



DISTRICT 81

JANUARY 2025

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Step 1:

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition 1:

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Concept 1:

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

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



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

January 8: District 81 meeting 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568

January 8: Accessibility Committee meeting 6:30pm online via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/qvk-rjzk-nad>

January 8: Correctional Facilities meeting 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

January 10-12: Keep on Tookin' AA & Al-Anon Conference at the Moody Gardens Resort; see flyer!

January 14: Grapevine Committee meeting 5:30pm via Google Meets, send email to Grapevine committee chair to receive meeting info

January 15: Website Committee meeting 6pm online; send email to john.a@aa-seta.org to be added to the Google Meet invite.

January 15: Literature Committee meeting 7:30pm in Room E at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

January 17: Archives Committee meeting 6pm at the Alvin Taylor Street Club, 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511

January 19: Newsletter Committee meeting 5pm at Dawn F.'s house.

January 29: Finance & Budget meeting 6:30pm at Jason's Deli in League City, 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

January 29: 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

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

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



January 10-12, 2025

Moody Gardens Resort in Galveston Island, Texas

'KEEP ON TOOKIN' AA & ALANON CONFERENCE



"HERE ARE THE STEPS WE TOOK – AND MUST KEEP ON TOOKIN"

\$20 Registration for the whole weekend
Guest Speakers, Workshops, Fellowship, Fun
Practicing Spiritual Principles at Home, Occupation and ALL of our affairs

Website : <https://first164.blogspot.com/p/keep-on-tookin.html>

Contact: Joe McF 432-249-2614

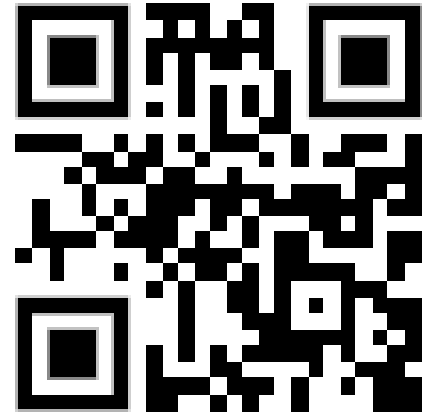
Email: grandpatexas@gmail.com

Register at:



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keep-on-tookin-registration-1032927823927>

Scan QR code to access the
District 81 website!



LETTER FROM OUR NEW DCM

Entering into 2025 and a new service position as District 81 DCM gives me excitement and enthusiasm of what may come in the upcoming year! I'm never sure what life events are going to happen over the next year. Will it be the loss of loved ones, financial difficulties, heartache, sadness or other major unforeseen difficulties? Maybe it will be an abundance of blessings both internally and monetary. No matter what the upcoming year brings me, I've found that being active in service in Alcoholics Anonymous enables me to walk with both dignity and grace in whatever those "things" that life brings me. Being involved in service gives the opportunity to practice the principles and repay Alcoholics Anonymous for my sobriety and the life I live today. The by-product of being involved in service is that I've been able to gain peace and serenity through all that life throws at me on a daily basis. Today, I'm sober and somewhat in my right mind...and I have God and service in Alcoholics Anonymous to thank for that! I look forward to humbly serving District 81 over the rotation!

In love and service,

Danny G.
DCM

JAY D. INTERVIEW

Q: Sobriety Date

A: 9/11/2010

Q: Home Group

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

Q: How did you become “Jay the Great?”

A: When I was a kid, my older brother would write his name and his girlfriend’s name on his hand so I just wrote down “Jay the Great.”

Q: What is the “bitch” thread?

A: My friend Eric (Bear) and I were cut-ups and we were on a thread with some adults from NASA and it got heavy. I texted “I love you d***heads.” I was told not to say that. The next day the topic was on admitting wrongs promptly so I admitted my wrong and then said “I love you bitches.” I got kicked off. Jamie started the “bitch” thread for us misfits.

Q: You got sober young and then went out. Why did you go out?

A: I had first gotten sober at 17. My resentments took me out and I was disconnected from the program. An old-timer said he had spilt more beer than I had drank.

My friend Eric died. He was on his way to his sponsor’s wedding when he died in a motorcycle accident. Some old-timer said that it was God’s will. (I did meet Eric’s Mom and we text regularly to this day.)

I joined PDAP for young people but I aged out at 20. I ran with a group of young sober people, clubbing etc. One night we were in a car accident where two friends died and one was never the same. I was in the hospital for 45 days. My support system was gone. So I stayed away from AA.

