



# DISTRICT 81

## AUGUST 2023

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**Alt DCM:** Danny G.  
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**Literature:** Ashley S.  
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**Chair:** DJ  
deland.m@aa-seta.org  
**Treasurer:** Debra  
debra.s@aa-seta.org

**Treatment Facilities:** Brett H.  
brett.h@aa-seta.org  
**Alt:** Robert

**Newsletter:** Gwen R.  
gwen.r@aa-seta.org

**Workshop:** open

**Webmaster:** John A.  
john.a@aa-seta.org  
**Alt:** Bill

**Accessibility Chair:** Lynn S.  
e.lynn.s@aa-seta.org



### **Step 8:**

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

### **Tradition 8:**

***Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.***

### **Concept 8:**

***The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, 2 exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.***

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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

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

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

**August 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.

**August 16: Literature Committee meeting** 7:30pm on the back porch at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

**August 18-20: 47th Annual Hill Country Round Up** at the Inn of the Hills, 1001 Junction Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028; see flyer!

**August 25: Archives Committee meeting** 2pm at the Alvin Taylor Street Club, 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511

**August 27: Newsletter Committee meeting** 5pm at the Helen Hall Public Library, 100 W. Walker St., League City; email [gwen.r@aa-seta.org](mailto:gwen.r@aa-seta.org) for more info.

**August 29: Grapevine Committee meeting** 6pm at the Texas City Group, 518 6th Ave N, Texas City, TX 77590

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

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

**August 31: PI/CPC Committee meeting** 4:45pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

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

**October 27-29: TXSCYPAA (Texas State Conference of Young People in A.A.)** at the South Shore Harbor Resort, 2500 South Shore Blvd, League City, TX 77573; see flyer!

**January 12-14: Tyler A.A. Anniversary** at the Tyler Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Dr, Tyler, TX 75702

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



# 47TH ANNUAL Hill Country Round Up



ROCKETED INTO A FOURTH DIMENSION

## Inn of the Hills - Kerrville, TX August 18 - 20, 2023

### SCHEDULE

Friday, August 18

4:00 PM - Registration & Hospitality  
6:00 PM - Dinner in the Tent  
7:30 PM - Opening Ceremony  
7:45 PM - Raffle  
8:00 PM - AA Speaker: Troy N. Austin TX  
9:15 PM - Ice Cream Social & Karaoke in the Tent

Saturday, August 19

6:30 AM - Seekers Meditation & Prayer in the Tent  
7:00 AM - Breakfast Tacos - Hospitality Suite  
7:15 AM - Sunrise AA Meeting  
8:30 AM - Al-Anon Meeting  
9:45 AM - Workshop: Sponsorship  
10:45 AM - Raffle  
11:00 AM - AA Speaker: Jason O. Austin TX  
12:00 PM - Lunch Break - "On your own"  
1:30 PM - Workshop: Spirituality  
2:30 PM - Al-Anon Meeting  
4:00 PM - Al-Anon Speaker: Danielle O. Austin, TX  
5:00 PM - Dinner in the Tent - BBQ by Bills  
6:30 PM - AA "Old Timers" Meeting  
7:45 PM - Raffle  
8:00 PM - Sobriety Countdown  
8:15 PM - AA Speaker: Dawn F. League City, TX  
10:00 PM - Dance to: "The Flashbacks"

Sunday, August 20

6:30 AM - Seekers Meditation & Prayer in the Tent  
7:00 AM - Breakfast: Hospitality Suite  
7:15 AM - Sunrise AA Meeting  
8:30 AM - Sunrise Al-Anon Meeting  
9:45 AM - Raffle  
10:00 AM - CA Speaker: Larry Mo. Kerrville TX  
12:00 PM - Round Up Concludes

Questions? - Email us  
info@hillcountryroundup.org

### RESERVATIONS



800-292-5690

1001 Junction Hwy  
Kerrville, Texas 78028

### REGISTRATION

Register Online @  
www.hillcountryroundup.org



WWW.HILLCOUNTRYROUNDUP.ORG

# 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](http://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](mailto:regionalforums@aa.org) or call (212) 870-3120

# TXSCYPAA 42

2500 SOUTH SHORE BLVD, LEAGUE CITY, TX 77573



TXSCYPAA42.ORG

## Tyler AA Anniversary

January 12-14, 2024



....."all sorts of remarkable things followed."

Join us in celebrating seventy-seven years of  
Alcoholics Anonymous in Tyler, TX

Tyler Rose Garden Center  
420 Rose Park Dr., Tyler, TX

Sobriety "ROOTED" in Texas!

