



PLUG-IN-JUG NEWS

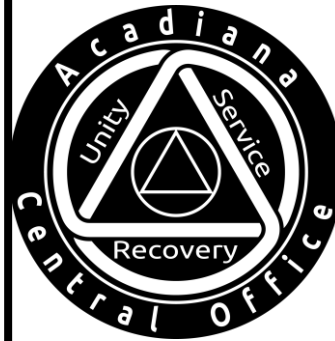


Step 12:

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Tradition 12:

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."



December 2024

COR Meeting
Dec 15th, 2024
Turning Point, 210 8th Street

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Acadiana Area Central Office is looking for volunteers to answer the "AA Hotline" phone after hours and on weekends.

Call 337-991-0830 to sign up.

Meeting Guide App:



Scan to install!

Literature and more available at Acadiana Area Central Office:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Big Books (all formats!) | • ¡También disponible! | • AA Service Manual |
| • 12 Steps & 12 Traditions | • Alcohólicos Anónimos | • AA Pamphlets |
| • As Bill Sees It | • "Libro Grande" | • Newcomer Packets |
| • Dr. Bob and the Good Old-Timers | • Doce Pasos y Doce Tradiciones | • Sobriety Chips |
| • AA Comes of Age | • Reflexiones Diarias | • Meeting Lists |
| • Language of the Heart | • Como Lo Ve Bill | • Event Flyers |
| • Daily Reflections | • AA Manual de Servicio | • Drop The Rock |
| • Pass It On | • Living Sober | • DTR Ripple Effect |
| • Living Sober | • AA Service Manual | • 24 Hours A Day |
| • Came To Believe | • Big Book Dictionary | • A New Pair Of Glasses |
| | • 12&12 Dictionary | |

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115 Leonie St.,
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Phone:

337-991-0830
(24 Hours)

Mail all

Contributions

to:

P.O. Box 61144
Lafayette, LA
70596

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri
11:00 - 4:00

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Want to contribute an item to the Plug-In-Jug? Email us at centraloffice@aa-acadiana.org or send it to Acadiana Area Central Office by the 15th of the month to mail out with the following months publication.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of your Central Office Steering Committee to monitor and improve upon the quality of services provided by the office and its workers. The Steering Committee meets regularly to review Policies and Operations in order to improve its services to our A.A. Community.

aa-acadiana.org

Email the Central Office at: centraloffice@aa-acadiana.org

November Central Office Contributions

Anonymous Donations							
	11/5/2024	Receipt	Anonymous	PAYPAL DONATION		19.11	19.11
	#####	Deposit	Pay Pal	PAYPAL TRANSFER XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX1924893PPD		40.67	59.78
	#####	Receipt	Russell Watson			500	559.78
Total for Anonymous Donations						\$559.78	
Group Donations							
	11/4/2024	Receipt	Sun Up Group			46.03	46.03
	11/6/2024	Receipt	Kitchen Table Group			524.48	570.51
	#####	Receipt	Abbeville Area Group			100	670.51
	#####	Receipt	The Boulevard Group	Opelousas		239.65	910.16
	#####	Receipt	Morgan Avenue Group			0.39	910.55
	#####	Receipt	LASCYPAA			1,992.19	2,902.74
	#####	Receipt	Any Lengths Group			25	2,927.74
	#####	Receipt	The New Way Group			313.24	3,240.98
	#####	Receipt	Living Sober Group			500.52	3,741.50
	#####	Receipt	Sun Up Group			333.61	4,075.11
	#####	Receipt	Sisters In Sobriety Group			200	4,275.11
	#####	Receipt	Sun Up Group			54.96	4,330.07
	#####	Receipt	Back to Basics New Iberia Group			25	4,355.07
	#####	Receipt	A Vision for You Group			400	4,755.07
Total for Group Donations						\$4,755.07	
Total for Donations (Not Taxable)						\$5,314.85	
TOTAL						\$5,314.85	

Drinking problem?
Call [337-991-0830](tel:337-991-0830) 24/7 DONATE
Español [337-298-9762](tel:337-298-9762)



Acadiana Central Office

Alcoholics Anonymous in the Acadiana Area

You can now donate to the Central Office via PayPal.
Any donations *from AA members* will be appreciated.
If donating for a group, please include group name in memo.

ACADIANA CENTRAL OFFICE PRESENTS

ANYTHING OVER RICE HOLIDAY COOK OFF

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14TH 2024
6PM

TO REGISTER YOUR HOMEGROUP FOR THE COOK-OFF
CALL CENTRAL OFFICE: (337)-991-0830

EVENING SCHEDULE:
DOORS OPEN: 6PM
JUDGING: 6:30PM
FELLOWSHIP & FOOD: 7PM
SPEAKER: 8PM

HEIDI M. (LAFAYETTE) SPEAKER!!!

PRIZES FOR THE BEST FOOD!

