



DISTRICT 81

JUNE 2023

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Workshop: open

Webmaster: John A.
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Alt: Bill



Step 6:

Were entirely read to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition 6:

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept 6:

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 2-4: 25th Hour Annual Spring Fling lots of speakers and and meetings at 87 Lyerly, Houston 77022

June 4: Women's Sponsorship Workshop 1-5pm 24307 Aldine Westfield Rd, Spring, TX 77373; RSVP with Jennifer C. at jennifer.c@aa-seta.org

June 4: Treatment Facilities Committee Workshop 1:30pm at the Bay Area Club 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

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

June 9-11: 76th Annual Texas State A.A. Convention at the Westin San Antonio North 9821 Colonnade Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78230; registration \$25 online, \$30 at the door; see flyer!

June 14: Correctional Facilities Committee meeting 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

June 17: Jamaica Beach Group 45th Anniversary 11am at 16721 Jolly Roger Rd, Jamaica Beach, TX 77554; see flyer!

June 21: Website Committee meeting 6pm online; send email to john.a@aa-seta.org to be added to the Google Meet invite.

June 21: Literature Committee meeting 7:30pm on the back porch at the Bay Area Club 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

June 24: Sisters in Sobriety 24th Anniversary 9-11am at Up the Street Club 17400 El Camino, Suite 800, Houston, TX 77058; see flyer!

June 25: Bacliff Group Picnic 11am-4pm at Bayshore Park 5437 FM646, Bacliff, TX 77518; see flyer!

June 26: Newsletter Committee meeting 5pm at the Helen Hall Public Library - 100 W. Walker St., League City; email gwen.r@aa-seta.org for more info.

June 27: Grapevine Committee meeting 6pm at the Texas City Group 518 6th Ave N, Texas City, TX 77590

June 28: Finance & Budget meeting 6:30pm at Jason's Deli in League City 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

June 28: Treatment Facilities Committee meeting 6:30pm via Zoom: 868-5564-9879; passcode: 06-10-1935

June 29: PI/CPC Committee meeting 5pm at the Bay Area Club 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

June 30: Archives Committee meeting 2pm at the Alvin Taylor Street Club 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511

September 29 - October 1: Southwest Regional Forum at the Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel, 1770 Airway Blvd. El Paso, TX 79925; see flyer!

January 19-21 2024: 61st Annual SETA Convention at the Moody Gardens Convention Center, 7 Hope Blvd, Galveston, TX 77554; see flyer!



76th Annual Texas State AA Convention

San Antonio, Texas

June 9 – 11, 2023

"The age of miracles is still with us. Our own recovery proves that!"

Scheduled AA Speakers

Willard M. Austin, TX
 Gary K. Sulphur Springs, TX
 Tisa B. Sheep Springs, NM
 Jackie K. Granbury, TX
 Chris R. Ingram, TX
 Old Timers Panel
 Texas Panel 71 and 72, Delegates
 G.S.O.: Jimmy D. Dallas, TX
 Al-Anon: Stephanie B. Granite Shoals, TX

Hotel Information

The Westin San Antonio North
 9821 Colonnade Boulevard
 San Antonio, Texas 78230
 210-691-8888
 Room Rates \$125 - \$145
 Booking Code: (Texas State AA Convention)

Registration Fee: \$30.00 at the door; early online registration \$25.00

Visit our website <https://txaaconvention.org> for updates, agenda, and registration.



24TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTERS IN SOBRIETY

Anniversary Celebration

Come celebrate with Sisters in Sobriety as we celebrate our 24th Anniversary. Sisters in Sobriety was founded in 1999 in Webster, Texas. While the location has changed over the years, but Sisters in Sobriety has been a home for countless women on their road to recovery. For 24 years women have treasured a special kind of sisterhood and fellowship that has carried the message of recovery. Make plans to celebrate the sisterhood of recovery with us in June. Any female is welcome to attend.

