



DISTRICT 81

OCTOBER 2026

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STEP 10:

"Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it

TRADITION 10:

"A.A. has no opinion on outside issues hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy"

CONCEPT 10:

"Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined."

**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

October 4: Happy Hour speaker meeting - 6:30 pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 (1st Sunday)

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 18: Archives Committee meeting - 1:00pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 Rm E or F (3rd Sunday)

October 19: Workshop Committee meeting - 6:30pm Jason's Deli in League City (3rd Monday)

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

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

October 21: Treatment Facilities Committee meeting - 6:30pm 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 (3rd Wednesday)

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

October 29: PI/CPC Committee meeting - 6:30pm via Zoom meeting ID 868-5564-9879; PW 06101935 (last Thursday)

October 9-11: SWRAASA - Hyatt Regency Baytown-Houston 100 Convention Center Way, Baytown, TX 77520

October 30-Nov 1: TXSCYPAA 45 Convention: "The Acid Test" Hilton Austin Southpark Hotel

January 8-10, 2027: 64th Annual SETA Convention - South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center, 2500 South Shore Blvd, League City, TX 77573 (See flyer on next page for QR code link to pre-registration)



64th Annual SETA Convention
**United in Service.
 United in Recovery**
 January 8 - 10, 2027
 At South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center
 2500 South Shore Blvd, League City, TX

Featured Speakers:
 Stephanie B. — Oklahoma
 Karl M. — California
 Billie R. — Oklahoma
 Eileen A. — GSO
 Lisa H. — Al Anon
 Adrian M. — CFC

Register Online
 

Cash / Check / Credit Accepted at On-Site Registration

TXSCYPAA 45
 THE ACID TEST

HILTON
 AUSTIN SOUTH PARK HOTEL
 OCT 30TH - NOV 1ST

\$109/NIGHT
FREE BREAKFAST & PARKING

CAN YOU PASS THE ACID TEST?

HOTEL  **REGISTRATION** 

txscypaa45.org

AUSTIN, TX 2026

**Alcoholics Anonymous my ass
 I knew EVERYONE in there!**



District 31 Workshop
Anonymity
 Past & Present
 Tradition 11 & 12

Spiritual Foundation

Humility

Hosted by the
 Early Bird and 494 Lunch Bunch Groups
 494 Meeting Hall
 21820 E. Memorial
 Porter, Tx 77365

October 24, 2026
 2:30 pm to
 5:30pm

Attraction Rather Than Promotion

Safe Guard

Presenters
 Paul M. Gene J. & Bahiyah W.
 Skits
 Ask it Basket
 Fun, Fellowship and Snacks!

Equality



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

Southwest Region

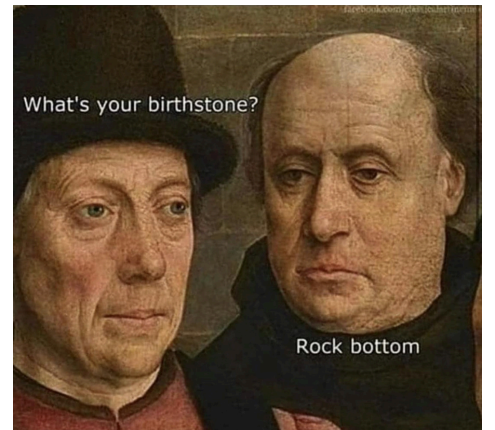
PRE-REGISTER BY 9/25/2026
 MAIL TO: 148 S DOWLEN RD., PMB 21
 BEAUMONT, TX 77707

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SWRAASA

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY & STATE: _____ CITY & STATE: _____
 DISTRICT: _____ DISTRICT: _____
 EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____

WWW.SWRAASA2026.ORG

**Bill W in heaven watching you
 totally skip past the To The
 Wives chapter he wrote**



Tradition 10: Keeping the Focus on Recovery

“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

Tradition Ten reminds me that A.A. has one primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover from alcoholism. It sounds simple, but practicing it can be surprisingly difficult. We all have opinions, beliefs, political views, and strong feelings about the world around us. Tradition Ten asks us to leave those outside issues at the door when we enter the rooms of A.A.

This does not mean that our opinions don't matter. It doesn't mean we have to stop caring about our communities, our families, or the world. Instead, Tradition Ten creates a boundary around A.A. so that the Fellowship can remain available to anyone who needs help with alcoholism, regardless of their personal beliefs.

For me, this tradition is a reminder that I don't have to agree with everyone in the rooms to belong there. A.A. brings together people from different backgrounds and walks of life. We may disagree about almost everything outside of the program, but we share a common problem and a common solution. When I remember that, differences become less important.

Tradition Ten also challenges me to examine my need to be right. It can be tempting to turn every conversation into an opportunity to prove my point or convince someone else that my way of thinking is correct. Recovery has taught me that I don't have to win every argument. Sometimes protecting the unity of the Fellowship is more important than having the last word.

There is tremendous freedom in knowing that A.A. does not require me to take a position on every controversial issue. I can bring my problems, fears, resentments, and questions into the rooms without turning A.A. into a platform for outside causes.

