

Step Nine

Step 9

“Make direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.”

GOOD judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence — these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step 9.

After we have made the list of people we had harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reason-

ably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell

our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 83-84

Tradition 9 Long Form

“A.A., as such, ought never organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

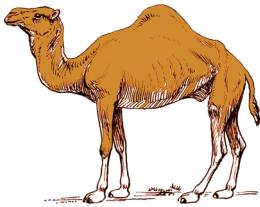
WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” IN years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous — A.A. as a whole — should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

Well, let's see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn't somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn't nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet, Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board*, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We've tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 172-173

* in 1954, the name of Alcoholic Foundation, Inc., was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.



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 IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures. But once we have created a basically sound structure, that job is finished, except for occasional refinements.

With *leadership* we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks. Since our future effectiveness must thus depend upon ever-new generations of leaders, it seems desirable that we now proceed to define what a good service leader should be; that we carefully indicate in each level of service, especially in our Board of Trustees, what special skills will always be required; and that we review our present methods of finding and choosing that leadership.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section

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AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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Just a couple of weeks after taking my last drink on May 13, 1978, I found my way to my first Founders' Day celebration on the campus of Akron University. I was so impressed by the love and respect those in attendance showed for each other and the program that had saved their lives. The spirit of unity and co-operation I wit-

nessed that June was a shining example of men and women who normally would not mix, as we say—former misfits and rowdy troublemakers co-existing together in harmony.

Getting sober in Akron, Ohio has allowed me to experience this wonderful event each June for many years. Thousands of

My Town — Our Celebration

An old-timer shares how lucky she is that she got sober in Akron, Ohio

grateful members are drawn to this three-day gathering from all over the world, and many come back year after year to join in celebrating Dr. Bob's last drink and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous.

-- Gail L.

Akron, Ohio

Group Contributions — August 2017

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$240.00	\$240.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$40.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$687.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$250.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$10.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$10.00	\$90.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$10.00	\$60.00
Fellowship	\$249.89	\$2,820.68	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$83.76
Fresh Start	\$100.00	\$691.57	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$594.86
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$110.91	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$50.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$155.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$256.24	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$33.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$256.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$50.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals				\$659.89	\$6,479.02

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?

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

October 1, 2017 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

October 22, 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.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

Lumberton Singleness of Purpose

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Eat at 6—Meet at 7

Speaker: Don B— Woodville

Celebrants

Mike B—27 years

Joe M—21 years

Cliff E—2 years

DISTRICT 90'S

2017 GRATITUDE DINNER

"THE GRACE OF GRATITUDE"

WHEN: Saturday, November 4, 2017
5:00pm - Fellowship
5:30pm - Joan R. - Alanon Speaker
7:00pm - Dinner w/ music by Malana
8:00pm - John Mc - AA Speaker

WHERE: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
1350 23rd St. N, Beaumont
(Corner of 23rd & Gladys)

Tickets: \$10.00

*Hosted by Serenity Group
Co-Hosted by St. Francis Group*

November Is Gratitude Month - Come Show Yours!

"Plan the action, not the result." This recovery tool has a number of meanings. One is practical: Instead of worrying endlessly about whether a proposed action will be successful, develop a plan, do the footwork, and act. Spiritually, this slogan means that you should try to leave the result to God, a Higher Power, or other source of spiritual strength. Over time, one's experience with this recovery tool will provide a basis for faith in the process of doing the footwork and turning the result over.

Plan the action, not the result."

My beginning efforts in recovery were completely opposite of the statement above. I totally planned my actions and my results, which caused very unfavorable ending to my plans and efforts. More lessons learned from failure.

When I came into the program in early August 1996, I proceeded to immediately get a sponsor and start to rapidly work the steps. I laid out my program of recovery by planning when I would do my 3rd step, follow quickly with my 4th step, and knock out my 5th step the next weekend. At that point, I had a long weekend coming up from work, where I could breeze through steps 6 and 7, then complete all of my amends on my days off. A successful completion of steps in more or less 3 weeks. What a deal!

Everything proceeded nicely for the first couple of weeks, as I did a 3rd step prayer at the August convention with my sponsor and a couple of other sober men. I threw together a hit list (4th step) the next week and was scheduled to go to my sponsor's house on Saturday to go over and do the 5th step. I got up on Friday morning and took off to run errands without praying and asking God to remove the desire to drink for that day, and a strange thing happened. I started having intermittent thoughts of a drink. In a flash, I had stopped at the nearest liquor store and bought a bottle, downing it straight down the hatch without a second's hesitation. I spent the rest of the day driving aimlessly retracing old haunts from my "dark" days.

What had happened? I had gone to a meeting every single day to this point and was thoroughly convinced I had this recovery thing under control. I went to my sponsor's house the next morning and confessed what had happened the day before. He laughed and told me he had seen me planning the results of my actions and wondered how this would turn out. I said not very well. We talked the rest of the day about me planning the action of my recovery but letting God direct the results and me staying out of the way. I went to a meeting that Saturday night and got a new desire chip; very humbling event but just what I needed. I finally accepted the second part of Step 1, that being the unmanageability aspect of my life.

The following Tuesday we did another 3rd step prayer and the difference was considerable. When I stood up from that prayer, I felt God wrap His arms around me and tell me He had been waiting for me. He removed the desire to drink from me that night and in 21 years, it has never come back.

I have kept the feelings I experienced that one day when I took charge and relived all of the dark days of my drinking life in one day. I truly experienced the hideous 4 Horsemen that day, Terror, Frustration, Bewilderment, and Despair. Today, I retain that last drunk vivid in my mind to always remind me that my mind will tell me I'm okay when my heart and soul will tell me otherwise. Today, I truly understand **"Plan the action, not the result."**

Joe M. Lumberton Singleness of Purpose Group



9th Step Principle

Justice

9th Promise

Self-Seeking Will Slip Away.



9th District Intergroup Annual Golf Tournament

*Saturday, November 11, 2017
Bayou Din Golf Club*

Golf, Lunch, Raffle and Prizes!!!

4 Man Scramble

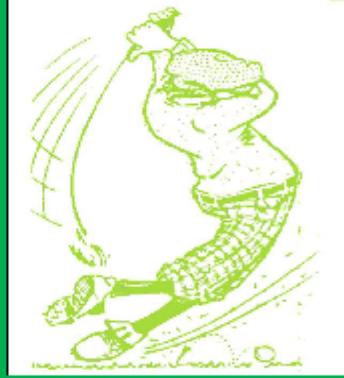
\$75.00 Per Person

\$300.00 Per Team

**Get Registered Early!!!
Fill out the entry form below
and mail to Intergroup.**

**For More Information Call
Julian at 409-331-4113**

**or
Rusty at 409-791-3244**



ENTRY FORM

TEAM:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Team Contact Phone #: _____

Team Contact Email: _____

INDIVIDUAL:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable To: 9th District Intergroup

Mail Form to: 9th District Intergroup, 6640 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708