

Step 2

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the bar-

rel, all right — but where do we go from here?”

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe — the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only a savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore

the only god that his universe knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, “Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so.

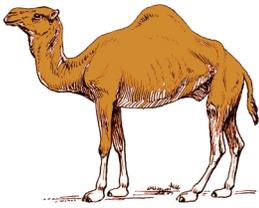
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Tradition 2

“Four our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

Where does A.A. get it's direction? Who runs it? This, too is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into out darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, “This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere. “ These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A. A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, “Yes! it definitely does.” The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions



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: 4224 College St Beaumont, TX 77707 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 II

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section

It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot of themselves actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in 1955.

But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services — if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.’s Tradition Two.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

Grapevine Online Exclusive

A Twig on a Birch Tree

Seeing the promises come true gave him the faith to go on in AA

My original sober date from 2010 was just last week. Of course, my relapse cancelled that out; I now have just over 15 months of sobriety.

During my therapy this morning, and while sitting in my office later, I realized something remarkable had happened: the promises had come true.

Last week was big for me. I realized that I wasn't always doing the

next right thing. I had rolled my eyes at things I heard, made fun of people, and even left meetings because I didn't want to hear a particular share again.

I realized that some of behaviors that I learned from my fellows in early sobriety were not the best fit for me, that I was starting to think like and act like them in many

ways beyond the fellowship. I needed to make changes in terms of the way I looked at the world. "I needed to concentrate not on what needed to be changed in the world but on what needed to be changed in me and my attitudes."

As soon as the light bulb went on, I became serene and peaceful to an extent greater than I can remember being for a very long time. I finally understand the wis-

dom of phrases like "getting out of my head" and "a life second to none." I can finally relate to them because the promises have, at least in part, come true for me.

I still have much work to do, but I can tell you this: it does work, it does happen. Accept when, where and how you need to change. Let other people worry about their problems. It's none of your business, or mine. Keep the faith—even if it's just a twig on a birch tree—and in time, the promises will come to you too. I promise.

—Jeff

Group Contributions — January 2018

| Group | Month | Y to D | Group | Month | Y to D |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 6 O'Clock | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Lumberton Singleness of Purpose | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| A New Beginning (Woodville) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Mid County (Nederland) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Anahuac | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Murray Street | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Bolivar | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Mustard Seed | \$266.00 | \$266.00 |
| Bridge City | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | New Life | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Buna | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Newton | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Cornerstone | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Nueva Vida (Port Arthur) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Dam Group (Hwy. 225) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Orange | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Deweyville | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pecan Groves | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Downtown | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pineywoods | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Primary Purpose | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Fresh Start | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | Rule #62 Young Peoples Group | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Friends of Bill (Port Author) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Serenity | \$146.73 | \$146.73 |
| Hope Group | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | St Francis | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Jasper Noon | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | The Buck Stops Here | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Jasper Serenity | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | TLC | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Keep It Simple | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Un Dia A La Vez | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Kirbyville | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Vidor | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Kountze Daylight | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | West End | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Lewis Drive | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Winnie (Unconditional Love) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Liberty | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Way Out | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Lufkin | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Women's Gratitude Group | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | Totals | \$512.73 | \$512.73 |

**We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:
Ninth District Intergroup Association — 4224 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

Ninth District Intergroup

4224 College St
Beaumont, TX 77707

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

March 4, 2018 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

April 8, 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.

**MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS,
GROUP NEWS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS TO THE
NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP**



72nd Texas State AA Convention

Gratitude in Action

June 22-24, 2018

Voice of the Convention — Jo M. (Clean Air North Group)

Friday June 22

- 2:00 PM On-site registration opens
- 6:00 PM Old Timers Meeting
- 8:00 PM AA Speaker
Marie E. (Myrtle Beach, SC)

The Westin Hotel
 4545 W. John Carpenter Fwy
 (Hwy 114)
 Irving, TX 75063
 972-929-4500

*For room accommodations,
 request the rate for the
 "Texas State Convention"*
\$99 per night
single or double
Book before June 6 to ensure availability

Saturday June 23

- 9:30 AM Al Anon Speaker
Kay C. (Greensboro, NC)
- 11:00 AM AA Speaker
Doug M. (Marietta, GA)
- 2:30 PM NETA, NWTA,
SETA, SWTA Delegates
- 3:00 PM AA/GSO Speaker
Diana L. (New York, NY)
- 8:00 PM AA Speaker
Bill C. (Greensboro, NC)

Register online at:
txaaconvention.org
 Or use the form below and send payment.

Sunday June 24

- 10:00 AM AA Speaker
Tim H. (Louisville, KY)

THE WESTIN HOTEL
 Esters Blvd @ 114

Map labels: FT. WORTH, Airport / 182, DALLAS, 121, 360, 181, 18J / 635, DFW Airport.

✂ DETACH AND RETURN

Registration Fee: \$20 per person

Name _____ Name on Badge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Additional Registrations

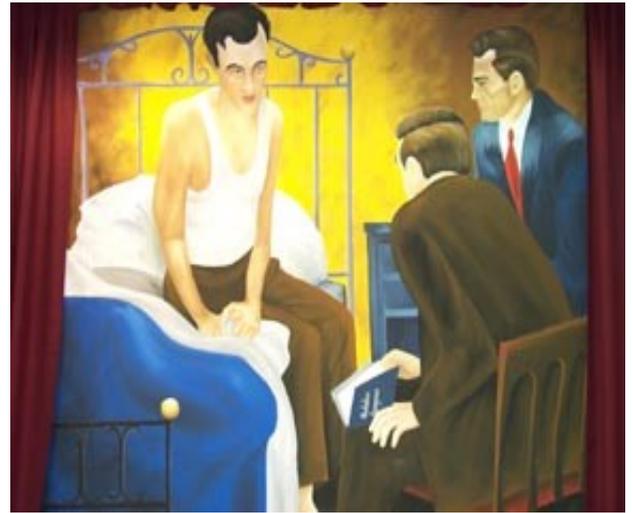
Name _____ Name on Badge _____

Name _____ Name on Badge _____

Registration @ *20 Each = \$ _____
 Scholarship Donation = \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO: Texas State Convention
 P.O. Box 1458
 Allen, TX 75013-9998
Make checks payable to: Texas State Convention

February Birthdays



Lumberton singleness
Of Purpose

February 25th

Eat at 6PM

Meet At 7PM

Group furnishes Food,
Just Come

Luke A - 39 years

Juli A - 10 years

Cheryl W - 2 years

Birthdays in days

Luke — 555,165

Juli — 3,650

Cheryl — 730

2nd Step Principle

Hope

2nd Promise

**We will not regret the
past nor wish to close
the door on it.**