Tradition Ten keeps us focused. It protects the Fellowship from unnecessary controversy and allows the message of recovery to remain at the center. When everything else is stripped away, we are alcoholics helping other alcoholics. That is enough. And perhaps that is exactly the point: A.A. works best when we remember what we are here for.

Importantly, Tradition Ten does not tell the individual AA members that they cannot have opinions or participate in these issues. An AA member is free to vote, advocate, belong to organizations, practice a religion, or hold strong personal beliefs.

Tradition Ten ties well into Tradition Twelve “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. AA members should not be so staunch in their beliefs that they are unable to hear an important message from a member that may have differing opinions.

-Melissa F (Keo On Steppin')



The Greatest Gift is Love

I remember what it was like before taking the Steps. My source of love and approval was other people and I would be charming, gracious, charitable and loving toward them in order to get it. But when that love didn't meet my expectation in terms of quality or quantity, then I was disappointed and angry, hurtful and petty. Especially in my relationships, I developed resentments because I thought it was their fault I wasn't getting what I wanted. I would be passive aggressive, I would quietly punish them. I drank away the pain I felt. It wasn't the only reason to drink, but as the obsession to drink was removed while taking the steps, I realized I still needed love from a more reliable source.

Step 10 as described in the Big Book on page 84, gives us instructions, part of the blue print for living. In summary, today when I am upset about something, which shows up as a result of selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear, I have some actions to take:

- ask God at once to remove it
- discuss it with someone immediately
- make amends quickly
- turn my thoughts to someone I can help

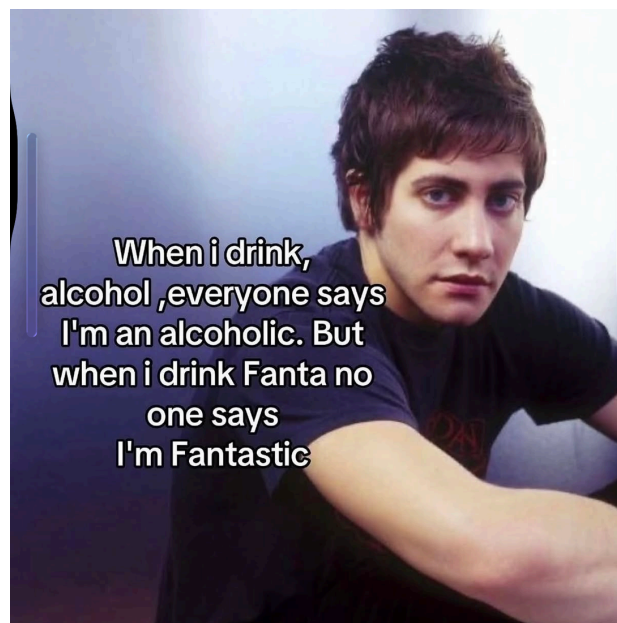


I remember to show love and tolerance of others. When I do this, things inside me start to change. And then, miraculously, often things change on the outside.

The "sufficient substitute" for drinking that I found: Love. From God. Through the people in this Fellowship. And as I continue to work this program, through Life itself. I discovered through quiet meditation that there is this Life within me that keeps me breathing and keeps every heartbeat going. No matter what I say or do, harmful or helpful, when I am awake or asleep. This Life loves me unconditionally and it is right here with me all the time. The greatest gift is Love. What a gift from God! This divine spark has become another great teacher in my life now.

How can I ever be grateful enough for this gift? How can I share this great gift? Y'all keep showing me how. Thank you and I hope each of us finds a way to carry this message to alcoholics who still suffer.

K. S. (Santa Fe Group)



The Privileged Alcoholic

Jesuit priest Edward Dowling, or “Father Ed”, was Bill Wilson’s spiritual sponsor and one of AA’s early and most ardent promoters. Father Ed lobbied for the Catholic Church to accept and even to endorse AA. In those times, religious identity was especially important, and differing denominations were suspicious of one another. Bill Wilson and Father Ed realized that if AA appeared Protestant or Catholic or - can you imagine - Unitarian, great numbers of potential AA members would stay away.

Father Ed was charmed with the 12 Steps, and with the idea of AA. He often referred to non-alcoholics such as himself as “the underprivileged”. There are several reasons for this.

First, AAs realize that if they are to break free from the addiction of alcohol, they would need to humble themselves, and work hard and long to overhaul their lives. This is no small chore. But AAs know that if they do not grasp the AA principles “with all the fervor with which the drowning seize life preservers”, they could not accept this design for living which brings us closer to God as we understand Him. Non-alcoholics don’t have this do-or-die mindset, and so it is much harder for them to be motivated to make the difficult changes that we alcoholics do.

Second, AAs enjoy a fellowship of like-minded people, working together and helping one another. The kinship we enjoy is not often found outside our rooms. We make deep connections, and know that we can rely on one another when times get tough.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, an alcoholic can reach another like no one else can. Ministers, counselors, doctors, and friends may try hard to understand an AA, but only through the power of one drunk talking to another can a newcomer lower their defenses, be truthful, and grab onto the Program. This very idea is what Dr. Bob and many others credited with their sobriety.

