



The Need to Go Deeper

Uncovering all the harm he caused in his drinking days
restored his compassion for others

STEP EIGHT: Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Looking back, it is probably safe to say that I harmed many people whom I came in contact with during my drinking days.

My first stab at an Eighth Step list began easily enough, since I had sort of a head start by simply referring back to my Fourth Step inventory. But if I were going to be thorough, I knew I would need to go deeper—much deeper!

As a newcomer, it wasn't too difficult to list most of the ways and persons I had harmed, because many were obvious and still on the surface. Easily found were injuries of money or property for which I would need to become willing to make amends. Then there were those impending legal dooms, simple to summon up, because the negative consequences loomed so large they were impossible to forget. Willing or not, I would be forced to take care of those.

Although I had a promising start on Step Eight, I quickly learned about damages that were not so obvious. These were not errors I had conveniently forgotten, but instead were slights obscured by the armor of selfishness and self-centeredness, which is typical of our common condition. We only see what we are able to see when we can see it. Only after clearing the surface, and continuing to look deeper, was I able to see more.

One such harm was that, by my actions, I had crushed virtually all the hopes of a close family who were helplessly witnessing me destroy the potential and great promise they saw in a strapping lad like me. I would hear the oft-repeated mantra: "The sky is the limit to what you can do with your life, boy, if you use the gifts you were given." But I vanquished those hopes one by one, as I drank myself out of one golden opportunity after another.

Continued on Page 3

**AA Central Office
of Shreveport**

**24 Hr. Hotline
(318) 865-2172**

**office@aa-shreveport.org
www.aa-shreveport.org**

Office Hours

**Mon, Tues, Weds, & Fri
10am- 4pm
Thurs 10am- 5pm**

**Groups Responsible for
HOTLINE**

August 2025

Winners Aug 4-10

Saturday Night Aug 11-17

Blanchard August 18-24

Personal Recovery Aug 25-31

*This is a great service
that you do for the person
that is still suffering!!!*

**THE HOTLINE
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 EIGHT: *"Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.."*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 59
Reprinted with permission AA World Services*

TRADITION EIGHT: *"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers"*

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg160
Reprinted with permission A.A. World Services*

Tradition Eight: (The Long Form)

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never paid for."

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

TRADITION EIGHT: Check List

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what need changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get *some* reward-even if not money-for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA it-
self? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on *humility*?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employee do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do?
Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which will illustrate the wisdom of the Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? To the pamphlet *AA Tradi-
tion-How it Developed*?



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

CONCEPT EIGHT: "The Trustees of the General Services act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities."

*Twelve Concepts for World Services, By Bill W. Page33
Reprinted with permission from World Services*

Continued from page 1

It wasn't only my family caught up in my destructive path. At many meetings I hear it often said that many an alcoholic is an "egomaniac with an inferiority complex." That certainly applied to me, since I pretty much had a problem with everybody, which allowed for the potential to harm anyone I had anything to do with, directly or not. I rarely, if ever, saw eye to eye with anyone. Feeling better than and/or less than are also defining traits of many an ego-driven alcoholic with an inferiority complex such as myself. Thus, the importance of a deeper list came within view.

Digging beneath the surface of my conscious mind, I began to uncover even more harms that were not so obvious and yet cut others so deeply. If I was truly going to get any better, I had to find and keep the right tools to help me to enlarge and improve upon this newly found freedom I was handed by the Fellowship and program of AA. One such tool is a principle quite often ascribed to Step Eight: the principle of brotherly love—or what I would rather call human compassion.

If I am truly going to grow along spiritual lines, I'm going to have to walk with the truest spirit of human compassion for others I can muster in all of my affairs. I believe now that rigorous action coupled with conscious reflection and human compassion will gain me new opportunities for greater hope and harmony with all those I deal with—even ones with whom I disagree. As I continue to see the inherent worth and dignity in every human being, I will continue to live on a more level playing field with everybody. True human compassion is a tool that that naturally facilitates daily inventories; it quickly uncovers actions I take that require amends to correct damage done to the harmony of others.

