

## Step 12

**“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”**

**THE** joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards.

Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.

When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs.

“What do you mean when you talk about a 'spiritual awakening'?” they ask.

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others.

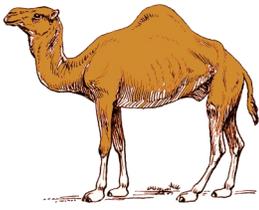
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—  
Pg. 106*

## Tradition 12

**“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

**THE** spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 184*



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.

### Inside this issue:

Step 12—Tradition 12	1
Concept 12	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
District	5
SETA Convention	6
12th Promise, Principles	7

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.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

# Concept XII

**“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 60*

***The Concept here considered consists of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. There are good reasons for placing it in this context.***

***Taken as a whole, our Conference Charter is the substance of an informal agreement, which was made between the A.A. groups and their trustees in 1955. It is the agreed basis upon which the General Service Conference operates. In part, the Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.***

**But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. (This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.) Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.**

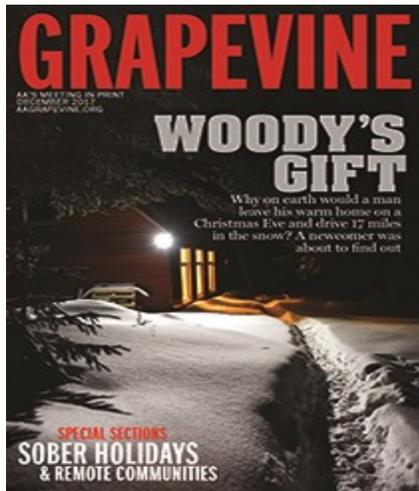
*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.—pg. 60*

# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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



**Grapevine Online Exclusive**

## Letter from the Editor

Welcome.

December can be a joyous time of year, but it also can be filled with stressful gatherings and sky-high expectations. Luckily, the Fellowship of AA has great tools to help us stay sober and connected and to reach out to others. In this month's special section, members share memorable holiday experiences. And since it's a good time of year to remember our remote AA communities, we feature a couple of stories about our fellows in faraway places and the members who step up to help.

Broke and lonely on Christmas Day, a brand-new member hits the road, desperate to find some service to do, and gets an unexpected surprise in the story "Thumbing for the Holidays." One snowy Christmas Eve, to a newcomer's astonishment, a man in Colorado leaves his warm home to help him get to a meeting in "Woody's Gift." In the light-hearted essay "Picture Perfect," a man in California recalls the hundreds of drunken holiday photos he once posed for, and how this year, he won't ruin the scenery. And finally, "Light in a Long Winter" and "Long Distance Hugs" illustrate some challenges our remote AA communities—from Maine to Yukon to Hawaii—encounter, as well as the many opportunities to do service, especially this time of year.

We invite you to join the final month of this year's challenge, 4 Seasons of Service with Grapevine and La Viña, and share stories of experience from your region. See page 7 for details. Please send us your personal stories of recovery in AA. Your letters, jokes and comments are welcome too. Visit [www.aagrapevine.org/contribute](http://www.aagrapevine.org/contribute). Take part in fellowship and have a warm and wonderful holiday season everyone!

In Fellowship,

The Editor

[senioreditor@aagrapevine.org](mailto:senioreditor@aagrapevine.org)

*Group Contributions — November, 2017*

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$240.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$40.00	\$120.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$9.00	\$19.36
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$918.00
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	\$0.00	\$110.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$80.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$2,570.79	Primary Purpose	\$40.00	\$123.76
<b>Fresh Start</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$816.57</b>	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	\$211.41	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	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$239.00</b>	<b>\$7,014.99</b>

**We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:  
 Ninth District Intergroup Association — 4220 College St — Beaumont, TX 77707  
 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**

**9th 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 com-

### **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**

**January 6, 2018 At 2:00 PM**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

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

**January 14, 2018 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.

## **9th District Intergroup News Years Eve Bash**

### **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

**1350 N 23rd St, Beaumont, TX 77706**

**Sunday—December 31, 2017**

**7:00 Fellowship and Dinner**

**8:00 Speaker: Rocco M - Beaumont, TX**

**9:00 Raffle then Dance**                      **Pay at Door— \$10**

**Groups Bring Dessert**

**For More Info Call Julian at 409-331-4331**

## 56<sup>th</sup> Annual SETA Convention

January 19, 20, 21, 2018  
 "As The Result Of These Steps... (AA pg. 60)"

