

Step 7

“Humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it mean to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.'s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it,

they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven't even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life. Much of the everyday talk we hear, and a great deal of what we read, highlights man's pride in his own achievements.

With great intelligence, men of

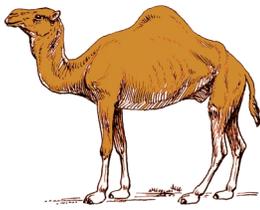
science have been forcing nature to disclose her secrets. The immense resources now being harnessed promise such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory seems to be that once everybody's primary instincts are satisfied, there won't be much left to quarrel about.

(Continued on page 2)

Tradition 7 Long Form

“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

Self-supporting alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that's what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can't cure. Always, we've had our hands out. Time out of mind we've been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it's going to pay it's bills, that's really news.



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 VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.

This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.

When we reflect that our Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that such a Board would never think of legally contesting the clear and sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the A.A. areas they represent.



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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



Grapevine Online Exclusive

Clang of Steel

regretted.

Taking an AA meeting into the womens' recovery pod in our county jail is tantamount to doing Twelfth-Step work en masse. Many of the 28 women have never been to an AA meeting; our Tuesday morning meeting is called Bridge the Gap. What we do is a kind of basic AA 101. We try to inspire hope in many women who have been through the revolving door of the jail many times. Being in the recovery pod itself is different for some, and offers the inmates new information and perhaps the first glimmer of a different life, a life without drinking.

One of the things we discuss is that there's strength in our story. I found it difficult when I was new to AA to understand that the experiences I had on my way to the program were invaluable. As it says in the Promises after the Ninth Step in the Big Book, "We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it." That was such a difficult idea when I remembered many things of which I was ashamed and truly

I'm most grateful to my first home group for pointing out that at the end of the Promises it says, "They will always materialize if we work for them," and that there were nine Steps that would influence how I could change in order to have the Promises come true. They told me that the first three Steps were the "give up" Steps, the next six the "clean up" Steps and the last three the "grow up" Steps.

I've come to believe a lot of things since my first AA meeting; one of them that has come true is that I won't regret the past. Time after time, when working with a newcomer, I've been able to share an identical experience with them, so that neither of us feels alone or ashamed.

When I first went into a cell block in a jail and heard the clang of the steel doors behind me, I realized that although I had never been in jail, I had experienced that identical clanging sound in the locked

psych ward, where my doctor was the first person to tell me that I was an alcoholic and needed to call AA. As an alcoholic, I don't have to hear the clanging noise to experience feeling helpless and hopeless, unable to control my own fate, and filled with resentment at being told when to get up, when to eat and when to bathe.

That's what we tell the women in the recovery pod: that the strength is in our story. Every experience we've had, every feeling we've felt, has been intended to help us serve God and our fellow man. That's why we don't want to forget the past.

—Carol K., Sarasota, Fla.

Group Contributions — June 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	\$75.00	\$75.00
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
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$20.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$150.00
Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$40.00
Murray Street	\$8.90	\$50.90

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
Orange	\$0.00	\$50.00
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	\$89.60	\$201.60
Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
West End	\$100.00	\$100.00
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
Totals	\$273.50	\$1,947.91

**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

August 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

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.



Lumberton Singleness of Purpose Birthday Celebration

Sunday, July 31, 2016

Eat—6pm

Meet—7PM

Melissa B.—17 Years

Speaker—JayeAnn R.—Kirbyville

"The Result of These Steps"

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

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Fri. 08:00 PM	AA	Steve L., Nashville, TN
Fri. 10:00 PM	AA	Michael B., Beaumont, TX
Sat. 8:30 AM	AFG	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	Riley B., Beaumont, TX
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

Please make hotel reservations directly with:

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Beaumont Plaza
3950 I-10 South at Walden Road
Phone (409) 842-5995/Fax (409) 842-7810
[Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites](#)
[Beaumont Plaza \(I-10 & Walden\)](#)

Convention Rate - \$97 * per night
* If reserved by Cut-Off Date - July 29, 2016

ONSITE REGISTRATION

Pre-Registration ends Aug 12, 2016! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)
Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 19, 2016 at 2:00 PM

AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea Alateen: \$ 5 ea
Dance only: \$ 6 ea Coffee: Incl. w/ registration

Dance admission included with convention registration
* "Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night

Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social
WESTRIVE 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 Alateen¹

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 Alateen¹

Check if Needed: ASL Interpreter Spanish Translator Special Accom/Need

Pre-Registration:

{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each \$ _____

{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each \$ _____

{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each \$ _____

{ } Sponsorship Donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

¹Alateens must have signed permission slips!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:

District 90 Convention Treasurer
PO Box 1591
Groves, TX 77619



We urge everyone to pre-register and to book any rooms before the July cut-off date where possible. This helps keep registration fees low/max. convention exp./hospitality/available scholarships—that we may Serve and Carry the Message.

DEAR EBBY

Dear Ebby: In last month's column there was a question about a "mascot." Just curious ... did you receive any other queries about AA mascots? *Curious from Colorado*



Dear CFC: It's funny you should ask. I received a letter from a reader who suggested that the "AA Mascot" be the skunk. He stated, "My drinking was a lot like a tomcat makin' love to a skunk. I didn't get all I wanted, but I had all I could stand!"

Dear Ebby: A friend of mine has decided to quit smoking. He says there are several ways to taper down. I was wondering if there are any ways to quit drinking besides quitting "cold turkey?" *Searching from Sacramento*

Dear SFS: Probably the best way to quit drinking is to talk to your doctor. Nowadays, we have treatment centers to help with that. But your question reminded me of a story I heard in the rooms years ago. It seems there were two guys trying to make it home after a long night of partying. The driver saw the red and blue flashing lights in the rearview mirror. He tells his buddy to grab two longnecks and peel off the labels. When the trooper walks up and asks if they had been drinking, they had put those labels on their foreheads. The driver said, "Not to-night officer. We're on the patch!"



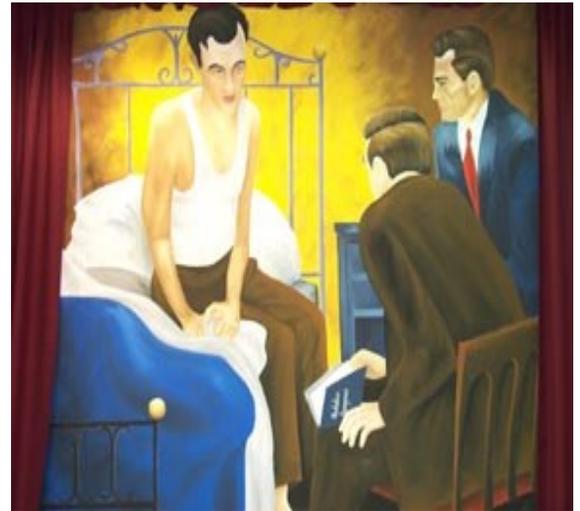
THE FUNNY BONE

I dialed the number of a newcomer and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

From the Grapevine, April 2006

I had a terrible handicap that made me feel sorry for myself in early recovery: I suffered more from self-pity than anyone else around.

From the Grapevine, December 2007



7th Step Principle Humility

7th Promise

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