Pre-registration \$30.00

on-site \$35.00

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

### HOST HOTEL INFORMATION

Hilton Garden Inn  
220 E. Grande Blvd. Tyler, TX  
(903) 509-1166

Ask for AA Convention rate

Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/TylerAnniversary](https://www.facebook.com/TylerAnniversary)

For more information contact:  
Lisa G. (903) 221-4987  
Crystal R. (903) 316-8832  
Joe R. (903) 316-2016  
[aatylerranniversary@gmail.com](mailto:aatylerranniversary@gmail.com)

Pre-register Online at:  
[tyleranniversary.org](http://tyleranniversary.org)



G&L Tapes Speaker Recordings Available  
Tyler AA Central Service Booth  
Al-Anon Booth  
NETA Archives Display

**RAFFLES-GREAT PRIZES!!!**

Friday, January 12

5:00 pm: Registration  
6:00 pm: Dinner  
7:00 pm: Meet the Speakers  
7:45 pm: RAFFLE!  
8:00 pm: AA Speaker  
Dawn F. - Dickenson, TX

Saturday, January 13

8:00 am: Coffee & Donuts  
9:00 am: AA Speaker  
Tracie J. - Irving, TX  
10:30 am: Chairperson Workshop  
Gary K. & Jackey B.  
12:00 pm: Lunch Break  
1:30 pm: AA speaker  
Toni S. - Vandergrift, PA  
3:00 pm: Sponsorship Workshop  
Chris R. - Ingram, TX  
4:30 pm: Al-Anon Speaker  
Vannoy S. - Justin, TX

6:00 pm: Dinner  
7:00 pm: Skit

"THE COMMITTEE  
INSIDE BOB'S HEAD"

7:30 pm: RAFFLE  
7:45 pm: SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN  
8:00 pm: AA Speaker  
Chris R. - Ingram, TX

Sunday, January 14

8:00 am @ Downtown Suburban Group  
1700 E. Front St., Tyler, TX  
8:00 am: Potluck Breakfast  
hosted by Al-Anon  
9:00 am: Al-Anon Speaker  
Nancy J. - Santa Fe, TX  
10:30 am: AA Speaker  
Myers R. - Ingram, TX  
11:00 am: Closing of 77th  
AA Anniversary

# AA HISTORY FOR GALVESTON ISLAND



As most of you know, AA was founded in Akron Ohio on June 10th , 1935. As Alcoholics Anonymous grew, a newspaperman named Larry J. from Cleveland Ohio moved to Houston and wrote series of six articles for the Houston Press about alcoholism and the new solution. Among the readers was Roy Y., who would be the first Texan to get sober and stay sober. AA began in Galveston in 1942 through the combined efforts of three non-alcoholics and two alcoholics who attended meetings at the Travis Group in Houston. The two AA members were Bill P. and Lawrence M. One of the non-alcoholics was Willie Coltzer, who worked for Family Services in Galveston. Mrs. Coltzer saw that many of her clients were affected from alcoholism and voiced her concern to her supervisor, Mr. Henry Renfert. Henry introduced Mrs. Coltzer to AA member Bill P. who brought a Big Book to her, which she promptly read.

The first AA meeting was established through the efforts of Mrs. Coltzer, Carl Wise of the YMCA, and Judge Dibrell. The meeting was held in a cottage at 2519 Sealy, one block behind a gas station which was owned by AA member Lawrence M. There was a closed meeting on Monday night and an open meeting on Wednesday night, which Mrs. Coltzer attended. In 1945, Lawrence M. had other needs for the building so the group met for a short time at Family Services. Then the group split into two factions. One group, Galveston Group #1, met at the First Methodist Church on 19th and Sealy until 1961, then the Hawkins Hotel on 15th and Seawall until 1963. After Hurricane Carla claimed the Hawkins Hotel in its wake, this group folded. The other group, which is 33rd Street Group today, moved to an unnamed location on 8th and Seawall for awhile and became The Goodwill Group. In 1946, it relocated to a bakery on 52nd and Broadway. In 1958, it relocated to 1505 39th Street and was named the 39th St. Group.

The 39th Street Group was a very interesting location. On one side was a TV repair shop owned by AA member Jimmy D. and on the other was a bar. The walls of the building were paper thin and whoever was speaking usually had some background music from the bar. The roof of the building leaked and when it rained, there was always a need for furniture re-arrangement.

