



# DISTRICT 81

## OCTOBER 2024



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### **Step 10:**

***Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.***

### **Tradition 10:**

***Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.***

### **Concept 10:**

***Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.***

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**WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES  
OUT FOR HELP; I WANT THE HAND OF  
AA ALWAYS TO BE THERE. AND FOR  
THAT: I AM RESPONSIBLE.**

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# UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS



**October 2: District 81 meeting** 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568

**October 5: SETA Assembly elections** In Person & Online San Jacinto College North 5800 Uvalde Rd, Houston, Texas 77049

**October 6: Treatment Facilities Committee Fall Workshop** 1-4pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573; see flyer!

**October 6: Alvin Group's 58th Anniversary** 2-5pm at the Alvin Club, 204 S Taylor St, Alvin, TX 77511; see flyer!

**October 9: Accessibility Committee meeting** 6:30pm online via Google Meet  
<https://meet.google.com/qvk-rjzk-nad>

**October 9: Correctional Facilities meeting** 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

**October 11-13: SWRAARSA** at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel, 900 E Lookout Drive, Richardson, TX 75082; see flyer!

**October 15: Grapevine Committee meeting** 5:30pm via Google Meets, send email to Grapevine committee chair to receive meeting info

**October 16: Website Committee meeting** 6pm online; send email to [john.a@aa-seta.org](mailto:john.a@aa-seta.org) to be added to the Google Meet invite.

**October 16: Literature Committee meeting** 7:30pm in Room E at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

**October 25: Archives Committee meeting** 6pm at the Alvin Taylor Street Club, 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511

**October 25-27: TXSCYPAA 43** at the Radisson Hotel Ft Worth North-Fossil Creek; see flyer!

**October 28: Newsletter Committee meeting** 5pm in the cafe area of the Friendswood Public Library, 416 S Friendswood Dr, Friendswood, TX 77546

**October 30: Finance & Budget meeting** 6:30pm at Jason's Deli in League City, 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

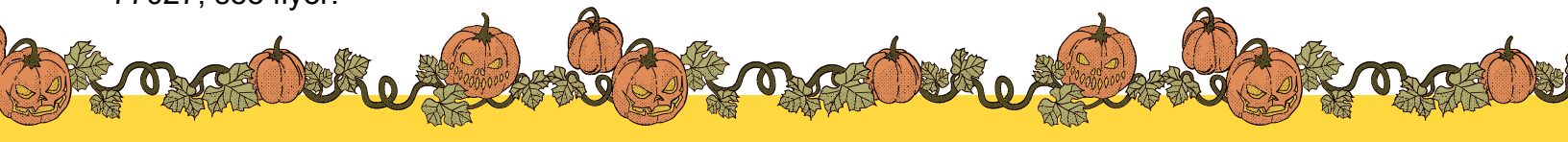
**October 30: Treatment Facilities Committee meeting** 6:30pm at Jason's Deli in League City, 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573, and via Zoom: 868-5564-9879; passcode: 06-10-1935

**October 31: PI/CPC Committee meeting** 6:30pm via Google Meets <https://meet.google.com/csw-pwgf-gyp>

**November 6: District 81 meeting** 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568

**November 9: Understanding Anonymity Workshop** 1-4pm at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 4613 Hwy 3, Dickinson, TX 77539; see flyer!

