



DISTRICT 81

FEBRUARY 2025

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Step 2:

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition 2:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept 2:

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 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

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

March 5: 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.

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



District 81 Workshop Committee
Presents

General Service Representative – GSR Workshop



Have you ever wanted to know...

What does a GSR do? How to be a GSR?

Come be a part of and learn about service in AA whether you are a new GSR, current GSR or maybe want to learn about GSR and service work in AA.



Saturday, February 8th, 2025 from 1pm – 4pm

Bay Area Club
2111 Webster St.
League City, TX 77573

SOUTH EAST TEXAS
PRESENTS:

BID FOR SERCYPAA

3 PM | 16 FEBRUARY 2025

HYBRID MEETING
ZOOM|398 094 1640

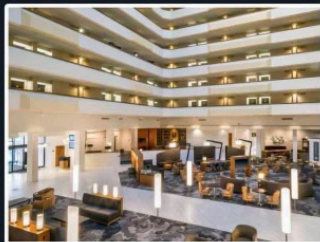
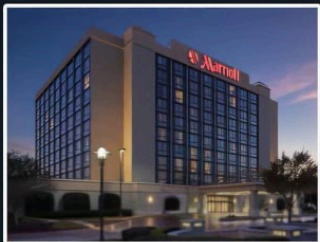
POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Come join us as we take on the world and try to win the bid for SERCYPAA. This will be the first hybrid meeting. Call Elizabeth H for the address [281] 520-9523

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

Our very first problem is
to accept our present
circumstances as they
are, ourselves as we are,
and the people about us
as they are.

A.A. World Services Inc.,
As Bill Sees It



IN LOVING MEMORY



Tom Boulware

12/3/1942 – 1/7/2025 (83 years old and 32 years of sobriety)

Sobriety Date: 05/25/1992

Tom B. joined Alcoholics Anonymous on May 25, 1992. Since that time, he has become one of the most active members in service to our fellowship. He was GSR of the New Day Group (2003-2005), Alt DCM & DCM (2009, 2010), PI/CPC chair and member (2007-2022), Intergroup liaison (2003-2005), Archives committee chair (2004-2007) and member (2004-2025), active in CFC and took many meetings into the Galveston County Jail for at least 25 years! Tom attended District 81 meetings from January of 2003 until December of 2024. When thanked for his service, Tom said, “I’m just a drunk that hasn’t drank in a while!”

When I first started working on the newsletters for District 81, Tom approached me and said, “I’ve got some things I want to send you from the archives.” Nearly every one of the thirty or so issues I put out featured an article sent in by Tom. I could always count on him to come through with something for the newsletter. There are countless ways that Tom touched the lives of individuals in our program. But I think about the times I struggled to put together a full issue to publish for the month, and the articles Tom sent me that made them possible, and how many people might have read them and learned a thing or two about our wonderful fellowship. Talk about packing into the stream of life. I know the best thing I can do to honor Tom’s legacy is by continuing to give back. Thank you, Tom, for showing us how it’s done.

-Gwen R. and the District 81 Newsletter Committee

KEITH M. INTERVIEW

1. Sobriety date

10/8/2016

2. Home Group

Happy Hour Group at Bay Area Club Meets every day at 6:30 pm

3. You are outgoing DCM, What is DCM and what was your prior service experience?

DCM is District Committee Member. I was GSR for my home group. I served on the treatment facilities committee and workshop committees. I chaired the Entertainment committee for a SETA convention.

4. How has your service helped your recovery?

It saved my life in 2023. Service kept me involved in AA. I had to practice all the traditions and concepts in all my affairs. With my service commitment and the responsibility statement, the thought of drinking never came into play. Without service, it would have been easier to not be in the fellowship.

5. What does DCM do?

DCM chairs the district monthly meeting. DCM supports the district committees and is the liaison between the groups to the area. DCM votes and reports at the quarterly area meetings.

6. What was your biggest challenge as DCM?

Understanding the role of DCM and managing personalities, not to drive or influence an agenda. Ensure that the district and committees are in line with the traditions of AA.

7. What was biggest reward as DCM?

Seeing the district grow. Our attendance at district meetings was about half of today's attendance. A lot of young people are attending. The district also updated all policies and procedures for the district committees and positions. We created website, newsletter, and an accessibility committee for people who can't get to meetings.

8. What do you do every day to stay sober?

Pray, meditate. Read Big Book. Talk to sponsor. Service. Carry the message. Work with another alcoholic. Stay in the middle. Stay busy with service.

9. Do you have future plans for AA service?

I'm chairing the Greeter committee for the State convention. I'd like an Area and/or district position. I'm interested in treasurer or finance committee.

10. What is your favorite AA saying or sentence in our literature and why?

"Let go and Let God." Letting go is a constant struggle. Letting go and then taking back. Letting go is a barometer of my sobriety.

11. Any words for the newcomer?

Keep coming back. Get a home group. Make sure your home group knows you. Get a sponsor who has a sponsor. Get a service position.

12. Final thoughts.

Service work saves lives. Service is important for my sobriety and for AA. AA service work is important and sometimes gets lost in non-AA service at treatment facilities and clubs.

