

Mr. Grouch

C. B. | VALLEY STATION, KENTUCKY

The celebration of my second AA birthday didn't seem quite as joyous as I had anticipated it would be. In a dark corner of my mind something kept nagging at me that it could have been better. True, I had gone through that year without drinking. I had attended a lot of meetings. My circle of friends had grown considerably. The pleasures of watching other alcoholics grow into sober human beings were real. I had made a few talks and I had been trying to work with others. But looking back I know I was running scared. Serenity just wasn't there. Sometimes it was hard to maintain a pleasant attitude. Yet I was proud of the fact that one of my pigeons had told me I made him feel comfortable because I was always the same. Even he had quit calling as often and I found myself worrying about him.

One evening after a meeting I was talking to a lady everyone admires and I confessed to her that I no longer had a sponsor--that I used everyone for a sponsor. Still I knew in my heart that I needed a sponsor and that even though I was attending meetings and "going through the motions," I wasn't really working my program.

Her suggestion was that I start praying. "Just ask God to help you find the right sponsor for you," she said. And I started doing that. I found myself trying to control God in doing this, however. I weighed each candidate very carefully. This person had to be just right. And everyone I considered failed the test. Probably I was looking for someone to pat me on the back and tell me I was doing well. Then the serenity would come and I would be okay. The considerations and rejections continued in my mind.

At some of the meetings I attend there are people who arrive early so they can socialize before the meeting since they must leave soon afterward for work. I had started going early so I could talk with these people, and I had expressed some of my concerns to them.

One evening one of my friends looked me right in the eye while he said to another man whom I had never really liked, "This guy needs a temporary sponsor. Why don't you take him on?" His reply was, "He hasn't asked me."

**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

April 2023

Basic Training April 3-9

Primary Purpose April 10-16

Shreveport Young People

April 17-23

Southfield April 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!

It seemed terribly quiet to me. I didn't really want this guy for a sponsor. He was big and grouchy and gruff and loud and he knew too much about AA. He made me uncomfortable. It just seemed like every time he looked at me he was looking right down inside me and I didn't like it at all.

The silence continued and I felt my color rise. Finally out of sheer desperation I blurted out something like, "I thought you probably had all the pigeons you could handle." I really do not recall what his answer was, but the deal was sealed. Mr. Grouch called me over to a corner and started asking me questions. "Do you read your Big Book? Have you taken your Fourth and Filth Steps?" I didn't want to hear these things. The Fourth and Fifth Steps were really out of the question. I had taken my own inventory and burned it, but I didn't see how I could ever discuss it with anyone else.

However, I agreed that I would reread the fifth chapter in the Big Book. As the days went by, I read the sixth and seventh chapters also. And I read the Book of James in the Bible.

I confessed to my sponsor that I had been working on my Fourth Step and that in doing so I was having trouble sleeping. This continued for several nights. He told me that I should go ahead and complete it and that if I felt the need to take the Fifth Step with a clergyman rather than him that would be okay. He said he would be available if I needed him, but suggested that I not put it off any longer than necessary. We made tentative plans to meet on the following Tuesday. In my mind the Fifth Step had ballooned into gigantic proportions and I was scared spitless.

Early Monday morning the phone rang. I was eating breakfast and my sponsor said, "What are your plans for today?" Before I knew what had hit me, I was at his home and the coffee was on. The stage was set. I thought I would die.

For the first time in my life I tried to honestly tell all the most vile and despicable things I had ever done. And there were some moments that helped me see some of the good things about me, too.

This man that I had feared listened quietly, offering only small comments here and there. And I began to see him in a different light. He didn't throw me out of his house in disgust. He didn't judge me. I didn't cry. I didn't hyperventilate or vomit. I didn't get killed.

Suddenly I realized that I had gone through it all and I was made to realize that to err is human. We were sitting there quietly, talking and drinking coffee. He said that now, since I had worked those Steps, I could go on to others. I could start growing again.

That night I slept like a baby. I still feel good about myself. I know now why we are told to get a sponsor and home group, to read the Big Book, to attend a lot of meetings, and to stay away from the first drink.

In my heart I believe that God answered my prayers. He helped me find the right sponsor for me. He is doing for me the things I can't do for myself.

\$\$\$ Price Changes \$\$\$

Over the last year I'm sure ALL have experienced the increase for goods sold. It has now hit your Central Office. We have had to increase the price for the Tri-Color Medallions to \$20.00 but have been able to keep the price of aluminum chips (month chips) at \$.50, Gold Plated @ \$9.00, and Gold & Silver Plated @ \$12.00.

We have been experiencing increases from the majority of our vendors which has increased the prices of books and other miscellaneous items.

As of April 1st *A.A. World Services* will increase the cost of books and pamphlets by 20%-30%.

