



The Importance of Unity

One member says we should take good care how we describe our meetings, because our common welfare comes first

By: Michale K. | Denver, Colo.

I've noticed a common theme nowadays in some people's AA stories. They say that when they first came to AA, the message they heard was diluted and so they didn't stay sober. They found that they focused on the wrong things, like fellowship or meetings, instead of the real program of AA. And then they tell how the miracle happened when they heard the real message and how they now carry a true AA message instead of the diluted one.

The implication of this message is: AA is becoming weaker over time and newcomers are not hearing the "right" or "real" message of recovery that the founders "intended." I hear this often from the podium and at meetings.

While I respect a member's right to tell their story and interpret it how they see it, I take issue with this version of things. According to our First Tradition, personal recovery depends upon AA unity. It seems to me that this version of things might just sow unnecessary seeds of doubt and discord within our Fellowship. What if I'm always listening at meetings, wondering if this is one of the "good" meetings or one with a diluted message? If I'm doing this, then I am listening from a place of resentment and division, rather than recovery and unity.

If my conversations with other people in the program are designed to diminish people's opinion of some AA meetings while elevating others, could this possibly be a form of harmful gossip? Isn't this just being an actor trying to run the show, arranging the scenery and lights to our liking?

Our AA program is divine, and it's also human. It's necessarily perfect in its imperfections. When we sit in judgment, harboring a resentment against our "old" AA program, we cannot freely carry a message of recovery—even as we claim to have discovered the "real" kind of recovery.

There's no such thing as real or pure AA. The program has been full of uncertainty and missteps and awkward fumbings from the very beginning, and I suppose it will always continue to be so. So let's embrace AA—the whole damn mess—and keep on going. Our common welfare comes first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.

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

January 2026

Winners Jan 5-11

Grace Jan 12-18

Hald Past Five Dec 19-25

High Noon Jan 26-0 Feb 1

***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!***

STEP ONE: We admitted to ourselves we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable.

*Alcohol Anonymous Pg 59
Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services*

TRADITION ONE: “ Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.”

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Pg. 129
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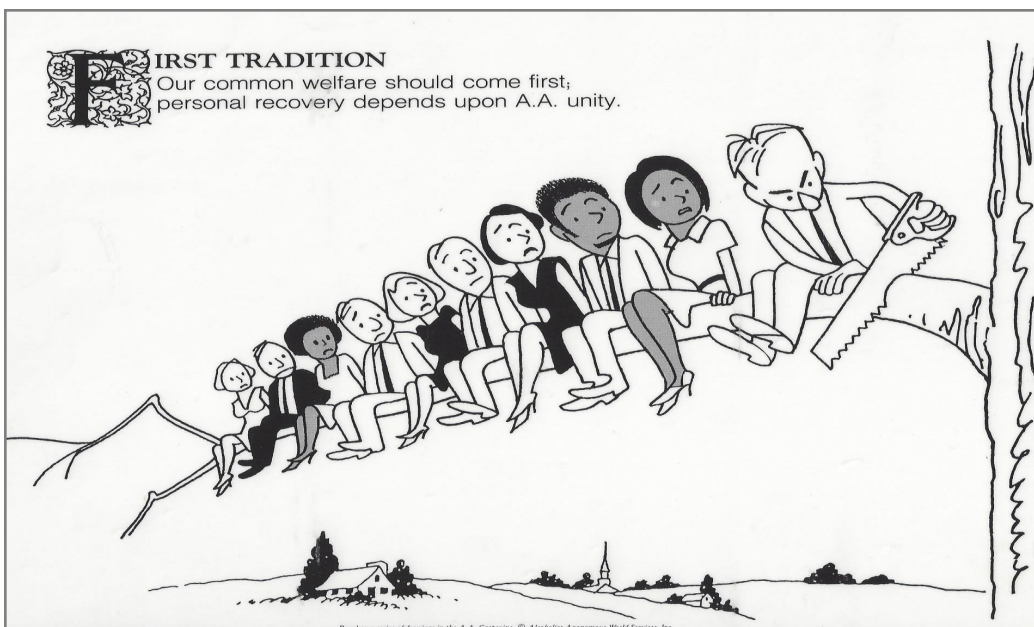
TRADITION ONE: (The Long Form)

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

*The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins Pg. 44
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TRADITION ONE: *Check List*

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, am I sometimes divisive? Do I ever gossip or take another members' inventory?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I foster arguments with statements such as “just for the sake of discussion”?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I sometimes abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I ever put down some AA activities for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support AA as a whole in every way I can, or just the parts that I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. So I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?



