

# The Lighthouse

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# Trusted Servant

## DESIGN FOR LIVING

**“As finally expressed, and offered, they (the Twelve Steps) are simple in language, plain in meaning. They are also workable by any person with a sincere desire to obtain and keep sobriety. The results are the proof. Their simplicity and workability are such that NO SPECIAL INTERPRETATIONS, and certainly no reservations, HAVE EVER BEEN NECESSARY. And it has become increasingly clear that the degree of harmonious living which we achieve is the direct ratio to our earnest attempt to FOLLOW THEM**

**LITERALLY under the DIVINE GUIDANCE to the best of our abilities.”**

**Dr. Bob S. Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (1948). Reprinted with permission.**

**“A.A. is not a plan for recovery that can be finished and done with. It is a way of life, and the challenge contained in its principles is great enough to keep any human being striving for as long as he lives. We do not, cannot, outgrow this plan.”**

**The Keys of the Kingdom, page 275, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.**

**These are easily my favorite quotes about our precious 12 Steps. On one hand, Dr. Bob’s quote emphasizes the simplicity of the principles. They merely require our commitment to following them to find a life of sobriety that will exceed our wildest dreams. On the other hand, the excerpt from “The Keys of the Kingdom” tells us that we cannot outgrow the Steps. They provide an opportunity for us to continue to advance, whether we are a few months sober or we have been sober for decades. What a miracle! Imagine the challenge of trying to produce a textbook simple enough for an elementary school student but advanced enough for a postgraduate student. Such an endeavor would likely be deemed impossible by any knowledgeable educator. Yet our founders accomplished just that. Whether we are the equivalent of a Kindergartener in sobriety, or a 50-year spiritual giant, our Twelve Steps are a “design for living that really works.”**

**Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, page 28**

**It works when we work it!**

**Rick M.**

**Past Delegate Panel 73/Area 67**

# Grapevine Article

## A BRIGHT FUTURE

I get contemplative around this time every year on my anniversary because I look back on the journey to this day with so many emotions.

People who are not in AA often ask if I think I can ever have a drink again. Can I? Yes. Should I? Absolutely not. Will I? God, I hope not. The person I was when I was drinking wasn't great. I didn't want to go anywhere, do anything, or see anyone. I wanted to stay in my house and drink until I passed out, wake up and do it over again. I was slowly killing myself with alcohol. It wasn't just a glass of wine for me. It was two-three bottles of wine every night. It was waking up in the morning with dry heaves, headaches, tremors, and sweating. It was looking at the clock and telling myself how long I'd have to wait until I could have a drink that day. If it was a weekend, it was starting as soon as I got up. Driving to Wisconsin on Sundays (before Minnesota allowed Sunday liquor sales) to stock up since I always drank too much on Saturday and didn't have enough to get through Sunday.

I wasn't great at caring for others during this time. I wasn't a great dog parent to my dog Duncan, although I tried to make up for it when I got sober. I wasn't a great daughter. I scared my parents more than anything else. My parents never knew what they'd find when they showed up at my house. How drunk would I be? Would I even be alive? I didn't think about them when I was drinking. I thought because I drank alone at home, I wasn't hurting anyone. I was only hurting myself.

I wasn't a good sister, either. Jenny, more than anyone, dealt with me and my alcoholism. She's the one who would do the wellness checks on me. The one who would come home from working a night shift, go to sleep, get up and come to my house to make sure I was still alive. She couldn't rely on me for anything other than knowing I was a drunk. It's sad to think that the only reliable thing I did was drink.

I was miserable. I was sinking lower and lower every day. I didn't want to drink anymore but I didn't know how to stop. Dying sounded better than living the way I was living, and I will admit, I tried to find a way to end it. Thankfully, I didn't carry it through.

I have been thinking about my friend who I met in AA. I think about how she had five years of sobriety and how the choice she made to start drinking again ultimately led to her death. I think about how the easiest but hardest thing she could have done was call me or another friend and tell us she had started drinking. How we would have found a way, no matter how far we were from her, to get her the help she needed. She had a tremendous future ahead of her and she chose to drink again.

