



Step Three: God as He May Express Himself

God of Our Own Understanding
By Rick R.

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) came into existence in 1935 when much of our society was centered around the churches in the communities where we lived. As a child in my hometown, on Sunday morning I could look out the window and see a vast majority of my neighbors walking to church. That was the way it was in the early 1940's.

The book, Alcoholics Anonymous was published in 1939, and it was highly influenced by many early members of the program at that time. A.A. could have, very easily become a religious program, but fortunately, the elders of that time realized, by the mistakes of the Oxford Group, and the Washingtonians, that they had to make it clear that, *a desire to stop drinking was the only requirement for membership*, and that the individual members could choose their own concept of a power greater than themselves, i.e. God as we understand him.

In Tradition Two it says, "As He may express Himself in our group conscience" When the word God is used in the remainder of the book, it is not always followed by the "as we understand him" qualifier, and I believe that many members get the idea that somehow, they are trying to push religion on them. That is understandable. When I was faced with that possibility, I personally found it easy enough to read the black part of the pages in the book and to not let myself become distracted by what I now recognized as a cultural norm at the time.

I had no problem setting aside my religious bias and recognizing the parts of the Big Book and the 12&12 that clearly state all the options available when it comes to finding a "Power Greater Than Myself", and I can name 3 right off top. 1) Alcohol itself was my higher power for a long time and still would be if had not gotten into the program. 2) My EGO ran my life for quite a while until I got serious about Real life Issues. 3) The A.A. program itself. I found myself spiritually lost when I entered the program and when faced with the need to come to terms with the Higher Power issue, I now realize why it took so long to settle this subject. Years of drinking and an underdeveloped thinking process it was hard to get up to speed right away.

As I got more familiar with the Big Book, and the 12&12, I started to uncover all the evidence that debunked the idea that I had to conform to any religious doctrine. In the 12&12 I read on page 26, "*alcoholics anonymous does not demand that you to believe anything.*" On belief, "*to acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could.*" (Pg.27) Also on page 26 where it states, "Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think... A one-time vice-president of the American Atheist Society ... got through with room to spare" Then on page 33 of the 12&12 it says "Therefore, Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this step."

Today I am comfortable with my own concept of a Higher Power, and I use the word God only to put a name on a concept that has no physical form, and I might say that it expresses itself in *the collective conscience of the world we live in*. I can assure you that if you read these qualifiers and practice the rest of the principals of the program, as enthusiastically as you can, you will come to terms with a personal concept of a higher power as well as any of us.

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

March 2022

Margaret Place Feb 28– March 6

Personal Recovery March 7-13

5:30 Highland March 14-20

Fairfield March 21-27

No Guarantee March 28-April 3

*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 3: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 34
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TRADITION THREE: “ The only requirement for A.A. membership is the desire to stop drinking.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 139
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THIRD TRADITION

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.



Based on a series of drawings in the A.A. Grapevine. © Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.



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permission of A.A.
World Services

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

CONCEPT THREE: “As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Twelve Concepts for World Services, pg.13
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"Recovery is something like the restoration of a very old painting, covered over by layers and layers of darkening, distorted varnish ... Not all of the underlying pattern can be revealed at one time. What is uncovered, bit by bit and layer by slow, careful layer, are the things which are necessary and appropriate for me to know about myself right now."

"An Indescribable Benevolence," Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, August 1992, Step By

"Drinking is no longer a problem, but my thinking sure is. Writing a gratitude list puts the brakes on negative thoughts, turns me back toward the light, and helps me to see the beauty in everyday life."

"Tools for Life," New York, New York, January 2006, Beginner's Book: Getting and Staying

"If in order to get into AA we had had to meet any standards more rigid than the one given in the Third Tradition, who of us would be alive? Think of all the wonderful people, including the nonconformists, eccentrics, and kooks who make such valuable additions to our number, who would have been kept out of AA if we had any requirement for membership other than a desire to get well."

