

# DISTRICT 81

## JANUARY 2026

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### STEP 1:

"I am powerless over alcohol – and my life is 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."

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**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: Happy Hour speaker meeting** - 6:30pm Bay Area Club; 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

**January 7: District 81 meeting** - 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568  
(1st Wednesday)

**January 10: Live at 5 speaker meeting** - 5pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 (2nd Saturday)

**January 11: Newsletter Committee meeting** - 4:30pm at Dawn F.'s house. (every Sunday)

**January 14: Accessibility Committee meeting** - 6:30pm online via Google Meet  
<https://meet.google.com/qvk-rjzk-nad> (2nd Wednesday)

**January 14: Correctional Facilities meeting** - 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573  
(2nd Wednesday)

**January 15: Grapevine Committee meeting** - 5:30pm via Google Meets, send email to Grapevine committee chair to receive meeting info (3rd Thursday)

**January 15: PI/CPC Committee meeting** - 6:30pm via Zoom meeting ID 868-5564-9879; PW 06101935 (3rd Thursday)

**January 16: Archives Committee meeting** - 6:00pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 Rm E or F (3rd Friday)

**January 28: Finance & Budget meeting** - 7pm via Google Meets, send email to F & B committee chair to receive meeting info (last Wednesday)

**January 21: Website Committee meeting** - 6pm online; send email to [john.a@aa-seta.org](mailto:john.a@aa-seta.org) to be added to the Google Meet invite. (3rd Wednesday)

**January 21: Literature Committee meeting** - 5:30pm via Google Meets (3rd Wednesday)  
<https://meet.google.com/qcp-purn-rvt>

**January 21: Workshop Committee meeting** - 6:30pm Jason's Deli in League City (3rd Wednesday)

**January 23-25: SETA 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention** - Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont - Plaza; see flyer!

**January 28: Treatment Facilities Committee meeting** - 7:00pm at the Bay Area Club RM E & F 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 and via Zoom: 868-5564-9879; passcode: 06-10-1935 (last Wednesday)

**January 28: Finance & Budget meeting** - 7pm via Google Meets, send email to F & B committee chair to receive meeting info (last Wednesday)



SETA 63rd Annual Convention

# The Broad Highway

January 23-25, 2026

At the Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont-Plaza

Featured Speakers

- Todd T 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

## Pre Registration Mail - In

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  AA  Al-Anon  Alateen

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  AA  Al-Anon  Alateen

Ticket Prices - In amount please include coffee, lunch, and contributions.

Alateen \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Alanon \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

AA \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch Nacho Bar \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
SETX Area Assembly of AA  
SETA  
PO Box 983 Silsbee TX 77656

Live at 5 Group

# SPEAKER MEETING

Speaker:

Robert H.

Sobriety Date: 06/26/2021

Saturday, Jan 10 2026

5pm

(2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month)

Bay Area Club

Room B

2111 Webster St., League City, 77573

HOSTED BY SOUTHEAST TEXAS, AREA 67

# SWRAASA

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL AA SERVICE ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 9 - 11, 2026  
HOUSTON, TX

A.A. ★ A SOCIETY OF RECOVERED  
ALCOHOLICS IN ACTION



HYATT REGENCY BAYTOWN-HOUSTON  
100 CONVENTION CENTER WAY  
BAYTOWN, TX 77520



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SWRAASA

MAIL TO: 148 S DOWLEN RD., PMB 21  
BEAUMONT, TX 77707

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WWW.SWRAASA2026.ORG

Sitting in a church basement on a Friday night with 4 days sober listening to a retired firefighter explain how he used to be a cucumber but now he's a pickle that can't go back to being a cucumber



# THE POWER OF “WE”

## Tradition One: “We” Before “Me” (Yes, Even Your Me)

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.” That’s Tradition One—simple, elegant, and occasionally inconvenient.

Most of us came to A.A. with a highly developed sense of individuality. We knew what was wrong with everyone else, how meetings should be run, and why our share was the most important one that night. Then Tradition One strolls in and gently suggests: Maybe it’s not all about you.

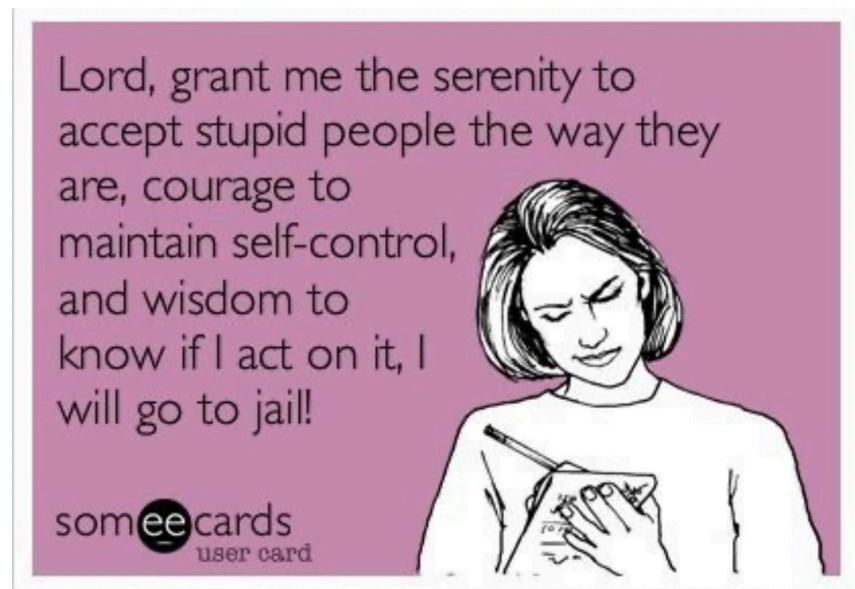
Unity doesn’t mean we all agree, dress alike, or drink the same brand of coffee. It means we remember why we’re here. A.A. exists so alcoholics can recover—full stop. When personalities clash, egos flare, or someone moves your chair three inches to the left, Tradition One asks a radical question: What serves the group, and the still-suffering alcoholic, best?