**January 3-5, 2025: SETA Convention** at the Royal Sonesta Hotel 2222 W Loop S, Houston, TX 77027; see flyer!







October 6, 2024

# 58TH ANNIVERSARY

## ALVIN GROUP AA

204 S. Taylor St., Alvin, TX 77511

**2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Alanon Speaker - David T. 2:15

3/28/23 Men's Recovery - UTS club - Webster, TX

**B-B-Q 3:15**

**History and sobriety countdown 3:45**

**50/50 Raffle**

AA Speaker - Jamie S. 4:00

DOS 6/28/13 Beginners group - Clute, TX

## TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

FALL WORKSHOP 2024

**OCTOBER 6TH**

1:00pm- 4:00pm

**A FUN OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF SERVICE IN AA!  
JOIN US!!**

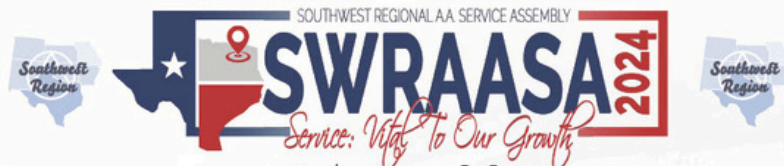
**SPEAKERS:**

**SERVICE: DJ M.**

**TRADITIONS: CHRISTINA S. & TIFFANY S.**

**TREATMENT CENTER: PAUL D.**

BAY AREA CLUB  
2111 WEBSTER ST  
LEAGUE CITY, TX 77573



Hosted by  
*Northeast Texas, Area 65*  
**October 11th, 12th, 13th**  
**\$20 Registration**

Visit us at:

[www.swraasa2024.org](http://www.swraasa2024.org)

For Questions: [Registration@swraasa2024.org](mailto:Registration@swraasa2024.org)

REGISTER HERE



SCAN ME

### RICHARDSON, TEXAS

Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel  
900 E Lookout Drive  
Richardson, TX 75082  
(972) 367.2000  
Hotel block opens November 2023

Registration Cut Off Date: 09/27/2024

**Mail to: PO Box 863582, Plano, TX 75086**

Print Neatly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To: Northeast TX Area SWRAASA 2024**



# TXSCYPAA 43

OCTOBER 25 - 27, 2024  
FORT WORTH, TX



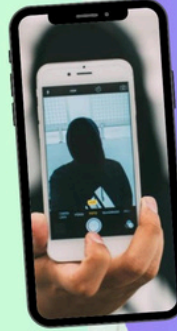
REGISTER NOW

## THIS DREAM WORLD

Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North-Fossil Creek  
ASL Interpretation/Spanish Translation  
LEARN MORE AT: [txscypaa43.org](http://txscypaa43.org)



# UNDERSTANDING ANONYMITY



Have you ever asked yourself:

- How is anonymity a spiritual principal?
- Why is AA anonymous?
- What does that mean?
- What's the big deal?
- Why do long timers care so much about it?

You are not alone!

## JOIN DISTRICT 81 WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024 FROM 1PM - 4PM  
HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
4613 HIGHWAY 3 DICKINSON TX 77539



SOUTH EAST TEXAS AREA 67  
presents

# HAPPY 2025 Jovious & Free

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

AT THE ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL - HOUSTON

FEATURING:

RICK W - GRAPEVINE TX	TERESA J - ALBUQUERQUE NM	JUDITH R - BISMARCK ND	SHAWN G - DES MOINES IA
JIM W - CANCUN, QR, MX	KARINA C - PHOENIX, NY	MARGA D - RICHMOND TX	SEVI M - HUMBLE TX
MATT C - HUTTO TX	DEBORAH D - HOUSTON TX	ROSIE M - HUMBLE TX	ELIZABETH H - LEAGUE CITY TX

AGENDA TO INCLUDE MULTIPLE STAGES

SPAN & ENG WORKSHOPS	YPAA SPEAKERS	80'S DANCE PARTY
ASK THE OLD-TIMERS	AL-ANON	MARATHON MEETINGS
AA HISTORIAN	COMMITTEE SHOWCASE	ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
REGISTRATION, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES  
AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS VISIT:

[SETACONVENTION.ORG](http://SETACONVENTION.ORG)

TICKETS:

\$30 - PRESALE (ENDS 12/13/24)  
\$35 - AT THE DOOR

# WHERE DID THE 12 STEPS COME FROM?

A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY BY BILL W. JULY 1953 A.A. GRAPEVINE

AAs are always asking: "Where did the Twelve Steps come from?" In the last analysis, perhaps nobody knows. Yet some of the events which led to their formulation are as clear to me as though they took place yesterday.

So far as people were concerned, the main channels of inspiration for our Steps were three in number -- the Oxford Groups, Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital and the famed psychologist, William James, called by some the father of modern psychology. The story of how these streams of influence were brought together and how they led to the writing of our Twelve Steps is exciting and in spots downright incredible.