**Registration**

Registration Fees:

AA/Al-Anon Early **\$10**  
 On site **\$15**

Alateen/Child **Free**

Saturday Dance **(ONLY) \$5**  
*Dance included in registration fee*

**Early Registration:**

Open through (December 28, 2017)

**Onsite Registration**

Opens 2:00pm on Friday

**Friday**

8:00pm AA Speaker- Jimmy L., Wallis TX  
 9:00pm Ice Cream Social  
 10:00pm Spanish Speaker, TBD

**Saturday**

9:00am Drew G., Katy TX  
 10:30am AA Speaker-Patrick C., NYC  
 Alateen Speaker- Gracie, Beaumont, TX  
 1:30pm Al-Anon Speaker-Father Tom, CA  
 3:00pm CFC Speaker-TBA  
 4:30pm Spanish Speaker-TBA  
 7:30pm AA Speaker-Father Tom, Oakland CA  
 9:30pm Dance

**Sunday**

11:00am AA Speaker-Thelma J, Beaumont, TX

Hotel room rate **\$109 per night**/Hotel cut off date, December 28, 2017. Please mention the convention when making hotel reservations (409)842-5995. Holiday Inn & Suites, 23501 110 South (at Weldon Rd.), Beaumont, TX

*Note: Most associations like to hold conferences/conventions. In AA, a conference/convention is an important opportunity to share the AA experience in a broad way. There are many AA conferences held around the world. One of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and since there are no dues or fees for AA membership, there should be no fee to attend these conferences. Conventions and conferences are special events, not regular meetings. They require months of planning, preparation, and every log present. Since most events are in hotels/convention centers, the hotel/convention center will require that the group purchase coffee and food. Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference, speakers, printing of flyers, programs and schedules, postage and supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money. Attendance at a convention/conference is voluntary, furthermore attending as part of a group is optional, but as a responsible AA member you must "pay your own way!"*

Name _____	Badge Name _____	Quantity _____	Price _____	Cost _____
Home Group _____	circle one AA Al non Alateen	AA		
Name _____	Badge Name _____	Alanon		
Home Group _____	circle one AA Al non Alateen	Alateen		
Address _____	Phone _____			
City/State/Zip _____	Email _____	DANCE		
		Scholarship(s)		
<b>Register Online:</b> <a href="https://www.2018setaconvention.eventbrite.com">https://www.2018setaconvention.eventbrite.com</a>		Total		

By Mail: 2018 SETA Convention, PO Box 73, Silsbee, TX 77656

Alateens must have permission slips!!

Please Indicate Special Needs in space provided below:

# Twelfth Step Prayer

***Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.***

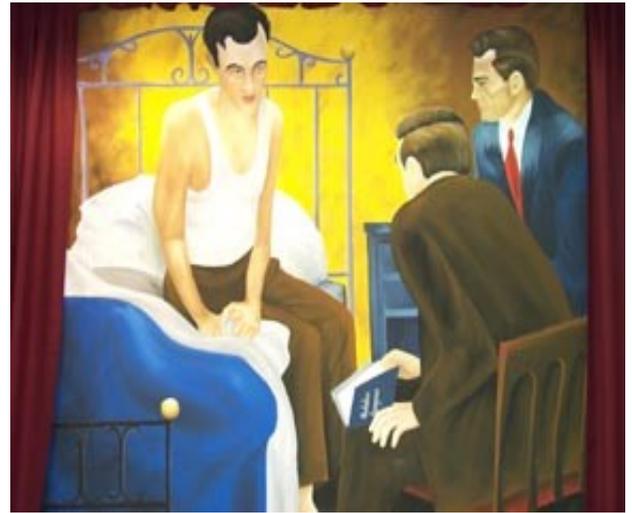
*Derived from text found on page 86 of Alcoholics Anonymous - the Big Book*

## Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

***Lord, make a channel of Thy peace. That where there is hatred, I may bring love. That where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness. That where there is discord, I may bring harmony. That where there is error, I may bring truth. That where there is doubt, I may bring faith. That where there is despair, I may bring hope. That where there are shadows, I may bring light. That where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted. To understand, than to be understood. To love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. AMEN***

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 99*

*—Reprinted by permission by AA World Services, Inc.*



## 12th Step Principle Service

### 12th Promise

**We suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.**

