



DISTRICT 81

MARCH 2025



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Step 3: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.

Tradition 3: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 3:
To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - The Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, executives - with a traditional "Right of Decision."

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

March 5: District 81 meeting 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568

March 8: General Service Representative - GSR Workshop 1-4pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573; see flyer!

March 12: Accessibility Committee meeting 6:30pm online via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/qvk-rjzk-nad>

March 12: Correctional Facilities meeting 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

March 15: Sponsorship Workshop 10am-1:30pm Houston Intergroup 5151 Mitchelldale, Ste B10, Houston TX, 77092; see flyer!

March 16: Bid for SERCYPAA 3pm via Zoom 398 094 1640; see flyer!

March 16: Newsletter Committee meeting 5pm at Dawn F.'s house.

March 17: Grapevine Committee meeting 5:30pm via Google Meets, send email to Grapevine committee chair to receive meeting info

March 19: Website Committee meeting 6pm online; send email to john.a@aa-seta.org to be added to the Google Meet invite.

March 19: Literature Committee meeting 7:30pm in Room E at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

March 21: Archives Committee meeting 6pm at the Alvin Taylor Street Club, 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511

March 26: Finance & Budget meeting 6:30pm at Jason's Deli in League City, 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

March 26: 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

March 27: PI/CPC Committee meeting 6:30pm via Google Meets <https://meet.google.com/csw-pwgf-gyp>

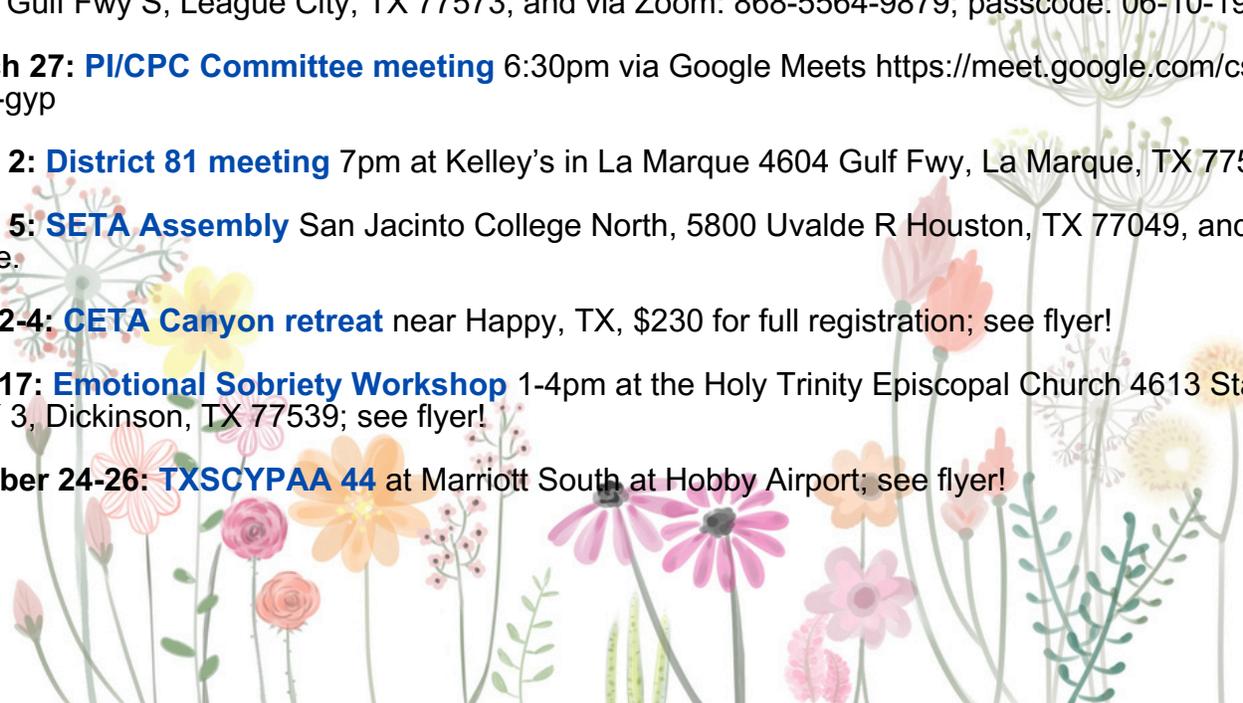
April 2: District 81 meeting 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568

April 5: SETA Assembly San Jacinto College North, 5800 Uvalde R Houston, TX 77049, and online.