In May of 1975, the 39th St. Group moved to 2001 O ½ to a two-story building owned by Mrs. Albert Niccolai. There were meetings six days a week and the group eventually outgrew this location and moved to 1823 33rd St. in 1980. The Galveston Club (non-AA) is still there today and rents the building to four different AA groups which are: The New Day Group which meets seven days a week at 7:30 am, 33rd St. Group which meets 12:00 noon, 5:30 pm seven days a week. The New Leaf Group meets on Friday night at 7:00pm. The Galveston Club building was heavily damaged during Hurricane Ike but has been rebuilt and all the groups were back in business, holding meetings again starting on January 6th , 2009.

There have been several other AA groups that have been part of Galveston Island history and they are the West Isle Group, Jamaica Beach Group, Phoenix Group, What's the Point Group, and Islander Group. A couple of meetings that closed down during Covid and haven't resumed are the 164 Group and Down But Not Out Group.

Please keep in mind that the above is a very short, condensed version of AA on Galveston Island. Anyone interested in the complete version, please contact Dana H., Wes S., Tiffany S. or Tom B. of the D81 Archives Committee.

**Tom B.**  
**Dist. 81 Archives Committee Member**

# NOTES FROM OUR AREA DELEGATE REPORT

The following are taken from slides presented by our Area 67 Delegate Rick M. during the SETA Conference July 8, 2023. His presentation was primarily regarding the last General Service Conference that he attended. This is not his comprehensive report; it is notes taken from slides regarding a few items of particular interest to our fellowship.

-Gwen R.  
District 81 Newsletter Editor

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## Thoughts from the GSC Members During a Two-Hour Sharing Session [regarding progress on the Plain & Simple Language Big Book]

- *"My area sent me here to tell the sub-committee to cease and desist all efforts on this project."*
- *"I came to conference fully prepared to dislike and not support the book."*
- *"I walked into the experience of reading the draft thinking the worst but hoping for the best."*
- *"I really struggled with supporting this new version of our first 164, but after reading it, instead found it to be filled with our beautiful message of recovery. The words may be different - but the intent was clear and consistent with what is in the Fourth Edition."*
- *"The language of the heart is very clearly represented in this book and while it will never replace my BB, it will certainly be a great companion piece for it."*

(54 people came to the microphone with only 4 being in full opposition)

I heard one of our trustees share with an attendee who was really struggling with the translation say something that made a lot of sense to me. He said to her, *"The one thing you need to remember about this book is - THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR YOU."*

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## The Path For An Idea to Become an Agenda Item

**Deadline for Submission: September 15, 2023 ([conference@aa.org](mailto:conference@aa.org))**

1	An idea, suggestion, question, concern or subject comes from an A.A. member, GSR, DCM, Area Committee member, Delegate, Trustee, or G.S.O./GV staff, and may be shared or discussed at the group, District and Area Assembly and sent to the...	Conference Coordinator G.S.O.
2	The idea is reviewed by the G.S.O./GV staff and forwarded to...	Appropriate Trustees' Committee
3	Which then may refer the matter to the...	Appropriate Conference Committee
4	Which meeting during the General Service Conference week makes recommendations that are presented in the Committee Report to the...	General Service Conference
5	If a Conference Committee recommendation is approved, after full floor discussion, it becomes a Conference Advisory Action, which becomes binding when approved by the...	General Service Board

# PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM (PAI)

The following is a PAI submitted to the General Service Conference by Farah E., GSR of the So Far So Good Group in District 40, Area 67. On the facing page is chart from the General Service Office reflecting inconsistencies in the handling of the prudent reserve funds at G.S.O. The PAI is seeking to address these discrepancies and to hold our G.S.O. accountable to those they are meant to serve. Remember that the structure of our Fellowship is meant to be an upside-down triangle, with its individual members at the top. We are in charge and we have a right to know how our funds are being used.

-Gwen R.  
District 81 Newsletter Editor

**(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**



Request an independent forensic audit of the General Service Board and of A.A.W.S. for the years 2019 - present. The results are to be shared with the entire fellowship.

**(2) What problem does this proposed item address?**

GSB's non-compliance with 2019 strategic plan. GSB lack of transparency and accountability to the fellowship it serves- as evidenced by financial insolvency of AAWS and The Grapevine, historically low prudent reserves, unprecedented resignation of two GSB board members, employee high turn over rate,

An independent forensic audit is an opportunity for the GSB to transparently demonstrate to the entire fellowship its fiduciary duty as guardians of AA Funds as well as Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

**(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).**

*Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.*

So Far So Good Group Conscience voted unanimously for this PAI on April 23, 2023.