I went to clubs alone, DJ’ing and not tempted. I fell in love. After 4 years we broke up. After awhile I believed that I could have a few drinks . I was 24.

Q: What got you back in the rooms?

A: Consequences. Felonies. Relationships. Lost Jobs. Evictions. Foreclosure. Lost businesses. I had a moment of clarity where I couldn’t imagine life with or without alcohol. I knew how to sober up. I was sober 18 months before I started working the steps. I stayed sober to prove people wrong.

Q: You have been through two divorces and a bankruptcy in recovery. How did you stay sober?

A: Through the grace of God. I thought I would drink if I got divorced. Instead, I got closer to God.

Q: What do you do every day to stay sober?

A: I pray and meditate for 15 minutes to an hour every morning. I’m on the bitch thread, which is very important when I can’t make meetings. We talk spiritual matters and recovery, until it goes south. I work with others. I stay connected.



Q: You do a lot of service. How does that help recovery?
A: Service develops relationships. It keeps me connected.

Q: Final thoughts
A: It's important to look at outside literature. Get outside help. Be quick to see where religious people are right. We know but a little. More will be revealed. Not everything is in first 164 pages.

Submitted by Kathleen H.



REFLECTIONS ON TRADITION 1

In Alcoholics Anonymous, the Twelve Traditions serve as the guiding principles that shape the fellowship's unity and function. Tradition 1, which states, "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity," is one of the most foundational aspects of the program. It emphasizes that the health of the group and the success of individual recovery are deeply intertwined. This article explores the meaning and significance of Tradition 1, and how it underpins the core of AA's success.

The Essence of Tradition 1

At its core, Tradition 1 highlights the concept of unity within AA. The tradition asserts that the well-being of the group as a whole must be prioritized over personal interests or desires. This does not mean that individual needs are disregarded, but rather that the group's harmony and cohesion create an environment in which personal recovery can thrive.

The phrase "personal recovery depends upon AA unity" reflects a powerful truth: the collective strength of the group directly supports each individual's journey toward sobriety. Unity within the fellowship creates a space of safety, support, and shared understanding—key elements necessary for healing.

Why Unity Matters

Unity in AA goes beyond just the absence of conflict—it is the shared commitment to a common purpose: recovery from alcoholism. When AA members work together, they draw strength from one another, creating an environment where healing is possible.

- **Safety and Support:** When members prioritize unity, they ensure that every person in the group feels welcomed and understood. This safe space allows individuals to be vulnerable, share their struggles, and receive the support they need. The sense of belonging is essential in recovery, helping people feel that they are not alone in their battle against alcoholism.
- **Collective Responsibility:** AA is not just a place for individuals to work on their own sobriety—it is a community where each member has a responsibility to contribute to the welfare of others. When we consider the needs of the group as a whole, we recognize the importance of mutual care. Each member's actions, whether in a meeting or outside of it, can have a positive or negative impact on the unity and health of the group. Tradition 1 reminds us that we must strive for the greater good, knowing that by doing so, our own recovery is strengthened.
- **Stability of the Fellowship:** Unity helps maintain the stability and continuity of AA. When the group remains united, it continues to attract newcomers, giving them the opportunity to find the help they need. A fragmented or divided fellowship risks running people off, which in turn could harm the recovery of its members.

Personal Recovery and Group Unity

Tradition 1 teaches that personal recovery is closely linked to group unity. In early recovery, many individuals are focused on their own struggles with alcohol. However, as they integrate into AA and build relationships within the fellowship, they begin to see how their personal recovery is enhanced by their participation in the group.

- **Shared Experience:** By attending meetings and interacting with others in recovery, individuals gain a sense of perspective. They realize that their struggles are not unique and that others have faced—and overcome—the same challenges. This shared experience creates a sense of solidarity, reinforcing the idea that recovery is possible, and it fosters an atmosphere of hope.
- **Service to Others:** Tradition 1 also underscores the importance of service. Members are encouraged to contribute to the group in various ways, whether through sponsoring others, setting up meetings, or simply offering a kind word. This sense of service strengthens group unity and helps individual members feel valuable and connected to the fellowship.
- **Humility and Selflessness:** Focusing on the welfare of the group over personal desires fosters humility and selflessness, which are essential aspects of long-term sobriety. By putting the needs of others first, members learn to let go of selfish tendencies, which often fuel conflict. This humility is a key component of spiritual growth and personal recovery.

Challenges to Unity and How to Overcome Them

While Tradition 1 emphasizes the importance of unity, it's not always easy to maintain. Different personalities, backgrounds, and recovery experiences can lead to conflicts or disagreements. The challenge is learning to put the group's welfare above personal differences and striving for peaceful coexistence.

