

Step 4

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Creation gave us instincts for a purpose. Without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. If men and women didn't exert themselves to be secure in their persons, made no effort to harvest food or construct shelter, there would be no survival. If they didn't reproduce, the earth wouldn't be populated. If there were no social instinct, if men cared nothing for the society of one another, there would be no so-

ciety, So these desires — for the sex relation, for material and emotional security ,and for companionship — are perfectly necessary and right, and surely God-given.

Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions. Powerfully, blindly, many times subtly, they drive us, dominate us, and insist upon ruling our lives. Our desires for sex, for material and emotional

security, and for an important place in society often tyrannize us. When thus out of joint, man's natural desires cause him great trouble, practically all the trouble there is. No human being, however good, is exempt from these troubles. Nearly every serious emotional problem can be seen as a case of misdirected instinct. When that happens, our great natural assets, the instincts, have

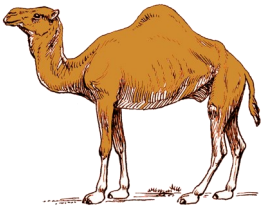
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Tradition 4

“With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount..”

AUTONOMY is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.



I am responsible.
When anyone, any-
where, 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 IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge..”

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 15 of the Concepts Section

The principle of “Participation” has been carefully built into our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifically provides that the Trustees, the Directors of our service corporations, (A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference itself.

Exactly the same concept is borne in mind when our General Service Board elects the Directors of its wholly-owned active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. If it wished, the General Service Board could elect none but its own Trustees to these corporate directorships. But a powerful tradition has grown up to the effect that this never ought to be done.

For example, A.A. World Services, Inc. (which also includes the A.A. Publishing division) currently has seven directors, only two of whom are Trustees. The other five non-Trustee. Directors comprise three volunteers, both expert in office management and publishing, and two directors who are paid staff members: the general manager and his assistant. The general manager is traditionally the president of A.A. World Services, Inc. and his assistant is a vice president. For communication linkage, the editor or a staff member of the Grapevine or his nominee is invited to attend A.A. World Services, Inc. meetings.

Therefore the active management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and its publishing division is composed of Trustees whose mission is to see that these projects are properly managed; of volunteer experts who contribute their advice and professional experience; and of two paid office executives who are charged with getting most of the work done. It will be seen that each member of every classification, is a director, and so has a legal vote; that each corporate officer bears a title which, both practically and legally, denotes what his (or her) actual status and responsibility is.



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

My old drinking buddies

Learning to navigate long-time friends without much of a struggle

One of the most difficult things I have had to deal with in sobriety is my relationships. But lately I've come to the realization that making new friendships in sobriety has become much easier. After all, I'm a different person than I was before I came to the program.

Today I am much more honest, open-minded and willing. And I am actually happy, joyous and free. I believe the key is honesty. It's much easier to make friends and have relationships now that I know who I am and I can be honest about it.

The problem I ran into when I first got sober was that I felt so different from everyone. I had to start all over with the people in my life, including my wife and my family. It made me feel scared. I can remember looking at the person lying next to me in bed and thinking, I don't know anything about her. I'm not even sure if I like her, let alone love her.

This was true not only for my wife, but for all of my old friends. I had spent so much time being drunk, I wasn't sure who anyone was anymore. The biggest obstacle I faced was the difference in me. The ability to drink like me was no longer the prerequisite to being my friend.

To be my friend, a person basically had to be able to have drinks with me and carry on some resemblance of a conversation without getting too drunk or getting into trouble with a spouse, the police...or most importantly, the bartender.



After I came into sobriety, my priorities completely changed. One of the toughest pills for me to swallow was seeing how boring heavy drinkers become. People who have been drinking don't listen to a word anyone says. They talk and hear themselves, but they don't listen. It seems they're always preparing for what they are going to say next and so they don't take the time to hear what others are saying.

What also makes this such a tough pill to swallow is that I now know how boring I must have been when I was drunk. Let's face it, I'm no movie star now, but at least today I listen when people are talking to me. There are times when I have to repeat myself over and over again to someone who's been drinking. This is not friendship. It's time consumption.

Today I need more from my friendships. And this can be troubling to me. I drank for more than 30 years, so I have many friends from my past who drink heavily. The problem is, when they get saucy or a little lit up, I no longer find them amusing.

But this doesn't mean I have to get rid of these friends. It just helps me to realize that they aren't so different from me. It's I who must change.

So I have made some changes. When I'm out enjoying an evening with my old drinking friends, I make sure anyone who comes along with me, like my wife, has an alternative ride home. This way, when my friends really "get to drinking," I can be on my way. I enjoy their company while they're beginning their evenings, but not so much after they have had three or four pops.

Sometimes it's tough though, to be the only person not drinking in our old group of friends. But I often remember what our Big Book tells me: We can go anywhere and do all sorts of things as long as "we are spiritually fit." This pushes me to work a strong spiritual program. I enjoy the new friends I've made in the Fellowship, but I also don't want to lose the old friends I made over the years. These friends are still part of my life. After all, it's the only life I've lived and I have no regrets.

