

The MESSAGE December 2023

Central Office will close Monday, December 25, 2023 and will reopen Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in Celebration of the Holidays and our Yearly Inventory....

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

Shouting From the Housetops

He couldn't wait to tell everyone about his AA membership!

Hmm...maybe not a great idea

By G.H., Kingston New Hampshire

There seems to be a certain progression that occurs in the life of any alcoholic who comes to AA to get sober, to stay sober and to stay close to the Fellowship and the program. Before many of us came into AA we didn't want anyone to know that we were alcoholic, and we did our darnedest to keep it under wraps.

When I finally crawled out from under the rock of alcohol and found my way into the Fellowship—the program that could help me get sober and maintain sobriety in the private and protected environment of the group—I wanted to tell everyone. After all, it was miraculous that AA had done what I could not do for myself or through any other means. As our "Twelve and Twelve" book states, we wanted to "shout AA from the housetops."

That may seem like a positive and worthwhile action to take, especially since there's such a great need to bring recovery to the alcoholic and, since AA has worked for me, why wouldn't it work for everyone else?

There are two major flaws in this line of thinking: 1) that I know what's best for others; and 2) that I will remain a positive example for others to follow in the future.

First, we learn in AA that this program works for the alcoholic who wants it and is willing to do the work involved in the recovery process. Not all alcoholics want it, and even if they do, they may not be on the specific timeline to recover that we in AA may think that they need. It takes some of us (including myself) some time to develop the desire to stop, build the trust that AA will really work and draw on a willingness to go through with the program.

Secondly, how do you know that you will stay sober in the future? Sobriety is out of your hands now and it's in the hands of the Fellowship, the program, and essentially, God. And if I don't take care of my daily reprieve (to do what I need to do to stay connected to God) then I might not stay sober, and what kind of example would I then be setting for the newcomer?

The bottom line is that anonymity is not about me. It's about setting a course to ensure the survival of the Fellowship and setting the stage to bring the newcomer in, all while providing the safety and security that anonymity brings. In other words, principles before personalities.

I know that part of me wants credit for work done. I want recognition and prestige. And sometimes I feel the need to be noticed. But I'm not an evangelist or a reformer, or even an AA authority with titles to flaunt. I'm just someone with an opportunity to serve as I have been taught. As a result of service, I've been given more than I feel I deserve—sobriety and peace of mind.

Reprinted with Permission, AA Grapevine, Dec 2023, Pg. 38

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

December 2023

Southfield Dec 4-10

LAMBDA Dec 11-17

Outlaws Dec 18-24

**Five-Thirty Highland
Dec 26-31**

**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 TWELVE: “Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 106
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TRADITION TWELVE: (The Long Form)

“And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins Pg. 46

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Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition — or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior — especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore *me*)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million AAs?



WELFTH TRADITION

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.



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*

CONCEPT TWELVE: “General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform acts of government; and that like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous, which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

Twelve concepts for World Service, By Bill W. Page 48, Reprinted with permission from World Services

The Perfect Night

Just as the midnight mass bells were ringing, he and his partner were heading to jail

By Charles M., Harbert, Mich.

When friends asked what I was doing for Christmas Eve 2019, I smiled and said, "Going to jail." A friend and I were taking an AA meeting to incarcerated fellows at our local county jail. I had even added something self-serving like, "I can't think of a better place to be on Christmas Eve."

Well, I sure didn't feel that way on that dark and cold December night in Michigan when I first arrived in the parking lot opposite the forbidding institution. I really wanted to be home with my wife and our new cat and the gas fireplace we had given ourselves for Christmas. Plus, I was feeling more than a little sorry for myself because the Christmas Eve jail AA service meant missing midnight mass, which at our church began at 8 p.m. to allow the aging faithful to get to bed at a decent hour.

Sure, I could go to mass the next day on Christmas morning, and that would certainly count with the church, but I would miss all the magic of midnight mass. And wouldn't you know, the church on the other side of the jail's parking lot rang its bells, summoning folks to come inside and worship on a cold, dark night. I looked over longingly at the warm, cozy church's glowing stained-glass windows and watched worshippers eagerly climb the church steps in anticipation of some midnight marvels. Oh, how I wanted to join them.

But then I looked over at my partner in our Twelfth Step work and decided I couldn't let him down. There had to be at least two of us outsiders for there to be an AA meeting at the jail. And, well, wasn't there also that line from Step Twelve about carrying "this message to alcoholics." I knew that I had a solemn duty to carry the message of my recovery to my incarcerated brothers on this side of the parking lot.