AAWS has not had a price increase since 2014.

We are forced to increase the prices of Big Books, 12 & 12, Daily Reflections, As Bill Sees It, Pass It On, Dr. Bob & the Good Oldtimers, AA Comes of Age. Grapevine Books increased their prices January 1, 2023.

We are doing our very best to keep our prices affordable and at the same time to be able to operate Central Office efficiently in order to

Help the Still Suffering Alcoholic!!!

Central Office Intergroup *First Saturday of month*

generally even numbered months at *Highland Club* and 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*,

Treatment & Corrections AND PI & CPC Committees Meeting

(Public Information & Cooperation and Professional Community) *Second Tuesday of month*

6:00 pm at *Central Office*

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

District 1—Area 27 Committee *Third Tuesday of month*

6:30pm at *The Highland Club* DCM *Thomas D.* (318) 286-9339, blaze71023@gmail.com

Come join us and be a part of service!

Clip and save this information for future reference.

STEP Four: “Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 42
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TRADITION FOUR: “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 1
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TRADITION FOUR Check List

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths — his lengths, not mine — to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?



FOURTH TRADITION

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.



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World Services

CONCEPT FOUR: “Throughout our conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”

Twelve Concepts for World Services, pg. 17
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Thanks to all the **Central Office Backers** contributions for the month of **February 2023**. 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.

February 2023...\$165.00

February 2023...Memorial...\$50.00

Thanks to all the **Group Contributions...February 2023...\$900.22**

Basic Training...\$203.87

Pink Butterflies...\$18.30

COI Meeting...\$18.00

T.I.E....\$25.00

Keystone...\$27.00

Twin City...\$10.00

Lunch Bunch...\$270.00

Other...\$328.05

February Intergroup: 426 Men's Group...\$493.00

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 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%)

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

Great Service Work Opportunity

Treatment & Corrections Committee

***Are you ready, willing and able
to carry the message?***

Local area treatment centers need 10 minute leads for participation meetings and also those ready to share your story. Those in treatment need sponsors and to keep what we have, we need to give it away.

Please contact ***Kathryn Moore***

512-409-0881 via text and include your name, email address and sobriety date. All are welcome at our next committee meeting at Shreveport Central Office on ***Tuesday, March 14 @ 6:00pm***

P.S.

Years ago, it was customary to donate a dollar per year of sobriety on AA anniversaries. That donation was given to the Group treasurer for books and pamphlets to be given to newcomers and those in treatment centers and jails.

On your next AA anniversary please consider donating a dollar for each year you are celebrating sobriety to contribute to carrying the message to facilities and jails which are given books and pamphlets by Central Office through Treatment & Corrections Committee.

Many Thanks,
Kathryn Moore

76th Annual Tri-State NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023

76th Annual Tri-State Convention Planning Committee



*If you would like to participate please come to the A.A. Central
Office on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 2:00 P.M.*

WE HAVE SEVERAL CHAIR POSITIONS CURRENTLY NEEDING FILLED.



DISTRICT 1 AREA 27

MEETING

3rd Tuesday of every month

Starting January 17, 2023

AT THE HIGHLAND CLUB

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

What is a GSR?

The General Service Representative has the job of linking his or her group with AA as a whole. The GSR represents the group at the district and area levels, bringing the groups' thought, news and problems to the District committee member and to the Delegate, who then passes them on to the conference. In return, the GSR brings back to the group the information and remedies that affect AA-unity, health, and growth. To the extent that a GSR keeps the group informed, then expresses the group conscience, only then can the Conference be assured it is acting for AA as a whole.

Ideally, all groups should make every effort possible to have an alternate GSR.

The GSR "...may be the most important job in AA. By choosing its most qualified man or woman as GSR, a group helps secure its own future - and the future of AA as a whole." -Bill W.

Tulane **TUESDAY** **SPEAKER** *Meetings*



April 2023

April 4 **Jo & Mike S.**

April 11 **Cameron W.**

April 18 **Ronda W.**

April 25 **Ryan R.**

7:30pm

Highland Club

1700 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport 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.

Basic Training Presents...

Intergroup Speaker Meeting

Food and Fellowship Featuring...

Maurice W.

