

The MESSAGE September 2023

Central Office CLOSED on Labor Day!!!!

I Don't Understand Thermodynamics

I Still Enjoy the Warmth of the Sun

By Rick R.

I came into A.A. Bankrupt in every department. When I started to work the steps, my first big challenge was to find a power greater than myself that could solve my problems. What an order for a guy who they describe in step two in the 12x12 as the one who "had tried religion and found it wanting." I could see the examples of people around me that seemed to have it figured out and I became a nuisance trying to corner them to get them to explain to Me how they do it and they had as much trouble explaining it as I did. One day I confronted my friend, Jim, and asked him to let me in on the secret. Frustrated, He asked, "Do you want to drink right now"? My answer was "NO". He then asked me, "Did you want to drink a year ago"? And my answer was "YES". Next, he asked me "what made the difference"? My answer was that I was influenced by the A.A. program. His next question was, "Do you have any Problem calling that God? WOW! What a concept.

I have never wanted a drink since I entered the program and the only answer, I could come up with was the influence of A.A in my life. For a guy who couldn't conceive of a day without alcohol, to a guy that has never wanted a drink since, was all I needed to know about God. I wish I could tell you who or what God is, but I can't. I can, however, tell you what God does for me, but I'll get to that later.

The 2nd appendage in the big book, Spiritual Experience, implies that there are many examples of spiritual experiences, and they come in different forms. They can be of the burning bush variety or a psychic change enough to bring about recovery from alcoholism. Or, as I like to believe, my spiritual experience came in the form of "a profound change of perception". When it occurred to me that all of my thinking was flawed and that I was finally in an environment where I could, with the help of the group, start to follow simple unselfish guidelines that would restore my self-esteem and put me at peace with myself and others, I started this wonderful journey and I've never had it so good. These universal truths are common in all philosophies and I must seek them out if I want to heal.

I pray to God every day, even though I don't know who or what God is. My mind is not sophisticated enough to understand God and I'm not sure that God hears my prayers, but I HEAR MY PRAYERS and that, I believe, puts me in the best possible attitude I can have about the issue I pray for. My prayers are always the same. I pray for knowledge of his will for me and strength to carry it out. i.e. God, please show me what to do and give me the strength to do it, I don't do to well on my own. I often knew what to do but wasn't always strong enough to do what was right. Today I'm stronger.

Who or what is God? I'm not sure anyone can define God. As a friend of mine (Will) explained, "You don't have to understand thermodynamics to enjoy the warmth of the sun", I do, however, know what God does. When I ask for guidance, I become a better receiver and I hear the answers that used to pass right over my head when I Thought I had all the answers. I thank God for an open mind.

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

September 2023

Grace Sept 4-10

Five Thirty Highland Sept 11-17

High Noon Sept 18-24

Fairfield Sept 25- Oct 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!

Step Nine: “Made direct amend to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others..”

Reprinted from AA Big Book, page 59

Tradition Nine: “ A.A., as such ought never be organized but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg.
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Tradition Nine: (The Long Form)

“Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect a secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine . All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.”

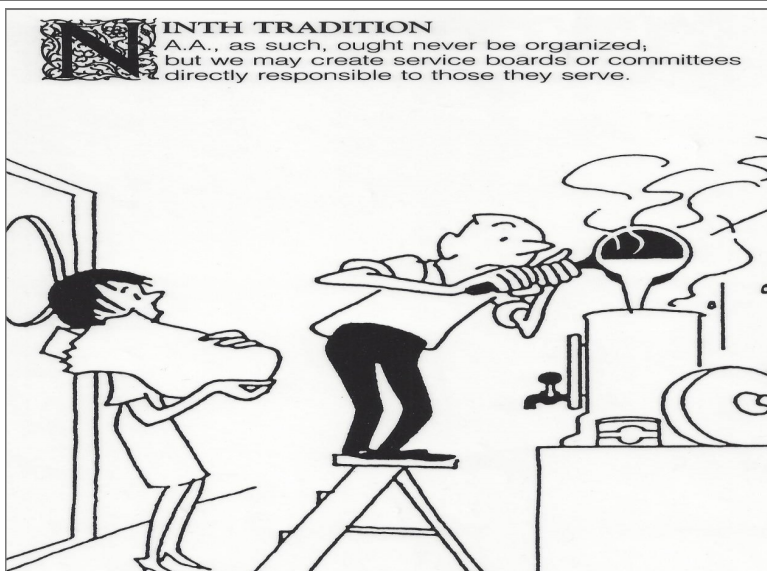
The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins Pg. 45

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Tradition Nine:

AA as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program — even if no one makes me do so — with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully — and profit thereby — when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?



