Ninth District Intergroup Volume 3, Issue 12 December , 2014

Stepping Stones

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."

THE joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.

When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs.

"What do you mean when you talk about a 'spiritual awakening'?" they ask.

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others.

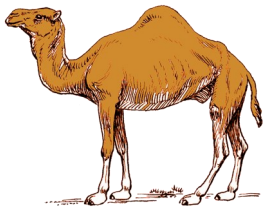
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 106

Tradition 12

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

THE spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 184



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

Inside this issue:

Step 12—Tradition 12	1
Concept 12	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
District	5
December Happenings	6
12th Promise, Principles	7

Stepping Stones is a monthly newsletter of the Ninth District Intergroup with the office located at: 6640 Eastex Freeway, Suite 149A, Beaumont, TX 77708. It is about, by and for the members of the Fellowship of AA. Opinions expressed herein are Not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or the Ninth District Intergroup.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

Concept XII

"General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 60

The Concept here considered consists of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. There are good reasons for placing it in this context.

Taken as a whole, our Conference Charter is the substance of an informal agreement, which was made between the A.A. groups and their trustees in 1955. It is the agreed **basis upon which the General Service Conference operates. In part, the Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.**

But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. (This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.) Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.—pg. 60

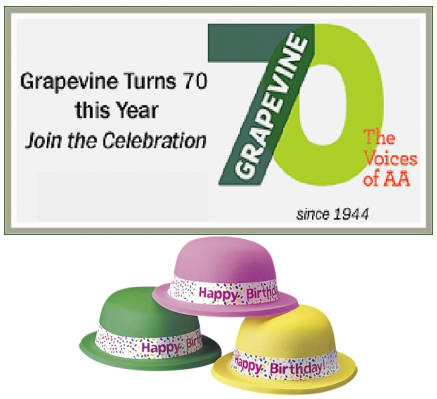
AA GRAPEVINE
The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



http://www.aagrapevine.org/









Grapevine Online Exclusive

Behind the Scenes

That meeting book in his hand did not magically appear

As my life got increasingly unmanageable during the last years of drinking, I withdrew more and more and became isolated from meaningful interactions with others. That this was happening in midtown Manhattan made life all the more lonely. So it was with amazement that in early sobriety I discovered AA's meeting book for our greater metropolitan area.

While it was as confusing as a train schedule at first, I was like a kid with a new-found toy, running around town to meetings in a great many unlikely places at all hours of the day and night. Here was a listing that said a particular sort of AA meeting would be held at a certain time and place, and behold, there it was—and run by drunks that I would guess hadn't always been reliable for keeping commitments. This world was a radically different place from where I'd so recently lived and drunk. A whole different set of principles were guiding these mostly sober folks who, while they seemed pretty laid back and casual, were well enough organized to be there when the meeting book said they would be.

A couple years later when doing a weekly stint as a telephone answering volunteer at our intergroup office, I was able to see how the information was gathered, updated and regularly published. The meeting lists hadn't just happened miraculously. They were the result of well-organized effort and just plain hard work. At last I came to understand that while AA itself must never be organized, there were some jobs in AA that need to be well-planned.

As a member of our general service area, I found myself working on the planning committee for our annual area convention, and saw how AA members find strength in getting together to enjoy the broadest community aspects of our Fellowship. So our convention has become an annual custom that provides much joy in living and sharing. It needs a lot of careful planning and organizing to make it happen and to provide for the needs of an unbelievably diverse range of tastes, spirits and temperaments. The going was not always as smooth as we planned as we did the necessary tasks, but the results were beyond our wildest dreams. And we all stayed sober right through the Sunday morning meeting that closed the event. We had created a committee directly responsible to those who need our services.