May 2-4: CETA Canyon retreat near Happy, TX, \$230 for full registration; see flyer!

May 17: Emotional Sobriety Workshop 1-4pm at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 4613 State HWY 3, Dickinson, TX 77539; see flyer!

October 24-26: TXSCYPAA 44 at Marriott South at Hobby Airport; see flyer!



WORKSHOP Sponsorship

THREE LEGACY RECOVERY FOUND IN
RECOVERY, UNITY, AND SERVICE

**HOW THE JOURNEY THROUGH ALL
SIDES OF THE TRIANGLE WILL LEAD
YOU BACK TO RECOVERY!**

Q & A - SESSION - LET'S TALK

MARCH 15, 2025
10AM - 1:30PM

Houston Intergroup
5151 Mitchelldale, Ste B10
Houston, TX 77092
Hybrid on Zoom

PRESENTED BY PAUL M. AND GUESTS, THIS WORKSHOP
WILL DISCUSS HOW ALL THREE SIDES OF THE TRIANGLE
WORK TOGETHER TO ENHANCE RECOVERY.

REGISTRATION



In Person
\$15 Includes
Packet & Lunch

Hybrid Zoom
\$10 Includes
electronic packet



HOUSTON INTERGROUP, 5151 MITCHELLEDALE, STE B10, HOUSTON, TX 77092
WWW.AAHOUSTON.ORG

CETA CANYON



Surrounded by the beautiful Palo Duro Canyon

MAY 2ND - 4TH 2025

\$230 all inclusive registration: meals, snacks, and lodging.
\$75 deposit to reserve your spot- balance due upon arrival.

SPEAKERS:

Linda J. - OKC, OK & AlAnon to be announced
Joe F. - Wichita, KS
Debbie R. - OKC, OK

20 miles south of Amarillo
near Happy, TX

Canyon trails, hiking, ropes
course, waterslide, air bounce.

Campfire meeting or starlight
meeting (burn ban permitting)

FOR MORE INFORMATION :

On-line Registration @ <http://cetacanyonconference.com>
Email: Registration @ cetacanyonconference.com

- Theresa T- (316) 312 7341
- Mandy- (316) 347 4741
- Carly- (405) 401 2868
- Debbie- (405) 657 4341

EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY WORKSHOP

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
DISTRICT 81 WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE 12 STEPS

EMOTIONAL + SOBRIETY = "EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY"

HOW DO I "GET" THERE?

WHY DO I WANT TO "BE" THERE?

WHAT HAPPENS TO ME WHEN I "AM" THERE?

HOW DO I "STAY THERE?"

MAY 17TH, 2025 FROM 1PM - 4PM

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4613 STATE HWY 3, DICKINSON, TX 77539

TXSCYPAA 44

OCT 24-26 2025

Marriott South at Hobby Airport



Rooms just \$110 a night
FREE 24hr shuttle from Hobby Airport
FREE breakfast buffet with your stay

Book at:

TXSCYPAA44.ORG

THE STORY OF IRMA LIVONI

Here is the story about Irma Livoni. Each year around this time I try to tell this true story about what happened not just on Dec. 7th, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day), but what happened to one of the few women who was in AA at that time, and about a letter she received in the mail, on Monday, December 8th, which virtually kicked her out of AA.....

In Dec of 1984, I had been sober for 2-1/2 years, and working with my sponsors Bob and Sybil Corwin since January of '84. Sybil had gotten sober in March of 1941, so at the time she was 43 yrs sober. We were driving home from a meeting and she asked me the date (to her it was just Sunday). I told her it was Dec. 8th, and that yesterday (Dec. 7th) was the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. She said "Matt, have I ever told you about Irma Livoni?"

"Nope, who is she?"

She said, "Well, when we get back to the house, come in for coffee and I'll tell you a story about AA history and some of the reasons we have tradition 3. Oh, and by the way Matt, did you know that the literature specifically protects 'queers, plain crackpots, and fallen women, and since you and I are at least two out of those three, we should be especially grateful for tradition 3? I'll show you it when we get home."

