

# Step 6 Stepping Stones

## Step 6

**“Were entirely ready to remove all these defects of character.”**

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own

Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just wouldn’t work

on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends, doctors, and clergymen got

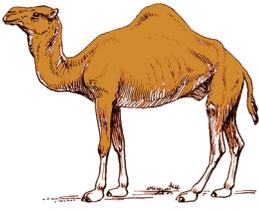
no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished, it was lifted right out of me.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Tradition 6 Long Form

**“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places or recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”**

*The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.*



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.

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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 VI

***On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics anonymous..***

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act feely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership.

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should related themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .

**"I have a feeling that if I ever find myself in Heaven, it will be from backing away from Hell."**

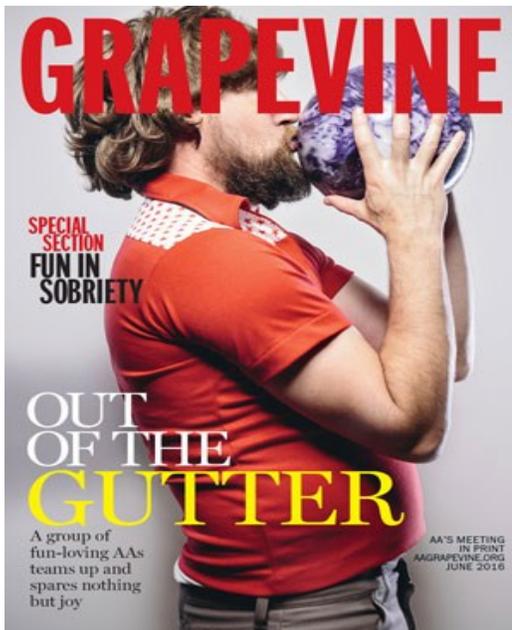
*Father Edward Dowling, as quoted by AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1960  
"To Father Ed -- Godspeed!"  
The Language of the Heart*

# AA GRAPEVINE



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

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



## Grapevine Online Exclusive

### Letter from the Editor

about the many ways they are enjoying the sober life.

In the story "[Out of the Gutter](#)," a group of fun-loving AAs teams up and hits big strikes bowling.

With gusto and grace, pies and love, a group of sober women have a good time in "[Heart and Hip](#)."

In "[Fellowship on Ice](#)," Ontario AAs take to the ice in a long-time regional sober hockey tournament. With a guitar and a little courage, a newcomer in New York walks through fear and joins his fellows onstage in "Like Madison Square Garden." And a Kansas man hops on his bike and heads to Atlanta for AA's big 80th anniversary party in "[1100 Incredible Miles](#)."

And speaking of fun, Grapevine invites you and your group, group of groups, district and/or area to join in the new Grow Your Grapevine effort throughout the year. For details, see page 7.

Get involved! And while you're at it, don't forget to send us your stories of experience, strength and hope.

Visit [aagrapevine.org/contribute](http://aagrapevine.org/contribute) to see our upcoming issue themes. Have a beautiful, sober June!

In fellowship,  
[The Editor](#)

When we put the bottle down and come into AA, many of us think our lives are over, that years of fun are behind us. But we soon discover that sobriety can be the beginning of an exciting new life. In the "Twelve and Twelve," our co-founder Bill W. writes hopefully about the newcomer who comes into AA and begins to help others: "... he stands at the edge of new mysteries, joys, and experiences of which he had never even dreamed." In this month's special section, members share

*Group Contributions — May 2016*

Group	Month	Y to D
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$30.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$100.00
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
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$188.24
<b>Kountze Daylight</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$150.00
<b>Mid County (Nederland)</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Murray Street	\$9.00	\$42.00

Group	Month	Y to D
Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$75.00
New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$55.00
Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$30.00
Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Serenity	\$0.00	\$472.17
St Francis	\$0.00	\$100.00
The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
TLC	\$0.00	\$112.00
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	\$210.00
Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Woodville	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$79.00</b>	<b>\$1,674.41</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**  
**If you see mistakes, please call, write or come in. We want to be accurate and ask that you verify your totals.**