Sense of District 40 was taken May 9, 2023 and was unanimous we proceed with PAI to Area 67 July 2023 Assembly.

**(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:**

The 2019 GSB Strategic Plan goals -Cost containment -Improve financial transparency and accountability-Communicate more directly and effectively with the entire fellowship

By 2023 the exact opposite has occurred  
-A.A.W.S. and The Grapevine are insolvent. (12/31/22 email from Area 67 delegate)

-Prudent reserve funds have dropped from targeted 9-12 month level to current seven and a half month level. (GSO Quarterly November 2016 thru November 2022)

-The total expenditures to date for the Plain Language Big Book have not been shared with the entire fellowship. (emails to GSO)

-The projected total costs for the Plain Language Big Book have not been shared either. (emails to GSO)

-Multiple projects including technology projects have lowered the prudent reserve (emails to GSO)

-A pattern of overspending has been identified at A.A.W.S. (2023 District 40 verbal Q&A)

-Budget Surpluses have become deficits (GSO Quarterly 2019-2022 <http://www.aa.org/quarterly-reports-from-gso>)

-The 2-way communication with the fellowship is broken.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

All non-essential projects overseen by the GSB and A.A.W.S. should be halted until the independent forensic audit is shared with the entire fellowship. Moving forward the prudent reserve be restored to full 9-12 month capacity. A remediation plan of action for cost containment with a quarterly progress report shall be shared with the entire fellowship.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Farah E. GSR So Far So Good Group  
Email farah.e@aa-seta.org

Marilyn M. SFSG Home Group Member  
Email gumbeauxyaya@yahoo.com

(7) Final comments:

Bill W. legally designated the GSB as custodians of AA funds as well as guardians of AA Steps, Traditions, and Concepts so future generations of alcoholics could recover.

GSO Quarterly Chart-Short Form

Report Date (GSO Quarterly)	Prudent Reserve Level	Prudent Reserve Set at 12 Months Operating Expenses	Withdrawals for Named and Unnamed Projects
First Quarter, 2023	\$12,949,059	Unknown	Potential withdrawal predicted by CFO
December 2022**	Grapevine and A.A.W.S. Insolvent**	Source: SETA-ANNOUNCE Panel 71 delegate email - December 31, 2022	\$1 million anticipated withdrawal
November 2022	\$12,919,536	7.78 months of expenses	
September 2022	\$12,892,600	7.57 months	
January 2022	\$12,822,286 as of December 31, 2021	7.5 months of 2022 expenses	
January 2022	2021 Contributions: The Highest in GSB history \$526,296 more than 2020		
Continued	contributions	\$782,983 more than was budgeted for	
November 2021 Rev.	\$12,806,277	8.48 months	
August 2021	\$12,537,739	8.41 months	
August 2021	GSO reported that January - June saw a surplus of \$1,430,178 GSO	Saved \$\$ on travel, etc., during COVID	
Continued			
January 2021	\$12,297,131 as of December 31, 2020	7.74 months	Four withdrawals from the reserve fund totaling \$4 million in 2020
2020 Anomalies**	Prudent Reserve Levels NOT reported all year long	Surplus income \$2.1 million insurance payout	Prudent reserve reduced by \$6 million from 1/2020-1/2021
November 2020	Prudent reserve levels not reported all year long	How many months of operating expenses in prudent reserve not reported	GSB recommended 1.5 million be withdrawn from prudent reserve
November 2020	\$2,152,134 insurance payout for cancelled International Convention		
Continued			
August 2020			
February 2020	\$18,126,339 as of December 31, 2019		
November 2019	\$16,060,730	9.6 months	
October 2018	\$15,900,662 (reflected a \$1,400,000 from GSO)	10.5 months	
July 2018	\$15,848,371	10.4 months	
January 2018	\$14,352,618	9.5 months	
October 2017	\$14,310,746, earning a return of 1.29%	9.87 months	
July 2017	\$16,270,084 earning a return of 1.28%	10.7 months	
January 2017	\$14,958,734 as of December 31, 2016	10.3 months	
January 2017	Upon the completion of the audits of Grapevine and A.A.W.S., a determination will be made as to the transfer of excess profits from 2016 to the Reserve Fund. This could increase the number of months of coverage to over 11 months		
Continued			

