



District 81



Featuring:

- **Upcoming Events and Committee Meetings**
- **“A Few Bits and Pieces from the District 81 Archives Committee” by Tom B.**
- **Prayer of the Month submitted by Lynn C.**
- **“Two Models of Service Structure” by Gwen R.**

... and more!!



District 81

July 2022

"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

Step 7: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition 7: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Concept 7: On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

District Committee Chairs

DCM: Keith M.
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Alt DCM: Danny
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Archives: Dana H.
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Correctional Facility (CFC): Darryl H.
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Grapevine: Linda C.
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Literature: Megan B.
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Finance & Budget (F&B): Brandi W.
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Webmaster: Nicole C.
nicole.c@aa-seta.org

www.aadistrict81.org



Upcoming Events and Committee

meetings:

- July 1** Dickinson Bayou Group 38th Anniversary at the Dickinson United Methodist Church at 6pm; 200 FM 517 Rd., W. Dickinson, TX 77539
- July 6** District 81 meeting at Kelley's in La Marque at 7pm; 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568
- July 9-10** SETA Assembly at Doubletree Houston Intercontinental; 15747 John F Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032
- July 13** Correctional Facilities Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club at 6:30pm; 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573
- July 20** Literature Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club, room E/F, at 7pm
- July 27** Finance & Budget meeting at Jason's Deli in League City at 6:30pm; 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573
- July 27** Treatment Facilities Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club at 6:30pm
- July 28** PI/CPC Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club at 5pm
- July 28** Webmaster meeting at the Bay Area Club at 5pm
- July 29** Archives Committee meeting at the Alvin Taylor Street Club at 2pm; 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511
- August TBD** Workshop: How to Read the Financial Report hosted by the Finance and Budget Committee
- September 9-11** SETA Correctional Facilities Conference Doubletree Houston Intercontinental; more info 832-883-9110
- October 1-2** SETA Assembly at Doubletree Houston Intercontinental
- October TBD** Literature Workshop hosted by the Literature Committee; stay tuned for more info!!
- November 11-13** 5th National Corrections Convention

Letter from the DCM



Thank you, Gwen, for stepping up and taking on this newsletter committee!!! I am very excited to see what this will bring to the district every month to help carry the message. I also want to thank all the committee members and trusted servants of district 81. I am very happy to say that all the committees are active and have Chairs!

We are very lucky to have such an active district with so many meetings and opportunities to serve our fellows. If you are new to AA or are looking for something to get you more involved, please consider the service opportunities at the district level. We have some great people that insist on having fun while supporting primary purpose. Please reach out to me or anyone involved for details.

I would also like to mention that the July Area Assembly that will be held on 7/9-7/10, will be very informative for your groups. Our delegate Kris H will be delivering his report on the GSC that was held last April. It's a great opportunity to hear about the changes to AA from our own delegate.

"Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer — ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service."

-Bill W

-Keith M.

District 81 DCM



Features



A Few Bits and Pieces from the District 81 Archives Committee

In 1939, there was a dust jacket design for the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous that was never used. There was a man standing in front of a bottle of liquor and toward the bottom right a passage that stated, "Their Pathway to a Cure". The jacket was done in red and black lettering, and it promised a "cure". AA has never said it "cures" alcoholism and suggests "once and alcoholic, always an alcoholic." (This information is from the Steppingstones Archives)

Dr. Harry M. Tiebout was non-alcoholic psychiatrist who applied his knowledge of alcoholism with the principles and philosophy of AA. He was AA's first friend in the psychiatric profession and was chief psychiatrist and medical director at Blythewood Sanitarium Connecticut. During the late fifties through the mid-sixties, he served on the Board of Trustees for AA and was chairperson of the National Council on Alcoholism in 1950. He was a strong supporter of AA throughout his life, and he was constantly working for acceptance of his views concerning alcoholism in the medical and psychiatric professions. He clarified the difference between the "submission" and "surrender" ideas, which are implied in Step One of the Twelve Steps.

Summer of 1939-Midwest AA. s withdraws from the Oxford Groups; AA is fully on its own.

1941-Jack Alexander of the Saturday Evening Post attends AA meetings and an article is published in the Post. Interest in the program takes off and membership grows at a rapid pace.

1942-Bill W. pays tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. Ruth signed approx. 15,000 letters to drunks who wrote the New York AA office asking for help.

1942-First prison group was formed at San Quentin, Calif.

June of 1944-The AA Grapevine is established.

1946-The Twelve Traditions are formulated and published.

July of 1950-The first International Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio. The Twelve Traditions were adopted by the movement.

November of 1950-Dr. Bob Dies

June of 1953-The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is published.

July 1 thru 3 1955 – AA's Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service are turned over to the Fellowship of AA-at-large by its old timers at 20th year anniversary (International Convention) in St. Louis, Missouri.