*Reprinted with
permission of A.A.
World Services*

Concept Nine:

“Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholic Anonymous.

Twelve Concepts for World Services

By Bill W. Page 36

Reprinted with permission from World Services

Great Service Opportunity

Join the *Steering Committee* at
YOUR Central Office. We are in need of an

Vice Chairperson & Public Information Chairperson

*If interested, please contact Lisa @ Central Office
(318) 865-2172 or email: office@aa-shreveport.org AND*

Attend our next meeting on September 4th

6:00PM AT Central Office

WE MEET ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH!!!

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)*

SERVICE OPPROTUNITIES

Central Office Steering Committee & COI Meetings

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00 pm– Steering Committee Meeting

6:40– COIs & Steering Committee

@ Central Office, 2800 Youree Dr., Ste 362A, Shreveport 71104

Central Office Intergroup

First Saturday of Month

Generally

Even numbered Months

At Highland Club

&

Odd numbered Months

At Koala Club

4809 Shed Rd, Bossier City 71111

Tri-State Convention Committee

Second Sunday of Month

2:00pm at

Central Office

District 1 Area 27

Third Tuesday of Month

6:30pm at

Highland Club

1711 Tulane Ave., S'Port 71103

DCM

Jane Rowell

(318) 564-9043

janeerowell1@gmail.com

Treatment & Corrections

Second Tuesday of Month

6:00 PM at

Central Office

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

July 2023...\$165.00

Thanks for all the **Group Contributions...July 2023...\$1,209.91**

Awakenings...\$478.34

Lunch Bunch...\$47.57

No Guarantee...\$120.00

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

Tulane...\$13.00

Twin City...\$10.00

White Dove...\$100.00

Winners...\$316.00

Other...\$100.00

July Intergroup...District 1...\$600.00

***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."***

Thanks for helping your Central Office be responsible!!!

"We have to grow or else deteriorate. For us, the 'status quo' can only be for today, never for tomorrow. Change we must; we cannot stand still."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., February 1961, "The Shape of Things to Come", The Language of the Heart

"In the nick of time, and by God's grace, each of us has been enabled to develop a growing sense of the meaning and purpose of his own life."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1961, "Again at the Crossroads", The Language of the Heart

"While I wouldn't recommend that anyone become an alcoholic, I believe that sober alcoholics living the AA way of life have been blessed with a gift. It's a gift that can't be bought, that can't be won in a lottery, that can't be stolen, forged, or rented."

