SEPERATE REGISTRATION THE BBQ COOKOFF REQUIRED



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

MINDEN GROUP

Speaker Meeting

JUNE 19, 2021

ALPHA HOUSE
801 Goodwill Street, Minden 71055

Dinner 7:00pm

Cotton's "*Famous*" Fried Chicken w/ Sides

Potluck Desserts

Speaker 8:00pm

Buddy H.

47 YEARS!!!!
From South Boston, MA
Via Monroe, LA

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

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 Cloi 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!

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

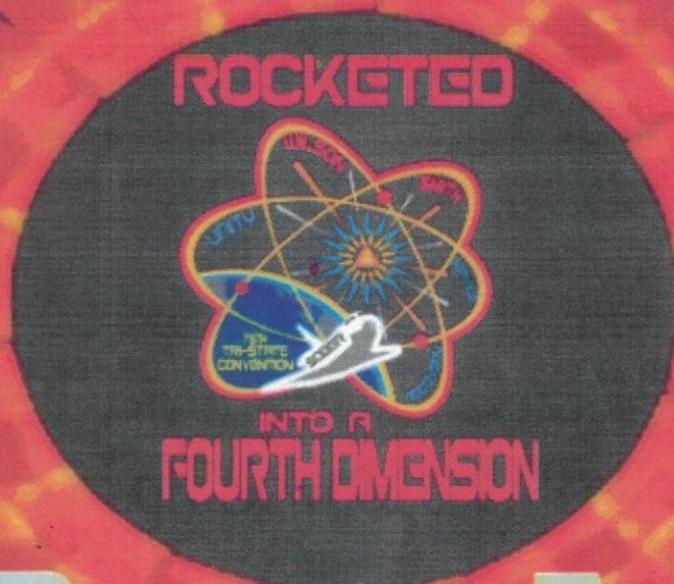


Scan here to book
your room now!



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
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

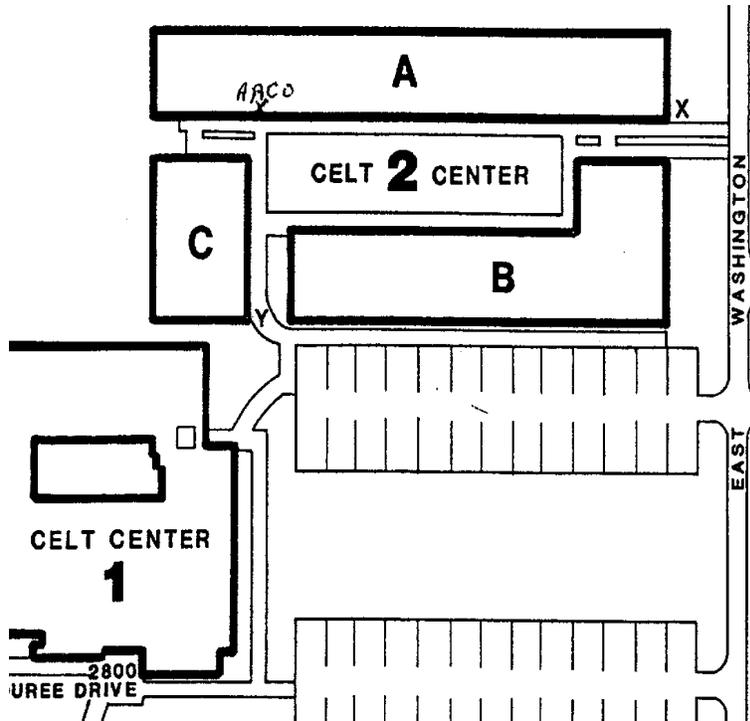
7:30AM FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE
8:30AM PANEL-RELATIONSHIPS IN SOBRIETY
10:00AM AA SPEAKER
11:30AM CONVENTION CLOSES
12:00PM POST CONVENTION LUNCHEON
AT CLUBS

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 \$ _____ TRI-STATE CONVENTION
TOTALS \$ _____ AA CENTRAL OFFICE
MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO: 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**