My truth is that I don't want to be like her. It's harder to be sober than it was to be drunk. Because sober, I must face my life, my decisions, my feelings, and my fears head on. I can't blame alcohol for me being a jerk. I can't turn to alcohol to drink away my thoughts.

My other truth is that my life is beyond better than I could have imagined. I haven't solved the mysteries of my life, answered the questions that led to my drinking or discovered the secret of happiness. But I do know that happiness isn't what I thought it would be. Happiness is getting up early on the weekend to go to my AA meeting on the beach. Happiness is meeting my friends for dinner on Wednesday evenings. Happiness is boat rides with my sober friends. Happiness is plotting and planning for birthdays and anniversaries. Happiness is the friends I've met in the program. Happiness is the 15-year-old kid who loves me because I'm me and for taking her mom through the journey of sobriety. Happiness is time spent with my family and earning their trust. Hell, happiness is even hosting family holidays because it means I'm trusted enough to host them.

Getting sober ten years ago saved my life. It also gave me a bright future full of joy, laughter, friendships, and opportunities. It can do the same for you.

Laura S., Bradenton, Fl.

“RARELY HAVE WE SEEN A PERSON FAIL WHO HAS THOROUGHLY FOLLOWED OUR PATH.”  
BIG BOOK PG 58

## STEP 1

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Alcohol Isn't My Problem

What can I surrender in this step?

The delusion that in and of myself I have power, and

The belief that alcohol is my problem

## AAWS NEWS

At the December meeting of the A.A. World Services Board, the board approved a price increase of \$3 per item for books and a 15 percent increase for all other literature items, with standard rounding applied. The new prices will go into effect on February 1, 2026.

## TRADITION 1

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

We Before Me

## CONCEPT 1

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

One thing you need to know:

Groups Have Ultimate Authority

A.A. groups themselves make ALL final business decisions for the Fellowship. How? A group's General Service Representative (GSR) [or Alternate GSR in the absence of the GSR] votes the conscience of their group on agenda items up for discussion at the General Service Conference (GSC) once a year (via an Area's Pre-Conference Assembly process), which is where all A.A. business is decided.

Tradition 2 also speaks to the reason groups make all decisions. God expressing Himself through the group conscience has proven that the shared intelligence of the group (along with the spiritual resource of “right purpose”) is all we need to help guide the Conference to make the best decisions possible for A.A. and its related world services.

## Adopt-A-Rack!

### How It Works...

- Contact the Public Information Committee Chair at [pi-chair@aa-seta.org](mailto:pi-chair@aa-seta.org) to get a starter rack.
- Decide where to place the rack and be sure to get permission from the facility. *Examples: Laundromats, Emergency Rooms, Doctor's Offices, Libraries, Hotel Lobbies, etc.*
- Put a contact name and number on the back of the rack. This is necessary for refills.
- Be sure and let the Public Information Committee Chair know where the rack has been placed.
- Check back with the facility from time to time (weekly or monthly) to see if the rack needs restocking.
- It is up to the group or individual to supply the rack with pamphlet refills.

PURPOSE

TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC IN COMMON PUBLIC LOCATIONS



## FIRST STEP PRAYER

Dear Lord, I admit that I am powerless over my alcoholism.  
I admit that my life is unmanageable when I try to control it.  
Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness.  
Remove from me all denial of my alcoholism.

# District 82

# NEXT DISTRICT 82 MEETING

JAN 4<sup>TH</sup> 1:30

100 OAK DR S, STE E, LAKE JACKSON

GOOGLE MEETS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### District 82 Treasurers' Summary - Dec 2025

Opening Balance	\$5,860.08
Contributions	\$80.00
New Beginnings \$80	
Expenses	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$5,940.08
Prudent Reserves	\$2,800.00

CONCEPT 1 REVIEW  
 AREA COMMITTEE  
 GSR REPORTS  
 DISTRICT COMMITTEES

## UNITY DAY:

DISTRICT 82 WILL HOST A UNITY EVENT IN THE SPRING. WE ARE INVITING ALL GROUPS TO SHARE THEIR HISTORY, THERE WILL BE SPEAKERS, ROUNDTABLES, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP. STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

