


The Lighthouse

Our Co-Founder
Grapevine Article
Step, Tradition, Concept
District 82 & Events
GSO News
Fellowship Says
District 82 Meetings



Friend of Bill W. 

O u r C o - F o u n d e r

Our Twelve Steps

By: Bill W.

In 1938, our cofounder, Bill W., was writing what we know today as our Big Book. As he began to outline an actual program of recovery for the alcoholic, the Twelve Steps were born. Amazing fact; Chapters 5 & 6 (including the twelve steps) were written last - after all the other chapters!

"I was in this anything-but-spiritual mood on the night when the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous were written. I was sore and tired clear through. I lay in bed at 182 Clinton Street with pencil in hand and with a tablet of scratch paper on my knee. I could not get my mind on the job, much less put my heart in it. But here was one of those things that had to be done. Slowly my mind came into some kind of focus.

"Since Ebby's visit to me in the fall of 1934 we had gradually evolved what we called "the word-of-mouth program." Most of the basic ideas had come from the Oxford Groups, William James and Dr. Silkworth. Though subject to considerable variation, it all boiled down into a pretty consistent procedure which comprised six steps... "Our Steps would have to be more explicit. There must not be a single loophole through which the rationalizing alcoholic could wiggle out. Maybe our six chunks of truth should be broken up into smaller pieces. Thus we could better get the distant reader over the barrel, and at the same time we might be able to broaden and deepen the spiritual implications of our whole presentation. So far as I can remember this was all I had in mind when the writing began."

Reprinted w Permission AAWS Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age pg. 160

"The Twelve Steps of our AA program are not crammed down anybody's throat. They are not sustained by any human authority. Yet we powerfully unite around them because the truth they contain has saved our lives, has opened the door to a new world. Our experience tells us these universal truths work. The anarchy of the individual yields to their persuasion. He sobers up and is led, little by little, to complete agreement with our simple fundamentals."

Reprinted with permission from Grapevine, September 1945

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Grapevine Article

ACTION

TRUSTED SERVANT

By: JIMMY C. | PECULIAR, MISSOURI

HE FOUND HIS HIGHER POWER THROUGH OTHERS AND DISCOVERED A WORLD OF SERVICE THAT GAVE HIM A LOVE OF GIVING BACK

WHEN I ARRIVED AT AA I HAD A HIGHER POWER. AS I SAW IT, HE WAS WEARING MY SHOES. I HAD ALL THE ANSWERS TO EVERYBODY'S LIFE PROBLEMS—EXCEPT HOW I COULD LIVE JOYFULLY SOBER. I IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TRYING TO “FIX” AA. AT THIS TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS STILL LIVING IN MY SISTER'S BASEMENT, WATCHING EPISODES OF M.A.S.H. ON A 10-INCH, BLACK-AND-WHITE TV THAT SAT ON TOP OF CANTALOUPE CRATES. I KNEW JUST EXACTLY WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE NEEDED TO DO TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THEIR LIFE PROBLEMS. BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO ABOUT MY OWN ISSUES. SURPRISINGLY THE PEOPLE IN AA DID NOT RESPOND WELL TO MY “SUGGESTIONS.”

AS I WORKED MY WAY THROUGH THE STEPS, I FOUND A PASSAGE IN THE FOURTH CHAPTER OF THE BIG BOOK THAT READS, “ACTUALLY WE WERE FOOLING OURSELVES, FOR DEEP DOWN IN EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IS THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEA OF GOD.” MY PROBLEM WITH GOD ALL ALONG HAD BEEN GEOGRAPHY. I WAS LOOKING “OUT THERE” FOR GOD WHEN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOOKING DEEP WITHIN MYSELF. THIS REVELATION WAS A HUGE LEAP FORWARD FOR ME SPIRITUALLY, BUT I WAS STILL HAVING TROUBLE SEEING THE SPIRITUALITY WITHIN EVERYONE ELSE. I RECOGNIZED THAT MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF MY AA GROUP WERE LIVING HAPPY, SOBER LIVES. I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT DRINKING.

FOR THREE YEARS I HAD BEEN TELLING THE MEMBERS AT MY HOME GROUP THAT I WAS A LIAR AND A THIEF. I WOULD STEAL THINGS I DIDN'T WANT FROM PEOPLE I LIKED, THEN LIE TO THEM ABOUT IT. SO THEY ELECTED ME GROUP TREASURER. SINCE MY AA GROUP WAS AN ALL-CASH INSTITUTION, I THOUGHT, GREAT, THIS IS EASY MONEY.