JUNE 24, 2023

9:00-11:00AM

9:00am Pancake Breakfast

10:00am open meeting to share your memories and experiences at Sisters in Sobriety Meetings

SISTERS IN SOBRIETY

UP THE STREET CLUB

17400 EL CAMINO

SUITE 800

HOUSTON, TX 77058

Jamaica Beach Group 45th Anniversary Celebration

June 17, 2023 @ 10:30 AM–2:30 PM

PICNIC party

Come join us for a potluck luncheon at Jamaica Beach Park, bring you're family, a chair and enjoy a day at the park.

11:00 AM speaker: Nancy J from Santa Fe, TX
37 years, Miracles of Alanon Up the Street Club

11:30 AM speaker: William" Terry" s from Galveston TX
38 years of sobriety What's the Point

12:45 PM speaker Terry Jo from Galveston TX
History of Jamaica Beach Group



16721 Jolly Roger Road, Jamaica Beach, TX

BACLIFF GROUP IS HAVING THEIR FIRST PICNIC AND IT'S SITTING BY THE DOCK OF THE BAY

WHEN AND WHERE YOU ASK?

JUNE 25TH FROM 11:00 – 4:00 OR THE LAST PERSON LEAVES

AT BAYSHORE PARK, BACLIFF, TX

WE PROVIDE THE MEAT, COFFEE AND WATER YOU PROVIDE THE COVERED DISH TO PASS

EAT AT 1:00

SPEAKER AT 2:00

NINA D FROM GALVESTON TX

KIDS PARK EQUIPMENT

BRING YOUR OWN LOUNGE CHAIRS

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FORUM

September 29-October 1, 2023
Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel, El Paso, TX

You are invited to the Southwest Regional Forum!

- PURPOSE OF REGIONAL FORUMS**
- ▶ Regional Forums are hosted by the A.A. General Service Board and "open" to all A.A. members or to anyone interested in A.A.
 - ▶ Regional Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation between A.A. members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office and AA Grapevine.

- PROGRAM**
- ▶ Your Southwest Regional Trustee will moderate the event. You will also hear from General Service Office Staff Members, the General Manager, General Service Board Trustees, AA Grapevine Inc. Publisher and Staff, A.A. World Services, Inc. Director, your region's Delegates, and past trustees.
 - ▶ There will be presentations, workshops, panels, and more. There will also be sharing sessions that will allow you to comment and ask questions of the board and staff. A sample program is posted on aa.org under the Regional Forums tab.
 - ▶ The event will take place on Friday from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- REGISTRATION INFORMATION**
- ▶ Registration is **FREE** and will open online at www.aa.org on June 30, 2023.
 - ▶ All registration information is confidential and will not be used for anything except communicating about the event and sending the digital Final Report.

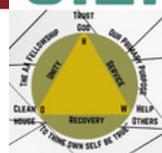
HOTEL INFORMATION
Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel
1770 Airway Blvd, El Paso, TX, 79925
Phone: (800) 333-3333

- ▶ Hotel reservations: <https://WWW.RADISSONHOTELSAMERICAS.COM/EN-US/HOTELS/RADISSON-EL-PASO-AIRPORT>
- ▶ Last day to book September 8th
- ▶ Rate: Double Occupancy, \$105 per night US or Canadian
 - To receive the group rate, reference the event.

We look forward to seeing you in El Paso!

For more information, please contact, Regional Forums Staff Coordinator, at regionalforums@aa.org or call (212) 870-3120

61ST ANNUAL S.E.T.A. CONVENTION



WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR TRIANGLE?

JANUARY 19-21, 2024

FRIDAY

7:30P AA - SHANE S., CHATTANOOGA, TN
10:00P YPAA - KARA B., AUSTIN, TX

MOODY GARDENS CONVENTION CENTER
7 HOPE BLVD, GALVESTON, TX, 77554

SATURDAY

9:00A GSD - JAMES H., NEW YORK, NY
10:45A ALATEEN - SPEAKER TBA
11:00A AL-ANON - NANCY J., SANTA FE, TX
1:30P AA - CFC CHUCK M., HOUSTON, TX
4:00P AA SPANISH SPEAKER - FERNANDO L., CHIAPAS, MX
7:30P AA - PETER M., BOCA RATON, FL

