

Step 5

“Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

All of A.A.’s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires... they all deflate our egos. When it come to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we’d ra-

ther not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

So intense, though, is our fear and reluctance to do this, that many A.A.’s at first try to bypass Step Five. We search for an easier way—which usually consists of the general and fairly painless admission that when drinking we were sometimes bad actors. Then, for good

measure, we add dramatic descriptions fo that part of our drinking behavior which our fiends probably know about anyhow.

But of the things which really bother and burn us, we say nothing. Certain distressing or humiliating memories, we tell ourselves, ought not be shared with anyone. These will remain our secret. Not a soul must ever know. We hope they’ll go to the grave with us.

Yet if A.A.’s experience means anything at all, this in not only unwise, but is

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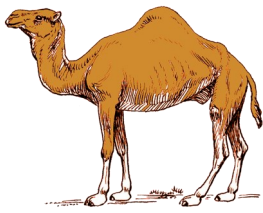
Tradition 5

“Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose — that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

“SHOEMAKER, stick to thy last!”... better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this Tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

Alcoholics Anonymous can be likened to a group of physicians who might find a cure for cancer, and upon whose concerted work would depend the answer for sufferers of this disease. True, each physician in such a group might have his own specialty. Every doctor concerned would at times wish he could devote himself to his chosen field rather than work only with the group. But once these men had nit upon a cure, one it because apparent that only by their united effort could this be accomplished, then all of them would fell bound o devote themselves solely to the relief of cancer. In the radiance of such a miraculous discovery, any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that mattes is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and or recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.’s all around the globe,



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 V

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

In the light of the principle of the “Right of Appeal,” all minorities — whether in our staffs, committees, corporate boards or among the Trustees — should be encouraged to file minority reports whenever they feel a majority to be in considerable error. And when a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect A. A. as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual *duty* of presenting a minority report to the Conference.

In granting this traditional “Right of Appeal,” we recognize that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are partly or wholly in error they still perform a most valuable service when, by asserting their “Right of Appeal,” they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

The traditional “Right of Appeal” should also permit any person in our service structure, whether paid or unpaid, to petition for the redress of a personal grievance, carrying his complaint, if he so desires, directly to the General Service Board. He or she should be able to do this without prejudice or fear of reprisal. Though in practice this will be a seldom exercised right, its very existence will always tend to re-train those in authority from unjust uses of their power. Surely our workers should cheerfully accept the necessary direction and disciplines that go with their jobs, but all of them should nevertheless feel that they need not silently enforce unnecessary and unfair personal domination.

Concerning both “Appeal” and “Petition,” I am glad to say that in A.A.’s world services these valuable practices and rights have always been put to good use. Therefore I am committing them to writing only by way of helping to confirm and enlarge their future applications.



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

Grapevine Online Exclusive



Editors Letter From the May 2017 Magazine

In the Grapevine book, *The Language of the Heart*, there is a 1949 article titled "Who Is a Member of Alcoholics Anonymous?" In it, our co-founder, Bill W., expresses his thoughts about an alcoholic seeking membership. "If alcohol is an uncontrollable problem to him and he wishes to do something about it, that is enough for us ... Our AA door stands wide open ... He signs nothing, agrees to nothing, promises nothing. We demand nothing ... He is a member as long as he says he is." In this month's special section on diversity, AA members share stories about how they found their place in AA.

In the story "Not From Here," a young member from Pakistan struggles to fit in and soon finds AA's doors are warm and welcoming. In "My Belief, Your Belief," an alcoholic shares about his spiritual journey in sobriety and explains how AA gives us time to find our place. After eight years with AA, our rotating (non-alcoholic) Chair of the General Service Board shares his thoughts about diversity in AA in the article "Full Spectrum." And a delegate from Canada reminds us not to forget about our octogenarian members.

