

## Step 3

**“Made a decision to turn our will and our life over to the care of God *as we understood Him* .”**

Practicing Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is a key, and the decision to swing the door open. There is only one key, and it is called willingness. Once unlocked by willingness, the door opens almost of itself, and looking through it, we shall see a pathway beside which is an inscription. It read: “This is the way to a faith that works.” In the first two Steps we were engaged in reflection. We saw that we were powerless over alcohol, but we also perceived that faith of some kind, if only in AA itself, is possible to anyone. These conclusions did not require action; they required

only acceptance.

Like all the remaining Steps, Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God — or, if you like, a Higher Power -- into our lives. Faith, to be sure, is necessary, but faith alone can avail nothing. We can have faith, yet keep God out of our lives. Therefore our problem now becomes just how and by what specific means shall we be able to let Him in? Step Three represents our first attempt to do this. In fact, the effectiveness of the whole A.A. program will rest upon how well and earnestly we have tried to come to “a decision to

turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.”

To every worldly and practical-minded beginner, this Step looks hard, even impossible. No matter how much one wishes to try, exactly how *can* he turn his will and his own life over to the care of whatever God he thinks there is? Fortunately, we who have tried it, and with equal misgivings, can testify that anyone, anyone at all, can begin to do it. We can further add that a beginning, even the smallest, is all that is needed.

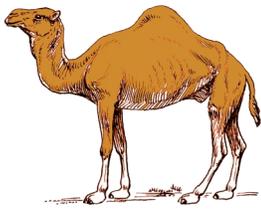
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

## Tradition 3

**“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse no one who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”**

This Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if *you say* so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications — even your crimes — we still can’t deny you A.A. We don’t *want* to keep you out. We aren’t a bit afraid you’ll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we’ve had. So you’re an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.”

*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 III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Within the framework of their general responsibilities, whether these be defined by charter, by resolution, or by custom, it should be the traditional right of all world service boards, committees, and executives to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions. We ought to trust our world servants with these discretions, because otherwise no effective leadership can be possible. Let us consider in detail, therefore, why the need for a “right of decision” in our leadership is imperative, and let us examine how this principle can be applied practically in all levels of our structure of world service.

We have seen how the A.A. groups, under the concept of the “group conscience,” are today holding the ultimate authority and the final responsibility for world services. We have also noted how, by reason of the Conference Charter and the “trusted servant” provision of Tradition Two, the groups have delegated to their General Service Conference full authority to manage and conduct A.A.’s world affairs.

The Conference and General Service Board Charters in broad terms define the responsibility of the Conference to act on behalf of A.A. as a whole. In these two documents a necessarily large area of delegated service authority and responsibility has been staked out. These instruments, in a general way, describe the relation between the groups, the Conference, the Trustees and the active service units. These broad definitions and descriptions are an indispensable frame of reference, and we could not function without them.

Nevertheless it has been long evident that these highly important Charter provisions cannot *by themselves* ensure smooth functioning and proper leadership at the several different levels of service which are involved. This has become crystal clear, and we need not seek very far for the reasons.



# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

## Grapevine Online Exclusive

### Finding your lane

My friend left AA after more than two years of sobriety. At first I was disappointed, resentful and, I'll admit, pretty judgmental. I thought it was selfish and self-centered of him to leave the program that saved his life.

Then I ran into him one day at the bowling alley. It had been months since I had seen him in a meeting. I made a snide comment about not having seen him in so long. I was joking around but then more of his story was revealed to me.

Along with being an alcoholic, my friend was also a methamphetamine user. He explained that since the meth epidemic is so widespread where we live, he had started participating in another 12-Step fellowship. He did this because he wanted to help more people.

He further explained that the literature in the other program is not the same as the AA literature. He wasn't used to the other program's book because all he knew was the Big Book. Going back and forth between the groups got very confusing for him very fast, and he eventually decided to simplify things by giving up AA and throwing himself into the other group's literature.



Now he's very involved in the other fellowship. He then called his three bowling friends over and introduced me. These three were his sponsees.

Yes, I was still a bit disappointed that he left AA, I will admit. But when he explained that he chose the other program only because that's where he could be of maximum service, I felt like I was the selfish one, not him. How foolish I felt after reflecting on my attitude and behavior.

It's been a few years now since my friend left, but I stay in contact with him on social media. I try not to put people on pedestals, but I respect and admire my friend so much for the sacrifice he made and for his decision, even if that decision meant I lost an AA friend.