## FOUNDERS DAY

Plantation Group  
 200 Oyster Creek Dr, Lake Jackson

### CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday  
 Feb 21, 2026  
 2:00 - 7:50

BRING YOUR BEST  
 Chili Cornbread Dessert

- 3:00 Al-Anon Speaker
- 4:00 Trophy Presentation
- 4:30 Food & Fellowship
- 5:00 Door Prizes
- 5:15 Group History
- 5:45 Sobriety Countdown
- 6:30 AA - Frank W-Third Tradition

Food must be entered by 5:00  
 There will be prizes awarded in all three categories: Chili, Cornbread, & Dessert

## MOUTH OF THE BRAZOS CONFERENCE



MARCH 6-8, 2026  
 333 HWY 332, LAKE JACKSON, TX, 77566



### SETA 63rd Annual Convention

## The Broad Highway

January 23-25 2026

At the Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont-Plaza

#### Featured Speakers

- Todd J. of Idyllwild CA
- Roland R. of Houston TX
- Terri E. of Baton Rouge LA
- Stacey S. of San Antonio TX
- Nick S. from GSO New York
- Frank S. from Mexico and more!



Program will include: Marathon meetings, Dance party & DJ, Literature sales, Al-anon Archives, Workshops & more!

BRING HEADPHONES FOR TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH TO SPANISH

# A Trustee Shares

## **'WE ARE ALL GOING TO FOOT THE BILL'**

I got sober a few days before Christmas in 1986, so I feel especially grateful and reflective this time of year. I am still awed at how miraculously A.A. has worked in my life, even before I walked into my first meeting.

I was desperate, but a bit clueless. I saw a classified ad (and I am showing my age!) in the back of the local paper that said: "Drinking problem? Maybe we can help." That was followed by a listing of meeting times and places in my neighborhood. It would take me a few weeks of white-knuckling it before I went to my first meeting. I was welcomed into a warm room and offered refreshments. And while someone told me I would never have to hurt like this from alcohol again, I couldn't get out of there fast enough.

But my getaway was slowed by a gauntlet of members who handed me A.A. pamphlets and meeting books and encouraged me to stay for the second meeting. It took me a few days to return, but I didn't drink.

As an alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, I just came to expect that all this help would be there for me. It wasn't until my first business meeting that I realized it was made possible by the money members were putting in the basket. This was my first of many lessons over the years in the power and impact of self-support.

Bill W. wrote of the critical importance of self-support to the Fellowship and the special obligation this tradition asks of members in his October 1967 article "A.A.'s Tradition of Self-Support," which is included in the 2025 International Convention commemorative edition of Language of the Heart.

"Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters to maintain unity and effectiveness worldwide.

These service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

We all share this responsibility to ensure that A.A. is there for the next person who stumbles into our rooms, as it was for us when we needed the gift of recovery. Bill's recognition that "we are all going to foot the bill" is both our spiritual responsibility and our spiritual heritage.

John W.

Class B General Service Trustee and AAWS treasurer

**LEARN MORE ABOUT GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT AT AA.ORG.**

# The Fellowship Says...

**PAI - INITIATE A STUDY TO IDENTIFY A LESS COSTLY LOCATION FOR THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE. THIS STUDY SHOULD BE OF THE DEPTH AND THOROUGHNESS OF THE LOCATION+ STUDY PERFORMED TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE. AN OUTSIDE FIRM SHOULD BE ENGAGED FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

Dear Rick,

Warm greetings from all your friends at GSO!

This correspondence is to follow up on the Proposed Agenda Item #21 which you submitted to the 76th General Service Conference:

The implementation of this motion would establish a regular practice for the Board to conduct an inventory. Regular inventory is one AA's most important and treasured principles. The practice can root out character defects and establish corrective measures to overcome these shortcomings. The Board being the tip of the triangle, this process is vital to the overall health and unity of Alcoholics Anonymous. The fellowship as a whole must be able to trust our General Service Board. The PAI was forwarded to the General Service Board (GSB) who met on November 2, 2025 to discuss the item.