WEBSITE - REGISTRATION - HOTEL



SUNDAY

11:00A AA - JUDITH R., BISMARCK, ND
PRE-REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20 FOR AA/AL-ANON -BY 11/30
HOTEL RATE - \$129 SINGLE/\$149 DOUBLE - BOOK BY 12/29

SETA CONVENTION, 2951 MARINA BAY DR., SUITE 130 BOX 273, LEAGUE CITY, TX., 77573

Full Name: _____	Quantity/Type	Cost
Badge Name: _____ <small>Circle one: AA Al-Anon Alateen</small>	AA Pre-registration	\$20
	Al-Anon Pre-registration	\$20
	Alateen/Child	Free
Home Group: _____	Coffee Badge	\$10
Address: _____	Box Lunch - Saturday	\$20
City, State, Zip: _____	Banquet - Saturday Night	\$50
Phone: _____	Scholarship Donation	\$20
Email: _____	Total Due	\$

www.2024setaconvention.org

SETA HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

If you are interested in helping with the SETA hospitality suite, please let me know at andrea.w@aa-seta.org or meet me on the last Monday of the month.

Also please bring it back to your groups that we are doing a hospitality suite at SETA and would like group support. We can have a group host an entire meal or smaller groups can link up to host a meal. You will be asked to coordinate with the other groups if you choose to host a meal together. If your group would like to provide funds for miscellaneous snacks or other items needed for the hospitality suite, that is also an option and greatly appreciated!

If the meal your group is providing needs to be served, please note that I would be helpful to have people at the conference that can help serve the food.

I will be bringing a sign-up sheet to the next district meeting for groups to begin signing up for slots so that they have time to begin preparing!

After the July district meeting (pending empty slots), myself and anyone else who wants to help can start

attending group conscience meetings to help gain traction and momentum! We have a large district so the help would be appreciated.

Proposed schedule: (Looking for feedback here!)

- Friday dinner
- Saturday breakfast
- Saturday lunch
- Saturday dinner
- Sunday breakfast?
- Snacks to be provided throughout the conference?

Once the schedule is released for SETA, we can have a better idea of timing. If this has already been released please forward it to me.

Also waiting to hear back from Jennifer, who is the Hospitality contact for SETA. She is waiting to hear from the hotel on the hospitality situation. I would like to hear from her before making a decision to book a suite or use the options that they have. If I do not hear back before next month, I will contact her.

-Andrea W.
Hospitality Committee Chair

RIGIDITY IN A.A.

During my first three years sober, I introduced myself loudly as a DOPE FIEND and an alcoholic. Some of the longer-term members of my group would scowl and snap at me to quit being an “and a”. I would throw pennies across the room, get up and down several times, engage in side conversations during the meetings, dress inappropriately, etc. etc. Shockingly enough, I wasn’t kicked out of AA. Over time, I learned through working the steps and practicing spiritual principles in small bites, to change my conduct. I started becoming a huge fan of AA customs and tradition. It is awful to admit that I have been guilty of being so ego driven and have actually caught myself parroting insults in a group meeting that I heard from some of our crusty oldtimers.

This behavior didn’t start straight out of the gate, but as I started gaining confidence in what “I thought I knew,” I became more arrogant and intolerant.

Now as the years roll on, I cringe at some of the mandates I hear in meetings. Someone will yell out, “You can’t talk about that in this meeting!” if one member has the audacity to mention something like smoking weed in their share, or commit any number of supposed AA cultural infractions.

I once read the printout of a farewell speech given by Bob Pearson.