Many of us will remember the Oxford Groups as a modern evangelical movement which flourished in the 1920's and early 30's, led by a one-time Lutheran minister, Dr. Frank Buchman. The Oxford Groups of that day threw heavy emphasis on personal work, one member with another. AA's Twelfth Step had its origin in that vital practice. The moral backbone of the "O.G." was absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. They also practiced a type of confession, which they called "sharing"; the making of amends for harms done they called "restitution". They believed deeply in their "quiet time", a meditation practiced by groups and individuals alike, in which the guidance of God was sought for every detail of living, great or small.

These basic ideas were not new; they could have been found elsewhere. But the saving thing for us first alcoholics who contacted the Oxford Groupers was that they laid great stress on these particular principles. **And fortunate for us was the fact that the Groupers took special pains not to interfere with one's personal religious views. Their society, like ours later on, saw the need to be strictly non-denominational.**

In the late summer of 1934, my well-loved alcoholic friend and schoolmate "Ebbie" had fallen in with these good folks and had promptly sobered up. Being an alcoholic, and rather on the obstinate side, he hadn't been able to "buy" all the Oxford Group ideas and attitudes. Nevertheless, he was moved by their deep sincerity and felt mighty grateful for the fact that their ministrations had, for the time being, lifted his obsession to drink.

When he arrived in New York in the late fall of 1934, Ebbie thought at once of me. On a bleak November day he rang up. Soon he was looking at me across our kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York. As I remember that conversation, he constantly used phrases like these: "I found I couldn't run my own life"; "I had to get honest with myself and somebody else"; "I had to make restitution for the damage I had done"; "I had to pray to God for guidance and strength, even though I wasn't sure there was any God"; "And after I'd tried hard to do these things I found that my craving for alcohol left." Then over and over Ebbie would say something like this: **"Bill, it isn't a bit like being on the water wagon. You don't fight the desire to drink -- you get released from it. I never had such a feeling before."**

Such was the sum of what Ebbie had extracted from his Oxford Group friends and had transmitted to me that day. While these simple ideas were not new, they certainly hit me like tons of brick. Today we understand just why that was . . . one alcoholic was talking to another as no one else can.

Two or three weeks later, December 11th to be exact, I staggered into the Charles B. Towns Hospital, that famous drying-out emporium on Central Park West, New York City. I'd been there before, so I knew and already loved the doctor in charge -- Dr. Silkworth. It was he who was soon to contribute a very great idea without which AA could never have succeeded. For years he had been proclaiming alcoholism an illness, an obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body. By now I knew this meant me. I also understood



what a fatal combination these twin ogres could be. Of course, I'd once hoped to be among the small percentage of victims who now and then escape their vengeance. But this outside hope was now gone. I was about to hit bottom. That verdict of science -- the obsession that condemned me to drink and the allergy that condemned me to die -- was about to do the trick. That's where the medical science, personified by this benign little doctor, began to fit it in. Held in the hands of one alcoholic talking to the next, this double-edged truth was a sledgehammer which could shatter the tough alcoholic's ego at depth and lay him wide open to the grace of God.

In my case it was of course Dr. Silkworth who swung the sledge while my friend Ebbie carried to me the spiritual principles and the grace which brought on my sudden spiritual awakening at the hospital three days later. [Dec. 14, 1934] I immediately knew that I was a free man. And with this astonishing experience came a feeling of wonderful certainty that great numbers of alcoholics might one day enjoy the priceless gift which had been bestowed upon me.

### Third Influence

At this point a third stream of influence entered my life through the pages of William James' book, "Varieties of Religious Experience". Somebody had brought it to my hospital room. Following my sudden experience, Dr. Silkworth had taken great pains to convince me that I was not hallucinated. But William James did even more. Not only, he said, could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual, their variety could be almost infinite. But the biggest payoff of that noted book was this: in most of the cases described, those who had been transformed were hopeless people. In some controlling area of their lives they had met absolute defeat. Well, that was me all right. In complete defeat, with no hope or faith whatever, I had made an appeal to a Higher Power. I had taken Step One of today's AA program -- "admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable." I'd also taken Step Three -- "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to God as we understood him." Thus was I set free. It was just as simple, yet just as mysterious, as that.

