

The MESSAGE *November 2023*

A New Holiday Perspective

Bringing Joy to the Less Fortunate

By Rick R.

How appropriate it seems that there are twelve months in a year, and we have twelve steps in the program. November is often referred to as the Gratitude month, due the celebration of Thanksgiving. The joy of good living is the theme of Step Twelve, and it blends right in with the Christmas holiday season in December and ending with the New Year's Eve celebration. This time of year, does bring joy to many of us but it also brings *distress to some of the less fortunate ones* who have yet to be blessed with the gift of sobriety and peace of mind, *in and outside of A.A.*

During my drinking days I used to be extremely uncomfortable about the holidays. I never knew how to act around normal people unless I was half smashed. When invited by one of my siblings to Thanksgiving dinner, I felt like *a charity case* and would rather just hang out at the bar where I felt safe. I never got into the spirit of reaching out to others. My family always celebrated the different holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I would always (due to my discomfort) put a damper on it by complaining about the tacky gifts that people would buy for each other at Christmas and the mad rush to go shopping and the commercializing facade that it had become. Any excuse was better than facing *me* and the miserable wretch I had become.

After being sober for several years it occurred to me that I still had some of those same attitudes, and that I was still holding on to them to some degree largely due to the inconvenience of it all. I explained this problem to a dear friend once, and he asked, "Does the rest of the family enjoy the holidays?" I said yes. He then said, "Why don't you just take a back seat and just watch the joy in their eyes as they experience these things." I did exactly what he suggested and when I started to observe my wife and two adolescent girls and *the childlike innocence and happiness it brought to them*; it gave me a whole new appreciation for this time of year. It brought *tears of Joy* to my eyes, and I no longer wanted to be the grouch, putting a damper on the joy that they were having. I have been following this line of thinking ever since and it has changed my whole perspective concerning these things.

This change of attitude has inspired me to apply the unselfish lessons that I have come to understand and now I spend the holiday season filled with Joy. *If it works like that for the holidays, then why can't I bring it with me for the rest of the year?* This has been my mission ever since my friend suggested it, and I am always looking for the opportunity to brighten the lives of people less fortunate than myself. I try to do these things *anonymously and without fanfare*. I also try to consider the discomfort that I used to feel when I was the one on the receiving end of a charitable gesture. I am careful to do these things in a way that *preserves the dignity of that other person*. I do not have to wait for the holidays to do these things. Every day is a holiday in and outside of my home, and you can believe me when I say; I reap more than my share of the joy. I hope this brings a new perspective to those who, like me, had trouble enjoying this time of year and I hope you all have a joyful Holiday Season, and many more.

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

November 2023

Shreveport Young People

Nov 6-12

One the Way Home Nov 13-19

Margaret Place Nov 20-26

Rise & Shine Nov 27-Dec 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 11: “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out..”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 96

TRADITION ELEVEN: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 180
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TRADITION ELEVEN: (The Long Form)

“Our relations with the public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

*The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins Pg. 45-46
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services*

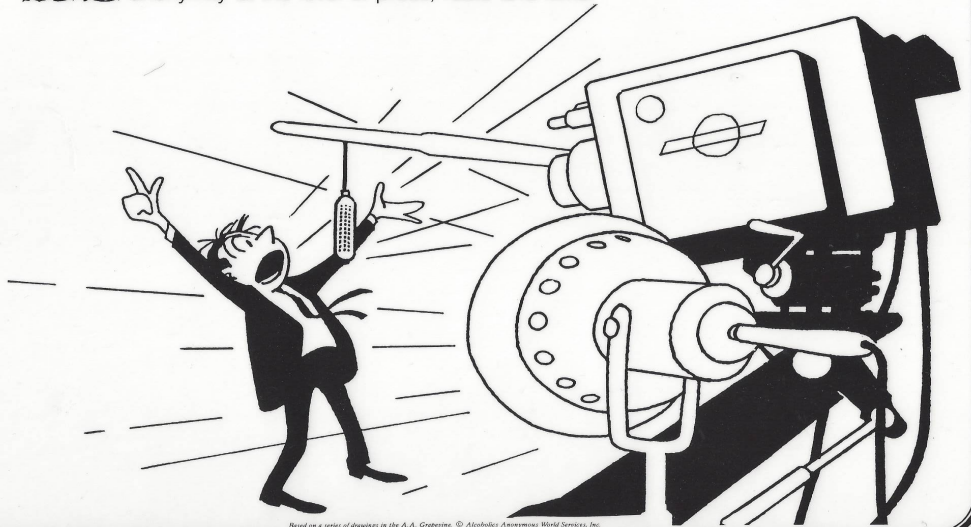
Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around — even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in the Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?