**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 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**

**June 26 , 2016 At 2:00 PM**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

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

**July 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.

**Please visit our website ([aabeaumont.org](http://aabeaumont.org)) for information or to download a copy of the flyer for the following:**

- Pinewoods 33rd Anniversary—June 18th**
- Texas State Convention - June 24th**
- HOW Center Golf Tournament - June 25th**
- St Francis Eating/Speaking Meeting - July 16th**
- District 90 35th Annual Convention - August 19th**



## DEAR EBBY

Dear Ebby: Being new to AA, is it dangerous for me to continue going to my favorite sports bar with my buddies? It's kind of a tradition for us to get together on Friday nights. *Sports Fanatic from Florida*



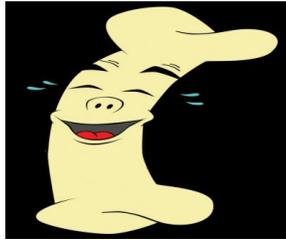
Dear *SFF*: If your “buddies” are drinkers, it’s not a good idea. Your use of the word “dangerous” reminds me of the time I went to a sports bar with several of the guys in the program. We were having a great time but all of a sudden this loud mouth drunk came in and stumbled around with a bat in his hand. He was going to each TV in there and shouting, “The sign on the door says, ‘baseball on TV’ and I want my baseball! To make his point, he swung his bat and shattered that TV. Yes, it can be dangerous to your sobriety, as well as your physical body!

Dear Ebby: The other day I saw a Grapevine poster letting the fellowship know that they can subscribe to audio Grapevine. The poster featured the Grapevine cover page for April 2007 which had a picture of a porcupine. That got me to thinking... I’ve seen posters, poems and bookmarks featuring the camel. Now a porcupine. If AA were to have a mascot, what do you think it should be? *Prickly Alcoholic from Pittsburg*

Dear *PAP*: Love the idea! We drunks, like the camel, have to “hump and get it” in order to stay sober. And, like the porcupine, we can be “prickly” at times, especially when we first get sober.

## THE FUNNY BONE

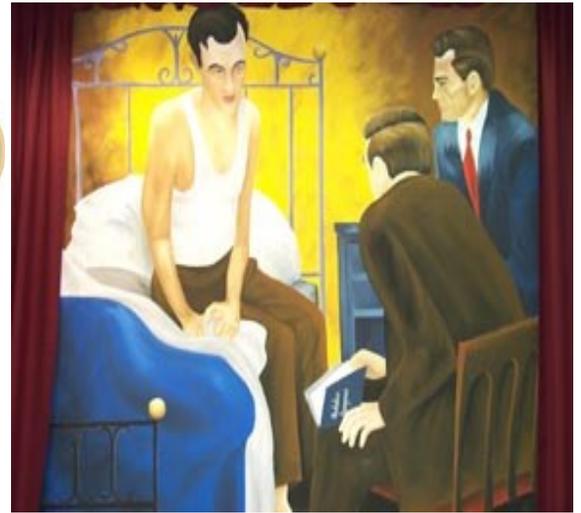
A drunk was picked up and landed in jail. The next morning she woke up and asked the policeman on duty, “What am I here for?” The policeman said, “For drinking.” “That’s great!” the gal exclaimed. “When do we start?”



*From the Grapevine, January 1998*

Late one evening, a **boozed-up character** entered a large department store. He was about to step on the escalator when he saw a sign reading “Dogs must be carried on this escalator.” Dejectedly, he looked around and then muttered, “Where the devil am I going to find a dog at this hour?”

*From the Grapevine, November 1998*



## 6th Step Principle Willingness

## 6th Promise

That feeling of uselessness  
and self-pity will  
disappear.