-interview by Kathleen H.

THE PARADOX OF SURRENDER

I awoke lying flat at the bottom of my pool in seven feet of water. Relaxed. Still. Not panicking, not yearning for the surface, I was looking up toward the clear shimmer of the crystal surface and a phase of blue early afternoon. Slowly, two images appeared in the water above me on either side. To the left, an intense sphere of white with dozens of lighted beams emanating from its prime, moving dynamically in and out at random. Small beads of white would rise along the shaft of the beams and fade into the water at varying distances. Beautiful. To the right, a spiraling swirl of black, darkest at the core, multiple protrusions of shifting long pods, like a galaxy spinning in the vast dark of space. Visions, they were. But not phosphenes, nor psychotic illusions elicited by psychotropics - I had experienced in my past. These were different, these seemed real, like entities or beings or destinations. As I marveled at both, I felt a presence emanating from each reaching out to me, inviting me, calling me. Not in an audible way, but through a sense of longing, a desire to enter a presence that offered comfort. Each was equally inviting, equally attractive, and that was the notion that struck me most. I felt as if I needed to make a choice. But there was no fear, in fact the opposite, a final solution that would bring peace.

But then, between these visions, the water parted, and a human hand thrust down from the surface. For some unknown reason that I will never understand, I reached out and grabbed it. I next awoke in a hospital emergency room, very cold, pain in my chest, lungs sore, throat aching, head pounding. People around me were busy. Multiple conversations being had that did not include me, then a woman's voice calling forcefully "Sir, Sir, wake up, you are alright, just stay awake". I was immensely cold. There was the all too familiar sound of a heart rate monitor beeping in the background, that annoying monotone signal that meant I was alive, designed to be soothing, yet it did not seem so now. Now, only the reality of what I had done was ebbing back. The memory of cracking the top off the second bottle of vodka that morning and chugging straight returned. I remembered that I had jumped into my backyard pool on that hot July day. Hoping to black out. Blacking out the loneliness that only an alcoholic can understand. Then came the nurse's call to stay awake. I was not in a mood to stay awake, but I did not want to be alone. I was told that my neighbor had seen me in the pool and called 911 and that emergency services fished me out, resuscitated me, and transported me to the hospital. That would explain the chest bruises, the sore throat, the headache. The attendants at my bedside would not leave, I assured them I was ok. Gone were my glasses, my wallet, my clothes. I could not see to read or watch TV, so talking with the attendant or mindful introspection were my only companions. No one came to visit. I was alone. Hospital psych assessed me as a suicidal alcoholic, family was notified, but they refused to become involved as they had seen it all before in repeated multiple episodes. The loneliness deepened. I was told that I had been accepted into a new treatment center where I would be for the next 30 days. I was transported by arranged taxi, wearing only scrubs, still no glasses or wallet. I was met at the door by the admitting counselor and as she escorted

me through the security door, she asked “Well David, what are you going to do different this time?” I inhaled deeply and closed my eyes. Different? It was then I made the decision to let go and let what? God?

I needed to let something and it could not be me, so I simply surrendered. I thought that I would not care what happened next, I would let a force other than me take over. Let the world be and I will follow, not lead anymore. Instantly instead of feeling shame, restlessness, irritability, or discontent, I felt an immense sense of connection, calm and peace, free of worry. I HAD surrendered. Just surrendered. Of everything I had been, of what I had valued in self, of my fear of losing my value, or lack there-of, of my past. I surrendered my care into a presence I did not understand. It was senseless, yet full of wisdom. An overwhelming flood of peace entered my heart with a meaningful security in the knowledge that nothing else mattered. Nothing. Only then did I realize I could be free. Open to a universal presence and the insights to living these people offered. I would fight no longer.

Was it God? In the truest since, yes, but it also doesn't matter if I define God. I only have to live God, in the present, in the now, in my heart. I believe God is unknowable for us meekly, cognizant humans. We have not the capacity, language, nor mental framework to adequately conceptualize God. Sure, people have tried since the dawn of time to conceptualize a presence greater than ourselves and reached a conclusion of their own design, even if it is denial. Yet, when I surrendered, truly surrendered, I felt a peaceful understanding flow through me. Coming from inside me. Synchronous with everything around me. Emanating from a place beyond me. In that instant I experienced hope. A hope where I felt loved again and I was not alone. I became one with that spiritual presence, or the knowledge of a spiritual presence, with such certainty that I have only discovered in moments of understanding absolute truth. Undeniable, undisputable, truth. Hope arises from surrender. A lovely paradox. Truth in the knowledge that God is unknowable. What is knowable, a certain truth, is love. Love of others, love of our world, love of self, love of an unknowable presence. Only through surrender did I find that love again. Now it is my manifest for living, opened for me, sustained by working to help and give to others. For me that was and is the key to the kingdom, love derived from hope. And it all started with an act of desperate loneliness, that led to surrender, that blossomed into hope.

-submitted by David D.





THE FEBRUARY 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.

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<https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-subscriptions>



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