More important perhaps, I believe applying the principles of true human compassion and true brotherly love will continue to give me the daily serenity, acceptance, courage and strength to view myself and others with loving, patient, tolerant and compassionate eyes that reveal unlimited opportunities to help myself and others along this road of happy destiny.

-- Richard D.

Shreveport, Louisiana

Reprinted with permission, AA Grapevine August 2012

"By the fall of 1937 we could count what looked like forty recovered members. One of us had been sober three years, another two and a half, and a fair number had a year or more behind them. As all of us had been hopeless cases, this amount of time elapsed began to be significant. The realization that we 'had found something' began to take hold of us. No longer were we a dubious experiment. Alcoholics could stay sober."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., October 1945, "The Book Is Born", The Language of the Heart

No One's the Boss

Oh, no! What will these AAs make him do? What does he owe?
This newcomer's first encounter with the Traditions was a pleasant surprise

At my very first AA meeting, two large vinyl posters were hanging on the wall. The Twelve Steps were on one poster and the Twelve Traditions were on another.

With a suspicion-filled mind, I read the words on them. What I gathered from the Traditions was that it sounded like no one in particular was in charge, and the only goal was to help. I figured this was like most organizations; its ideals were posted on the walls. I sat in meetings a long time waiting to spot who actually was going to presume they could boss me around and what they would claim I owed.

Turns out I was wrong. As a dear AA friend likes to share at meetings, "When it comes to carrying AA's message, we do it for fun and for free."

My suspicion, which today I consider a fermented form of fear, has never played out. Here and there, AAs might act bossy, but not one is the boss of another. We are each left to our own path of recovery. We are each subject to our own devices, our own consciences.

And we owe nothing. Matters of money, time and talents are also left to each member to decide whether or not, and how much to contribute. Each member is their own boss and chooses if and how to contribute to AA's collective effort to carry the AA message to alcoholics who still suffer. This approach is best.

There's a line in the Tradition Eight essay from our book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions which says, "Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid Twelfth-Stepper." I identify. This principle of "non-professionalism" when it comes to carrying AA's message saved me from my fearful, suspicion-driven mind. As I sat reading those Traditions on the poster that day, I decided that if someone attempted to boss me, I wasn't coming to another meeting. I would take my alcohol-soaked resentments home and not come back!

Thankfully no one bossed me. Rather, many helped, and the Steps provided a path to freedom from alcohol and the resentments that I have continued to enjoy for more than 20 years now.

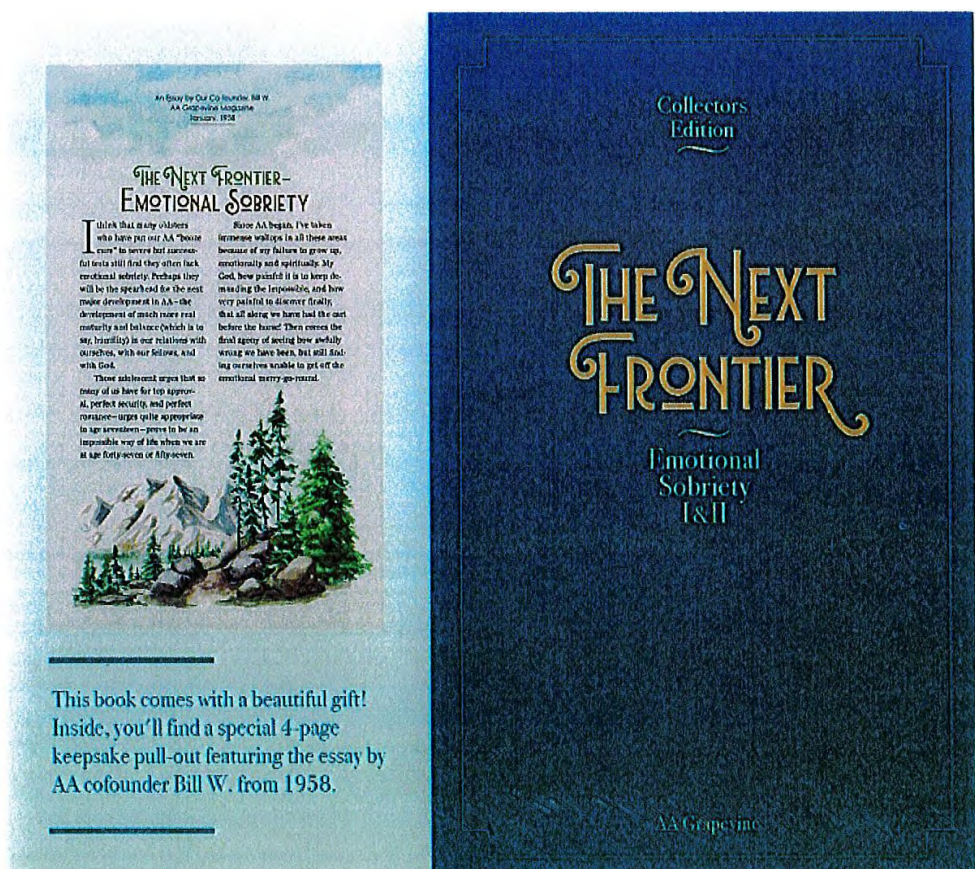
Another influence, more subtle but as great in importance, also stemmed from Tradition Eight as I look back. The first meeting I attended included about six or seven regulars. I took quick measure of them, as I had to spot who the boss really was among them. The suspicion in my keen alcoholic mind was dulled and ultimately outdone by openness. Not one of the six or seven took on being "the boss" and not one of them was getting paid. The real kicker though, what kicked down my suspicion and made room for some open-mindedness, was the fact that they were there in our meeting every week just to be helpful—and they were having fun.