These realizations were so exciting that I instantly joined up with the Oxford Groups. But to their consternation I insisted on devoting myself exclusively to drunks. This was disturbing to the O.G.'s on two counts. Firstly, they wanted to help save the whole world. Secondly, their luck with drunks had been poor. Just as I joined they had been working over a batch of alcoholics who had proved disappointing indeed. One of them, it was rumored, had flippantly cast his shoe through a valuable stained glass window of an Episcopal church across the alley from O.G. headquarters. Neither did they take kindly to my repeated declaration that it shouldn't take long to sober up all the drunks in the world. They rightly declared that my conceit was still immense.

*... to be continued! ...*

**Submitted by Tom B.**

*Due to the length of this article and the limited space available in this issue of the newsletter, I have decided to make it a two-parter. Stay tuned for the rest of "Where Did the 12 Steps Come From?" in the November 2024 issue of our newsletter!*

*-Gwen R.  
District 81 Newsletter Editor*

*Scan QR code to access Newsletter  
via the District 81 website!*



# "LET'S TALK RECOVERY" WITH KATHLEEN H. AND GUEST, CONRAD H.

1. *What is your Sobriety Date*

February 18, 1985

2. *What is your Home Group*

Live at 5 Meets at 5:00 pm every day at the Bay Area Club.

3. *When I think of you, I think of you quoting the portion of the Big Book that says that selfishness and self-centeredness is the root of our problems. How was self-centeredness the root of your problem?*

Self-centeredness was the root of my problems. I was all about "poor me." I had to change my behavior. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous helped me recognize what I thought was real and what was real- two different things. AA made me look at myself. Those who don't look at themselves don't do well. AA changed my life.

4. *You have sponsored many men over the years. What is your philosophy of sponsorship?*

I'm pretty rough on them. I make them look at themselves. I have no time for those who won't look at themselves. There are too many others who need help. I pray for all of them, though.

5. *You have many health problems now. How has AA helped you cope?*

AA saved my life. It helped me change my behavior, including my eating habits. AA helps me with my attitude. I try to become a picture of what AA can be.

6. *You have been sober many years. How has AA evolved over the years?*

Treatment Centers got involved.

7. *What is your fondest memory from early sobriety?*

Doug S. My first sponsor. He took me through the program. He changed my life.

8. *After all these years, what do you do every day to stay sober?*

In the morning, I speak one on one with my sponsor and sponsees. In the evening I read out of the Book before I go to bed.

9. *How has AA and your Higher Power helped you living in a Nursing Home?*

I use the program. I make a conscious contact with God as I understand Him each morning. It's part of my life. It makes every day ok.

10. *What is your advice for the newcomer?*

Don't drink and go to meetings!

11. *Final thoughts?*

I don't have access to AA in the nursing home, but I do the best I can. I pray for all.

-Kathleen H.

*My sobriety date is May 19, 2005. My home group is Live at Five that meets at 5:00 pm at the Bay Area Club. I am a writer and have published articles in the AA Grapevine. "Let's talk Recovery" will be a regular column in the Newsletter, where I will interview men and women with long-term sobriety about their experience, strength, and hope to inspire the newcomer and other alcoholics.*



**Heard at Meetings:** I started out as a social drinker. Then I had my second drink.

James J., Hamilton, Ontario, May 2008

Submitted by Robert H.

taken with permission from the Grapevine



## THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE

There are options for print and digital subscriptions, ranging from 1 month to 3 years. Get one for yourself, buy one as a gift for your sponsee or sponsor, or both! It's a wonderful way to share experience, strength, and hope.

Scan the QR code below using your phone's camera feature and be taken directly to: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-subscriptions>



## SEPTEMBER F&B REPORT

D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 11,843.99
Group Contributions	\$ 350.00
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 82.49
Net Income	\$ 267.51
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 12,193.99
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$ (9,549.86)
Available Funds	\$ 644.14