SD 02/01/2013

Where: Highland Club

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

Time: Meal @ 6:00pm; Speaker @ 7:00pm

Menu: Baked Ziti and Salad

Bring A Dessert

50/50 Raffle

Basic Training meets at 7:00pm every Wednesday and Sunday at St. Luke's Methodist Church on Youree Drive. *Come Join Us!*



THE BRIDGE HOUSE

Saturday Night Speaker Meeting

SPEAKER: AMANDA B

**Saturday, April 15th
Fellowship @ 6:00PM
Speaker @ 7:00PM**

**426 Stoner Ave
Shreveport, LA 71101**

www.bridgehousehome.org





CHILI COOK-OFF

**\$20 TO
ENTER**

**FREE TO
TASTE**

**CHILI MUST
BE COOKED
OFFSITE**

APRIL 29TH, 2023

KOALA CLUB 1-5PM

EVENT DETAILS

**50/50 Raffle
Dessert Auction
Raffle Prizes**

**SPEAKERS:
3:30-5:00 PM**

**BILL H.
9/19/1998**

&

**GINA H.
4/17/2006**



District VI

Traditions 8 & 9 Workshop

Speaker Ken W.

from the Tulane Group out of Shreveport

Plus Crawfish Boil



shutterstock.com · 1823638229

April 29 Eleven to Two

Natchitoches City Park

Across from 220 Amulet St. Natchitoches, LA 71457

Suggested Donation \$10

For more information Call:

Ron G. 504 939 1454 Linda M. 702 371 4593

Brennan L 318 663 3538 Dianna A 318 505 2689

Beavers Bend Round Robin

April 28 - 30 , 2023

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

Friday

- 11:00 Committee Meeting
- 12:00 Registration Opens - \$50 for weekend
\$25 for Saturday Only**
- 2:30 AA Meeting
- 4:00 Old Timers Call Up Meeting
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:30 Al-Anon Open Meeting
- 8:00 AA Speaker – **Niki M. Conway AR**
- 10:00 Campfire Meeting



Limited Lodging Provided on Site
Discounted Rooms Available 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
 - Men's Meeting
 - Women's Meeting
 - Al-Anon Meeting
 - Alateen Meeting
- 2:30 Alanon Speaker Meeting-**Poppy K Gilmer TX**
- 4:00 Dessert Auction
- 5:00 Dinner
- 5:30 Sobriety Countdown
- 6:00 AA Speaker – **Ben R. Shreveport LA**
- 8:00 Raffle
- 9:00 Dance
- 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 – **Hunter A. – Texarkana,**
- 9:00 Drawing for Newcomer Prize
- 10:00 Hugs & Kisses

Contact : Amanda P. -205-765-4383

Mike D. – 903-826-7989

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP!

Join our Facebook Group: Beavers Bend Round Robin



WOMEN IN RECOVERY RETREAT

Scottsville Camp – Marshall, TX

Coming Home to Ourselves.
Coming Home to Love.
Led by Betsy Eaves

Open to women in any recovery program (AA, Al-Anon, OA, GA, ACA)

Sign-in Begins: Friday, May 5th at 4:00 pm

Retreat Ends: Sunday, May 7th at 10:30 am

Registration Deadline: April 24, 2023

Registration Fees as follows:

Single Room:	\$300
Double Room:	\$200 per person
Triple Room:	\$170 per person
Quad Room:	\$150 per person

****If you would like to share a room with 1 or more persons, you are responsible for finding you roommate(s). If you cannot find a roommate, you will be responsible for paying the Single Room rate.**

The full amount is due with your registration and includes a t-shirt.

REGISTRATION INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS LODGING, 5 MEALS, COFFEE & BOTTLED WATER.

Please bring any extra snacks you might want. Linens and towels are provided.

To REGISTER send full amount payable to: WOMEN'S RECOVERY RETREAT

Mail to: Gina Jenkins 604 Milbank Circle Shreveport, LA 71115

NO REFUNDS will be given, but you can transfer your registration to someone else.

Notify Gina J. if you want to make a change.

Financial assistance is available. Check here if applying _____.

If applying for a scholarship, return this form with a \$68 deposit.

I would like to donate to the Speaker/Supplies Fund in the amount of \$ _____.

I would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$ _____.

My check is attached.

NAME _____ SHIRT SIZE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Single _____ Double _____ Triple _____ Quad _____

Sharing Room With _____

For more info: Gina Jenkins -- gina@jenkins.construction or (cell) 318-518-0139.

MEN IN RECOVERY

SPRING RETREAT 2023

MAY 5-7th

"BACK TO BASICS"

led by John Hyatt

Registration Deadline: **April 13th**

Retreat Begins: **May 5th @ 4pm**

LODGING

Single Room - **\$170**

Double Room - **\$120 per person**

Dorm - **\$100 per person**

(Day Rate) - **\$50**

Rates include:

meals, snacks and coffee

TO REGISTER: \$50 Non-Refundable deposit made
payable to: **MEN IN RECOVERY**

Mail to: Robert Tucker 7131 Jefferson Paige Rd.
Shreveport, LA 71119

Cash App: \$2023mensretreat - include your name & phone
number

Name

Phone

Email

Sharing Room With

Contact for more info:

Robert Tucker 318-674-0899

Trenton B. 318-272-2020

Bobby M. 318-347-9009

Location: Camp Harris

2800 Harris Rd.

Minden, LA 71055

SERENITY WEEKEND CAMPOUT 2023



MAY 5-7, 2023

WHERE TO FIND US:
LAKE O' THE PINES
JOHNSON CREEK GROUP
CAMPGROUND
580 CRESTWOOD LP
AVINGER, TEXAS 75630

REGISTRATION: \$10.00

CAMP (TENTS) - \$7.00

RV HOOKUPS: \$12.00

MOTEL INFORMATION:

*BULLFROG MARINA

*MOTEL AMONG THE PINES

(PLEASE CALL TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AT

(903).755.2725)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CHUCK C.