Manhattan, N.Y., January 1970

"Tradition Three," The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 1

Central Office Intergroup *First Saturday* of month; generally even numbered months at **Highland Club**

odd numbered months at **Koala Club**

COI Steering Committee Meeting AND COI Meeting *First Tuesday* of month, 6:00pm Steering

Committee & 6:40pm COIs at **Central Office**, 2800 Youree Drive, Suite 362, Bldg A, Shreveport 71104

Treatment& Corrections Committee Meeting AND PI & CPC (*Public Information & Cooperation w/*

Professional Community) **Second Tuesday 6:00 pm** at **Central Office**

Tri State Convention *Second Sunday* of month, 2:00pm at **Central Office**

District 1—Area 27 *Third Tuesday* of month 6:30pm at the **Highland Club** District Committee Member:

Mary M., (318) 626-5054, MaryM1996@earthlink.net

Come join us and be a part of service!

Clip and save this information for future reference.

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.

**CENTRAL OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR
NEWLY ELECTED STEERING COMMITTEE**

Board of Directors 2022

Chairperson / Director: 1/2022

Kim Strahan, kkstrahan@gmail.com

Vice-Chairperson / Director: 01/2022

Ryan Carter, ryan.carterbsl@gmail.com

Treasurer/Director: 3/2020

Elaine Sample, esamplegayle@netzero.com

Secretary/Director: 1/2022

Greg Schaffer, gaggyschsch@gmail.com

Office Manager/Director: 3/2017

Lisa Mumfrey, lisamumfrey@gmail.com

Intergroup Committee: 5/2021

Ben Robbins, benzorobbins@gmail.com

Tri-State Convention: 1/2022

Randy Beechy, rango.beechy@gmail.com

Treatment and Correction: 1/2022

Robin Foster, robinfoster73@icloud.com

Public Information/CPC: 1/2022

Margaret Texada, mookieecswas@gmail.com

Thanks to all the **Central Office Backers** contributions for the month of **January 2022**. 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.

January 2022...\$1,517.92

January 2022 Personal Donations...\$284.82

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions January 2022 ...\$977.35**

COI Meeting...\$15.00

Saturday Night Live...\$40.00

Keystone...\$21.00

Twin City...\$10.00

Minden...\$500.00

Winners...\$386.00

Sobriety 101...\$5.35

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."

Addresses for Group Contributions for 2022:

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%)

General Service Office

P. O. Box 2407, James A. Farley Station,
New York, NY 10116-2407 (30%) **(NEW ADDRESS)**

***(Percentages are suggested based on support of four service entities)
(Use your group conscience)***

Tulane **TUESDAY**
SPEAKER *Meetings*



March 2022

March 1 **Eric S.**

March 8 **Bruce C.**

March 15 **Christine Z.**

March 22 **Coleman R.**

March 29 **Tiffany W.**

7:30pm

Highland Club

1700 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport 71103





**CENTRAL OFFICE
& STEERING COMMITTEE**
HOSTS

MARCH 5th INTERGROUP

At the **KOALA CLUB**
4809 Shed Rd., Bossier City 71111

Guest Speaker: Tri State Chair

Randy B.

Dinner: **Chicken & Dumplings**

Dinner @ 6:00 pm

Speaker @ 7:00 pm

Please bring deserts to share
50/50 Raffle





28th Annual UPSTATE A.A. CONVENTION

March 17-20, 2022
Celebrating over 60 years of AA in Ruston

Gratitude in Action



Voice: Samantha C.
www.rustonaa.org

Thursday- March 17th

- 5:00 p.m. Registration Begins at Gratitude House
- 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Meal
- 8:00 p.m. Kick Off Meeting at Gratitude House
AA Speaker: Samantha C. - Monroe, LA

Friday- March 18th

- 4:00 p.m. Registration at the Civic Center
- 8:00 p.m. A.A. Speaker: Irving D. - Slidell, LA
Host: Bubba D.