AND GUESS WHAT? I COMPLETED THAT SERVICE ROTATION AS GROUP TREASURER WITHOUT STEALING A SINGLE DIME FROM THE GROUP. I EVEN DEVELOPED AN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM SO WE COULD ACCURATELY TRACK INCOME AND EXPENSES. I MANAGED TO COMPLETE THAT ROTATION WITHOUT MANIPULATING THE BOOKS. I HAD NOT KNOWN THAT WAS POSSIBLE FOR ME. A LOVING GOD EXPRESSING ITSELF THROUGH THE GROUP CONSCIENCE TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE HONEST.

WHEN I BEGAN LISTENING FOR THE GOD WITHIN OTHER MEMBERS I REALIZED THAT THEY WERE SIMPLY SHARING THEIR REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES. I STOPPED HAVING TO HAVE THE BEST “WAR STORY” AT EVERY MEETING AND BEGAN SIMPLY RELATING MY EXPERIENCES. LISTENING TO THAT LOVING GOD DEEP WITHIN EVERY AA MEMBER HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A MEMBER AMONG MEMBERS. I'M NO BETTER THAN OR LESS THAN ANY OTHER PERSON.

A LOVING GOD EXPRESSING ITSELF THROUGH AA SERVICE WORK AT THE GROUP LEVEL TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A TRUSTED SERVANT. MANY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE VERY DISRUPTIVE, BUT EACH ONE OF THEM TEACHES ME TO REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR THE LOVING GOD DEEP WITHIN EACH AND EVERY PERSON IN MY LIFE. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HEAR THAT GOD CONSCIENCE WITHIN THEM. TODAY I CAN CARRY THAT SAME ATTITUDE INTO ALL OF MY ACTIVITIES. I HAVE SERVED AND CONTINUE TO SERVE AA AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AS WELL AS AT MY HOME GROUP. I HAVE ALSO COMPLETED ROTATIONS AS AREA COMMITTEE CHAIR. IT WAS NOT MY IDEA TO SERVE ON THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF OUR STATE CONVENTION. THE GROUP CONSCIENCE DECIDED I SHOULD SERVE ANYWAY. THE WORKING COMMITTEE ELECTED ME TO BE THEIR TREASURER. THE POSITION WAS IN COMPLETE SHAMBLES. I REALLY DIDN'T WANT THIS JOB, BUT THE GROUP CONSCIENCE DECIDED I SHOULD HAVE IT ANYWAY. WHEN I WAS VOTED IN AS TREASURER, IT WAS AN EIGHT-TO-ONE DECISION. MINE WAS THE ONLY DISSIDENTING VOTE. “IT'S BECAUSE THEY TRUST YOU,” MY SERVICE SPONSOR EXPLAINED. I CAN NOW SAY THAT I'VE ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SUCCESS ANYONE CAN ATTAIN IN AA—TRUSTED SERVANT.

TWO YEARS LATER WHEN I ROTATED OUT, EVERYTHING WAS WELL ORGANIZED AND EASY FOR THE NEXT TREASURER TO TAKE OVER. A LOVING GOD HAS TAUGHT ME TO LEAVE A POSITION IN BETTER CONDITION THAN IT WAS WHEN I FOUND IT.

LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE RATHER THAN THE MESSENGER AT AA SERVICE ACTIVITIES ALLOWS ME TO FOCUS ON GOD'S WILL FOR AA'S FUTURE. DIVINE GUIDANCE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO ME—IF I'M WILLING TO LISTEN.

Hope

Identification

Reliance

"YES," REPLIED THE DOCTOR, "THERE IS. EXCEPTIONS TO CASES SUCH AS YOURS HAVE BEEN OCCURRING SINCE EARLY TIMES. HERE AND THERE, ONCE IN A WHILE, ALCOHOLICS HAVE HAD WHAT ARE CALLED VITAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES.

BIG BOOK PG 27

STEP 2

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

The Solution To My Problem Isn't Me

My desire to control everything myself, and

My belief that I am responsible for the outcome of my life

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."

God Speaks Through His Kids

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.

One thing you need to know:

The Conference Listens – Then Speaks

Once the group shares its conscience, the Conference develops a collective conscience (via Conference Actions) so that effective action can be taken by the chosen service representatives (which are the General Service Board [Trustees], A.A. World Services, Inc. [which includes the General Service Office], and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) who are given operational authority. Ok, so why them?

How could thousands of A.A. groups actually manage A.A. world services? Talk about a hot mess that would be! The conference listens to the groups, then speaks, thereby passing execution responsibility onto the appropriate service entity tasked with implementation. Generally, no action can be taken unless the conference directs it to be done (See Concept 3 for additional information on this).