I wasn't having much fun in those days. Being afraid and resentful of everyone and everything is serious stuff. Also, I wasn't interested in doing anything without getting paid, even though I was a lousy employee and hardly employed.

Continued on Page 8

NEW BOOK FROM A.A. GRAPEVINE

In Stock AT Central Office



Powerful and uplifting, *The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety I & II* is a hardbound Collector's Edition of two of our best-selling books. Both books feature stories of sober AA members and depict the personal transformations that sobriety can bring when sober alcoholics practice the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous in all aspects of their lives.

The book comes with a special 4-page keepsake pullout of AA cofounder Bill W.'s 1958 treasured essay "The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety." His moving and honest account about the ongoing challenges of recovery that he faced long after he stopped drinking, and how he overcame them, are still as relevant today as they were 65+ years ago. For Bill W, "emotional sobriety" became the next frontier.



Central Office Steering Committee & COI Meeting

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 @ 6:00pm

6:00 pm– Steering Committee Meeting

6:40 pm– COIs & Steering Committee

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

District 1 Area 27

Third Tuesday of Month

6:00pm at @ Highland Club

Next Meeting **Aug 19**

DCM - Jane Rowell

(318) 564-9043

janeerowell1@gmail.com

Tri-State Convention Committee

Second Sunday of Month

2:00pm @ Central Office

Next Meeting **August 10**

CHAIR: Jennifer Cypher

(318) 286-1107

Treatment & Corrections

Second Tuesday of Month

6:00pm @ Central Office

Next Meeting **August 12**

CHAIR: Melanie Fields

(757) 788-4733

PI/CPC

Second Monday of Month

6:00pm @ Central Office

Next Meeting **August 11**

CHAIR: Neal Lathem

(901) 230-1796

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.

Thanks to all the **Central Office Backers** contributions for the month of **June 2025**. If you would like to be a Central Office Backer (COB) just give us a call (318-865-2172) and we will happily email or mail the application to you.

June 2025...\$88.79

Thanks for all the **Group Contributions...June 2025...\$907.30**

CIO Meeting...\$13.00

Saturday Nite Live...\$219.00

Grace...\$117.50

Tulane...\$16.00

Keystone...\$108.00

Twin City...\$10.00

On the Way Home...\$256.30

White Dove...\$50.00

Personal Recovery...\$117.50

March Intergroup...Half Past Five...\$1,000.00

April Intergroup...Basic Training...\$800.00

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."

Thank You for helping your Central Office be responsible!!!