Bob Pearson (1917-2008) was General Manager of the General Service Office from 1974 to 1984, and then served as Senior Advisor to the G.S.O. from 1985 until his retirement. His story is in the Big Book as “AA Taught Him to Handle Sobriety.” During the 1986 General Service Conference, Bob gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk to the conference at the closing brunch on Saturday morning, April 26. Here is a small excerpt:

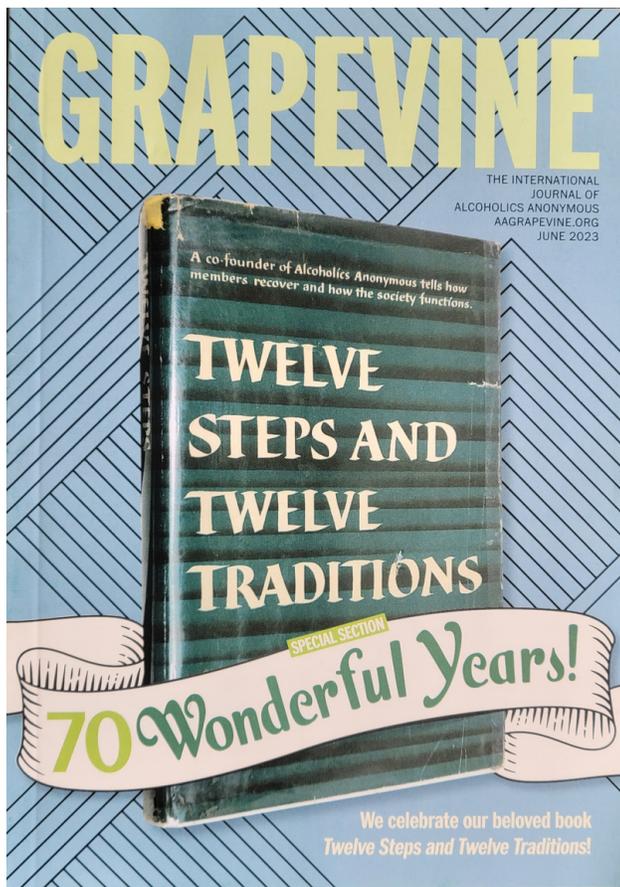
“If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing AA today, I would have to answer: the growing *rigidity* – the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions; pressure for GSO to “enforce” our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., “banning books;” laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. One of his favorite sayings was, “Every group has the right to be wrong.” He was maddeningly tolerant of his critics, and he had absolute faith that faults in AA were self-correcting.”

What I am learning slowly over time is to give grace: allow the newer members to find their footing, to become acclimated to our group cultures, to have quiet conversations after the meetings, to have animated discussions with my sponsees and friends, to make AA a safe place for people to come, get sober, and become productive family members and citizens.

I don’t think anyone likes to be yelled at or shamed in a group. Imagine what that would feel like or even being a witness to that behavior when you were brand new.

We are in the life-saving business. AAs everywhere learn to support each other’s recovery and growth. I hope I will stay mindful and encourage people to keep coming back so that they can fall madly, deeply in love with Alcoholics Anonymous.

-Dawn F.



Does your home group have a Grapevine Rep?

“Grapevine Representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It's a fun way to get involved! All you have to do is announce the latest issue at your meeting, let people know how they can participate by sending in stories, or jokes. It's easy to get started. Simply let your homegroup know that you are interested. Register with us online and you will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.”

aagrapevine.org/get-involved/become-grapevine-rep

AAGRAPEVINE
The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

A Poison Tree

By William Blake

*I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.*

*And I watered it in fears
Night and morning with my tears,
And I sunned it with smiles
And with soft deceitful wiles.*

*And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an apple bright,
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine,*

*And into my garden stole
When the night had veiled the pole;
In the morning, glad, I see
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.*

When I read this poem, I am struck by the beautiful language. As a recovering alcoholic, I can relate this poem to the power I can give my disease at times, when I keep my thoughts and feelings to myself. It can be easy to resolve conflicts with a “friend” as the author references. But what about those difficult

conversations with people I don't like or don't want to hurt by speaking my truth? What about the negative thoughts and feelings that creep in slowly over time when things don't go my way? What about the quiet voice that says maybe I could take just one drink? I can usually brush them off for a while, but over time if I do not share about my true thoughts and feelings with my sponsor or my home group, I will begin to have a wrath that grows and that is watered in fears. Today I can ask my Higher Power for the strength to pick up the phone or go to a meeting and speak my truth no matter how painful or embarrassing it may be. God will never let us down.