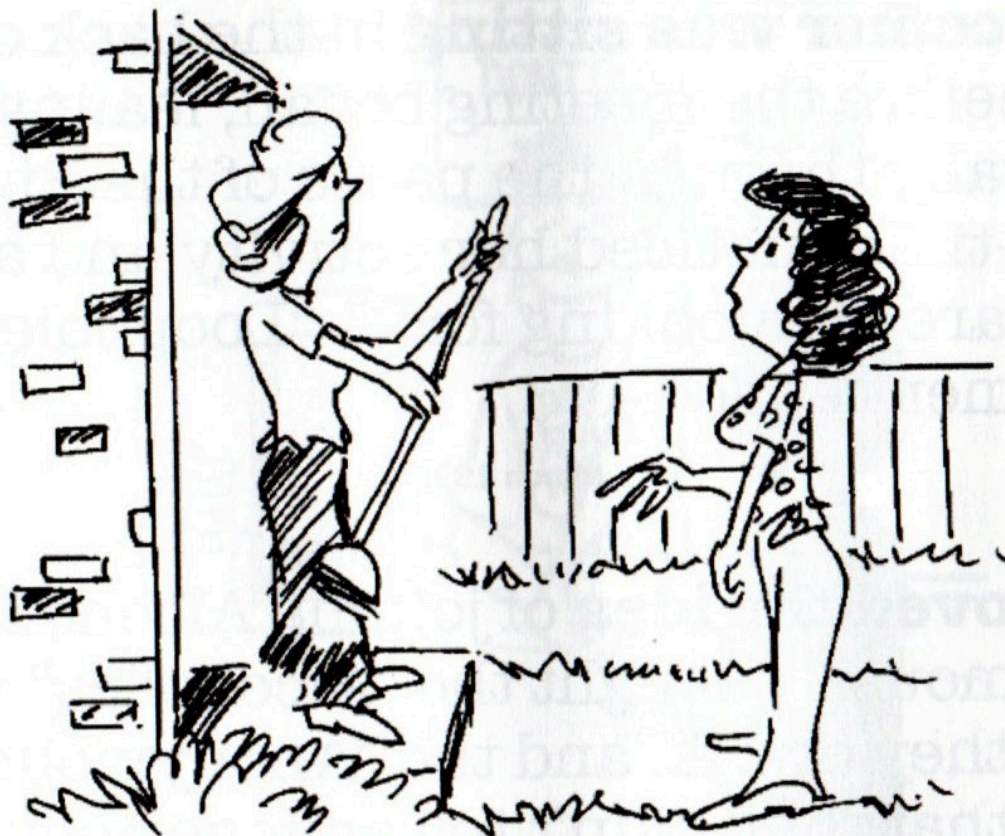
- **Respecting Differences:** AA is a diverse fellowship, and members come from different walks of life. Tradition 1 teaches us that despite our differences, we can still work together for the common good. Respecting other members' opinions, experiences, and struggles is essential in maintaining unity. When conflicts arise, it's important to

- approach them with an open mind and a willingness to listen and understand.
- Focusing on the Primary Purpose: In moments of disagreement or frustration, Tradition 1 reminds us to return to AA's primary purpose: helping alcoholics achieve sobriety. This focus on the greater mission can help dissolve personal grievances and restore harmony within the group.
- Letting Go of Ego: Often, the root of division in a group stems from the influence of ego—our desire to be right, to be heard, or to control. Tradition 1 encourages us to put our egos aside and consider the bigger picture. In doing so, we create an environment where the common welfare is prioritized, and personal recovery can continue to flourish.

Conclusion

Tradition 1 is not just a guideline—it is a way of life for Alcoholics Anonymous. It reminds us that our personal recovery is deeply connected to the unity of the group, and that by working together, we create a strong foundation for healing. The principles of unity, service, and mutual support are at the heart of AA, and when we adhere to Tradition 1, we build a fellowship that benefits each individual and ensures the lasting success of the program. Together we can do what we could never do alone. Through unity, we find strength, and in that strength, we discover the power to recover.

-District 81 Newsletter Committee



**"Lend me a couple of empties to put in my trash.
I don't want everyone to know I'm in AA."**

Submitted by Robert H.



THE JANUARY 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>



DECEMBER F&B REPORT

D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 10,597.44
Group Contributions	\$ 300.00
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 582.26
Net Income	\$ (282.26)
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 10,232.69
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$ (6,353.72)
Available Funds	\$ 1,878.98