The church bells rang again, reminding me that I had a choice to make, and make it I did that cold, clear night in Michigan. My partner and I took the AA meeting into the county jail on Christmas Eve—and what a meeting it turned out to be!

I don't have to tell you, because you know, what happens when we AAs share our experience, strength and hope with one another. Serenity happens...peace prevails. The Promises are fulfilled among us, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. they will always materialize if we work for them. And we band of brothers—in green jump suits, blue jeans and flannel shirts—worked for them.

Because it was Christmas Eve, we got extra time on our meeting because the correctional staff was short-handed for the holiday. It was all too beautiful.

Once back in the parking lot, my partner in crime and I wished one another a Merry Christmas and agreed we couldn't have found a better way to spend this night. And don't you know, I went to our church on Christmas Day and got so much more out of it because I had been saved by the bells the night before.

WANTING TO BE OF SERVICE???

Join the Central Office STEERING COMMITTEE

The Secretary Position is Available

Come to our Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 5th @ 6:00pm

Central Office Steering Committee & COI Meetings

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00 pm– Steering Committee Meeting

6:40 pm– 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

Next Meeting Jan 14, 2024

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 Every Other Month

6:00 PM at

Central Office

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

October 2023...\$965.00

Thanks for all the **Group Contributions...October 2023...\$1,370.00**

COI Meeting...\$21.00

Grace...\$44.00

High Noon...\$28.00

Keystone...\$29.00

Many Harbour...\$220.00

Now What?...\$45.00

On the Way Home...\$248.00

Personal Recovery...\$44.00

T.I.E....\$40.00

Tulane...\$18.00

Twin City...\$10.00

Winners...\$423.00

Other...\$200.00

***October Intergroup...Margaret Place &
Shreveport Young People...\$410.25***

***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)*



SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2023 @
THE HIGHLAND CLUB

December Intergroup
Hosted By
No Guarantee

DINNER 6:00PM

CHILI & HOTDOGS

SPEAKER 7:00PM

MELANIE F.

50/50 RAFFLE

PLEASE BRING DESSERTS





THE BRIDGE HOUSE Christmas Open House

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023, 5 PM - 7 PM

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US TO SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT, TOUR THE HOME, AND MEET OUR RESIDENTS.

426 STONER AVE., SHREVEPORT, LA 71101

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



December 2023

Dec 5 **Jesse F.**
Dec 12 **Jessica L.**
Dec 19 **Dexter S.**
Dec 26 **Hanna B.**

7:00pm

Highland Club

1700 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport 71103



SOUTH SHREVEPORT AA GROUP



Our Step-Study meeting
is changing from
Wednesday @7pm to
Thursday @6pm..

St Mary of the Pines
Room #5 (right side of
church, far back
corner, you'll see cars)

1050 W Bert Kouns
Industrial Loop,
Shreveport, LA 71118



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.

THE COMPOUND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023****

****HIGHLAND CLUB****

1711 TULANE AVE, SHREVEPORT, 71103

DINNER SERVED at 6pm - prepared by *Lagniappe Catering*

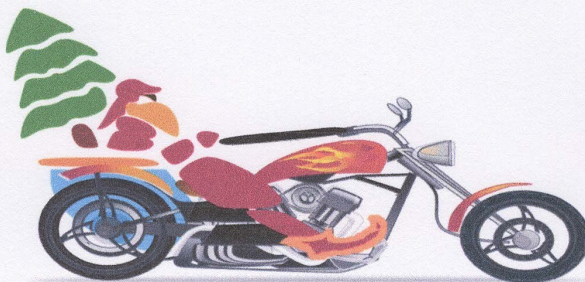
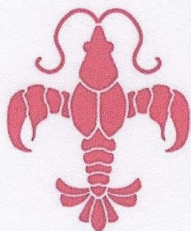
SANTA ARRIVES FOLLOWING DINNER

AA SPEAKER at 7:30- Terry D. 2/6/92 of Prairieville, LA

FOLLOWING SPEAKER - RAFFLE DRAWING !

Raffel tickets \$1.00 ea Venmo :@Steven J- Mooney

**Santa will be presenting a gift to
all children ages 0-12**



2024

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH

BILL & BOB

Inaugural Koala Club Prom

SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER
AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

THE KOALA CLUB

ATTIRE: 1930s

KAROE- DINNER-
-BILL W LOOK ALIKE CONTEST-
RAFFLES-SPEAKERS-DESSERT AUCTION-

TICKETS \$10 IN ADVANCE OR \$15 AT THE
DOOR

Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1 Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4 Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6 If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



7 Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8 Worship in your own way.