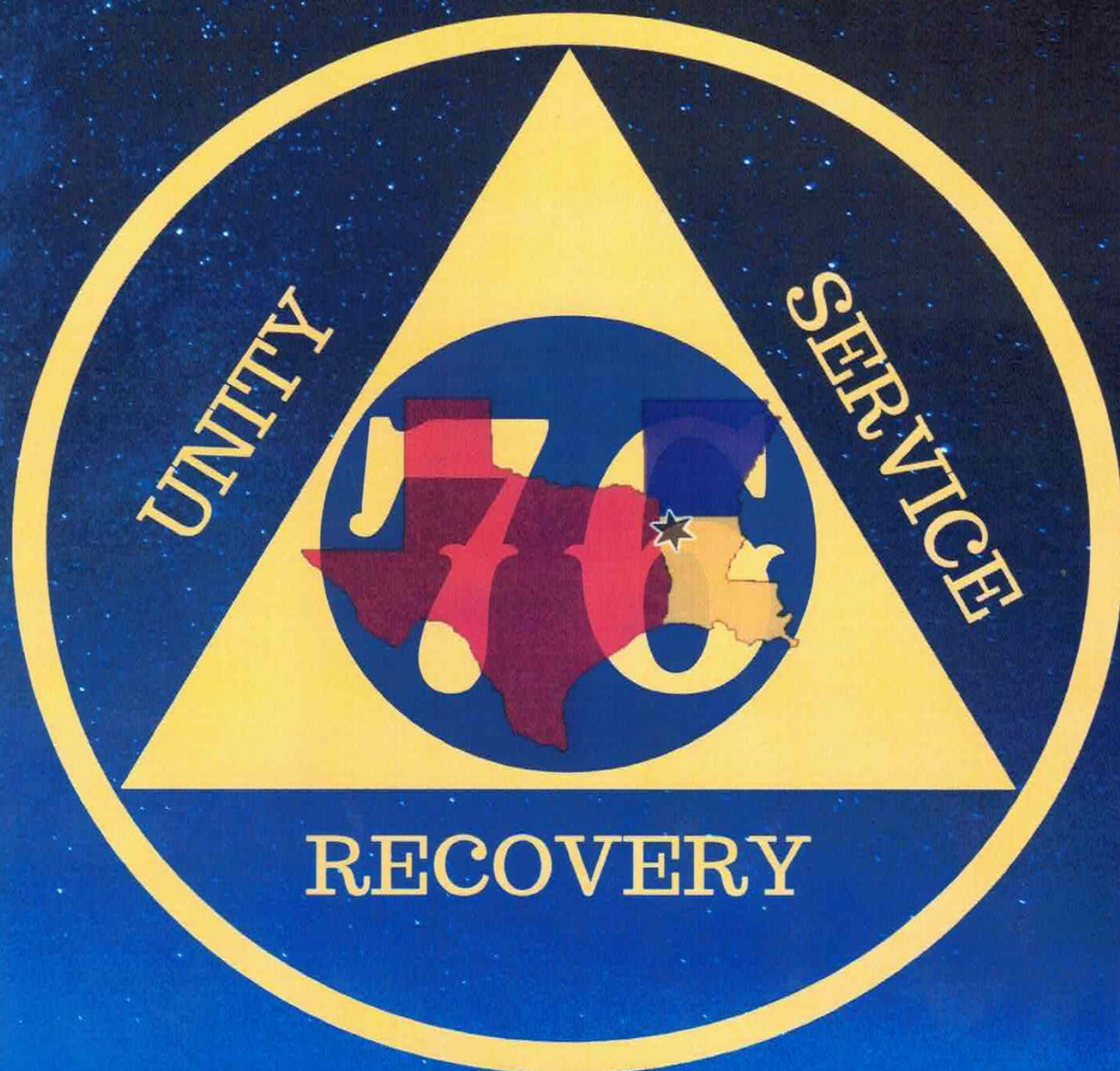
Edenvale, Gauteng, South Africa, October 1996, "A Healthy Appetite for Beer," The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 3

"Humility is the soil in which all other virtues grow."

"What Is Humility?" Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 1966, AA Grapevine

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*



September 2023

Sept 5 **Frank L.**

Sept 12 **Jason D.**

Sept 19 **Heath L.**

Sept 26 **Jay S.**

7:00pm

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.

TRI-STATE SPONSORED INTERGROUP!!!!

KOALA CLUB 9/9/2023

Jambalaya with Salad
WILL BE SERVED AT 5:30 PM.

**PLEASE BRING A DESSERT FOR A
DESSERT AUCTION TO HELP SUPPORT
TRI-STATE**

**KEN WOMACK WILL BE SHARING HIS
EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE
FOLLOWING THE DESERT AUCTION**

**TRI-STATE IS ALSO LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SUPPORT THE
VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

Anniversary 2023



Women Do Recover Anniversary

Thursday, September 14, 2023

5:30 pm until 6:30 pm

Serenity Clubhouse, 1506 Abbie St., Shreveport, La

Dinner will be served following the meeting

Serenity Clubs

4TH ANNUAL UNITY FAMILY FUN DAY

Speaker @ 5, Andrew P



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
STARTS @ 10 AM, ALL
DAY AFFAIR**