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permission of A.A.
World Services*

CONCEPT ONE: “The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscious of our fellowship.”

*Reprinted with permission from World Services
Twelve Concepts for World Services, pg.6*

The Survival of the Saplings

By Rick R.

We hear so much about emotional sobriety in AA meetings, and I often wonder if the average member really understands where this all fits in. Most normal people go through life by experiencing the *good and the bad and they end up with a life that is acceptable to them*. They don't seem to be plagued by the *things the alcoholics struggle with every day of their lives*. Most of our problems are caused by our *misguided instincts* when we let them go far beyond their intended purpose. When these behaviors/habits are allowed to persist and the consequences of them are *masked by alcohol*, we *never mature emotionally* and we spend most of our efforts trying to rationalize these behaviors to the point that we start *believing our own lies*. These things don't begin when we start drinking; they start in our formative years long before we ever touch a drop of alcohol.

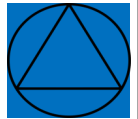
Our behavior when drinking appears to be more of a problem than the disease of alcoholism that causes it. The more we drink the more irresponsible we become as our disease progresses and the harder it is to explain these behaviors away. To the outside world it appears that the *drinking* is the problem and we can't deny that because drinking is **a** problem, but it is not **the** problem. We finally throw in the towel and show up in the AA meetings where we learn that *alcoholism stems from deeper rooted emotional problems*, and that we can live a somewhat normal life if we are willing to take the steps of the program, in their full implication, without any reservations. We can lead a somewhat normal life, but we can never be normal, if by normal we mean that we can drink like a normal person.

We can never drink normally because the tolerance for alcohol, or any other mind altering drug, is gone and the idea that we will ever regain control has to be smashed. We are like men who have lost their legs, they never grow new ones. It's hard for the struggling alcoholic to accept this truth but we must if we are to have any chance of being happy. We are scarred on the inside and that scarring never goes away. It can be overcome by practicing the principles of the program in their entirety but it can only be arrested, *never cured*.

To explain this in simple terms, let's say that we plant a row of *saplings* and shortly after they have taken root, one of them is trampled and bent over onto the ground. It may still survive if it receives water and nourishment. *If it is not straitened up immediately* and if it is *allowed to grow crooked*, it will still grow into an adult tree but it will *never be strait like the other trees around it*. We can prune it and trim it and decorate it, and make it look good, but *it will always be damaged*. Like that crooked sapling, our sobriety is contingent upon the maintenance of our *spiritual* condition. *We can live a life that is somewhat normal and sometimes a much happier life than we would, had we never became an alcoholic* in the first place provided, we accept our condition and all of its ramifications, and are willing to embrace the solutions that are set forth in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. As we cultivate this new approach to life, we grow stronger than ever, and as I see it, *sometimes the crookedness of a tree is what gives it its character*. I hope I never get complacent about my spiritual development and I hope I never stop growing.



Central Office Steering Committee & COI Meeting



Tuesday, January 6, 2026 @ 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 **Jan 20**

DCM - Jane Rowell

(318) 564-9043

janeerowell1@gmail.com

Tri-State Convention Committee

Second Sunday of Month

Time to be decided

Next Meeting **Jan 11**

CHAIR: Jennifer Cypher

(318) 286-1107

Treatment & Corrections

Second Tuesday of Month

6:00pm @ Central Office

Next Meeting **Jan 13**

CHAIR: Melanie Fields

(757) 788-4733

PI/CPC

Second Monday of Month

6:00pm @ Central Office

Next Meeting **Jan 12**

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 **November 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.

November 2025...\$100.69

Thanks for all the **Group Contributions...November 2025...\$691.40**

<i>Grace...\$50.00</i>	<i>Tulane...\$41.40</i>
<i>Personal Recovery...\$50.00</i>	<i>Twin City...\$10.00</i>
<i>Primary Purpose...\$40.00</i>	<i>Other...\$500.00</i>

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."

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

Addresses for Group Contributions for 2026:

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.