Here’s the kicker: personal recovery depends on unity. Not comfort. Not control. Unity. When the group works, we work. When the group fractures, sobriety gets shaky—ours included. That’s why A.A. meetings survive bad coffee, long shares, and that one guy who starts every sentence with “In my 37 years...”

Tradition One reminds us that A.A. is a we program. My sobriety didn’t happen alone, and it won’t be maintained that way either. When I put the group first, something magical happens—I stay sober.

Turns out, “we” is a pretty powerful word.

— Submitted by District 81 Newsletter Committee



# SEXUAL PREDATORS IN AA

We like to joke around about “13 Stepping” on the street corners of AA. I’ve been around awhile and have seen and participated in all kinds of unsavory behavior in sobriety... but as I started to respect myself and the sobriety of others, I knew I had to learn how to align myself with the spiritual principles of the program or face relapse.

So what is “13 Stepping”? The 13th Step is when an AA veteran, regardless of gender, makes sexual advancement on a new member. It’s the slap on the ass, the sexually suggestive inuendo, social media stalking, sending inappropriate text messages to newcomers, etc.

So let’s call it what it is: unwelcomed sexual predatory behavior instead of the cutesy little term “13 Stepping”. This is criminal and not a statement of who we are. Criminal activity is not protected by the Traditions.

Most of us were scared, intimidated, vulnerable and unsure of what to do when we got to AA. We look to our sober elders for guidance and safety. It is a sad day indeed when a new person no longer feels safe coming to meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. I’ve known many who never ever came back due to shame and humiliation or the fear of being hit on again.

Our Traditions guarantee that no one can be punished, expelled or deprived of AA membership, even the erring member. So how can we provide guidance and safety to our group members? There have been many topics brought up and written about by our trusted servants. One suggestion I read was in the chapter Workshop Summary in the 2019 Final Report of The 69th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. It mentioned developing a policy through group conscience, using safety as a meeting topic; having a volunteer read from the service piece on safety; and holding district-level workshops on the subject. There was another suggestion about holding newcomer orientations that include a “briefing” that predatory behavior is not acceptable.

At the end of the day, it is our responsibility to ensure that anyone who comes to AA feels that they are safe and have finally found a home.

I hope everyone gets the same great chance of sobriety that I have been given.

— Submitted by Dawn F. (Reprint from 2023)

# STEP ONE: POWERLESSNESS AND UNMANAGEABILITY

## **Understanding Step One**

Step One of the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program is a pivotal starting point for those seeking recovery from alcoholism: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable." This statement is often described as the only step that must be completed one hundred percent, with absolute honesty and acceptance. For many, including myself, this is the most difficult but crucial admission.

## **The Struggle with Ego and Control**

At the onset, I constantly questioned the validity of Step One. My ego and pride whispered that I could control my drinking, that my life only had some rough patches that would smooth themselves out if I simply managed my alcohol consumption. This desire for control led me to ignore the growing chaos in my personal life, and despite my efforts, my problems only worsened—mirrored by my escalating drinking/drugging habits.

## **Denial and the Downward Spiral**

Being offered help multiple times, I insisted I could cut down and get my life on track. This belief was far from reality. The notion that I could overcome my downward spiral on my own proved to be a dangerous illusion. My first stay at a detox facility was prompted not by my own realization, but by my wife asking if I had a "problem." Instead of facing the truth, I responded with blame—pointing fingers at her and at everyone else, never at myself.

## **Exposure to the AA Program**

During my time in the institution, I was introduced to the AA program through alumni who visited the hospital and shared their experiences. The hope and joy in their eyes, especially when they visited on Mondays, made a profound impression on me. One man, who seemed to have his life in order, agreed to help me—but only on the condition that I was willing to truly work for my recovery. I accepted his offer, not fully understanding what lay ahead.

## **Beginning the Journey: The Big Book and Meetings**

Together, we delved into the AA Big Book, reading, asking questions, and taking notes. Regular meeting attendance became a part of my routine, with the well-known suggestion to attend "90 meetings in 90 days." The process was slow, but necessary. When we arrived at Step One, my sponsor asked if I accepted that I was powerless over alcohol and that my life was unmanageable. In that moment, I answered "Yes." The evidence was clear—my family was in debt, my marriage was unraveling, and the chaos was overwhelming. Being that I wasn't drinking and not having the vital spiritual awakening, I was starting to feel that restlessness again.