Addresses for Group Contributions for 2025:

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

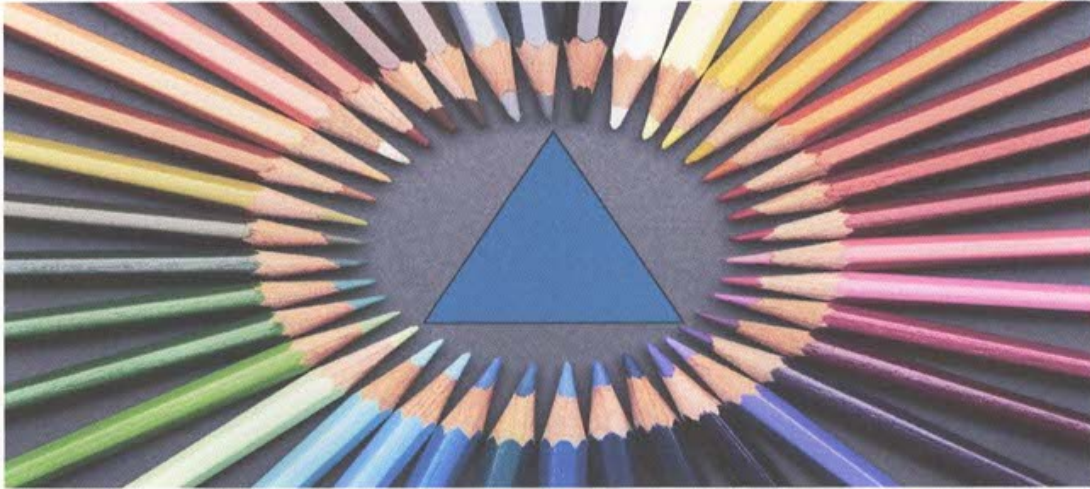
P. O. Box 2407, James A. Farley Station,

New York, NY 10116-2407 (30%)

(Percentages are suggested based on support of four service entities)

(Use your group conscience)

DISTRICT ONE



MONTHLY MEETING
3RD TUESDAY @
THE HIGHLAND CLUB
6:00 pm


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When it came to AA's message being carried, non-professionalism was in effect at that first AA meeting I attended—no bosses and no one getting paid. There's more to Tradition Eight, including the whole bit about service centers and employment and support of AA members' Twelfth Step efforts. But this article is short, so I hope you review for yourself, in full, the Tradition Eight essay in the "Twelve and Twelve."

Tradition Eight, and all Twelve Traditions on the one poster, were all in effect and a part of the AA group I was so fortunate to find. I am grateful because I know today that those Traditions fostered the group's environment of love and tolerance as well as singleness of purpose. All of which were essential so I would stick around long enough to experience the amazing gifts along the path described on that other poster, the one with the Twelve Steps.

Reprinted with Permission, AA Grapevine August 2020



**WITHOUT OUR TRADITIONS WE (the AA fellowship)
WOULD NO LONGER EXSIST, AND WITHOUT OUR STEPS
WE AS INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT RECOVER.
TRADITIONS ARE THE FOUNDATION THAT GIVES US THE
GIFT OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS .**

**BEGINNING MONDAY JULY 14TH
HIGHLAND CLUB 5:30 MEETING
EDDY C. AND JIM L. WILL LEAD US IN
THE STUDY OF THE CRUCIAL PART OUR
TRADITIONS PLAY IN OUR INDIVIDUAL
RECOVERY**