Saturday- March 19th

- 10:00 a.m. A.A. Speaker: Kathleen F. - Mandeville, LA
- 1:30 p.m. Al-Anon Speaker: Shirley R. - Arkansas
Host: TBD
- 6:00 p.m. BBQ Banquet-(Donations Suggested)
- 8:00 p.m. A.A. Speaker: Ralph W. - California
Host: Travis C.

Sunday- March 20th

- 10:00 a.m. A.A. Speaker - Jimmy G. - West Monroe, LA
Host: Jesse

Tapes by James (Jamestapes@aol.com)
(985) 640-5552

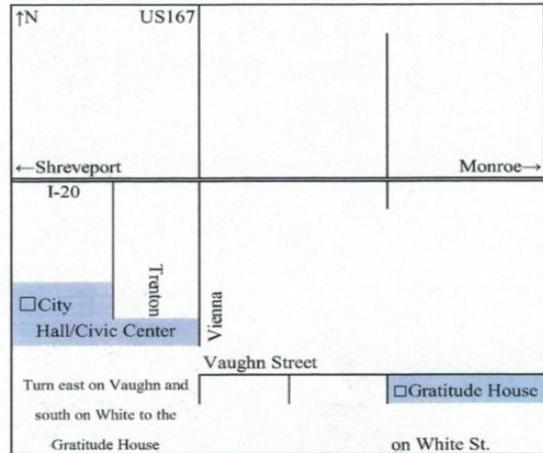
Convention Chairperson

Gil B.
(318) 245-0799

ACCOMODATIONS

Hampton Inn by Hilton
1315 North Trenton
RUSTON, LA 71270
318-251-3090
\$99.00
Book by 3/2/22 using link below or call number above
<https://group.hamptoninn.com/3s9jgr>

Civic Center	401 N. Trenton
Gratitude House	1501 White Street



The convention Hospitality Room will open Friday at 4:00 p.m. and close during each meeting

Registration:	\$25.00 each	***PLEASE wear badges at ALL times***
<u>Name- Print Clearly</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	AA Al-Anon Alateen
		□ □ □
		□ □ □
		□ □ □
Checks payable to: Ruston AA Convention		Total Enclosed \$ _____
Mailing address: P.O. Box 505 Ruston, LA 71273-0505		

Preregister to be put in a drawing for \$50 cash

Tri-State Presents the Annual

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Speaker at 10:00Am

JOHN J. 8-31-82

Rocketed into a Fourth Dimension!

Tickets \$10.00

See a Committee Member
to purchase

Breakfast Served at 8:30Am
Saturday, March 26th, 2022

Highland Club
1711 Tulne Ave
Shreveport LA, 71103

For more information
office@aa-shreveport.org

You are invited to attend the 45th annual
"Springtime in the Ozarks"



APRIL 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2022

**Inn of the Ozarks
 Eureka Springs, Arkansas**

"...spiritual principles would solve all my problems..."

**Dance &
 Bingo
 Friday &
 Saturday
 Night**



**Area 4
 Archives
 All
 Weekend**



Speakers:

- Thursday 8:00 pm:** Convention Center – Butch B., Eureka Springs, AR
- Friday 9:00 am:** Convention Center "Big Book Study"
 Bob D., Las Vegas, NV & Mari G., Markham, ON, Canada
- Friday 8:00 pm:** Convention Center – Peter M., Boca Raton, FL
- Friday 8:00 pm:** City Auditorium – Stacy G., San Antonio, TX
- Saturday 9:00 am:** Convention Center – Al-Anon Family Groups
 Angie B., Destin, FL
- Saturday 10:30 am:** Convention Center – Scott F., Levittown, PA
- Saturday 1:00 pm:** Convention Center – David M., Archives Workshop
- Saturday 8:00 pm:** Convention Center – Harold L., Hillsboro, MO
- Saturday 8:00 pm:** City Auditorium – Misoon W., Sarasota, FL
- Sunday 9:30 am:** Convention Center – Chip B., Destin, FL

