

# Stephoning Connection

## Step 11

**“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”**

Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious contact with God.

We A.A.'s are active folk, enjoying the satisfactions of dealing with the realities of life, usually for the first time in our lives, and strenuously trying to help the next alcoholic who comes along. So it isn't surprising that we often tend to slight serious meditation and prayer as something not really nec-

essary. To be sure, we feel it is something that might help us to meet an occasional emergency, but at first many of us are apt to regard it as a somewhat mysterious skill of clergymen, from which we may hope to get a secondhand benefit. Or perhaps we don't believe in these things at all.

To certain newcomers and to those one-time agnostics who cling to the

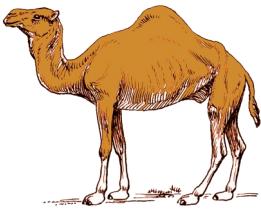
A.A. group as their higher power, claims for the power of prayer may, despite all the logic and experience in proof of it, still be unconvincing or quite objectionable Those of us who once felt this way can certainly understand and sympathize. We well remember how something deep inside us kept rebelling against the idea of bowing before any God.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Tradition 11

**“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.”**

Without its legions of well-wishers, A.A. could never have grown as it has. Throughout the world, immense and favorable publicity of every descriptions has been the principal means of bringing alcoholics into our Fellowship. In A.A. offices, clubs and homes, telephones ring constantly. One voice says, “I read a piece in the newspapers...”; another, “We heard a radio program...”; and still another, “We saw a moving picture...” or “We saw something about A.A. on television...” It is no exaggeration to say that half of A.A.'s membership has been led to us through channels like these.



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 11—Tradition 11	1
Concept 11	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
District//Intergroup	5
Grapevine Story cont'd	6
Prayer/Gratitude Dinner	7



**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.

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 XI

**While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications for their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.**

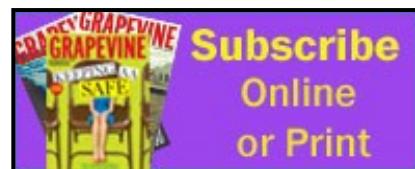
The longtime success of our General Service Board will rest not only on the capabilities of the Trustees themselves; it will depend quite as much upon the competent leadership and harmonious association of those non-Trustee committee members, corporate service directors, executives and staff members who must actively carry on A.A.'s world services. Their quality and dedication, or their lack of these characteristics, will make or break our structure of service. Our final dependency on them will always be great indeed.

Far more than most of the Trustees, these servants will be in direct contact with A.A. world-wide, and their performance will be constantly on view. They will perform most of the routine labor, They will carry on most of our services. They will travel widely and will receive most visitors at the Headquarters. They will often originate new plans and policies. Some of them will eventually become Trustees. Because this group will form the visible image of world service, most A.A.'s will measure our service values by what they see and feel in them, Members of this group will not only *support* the world leadership of the Trustees; in the nature of the case they will be bound to *share* world leadership with them.

Fortunately we already have a sound internal structure of service in which a very competent group of non-Trustee servants are now working, Only a few refinements and changes will still be needed in A.A. World Services, Inc. and at The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the later being a comparatively recent comer to our service scene. The main outlines of this underlying structure are now defined, and the effectiveness of this arrangement has been well proven.

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



My wife Frances was running a rooming house on West 25th Street when we first ran into AA back in 1940," said Tony—the "Mr." half of this fabulous couple who are among the best known "man-and-wife" AAs in Manhattan. "Frances was cleaning up a guy's room in our house when she saw the AA book on his dresser and took a gander at it. Then she spoke to this character and he told her the AA Clubhouse—the old one—was right around the corner on 24th Street and what AA was all about.

"When F. told me about it and suggested we might drop in at the Clubhouse and look them over, I said, 'What the hell do we want to go there for? We don't want to mix around with a bunch of drunks!' Well, you know what a persistent female Frances is. She saw she couldn't get me there by the direct route and she wanted to go. One night when we were out for a walk she steered me past the Club and when we were right out in front she says, as though she were

## Grapevine Online Exclusive

## A bunch of drunks

How a couple lucked out by living around the corner from Manhattan's 24th street clubhouse

surprised, 'Oh, Tony, there's that Club the fellow who lives with us belongs to! Wonder what the people who go there are like? Do you suppose it'd be nice to meet some of them—you know, just to have more acquaintances around this neighborhood?'

"I wasn't interested and I told her so without using any Sunday-school language, if you know what I mean. And Frances, she came right back at me and said I was an obstinate so-and-so with a few other uncomplimentary remarks about me and my ancestors. You see, Frances was on the wagon at the time and I was drinking a couple of bottles of beer a day.

"I might just as well have walked right in the Clubhouse that night because Frances was determined to go there and you know what a determined person she is! Well, before I knew it we were going there to meetings. Frances is pretty aggressive and I'm not, so she embarrassed hell out of me by dashing up as soon as the speakers

had finished talking, slapping them on the back, shaking their hands and telling them how blankey-blank good they'd been.