I laughed out loud, as Sybil had a great sense of humor, and she had been a taxi dancer, back before she got sober, you know one of those "10 cents a dance" ladies, and she was divorced twice, and was a single mom, as well as an alcoholic back then, so the term "fallen woman" was something that hit close to home. She had told me that it was very different back in the 30's and 40's for a woman to be an alcoholic. Sybil said It was a time when women wore hats and gloves, and "respectable women" were not usually found in a bar, or at "whoopie parties."

Our Thursday night step study had voted to not cover the traditions after we got to step 12, so I figured they must not be very important and thought I'd probably be bored with the conversation, but she got my attention telling me that "queers, crackpots and fallen women" were mentioned, so I agreed to come in for coffee. Besides Sybil had been sober longer than I had been alive. I didn't argue with her very much.

Sybil got down her copy of the big book. She said, "I want you to find the traditions in there, and read me tradition 3."

It was a 1st edition Big Book. Thicker than mine. I said, "Is this why they call it the Big Book?" She said, "Exactly, Bill had it printed on big paper, with big margins around the type, so that people would think they were really getting something for their money." I looked in the back of the book, where I thought the traditions were, but couldn't find them. "I can't find them, Sybil."

"Exactly. That's because we didn't have any traditions back in 1941 when I came in. And Matt, AA was in mortal danger of destroying itself, which is why we have traditions now." Then she had me find them in my 3rd edition B.B. and in my 12 & 12. I didn't read it all, just the caption heading, and then she started telling me the story of IRMA LIVONI...

Irma was a sponsee of Sybil's. She also became a member in 1941, just after Sybil. Sybil took her into her home. (Sybil told me that many people's bottoms were very low then, no home, no job, no watch, no car, nothing). Sybil said it was different then for a woman to be an alcoholic. That most of them had burned all their bridges with their families, and were looked down upon, even more so than male alcoholics. Sybil said she watched AA help Irma get sober, watched AA help Irma get cleaned up, watched AA help Irma get her first job in sobriety, and watched AA help Irma get her first apartment in sobriety. Then she said that on Dec. 5th, 1941, a self-appointed group of the members signed a letter to Irma and mailed it on that Friday, Dec 5th, 2 days before Pearl Harbor. The letter read: "At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, held Dec. 4th, 1941, it was decided that your attendance at group meetings was no longer desired until certain explanations and plans for the future were made to the satisfaction of this committee. This action

has been taken for reasons which should be most apparent to yourself.

It was decided that, should you so desire, you may appear before members of this committee and state your attitude. This opportunity will be afforded you between now and December 15th, 1941. You may communicate with us at the above address by that date. In case you do not wish to appear, we shall consider the matter closed and that your membership is terminated.” I was stunned. “How could they do this, Sybil?”

“Because we didn’t have any guidelines, any traditions to protect us from good intentions. AA was very new, and people did all sorts of things, thinking they were protecting the fellowship.” Sybil then said to close my eyes and imagine my being in the following setting. Sybil explained that Dec. 7th, 1941 was Pearl Harbor Day (a Sunday). She said that that Sunday night everyone in LA was afraid that Los Angeles would also be attacked and bombed. There was a citywide blackout, people were so terrified. She said that on Monday Dec. 8th., President Roosevelt gave the speech that talked about “the date that will live in infamy” and that we were now at war with Japan and Germany. She said, that was the day that Irma received her letter. There was only one meeting in the entire state of California when Sybil came in, in 1941. By December there may have been two or three, but Irma had nowhere else to go, no one else to turn to. No other group in California that she could ask for help. Sybil said, “Imagine only one or two meetings in your entire state, and being shunned by your family, and by society, and by the only group of people who were on your side, your AA group. Imagine them shutting the door on you and sending you such a letter, Matt.” I shivered at the thought of it. It was Christmas time, the stores were decorated and now poor Irma was all alone. I thought about how it was in 1984 with 2000 meetings a week to choose from in Southern California. and then I imagined having no other help for a hopeless alcoholic. Sybil told me that Irma never came back to another meeting, left AA and died of alcoholism. She wrote to Bill about the incident, and I cannot tell you that this is the reason that the following is a part of the 3rd Tradition, but it certainly seems to apply.

From Tradition 3, page 141: “... that we would neither punish nor deprive any AA of membership, that we must never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or conform to anything? The answer, now seen in Tradition Three, was simplicity itself. At last experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic’s full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence, and often to condemn him to endless misery. Who dared to be judge, jury and executioner of his own sick brother?”