## **The Lingering Doubt: Reservations and Lurking Notions**

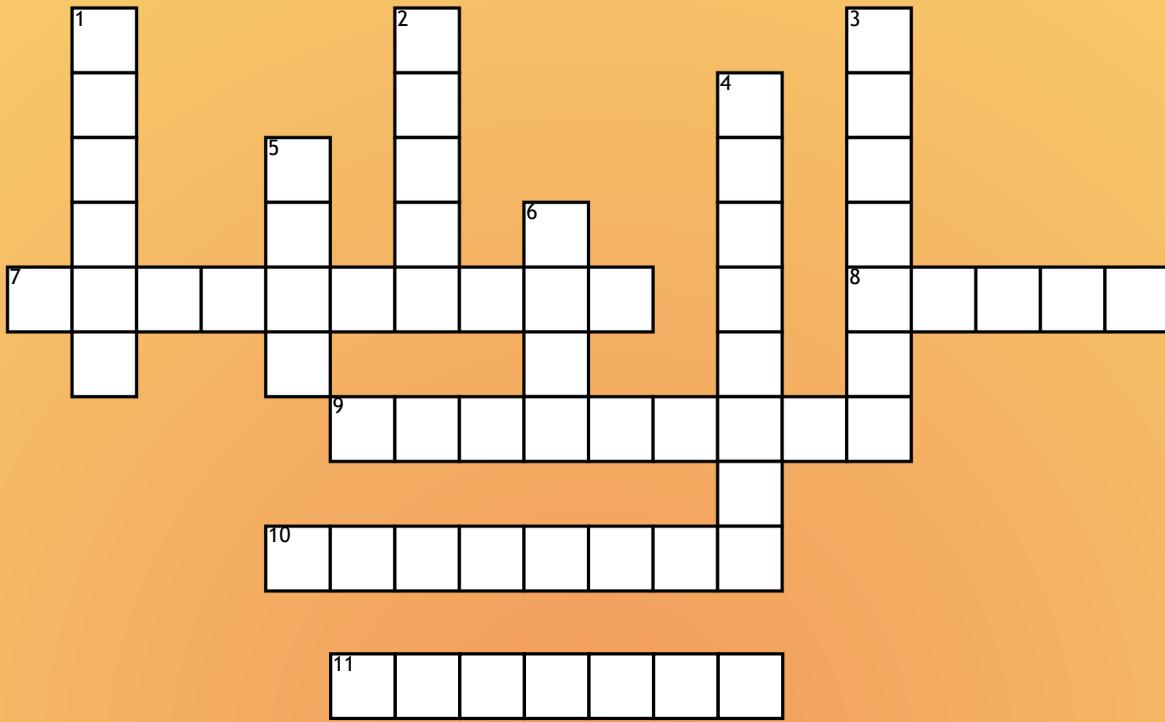
Even after this initial acceptance, doubt crept in as my mind cleared. The AA Big Book refers to this as a "reservation" or a "lurking notion", the dangerous belief that, someday, I might be able to drink without consequence. This thought is a common obstacle in recovery and represents the ongoing challenge of truly embracing Step One. It reminds me that powerlessness is not about weakness; it's about acknowledging reality and accepting help.

## **Conclusion: The Importance of Step One**

Step One is not merely an admission; it is the foundation for genuine recovery. It marks the point at which denial ends and the journey toward healing begins. Following two relapses I found myself in another institution. I received a phone call at 2am, the nurse got me out of bed to the lobby phone to hear that my family was in a terrible car wreck in New York. I hung up the phone, stunned, not knowing what to do. I went back to my room, knelt and prayed for the Honesty and Willingness to finally accept the fact that I am truly Powerless over alcohol and that I finally see what the unmanageability of the life I was living looked like. That day, 4-3-07 was total surrender. Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes.

— Submitted by Al F. (Happy Hour Group)

# AA Crossword Puzzle



## Across

7. A group that supports recovery
8. The first of the twelve steps
9. A core AA value meaning honesty and completeness
10. A willingness to ask for help
11. Personal guide in AA

## Down

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ power greater than oneself

2. The twelve \_\_\_\_\_ of Alcoholics Anonymous
3. Meetings are often held anonymously for this reason
4. AA meetings often begin with this
5. The book often called the "Big \_\_\_\_\_"
6. One day at a \_\_\_\_\_



**Down:** 1. Higher, 2. Steps, 3. Privacy, 4. Serenity,

5. Book, 6. Time

**Across:** 7. Fellowship, 8. Admit, 9. Integrity, 10. Humility, 11. Sponsor.

## JANUARY 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>



*Scan QR code to access the District 81 website and archived issues of the newsletter!*

## DEC F&B REPORT D81

D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 11,619.65
Group Contributions	\$ 711.17
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 1,431.75
Net Income	\$ (720.58)
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 10,899.07
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$ (4,927.44)
Available Funds	\$ 3,971.63