When I first came into these rooms, I was beaten, lonely, and ashamed of how far I had fallen. I didn’t trust others, and didn’t want them to know about my struggles. That attitude has slowly been erased, as I now understand that the dark path I traveled was necessary to get me where I am today. As I work these steps, and as I walk closer with my Higher Power, I no longer need to be ashamed of my past. My past made me what I am today...one of the privileged recovering alcoholics.

-Trent (Lucky) M. (This Side Of the Lake Group)

What Lies Behind the Eyes of the Quiet Ones

Article 2 – Rosemary B.

Rosemary B. is one of the most lively and entertaining humans I have ever met. She does not have an “inside voice.” She is loud, boisterous, and her laugh can fill a room.

We have had hundreds, if not thousands, of conversations over the years. Some profane and silly; others gut-wrenching and deeply personal, and even philosophical. I have watched Rosemary graciously open her home for countless gatherings, whether with family or her A.A. community.

Yet when I give her the look in a meeting—the one that says, “Come on, Rosemary, share something”—she dips her chin and gives me the slightest shake of her head.

How many of us are perfectly comfortable talking one-on-one, discoursing with intellectuals, or shooting the shit with the street urchins, yet rarely say a word in a meeting?

I watch the rooms. It seems there are many.

The cheerleader in me wants to cajole Rosemary into “sharing the joy” along with her experience, strength, and hope. But another part of me has become genuinely curious about the why behind the quiet ones in our rooms.

What is happening behind those eyes?
So, who is the dualistic Rosemary B.?

Rosemary was born into a Mother Goose family in Louisiana—with a hundred siblings!

Okay, that's an exaggeration. There were six kids. Still, madness and mayhem ruled the average day, along with good Cajun cooking, sibling rivalry, and lots of drinking. Rosemary's relationship with alcohol began early. From infancy, when alcohol was used in her bottle and whiskey was rubbed on her gums for teething, drinking eventually became a choice around the age of seven or eight. That relationship continued until she was nearly 45 and close to death.

Then she found the beautiful Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Recently, I've had some deeper conversations with Rosemary about why she backs away from speaking in meetings.

She told me, “If I have to think about what I want to share in a meeting, then I feel like all I have to share is bullshit.” She added, “If I don't feel ‘at home’ in a meeting, I won't share.” Her statements made me stop and think about how our internal realities contribute to our self-reflections.

Rosemary has shared with me that she believes she struggles with depression. She describes her experience with depression as a mental disorder, something she cannot simply “snap out of.” When the darkness comes, she says she has to claw her way back to the top.

Depression can profoundly affect the way people participate in the world around them. It can look like withdrawal, isolation, loss of interest, difficulty connecting with others, or simply not having the energy to engage. Sometimes people experiencing depression will stop attending meetings, stop answering messages, and stay home and disappear from the view of the people who care about them.

And in A.A., there can be a dangerous tendency to interpret every emotional struggle as a spiritual defect. For someone experiencing depression, that can add another burden: Maybe I'm not working the program well enough. Maybe I'm failing. But not every struggle is a spiritual failure.

We are members of a fellowship, not physicians. We can listen. We can love. We can walk beside someone. We can share our own experience, strength, and hope. And we can encourage someone to seek professional help when that is appropriate. A.A. itself recognizes that members may need help beyond what the fellowship can provide.

That distinction matters.

Many of us who have been around the program for a while have known someone who has committed suicide. I have known people whose silence, isolation, or withdrawal I wish I had understood differently. I can beat myself up with the regrets—the things I didn't notice, the questions I didn't ask, the times I wish I had reached out one more time.

But regret doesn't have to be the end of the story. Maybe the lesson is to look a little more closely with curiosity.

The person sitting quietly in the back of the room may have an entire universe behind their eyes. They may be listening more deeply than we know. They may be carrying grief, depression, fear, shame, exhaustion, or simply a story they are not yet ready to tell.

And maybe they don't need to be coaxed into talking. Maybe they just need to know they are seen. Perhaps the quiet ones aren't withholding their experience, strength, and hope. Perhaps, for today, they are simply trying to hold on to it.

So the next time Rosemary—or anyone else—dips their chin and quietly shakes their head when we ask them to share, maybe we don't push.

Maybe we just smile.

Maybe we sit beside them.

Maybe we ask, “How are you doing?”

And then we listen—not for the perfect A.A. answer, but for the person behind the silence.

Because sometimes the most important thing we can hear in an A.A. meeting is not the voice of the person speaking, but the silence of the person who desperately needs to know that someone is listening.

- Dawn F., Live at 5



OCTOBER 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 above using your phone's camera feature and be taken directly to:

www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-subscriptions



D81 – FINANCE & BUDGET REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER



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D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 11,061.19
Group Contributions	\$ 612.87
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 585.69
Net Income	\$ 27.18
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 11,088.37
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$ (6,523.02)
Available Funds	\$ 2,565.35