JUDGE JURY AND EXECUTIONER... I remember looking at those words again and again, and they seemed to get larger and larger.

JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER

JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER

JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER

I hadn’t really noticed EXECUTIONER when I had read it the first time at my 12 & 12 study group. Again I felt so bad for this poor lady.

Wow, those words really had a different meaning than when I had read the traditions before. So here it is, 23 years later, and each December 7th and 8th I always think about Irma Livoni, and how lucky I am, that we have traditions now. I also think of how lucky I was to have met Sybil and so lucky that she appointed herself my sponsor.

Years later I realized how everything she ever taught me was like gold. But in 1984 I had no idea who Sybil really was or how lucky I was to have her as my sponsor. She was like a piece of living history, but I really didn’t realize how valuable that was in explaining WHY we do some of the things we do (like the story she told me about how they never said “Hi Sybil” and no one said “Hi my name is Matt and I’m an alcoholic” back then). Besides being one of the first women in AA, Sybil was the first woman west of the Mississippi. She also became the head of LA’s central office for 12 years, and she became close friends with Bill and Lois. She and Bob even used to go on vacation with them. She used to tell me all sorts of stories about Bill Wilson and things he said to her. He was very interested in how AA would work for women, as there were very few women worldwide in AA back in 1941.

Marty Mann came in before Sybil did, but very few stayed sober...

I learned that night that no one can get kicked out of AA. We can ask a disturbing wet drunk that he needs to settle down or we might have to ask him to step outside for that day, but we don't vote to kick anyone out forever. And we don't shun people because our guidelines, our traditions tell us that no one has to believe in anything (they don't have to be like me) and they don't have to conform to anything (they don't have to dress a certain way, or have no facial hair, or pay anything). Even if I get drunk again, I am still welcome at any AA meeting...

So that's the story about Irma Livoni. Feel free to pass this along to anyone you know who might be interested in knowing a bit about how and why the traditions got started. I think it sort of puts a face on tradition 3: the face of a woman I never knew, who got kicked out of AA. Who got drunk and died...

Thank God for Tradition 3, and thank God for all of you. I truly appreciate and cherish all the people in this group.

Best AA love to you all,

Matt

Submitted by Dawn F.

AA HISTORY, AS READ BY MIKE F. 2024 HILL COUNTRY ROUNDUP, KERRVILLE, TEXAS

Have you ever wondered for a moment how this wonderful thing called Alcoholics Anonymous came about? We're going to try to help answer some of that for you today, so let's take an imaginative journey back to the early 1900s and learn about the events that took place for the birth of our fellowship. Now you'll know the rest of the AA history story.

In 1908, a young man named Frank Buckman, a YMCA secretary, started a street-side church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a donation of \$17. The church, which began as a hospice for young men, quickly spread to other cities which enabled a group to start a settlement house project. After a falling out with the church trustee committee, Frank resigned and traveled to Europe, ending up in a large religious convention in Keswick, England, where he had his spiritual transformation. Following his transformation, he felt a feeling of a will to surrender. He wrote letters to each of the trustees back in Philadelphia making amends- "My dear friend, I have nursed ill feelings against you. I am sorry. Will you forgive me? Sincerely, Frank." Feeling the desire to share this experience, he went to nearby Oxford University and formed an evangelical group among the student leaders and athletes.

Over the next 20 years in England, Scotland, Holland, India, South Africa, China, Egypt, Switzerland and North and South America, Oxford group membership flourished. They aimed for absolute standards of love, purity, honesty, and unselfishness. Their formal title was the First Century Christian Fellowship, which is now commonly referred to as the Oxford Groups after their name changed in 1928. And here's where the God stuff really takes off. Just a brief aside for some of the newer folks. You may have a lot of questions when this is over, because this is going to be kind of heavy. So, feel free to approach us afterward. Talk to your sponsors, talk to anybody who's been around for a while. Get hungry and go find out what some of this information is, if you would.