**Ice Cream Social
 After
 Thursday
 "Early Bird"
 Speaker**



**BIG
 BOOK
 Study
 Friday**



REGISTER ONLINE at www.springtimeintheozarks.com

Or use Registration Coupon below:

**PRE-REGISTRATION
 MUST BE RECEIVED
 NO LATER THAN
 APRIL 1ST**

**PRE-REGISTRATION
 IS \$22.00**

**ALL REGISTRATIONS
 AT THE DOOR
 ARE \$27.00**

**ALATEENS ARE
 FREE**

**EVERYONE MUST
 WEAR A BADGE**

**Committee Treasurer
 Jason C.
 864.653.0578**

BADGE INFORMATION (ALL BADGES WILL BE FIRST NAME, LAST INITIAL, CITY AND STATE ONLY)							
First Name	Last Initial	City	State	AA	Al-Anon teen	\$ Amount	
Ice Cream Social Thursday, 9pm - \$6.00 per person							X \$6.00
Donation to the Convention - Includes Scholarships							
Total Amount							
BADGES WILL BE HELD UNDER:							
Name _____							
Address _____							
City _____		State _____		Zip _____			
Email _____				Phone _____			
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR LODGING AND PARKING INFORMATION							

Make Checks Payable to:
**Springtime in
 The Ozarks**
 P.O. Box 2577
 Rogers, AR 72757

For Lodging Information Contact:
 Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce
 Website: eukaspringschamber.com
 Phone: 800-638-7352

Eureka Springs Transit System
 Website: eurekatrolley.org
 Phone: 479-253-9572

Handicapped Parking Area Will Be Available (on a limited basis).

Serenity Weekend Campout

April 22-24, 2022

Lake O' the Pines
Johnson Creek Group Campground

Friday, April 22nd

3:30p—Registration
6:00p—Supper
7:30p—Newcomer
8:00p—Speaker-Chris S.
(Clean Air Group, Longview, TX)
9:30p—Campfire

Saturday, April 23rd

8:30a—Breakfast
10:00a—Newcomer Meeting
12:00p—Lunch
1:00p—Committee Meeting
2:30-3:30p—Alanon—Nicole C.
4:00p—Old Timers Meeting
5:30p—Supper
7:15p—Raffle
8:00p—Speaker (TBD)

Sunday, April 24th

8:30a—Breakfast
10:00a—Gratitude Meeting
11:00a—Pack and Cleanup



Registration \$10.00

RV Hookups \$12.00

Camp (tent) \$7.00

Bullfrog Marina- 903.755.2725

Motel Among the Pines—Reservations—
903.755.2525



For More Information Contact

Chuck C. 318.347.5717



Please bring a dessert!

Beavers Bend Round Robin

April 22 - 24 , 2022

Crystal Forest Wedding & Event Venue – 263 Crooked Oaks Broken Bow, OK

Friday

11:00 Committee Meeting
12:00 **Registration Opens - \$50 (Includes Meals)**

2:30 AA Meeting
4:00 Old Timers Call Up Meeting
5:00 Dinner
6:30 Al-Anon Open Meeting
8:00 AA Speaker – **Boyce R. - New Boston TX**
10:00 Campfire Meeting



Limited Lodging Provided in Cabins
Tent Camping & RV Spaces.
Additional Discount Lodging at
Charles Wesley Motor Lodge.
580-584-3303

Saturday

7:30 Breakfast
9:00 Newcomers Call Up Meeting
10:15 Committee Meeting
12:00 Lunch
1:15 Mens Meeting
Womens Meeting
Al-Anon Meeting
Alateen Meeting
2:30 Alanon Speaker Meeting– **TBA**
4:00 Dessert Auction
5:00 Dinner
5:30 Sobriety Countdown
6:00 AA Speaker – **Maja S. - Henderson TX**
8:00 Raffle
9:00 Dance / Karaoke
11:00 Campfire Meeting



\$50 Registration includes meals &
lodging for weekend.
\$25 for Saturday Only – No Overnight

Sunday

7:00 Breakfast
8:00 AA Speaker – **Mike F. – Karnack TX**
9:00 Drawing for Newcomer Prize
10:00 Hugs & Kisses

Contact : Mary S. - 903-824-1973

Amanda P. - 205-765-4383

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP!