Now, at only eight years "clean" (as that is what he calls himself), he has more sponsees than almost anyone I know.

Thank God for AA, for it was through AA that my friend recovered and learned to want to be of maximum service to God and those around him.

-- C.B.

Oregon

*From the March 2019 magazine.*

*Group Contributions — February 2019*

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	\$0.00	\$320.00
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
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$0.00	\$20.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$50.00	Pin Oak Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Serenity</b>	<b>\$293.39</b>	<b>\$293.39</b>
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$200.00	<b>St Francis</b>	\$0.00	\$480.97
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	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	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$543.39</b>	<b>\$2,014.36</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 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 GSR 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**

**April 7, 2019 At 2:00 PM**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

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

**April 28, 2019 At 2:00 PM**

**Westgate Memorial Baptist Church**

**6220 Westgate Drive, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

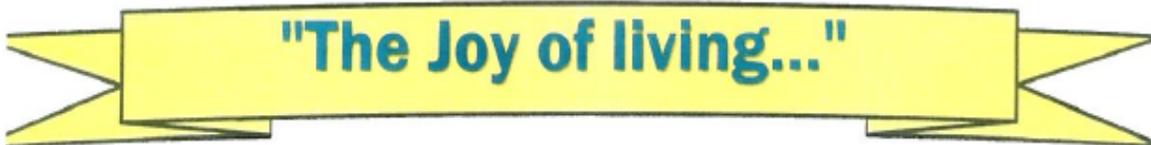
Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

\*\*\*\*\* **GSR Workshop** \*\*\*\*\*

**April 6, 2019 1:00 PM ~ 3:00 PM**

**1235 Crockett , Beaumont, Texas**

**( Same location as monthly GSR meeting )**



## 38th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 16, 17 & 18, 2019

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</b></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Brenda S. Dallas, TX</p> <p>Fri. 10:00 PM AA C.T. Missouri City, TX.</p> <p>Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 AM AA Cory W. Conroe, TX</p> <p>Sat. 01:00 PM Alanon Mattie T. Missouri City, TX</p> <p>Sat. 02:15 PM Alateen TBA</p> <p>Sat. 03:00 PM AA Corey W. (<i>workshop</i>)</p> <p>Sat. 04:15 PM AA Old Timers</p> <p>Sat. 08:00 PM AA Angie P, Cincinnati, OH. Sat. 10:00 PM Dance</p> <p>Sun. 10:00 AM AA TBA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL &amp; CONFERENCE CENTER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2355 I-10 SOUTH 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705 877-842-3606</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT EARLY DEADLINE - 7-26-2019</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONSITE REGISTRATION</b></p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 26, 2019! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)</p> <p>Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea. Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration **"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night - **Early registrants qualify to win one set of convention CDs**</p>
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Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social

Name 1: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>} AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>} Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>} Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>} Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></td> <td><b>\$ _____</b></td> </tr> </table>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	} AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	} Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	} Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	} Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:  <b>District 90 Convention Treasurer</b> PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
} AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
} Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
} Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
} Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>												

We urge everyone to pre-register and to book any rooms before the July cut-off date where possible. This helps keep registration fees low and convention exp. hospitality/available scholarships - that we may Serve and Carry the Message.

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS



## FELLOWSHIP GROUP

BIRTHDAY NIGHT WILL BE  
FRIDAY MARCH 29TH @ 8:00PM  
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP @ 6:30PM  
SPEAKER NIGHT THE 2ND  
FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 8:00PM

## MID COUNTY GROUP

BIRTHDAY NIGHT MARCH 26TH  
EAT @ 7:00PM / MEET @ 8:00PM  
CELEBRANTS:

STEVE C. 1 YR  
DAKOTA W. 3 YRS  
EARL S. 4 YRS  
CATRINA B. 10 YRS  
BOBBY H. 11 YRS

## LUMBERTON SINGLENES OF PURPOSE GROUP

BIRTHDAY NIGHT MARCH 31ST  
CELEBRANT: DAVID D. 4 YRS  
SPEAKER: MICHAEL PAUL LSOP GROUP  
EAT @ 6:00PM / MEET @ 7:00PM  
MEAL FURNISHED BY LSOP



3rd Step Principle

Faith  
Commitment

3rd Promise

We will comprehend  
the word serenity, and  
we will know peace.



We are not a  
glum lot.