Please bring: your Twelve & Twelve and a pen



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

August 2025

Aug 5 ***Radio Ron G.***

Aug 12 ***Christine C.***

Aug 19 ***Amy D.***

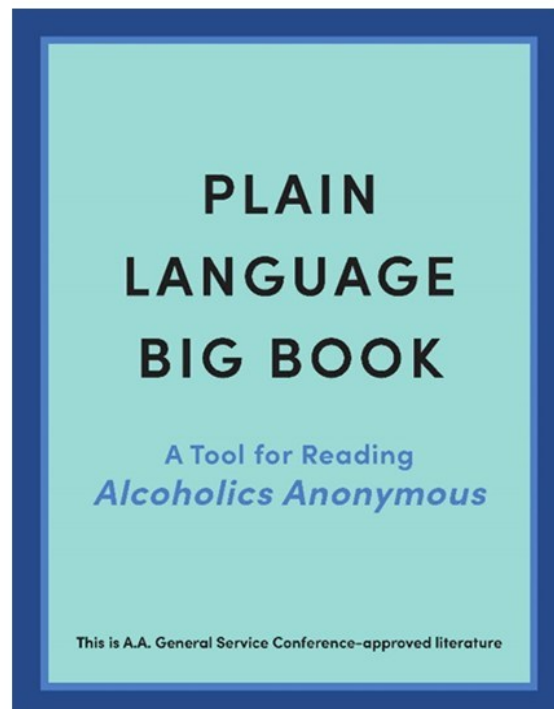
Aug 26 ***Stan P.***

7:00pm

Highland Club

1700 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport 71103





NEW MEETING

SURRENDER

Plain Language Big Book Study

5:30pm Tuesdays@

St Luke's United Methodist Church
6012 Youree Dr., Shreveport 71105
(In the Conference Room)

AUGUST INTERGROUP
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

HARDY & BLANCHARD
GROUPS HOSTING

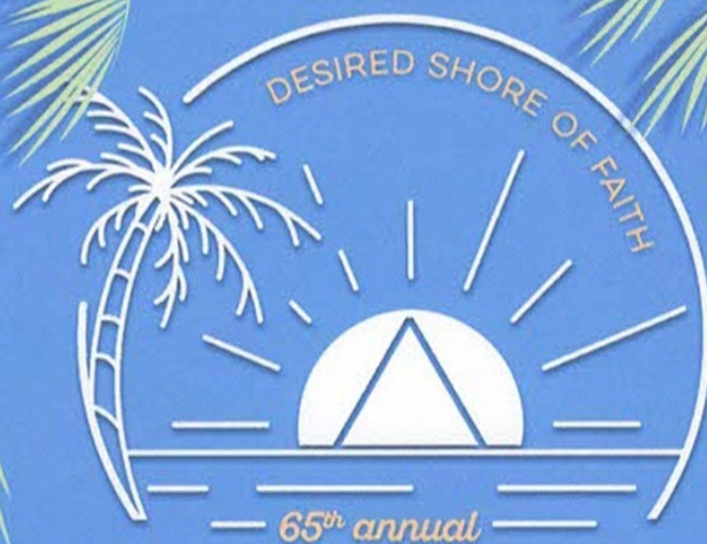
6:30PM DINNER
HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS

7:30PM SPEAKER

KEN D.
DOS-11/11/2000

PLEASE BRING DESSERT TO SHARE
50/50 RAFFLE

The Highland Club
1711 Tulane Ave., Shreveport 71103



LOUISIANA

STATE CONVENTION

AUGUST 8TH-10TH • 2025

Speakers

MIKE S.
RIVERSIDE, CA

JENNIFER K.
PLANO, TX

JOHN C.
DENHAM SPRINGS, LA

MOLLY E.
NEW ORLEANS, LA

ANGELA A. (AL-ANON)
BATON ROUGE, LA

Book a Room or Register at
AA-LASTATECONVENTION.ORG

The Bridge House

2nd Saturday

Speaker Meeting



426 Stoner Ave., Shreveport 71101

Saturday,
August 9, 2025

6:00 pm- Finger Foods & Fellowship

7:00 pm- *Ross O.*

THE STATELINE
GROUP OF
WASKOM

Eating Meeting

Potluck,
Bring a
dish or
dessert

BRANDON K.

SHREVEPORT, LA
SD - 6/10/2019

19 AUGUST 2025

FOOD 6:00 PM

SPEAKER 7:00 PM

📍 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

PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES'

SUMMER 2025 PICNIC



AUGUST 23, 2025

11:00AM TO 4:00PM



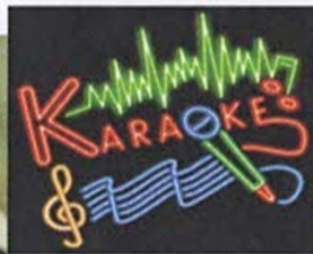
FORD PARK

5784 SOUTH LAKESHORE DRIVE

SHREVEPORT, LA 71119



FUN, FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!!!