—Boyce B., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Group Contributions — November, 2014

Group	November	Y to D
24 Hour Group	$0.00	$0.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	$0.00	$150.00
Anahuac	$0.00	$93.00
Bolivar	$0.00	$0.00
Bridge City	$0.00	$300.00
Buna	$0.00	$0.00
Cornerstone	$0.00	$20.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	$0.00	$80.00
Deweyville	$0.00	$0.00
Downtown	$0.00	$31.00
Fellowship	$0.00	$0.00
Fresh Start	$0.00	$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	$0.00	$0.00
Jasper Noon	**$150.00**	**$450.00**
Jasper Serenity	$0.00	$0.00
Keep It Simple	$0.00	$21.00
Kirbyville	$0.00	$120.00
Kountze Daylight	$0.00	$73.39
Lewis Drive	$0.00	$0.00
Lufkin	$0.00	$0.00
Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	$0.00	$257.68
Mid County (Nederland)	$0.00	$0.00
Murray Street	$0.00	$57.00

Group	November	Y to D
Mustard Seed	$0.00	$331.00
New Life	$0.00	$28.35
Newton	$0.00	$10.00
North Major	$0.00	$0.00
Nueva Vida (Port Author)	$0.00	$0.00
Orange	$0.00	$100.00
Pecan Groves	$0.00	$20.00
Pineywoods	$0.00	$123.14
Primary Purpose	$0.00	$112.00
Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	$0.00	$0.00
Serenity	$0.00	$1184.21
Singleness of Purpose	$0.00	$0.00
St Francis	$0.00	$810.75
The Buck Stops Here	$0.00	$0.00
TLC	$0.00	$128.00
Un Dia A La Vez	$0.00	$0.00
Vidor	$0.00	$0.00
West End	$0.00	$44.40
Winnie (Unconditional Love)	$0.00	$382.00
Way Out	$0.00	$0.00
Women's Gratitude Group	$0.00	$0.00
Woodville	$0.00	$0.00
Totals	**$150.00**	**$4926.92**

We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:
Ninth District Intergroup Association — 6640 Eastex Frwy., Ste. 149A — Beaumont, TX 77708

Would You Be On Our 12 Step List?

Home Group:_____

Name: (Please Print)_____Male/Female:_____

Address:_____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Area In Which You Will Serve: _____

Car Available: Yes ____ No ____ Languages Spoken _____

Times Available: (Circle Choices Please) 8 AM – 6 PM 6 PM – 12 MDN 12 MDN – 8 AM

Days Available: (Circle Choices Please) SU M TU W TH F SA

Addresses AA Entities

9th District Intergroup
6640 Eastex Frwy, Suite 149 A
Beaumont, TX 77708

District 90 GSR Committee
PO Box 21279
Beaumont, TX 77720-1279

Southeast Texas Area 67
PO Box 130433
Houston, TX 77219-0433

AA General Service Office
PO Box 459
New York, NY 10163-0459

Opportunities For Service

SHARE THE MESSAGE IN THE COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL FACILITIES

We need men and women to go into the County jail on Sat. @ 11:30 each week. There is also a need for men to go into the State and Federal facilities on a weekly basis or even just once a month to give currant volunteers a much needed break. Each facility requires a background check before you enter. To find out more information please come to the monthly CSR meeting and talk with the correction committee members or call Intergroup @ 409-832-1107.

TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

We need volunteers to go into both the men and the women's facilities. Come to the next

---

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting
December 7, 2014 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
January 18, 2015 At 2:00 PM
Westgate Memorial Baptist Church
6220 Westgate Drive, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.
Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

December 2014
INVENTORY SALE
10% off All purchases
Cash/Credit Card Only

Ninth District Intergroup Association
6640 Eastex Frwy., Suite 149 A
Beaumont, TX 77708

aabeaumont.org
intergroup9@att.net
Phone: 409-832-1107
Fax: 409-898-8977

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
Wed., Dec. 31st, 2014

@ St. Andrews Church on Gladys & 23rd



6:00 pm Fellowship & Spaghetti Dinner

Please bring a dessert

8:00 pm Speaker, Nancy S.