January of 1971-Bill W. dies

April of 1973-Distribution of the book Alcoholics Anonymous reaches the 1,000,000 mark.

November of 1975-General Service Board officially opens the GSO AA Archives with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

October of 1988-Lois Burnham Wilson dies

October of 2004 – The District 81 Archives Committee was formed. The original district archives were housed in a member's house in Galveston. A few years later, the district archives were moved to Santa Fe. In January of 2014, the archives were moved to Alvin Taylor Street. Both District 81 and District 82 are now housed at Alvin Taylor Street and that is where the District 81 and District 82 hold their month committee meetings.

The above is just for your information that you may or may not find interesting.

Features

To Heck with all the serious stuff!!!! The following is a little on the lighter side.

“You may be an alcoholic if”

1. You’ve missed work to have a tooth extracted – 63 times!!!!
2. The Texas Dept. of Public Safety is suing you for wearing out their breathalyzer machine!!!!
3. You know the name of at least 5 toilet bowl manufacturers!!!!
4. You come home finally, and your children tell their mother there’s a stranger at the door!!!!
5. If the top of your mouth is sun burned!!!!
6. If you have ever been arrested while still in jail!!!!
7. If you have ever been spiritually inspired by a mildew stain on your shower curtain!!!!
8. If you wake up with “only one shoe on” and you don’t know if you have lost one or found one!!!!

-Tom B.

District 81 Archives Committee Member



Featured Prayer: O Great Spirit

O Great Spirit,

Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need Your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things You have made, and my ears sharp to hear Your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the things You have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons You have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy: myself.

Make me always ready to come to You with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to You without shame.

Lakota-Sioux Prayer by Chief Yellow Lark

Submitted by Lynn C.

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



Visit aagrapevine.org to subscribe and to learn more about our Fellowship’s magazine.

Does your home group have a Grapevine Rep?

“Grapevine Representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It’s a fun way to get involved! All you have to do is announce the latest issue at your meeting, let people know how they can participate by sending in stories, or jokes. It’s easy to get started. Simply let your homegroup know that you are interested. Register with us online and you will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.”

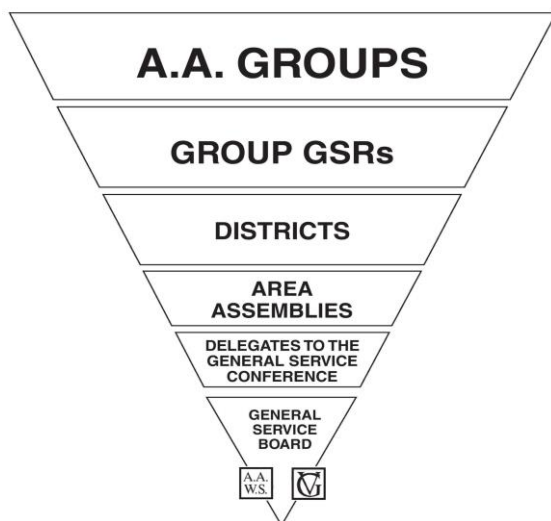
aagrapevine.org/get-involved/become-grapevine-rep

Features



Two Models of Service Structure

Most of us are familiar with the inverted pyramid of AA's service structure. Well, I recently picked up leaflet P-45* entitled "Circles of Love and Service". I have recreated a very simplified version of their graphic to the right. It is very much the same function as the pyramid. However, while the pyramid highlights the importance of the groups (that they are not just numerous but on top of the structure), the "circles" model highlights the importance of *communication* between the different parts of our Fellowship.



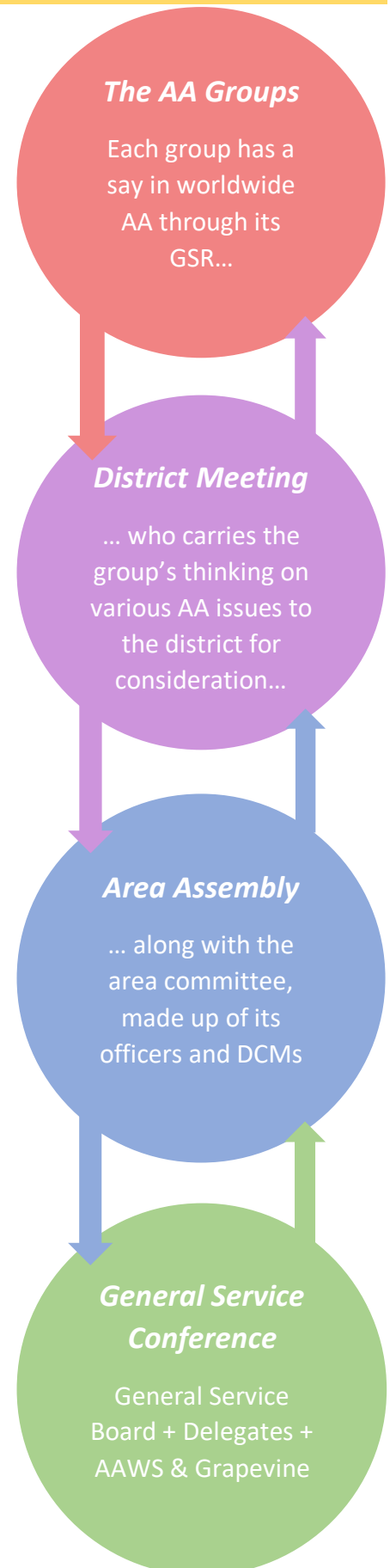
When I first became a GSR for my home group, I was pretty confused about my role. And reading the AA Service Manual did little to alleviate my confusion. However, the longer I just put one foot in front of the other, ask questions, and do my best, the more I learn about this wonderful Fellowship and how it functions.