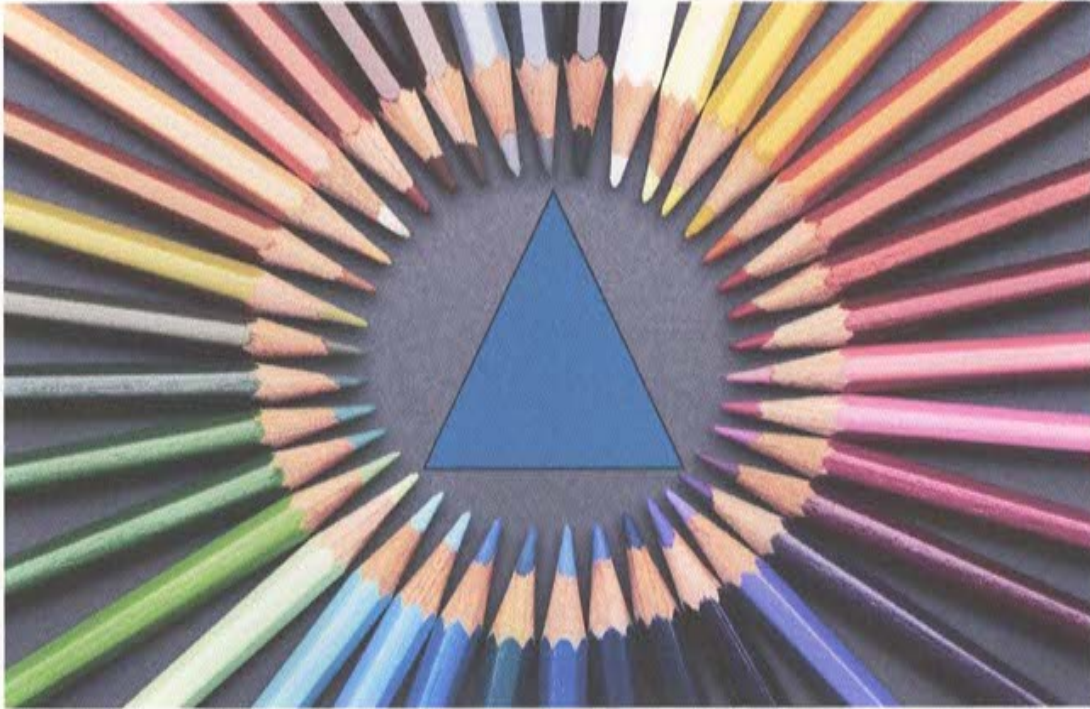
7350 Jefferson Hwy., Suite 485-179
Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (10%)

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



LASCYPAA BID

MONTHLY MEETING

3rd Sunday 3:00pm

Highland Club
1711 Tulane Ave

Service Positions Available



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

January 2026

Jan 6 **Ray B.**

Jan 13 **Julia G.**

Jan 20 **David A.**

Jan 27 **Kathren M.**

7:00pm

Highland Club

1700 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport 71103



January Intergroup

Hosted By

South Shreveport

Saturday, January 3, 2026

6:30pm Dinner: Chili & Fixins

7:30 Speaker:



Virginia C.
SD: 04/01/2015

Please bring dessert to share

Koala Club

4809 Shed Road, Bossier City 71111

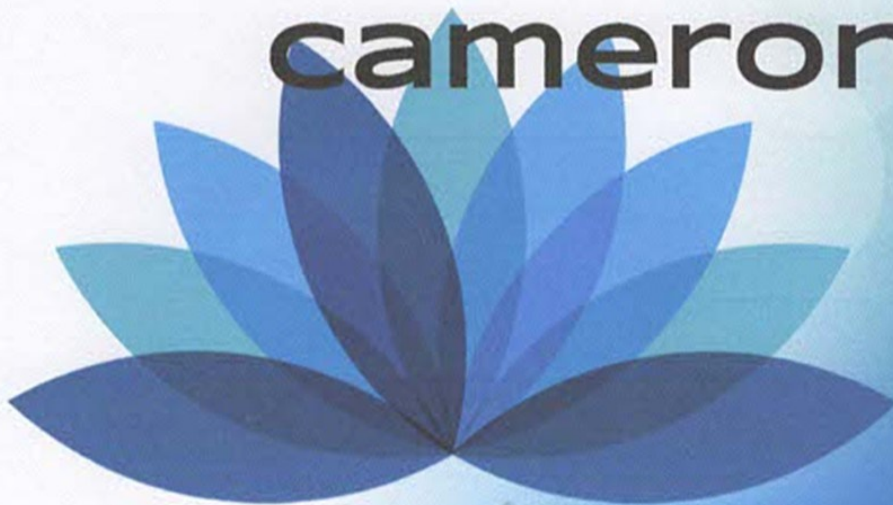
BRIDGE HOUSE

**SPEAKER MEETING
Every second
Saturday
426 Stoner Ave**

6:00 PM - Finger Foods & Fellowship

7:00 PM - Speaker

**January 10 -
Cameron W**



79TH TYLER ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY 9-11, 2026

"We Will Know Peace"

Friday, January 9, 2026

5pm: Registration

6pm: Dinner Provided

7pm: Meet the speakers

7:45 pm: Raffle

8pm: AA Speaker - Matthew M. - Sacramento, CA

Saturday, January 10, 2026

8am: Donuts & Coffee provided

9am: AA Speaker - Yvonne S. - Los Angeles, CA

10:30am: TBD

12pm: Lunch on your own

1:30pm: AA Speaker - Brent H. - Los Angeles, CA

3pm: "Making Amends" Workshop - Led by Matthew M.