-Colleen E.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DISTRICT 81

According to my sponsor Bill B., District 8 was divided into 3 different areas, East, Central, and West. They held district meetings at Alvin Taylor Street. I didn't participate in any of those meetings, but I attended one meeting with a guy that I sponsored. That was in 1997 when I was 5 years sober.

In January of 2013, our district became District 81 and Alvin became District 82. District 81 decided to move to Kelley's in La Marque and Bonita W. was the DCM. I became GSR of the New Day Group and I eventually became the D81 Intergroup Representative. My job was to attend the Houston Intergroup meetings that were held every other month in Houston. The various committees were pretty much the same as they are today. The difference was that the Public Information chair would attend the SETA meetings and would report back to the district what was happening in the area. Same with CFC, Archives, CPC, Literature, Grapevine, etc. This was kind of the process up until early 2007.

Enter a member by the name of Parth M. our new DCM. Parth made an announcement that everyone chooses a committee and start attending that committee meeting. In other words, we were going to start doing the committee at the district level. That's when District 81 became very active. Besides the monthly district meeting at Kelley's, a lot of our membership joined the various committees and started doing the work at the district level. This changed the whole atmosphere of our district and brought additional members into service work.

For example, the TFC committee is still busy carrying the message into treatment facilities, PI stays busy with PSAs, furnishing

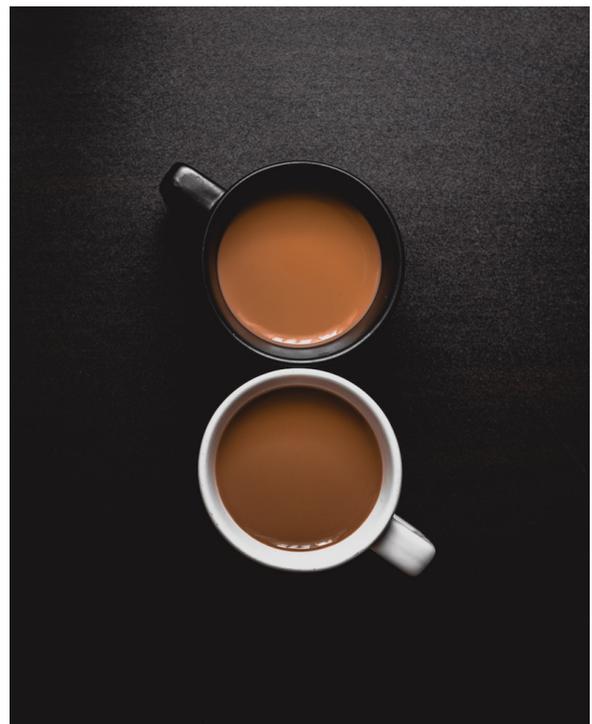
literature racks to about 15 different locations. CFC taking meetings into Carol Young prison unit and meetings into Galveston County Jail, Grapevine having monthly meetings to promote the sale of their magazine, Archives committee holding meetings to preserve the history of AA, our tech committee has set up a website and what an excellent job they have done. Our district newsletter is probably the best in the area. I could go on and on what each committee does, but I think you get the picture.

Besides all the committee work that we do, we have members that have gone down the service structure and are active in SETA.

I realize that this is a thumb nail sketch of District 81 but when you get to be my age, it's a miracle that I could remember as much as I have.

God Bless all of you guys and gals and thanks for making District 81 what it is today.

Tom B. – District 81 Member



APRIL FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 14,414.56
Group Contributions	\$ 1,250.68
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 480.41
Net Income	\$ 770.27
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 15,665.24
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$ (10,398.91)
Available Funds	\$ 3,266.33

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I have been getting a lot of great involvement from people the past month or two, and I just wanted to express my appreciation and gratitude! I think our District 81 Newsletter is a wonderful way to carry the message and spread information on wonderful service work opportunities, and from the feedback I have received I know others feel the same. This cannot happen without fellowship involvement, so **thank you** to everyone who has contributed to this publication.

The work continues!

If you or someone you know has something to say about anything related to A.A., email me at gwen.r@aa-seta.org and it will be included in an upcoming edition!

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

-Gwen R.

District 81 Newsletter Editor