Get involved in our 2017 challenge, 4 Seasons of Service with Grapevine and La Viña, and share stories of experience from your region. See page 7 for details. While you're at it, send us your personal stories at www.aagrapevine.org/share. And don't forget jokes. We always need a good laugh. Have a wonderful, sober May!

In fellowship,

The Editor

senioreditor@aagrapevine.org

Group Contributions — April 2017

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$266.00	\$456.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge City	\$250.00	\$250.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$10.00	\$50.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$10.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$10.00	\$30.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$23.76
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$1,770.79	Serenity	\$184.24	\$386.36
Fresh Start	\$273.22	\$523.22	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$61.42	\$192.62	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$127.00	\$127.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$0.00			
			Totals	\$1,181.88	\$3,819.75

**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

June 4, 2017 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 16, 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:**

- . Mustard Seed 11th Anniversary**
- . 23rd Annual Orange Fish Fry**
- . Mid-County Campout**
- . TLC 24th Anniversary**
- . District 90 36th Annual Convention**



Happy Birthday To You!!!

**If you are celebrating this month,
You could have had your name, sobriety date,
years of sobriety, home group listed.**

To All May Celebrants!!!

Mid County Group Birthday Celebrates

Shandon 1 year

Chad M 2 years

Thomas 1 year

Tuesday - May 30, 2017

Happy Sober Life!!!

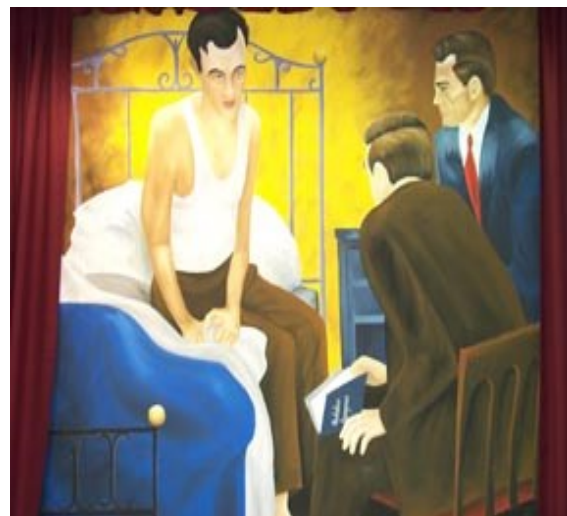
Archives and History

1945—1954

First steps around the globe



Severance Hall, Cleveland, Ohio



5th Step Principle Integrity

5th Promise

No matter how far down the scale we have gone we will see how our experience can benefit others.

A.A.'s tenth anniversary ... More than 2,500 of the Fellowship's members and friends from 36 states and two Canadian provinces gather in Cleveland to honor Bill W. and Dr. Bob and to celebrate ten years of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sponsored by the city's 44 groups, the two-day event includes open-house meetings, parties, a tea, an assembly at Severance Hall (right), and a closing dinner at the Carter Hotel. According to a Grapevine reporter, the speeches of Bill and Dr. Bob trace the development of A.A. with "gratitude, humility, and simplicity."

Joining the fold... After World War II ends, A.A. groups begin to spring up in other lands, with word of the fledgling organization spreading south of the border, across the Atlantic, and to the Pacific Rim. The next decade also witnesses the Fellowship's first international convention and the creation of the General Service Conference.

The arrival of Al-Anon... In loosely organized Family Groups, loved ones of A.A. members had gathered together and shared their experiences since the Fellowship's earliest days. At Bill W.'s urging, his wife Lois moves to create a separate fellowship that will formalize these meetings. With Anne B., who had initiated a Family Group in Westchester County, New York, Lois sends a letter to 87 such groups suggesting that they unite under the name of Al-Anon. The response is positive, and Al-Anon Family Groups is born. In January 1952 Lois and Anne shift the growing organization's office from Stepping Stones to the 24th Street Clubhouse in Manhattan.



Early Al-Anon Family Groups logo

