

## Step 2

**“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”**

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the barrel, all right —

but where do we go from here?”

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe — the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only a savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore the only god that his universe

knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, “Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so.

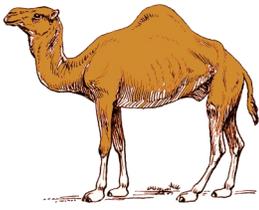
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

## Tradition 2

**“Four our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”**

Where does A.A. get it's direction? Who runs it? This, too is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into out darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, “This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere.” These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A. A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, “Yes! it definitely does.” The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*



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

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**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.

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

# Concept II

**When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section*

**It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot of themselves actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in 1955.**

**But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services — if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.’s Tradition Two.**

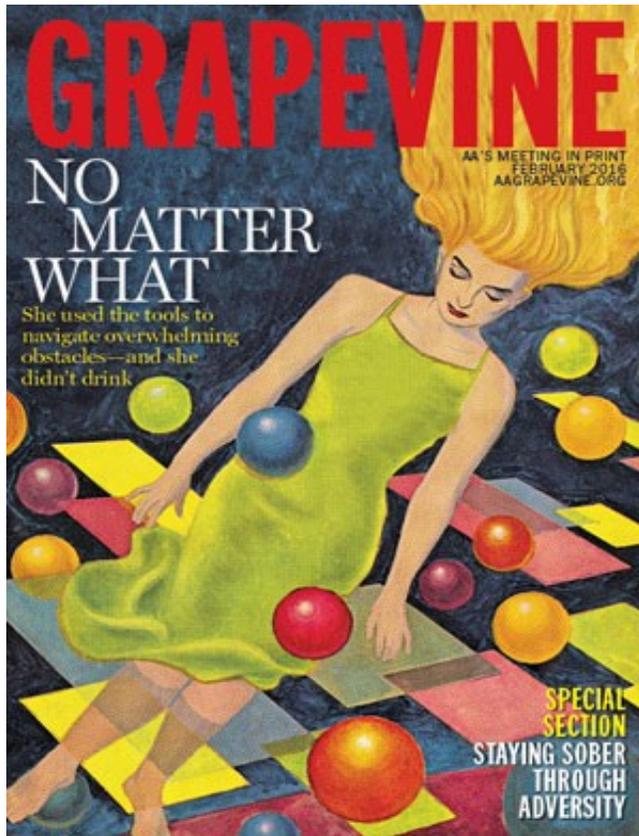
*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section*

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>



## Grapevine Online Exclusive

**No Matter What:  
AA members share how they stay  
sober through difficult times.**

Getting sober is a wondrous thing, but it doesn't mean that life stops happening. Recovering alcoholics deal with adversity every day—illness, death, divorce, money troubles, job loss and more. And yet through fear and pain, drinking is not an option. In this month's special section, members share how they use the tools of the program and embrace the Fellowship to get through tough times.

In the story "I Used Every Tool I Had," a fire de-

stroyed everything a member owned but not her desire to stay sober. A man in Texas with terminal cancer loses his wife, his house and his kids and yet manages to stay sober and positive in "A Beautiful Day for a Ride." In "I Found My Place," a long-time member with mental illness shares the painful obstacles she navigated to find her way in AA. And in "Turning Points," a sober mom in Florida recalls how her family tragedy became a source of hope for others.

Beginning next month, Grapevine will invite you and your group, group of

groups, district and/or area to join in our new effort for 2016. Stay tuned for details. Until then, please send us your stories of experience, strength and hope to [aagrapevine.org/share](http://aagrapevine.org/share). We're especially looking for cartoons, jokes and your experience or your group's experience with each Tradition.

Have a warm and sober February everyone!

In fellowship,  
The Editor

*Group Contributions — January 2016*

Group	August	Y to D
<b>A New Beginning (Woodville)</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>
Anahuac	0.00	0.00
Bolivar	0.00	0.00
Bridge City	0.00	0.00
Buna	0.00	0.00
Cornerstone	0.00	0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	0.00	0.00
Deweyville	0.00	0.00
Downtown	0.00	0.00
Fellowship	0.00	0.00
Fresh Start	0.00	0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	0.00	0.00
Jasper Noon	0.00	0.00
Jasper Serenity	0.00	0.00
Keep It Simple	0.00	0.00
<b>Kirbyville</b>	<b>133.84</b>	<b>133.84</b>
Kountze Daylight	0.00	0.00
Lewis Drive	0.00	0.00
Lufkin	0.00	0.00
<b>Lumberton Singleness of Purpose</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
Mid County (Nederland)	0.00	0.00
<b>Murray Street</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>

Group	August	Y to D
<b>Mustard Seed</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>
New Life	0.00	0.00
Newton	0.00	0.00
Nueva Vida (Port Author)	0.00	0.00
<b>Orange</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>
Pecan Groves	0.00	0.00
<b>Pineywoods</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>
Primary Purpose	0.00	0.00
Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	0.00	0.00
<b>Serenity</b>	<b>294.05</b>	<b>294.05</b>
St Francis	0.00	0.00
The Buck Stops Here	0.00	0.00
<b>TLC</b>	<b>112.00</b>	<b>112.00</b>
Un Dia A La Vez	0.00	0.00
Vidor	0.00	0.00
West End	0.00	0.00
Winnie (Unconditional Love)	0.00	0.00
Way Out	0.00	0.00
Women's Gratitude Group	0.00	0.00
Woodville	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>821.89</b>	<b>821.89</b>