9 Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10 Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



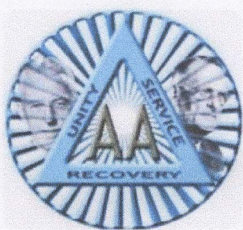
11 Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



12 "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

Tyler AA Anniversary

January 12-14, 2024



....."all sorts of remarkable things followed."

Join us in celebrating seventy-seven years of
Alcoholics Anonymous in Tyler, TX

Tyler Rose Garden Center
420 Rose Park Dr., Tyler, TX

Sobriety "ROOTED" in Texas!

Pre-registration \$30.00

on-site \$35.00

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

HOST HOTEL INFORMATION

Hilton Garden Inn
220 E. Grande
Blvd. Tyler, TX
(903) 509-1166

Ask for AA Convention rate

Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/TylerAnniversary

or more information contact:

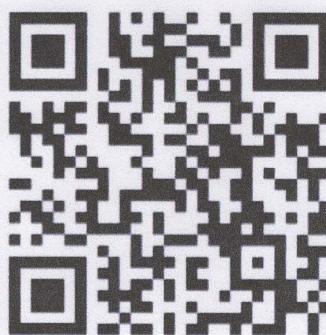
Lisa G. (903) 221-4987

Crystal R. (903) 316-8832

Joe R. (903) 316-2016

at tyleranniversary@gmail.com

Pre-register Online at:
tyleranniversary.org



G&L Tapes Speaker Recordings
Available

Tyler AA Central Service Booth
Al-Anon Booth

NETA Archives Display

RAFFLES-GREAT PRIZES!!!

Friday, January 12

5:00 pm: Registration

6:00 pm: Dinner

7:00 pm: Meet the Speakers

7:45 pm: RAFFLE!

8:00 pm: AA Speaker

Dawn F. - Dickenson, TX

Saturday, January 13

8:00 am: Coffee & Donuts

9:00 am: AA Speaker

Tracie J. - Irving, TX

10:30 am: Chairperson Workshop

Gary K. & Jackey B.

12:00 pm: Lunch Break

1:30 pm: AA speaker

Toni S. - Vandergrift, PA

3:00 pm: Sponsorship Workshop

Chris R. - Ingram, TX

Myers R. - Ingram, TX

4:30 pm: Al-Anon Speaker

Vannoy S. - Justin. TX

6:00 pm: Dinner

7:00 pm: Skit

"THE COMMITTEE
INSIDE BOB'S HEAD"

7:30 pm: RAFFLE

7:45 pm: SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN

8:00 pm: AA Speaker

Chris R. - Ingram, TX

Sunday, January 14

8:00 am @ Downtown Suburban Group

1700 E. Front St., Tyler, TX

8:00 am: Potluck Breakfast

hosted by Al-Anon

9:00 am: Al-Anon Speaker

Nancy J. - Santa Fe, TX

10:30 am: AA Speaker

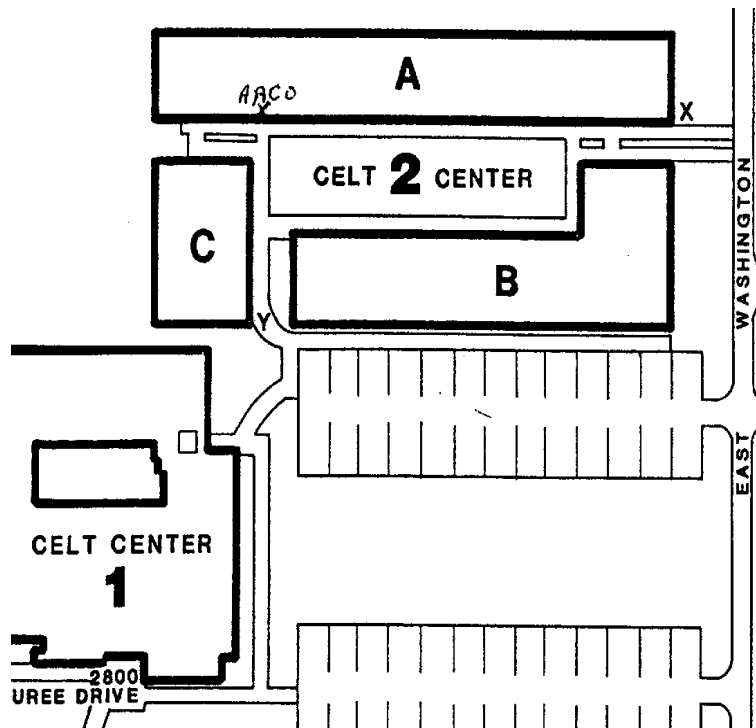
Myers R. - Ingram, TX

11:00 am: Closing of 77th

AA Anniversary

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

