

Step by Step

Step 4

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Creation gave us instincts for a purpose. Without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. If men and women didn't exert themselves to be secure in their persons, made no effort to harvest food or construct shelter, there would be no survival. If they didn't reproduce, the earth wouldn't be populated. If there were no social instinct, if men cared nothing for the society of one another, there would be no so-

ciety, So these desires — for the sex relation, for material and emotional security ,and for companionship — are perfectly necessary and right, and surely God-given.

Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions. Powerfully, blindly, many times subtly, they drive us, dominate us, and insist upon ruling our lives. Our desires for sex, for material and emotional

security, and for an important place in society often tyrannize us. When thus out of joint, man's natural desires cause him great trouble, practically all the trouble there is. No human being, however good, is exempt from these troubles. Nearly every serious emotional problem can be seen as a case of misdirected instinct. When that happens, our great natural assets, the instincts, have

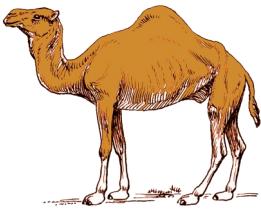
(Continued on page 2)

Tradition 4

“With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount..”

AUTONOMY is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.



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.

Concept IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge..”

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 15 of the Concepts Section

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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. ■

The principle of “Participation” has been carefully built into our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifically provides that the Trustees, the Directors of our service corporations, (A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference itself.

Exactly the same concept is borne in mind when our General Service Board elects the Directors of its wholly-owned active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. If it wished, the General Service Board could elect none but its own Trustees to these corporate directorships. But a powerful tradition has grown up to the effect that this never ought to be done.

For example, A.A. World Services, Inc. (which also includes the A.A. Publishing division) currently has seven directors, only two of whom are Trustees. The other five non-Trustee. Directors comprise three volunteers, both expert in office management and publishing, and two directors who are paid staff members: the general manager and his assistant. The general manager is traditionally the president of A.A. World Services, Inc. and his assistant is a vice president. For communication linkage, the editor or a staff member of the Grapevine or his nominee is invited to attend A.A. World Services, Inc. meetings.

Therefore the active management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and its publishing division is composed of Trustees whose mission is to see that these projects are properly managed; of volunteer experts who contribute their advice and professional experience; and of two paid office executives who are charged with getting most of the work done. It will be seen that each member of every classification, is a director, and so has a legal vote; that each corporate officer bears a title which, both practically and legally, denotes what his (or her) actual status and responsibility is.



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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I spent the first two years of my sobriety living in a women's drug and alcohol treatment facility. The day I moved in, I turned 18. I was six months pregnant and one month off booze. I was ashamed. I was homeless. I was alone, and I was absolutely terrified.

I handed the woman at the front desk a garbage bag of all my belongings and watched as she combed meticulously through my things to ensure I wasn't sneaking anything in. While I was waiting for the search to end, another woman came through a locked door and breathlessly called my name. "We're ready for you honey," she said. I pushed myself out of the chair and followed her through the door and into the main hallway, trying my best to match her stride.

She explained the process of admission as we worked our way through the maze of the building and into an elevator. "You're on the third floor," she said. "Blankets and towels are provided. We'll bring your things up for you when we're through processing them. Until then, feel free to make yourself at home."

The elevator doors opened to an explosion of sound—kids screaming, parents yelling and toddlers on trikes skidding around on the tile. "This is it!" she said.

Grapevine Online Exclusive

Room 307

Alone and afraid, a young alcoholic enters a facility that will connect her to AA and a better life

Excerpts from the article; go to our website to read the entire article—aabeaumont.org

She handed me a key. "You're in 307. The toilets and showers are in community bathrooms but we do have a bathtub in a locked room so you can have some privacy." She motioned to a small office at the end of the hall. "I'll be in there if you need anything. We transport the girls to a six o'clock AA meeting tonight. Be in the cafeteria in 10 minutes if you'd like to go." With that she walked off....

By living in this long-term treatment center, I was afforded the opportunity to make AA my priority. The team of counselors and specialists assigned to me at the facility met with me weekly to assess my progress in my classes and in AA. They called Theresa regularly, with my permission, to get her take on my growth. I started habits that would eventually be lifesavers when my life got busy: praying and meditating in the morning, calling a few women every day and keeping my nose in my Big Book. ...