**Raffle Tickets available \$1, Win a 55'
Smart T.V, Air Fryer, or \$100 Gift
Certificate**

Sweet Tooth Auction, and Door Prizes
Pre-Order T-Shirts

Sponsored by The Serenity Club, CADA, The Compound,
Highland Club, Koala Club, and The Minden Group

Contact Bruce at (318)
658-6702 for more information



Spirit of the Pines Weekend Retreat

When: **October 20-22, 2023**
(4pm Oct. 20 to 12pm Oct. 22)

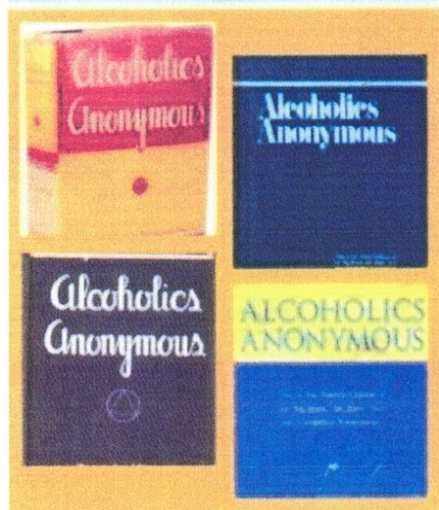
Where: Camp Olympia in
Trinity, TX

Cost: **\$140*** includes cabins and all meals

*A \$5 discount is available for mail-in registrations,
which are printable from the web site

Registration opens in September at
www.spiritofthepines.org

For more information contact:
Phyllis A. 337-794-8851
Angela P. 972-672-2965



Additional info:

- A/C & heated cabins
- Foam mattress in bunks
- Showers, sinks, paper towels available
- Ice, water, coffee, tea, lemonade
- Cabins are men only and women only
- Retreat is "open"
- No childcare available
- Pets not allowed
- Smoking in designated area only

Available Activities:

Meetings: Big Book, Al-Anon, Meditation, Birthday, Bonfire & more

Outdoor: Zip line, Kayaking, Giant Swing, Mini Golf, Fishing (all dependent on number of registrants)



The Steps We Took 76th Tri-State Convention

November 3rd - 5th
At the Bossier Civic Center

Live Music by Pocket Change

On Saturday starting @ 9:15

Free Gumbo Dinner on Friday

(Courtesy of Lagniappe Catering)

Speakers T.B.D.

Pre-Registration

\$20.00

www.tristatenwla.org

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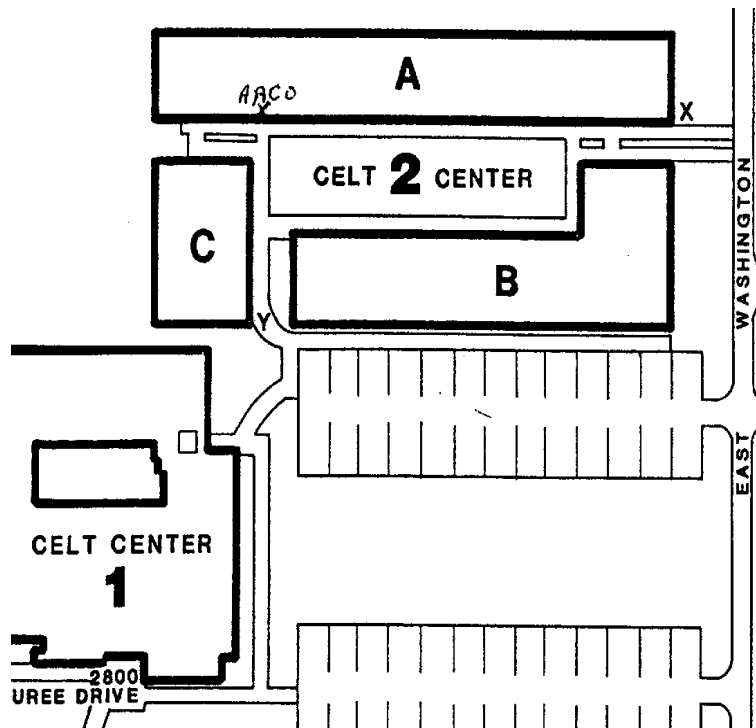
Pre-Registration

\$20.00

www.tristatenwla.org

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

