

## Step 1

**“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”**

*Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us.*

*No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this*

*stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.*

*But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.*

*We know that little good can come to any alcoholic*

*who joins A.A. unless he has first accepted his devastating weakness and all its consequences. Until he so humbles himself; his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by an immense experience, this is one of the facts of A.A. life.*

*This principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flow-*

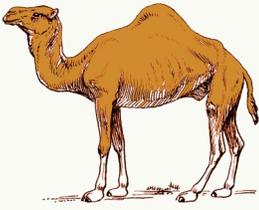
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Tradition 1

**“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”**

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our

Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, “What a great thing A.A. might have been!” Does this mean some will anxiously ask, “that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?”



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 Street 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 I

**“The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”**

*The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services — those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955. There, on behalf, of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and A.A.’s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.*

*Why, and by what authority was this done? There were reasons of stark necessity for it, and there were further reasons which have to do with A.A.’s fundamental structure and tradition.*

*By the year 1948 our necessities had become clear enough. Ten years earlier—in 1938—helped by dedicated friends, Dr. Bob and I had commenced work upon a world service structure. Our first step was the creation of a trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. We called this body the Alcoholic Foundation; and in 1954 it was re-named The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

*This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.*

*By 1950 nearly all of these dreams for world service had come true. In the dozen years following the creation of The Foundation, A.A. membership had jumped from 50 to 100,000. The A.A. Traditions had been written and adopted. A confident unity had pretty much replaced fear and doubt and strife. Our services had unquestionably played a large and critical role in this unfoldment. World service, therefore, had taken on crucial meaning for A.A.’s future. If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship. Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive*

# AA GRAPEVINE

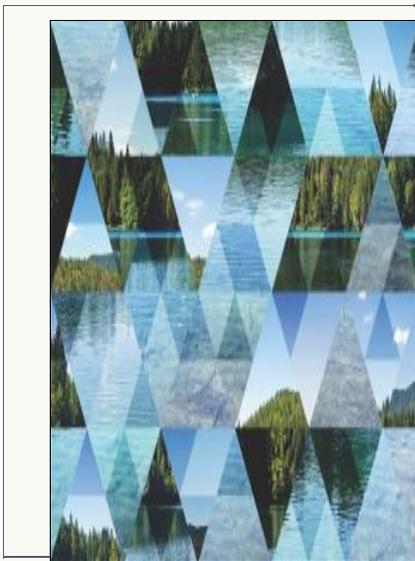


<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

## Our connected energy

### The power in the rooms that helped her stop drinking also expanded her faith



My family went to a Protestant church when I was growing up, but we were not religious. I think my mother wanted to give us some values to stand on. My father was agnostic, yet I always believed in God.

In my teens, I tried Christianity but it didn't fit me. Later in my 20s, I had a spiritual hunger that led me to a Unitarian church that did not espouse a creed or dogma, but instead encouraged a personal search for truth and meaning. I still go there.

In AA, I've gone through stages of defining my High-

er Power. I resonate with Native American spirituality, believing in Mother Earth, Father Sky and Great Spirit. I've participated in sweat lodge ceremonies that I've found to be extremely cleansing and healing. Once after I did the sweat lodge, I had a revelation of my truth, that all of nature and humanity are intertwined. It's easy to forget that when I am acting from ego-based fear.

I like that AA encourages me to find a Higher Power of my understanding. My soulful journey in AA has expanded my faith in God. I have a conviction in the "we" of the program. I know that alone I could not control my drinking. After a lot of self-inflicted pain, I realized I needed help with it. Even then, I was in and out of AA for years, getting some lengths of sobriety but always relapsing.

Eventually it took an overdose and a detox to wake me from my nightmare, and I ended up in a month-long treatment center. I had literally just gotten on Medicare, which I desperately needed to cover the cost. That was definitely what I'd call a "God thing." Next I went into a sober house for two years. I now believe it was God who got me there and God who got me through. People were praying for me. At the time, I was haunted by depression and anxiety and had to get outside help. It was a

lengthy, slow process, but I continued to make strides.

Unfortunately the sober house closed down, and all of a sudden I had nowhere to go. I panicked. Amazingly, right around that time I got a call from a HUD apartment complex where I had put in an application two years before! Another "God thing," or "cosmic coincidence." These events seem to flow together when I'm open to change.

I am now five years sober. I have an awesome sponsor and work the Steps continuously. I am the treasurer at my home group and a secretary at another one. At my AA meetings I feel the connected energy of the "we" in process.

Finding my Higher Power has been a long, circuitous path up mountains and down valleys. Even deeper than valleys, actually, *under* the earth itself at times, while I kept digging my way to my bottom.

Today, I pray every morning and every night and ask all of me to be aligned with God's will. I know sobriety has to be my top priority in life; without it I have nothing. And with God I have everything I need.

-- Amy C.