ROBICHEAUX REC CENTER
1919 ERASTE LANDRY ROAD
LAFAYETTE, LA 70506

ACADIANA CENTRAL OFFICE
CHRISTMAS ALCATHON
Turning Point 210 8th Street Lafayette-LA
Central Office will supply cups, cream, sugar
Groups provide one pound of coffee and a snack



DATE & TIME	GROUP
Dec. 24th 6:00 PM	Freedom's Choice
Dec. 24th 8:00 PM	Kitchen Table
Dec. 24th 10:00 PM	A Vision For You
Dec. 25th MIDNIGHT	Primary Purpose
Dec. 25th 2:00 AM	Reflections
Dec. 25th 4:00 AM	Abbeville Area
Dec. 25th 6:00 AM	Hub City
Dec. 25th 8:00 AM	Design For Living
Dec. 25th 10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Fellowship
Dec. 25th NOON	Any Lengths
Dec. 25th 2:00 PM	Step By Step
Dec. 25th 4:00 PM	Glum Nots
Dec. 25th 6:00 PM	Ladies Night

If you have any questions call Central Office
337-991-0830

ACADIANA CENTRAL OFFICE
NEW YEARS ALCATHON
Turning Point 210 8th Street Lafayette-LA
Central Office will supply cups, cream, sugar
Groups provide one pound of coffee and a snack



DATE & TIME	GROUP
Dec. 31 st 6:00 PM	Freedom's Choice
Dec. 31 st 8:00 PM	Surrender
Dec. 31 st 10:00 PM	Design For Living
Jan. 1 st MIDNIGHT	Sun Up
Jan. 1 st 2:00 AM	Dry Dock
Jan. 1 st 4:00 AM	Abbeville Area
Jan. 1 st 6:00 AM	Hub City
Jan. 1 st 8:00 AM	Primary Purpose
Jan. 1 st 10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Fellowship
Jan. 1 st NOON	Any Lengths
Jan. 1 st 2:00 PM	Step By Step
Jan. 1 st 4:00 PM	Reflections
Jan. 1 st 6:00 PM	Ladies Night

If you have any questions call Central Office
337-991-0830

Future Events- Flyers can be accessed on the Central Office Website:

<https://aa-acadiana.org/events>



How I Made It Through the Holidays

By: Lisa C. | Bozeman, Montana

With less than two weeks sober and liquor everywhere in sight, how on earth was she going to not drink?

Several years ago on a bitterly cold Friday night, I went to my first AA meeting. I was new in town and wasn't properly dressed for that night's subzero temperatures. I spent the first half of the meeting shivering from a wretched combination of cold, fear and alcohol withdrawal. I spent the second half crying. As "Bill's story" in our Big Book says, "how dark it is before the dawn!"

I went to AA meetings, collected phone numbers and then went home and drank alone. The phone numbers belonged to cheerful strangers who welcomed me warmly and seemed to want to help me. "Of course you can get sober," they told me. "Don't wait until after the holidays. Don't even think about the holidays. Just to try not to drink, just for one day," they said.

Although I didn't quite trust these cheerful strangers, on the seventh day after my first meeting, I decided to try to stop. Much to my surprise, I managed to stay sober for 24 hours. That was December 13, 2013. The next day, I did it again. And then the next. For the first time in a very long time, I started to feel some hope. It was a tiny, flickering candle, lashed by winds of despair that howled through my sick mind. You won't make it through the holidays, my disease told me. You'll never stay sober long-term, so you might as well give up now, it insisted.

But for the first time in ages, I wasn't entirely at the mercy of these sick thoughts. Those cheerful strangers kept telling me I didn't have to pick up the first drink. I tried with all my might to listen to them instead of listening to the lies my disease kept telling me.

Then came Christmas Eve. I endured the family dinner, where seemingly everyone but me gleefully chugged wine. But afterward I quickly headed over to the Fellowship hall for *another* dinner—this one with sober alcoholics. I plopped down at a table full of strangers and stared at the pumpkin pie on my paper plate.

I tried to get a few bites down, but it was hard to swallow past the lump in my throat. In that moment, I remember thinking that if I started to cry I was going to throw myself to the floor, curl up in a fetal position and howl. I'd cried in public more during the preceding three weeks than in the whole rest of my life put together, and I was becoming less shy about it. But crying would have been awkward at a Christmas party, so I bit my lip and fought the tears.

Then a nice man sitting next to me leaned over and introduced himself. "I haven't seen you before," he said. "Are you new?" I nodded miserably. "I have 11 days," I told him. "But I don't think I'm going to make it through today and tomorrow."

And then the tears came. I didn't throw myself to the floor or howl, but I cried. I really, really didn't want to drink. I just didn't think I had a choice. The man just looked at me and smiled. "You're going to make it," he said matter-of-factly. "I can tell." Then he went back to eating his dinner.

He seemed so sure! I don't know why I believed him, but I did. I stopped crying. I forced myself to talk to a few more people. I stuck around for a few of the late-night marathon AA meetings and then went home and fell asleep sober for the first Christmas Eve in a very, very long time.