**1/2 PAST FIVE SPEAKER MEETING
KOALA CLUB**

TERRY P.

3/21/19

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 27 TH
5:30PM**



**HALF PAST FIVE MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING AT KOALA CLUB
LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:30PM**

LAST SATURDAY SPEAKER MEETING

STACIE T.

DOS: August 27, 2019

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025

Oakwood

1700 Highland Ave
Shreveport, LA 71101

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Food @ 6/ Speaker @ 7



SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER AA PRESENTS...

78TH ANNUAL TRI-STATE CONVENTION

"A VISION FOR YOU"

October 31 - November 2, 2025

LeBossier Hotel & Event Center, Bossier City, LA



May God bless you and keep you - until then.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

GUEST SPEAKERS - PANEL DISCUSSIONS - MEETINGS - FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER - AA LITERATURE/GIFTS
OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON (20+ YEARS SOBRIETY) - SOCIALS - RAFFLE - SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN

GUEST SPEAKERS

Friday 8:00 PM- AA, Glenda R. / New Braunfels, TX
Saturday 11:00 AM - Sammy F. / San Marcos, TX
Saturday 2:30 PM - Al-Anon, Deirdre M. / Converse, LA
Saturday 8:00 PM - AA, Candice M. Los Angeles, CA
Sunday 11:00 AM - AA, Arisa B. / Boston, MA

HOTEL INFORMATION

LeBossier Hotel & Event Center
4000 Industrial Drive
Bossier City, LA 71112

FOR ROOM RESERVATION CALL:
(318) 747-0711

(Reference Tri-State Convention for room rate of \$94)

REGISTER EARLY

Save \$10

Entered in Friday night drawing
for a set of convention tapes or
Tri-State t-shirt and mug



SCAN TO REGISTER

Convention recording by G & L Tapes

PRE-ORDER T-SHIRTS

Pre-Order Deadline October 17

Purple or Green

Short Sleeve \$25

Long Sleeve \$30

Add \$5 for 2XL - 4XL

*Shirts available for pickup at
convention



For more details and online registration: <https://aa-shreveport.org/convention/>



For additional information please contact:

Convention Chair: Jennifer C. (318) 286-1107

Registration: Amy D. (318) 464-9821 or tristate.aaconvention@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

One registration form per person

Name: _____

Name on Badge: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

City/State: _____

Check if Old-Timer with 20+ years of sobriety: ☐

Make checks/money orders payable to **Tri-State Convention**

Mail completed form and payment to:

Tri-State Convention

2800 Youree Drive Suite 362A

Shreveport, LA 71104

SCHOLARSHIPS: Help those who are unable to pay the registration fee.

Why we have to register: A convention is not a regular AA meeting but a special event that requires a significant amount of money to be successful. The Tri-State Convention is self-supporting and paid for through registration fees plus voluntary contributions from individual members or groups. No baskets are passed at the convention, and attendance is of course voluntary. As responsible AA members we always pay our way.

Registration Use Only: Pmt received by: _____ Method of Payment: _____

ITEM	COST	QTY	AMOUNT
• PRE-REGISTER (by Oct. 17)	\$25	X	= \$
• REGISTER (after Oct. 17)	\$35	X	= \$
• SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION			= \$
• ADDITIONAL DONATION			= \$
• SHIRT - PRE-ORDERS ONLY (Pre-order deadline Oct. 17)			
SHORT SLEEVE:			
Purple (S - XL) Size: _____	\$25	X	= \$
Purple (2XL - 4XL) Size: _____	\$30	X	= \$
Green (S-XL) Size: _____	\$25	X	= \$
Green (2XL - 4XL) Size: _____	\$30	X	= \$
LONG SLEEVE:			
Purple (S - XL) Size: _____	\$30	X	= \$
Purple (2XL - 4XL) Size: _____	\$35	X	= \$
Green (S-XL) Size: _____	\$30	X	= \$
Green (2XL - 4XL) Size: _____	\$35	X	= \$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE = \$			



Greetings from your 2025 Tri-State Convention Committee!