5pm: Al-Anon Speaker - Aaron J. - Charlotte, NC

6:30pm: Dinner Provided

7:30pm: Raffle

8pm: AA Speaker - Don L. - Bellingham, WA

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8am: Potluck Breakfast hosted by Al-Anon

9am: Al-Anon Speaker - Danielle O. - Austin, TX

10:30am: AA Speaker - Katie P. - Austin, TX

11:30am: Closing of the 79th Tyler Anniversary

Pre-registration: \$35 - At the door \$40

Pre-register online at:

WWW.TYLERANNIVERSARY.ORG



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

Hotel Information: Hilton Garden Inn

220 E. Grande, Tyler, TX - 903-509-1166

Mention "Tyler Anniversary" for special rate!

Tyler AA Central Service Booth - Al-Anon Booth - ACA Booth - NETA Archives Display

For information: Amber B. - 214-906-1644 - Kim R. - 469-585-8596

Facebook.com/Tyleranniversary - AATyleranniversary@gmail.com

THE STATELINE GROUP
OF WASKOM

EATING MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH

BERT O. - SD 01/01/2024
SHREVEPORT, LA

FOOD @ 6, SPEAKER @ 7

Potluck, Bring a dish or dessert

*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*



Koala Club Monthly Speaker Meeting

S P E A K E R

Nicole T.

10/08/24

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 28TH

5:30PM

KOALA CLUB MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING
LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 5:30PM

SPEAKER MEETING

APRIL S

📍 AT OAKWOOD HOME FOR WOMEN

🕒 DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

🕒 SPEAKER AT 7:00 PM

🍴 SERVING A LIGHT MEAL
& REFRESHMENTS



JANUARY 31

79th Tri-State Convention

PANCAKE

Breakfast



Saturday,
February 21, 2026

Highland Club

Tickets \$12

Breakfast 9am

SPEAKER:

Steve M.

2/25/1991

@10AM

Grab your tickets from any State Committee Member or
Central Office



November 6-8 • 2026

Bossier Civic Center

Bossier City, LA

Speakers TBA

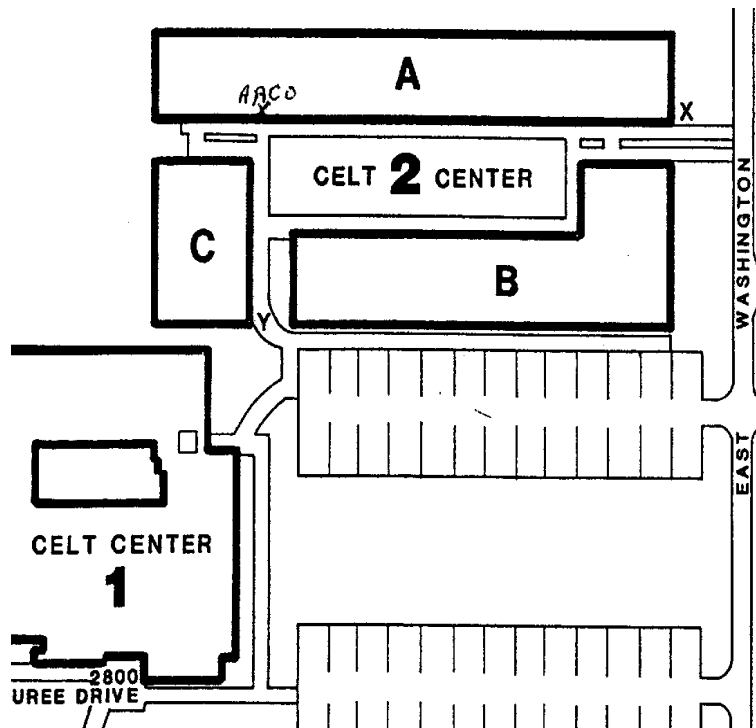
Early Registration \$25

SAVE THE DATE

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