Three days later, I heard a woman tell her story at a meeting and it was my story. After the meeting I asked her to be my sponsor. On New Year's Day, she celebrated four sober years, which seemed to me like an eternity. She helped me stay sober through the New Year and for many years thereafter.

These days I make it a point to go to the dinners and parties and marathon meetings that happen in my town during the holidays. In contrast to that first year when I felt so alone, now these gatherings are full of friends as dear to me as family. But I always try to keep an eye out for someone I haven't seen before, someone who might need a kind, reassuring word from a stranger in order to make it through the next 24 hours.

I have so much gratitude for the person who did that for me. He made all the difference as I struggled through that first Christmas Eve. I don't know if I would have made it without him. I just know that I'm glad I didn't have to.



Best Holiday Ever

By: Gary D. | Edgewater, Florida

Things are a little quieter and tough this year, but his mission is clear. Show love the best he can



I used to despise the holidays. Look how everyone acts on Black Friday. Pushing, sleeping overnight and fighting in parking lots ... no problem with self-righteousness here!

I was a meat cutter. Everyone wanted the perfect turkey, perfect roast, perfect chateaubriand. I was one of the people feeding all these damn customers! Poor me, pour me a drink. Ahh! Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on my perception, I poured too many drinks and couldn't stop no matter what I tried.

My sobriety date is November 22, four days before Thanksgiving 2009. I had stopped fighting. After four days dry I went to AA. I didn't want to drink anymore. I said, "I need help, what do I have to do?"

My first sober holiday season was anxious yet hopeful. I said no to holiday parties with drinking. I did attend a Christmas party at the sober clubhouse though. I even brought a ham. Gratitude was starting to touch my soul. Something was changing inside of me. I was going to one to two AA meetings every day. I didn't feel alone any longer. I was now surrounded by a Fellowship that understood.

A few years ago I was asked to share about what my first sober holiday season was like. I had to go to the source who remembers all (me, not so much)—my wife. Yes, she and I are still communicating. One day that December when I had the day off and she was at work, I decided to go get some colorful lights and holiday figures and decorate our front yard. Boy, was my wife pleasantly surprised. We had lived in that house for 15 years with no outdoor decorations until then. But that wasn't enough. I even filled the backyard with flashing blue lights. Even I was overwhelmed. It was so crazy I had to do away with the flasher!

One Big Book line always stays with me, "Our very lives as ex-problem drinkers depend on our constant thought of others and how we may help meet their needs." Thinking of others and being of service to people at my job, especially customers, has changed a lot. I went from being a mercenary to being a humble servant, especially during the busy holiday season. Wow! how does this change happen to an egotistical, self-centered alcoholic like me? Simple. I work the Steps and apply them in my life today. It also doesn't hurt when I apply our Traditions too.

I'm now retired, but I love to participate in our district AA alkathons. I also get to help out at our district gratitude dinner, which serves about 300 of our Fellowship. On Thanksgiving I spend the holiday season with my wife, sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But this past holiday season was quite different.

My wife, who has stood by me since 1978, got cancer, and was going through chemo treatments. She always loved to cook our big holiday meals, veggie plates, dips and so forth, but she wasn't able to do it this Thanksgiving. So a dear family friend who lives an hour away took it upon herself to cook a Thanksgiving dinner and send it to us. What a wonderful surprise that was.

When Christmas Eve came, my wife was able to put a small dinner together just for the two of us. But Christmas day, which is one of her favorite days, was quiet. She just didn't have the energy. This year she just wasn't able to enjoy herself. She got concerned about the future. I never pushed program at her. Fellow members told me, "There's a God in her life and it's not you." All I said to her was, "Baby, let's just deal with this for today." And that's what we started doing together. This past holiday season was our 44th together. Though it was different, we were grateful. All those years she took care of our family and me when I was sick. Now I have the privilege to take care of her.

My sponsor says every morning is Christmas and every night is Thanksgiving. If I had settled for just not drinking I would have definitely shortchanged myself.



Acadiana Area Service/Committee Meetings

Fellowship of the Spirit South Committee Meeting

1st Sunday — 4:00 pm
210 8th St. (Turning Point)

Central Office Steering Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday — 4:00 pm
115 Leonie St. (Central Office)

District 13E Meeting (GSRs)

2nd Wednesday — 6:00 pm
300 E Martial Ave (Covenant United Methodist Church)
Zoom ID: 828 6914 4187 Password: District13

Cajun Country Conference Committee Meeting

3rd Sunday — 3:00 pm
210 8th St. (Turning Point)

Central Office Representatives (COR) Meeting

3rd Sunday — 4:00 pm
210 8th St. (Turning Point)

LASCYPAA Committee Meeting

4th Sunday — 9:00 am
924 Kaliste Saloom Rd. (The DOC)

Louisiana State Convention Committee Meeting

4th Sunday — 3:00 pm
Baton Rouge Central Office
10319 Old Hammond Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana (Area 27) Assembly

Nov 9-10, 2024
Holiday Inn Baton Rouge
9990 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA

Update COR contact info at:

aa-acadiana.org/cor

Update GSR contact info at:

district13e.org/gsr