Cleveland, Ohio

*From the January 2019 magazine.*

*Group Contributions — December, 2018*

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$480.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$50.00	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	\$1,231.00
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	<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$199.04</b>
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$44.00
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$1,023.48</b>	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$45.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$751.50	<b>Pin Oak Group</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$160.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$219.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$557.52
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$600.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$50.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$405.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$98.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>West End</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$141.00</b>
Liberty	\$0.00	\$320.70	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$481.43
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$335.00</b>	<b>\$7,410.80</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  
 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 currant 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 District 90 GSR Meeting.

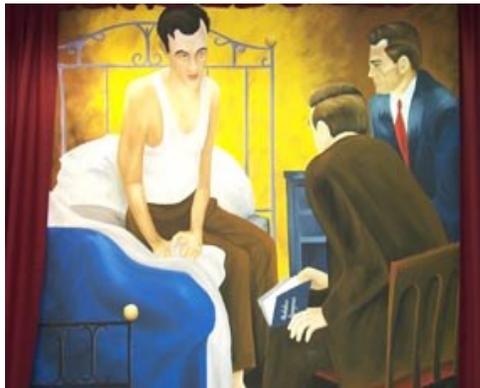
## *Announcements*

**Next District 90 GSR Meeting**  
**January 6, 2019 At 2:00 PM**  
**West End Group**  
**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting**  
**January 27, 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.



### **1st Promise**

**We are going to know  
a new freedom and a  
new happiness**

### **1st Step Principle**

**Honesty**



# 57TH ANNUAL SETA CONVENTION

JANUARY 18, 19, 20, 2019 - Galveston, Texas

"Carry this message to other alcoholics!" Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 89



**Registration**

- Early Registration (includes Saturday Evening Dance) - \$12.00
- On Site Registration (includes Saturday Evening Dance) - \$15.00
- Saturday Evening Dance Only - \$5.00

^ Alateen/Child - Free (Must have permission slip)

<p><u>Friday - January 18</u></p> <p>8PM AA Speaker - Mary T., Tampa, FL</p> <p>10PM - Spanish Speaker - Arcension M.,</p>	<p><u>Saturday - January 19 (continued)</u></p> <p>3:00PM - CFC Speaker - Holly D., Houston, TX</p> <p>4:30PM Spanish Speaker - Nareiso R., Mexico</p> <p>7:30PM - Sobriety Countdown and Speaker - Theresa F., Hollywood, CA</p> <p>9:30PM - Live Entertainment &amp; Dance</p>
<p><u>Saturday - January 19</u></p> <p>Saturday - January 16</p> <p>9AM - AA Speaker - Chris A., Houston, TX</p> <p>10:30AM - GSO Speaker - TBD</p> <p>1:00PM - Alateen Speaker - TBD</p> <p>1:30PM - Al-Anon Speaker - Nancy J., Santa Fe, TX</p>	<p><u>Sunday - January 20</u></p> <p>11AM - AA Speaker - Sister Cathy C., Tampa, FL</p>

**Hotel:** Moody Gardens Hotel - Seven Hope Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77554 Hotel room rate is \$119.00 per night/Hotel cut-off date is December 25, 2018. To reserve your room, please call (888) 388-8484 and mention the SETA Convention. Limited rooms are available... so please reserve your rooms early.

**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/conventions held around the world. One common misconception 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 events. Conferences/Conventions are special events, not regular AA meetings. The conferences/conventions require months of planning, preparation, and money to present. Since most events are in hotels/convention centers, the hotel/convention centers will require that the group purchase coffee and food. Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference/convention, speakers, printing, postage and other supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money. Attendance at a conference/convention is voluntary, attending as part of a group is optional, but as a responsible AA member we must pay our own way.

REGISTER ONLINE OR SCAN QR CODE WITH PHONE

@ <http://2019seta.org>



Name(s)	AA: _____ Al-Anon _____ Alateen _____
Home Group	Badge Name
Name(s)	AA: _____ Al-Anon _____ Alateen _____
Home Group	Badge Name
Email Address	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	

*Early Registration (\$12.00) Qty _____	On-Site Registration (\$15.00) Qty _____
Coffee Badge (\$5.00 Each) Qty _____	Scholarship _____
Please accept my donation of _____	
Total amount enclosed _____	

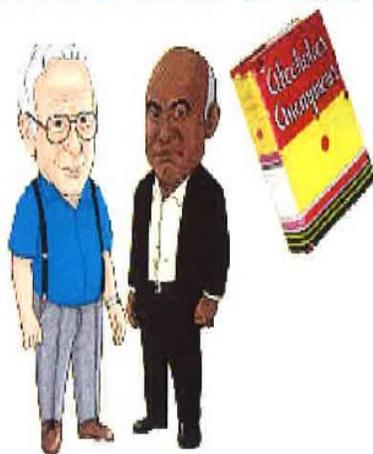
\*Note: Onsite registration \$15.00

Registration by Mail: P.O. Box 97, League City TX 77573

Please indicate Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

# Joe and Charlie Big Book Study

## **JOE & CHARLIE** **BIG BOOK STUDY**



Where: Buna Group, 101 Commerce St., Buna Tx.  
Behind the BBVA bank.

When: Begins January 4th, 2019 6:30PM until 7:30PM  
and continues every Friday until the study is  
completed