**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  
 Phone: 409-832-1107 — Fax: 409-898-8977 — E-mail: intergroup9@att.net — Web: aabeaumont.org**

**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**

**Ninth 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 current 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**

**February 7, 2016 At 2:00 PM**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### **Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting**

**April 17, 2016 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.

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

**Lumberton Singleness of Purpose**

**Celebrates**

**February 28, 2016**

**Eat— 6PM**

**Group Providing Pizza**

**Meet—7PM**

**Luke A.—37 years**

**Juli A.—8 years**

# "The Result of These Steps"

## 35th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 19, 20 & 21, 2016

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</b></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Steve L., Nashville, TN                  Fri. 10:00 PM AA Michael B., Beaumont, TX                  Sat. 8:30 AM AA Four Faces of Al-Anon                  Sat. 10:00 AM AA Lisa C., Portland, OR                  Sat. 01:00 PM Al-Anon Corrie L., Wetumpka, AL                                    Alateen TBA                  Sat. 02:30 PM AA Workshop                  Sat. 03:45 PM AA Old Timers                  Sat. 08:00 PM AA Rich B., Ocean City, MD                  Sat. 10:00 PM Dance                  Sun. 10:00 AM AA Mary D., Corrales, NM</p>	<p>Please make hotel reservations directly with:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Holiday Inn Hotel &amp; Suites, Beaumont Plaza</b>                  3950 I-10 South at Walden Road                  Phone (409) 842-5995/Fax (409) 842-7810  <a href="http://www.holidayinnbeaumont.com">www.holidayinnbeaumont.com</a></p> <p>Convention Rate - \$95 * per night                  * If reserved by Cut-Off Date™ July 28, 2015</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONSITE REGISTRATION</b></p> <p>Pre-Registration ends Aug 9, 2015! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)<sup>†</sup>                  Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 14, 2015 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea           Alateen: \$ 5 ea                  Dance only: \$ 6 ea           Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration                  *"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p>
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**Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social**  
 WE STRIVE TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING - PLEASE DONATE TO THE COFFEE AND HOSPITALITY SUITE CONTRIBUTION CANS!

Note: The city of Beaumont has a smoke free ordinance. Smoking hotel rooms are available, but we encourage you to register early due to limited availability.  
 Outdoor smoking areas will be designated to accommodate our smoking guests during the convention.

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name 1 : _____ Email Address: _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One:    ___ AA    ___ Al-Anon    ___ Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter___Spanish Translator___Special Accom/Need	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One:    ___ AA    ___ Al-Anon    ___ Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter___Spanish Translator___Special Accom/Need												
<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>!Alateens must have signed permission slips!</b></p>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:  <b>District 90 Convention Treasurer</b> <b>PO Box 1591</b> <b>Groves, TX 77619</b>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____												

We are starting something new here at Stepping Stones ... What does each AA member secretly want? An advice column for alcoholics! (You've heard of Dear Abby?) Well, ours is entitled:

## DEAR EBBY

Dear Ebby: At my home group, the AA slogans are framed and displayed on the walls. I think I understand them pretty good. But the one that says "Easy Does It" has me stuck. I think I know what "It" is, but no one I've asked knows who "Easy" is. I'd like to get him to show me how to do "It." Do you know who he is and how to get ahold of him?



*Stuck in Strasburg*

Dear SIS: **Please**, keep coming back!!!

Dear Ebby: Don't really have a question... just a reflection. I grew up in a city close to my aunt's house. Down the block from her house, is a drive-through (not a drive-up window), but a structure with a big driveway all the way through! Just wonder what their repair bills might run!!

*Boy from Brownsville*

## THE FUNNY BONE

**Sign seen in a bar:**

"Those drinking to forget, please pay in advance."

*From the Grapevine, August 1999*



A **drunk** was sent for treatment at a rehab. Upon his return, a friend asked him how it had been there. "Terrible!" he replied. "For weeks, I lived on nothing but food!"

*From the Grapevine, September 1982*

Exchange overheard in a courtroom:

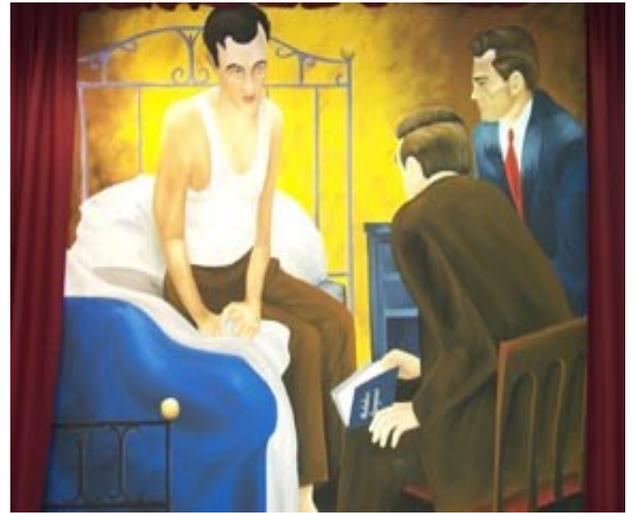
**Judge:** "What did you do to keep yourself sober during that time?"

**Defendant:** "I went to Kansas."

**Judge:** "Did that work?"

**Defendant:** "Yeah – there were warrants out for me there."

*From the Grapevine, July 2000*



**2nd Step Principle**

**Hope**

**2nd Promise**

**We will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it.**