AAWS NEWS

Buy 1 Plain Language Big Book (print edition), & Get \$1 off 1 Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous



SECOND STEP PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity.

I humbly ask that you remove all twisted thought &

Addictive behavior from me this day.

Heal my spirit & restore in me a clear mind.

District 82

NEXT DISTRICT 82 MEETING

MAR 1ST 1:30

100 OAK DR S, STE E, LAKE JACKSON
GOOGLE MEETS

TREASURER'S REPORT

District 82 Treasurers' Summary - 2025

Opening Balance	\$5,129.77
Contributions	\$2,191.00
Expenses	\$1,374.19
Ending Balance	\$5,946.58
Prudent Reserves	\$2,800.00

CONCEPT 3 REVIEW
AREA COMMITTEE
GSR REPORTS
DISTRICT COMMITTEES

UNITY DAY:

DISTRICT 82 WILL HOST A UNITY EVENT APRIL 18TH, 12PM-3PM. 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
30TH
MARCH 6-8, 2026
333 HWY 332, LAKE JACKSON, TX, 77566

UNITY DAY! April 18

GSO Press Release

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WELCOMES THREE NEW NONALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES TO THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

(NEW YORK, NY) – January 22, 2026 – The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) has announced three new Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees have joined the board: Tom Ivester, M.D., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Kelly Parsley of Helena, Montana; and Veronica Ramirez of Weslaco, Texas. The trustees will serve six-year terms.

Class A trustees are friends of Alcoholics Anonymous selected for their professional expertise and the unique perspectives they bring to the General Service Board's work of supporting A.A. and carrying its message of recovery. Class A trustees also serve in certain public-facing roles; as nonalcoholics, they need not maintain anonymity in the media as do A.A. members.

Tom Ivester is chief clinical officer for Novant Health's triad region of North Carolina and a specialist in maternal-fetal medicine. Having grown up around Alcoholics Anonymous through his father's long-term sobriety, Ivester brings more than 30 years of medical and leadership experience. He serves on the Archives, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community and Treatment and Accessibilities committees, where he hopes to help increase understanding of A.A. within the medical community.

Kelly Parsley is a professor of health sciences whose academic career has focused on alcohol use and abuse. Her connection to A.A. deepened after attending open meetings, where she witnessed the Fellowship's impact firsthand. She serves on the Corrections Committee, as well as subcommittees on the Plain Language Big Book, the forthcoming Fifth Edition of the Big Book, and the International Committee.

Veronica Ramirez is a retired chief probation officer for the Eastern District of Louisiana with more than two decades of experience in federal probation and community corrections. Throughout her career, she regularly referred individuals to A.A. and observed its effectiveness in supporting long-term change. She serves on the Corrections Committee, the Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee, and the International Convention/Regional Forums Committee.

Founded in 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives and is committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone who reaches out for help with a drinking problem. To find a local A.A. meeting, contact a local A.A. office or visit aa.org/meeting-guide-app to learn about the Meeting Guide app and how to use it.

The Fellowship Says...

JUST GET IN THE CAR

The day I got in the car saved my life.

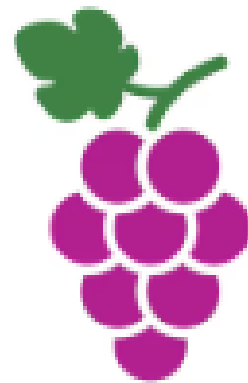
Before that moment, I didn't want to be around people or go anywhere. I just wanted to numb out and drink. I knew I needed help, but fear kept me stuck. If I hadn't gotten in her car that day, I'm not sure where I would be now. My life was a wreck because of my drinking and dangerous behavior.

I had been sober for only two days after my last drink when my sponsor called and asked, "What are you doing Saturday?" I assumed she was just letting me vent about how I had messed up my life. But she said something simple that changed everything: "I'll be there at 8. Just get in the car."

I didn't expect anything magical to happen that day, and I still didn't drink — but something did happen. Even though I was drowning in emotional pain and terrified of facing reality, I took that first step. Before I knew it, I was forcing myself into meetings, into God, into the program — into anything that wasn't numbing me.

The real transformation didn't happen overnight, but that moment marked the beginning of my recovery. I began to see my pain, my reality, and my future differently. I didn't fix everything at once, but I did start showing up — and that made all the difference.

-Anonymous Member of AA



AA **GRAPEVINE**

CLICK FOR PODCAST

Meeting Schedule

City	Location	Group	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Angleton	1204 N Velasco St, Suite 500	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	12p 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.