The following is the outcome of their deliberations: While the GSB agreed to take no action to forward this item to the 76th General Service Conference; noting this topic's spiritual importance, they agreed to add this to their future GSB trustees' Planning and Sharing Session agenda for further discussion. The GSB concluded that the GSB has recently conducted a formal recent inventory, and experience suggests that three years may be too close together to conduct a new inventory seeing it necessary to continue to have time to review, reflect, and to take any needed reparative action. However, noting the importance for all aspects of service to continue to take personal inventory, this topic will move forward to the GSB's agenda to include as discussion, along with the topic on the cadence of GSB formal inventories.

On behalf of the board, we thank you for your thoughtful proposal and your participation in the Conference process. Thank you for your service and for generously taking the time and effort to offer your suggestions.

In Fellowship,  
Racy Joseph  
Staff Coordinator/ Assistant Secretary to the  
General Service Board

## **FROM KC, OUTGOING SETA DELEGATE TO HIS AREA**

Hello all. I wanted to pass along some more information.

1. The PAI grid will be updated after the Jan 2026 board meeting.
2. ~17 Feb 2026 the final agenda items and background material should be made available.
3. The international convention report should be made available after the Jan 2026 board meeting.
4. 15 Dec 2025 there was a special board meeting to authorize a drawdown of an additional \$750,000 to cover AAWS expenses. The stated cause was contribution being down ~\$1 million.

To me the power of the purse is working. I calculate the drawdown from the prudent reserve to be ~\$3.2 million. My back of the envelope calculation would be that we have ~4-4.5 months of prudent reserve.

My unsolicited thought is our spending at the bottom of the triangle is out of control and the conference isn't exerting its voice. It appears that the bottom of the triangle and GSO are telling the Fellowship what our vital and essential services are. PAI's are being ignored and the Fellowship's wishes are falling on deaf ears. Just saying...

The PAI that SWTA68 passed unanimously (including Service Manual in kits) but was not considered has already been sent to twelve (12) delegate areas seeking support. Another ten (10) will be contacted shortly. Hopefully I will be able to resubmit it with other area's support (5-10+).

As always, I'm relying on God's continuing grace.  
K.C.

# Meeting Schedule

City	Location	Group	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Angleton	124C E Mulberry St (across from H-E-B)	Angleton Group	12p O 6P O	12p C 6P O	12p C 6P O	12p C 6P O	12p C 6P O	12p C 6P O	12p O 6P O
Clute	147 N Brazosport Blvd	Grupo Fe y Esperanza	7:30p			7:30p			
Clute	147 N Brazosport Blvd	Free to Live	10a O						10a O
Clute	147 N Brazosport Blvd	Brockman Group		12p O	12p C	12p C	12p C	12p O	
Clute	147 N Brazosport Blvd	Beginners Group	6p C	6p O	6p C	6p C	6p C	6p C	6p O
Lake Jackson	100 Oak Dr South	New Beginnings for Women		12p C					
Lake Jackson	100 Oak Dr South	Clean Air			12p C		12p C		
Lake Jackson	200 Oyster Creek (St Timothy's)	Plantation Group		6:30p C			6:30p C		6:30p O
Bay City	2701 Avenue H (Trailer by Railroad)	Bay City Group	7p O	7p O	12p O	7p O	7p O	12p O	7p O
El Campo	708 E First St (Bible Truth Church)	Easy Does It Group		7p O			7p O		
Freeport	1618 N Avenue N Salvation Army	No Resentments				6:30p O			
Needville	16628 Hwy 36 (Creekside Christian Church)	Needville Group	6:30p O						
Sweeny	205 N Oak St (Sweeny Senior Citizen's Center)	Sweeny-Old Ocean Group		8p O		8p C			8p O
West Columbia	117 E Clay St (St Mary's Episcopal Church)	West Columbia Group						8p O	



This District 82 schedule is intended to help you locate meetings within the District 82 boundaries of Area 67. It is subject to change without notice. For more information and schedule updates, contact Houston Intergroup at (713) 686-6300 or online at <http://www.aahouston.org> or download Meeting Guide app on your phone.