LEVENTH TRADITION

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.



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 ELEVEN: “While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.’s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters fore serious care and concern.”

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

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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 **September 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.

September 2023...\$98.01

Thanks for all the **Group Contributions...September 2023...\$418.22**

Basic Training \$153.22

T.I.E....\$35.00

COI Meeting...\$11.00

Tulane...\$14.00

High Noon...\$33.00

Twin City...\$10.00

Keystone...\$60.00

Other...\$102.00

June Intergroup...5:30 Highland...\$500.00

***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)*

Tulane **TUESDAY**
SPEAKER Meetings



November 2023

Nov 7 **Shayne P.**

Nov 14 **Eddy C.**

Nov 21 **Jesse J.**

Nov 28 **Storm L.**

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 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



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.



NOVEMBER INTERGROUP
HOSTED BY
MINDEN GROUP
OF AA

NOVEMBER 11
VETERAN'S DAY
@KOALA CLUB

Dinner 5:30pm: Gumbo + Fixins
Speaker 7pm: Keith S.

Bring Desserts

THE BRIDGE HOUSE

SATURDAY NIGHT SPEAKER MEETING

SPEAKER: JOSH J.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023

FELLOWSHIP @ 6:00 PM

SPEAKER @ 7:00 PM

**426 STONER AVENUE
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101**

BRIDGEHOUSEHOME.ORG

THE STATE LINE GROUP
OF WASKOM

Eating Meeting

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY

21

FOOD @ 6
SPEAKERS AT 7

STEVE S. SD 3/30/86
& TREE S. SD 5/15/85

FROM THE 5:30 GROUP AT THE HIGHLAND CLUB

Potluck, bring something to share

First United Methodist Church
1305 W. Texas Ave. (Hwy 80 East)
Waskom, TX 75692

Follow us on
Facebook:
The Stateline
Group of
Alcoholics
Anonymous -
Waskom, TX



LET'S GATHER &
BE GRATEFUL.....JOIN US FOR A
**Thanksgiving Holiday
Alcathon**

WED, NOV 22ND AT 4P EST - THURS, NOV 23RD AT 11:59P EST

WED, NOV 22ND AT 1P PST - THURS, NOV 23RD AT 8:59P PST

WED, NOV 22ND AT 9P UK - FRI, NOV 24TH AT 4:59A UK

ID: 789 7054 7193 PW: 920284

Join Link: <https://tinyurl.com/Serenity-Zoom>

Hosted By Serenity Group Zoom and Whatever It Takes Zoom



Contact us at SerenityGroup7pm@hotmail.com

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

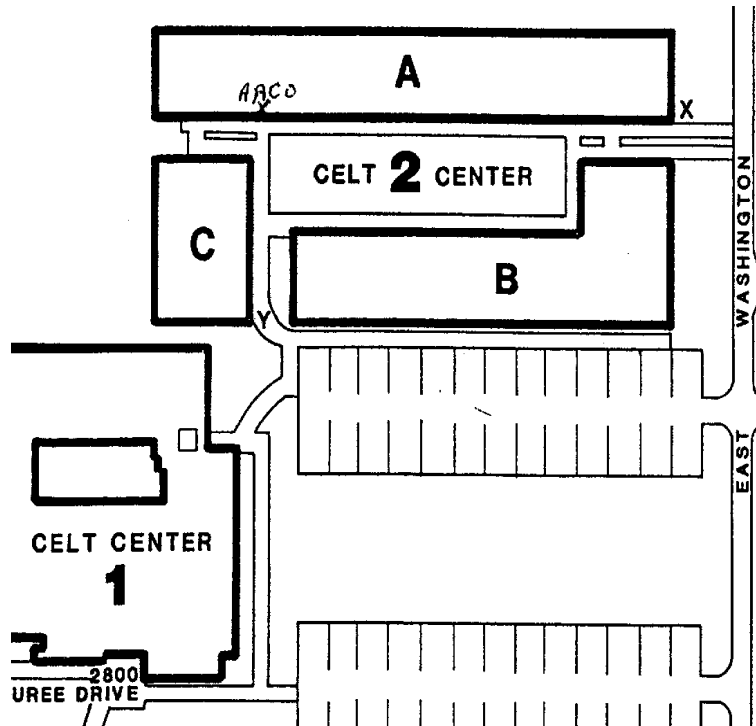
ATTIRE: 1930s

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

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

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