Understanding how we function on a global scale helped me figure my place within the Fellowship, and that knowledge has empowered me to make myself of better use in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

If you want to be of service but don't know where to begin, take the time to get to know your home group. Who are the other members? Who is your GSR? Are there any home group positions available? Attend your District meeting as a guest to learn more about what service looks like at a different place on the pyramid. You never know what your Higher Power may have in store for you!

-Gwen R.

District 81 Newsletter Editor



*AA General Service Conference-approved literature. For more information go to aa.org/circles-love-and-service

District 81 July 2022

Call for Submissions

Last month your DCM asked, "What does your group need to grow and be healthy?"



Feel free to send your replies to the Newsletter Editor gwen.r@aa-seta.org

We want to hear from you!!!

The Archives Committee Requesting Action!



Our awesome Archives Committee is beginning the process of digitizing the District 81 collections of our records in every media format, from scanning pictures and documents to converting stories from tape to MP3 and THEY NEED YOUR HELP!! This is going to take a lot of work but will be a very rewarding process, allowing future generations of AA to see where we came from. It's a great way to do some service work and stay in the middle of the action! This will be an ongoing process, so either reach out to the Archives Chair or drop in on their committee meeting, last Friday of the month, 2pm, at the Alvin Taylor Street Club, in the upstairs room.



Another project underway at Archives includes recording the stories of Longtimers for posterity. If you know someone with long-term sobriety and would like to nominate them to be a part of District 81 AA history, please reach out to us! Remember to respect anonymity and kindly ask their permission before emailing us. We would love to hear some stories!



Did you know that the Archives Committee is responsible for collecting the histories of the groups in our District? But, again, they need you help! Ask your GSR if they have received a copy of the group history form at one of our last District meetings. If not, your home group may not have its history recorded! Email us for a copy of that form, fill it out, and send it back, or have your GSR bring it to Tom B. at the next District meeting. If your group has a complicated history, that's okay -- we still want to know it! Do your best, God's got the rest!!

If you would like to be a part of any of these projects, contact the Archives Committee Chair at uaneyecob1@aol.com

Thank you for helping to preserve the history of District 81!!

Want to see your article, joke, quote, favorite prayer, artwork, or AA member shout-out featured in next month's issue?

Send it on in! → gwen.r@aa-seta.org



Submissions for August are due July 20

Please keep submissions relevant to AA and free of profanity. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. *Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*



June Finance & Budget Report

Opening Checkbook Balance:

\$13075.59

Group Contributions:

\$641.96

Other Contributions:

Less Expenses:

\$69.21

Net Income:

\$572.75

Ending Checkbook Balance:

\$13,648.34

Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds:

(\$2,000.00)

Restricted Budget Deficit:

(\$5,215.55)

Available Funds:

\$6,432.79

For more information on the Finance & Budget Report, contact kirstin.y@aa-seta.net

Helpful Resources:

AA World Services: aa.org

Southeast TX Area 67: aa-seta.org

Houston AA intergroup: aahouston.org

Houston Al-Anon intergroup: houstonalanon.org

June in Review

June 4, the Treatment Facilities Committee held a workshop at the Bay Area Club, featuring several speakers experienced in service. The event was a resounding success. Way to go, TFC!

June 17-19, the 75th Texas State Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous was a massive hit! Here are just a few comments of our fellows from all over the Lone Star State:

"I come here to listen to speakers I wouldn't be able to hear anywhere else."

"It is important to see our elected representatives are just staying sober one day at a time. Just like we are."

"My favorite part was the 'Oldtimers panel'. Seeing that much sobriety, hearing their experience, strength, and hope... oh my God!"