In 1918, while working in China, Frank Buckman met another young YMCA worker named Sam Shoemaker, who was very involved with the Cavalry Episcopal Church in New York City. Frank converted Sam to the Oxford Group principles with him while in China. Years later, Sam Shoemaker became the minister of the Cavalry Episcopal Church. In 1934, the church became the center of the Oxford Groups in the United States. This is where Ebby Thatcher was living when he got sober and visited Bill, as described in our big book. It's also where

drunk Bill went looking for Ebby before Bill's final stay at Towns Hospital in November 1934.

Now, a name you're probably not familiar with; a young man named Jim Newton came upon an Oxford Group meeting by accident in Massachusetts in 1923 when he was 18. He was converted at the party and gave the direction of his life to God at the time. He traveled to Florida in 1926 at age 21 to visit his father and they bought a tract of land across the street from the Thomas Edison estate. Jim often acted as host and toastmaster at Mr. Edison's parties, which were attended by Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and many other world-renowned business leaders and public figures. Mr. Firestone offered Jim a job as secretary to the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1926 and moved him to Akron, Ohio. Jim worked for Firestone for 11 years and was being groomed to be the president of the company before he resigned to work full-time with the Oxford Groups. Mr. Firestone's clergyman in Akron was the Reverend Walter Tunks.

Through this time Jim met Bud Firestone when he was welcomed into the family in Akron. Bud had a bad drinking problem and struggled to get sober. Jim took Bud to an Episcopal conference in Denver, Colorado, and on the train traveling home Jim introduced Bud to his Oxford Group conference in Denver, Colorado, and on the train traveling home Jim introduced Bud to his old Oxford Group minister, Sam Shoemaker. Bud then surrendered his life to God with Sam Shoemaker in a private car on the train.

January 1933, Frank Buckman, leading a team of 30 men and women, traveled to Akron to give Oxford Group testimonials at the Mayflower Hotel and in Akron area churches, creating a heavy Oxford Group presence in the area. This prompted involvement from a number of early AA members and names from our history in the Oxford Groups, including T Henry and Claris Williams, Henrietta Seiberling, Shep Cornell, Roland Hazard, Dr. Bob & Ann Smith, and members of Reverend Walter Tunk's church. About a month before Bill Wilson arrived in Akron, they'd consulted among themselves, realizing that Dr Bob was not at all comfortable at talking about his drinking in Oxford Group meetings. Henrietta suggested to T Henry that maybe a smaller, more private meeting place would work better for Dr Bob. So, they began meeting at the gatehouse at the C. Railing Tire & Rubber Company estate in the hopes that he would make a confession in the Oxford Group fashion and a commitment to sobriety.

What comes next is Bill Wilson's trip to Akron. He's in the Mayflower Hotel, sober about five months in the Oxford Group, and hears music from the bar. He says a prayer and receives guidance to look at a local minister's directory board and he picked one name: Reverend Walter Tunks. He was Harvey Firestone's minister and Mr. Firestone had brought Frank and the 30 Oxford Group members to Akron for 10 days in gratitude for their help with his son. If that's not God working, I don't know what is!

In May 1935, Bill makes his phone call to Reverend Tunks explaining his need to work with an alcoholic. The Reverend gives him a list of names, one of whom was Norman Shepard, a close friend of Henrietta Seiberling who knows what she's trying to do for Dr Bob. Bill had called nine of the ten names on the list when he reached Norman. Norman connected Bill with Henrietta because he was leaving that evening to travel to New York. Bill then calls Henrietta Seiberling and here's her description of the call. "It was Bill Wilson, and I'll never forget what he said. "I'm from the Oxford group and I'm a rum hound from New York."

Back to Henrietta, those were his words. "I thought this is really manna from heaven. I (who was desperate to help Bob in something I didn't know much about) was ready." She tells Bill, you come right out here! and my thought was to put these two men together" In Dr Bob's words; "I don't remember ever feeling much worse, but I was very fond of Henry, (Henrietta) And Ann (his wife, Ann Smith) had said we would go over. So, we started over. On the way I extracted a solemn promise from Ann that 15 minutes of this stuff would be tops. Didn't want to talk to this mug or anybody else and we'd really make it snappy." Now these are the actual facts still Bob's words. "We got there at 5:00 and it was 11:15 when we left." What started as a 15 minute only conversation from Dr Bob's point of view ended up taking more than 6 hours. And now you know some of the rest of the AA history.

Many thanks to Ray R. from the Find Yourself Group in Seminole, Florida.



MARCH 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>



Scan QR code to access the District 81 website!