By enjoying my relationship with God, I know that I'm no longer alone. The friends I share time with today are genuine and we are friends without much effort. Thanks to AA, my relationships today are freer and without struggle. We like each other simply because we do. I no longer have the need to fill something in myself that's missing. Today, I'm missing nothing.

-- Tom S.

Arlington Heights, Illinois

From the April 2019 magazine.

Group Contributions — March 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	\$10.00	\$40.00
Downtown	\$17.00	\$17.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$650.00	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	Serenity	\$0.00	\$293.39
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$200.00	St Francis	\$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	\$260.00
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	\$50.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$88.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$27.00	\$2,449.36

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

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

May 5, 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.

** Mustard Seed 13th Anniversary Celebration **

Saturday May 25, 2019 Eat @ 6:00 PM Speaker @ 7:00 PM

Speaker Jules M. ~ Mustard Seed Group

Westgate Memorial Baptist Church

6220 Westgate Dr.

REGISTER HERE



If receiving by mail, check out the full flyer on our website under the Events tab.

"The Joy of living..."

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

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Fri. 08:00 PM	AA	Brenda S. Dallas, TX
Fri. 10:00 PM	AA	C.T. Missouri City, TX.
Sat. 8:30 AM	AFG	Four Faces of Al-Anon
Sat. 10:00 AM	AA	Cory W. Conroe, TX
Sat. 01:00 PM	Alanon	Mattie T. Missouri City, TX
Sat. 02:15 PM	Alateen	TBA
Sat. 03:00 PM	AA	Corey W. (workshop)
Sat. 04:15 PM	AA	Old Timers
Sat. 08:00 PM	AA	Angie P. Cincinnati, OH.
Sat. 10:00 PM		Dance
Sun. 10:00 AM	AA	TBA

MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
2355 I-10 SOUTH
1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705
877-842-3606
ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT
EARLY DEADLINE - 7-26-2019

ONSITE REGISTRATION

Pre-Registration ends July 26, 2019! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, teen \$10)
Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM

AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea.
Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration

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

Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social

73rd Annual TexAs StAte Convention

June 7-8-9, 2019 - Houston, TX

"We absolutely insist on enjoying life." -p132, Alcoholics Anonymous

AA Speakers

James H., Corpus Christi, TX
Amalia C., Newington, CT
Karl M., Covina, CA
Diana M., W Largo, FL
GSO., New York, NY

Al-Anon/Alateen

Al-Anon Speaker - TBA
Alateen Speaker - TBA



Website

Please make hotel reservations directly with:

Westin Galleria Hotel

5060 West Alabama
Houston, TX 77056
(713) 960-8100 or (800) 937-8461

\$129 Room Rates

Mention 2019 TX State Convention

Cut-off for \$129 room rate is **May 20, 2019**

<https://book.passkey.com/e/49628525>

Convention Attractions

- 1st Timer Contest
- Al-Anon Luncheon & Speaker
- Archives Room
- Fellowship, Food, and FUN!!!
- Hospitality Rooms
- Marathon Meetings
- Saturday Night Dance
- Spanish Translation Provided

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR AL-ANON LUNCHEON AND CONVENTION: MAY 20, 2019

Onsite Registration Fee is \$35 per person at the door.

Full name: _____

Home Group: _____

Full name: _____

Home Group: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ AA/Al-Anon @ \$30 before **May 20** \$ _____

_____ Al-Anon Lunch @ \$28 before **May 20** \$ _____

_____ Alateen @ \$5 before **May 20** \$ _____

_____ Saturday Dance only @ \$10 \$ _____

Scholarship donation \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Use this form and send payment to:

Texas State Convention
PO Box 10784, Houston TX 77206

Badge name: _____
[] AA [] Al-Anon [] Alateen

Badge name: _____
[] AA [] Al-Anon [] Alateen

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Alateens must have signed permission forms!

Please indicate any special needs on pre-registration form.
Spanish translation will be provided.

Special needs: _____

Email address: _____

Email: 2019txstate@gmail.com

Website: txaaconvention.org



Register

April Birthdays



Fellowship Group April Birthday Night
Friday April 26th @ 8:00 PM
Food and fellowship @ 6:30 PM
Fellowship Speaker Night 2nd Friday of
every month @ 8:00 PM

Mid-County Birthday Night April 30th
Eat 7:00 PM / Meeting @ 8:00 PM

Julia 1year
Ryan A. 8 years
Daphne T. 9 years
Jacob B. 11 years
Will C. 18 years
Paula J. 28 years
Dan J. 29 years
Charlie A. 30 years
Sally M. 32 years



4th Step Principle Courage

4th Promise

No matter how far down
the scale we have gone, we
will see how our experi-
ence can benefit others.