Join our Facebook Group: Beavers Bend Round Robin

*Arkansas State AA Convention
 Oldest AA Convention West of the Mississippi*

82nd "Old Grandad"

July 29th - 31st, 2022

*Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa
 Hot Springs, Arkansas*

Please contact the hotel directly for room reservations at 501-623-7771.
 Mention the Old Grandad Convention to obtain the discounted room rate.

Hospitality Room

Sight Seeing

Archives

Dancing

The Voice
 Steve H. and Rebecca M.
 Little Rock, AR

"We Don't Struggle"

Friday
 2:00 pm Registration opens
 7:30 pm Matt C. Nashville, TN

Saturday
 9:00 am Gay N. San Antonio, TX
 11:00 am Michele G. (AFG) Charleston, WV
 2:00 pm Bill R. Stuttgart, AR
 3:30 pm AA Open Discussion Meeting (Ballroom)
 7:30 pm Pat Y. Palm Desert, CA

Sunday
 8:00 am Mark B. - Meet the Delegate (Hospitality Room)
 8:00 am Alanon Discussion Meeting (Ballroom)
 9:30 am Terry E. New Orleans, LA

For more information contact us at convention@arkansasaa.org OR call / text (501) 314-9956

Registration also available online at www.oldgrandadconvention.com



\$25 PRE-REGISTRATION IF RECEIVED BEFORE JULY 15, 2022.

\$30 AT THE DOOR OR IF REGISTRATION RECEIVED AFTER JULY 15th

First Name and Last Initial on Badge	Home Group	AA	Al-Anon	Alateen	Other	Amount

All Registrations will be held in the name of: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Help Another With a Scholarship _____

Total Amount Due _____

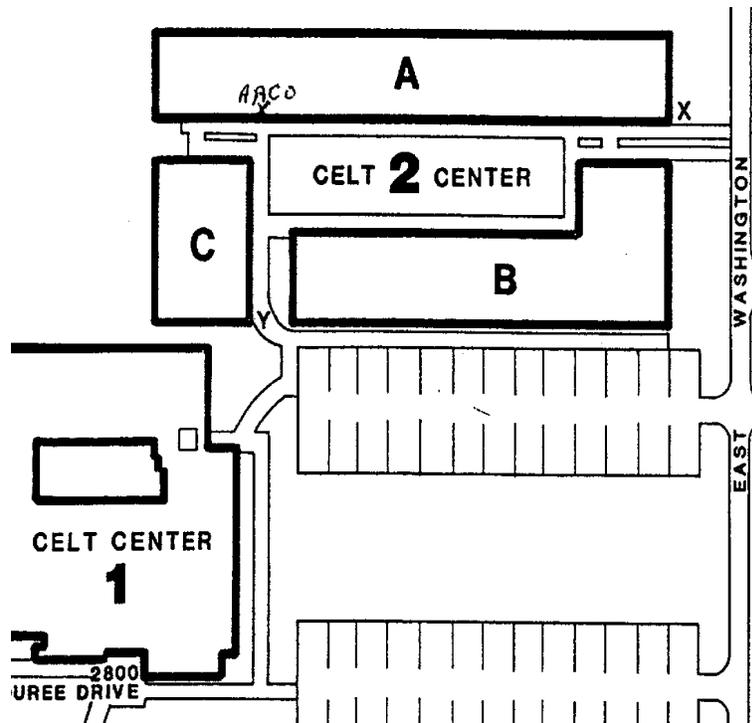
Mail Registrations with all checks payable to:

CONVENTION TREASURER
 P.O. Box 5311
 Bella Vista, AR 72714

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**

aa-shreveport.org