We are excited to be preparing for the 78th annual Tri-State Convention in which the theme will be "A Vision For You."

We are requesting your help in making this upcoming convention a big success! Two major ways you can help is to pre-register before October 17 and also to consider making an additional donation of any amount to Tri-State. This will help ensure that we can provide for our speakers and help share with Central Office the financial cost of the convention. Also, if you register early by October 17th your name is entered in a drawing to receive a free set of convention media or a Tri-State t-shirt and mug!

Tri-State depends on registrations to cover the cost of the event which includes our speakers' travel expenses including airfare, hotel and meals, LeBossier Hotel facility rental fees, and many other expenses. We are planning for a larger crowd than last year and with that comes increased expenses.

Tri-State is a Central Office backed AA weekend convention designed to help carry the message and encourage fellowship in our AA community. The 78th annual Tri-State Convention will be held October 31 – November 2, 2025 in Bossier City, LA at the LeBossier Hotel & Event Center.

The Tri-State Committee is hard at work preparing to make this weekend fun and memorable! We have secured an amazing lineup of speakers for the weekend, plus there will be panel discussions, a Friday night gumbo dinner, socials, meetings, and a raffle. The Committee has also voted to recognize Old Timers as those having 20 years or more of continuous sobriety. A special lunch will be provided to Old Timers on Saturday, followed by an Old Timers meeting to share their experience, strength and hope on how to achieve long term sobriety.

You can register and donate through the following ways:

- Scan QR code on the attached flyer
- Go to the 78th Tri-State Convention 2025 webpage <https://aa-shreveport.org/convention/> on the Central Office website and click on the payment link
- Mail/Drop off form and payment to: AA Central Office of Shreveport, 2800 Youree Drive Ste. 362 A, Shreveport, LA 71104
- Contact AA Central Office of Shreveport at (318) 865-2172 to make a payment over the phone using a debit or credit card

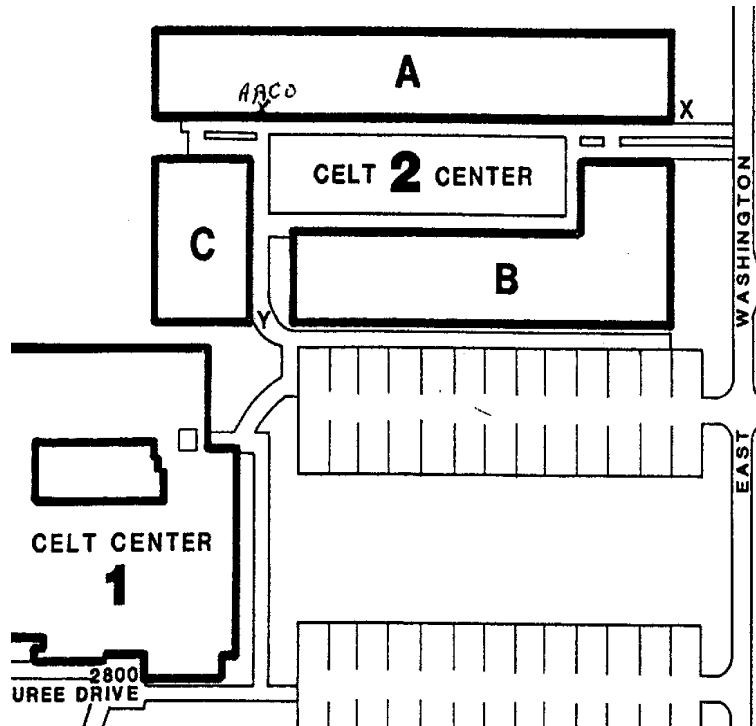


May God bless you and
keep you - until then.

On behalf of the Tri-State Committee and the Central Office of Shreveport we greatly appreciate your support of this event. We look forward to seeing you at the convention!

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