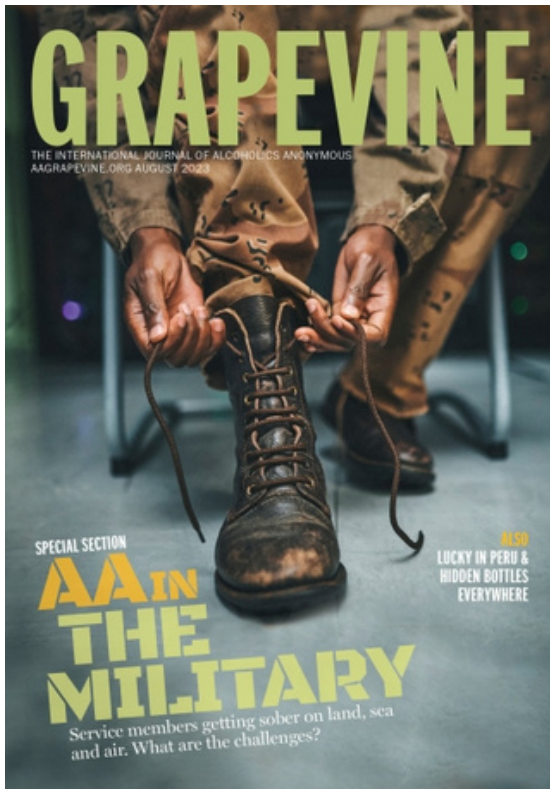
Source: <https://www.aa.org/quarterly-reports-from-gso>

\*\* = Additional financial information (i.e. email, summary of quarterlies)

Covid Savings

Total expenses for the nine months of 2020 were \$11,882,137. This is \$2,232,874 less than 2019 (Found in November 2020 GSO Quarterly, Financial Results)  
2020 - \$2.2m less in expenses in addition to the \$2.1m insurance payout

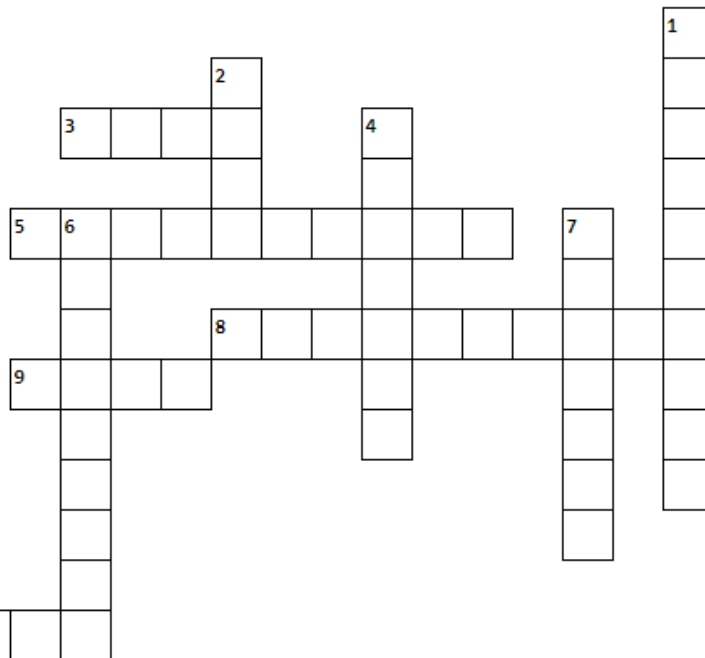
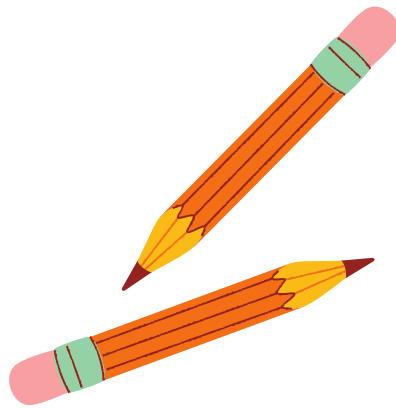
The decrease in expenses compared to 2019 was in large part due to a reduction in travel caused by the cancellation of events because of COVID-19



## JULY FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 15,745.84
Group Contributions	\$ 680.96
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 251.33
Net Income	\$ 429.63
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 16,175.47
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$ (9,891.42)
Available Funds	\$ 4,284.05

### FROM DR BOB'S NIGHTMARE



**Across**

- 3. the month of his sobriety date
- 5. amendment of prohibition
- 8. Prohibition era brewer
- 9. a responsibility
- 10. enjoyment

**Down**

- 1. antiquated name for a specialized hospital
- 2. "paying my \_\_\_"
- 4. "he was well assisted by Sister \_\_\_"
- 6. protection against relapse
- 7. 1933 movie "\_\_\_ Annie"