TICKETS $10



From The Vidor Group

9:00 pm Raffle...then the DANCE



For more information call: 728-1233 or 242-8849

Sponsored by 9th Dist. Intergroup



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

- ⇒ **Vaughan P. - 12/5**
- ⇒ **Charlotte L. - 12/6**

MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS, GROUP NEWS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS TO THE NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP

intergroup9@att.net

Twelth Step Prayer

Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.

Derived from text found on page 86 of Alcoholics Anonymous - the Big Book

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make a channel of Thy peace. That where there is hatred, I may bring love. That where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness. That where there is discord, I may bring harmony. That where there is error, I may bring truth. That where there is doubt, I may bring faith. That where there is despair, I may bring hope. That where there are shadows, I may bring light. That where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted. To undertand, thatn to be understood. To love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. AMEN

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 99
—Reprinted by permission by AA World Services, Inc.



12th Step Principle

Service

12th Promise

We suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.



53rd Annual SETA Convention

Moody Gardens Hotel | Galveston
January 16-18, 2015

Saturday Dance!

The Mambo Jazz Kings

The Three Legacies
RECOVERY
UNITY
SERVICE

Register Online!
setaconvention.org

Registration

Registration Fees:

AA | Al-Anon:	*Early*	**$12**
	Onsite	**$15**
Alateen | Child:		**FREE**
Coffee Tag:		**$5**
Sat. Dance Only:		**$10**

Dance included in registration fee.

Early Registration:
Open through
December 31, 2014

Onsite Registration:
Opens 2pm on Friday
January 16, 2015

Register by Mail:
Make checks payable to ***SETA Convention.***
Complete the form below, send with payment to:
SETA Convention
PO Box 8189 | Galveston, TX 77553

Speakers

Friday		
8:00p	AA	Deborah H. *Fullerton, CA*
Saturday		
9:00a	AA	Kevin P. *Rockwall, TX*
10:30a	GSO	Clayton V. *Sikeston, MO*
1:00p	Alateen	TBD
1:30p	Al-Anon	Diana H. *Rockwall, TX*
3:00p	CFC	Tammy Z. *Houston, TX*
4:30p	AA	Spanish TBD
7:30p	AA	Lyle P. *Stockton, GA*
Sunday		
11:00a	AA	Bob D. *Las Vegas, NV*

Hotel

Convention Room Rate:
$117 | night

Hotel Cut-off Date:
December 24, 2014

Reservations:
Contact hotel directly, be sure to mention the convention.
Moody Gardens Hotel | 888.388.8484
Seven Hope Blvd | Galveston, Texas 77554

Note: Most associations like to hold conferences/conventions. In AA, a conference/convention is an important opportunity to share the AA experience in a broad way. There are many AA conferences held around the world. One of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and since there are "no dues or fees for AA membership", there should be no fee to attend these conferences. Conventions and conferences are special events not regular meetings. They require months of planning, preparation, and money to present. Since most events are in hotels/convention centers, the hotel/convention center will require that the group purchase coffee and food. Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference speakers, printing of flyers, programs and schedules, postage and supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money. Attendance at a convention/conference is voluntary, furthermore attending as part of a group is optional, but as responsible AA members we must "pay our own way!"

Full Name _____

Home Group _____

Full Name _____

Home Group _____

Address _____

City | State | Zip _____

Quantity	*Type*	*Price*	*Ext. Cost*
_____	AA | Early Registration	$12.00	$ _____
_____	Al-Anon | Early Registration	$12.00	$ _____
_____	Alateen | Child *(Please Indicate Quantity)*		FREE
_____	Coffee Tag	$5.00	$ _____
_____	Saturday Dance Only	$10.00	$ _____
	Scholarship Donation		$ _____
	TOTAL DUE		$ _____

Badge Name _____

☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen

Badge Name _____

☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen

Phone _____

Email _____

Alateens must have permission slips!

Please indicate any special needs in the space provided below. Spanish translation will be provided.

Special Needs _____