"After we'd been to a few meetings a damn funny thing happened to me—I got drunk, stinking fall-down drunk. Whew—it was something! I'd been sticking close to beer for quite a while and had done pretty well. Not this time—I drank everything and anything I could get my hands on. Well, I had one helluva time getting over it. Seemed to be worse than ever since I heard all the AA stuff because of course by then I knew I was a gilt-edge 14 carat alcoholic.

"Frances and I had been alcoholics for a long time, and you can spell it with capital letters, too. I'm not telling tales on Frances when I say this about her because she tells it to the cockeyed world a flock of times every day. Believe you me, we had some career as active working alcoholics. We were sort of migratory drunks, only we had a regular circuit we

## Group Contributions — October 2018

<b>Group</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Y to D</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Y to D</b>	
6 O'Clock		\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$240.00	\$480.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)		\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$200.00
Anahuac		\$0.00	\$32.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$212.13
Bolivar		\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$949.00
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	\$10.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deweyville		\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$99.04	\$179.04
Downtown		\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship		\$0.00	\$873.48	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$45.00
<b>Fresh Start</b>	<b>\$29.25</b>	<b>\$554.25</b>		Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$80.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)		\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$221.36
Hope Group		\$0.00	\$219.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$600.00
Jasper Noon		\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity		\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$405.00
Keep It Simple		\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville		\$0.00	\$98.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight		\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$66.00
Lewis Drive		\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$38.43	\$330.43
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>\$120.70</b>	<b>\$270.70</b>		Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin		\$0.00	\$0.00			
			<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$527.42</b>	<b>\$5,825.39</b>

We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:  
**Ninth District Intergroup Association — 4224 College St — Beaumont, TX 77707**

### 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

#### **9th District Intergroup**

4224 College  
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**

**December 2, 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 13, 2019 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.

## **Save the Date:**

# **Monday, December 31st**

## **9th District Intergroup**

## **New Year's Eve Dance**

## **More Will Be Revealed**

*(Continued from page 3)*

played, like vaudeville in the old days.

"We used to start in New York City and stay here until we got fed up with the people in the bars we lived in—and I guess they got a little tired of us too. Then we'd make Boston where we knew a lot of people and they'd be glad to see us when we arrived—you know, buy us drinks and things. After we got bored with Boston we'd shove off for the Adirondacks. That was kinda nice when we hit it at the right time of year.

"Frances and I made pretty good drinking partners in a way. For instance, when she got drunk she couldn't walk and couldn't think but she could still talk, and how! Me—I could walk and think but I couldn't talk. You see how OK that'd be because when we'd have to shake down someone for dough to get drinks, we'd plan it all out—I'd think out just what she should say, then I'd hold her up while we got to where the prospect was so she could make the touch.

"Just before we got mixed up with AA we had a pretty bad drunk here in New York. Frances got awfully sick. The landlord, where we were living at the time, saw her and called an ambulance from St. Vincent's Hospital. After she'd been gone a couple of days I thought I ought to go see how she was. At St. Vincent's I found out Frances had been sent over to Bellevue. What a time I had getting way over there! Took me several hours and I was drunker than a skunk when I landed. In fact I was so boiled they locked me right up and didn't act as though they believed I had a wife there. You see, Frances had been discharged and was on her way home while I was on my way to see her.

"This AA program has meant everything in the world to us. We never had what you'd call a home—just a room in some furnished dump and often we didn't even have that. Now we have a nice apartment with all our own furniture and we both have money in the bank.

"Frances and I work out this AA program a little bit differently but that doesn't

matter. Frances runs AA meetings at the Salvation Army on the Bowery every Tuesday night, works with a lot of the girls and women who've been sentenced to the women's jail here in the city or committed to the State Hospital at Rockland, and those in the alcoholic ward at Bellevue. She's doing one swell job and I've got my hat off to her. I'm not the kind of guy who does very well at a meeting—you know, making a speech. I do my Twelfth Step work talking to fellows alone or when they're down at our apartment. I've got a regular job and I'm beginning to write short stories in my spare time.

"Well, I guess I don't have to say any more to prove AA has changed things for us, do I?"

-- Anonymous



## 11th Step Principle

### Awareness



## 11th Promise

We will intuitively know how to handle situations which use to baffle us

## 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.*

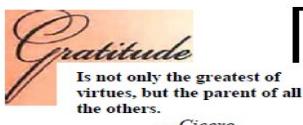


### District 90 Gratitude Dinner November 10th 2018

Hosted by: St Francis / Co-Hosted by: Fellowship  
Westgate Baptist Church  
6220 Westgate Dr., Beaumont, TX 77706

"Grateful for Blessings Received"  
12&12 Page 95

5:00 pm Al-anon Speaker - Danae G. Beaumont, Tx  
6:30 pm Dinner begins  
7:30 pm Raffle  
8:00 pm AA Speaker - Danny B. Spring, Tx



Dinner Tickets \$10