318-347-5717

Friday, May 5th

3:30P - REGISTRATION OPENS

6:00P - SUPPER

7:00P - NEWCOMER MEETING

8:00P - T. REE S (37YRS)

(SHREVEPORT, LA)

9:30P - CAMPFIRE MEETING

Saturday May 6th

8:30A - BREAKFAST

10:00A - NEWCOMER MEETING

12:00P - LUNCH

1:00P - COMMITTEE MEETING

2:30- 3:30P - ALANON SPEAKER

(TBD)

4:00P - OLD TIMER MEETING

5:30P - SUPPER

7:15P - RAFFLE

8:00P - DUGAN F.

(WEATHERFORD, TX)

Sunday May 7th

8:30A - BREAKFAST

9:30A - GRATITUDE

MEETING

10:30A - PACK & CLEAN
UP

PLEASE BRING A DESSERT



LASCYPAA XXXVII

SHREVEPORT, LA JUN. 30 - JUL. 2



www.lascypaa.org

LASCYPAA XXXVII NEEDS YOUR HELP!

THE LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA IS BEING HELD IN SHREVEPORT, JUNE 30TH-JULY 2ND. FOR A VERY LIMITED TIME, REGISTRATION IS \$15. IT WILL JUMP TO \$20 BEGINNING APRIL 1ST.

PRE-REGISTRATIONS ARE WHAT ALLOWS US THE FUNDS TO MAKE THIS THE BEST CONFERENCE POSSIBLE TO HELP THE NEWCOMER ACHIEVE SOBRIETY, AND WITH JUST 2 MONTHS TO GO, WE NEED OUR AA COMMUNITY TO PRE-REGISTER AND HELP MAKE THIS STATEWIDE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

THERE WILL BE AMAZING SPEAKERS AND PANELS THE ENTIRE WEEKEND. YOU CAN GO TO [HTTPS://LASCYPAA.ORG/](https://lascypaa.org/) AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT! AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE YOU WILL FIND A QR CODE THAT WILL LEAD YOU DIRECTLY TO THE ONLINE REGISTRATION PAGE. ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE INCLUDED BELOW. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

LASCY LASCY LASCY!!!



venmo



John Jackson

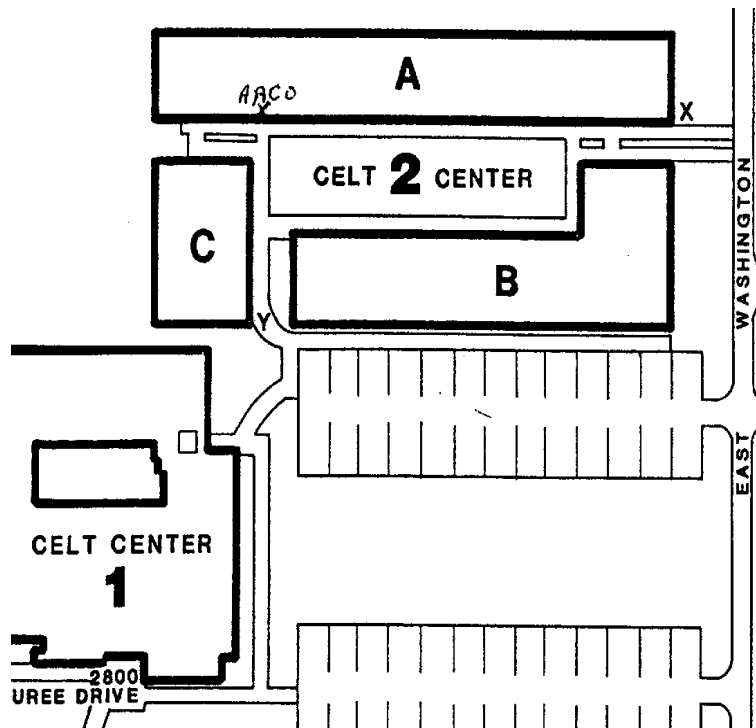
Scan to pay \$theoneandonlyjojack



john.jaxin.87@gmail.com

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 Inter group

The Central Office of Shreveport
2800 Youree Dr., Suite #362 Bldg A
Shreveport, LA 71104-3646