If you ever feel like your area is lacking newcomers, get to a treatment center. That first year I lost more sleep because I was busy sharing hope with a girl than I did because I had a crying newborn. As time went on, I found a decent job. My focus started to shift more toward discharging from the facility. I did less work inside the building with my housemates and more with women in other treatment centers and women I met at meetings....

It's been two years since I moved out of that treatment center and I still go back every week. I've chaired the Wednesday night women's meeting held in the very basement where I met Theresa. I've gone back to speak on occasion and I regularly participate in their family picnics and fundraisers.

The staff all have my phone number and hand it out to women who need rides to meetings and a connection in AA. I can't help every single person who calls, but I feel I am uniquely qualified to share my experience with those women. Facility living makes sobriety a little different. Because I've lived there, I can be someone who understands.

I pick up the girls who call me, I introduce them to my friends, I tell them to go shake hands and get numbers. I had this idea for a little while that I was the only person who could sponsor and help these girls. I was on a crusade to save them all. I had to learn that most of the time the best thing I can do is share a little, listen a lot and introduce them to other women in AA. I am incredibly grateful to have been given the gift of sobriety, and I am even more grateful to be able to share that gift with women who are exactly where I have been.

-- Faith L—Polk City, Iowa,

Group Contributions — March 2017

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock		\$0.00	Murray Street		\$0.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)		\$0.00	Mustard Seed		\$190.00
Anahuac		\$0.00	New Life		\$0.00
Bolivar		\$0.00	Newton		\$0.00
Bridge City		\$0.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)		\$0.00
Buna		\$0.00	Orange		\$10.00
Cornerstone	\$10.00	\$10.00	Pecan Groves		\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)		\$0.00	Pineywoods		\$20.00
Deweyville		\$0.00	Primary Purpose		\$23.76
Downtown		\$0.00	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group		\$0.00
Fellowship	\$1,770.79	\$1,770.79	Serenity		\$202.12
Fresh Start	\$100.00	\$250.00	St Francis		\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)		\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here		\$0.00
Jasper Noon		\$0.00	TLC		\$0.00
Jasper Serenity		\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez		\$0.00
Keep It Simple		\$0.00	Vidor		\$0.00
Kirbyville		\$131.20	West End		\$0.00
Kountze Daylight		\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)		\$0.00
Lewis Drive		\$0.00	Way Out		\$0.00
Lufkin		\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group		\$0.00
Lumberton Singleness of Purpose		\$0.00			
Mid County (Nederland)		\$0.00			
Totals				\$1,890.79	\$2,637.87

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: aa.beaumont.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?

Addresses AA Entities

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

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

May 7, 2017 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

April 23, 2017 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)
to download a copy of the flyer for the
following:**

- St Francis Eating/Speaking Meeting**
- Founders' Day Golf and Celebration**
- 23rd Annual Orange Group Memorial
Day Fish Fry**
- District 90 36th Annual Convention**

Founder's Day

9th District Intergroup Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Idywild Golf Club

1100 Pineshadows Drive

(Pinewood Estates)

4 Man Scramble

\$50.00 Per Person

\$200.00 Per Team

Food and Drinks



Prizes To Include

- ♦ *Closest Pin*
- ♦ *Longest Drive*
- ♦ *Mulligans \$\$*

Raffle Draws!!!

ENTRY FORM

TEAM:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Team Contact Phone #: _____

Team Contact Email: _____

INDIVIDUAL:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment: Cash or Check (Please Circle)

Please mail to : Ninth District Intergroup Association, 6640 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708



Happy Birthday To You!!!

4th Step Principle Courage

**Lumberton Singleness of Purpose
Birthdays**

**Woodcrest Methodist Church—
Hwy 96/69 Split**

**April 30th—6:00 PM—Eat—7:00 PM—
Celebrate Birthdays**

**Group will furnish meal,
bring dessert if you want to
contribute.
See you then.**

- **Jeff M. — 8 years**
- **Richard D. — 8 years**
- **Richard B. — 6 years**

Tom L.—TLC—Speaker

4th Promise

No matter how far down
the scale we have gone, we
will see how our experi-
ence can benefit others.

